

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

December 6, 1984

EVENING SITTING

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY (continued)

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Zazelenchuk, seconded by Mr. Tusa.

MR. MYERS: — Before we adjourned this afternoon, I was speaking on funding for universities, but I didn't quite get a chance to finish all the money that's been put into university funding this year.

In connection with the \$32 million per year over and above what it was three years ago under their government, and the \$8.5 million for the Geological Engineering Building, this year we put \$1.25 million into a special grant for libraries and equipment, which was the highest grant to any university for that facility in Canada. By comparison to university funding, Manitoba took a 3 per cent to 4 per cent drop.

Not only, Mr. Speaker, have we put money into university funding, but we've also put it into technical institutes. In support of high technological advances in Saskatoon's Kelsey Institute, they have mounted a training program in computer-assisted design, computer-assisted manufacturing, and microcomputer technology.

They say we've cut back in technical collegiates. We've put 13 additional new programs into Kelsey, more staff than we had there last year, more programs than we had there last year. Does that sound like a cut-back to you? No way. More into education. So you can't believe the NDP party — you just can't believe them.

They say jobs are important, like we heard them in the press before the session began. Well, we've taken the lead, and here it is, here's a headline: — Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* — "Saskatchewan to Lead Country in Economic Growth, Board Shows Strong Economic Conditions Mean Jobs." You don't get jobs in poor economic conditions.

"Ottawa Line: Saskatchewan next year will lead the country in economic growth according to the Conference Board of Canada." There it is. The board is predicting that Saskatchewan's real gross domestic production will increase 3.8 per cent in 1985, compared to 0.7 per cent for the country — way over and above what the rest of the country is doing, even NDP Manitoba.

Here's another one. This one's from *Report on the Nation*, November, 1984: "1985 should see a rebound with real gross domestic product more than doubling the national average." And where are the jobs, they keep asking. Well, the oil industries — as I have mentioned before, 1,000 new jobs in the past year and growing, growing.

Co-op upgrader: The Co-op upgrader which was announced in August '83 — 1,080 new permanent jobs in Regina — in this province; not in Alberta, not in Manitoba.

Here's another one. Husky Oil upgrader, the one their former leader of their federal party is on the board of.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Former premier.

MR. MYERS: — They don't mention . . . Oh, yes. The member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg says

"former premier." Yes, but that was the CCF party; the caring CCF party — not the NDP party of today. I believe the only reason the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg is complaining about the recently announced farm Bill is because it didn't include implement dealers, nor would it cover his \$120,000 airplane.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Maybe we could consider a House amendment.

MR. MYERS: — I don't know, maybe we could consider a House amendment. Oh, the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg is talking out of the side of his mouth again. The last year the member from Shaunavon ran beer gardens, beer gardens. We all remember that. And they stand there criticizing. This year, this year the New Democratic Party, under different names, different names. . . You want to catch this one. In the paper, in the paper they're advertising a bingo, a bingo parlour. Sponsored tonight. Sponsored tonight. The Redberry SYND, S-Y-N-D. They don't bother to tell the people that it's the Redberry Saskatchewan Youth New Democrats. They don't come out and tell people that. They hide it away, just like they hide all the other things they do away. They hide it away.

Not only that, but in the Saskatoon vicinity there have been nine bingos put on by a club which is a front for their party. And I was told of the nine bingos, Mr. Speaker, three, three bingos, not under their name. As a matter of fact it comes under Riversdale Community Recreation Club, a front for the NDP party to channel money into their political coffers. Right in there. Three bingos, the proceeds and revenues from three bingos, went to the NDP Redberry Constituency Association. One bingo went to the Westmount NDP Association. The proceeds for another went to the Saskatoon-Sutherland NDP Association, and another to the Riversdale. I haven't been able to track down two of the others.

But people must realize, and they put it publicly in the paper, that they're taking out about \$7,000 on a good night in these bingos, and it's going to finance their political coffers. Back in the old days of Tommy Douglas they got money from the people who give it honestly and knew what they were giving it for. Now they're collecting their money through bingos. Bingos . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And where is he? Well, he's working for Husky, isn't he? We all know that. Bingos. The bingo bunch there. They almost make up enough for a table.

We have taken a reasonable outlook. And they talk about our record, our record in health. Well, let's look at what the NDP record in health was. While the NDP likes to portray itself in having a strong interest in health care, the actual record is contrary to that. Let's look at it.

They put into place, and I'll give them credit for it . . . In 1973 they put in the Saskatchewan hearing plan, the elimination of premiums, the Saskatchewan Dental Plan, the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan, the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living, SAIL — very good organization. In SAIL they used to fund it every year, and that poor organization didn't know whether they had funds coming the next year. That's right.

AN HON. MEMBER: — We started it.

MR. MYERS: — Yes, but you didn't continue it. If you started it, you certainly didn't want to continue it. But let's look what happened when they started taking over potash mines. I mentioned it before: 1976, took 400 positions out of Saskatchewan hospitals; 400, I mentioned it before. Also in 1976 they deleted 43 positions in psychiatric nursing. In 1979, they deleted another 35 positions. They were too busy. Those just happened to be the same years and after elections. They never told the public they were going to delete positions before elections. They've done it afterwards.

Let's look at their construction. No major construction between the years of 1977 and 1981, none whatsoever. Let's take a look at our record, accomplishments in health. We've recognized that for a long time health was improperly funded. We said it during our election campaign, and

we've put money into it.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Tell them what we've been doing about it.

MR. MYERS: — We support . . . As the member from Moosomin has alluded to, I should tell them what we've done.

Well, numerous hospitals, numerous small hospitals throughout this province have been upgraded, and some have been rebuilt. We've brought about several programs. I'll talk about what we've done in Saskatoon; that just happens to be where I'm from. Saskatoon.

A 50-bed nursing home, level 3 and 4 50-bed nursing home, being administered by the Alliance Church; good organization and will administrate it quite well. When this went through city council in Saskatoon several weeks ago, three city councillors opposed this building. Three city councillors opposed it. Who were they? Well, they were the former speaker of the House, Mr. Brockelbank; they were a former candidate for nomination for the NDP, Pat Lorje; and another one of their members, card carrying members, Kate Waygood; and they opposed 50 beds, level 3 and 4, to be built in Saskatoon. Fortunately, the city fathers saw fit to overturn the measly three who opposed this, and give them the right to build that building.

Also in Saskatoon, 238-bed level 3 and 4 home to provide for our senior citizens, the ones they wanted to place a moratorium on, the ones they did place a moratorium on. They were great at building styrofoam models and winging them through the province, but did you see any of those styrofoam models ever built? Not one of them.

AN HON. MEMBER: — They built liquor board stores.

MR. MYERS: — Oh, they did more than build liquor board stores. They built a lot. We've also gone into a program, health care for the elderly; we've upgraded the senior citizens grant; we've also brought about \$1000 in a five-year program for upgrading senior citizens' housing or houses so that they can live in them, because some do.

But what's surprising about this province, we have got the oldest average population in Canada of any province, and the size of that is growing. It's growing by leaps and bounds. It must be a healthy climate out here since the change of government.

The elderly make up about 12 per cent of this province's population. And by the year 2000, they'll account for about 16.5 per cent of the population. So now is the time to build the facilities, not later. Now is when we need them; now is when we should have them; and now is when we are building them.

We also know that the elderly occupy a lot of our hospital beds. Approximately 25 per cent of our hospital beds are occupied by the elderly. And they're occupied by the elderly because there was no place to put them. In Saskatoon alone, it was estimated we had between 80 and 120 hospital beds in the three city Saskatoon hospital occupying beds. They talk about our waiting lists. They created the waiting lists by not building the nursing homes, by not allowing the elderly to move into the nursing homes. They've created the shortage. But we plan, we plan to change that, and we are. A five-year program, we have a five-year program to create 1,000 beds and replace another 500.

(1915)

Mr. Speaker, I could say much, much more. I know the citizens of Saskatoon and my constituency, Saskatoon South, are deeply concerned about the shortage of nursing home beds. But I will assure them, I will continue to work and work hard in this Assembly in this building to try to allocate more funds for these projects. Particularly health, since it is the main concern in my

constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. YEW: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very honoured, Mr. Speaker, to get up this evening and to say a few words to the members of this Legislative Assembly, to the people of Saskatchewan, on behalf of the Cumberland constituency. I want to present a few questions, a few thoughts, a few views regarding the fourth Conservative government throne speech that was presented here last Thursday.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, first of all, that I am proud to stand here in this Legislative Assembly for the people of Cumberland constituency. It's a very unique constituency. It's a unique constituency in that it is the largest constituency in the province of Saskatchewan. It is unique in the sense that the people and the communities in this particular constituency are proud. They're proud of their heritage. They're proud of the rich resources that they have had, the experiences that they have had, and the fight for their survival that they have experienced.

Cumberland constituency is a unique constituency, truly, Mr. Speaker. It is a unique constituency as well, Mr. Speaker, in the fact that they booted out the Conservative government in the 1982 general election. They wouldn't have anything to do with the Conservative government.

Mr. Speaker, the fourth throne speech presented here in this legislature is all too similar to the first two or three throne speeches that were resented to us by the Tory government. Similarly, once again, the issues confronting northern people, the northern families, the northern communities, were once again ignored. Totally ignored and totally neglected.

In 1982, Mr. Speaker, when the residents of Cumberland constituency, when the native people all across the province learned of the Devine government's election victory, they expected the worst from this government. And the worst is what we got. And while this throne speech contained nothing for the people of northern Saskatchewan, nothing for the Indian and the Metis people of this province, it did indeed, Mr. Speaker, indicate pretty clearly a couple of things about this government.

It showed us a government, it showed us a government that is badly confused, confused and uncertain. They are drifting, Mr. Speaker, drifting in search of a new slogan, a new slogan like the one they had, referred to as open for big business, which they refer to as a policy. The government's confusion and lack of clear direction is obvious to all members of this Assembly, although some of the members on that side of the House won't admit it. However, it is equally obvious to all of the people in this province.

Mr. Speaker, this government is confused, uncertain, and they are lacking leadership. You can see that by the performance of the members on that side of the House every day of this session. Mr. Speaker, a government that is frightened, they are as well and rightfully so, frightened by the billion dollar deficit that has piled and accumulated since they took office, frightened by the persistent high unemployment rates among our young people, frightened by its failures, and its uncertain leadership. That is what they're frightened about; that is what they're uncertain about. They don't have leadership. And badly frightened, rightfully so, Mr. Speaker, because it realizes that the people of this province, the people of Saskatchewan, have lost confidence of members opposite, the Conservative government of this province.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a throne speech without policy, without purpose or direction. It was barren and empty, particularly for the people in northern Saskatchewan. This has been the most disappointing feature of the throne speech, Mr. Speaker. It is outright discriminatory against the people in the Cumberland constituency.

There is no mention, as I've indicated before, there is no mention of the people in northern

Saskatchewan, no mention of the North, and no mention of the desperately urgent and pressing social and economic problems confronting northern people. There is no understanding even, Mr. Speaker, by this government, of the increasingly desperate situation threatening northern young people and their families with unemployment, high unemployment of 95 per cent, welfare dependency rates that have sky-rocketed, family violence, alcoholism, hopelessness, and despair.

There is no mention of environmental protection, and there is no mention, Mr. Speaker, of the vital, important issues — like the upcoming constitutional entrenchment discussions of aboriginal rights; native self-government; native self-determination; and the issues confronting the native people of this province. Not a word.

Mr. Speaker, this is a government which does not care about northern people, and particularly the native people. This government is a government, Mr. Speaker, which does not understand the unique traditional relationships with the lands, and with each other, and with their environment. A government which does not act in the interests of northern people, that is the Conservative government.

As I have travelled throughout my constituency and other parts of this province over the past few months, Mr. Speaker, as I have listened to families and listened to young men and women, and listened to local government leaders, native leaders, and other people at the community level, I have learned, Mr. Speaker, that they are deeply concerned, and rightfully they should be.

They ask me, Mr. Speaker, in different ways, this question: why is the Devine government turning its back on us? Why is that PC government down in Regina ignoring our lives, ignoring our needs? Why does this Conservative government always have to implement policies that benefit their corporate friends and their big-business friends? That is a good question, Mr. Speaker.

I have noticed in this debate that none of the PC members, government members, are trying to argue that the Devine government has accomplished anything in the North. They are embarrassed by the truth, Mr. Speaker, embarrassed to admit that under this government unemployment has not been reduced, but rather it has increased. It has increased to 95 per cent and perhaps more in some of the more isolated communities. They are embarrassed to admit that they have not reduced the welfare dependency rates, but instead, Mr. Speaker, have forced more people on into welfare dependency.

They are embarrassed to admit that they have practically abandoned northern local governments, northern leaders, native leaders, and they have abandoned northern capital projects and northern small businesses. Mr. Speaker, they are embarrassed to admit that they have not placed any priorities on hospital projects in La Ronge, and undermined the quality of health and education services throughout the North, as elsewhere in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stop here for a minute or two. I have with me a clipping which says, "Government announces highway projects." Mr. Speaker, just recently, the first of this month, the Minister of Highways announced that there would be 11 projects tendered out. Something ironic about this press statement; it seems that projects are approved only on the government side of the House, only in areas where Progressive Conservative MLAs, only in constituencies where we have Progressive Conservative MLAs. Just the other day I heard mention of a hospital that will be prioritized for the Premier's home riding.

We have worked hard in northern Saskatchewan to try to improve our health facilities, and I particularly want to mention the facility that we had looked forward to in the community of La Ronge, a facility that was already under way with the previous administration, a facility that people in the community, the communities in the surrounding areas, were looking forward to for much needed improvements in terms of health and health-care facilities. But, Mr. Speaker, what do we get? We get the areas, particularly the northern administration district, ignored by the

Progressive Conservative government of the day.

Mr. Speaker, the people in my constituency, the residents of La Ronge, Creighton, Cumberland House, Sandy Bay, Wollaston Lake, Montreal Lake, just to name a few, and many of the other communities, those were the people who really see how this Devine government has turned its back on them. They have been neglected; they have been abandoned. On that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing but uncertainty and confusion, and there is a lack of leadership.

(1930)

Let me turn for a moment, Mr. Speaker, just one example of how this Devine government has a double standard. One set of policies for its big business friends and its corporate friends, and one set of policies for the ordinary man and woman of Saskatchewan.

Let's take a look, Mr. Speaker, at Sandy Bay, which is in the Cumberland constituency way up in northern Saskatchewan, where the residents are deeply concerned about the damage done to their local environment by the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting and its Island Falls power plant project. The local residents got no results and no satisfaction from the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting firm. So they came to the Devine government for help, but they discovered that this PC government has entered into a sweetheart deal with the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting regarding their power plant, major hydro project at Island Falls. A profitable deal for the big corporation. And guess who is this corporation, Mr. Speaker. Well, we discover that the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting is just a subsidiary of Inspiration Resources Corporation out of New York. And it is, in turn, controlled by Mining and Resources Corporation of Bermuda. And it is controlled, Mr. Speaker, again by the huge Anglo-American corporation of South Africa with head offices in South Africa — a huge financial and mining corporation located, Mr. Speaker, located in one of the most viciously racist nations in the world with — how ironic — with its influence reaching all the way into remote Sandy Bay.

And then further we discover, Mr. Speaker, that both in 1982 and in 1983 the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting made financial, direct financial contributions to the PC Party of Saskatchewan totalling thousands and thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the policies of this government. We have a government here that gives tax and royalty holidays to their corporate friends, their big business friends.

I have some news clipping here, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, in the course of the last few days, statements have been coming out about how rich the banks have suddenly become. The national bank profits are up, Mr. Speaker. The one in front of me states that the national bank profits for this year have come to \$114 million overall. Toronto-Dominion Bank profits for this year total \$355 million. The Bank of Montreal, Mr. Speaker, reports a \$283-million profit. The Royal Bank profits, Mr. Speaker, another \$450 million.

I cannot understand the logic, Mr. Speaker. I cannot understand the logic of this government's policy where it benefits a few, where this government's policy is to neglect and abandon and ignore an area such as the northern administration district that is in dire need of some government intervention in terms of our resources, in terms of jobs. Their policy benefits their corporation friends, the banks, the bond dealers for tax royalty holidays, but what do our people get in northern Saskatchewan? . . . (inaudible interjections) . . . I've got them heckling, Mr. Speaker. I must have hit . . . I'm sure that I must have hit a few sore notes on that side of the House.

But the irony of it, Mr. Speaker, is the logic . . . What is the logic behind your policy? Why do you implement policies that benefit the rich, the well-to-do, the people that don't need the help?

Your deficit . . . You mismanaged the administration of this province right from day one. Your accumulated deficit is \$129 million. We are paying \$11,000 an hour on the interest payment of that deficit. Pardon me, 829 million. You have got Saskatchewan into the red for \$829 million. We're paying interest to the banks, the bonds dealers, your corporate friends — an interest payment of \$92.6 million a year. And it's costing us dearly, Mr. Speaker. And so, Mr. Speaker, we understand a little better, a little bit better the PC policy of big businesses and the reason why they are turning its back on the people of northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to turn for a moment to one absolutely critical issue that is so deep, that is deep — an increasingly concern by the constituents that I represent, and that is, Mr. Speaker, the government's obvious insensitivity to the natural environment of northern Saskatchewan — this government's obvious insensitivity to the traditional economic activities that Northerners carry on with nature, in harmony with nature and not against it. Hunting, trapping, fishing, wild rice harvesting, and sound forestry development practices — those are all traditional ways of life, Mr. Speaker, unique to the residents of northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I can remember days by in the early '50s when I and my family could rely, could depend on our traditional way of life. I could remember many days when I could harness up my dog team and go to some remote lake, remote region in northern Saskatchewan and rely on the natural resources of northern Saskatchewan; when I could leave my family behind, knowing that they were secure and vice versa, the family knowing that they were secure in terms of our needs for a living. They could rely on the natural environment in northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I could remember many a morning when I tied up my dog team, and I assured my wife that I could be home by 10 o'clock that morning with a carcass of caribou, with the carcass of moose or deer, meat for the table. And I could rely on my wife having that coffee ready at 10 o'clock, bannock and lard fresh out of the oven. And she could rely that I'd be home with meat for the table.

But it's not so today, Mr. Speaker. We are losing that way of life in a pace that we can't seem to stop. Development has moved so fast, civilization has moved in so fast, automation, big industry, mining, forestry, etc. Major developments have happened so increasingly fast, Mr. Speaker, that it has begun to affect that traditional way of life. There are many, many people in northern Saskatchewan that rely on that way of life. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that way of life is becoming pretty rare.

This government has to realize that we have to protect our environment; that we have to do something about the environment. We are getting to a stage that our forestry resources are being depleted by major mechanical devices.

This new way of life has many threats in front of us, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, we had to fight the issue of toxic chemicals.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I look at Cumberland House. Just the other day I was crossing the ferry on my way into the community when the ferry operator, Mr. Hilliard McKenzie, came up to me and said:

Lawrence, my MLA, we need some help. We are going to convince this government. We are going to convince big industry. We've got to convince those people that are developing those major hydro projects that we need our environment, we need the natural resources, we need some help in retaining what we used to have.

They rely heavily on their wildlife habitat. The tourist industry relies heavily on it. The trappers rely heavily on the wildlife habitat. The fisherman rely heavily on the fishing resource.

We have to have some emphasis and some understanding with governments and with big

industry. The policies of this government, Mr. Speaker, are working adversely, have an adverse effect on many of the people of northern Saskatchewan. The people of Sandy Bay, Cumberland House, Sturgeon Landing, Mr. Speaker, know full well that the big business policies of the PC government is not working for them.

This government is not interested in protecting the natural resources that we have. They're not protecting the critical wildlife habitat in northern Saskatchewan. The Nipawin hydro project . . . Time and time again I have called on this government to set up a monitoring committee, to set up an environmental advisory committee.

But, Mr. Speaker, I ask you, have we got an environmental advisory committee for the Nipawin hydro project? No, we have not got an advisory committee. We have not got a monitoring committee.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no involvement, no consultation, and no advisory, environmental advisory committee for the people that will be directly effected by that project, the people in Cumberland House and Sturgeon Landing, and the communities of Sandy Bay and Pelican Narrows.

We fought in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, for the surface lease agreement. We wanted to see this agreement implemented. The Key Lake Mining Corporation as it is today has no monitoring committee to ensure that the people in northern Saskatchewan are getting a fair benefit from that development. Every day we hear about leaks in the Key Lake Mining Corporation's operations. Every day people in northern Saskatchewan wonder if they are getting their money's worth in terms of jobs and training. We have no input, Mr. Speaker, no involvement, no consultation, just total neglect from the government, the Conservative government of Grant Devine.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, before I go on, that the people in northern Saskatchewan have to be commended. Just recently, Mr. Speaker, members in government, particularly those involved in the Department of the Environment will know that people organized themselves.

There is a group called the Forest Herbicide Moratorium Association. It's a non-profit organization.

(1945)

That group of people that represents people out of their southern part of this province and the northern part of the province had courage enough to get up on their own and oppose the spraying of toxic chemicals in northern Saskatchewan. And they won a major victory when the Department of Environment finally succumbed to the demands of that committee, that there will not be any spraying in the north-east area of the province.

Your chief mandate, Mr. Speaker, is this, and I'll read it out to the members in government. They organize many themselves, Mr. Speaker, but only one mandate. Motion number nine says:

The purpose of the Forest Herbicide Moratorium Association is to prevent the use of herbicides as a management tool in the forests of Saskatchewan, and to promote public awareness of the need for a broader vision on long-term forest management.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we ought to give the people in that committee some recognition for the courageous position they took. They took the position that they did because they were concerned about the environment, the type of development, and the type of management policy that are coming out of this government, and the type of adverse development that has affected one of our rich resources in northern Saskatchewan.

While I'm on the subject of environmental concerns, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn briefly to Wollaston Lake. Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal with two issues that have been raised with me by a large number of my constituents and by a large number of other men and women throughout Saskatchewan. So those are the issues of nuclear war, the widespread opposition to the expansion of a uranium mine at Wollaston Lake, development of the Collins Bay B zone.

And I have a petition with me, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to read that out to the members of the Legislative Assembly. It has been signed by many of my constituents and by men and women living from Melfort, Turtleford, Macdowall, Birch Hills, Meadow Lake, and many of the southern communities. Their petition reads in part:

We, the undersigned, oppose the development of the Collins Bay B zone uranium ore body on the west side of Wollaston Lake. We also oppose explorations for uranium and the development of any uranium mines in this area.

We recognize the aboriginal rights to this land of the 5,000 Chippewyan and Cree people of Wollaston post and the southern nearby communities of northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. We realize that uranium explorations and mining releases radiation into the environment for thousands of years, which will harm and destroy all living things. We therefore support these people's demands that all uranium explorations and mining be stopped immediately.

We, the undersigned, therefore request that the Department of Environment immediately revoke the license issued to Eldorado Resources Limited to develop the Collins Bay B zone ore body.

Mr. Speaker, that is the content of the petition that has been initiated by the people of Wollaston Lake. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to add, that as my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, said in his remarks on Monday, Mr. Speaker, "The people of Saskatchewan are being deeply disappointed." Disappointed by this PC government's failure to even acknowledge the moral issues which are facing Saskatchewan people today. Issues like nuclear war, cruise missile testing, and fundamental environmental concerns and protection of our environment.

Mr. Speaker, all across the north . . . I want to talk about the housing program in northern Saskatchewan, and say to you, Mr. Speaker, as my friend and colleague from Athabasca has already mentioned, northern people are desperately in need of adequate housing. One of the basic human needs for a civilized life of dignity is basic housing.

Northern people don't want, and they don't need huge, expensive houses like the one Premier Devine has here in Regina near the Legislature. They only seek basic decency where families can raise children in security. And they do not understand, Mr. Speaker, and no one in Saskatchewan can understand why this Devine government can find \$89 million to assist an Alberta coal company to buy a Saskatchewan mine. Another big business, sweetheart deal, Mr. Speaker.

Those type of policies have had adverse affects throughout, possibly even deliberate affects on us, because this government has stopped building houses in northern Saskatchewan for the people of northern Saskatchewan. We have communities where this government has boarded up as many as 13 Saskatchewan Housing Corporation houses. Thirteen SHC houses were boarded up in Weyakwin, and in La Ronge, 30 to 35 houses boarded up. This has happened, Mr. Speaker, because we have an uncaring Conservative government.

For the member, for the Minister of Co-ops' information, I was in the community of Weyakwin meeting with the local leadership where they expressed concern about a lack of housing programs initiated by your government. They invited me, and they invited officials of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and they demanded to know why your government has stopped all housing projects. They wanted to know why, for your information, why you have

boarded up 13 houses in an area where housing needs is urgent.

And I have met with officials in La Ronge, my home community, and you will find, minister for consumers and co-operative affairs, you will find 30 to 35 houses boarded up in a community that is in dire need of houses. Certainly you can laugh. More than likely, more than likely, you are in no dire need of a house.

All across the North, Mr. Speaker, as my friend and colleague from Athabasca has already mentioned, northern people are in desperate need of adequate housing programs. One of the basic human needs for a civilized life of dignity is basic housing.

I'd like to turn now, Mr. Speaker, to forestry. Another major gap in this government's throne speech, Mr. Speaker, was its total neglect, this PC government's total neglect of our forestry resource across northern Saskatchewan. For in communities across the North, Cumberland House, La Ronge, Deschambault, Montreal Lake, I have listened to many of your expressions of concern in opposition to this government's policy. These people do not want the PC government to continue its sweetheart deals with Simpson Timber, MacMillan Bloedel, PAPCO, and other outside contractors from B.C. or Alberta. Instead what they want, Mr. Speaker, is real forestry opportunities for northern people and for northern local contractors.

The Montreal Lake Indian Band, for an example, has developed a unique approach to developing the surrounding forestry resource. And they have done so in harmony with nature. They have done so to protect and preserve the forest resource for many future generations. They have done so to protect critical wildlife habitat, and they have managed to harvest sensitivity rather than adopt policies that work adversely against our resource.

Such policy is a clear-cutting policy that industry, at this point in time, has advocated. And they have done so, Mr. Speaker, to use the maximum amount of local labour instead of expensive, capital machinery — a sensitive approach, Mr. Speaker, a very sensitive approach; an approach developed locally in the North by northern native people, the people of Montreal Lake; an approach, Mr. Speaker, which has been opposed and resisted by this government.

In my concluding remarks in this throne speech debate, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention a few other reasons that this government's policies and this whole PC government are such a disappointment to the people of Saskatchewan.

Nowhere, Mr. Speaker, does the PC government even mention the severe financial stress experienced by native students trying to upgrade their skills, trying to upgrade their skills and special trade qualifications in the work place.

Nowhere does this government even acknowledge the unfair and arbitrary burden that is placed on the people of Creighton, Denare Beach, Beaver Lake, whose electric power costs have jumped by more than 100 per cent.

Nowhere does this government even acknowledge how it has failed to meet its responsibilities to advance the vitally important constitution negotiations which affect, Mr. Speaker, the fundamental rights and interests of aboriginal people. Nowhere in that throne speech is there any mention for that special group of people.

Nowhere, Mr. Speaker, does the government even acknowledge its responsibility, its responsibility to resolve clearly and quickly the outstanding Indian land claims.

And so, Mr. Speaker, because this throne speech clearly reveals to us a government that is arrogant, insensitive, uncertain, confused, and lacking leadership, a government which is more interested in big business, in their corporate friends than in offering hope and dignity to the people of Saskatchewan. It is, Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons that I shall be opposing the main

motion, and that I shall be supporting the amendment that was presented here by my colleague, the member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg. Thank you.

(2000)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON MR. HEPWORTH: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise one again on behalf of the constituents of Weyburn and take part in this debate — the debate and address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I, too, would like to join with many others of the legislature who have congratulated the mover and seconder, the MLA for Saskatoon Riversdale and the MLA for Last Mountain-Touchwood, who, I think, did an excellent job. And as well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the MLA for Saskatoon Riversdale for another convincing win, and I know that she will be there for a long, long time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON MR. HEPWORTH: — I, too, Mr. Speaker, would like to congratulate you on your elevation as president of the Saskatchewan branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary — or the Canadian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association — world, rather.

And I also would like to say hello to my colleague across the way who we have not seen on a regular basis since we last recessed in March, and who, I'm sure, had a pleasant summer. I see by the newspaper that some had a more pleasant summer than others, and I think of the recent participation of many members in this House in the federal election, and so it was with some interest that I read of some of the exploits of some of the members opposite — the NDP members opposite, some of their exploits in the election campaign. And I refer to one article, I think this was in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, where it referred to the former Saskatchewan premier, Allan Blakeney, "who was doing his bit to get Dartmouth voters on the NDP bandwagon yesterday, but it almost landed him in the paddywagon." So I can see that some had a more exciting time during the campaign than others.

And as well, I see . . . I noted with interest that the leader of the Liberal Party in Saskatchewan, who was in the legislature the other day to listen to the throne speech, which, by the way, he said, as I recall his remark to the media afterwards, was that he "listened and listened and all he got out of it was a stiff neck." I suppose all I would say to that person is that we've listened and listened to him, and all I have out of him is a pain in the — well, I won't go on, Mr. Speaker.

I want to confine my comments tonight to three areas, Mr. Speaker. And the first I would like to talk on is the NDP agriculture policy as outlined by the Leader of the Opposition on Monday, and then I would like to, Mr. Speaker, spend a few moments talking about the Progressive Conservative agriculture policy, the policy of this government; and then spend a few minutes on some items of interest to my constituency, the constituency of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker.

I would first, however, start with the NDP agricultural policy and make some comments in debate as it was raised by the Leader of the Opposition and the solution apparently, according to the Leader of the Opposition as he espoused it in debate earlier this week — Monday, Mr. Speaker, it was — was a four-point program.

Some call the NDP solution a recipe for disaster; others call it blowing in the wind. On occasion we've heard it described as a six-point program; on occasion we've heard it described as a four-point program; we've heard it described as a five-point program; we've heard them talk of moratorium; we've heard them talk of per acre pay-outs; we heard them talking one day about, Mr. Speaker, the need for a gas rebate, a fuel rebate for farmers. The next day we see that they are asking for the removal of the federal taxes from farm fuel.

One day we have them in the legislature here, snuffing out the lives of dairy farmers; the next day pretending to be the salvation and the saviours of the farmers. I think, Mr. Speaker, that indeed this party opposite has absolutely no clear direction in terms of agriculture policy. But to go into it in more detail, the four-point farm plan proposed, according to members opposite, the first part, of course, having some good long time ago The Family Farm Protection Act, an 18-month moratorium.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we saw things like, and I guess this was from the September 26th, 1984 edition of The Commonwealth, and we had the hon. member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg writing to the federal Minister of Agriculture, newly-elected, reminding him of his promises and asking him to remove the 9 per cent federal sales tax on farm fuel. And wouldn't you know, by golly, it's done. It's gone, and I hope they have noted that, Mr. Speaker. But of course being that it was done, the opposition leader didn't happen to mention that in his farm policy outline for the NDP. I suppose it's a little embarrassing to admit that yes, when the Tories say they are going to do something and they deliver, they don't like to acknowledge it.

So what did we see in the House on Monday? Well, he stood up. Now that the federal taxes were off farm fuels, what could he say next? What could he say next? Well, what he said was, "Now we need a rebate." Now we need a rebate. You know, flip-flop, literally. The point is, Mr. Speaker, and they have been harping on a 32 cent — I think it was — a gallon rebate for some good long time. Well, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, the federal PC Tories have put in place a policy that we've have been asking for for some good long time. Certainly the Liberals never brought this program to bear, and it will amount to something like 48 millions of dollars in rebates to the people of this province, the farmers of this province.

And what was the NDP rebate when we did have it, Mr. Speaker? Did it put \$48 million in the pockets of Saskatchewan farmers? Did it put \$38 million in their pockets? Did it put 20? No, Mr. Speaker. The answer is, one year I think it paid out 4.5 million and in one really big booming year where the average guy could actually get as high as \$300, I think it paid out nearly \$11 million, nearly \$11 million. And then they did take it away.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we note with interest that, although the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was up here on Monday talking about how farmers need assistance, and I note with interest a clipping from the Melville Advance August 29th. And in part it quotes, and they're referring to Mr. Blakeney's remarks, referring to the fact that:

NDP members that have consistently represented the interests of Saskatchewan family farmers, and what a fine and consistent representation members opposite showed Saskatchewan farmers last spring.

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, how many farmers opposite in that NDP rank stood up in defense and spoke in defense of the dairy farmers out there and the dairy workers out on their strike. I remember well how many of those members got up and spoke on behalf of the farmers. The hon. member for Pelly, did he stand up on behalf of the farmers? No. His colleague, his seat-mate, the hon. member for Quill Lake, did he stand up? No. But surely, Mr. Speaker, the hon. MLA for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg and the agriculture critic, certainly he would speak out in favour of Saskatchewan dairy farmers. Would he not? Would he not, Mr. Speaker? Well the truth is, Mr. Speaker, he never even got off his hands in that entire debate.

And I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that leads me to . . . It brings me to the point where I guess I really have to agree with one of the comments made by a business editor of the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix*, and this was in the *Star-Phoenix* around September the 1st of this year, and the headline was, "NDP Farm Critic Makes Huge Fuss." I guess I have to agree with what she is saying here. I think she has seen through this facade, this portrayal of salvation, these empty kinds of promises to the farmers. And the lead line on this, Mr. Speaker, was, "NDP Agriculture Critic Allan Engel must think Saskatchewan farmers are stupid." That's what kind of support? Mr.

Speaker, I guess all I can say is the people see through that party, they see through their policies, and, in fact, they don't have any policies.

But it's not confined, Mr. Speaker, merely to the NDP in Saskatchewan. This same kind of policy vacuum occurs to the east of us as well. We only have to look at the Manitoba NDP government. And, Mr. Speaker, I think by every account and by the Farm Credit Corporation's own surveys, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, the farm problem in Manitoba is every bit as serious as it is in Saskatchewan. And so I ask: what does the hon. members and NDP colleagues of our opposition here, what do they have in Manitoba for a farm policy? Well wouldn't you know it. They have a five-point program as well.

Now we've heard members opposite calling for a full-blown debt moratorium. We've heard them calling for cash. We've heard them calling for gas rebates. But wouldn't you know it, the NDP government's farm policy in Manitoba has none of those. None of those at all, Mr. Speaker. Now does that mean to say, that when you're in government you try and be responsible, and when you're in opposition you can promise the world. Would that suggest that, Mr. Speaker? Or would it suggest that the NDP in Manitoba have no better feel for the farm problem than they do in Saskatchewan?

You'll recall two and three months ago, Mr. Speaker, when members opposite were asking for the legislature to reconvene in Saskatchewan to deal with the farm problem. And so I ask members here tonight: if the farm problem is as serious in Manitoba as it is here, you would think the Manitoba legislature would be dealing with it? Well, I ask you: is the Manitoba legislature even sitting? And the answer is no. And do they have any intention of sitting and dealing with the farm problem? No.

So, Mr. Speaker, on one hand we have the NDP being totally irresponsible in this province, living in a policy vacuum and certainly no attention being paid to the farm problem in Manitoba. In fact, the recent clipping from the Winnipeg Free Press on Thursday November 29th, describes, essentially, apparently, how the Hon. Minister of Agriculture there is handling foreclosures. And I quote, Uruski said: "he has promise to review the three foreclosures the Manitoba Agriculture Credit Corporation is involved in." But he stopped short of halting them. Apparently, we're going to have a one-man review board in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, and that review board will be their minister. Now that would certainly be apolitical by every count, Mr. Speaker, apolitically by every count.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we can look at the recent NDP annual meeting. And this headline in a recent issue of the Leader-Post, at the time of the convention, headlined, "they debated and debated," and so on and so on and so on. And among the resolutions, Mr. Speaker, not one thing new. A few references in a veiled sort of way to land bank. The same old stuff. No talk of their four-point, or five-point, or six-point program there. Just the same old land bank stuff.

I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, in reviewing what the NDP's real policy is. I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that they are really like a heroin addict. They're always looking, they're always looking for the fix. The easy fix to remove them from reality. The easy way out, the quick fix. They want to shoot up with the easy answer. They're a bunch of junkies, and they need a sugar-daddy to keep them going. They are always looking for a easy fix, the quick fix. They can't cope with the fundamental analysis and a fundamental grasping of the problem.

(2015)

But let's go into their policies in more details, enunciated by the Leader of the Opposition on Monday last. He says: "We should, as a government, put in place a full-blown debt moratorium legislation, not only involving foreclosures on land, but as well, seizures and sell-offs and freeze everything," he says. He says, Mr. Speaker: "Screw down the jaws of life on that small-business community out there. Every small-business man, whether he be in the implement dealer

business, whether he be a fertilizer dealer, a chemical dealer, a fuel dealer, never mind — he's in small business, and squeeze him.

But just a minute, Mr. Speaker. Did we not hear them, not that many days ago, talking about how they represented the interests of small-business men in Saskatchewan? Another flip-flop. On one hand, they say, on one day: yes, we represent and know what small business means in this province, and we are going to help them. And the next day they want to snuff the life out of them, given the hard times that exist in farm communities. They want to split the farmer and the farm community apart. They want to drive a wedge between the farmer and those rural business people and townspeople that they live and work with, and play ball with, and curl with in the winter-time. They want to drive a wedge between the farmer and his community by snuffing the life out of those small-business men. But they do say they speak for small business.

And let's look at their second plank in this four or five or six-point program, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition got up and said, "You Tories should make a \$30 per acre, \$30 per cultivated acre payment. Farmers out there need some cash." And certainly they do, Mr. Speaker. But they said, "You should make a \$30 per acre, per cultivated acre, payment. You should quit giving those big-business oil companies, those friends of yours, those \$150 million tax holidays, and take that money and make a \$30 per cultivated acre pay-out." Well you know, Mr. Speaker that sounds not all that bad. I'm sure, as a farmer, I would like a \$30 per cultivated acre payment. One hundred and fifty million dollars, Mr. Speaker — I don't know how much of a dent, quite frankly, that would make in a 600 million or a billion dollar problem. But certainly I think a lot of farmers would think, yes, that sounds good. I can always use that money.

So on the surface, Mr. Speaker, it does sound good. I think it would probably sound good if I was farming in Meadow Lake, or in Forget in my part of the country, or in Gravelbourg, or in Nipawin, or wherever. It sounds good — \$30 an acre. So I decided, Mr. Speaker, that yes, perhaps this should be an option. But then I started to check the arithmetic, and that's where it started to fall apart. That's where this easy fix fell apart. We have, Mr. Speaker, in this country, just short of 50 million acres of cultivated land, times \$30 an acre. What does that equal? It equals 1.5 billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. Not 150 million. It's 1.5 billion.

Here we are faced again with a situation, Mr. Speaker, of when you come to deal with the truth and the facts and the reality, it's quite different than the mirage that they try to portray. So then that brings the question up, Mr. Speaker — I'm sure they knew what the true cost was — so how would they pay for it? Well we know, Mr. Speaker, that today, at least by the estimates that were presented in this House, that income tax in this province brings in something just slightly in excess of 700 million of dollars. Now it would seem to me if they are going to raise \$1.5 billion to make this pay-out, what that would mean then to the taxpayers of this province is your income tax now will not be 50 or 52 per cent of the federal income tax, it will now rise to 156 per cent of federal tax.

Well they say no, we wouldn't raise taxes. And doesn't this sound a little bit like Walter Mondale? We won't raise taxes, but maybe we'll have to let the deficit rise. Well what would that mean, Mr. Speaker? Would the deficit go up by 150 million? No, Mr. Speaker, the deficit would double. So now we have a party, Mr. Speaker, who, if you analyze it, the true colours show through. This is the old Mondale Democrats in disguise raising taxes. That's what they have in mind for the taxpayers of this province, Mr. Speaker, is raising taxes, and not by 5 per cent or 8 per cent; we're talking about raising taxes by 100 or 200 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this argument a little further to even indicate the folly of it, really. Because, on the surface, Mr. Speaker, it would be nice, and it would be easy — it would be irresponsible as well, if you have a billion dollar farm problem, to throw a billion dollars at it. But, Mr. Speaker, would that really correct the fundamentals of agriculture? And I don't care whether you're talking about weather, about low commodity prices world-wide, and poor markets, international money situations.

Only a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, in the U.S. of A., they threw \$20 billion at the agriculture sector. And I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that there are some states in that country today that have a farm problem that's maybe even worse than the kinds of problems we're experiencing here in our farm sector today. And so, Mr. Speaker, as much as I or the other members might like to come up with a billion dollars or 150 million or whatever to fix the farm problem, it isn't that easy; it isn't that simple; and it isn't a quick fix.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, the NDP junkies are out of touch with reality. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there is no quick fix for the farm problem. There is no black magic. You cannot take this problem and wrap it up into a neat little box and say, Mr. Speaker, this is the problems in the farm sector today. Similarly, any attempt with a 4-point, 5-point, or 6-point program to say that you can wrap up the solution to this problem in a neat, little box is equally as erroneous a conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, what the farmers out there in Saskatchewan today are looking for, they're looking for a government that's prepared to deal in facts and reality. They're looking for a government that will deal with well thought-out policies, not simply a knee-jerk reaction.

We heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition say, because we've heard this as well over the farm sector, that we should address the interest rates. In fact, he said on page 50 of the Hansard record this past Monday, and I quote:

the provincial government should provide a shelter or write-down for the farmers caught in the massive interest rate increase of the 1980 period.

And I asked members of this House: who was in government in 1980? Why was there not an 8 per cent farm purchase program put in place? Why not, Mr. Speaker? Why not there? Why not, Mr. Speaker? Why not there? Why not, Mr. Speaker?

If we'd have had, Mr. Speaker, if we'd have had, Mr. Speaker, an 8 per cent program in place in the House in days of the 70s and the early 80s when interest rates were at 16 and 19 and 22 per cent, I would suggest to you and the members of this House that we might not have some of those farmers in trouble today.

But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, members opposite have not been one to consult, to visit, to talk, to canvass the views of all the players in the farm sector, the farmer and the farm service sector alike, and of course that's why you see them calling for a full-blown, extreme, debt moratorium situation that would hurt very deeply that farm service sector.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are members on this side of the House, colleagues sitting beside me and around me who have taken the time over the past two months to canvass the views of others, members of our caucus, our Premier, Minister of Finance — and what have we heard, Mr. Speaker? We have heard a wide range of opinions and views and possible solutions, and as I said before, and I say again, everything has been an option.

We heard some out there say, we heard some out there say, do nothing. We heard them say, do nothing, because they said some of those young fellows, and not so young fellows, that have got themselves in trouble bought too much land when they shouldn't have been. They paid too much for it when they shouldn't have been paying so much for it. Land bank was competing with them and driving the prices up, albeit.

They said some of these young fellows out there, and not so young fellows, bought more equipment than they needed and paid for bigger equipment than they needed. They've even said some took holidays and bought satellite dishes that they shouldn't have.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, — and I suppose one could say that some of them did get themselves in trouble — on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, apart from that group that said to do nothing, let the chips fall where they may because they did get themselves into their own kettle if you like. We had others, and in this group I would include on the far extreme on the other side, we had some out there, like the NDP and the NFU, say we must have a full-blown, debt moratorium legislation.

Well, they tried to point out earlier, Mr. Speaker, and we had everything in between, we heard everything in between as well. On one extreme we heard, do nothing; on the other extreme we had the NDP extreme, the full-blown debt moratorium legislation.

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, there is no neat package to the problem. There is no neat, packageable solution. Public thinking, in fact, has not even crystallized on this, and that's why you get such a wide range of views. But I want to tell you where this government came to. We came, not from this extreme, and not from this extreme, but we came to that common sense middle-ground view. And that first piece of legislation that is suggestive of that very sensible middle ground is Bill 1 that is, in fact, before this legislature today.

But one must not view that in isolation because it, by itself, is no black magic nor no quick fix. We will continue to attack input costs, whether they be interest rates . . .

We are happy to see that the federal taxes on farm fuels have been lifted. And what else did we hear out there, Mr. Speaker, when we canvassed views? We heard, "Fix up the safety nets that exist. Fix up those insurance programs." And fix them we have done.

And I would like to congratulate, if he was here in this House tonight, the minister in charge of crop insurance for making crop insurance what people wanted. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Charlie Mayer, the minister in charge of the wheat board in Ottawa, for his common sense judgement and his commitment to look at making an interim payment of the Western Grains Stabilization Fund, one that will be in the hands of farmers before this spring. And I would like to congratulate my federal colleague in Ottawa for their commitment to look at Agribonds, capital gains tax, and section 31.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we must look at the cash flow, the cost-price squeeze, and Bill 1, and the safety net programs, as all part of a package, because there is no one simple single quick fix as hon. members opposite would have us believe.

We will, Mr. Speaker, continue to take the common sense approach. We will give those productive farmers, who may have been farming eight, or nine, or 10 years, who are saddled with burdensome debts, some breathing room. We will give them an opportunity to get through this down cycle. We will give the farmers of this province, and the communities where those farmers work, and live, and pay bills — we will give them security, and confidence, and hope, because there is some, Mr. Speaker, fear and despair. And we will deal in reality, and we will deal in facts, and we will not deal in pie in the sky \$1.5 billion hand-outs, when they know, and you know, and we know that that is not a realistic alternative. And any suggestion that it is, if it is, means that taxes will go up, and the deficit will double. That's what it means. We will give security and confidence and hope, and, Mr. Speaker, the sky is not falling in, as the NDP would have us believe.

I see the hon. member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg braying from the benches. And, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to full-blown debt moratorium legislation, the one thing that they haven't told us about in the remarks either by the Leader of the Opposition or the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, the agriculture critic, today in this House when he spoke — they haven't told us when they brought in debt moratorium legislation in 1971, The Family Farm Protection Act, which by the way, Mr. Speaker, the minister who carried it that day called it an "experimental Bill." An experimental Bill and it was an experiment all right, an experiment that

crushed the implement dealers. That's the kind of experiment it was. We have learned from experiments.

(2030)

And, Mr. Speaker, when that Bill was introduced, did they put any cash on the table for the farmers then? Did they put any cash? Did they make a \$30 an acre pay-out, Mr. Speaker? No, they did not. But here's what they said they would do, and here's what they said they would do, and I quote from page 583 of the Hansard of the day. August 9th, 1971, and I quote the hon. member who today is the agriculture critic in this House. And as he ended his speech he said, and I quote: "The third reason the farmer needs this Family Farm Protection Act," that is the full-blown debt moratorium legislation, Mr. Speaker:

The third reason the farmer needs this Family Farm Protection Act on a short-term basis is that we have to help him hold the fort until the really big guns arrive.

Now I'm reading that first sentence, I thought to myself, what were the "big guns" because I couldn't recall any, Mr. Speaker. And he went on to say:

There is one program that would put him on his feet (him being the farmer) without having this big axe hanging over his head.

And the next line, Mr. Speaker, I almost fell down on the floor with laughter. And it went like this:

The program I'm speaking about is this Land Bank Commission. It will take some time to set up this program, but this time is worth buying.

Well, the annals of history, Mr. Speaker, the annals of history, Mr. Speaker, speak well for what the land bank commission did in this province. It drove up land prices 700 per cent, and in 10 years of operation helped only 2,800 farmers out there. And of that 2,800 farmers, 152 went on to become owners of some of that land that they were leasing.

But that was the "big gun." No cash; that was the "big gun" in 1971. We'll bring in a land bank, and instead of you owning the land, we'll own it. You certainly couldn't get foreclosed on it if the state owned it, Mr. Speaker.

I think enough said, Mr. Speaker, about the NDP policy and its shortcomings. I would like now to spend a few minutes on why the hon. members opposite should be worried and, in fact, what some sensible policies look like, policies that have been put forth by this government, this PC government. And, Mr. Speaker, when I looked at what I thought I might say in this regard, I had to think, and hence, I had to bring out the pamphlet that for the most part was responsible for what has been called, on April 26th, 1982, as the Monday night massacre. And that was the night, Mr. Speaker, when of course, 56 PC MLAs behind their leader, the Premier of this province, Hon. Grant Devine, became government in this province.

And part of the program and part of the pamphlets that went out in the last weeks of that campaign was one called "Commitment," and I referred to this in one of my first speeches when I sat over there as Legislative Secretary. I referred to this in one of the first speeches in this House, and the brochure was entitled "Commitment," and that's exactly what this government is all about.

And although it talks about many things, eliminate the gas tax, and improved health care as my hon. colleague, the Minister of Health has done so well at, and a thirteen and a quarter per cent Mortgage Interest Reduction Program which to this day continues; one of the major tenets of this policy platform of this commitment, was this, Mr. Speaker, and I quote. It said, "Protect and

preserve the family farm." That's what our government stood for when it was elected in 1982, and that's what we stand for today.

And the Bill that's before this House at this very moment is part of us protecting and preserving the family farm. We said it then; we said it now. We kept our promises then, and I would suggest to the hon. members opposite that a government that keeps its promises is a government that the people will keep. And you have every reason to be worried by our commitment.

And so, Mr. Speaker, let's look back and say to ourselves what in terms of agriculture policy today . . . Let's reflect over the last two and a half years, let's reflect over the last two and a half years. Two and a half years ago, Mr. Speaker, could a young farmer get 8 per cent money in this province to buy farm land, or irrigation equipment, or livestock? Could a young farmer get 8 per cent money, Mr. Speaker? I ask you, and the answer, of course, is no. But today, Mr. Speaker, two and a half years later, we have over 3,500 young farmers, one-half of them first time farmers, who have had an opportunity to start farming because of that 8 per cent money because of a Tory Farm Purchase Program, a promise that was made, a promise that was delivered.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, we hear lots of talk, even today and in this House today, about how tough it is in the farm economy. And I would just remind everyone here that every week that the Farm Purchase Program is in place, more new young farmers get started in this province by far, by far every week, Mr. Speaker, than those who go bankrupt or are foreclosed on a monthly or yearly basis. More young farmers started with this program than any other program in the history of this province.

And I ask you, Mr. Speaker, two and a half years ago, two and a half years ago were there any measures to provide some tax relief for farmers? Were there any measures like these home quarter tax rebates that puts \$14 million back into the hands of rural Saskatchewan? Were farmers being charged E&H tax on their electrical bills? Yes, they were, but are they today? No, not today. And could, Mr. Speaker, could farmers invest in agriculture and receive a tax credit?

You know they could invest in days gone by in MURBs, and cinemas, and RRSPs, and all those kinds of things and get tax breaks, but nobody had every thought to give a tax break to agriculture until the Devine government came along. And today, Mr. Speaker, they can get a tax break that will reduce their provincial income tax right down to zero in this province with the Livestock Investment Tax Credit that's working today in this province.

And Mr. Speaker, two and a half years ago if you were a farmer and wanted to run a grain dryer with natural gas, or to heat your pig barn with natural gas, or to run your house with natural gas, or to heat your house with natural gas, was there a program that provided, number 1, low cost 8 per cent money to put rural gas in them, or was there even a rural natural gas program in place? And once again, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

But today in Saskatchewan we have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of farmers who have been serviced under the rural natural gas program, and I applaud my colleague, the hon. member from Yorkton, the minister in charge of Sask Power, for that kind of program. And I have had more than one constituent come and tell me that he has recovered his costs in less than a year by switching over to natural gas — his heating costs. Another promise kept; another promise working.

And I ask you, Mr. Speaker, two and a half years ago, were there insurance schemes in this province that were sensitive and meaningful? Did we have a feeder cattle insurance program? Did we have a crop insurance program?

And this is something that the hon. member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg should be sensitive to, because he knows there have been inadequacies in the crop insurance program for years and years and years, inadequacies that the NDP government never addressed. He has heard, I have

heard, all these members have heard about the fact that the scheme that was in place to buy crop insurance coverage always reduced everyone to the lowest common denominator. So the farmer who wanted to use chemicals and fertilizers, and whose yields on average were consistently higher than others, couldn't really buy any meaningful insurance.

Well, now, thanks to our colleague, the Hon. Gerald Muirhead, and the Hon. John Wise in Ottawa, we have today farmers in this province who can have the option of 80 per cent coverage, individual coverage. And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of fixing up the safety net in these difficult times, I would suggest to you that that is one very important program, and something that has been called for for some good long time.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker. Two and a half years ago, did we have the commitment to research in this province that we have today? And the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, when he put out his farm policy, didn't mention soil, didn't mention water management, didn't mention soil conservation.

And I could go on about the policies that my hon. colleagues have developed through Sask. Water, and the irrigation programs where we have brought more land under irrigation in one year than happened in the past in two and three years. Programs that are working, Mr. Speaker.

And then that doesn't even touch some sector-specific ones, where, when you've had individual or community hurt, we've been prepared to address it. And I think of things like our emergency pay-out for lamb producers, our programs for livestock producers this past summer, whether it be for pasture, for water, or for winter feed stuffs. I refer to the programs where we helped out those farmers in the north-east who had been flooded year after year. Sector-specific help where they needed it, Mr. Speaker, compassion and understanding.

And for those farmers who could not get operating loans, an operating loan guarantee program, a program when we brought it in Mr. Speaker, we said, "We will put \$4 million in this fund, operated by farmers but funded by the government."

And, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg says that's a good program, and I will tell him that that program has been successful beyond our wildest dreams, in that not has there been \$4 million guaranteed, Mr. Speaker, but the number today is closer to 8 millions of dollars. Not 4 million, but 8 million. And the hon. member . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I see I've hit a nerve, Mr. Speaker. And we've dealt with grasshoppers, and we've dealt with wheat midge as we had to.

One other thing I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker. One other thing I would like to mention is in terms of specific programs, is the Prairie Livestock Drought Program, Mr. Speaker, the Prairie Livestock Drought Program. And this program is a typical example of how things can work for the betterment of all western Canadian farmers, in fact, when governments co-operate and work together. And it's something we haven't seen in this country for a good long time. And thanks to that recent fall election when we now have a federal government in place that for the first time in a good long time represents every part of this country.

And not only that, Mr. Speaker, we have a Minister of Agriculture down there who is sensitive and understands our problems. And it wasn't two weeks that he'd assumed office and he was out here and with my colleagues from Alberta and Manitoba, signed a \$60 million Prairie Livestock Drought Agreement. Co-operation, Mr. Speaker, working on behalf of farmers together for farmers.

And, Mr. Speaker, I could talk about the co-operation we've received at recent ministers' meeting where we discussed farm financing. There's been numerous reports in the media about the positive attitude, if you like, of governments working together, lauding the steps of the three prairie provincial governments in co-ordinating our efforts. And in fact, of course, as the stock

growers president in this province has said himself, referring to the prairie livestock program, Mr. Yahnke, and I quote out of a Star-Phoenix of August 15th. Yahnke praised the aid program for its universality and added his association doesn't believe the government should pay the total cost of the drought. The program leaves the management decisions to the producer, Mr. Speaker. A program well received.

And I'm sure there are members in this House who recall how the NDP in opposition today, when they were in government, how they responded to the drought. Remember they had the fencing program. And I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, there are piles and piles of fence material today still stacked up out there under that ill-conceived program. Or that feed freight assistance program that they had. The feed freight assistance where everybody benefited but the farmer. Where everybody benefited but the farmer.

And this has been what's made this program so successful, Mr. Speaker. It's been cash in the hands of the livestock producers. And they're the ones that know what is the least cost option for them and what to do.

But this federal co-operation did not stop there, Mr. Speaker. It did not stop there. What else have we seen? And I'll go through these relatively quickly, although they do deserve time. What else have we seen? Well we've heard the opposition opposite bring about cuts and freezes. Cuts and freezes. Cuts at the federal government level. Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was never so happy to see some of the cuts that were made by Michael Wilson's economic statement. One of their first cuts was: they cut the federal taxes off farm fuel, \$48 million in rebates, 28 cents a gallon, something in that range, in rebates ultimately for the farmers out there. Money in the pockets.

What was one of the other cuts, Mr. Speaker? Well, they cut the seaway toll increase on the Great Lakes, another \$2 million saving for western Canadian farmers. What was another one of their freezes and cuts, Mr. Speaker? Well, they froze Farm Credit Corporation foreclosures until the new minister had a chance to get a handle on the situation down there. And what was the other major cut, Mr. Speaker, the other one that, interestingly enough, we haven't heard any braying from the opposition ranks on? And that was they cut Canagrex, a move that was applauded by virtually everyone in western Canada, because it was an unnecessary duplication in the first place. Now if these are an example of cuts, Mr. Speaker, I say give us more of them.

And one other freeze . . . And I'm sure the hon. member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg would have mentioned this one today, but he did not in his agriculture policy statement. They froze rail line abandonments, and that directly affected him in his constituency, Mr. Speaker. And he should have got up and acknowledged it with thanks. But he prefers to overlook the fuel tax rebate, the federal tax remover. He prefers to overlook those things, as did the Leader of the Opposition when he gave his policy statement. They prefer to overlook these positive moves.

But it doesn't end there, Mr. Speaker. They also prefer to overlook the fact that one of the first moves that the Hon. Charles Mayer made was a move that put several tens of millions of dollars into farmers' pockets. And that was moving the initial price of barley from 2.39 to 2.72. And then the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in his policy statement said we need a massive pay-out under the western grain stabilization — \$250 million, I think, was the term he used. Obviously, he was not aware of the fact that the cheques were in the mail for the final part of a \$223 million pay-out to farmers. And I've got mine. I'm sure my colleague and seat-mate here has got his, and my colleague back here, and my colleague behind me.

(2045)

And I'm going to tell the Leader of the Opposition that the Hon. Charles Mayer is not going to stop there, and that this spring before the crops are seeded I have no doubt that there will be a payment that is even more substantial than what farmers have seen this spring. And that is the

kind of payment that's going to go a long way to putting in the crops, and paying the fuel dealers, and the fertilizer dealers, and the chemical dealers, and that farm service sector that they want to squash the life out of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. MR. HEPWORTH: — But they didn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. Another \$35 million for Saskatchewan farmers by adjusting the computation of how the domestic milling price is set, another \$35 million in the hands of Saskatchewan farmers. But, Mr. Speaker, did the Leader of the Opposition, who enunciated agriculture policy earlier this week, mention that? No. Once again looking for the quick fixes, the junkies out of touch with reality.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've already talked about the Agribonds and the capital gains tax and section 31. And, Mr. Speaker, did the Hon. Leader of the Opposition talk about trade and developing markets in his agriculture policy, or research, or soil conservation, or water management? No. But, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier and my Legislative Secretary, the MLA for Saltcoats, Walter Johnson, know what it means to develop markets and to penetrate in trading areas. And the most recent one, and one that was announced just during Agribition, and I must congratulate my Legislative Secretary and the Deputy Premier.

Bulgaria buys 430 beef cattle. I want to tell you the story behind this one, Mr. Speaker, because those members over there have criticized this government for going and knocking on doors and getting deals. They've criticized us for setting up offices in Vienna because they don't want us to sell and be successful. Well, I want to tell those members opposite about this Bulgarian deal. Because I have, as has my colleague, I have had, on more than one occasion, chance to have lunch and dinner with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Petkov from Bulgaria, and one of his officials, Professor Hinkovski. And, Mr. Speaker, when they came over here, what were they looking for? I think it was something in the neighbourhood of 50 head. Fifty head, Mr. Speaker. And what is the deal? What did we send them home with? Four hundred and thirty head, Mr. Speaker. And, I'll bet . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. MR. HEPWORTH: — And I will bet, Mr. Speaker, that they'll be back for more. They've had shipments in the past. I'll bet they'll be back for more, and my hon. colleague, my Legislative Secretary, Walter Johnson, is off to close that deal this December, and I wish him well on his trip.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I've enunciated what a true agriculture policy looks like, and, before I close, I would like to spend a few minutes — and I didn't save my constituency for the last, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to spend a few moments talking about the very important part of my role here as MLA for Weyburn. I'm just going to walk you through a quick history, if you like, of the last 11 months in Weyburn constituency. I've had constituency tours and things have been happening down there, Mr. Speaker, and I think they're worth noting. And I'll give you a quick walk through of some of the things as seen through the eyes of the local newspaper there, the Weyburn Review.

The first headline, Mr. Speaker — and this is a review, a year-end review, if you like, since we are into December — and what's happening in the Weyburn constituency. Headline, July 11, '84: "Twenty-one and a half million oil test project." Headline: "First in Canada", Mr. Speaker, jobs for people in my constituency. "South-east remains oil lease leader", thanks to my colleague the minister in charge of energy and mines in this province.

My hon. colleague, the minister in charge of tourism, and that very innovative Venture Capital Corporation, spearheaded by a fellow by the name of Tom Hanley in the community. "Details unveiled of recreation complex", a joint funding proposal, Mr. Speaker, between the private sector and the public sector in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, building a community facility. "Chinese

visitors at Weyburn Inland Terminal", Mr. Speaker. Another part of this market penetration and developing markets, and I'm very thankful to the people in Weyburn Inland Terminal for helping us host our very important visitors from China.

Another headline, Mr. Speaker: "\$26 million for cattlemen." Aid for those needing aid, Mr. Speaker. "Oil project is okayed." And here is one that I am particularly proud of, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank my hon. colleague, Graham Taylor, the Minister of Health, for this, because it's been a thing that's been a gnawing, a gnawing problem for some good long time in my area, and that's the issue of nursing homes and hospitals, Mr. Speaker.

Not only have we opened, in my constituency, a new nursing home in the city of Weyburn, but my colleague, the Minister of Health, was out and turned dirt on a new nursing home in Stoughton, and, Mr. Speaker, we have every reason to believe that Fillmore will receive a special care, integrated nursing home hospital facility, something that they've been wanting, I think, Mr. Speaker, for something in excess of 10 years. I say thanks to my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Health.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. MR. HEPWORTH: — And it goes on. And it goes on, Mr. Speaker. Stoughton gets \$42,200 recreation grant, new dam dedicated, the city of Weyburn has their new dam. The bridge, the proverbial bridge in down town Weyburn that causes problems every time it floods there, a new bridge opened up that will help some of those problems. The Water Corporation, an important aspect of Weyburn, obviously, with the Souris river running through it, and the Souris river basin part of where Weyburn is located, opened the office down there.

"South-East helped the province break drill record", and the headlines go on. And here's another one, Mr. Speaker, that all members of the House will be particularly interested in — "First Saskatchewan Oil Show to be here next June," here being Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, something that we can all look forward to.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. MR. HEPWORTH: — And another one, another one, Mr. Speaker, "Oil activity, economic booms." "Jobs in south-east Saskatchewan." "True to prediction, South-east leads sales." That's the oil land sales, Mr. Speaker. "Help for stock producers." "3,600 jobs for youth contained in the budget," Mr. Speaker. "A water system for north Weyburn," and here I'd have to congratulate my colleague, the Minister in charge of Supply and Services. The Western Christian College, a very fundamental part of the Weyburn community, now has a new water system, a project that had been on hold for years and years and years, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-eight million dollars, or rather \$2.88 million Sask Power contract to one of the big employers in my town, Canada Wire and Cable — jobs for my people in Weyburn constituency, Mr. Speaker.

And here's another one: the Minister of Health, we've had hundreds of thousands of square feet of vacant space in the Souris Valley for years and years and years, Mr. Speaker, and now, thanks to the Hon. Minister of Health and his Legislative Secretary, Larry Birkbeck, we've had a space study down there, and somebody is finally getting their head around that vacant space. Payments of up to \$2,100 per farmer, and I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but I won't, because that's what's happening in Weyburn constituency, Mr. Speaker. That's what's happening, and I know where there's some vacant space when it comes to agriculture policy, and it's right across there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. MR. HEPWORTH: — Right across there. There was nothing. There was nothing on trade. There was nothing on research. There was nothing on soil conservation. A vacant gap when it comes to policy.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to end up on a rather sombre note. I would like to end up on a rather sombre note because there is no question, Mr. Speaker, that the agricultural community out there today is having its difficulties. But I would say, Mr. Speaker, that this is not new for this province. We have had our ups and our downs before. We have had our cycles, but we have one thing going for us — we have a very resilient and dedicated people. Farm people are some of the finest people in the world, Mr. Speaker. And just to make my point, Mr. Speaker, about how resilient people do get through cycles, I would like to share with the members of this legislature a few excerpts taken from my grandmother's diary through the years '30-35.

Through the years '30-35, and I think all members will know and agree that those years were part of a very tough cycle. And because they survived, we today farm some of that land — and it is some of the most productive land in the world when it comes to crop and livestock production. And I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that although we have some tough times, maybe, to some degree, all that has changed is the names, the dates, and the places a little bit. And let's look . . . And I'll just share a few excerpts with you.

We go back to April 1930, and what was my grandmother writing in her very private and confidential diary then? "Thousands of acres blown out." Is that not somewhat reminiscent of what was happening on some of the wheat plains this spring, Mr. Speaker?

Or a little later, the next year, she said: "Been a terrible dust storm all night. Cannot see anywhere, cannot see any buildings." In that same year, a little later: "The cutworms and grasshoppers have eaten all our stubble crops." And certainly many members here will know the kind of grasshopper problem we had this past summer.

August 18, 1930: "Too discouraged with the dry season to write more. No money for our work, just debts which we cannot pay." And still later: "We got hailed out on the homestead. The grandest looking crop — 80 per cent and 90 per cent, all the oats gone. Disgusted with farming."

We had hail this summer too, Mr. Speaker, and it did make some disgusted with farming. In fact, today I farm that homestead land, and even with less than two inches of rain we pulled off a crop of 28 bushels an acre. But to know how exasperated they must have felt, Mr. Speaker, and to put this next quote in context, you must know that my grandmother was one of the finest Christian women that ever lived. And when she had been hailed out on the homestead and was disgusted with farming, the despair that she must have felt when she wrote: "Must be the Devil's work. No crop, no money, getting tired of waiting for the crop we never get. Everything needs replacing. Cannot stand many more."

Well, as I said, Mr. Speaker, my grandmother was one of the finest Christian people that ever lived. However, she did have one fault. April 10, 1935: "Had a Liberal meeting here. Set 120 eggs in incubator." Now, I don't know whether there's any relationship between the two.

"First rain in 10 months," was a quotation in May of 1929. But here, Mr. Speaker, is the essence, I believe, of what Saskatchewan is all about. There's a couple of quotations made almost at the height of the depression in 1934, June 5th: "We still live in hope, a great country, and great people to be able to live in it with."

Mr. Speaker, it is with a very great deal of pride and pleasure that I support the main motion. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. HODGINS: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible) . . . I would like to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture on his very lengthy and inspiring speech. It is indeed my pleasure to be involved with this very talented man who . . . (inaudible) . . .

Mr. Speaker, I am a capital "C" Conservative. I believe in free enterprise. I believe in the pioneer heritage that work and family are at the centre of our lives. I believe that these ideals are the foundation of our dignity as a free people. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be a Conservative. That is why I am in public life serving as the MLA for Melfort constituency.

I support the goals and vision of the government of Premier Grant Devine. I support the policies, I support the programs, of this Progressive Conservative government. And for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of the Speech from the Throne.

In the early part of this century, pioneers came to Saskatchewan seeking a promised land, seeking freedom. They believed in hard work and personal initiative. These same ideals and belief in freedom led to a massive rejection of an administration that had tried to destroy those ideals during the 1970s.

Since 1982, thanks to the leadership of the Conservative government, the yoke of big government has been removed from around the necks of people in this province.

In the spring of 1982 this Progressive Conservative government launched a new challenge in the history of Saskatchewan. They promised to all people in this province a new beginning, one filled with hope and promise, lasting prosperity, and a return to basic family values.

Today, the people of Saskatchewan are benefiting from Premier Devine's strong leadership and vision. Saskatchewan is looking to the future with optimism and confidence. Opportunity, hard work, and faith in God and family are the building blocks of our future.

This government has worked to restore basic principles and values for Saskatchewan. The Premier of our province is a leader all citizens can trust. As a result of his leadership, Saskatchewan is standing tall in the eyes of all of Canada.

This is a good time, Mr. Speaker, for me to stop and review the record of performance of your Progressive Conservative government of Saskatchewan.

Perhaps we can start with taxes. One key to economic growth is to see that taxpayers are not burdened with high taxes. That's why we have had tax reductions instead of tax increases. Basic tax rates have not increased here. We have made selective tax cuts along with tax credit measures that will stimulate economic growth.

(2100)

There has been no increase in personal income tax or in sales tax. We removed the sales tax from the household electricity bill. There is now no provincial gasoline tax, no provincial corporation tax on small manufacturing or processing firms.

Mr. Speaker, for years there has been talk of an oil upgrader for Saskatchewan. Your Conservative government has now signed agreements that will lead to the construction of two oil upgraders, one in Regina and one in Lloydminster.

These, Mr. Speaker, will be massive economic projects. They will help thousands of families, individuals, and Saskatchewan businesses. Ipsco in Regina will be called upon to provide pipe for the thousands of wells to be drilled and for the upgraders themselves. This will create an enormous amount of work for Ipsco. Mr. Speaker, energy is one of the strengths here in Saskatchewan. These two upgraders will help to build on our strengths.

I think the programs we have brought in for senior citizens, as well, have been particularly good. We doubled the payment for single seniors under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. I believe

we raised it from \$25 to \$50. We raised the couples' rate from \$45 to \$75. I think it's important to know that those people had received only one increase since 1975.

We recently announced a new home repair program to help them maintain their independent living. Under that program, seniors who own their homes may receive a grant of up to \$1,000 to help repair them.

Mr. Speaker, for years seniors have been requesting a foot-care program. Now, for the first time ever, we have a province-wide foot-care program, and most recently, I was very pleased to take part in the opening of a Rocky Mountain Civic Health Centre.

Our new bond program enables Saskatchewan people to invest in the future of our province by purchasing power bonds. That bond is guaranteed by the provincial government. I understand it will earn 11.5 per cent interest on your investment. Saskatchewan Power bonds have been sold at local banks, credit unions and trust companies for as little as \$100. In approximately two weeks, \$60 million worth of Saskatchewan Power bonds were sold. This only reinforces our government's belief that the citizens of Saskatchewan want to participate in the development of this province.

It has always been our purpose, Mr. Speaker, to shield people from damaging economic forces beyond their control. That was why we introduced the Mortgage Interest Reduction Program in 1982.

MR. SPEAKER: — Order, please. We're having difficulty hearing the member. There's something evidently wrong with your microphone. I'm going to ask the control to turn on the microphone next to you to see if that will correct our problem.

MR. HODGINS: — Mr. Speaker, that Mortgage Interest Reduction Program ensured that no home buyer would have to pay over 13.25 per cent interest. The program has helped 40,000 families. The program was to run until 1985, but with interest rates unstable, the Premier recently announced an extension to that program to June 1986. For the next four years any family buying a home will be protected from exorbitant interest rates.

Mr. Speaker, looking back I recall that when our Progressive Conservative government came to power in 1982, we found a huge and growing bureaucracy. We found falling revenues. Our young people were leaving. The needs of our seniors were being ignored.

The people asked us to change all that, to form an efficient government, a government that listens to people. People said to make Saskatchewan proud again, to make this a province with a future for our young people, for our seniors, for our families, for each of us who call Saskatchewan home. And that is the goal, Mr. Speaker, to which I am committed. And that is why I'm proud to be here as a Progressive Conservative MLA for Melfort.

Mr. Speaker, jobs for people is an important priority with this government, and I wish to take a few moments to discuss job creation. Our province's most important resource is our people, and that's why our government's number one priority is to create jobs. Every citizen who wants to work should have the opportunity for a job here. That is why there will be an all out effort by your government, working with business, working with labour and communities, to create those much-needed jobs. And I want to assure you, Mr. Speaker, we will not leave a stone unturned in creating work opportunities for Saskatchewan people.

And I believe our efforts are paying off today. Saskatchewan has an enviable record of 44,000 new jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. Figures provided by Statistics Canada showed 464,000 people were employed in Saskatchewan in August of this year. That compares with 420,000 in April, 1982. The labour force today is 499,000 people, which is an increase of 51,000 over April of 1982.

Look at our energy program. It has been more successful than anyone could have hoped in stimulating development and creating jobs. Mr. Speaker, with our oil industry recovery program we provided incentives to the entrepreneurs who want to invest their money and to work hard. As a result, over 250 new oil and gas companies and over 90 new service and consulting firms set up here. They have created over a thousand direct jobs since July of 1982, and at least a hundred more spin-off jobs.

Those who don't understand what we have done have accused us of giving away too much to those entrepreneurs. Well the cost of our oil program has been 125 million in foregone revenue. But this has been more than offset by 150 million in land sales revenue and 100 million in royalties generated by new activity.

The oil upgrader announced in August of last year, and to be built in Regina, is another success of our oil program. By 1986 there will be 1,300 people working on that project. The Husky upgrader at Lloydminster was announced last June. It will involve 18,000 man-years of construction, and will create 3,600 jobs for Saskatchewan and Alberta workers. Our incentives for the mining industry are paying off as well. At Key Lake, a \$500 million project will create 4 to 500 full-time jobs. At Kalium potash, a \$100 million project will create 30 new permanent jobs, as well as 175 construction jobs.

Of course, our government's direct action programs are also creating many jobs. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health, which has upped its spending this year to \$1 billion, has introduced an enriched construction grant formula for community and regional hospitals.

As a result, new hospitals have been approved for Nipawin, Cut Knife, Lloydminster, and Maidstone. Major extensions will be built in Melfort and Yorkton. We're also funding major hospital construction projects in Regina and Saskatoon. A \$17 million commitment goes to cancer treatment including a new \$10 million Saskatoon cancer clinic. Wascana Hospital at Regina is being upgraded. The big nursing home construction program is going ahead across the province, and a new children's rehabilitation centre is being built in Saskatoon. All of these are creating jobs.

Programs under Parks and Renewable Resources have been announced that will create 200 jobs over the next three years. And we have our student leadership program this past summer that trained university and technical students that created 28 or 29 jobs. The programs of Saskatchewan corporation's Build-A-Home Program created nearly 6,000 jobs in the past two years. Over 100 jobs were created this year through the Saskatchewan Research Council. Mr. Speaker, our Department of Social Services created thousands of jobs through various programs, some of which were cost shared with the federal government. These focused on people who were receiving social assistance and could be put to useful work.

Another 2,800 jobs were created through the Department of Tourism and Small Business in a program to assist small business through permanent job creation. Mr. Speaker, in total, we created 10,000 new jobs in 1983, and this year our job creation program are even more intense. Yes, the time for the full development of our resources is here. Our government is implementing plans that will enable the people of Saskatchewan to play their full role in doing that.

Job creation is a priority for this government and will continue to be a priority for Saskatchewan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. HODGINS: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to compare the positive, Conservative values and achievements with the policies of the socialist NDP opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the policies adopted at the recent NDP convention at Saskatoon, leave no doubt

that the NDPers still haven't got over their obsession with meddling in people's lives. For instance, they want to intrude into a farmer's decision making by imposing arbitrary size limits on farms. That's just another way of saying they want to prevent him from making his own decisions. Even if a farmer can get better returns by stepping up production in response to market forces, the NDP would impose some arbitrary limit. Undoubtedly, that limit would be set by some bureaucrat.

But the NDPers aren't going to limit their interference to matters of size alone. Their policy statements say they would ban the advertising of chemicals. Now this would keep the farmers totally in the dark as to what's new in these products. It would deprive farmers of the latest information on cropping practices, handicapping farmers in today's competitive markets. I don't believe that's help, Mr. Speaker, I believe that's harassment. Mr. Speaker, in fact, the NDPers still haven't realized that prairie agriculture is on the leading edge of new technology, and it is a solid growth industry. They haven't become aware that one of the central weapons in the farmer's production arsenal is that of chemicals. They don't seem to understand that prairie grain is sold on fiercely competitive world markets. In fact, they seem unaware that it's the marvelous efficiency and productivity of Saskatchewan farmers that have kept them viable in years when grain prices have been so low.

The NDPers, Mr. Speaker, talked endlessly about more government ownership. Their resolutions were chock-full of references to nationalizing our resources. NDPers are obviously intent on creating bigger and bigger Crown corporations.

They said they want to nationalize the rest of the potash industry. They still don't recognize that we benefit from having diversified ownership of this vitally important industry.

Mr. Speaker, the saddest part of the NDP convention was this: it revealed again that the NDP lacked faith in the ingenuity of the people. The NDPers want to shove people into big bureaucracies rather than giving them the opportunity to use their abilities. The NDP's want a few politicians and bureaucrats to make the decisions for everybody. They just don't trust the people to make decisions for themselves.

They don't seem to have noticed what happened to oil and gas exploration when this province introduced an incentive drilling program. They are blind to the fact that people responded in a way to make our oil and gas industry the most dynamic in the country, creating jobs and prosperity as we haven't seen in the industry ever before.

The NDP's obsession with meddling takes it in strange directions. When we removed the gasoline tax, it was the largest single tax cut in this province's history; it saves every family \$500 every year. But the NDP says that it would re-instate the tax.

More farmers, Mr. Speaker, bought land in our farm purchase program in the first 10 weeks than bought land under the NDP land bank in 10 years. But the NDP wants to re-instate the land bank.

The NDP even want to bring in an inheritance tax . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I am quite sure.

Now the NDP are showing a shocking lack of concern for the huge investment Saskatchewan has made in uranium mining. They want to purchase . . . They want to phase out these mines. This would throw away that huge investment and the jobs that it created.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP problem is that it lacks faith in the people of Saskatchewan. Its ideology says that government must make the decisions, not the people themselves. The NDP sees the public simply as workers, not as mature people who want to accept more responsibility and make more of their own statements. The NDP underestimates the people of Saskatchewan. No wonder they cannot learn from their mistakes.

(2115)

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is very important to the Melfort constituency and, indeed, to all of Saskatchewan. I was proud to be in this legislature yesterday when the Minister of Agriculture introduced the most powerful and effective piece of legislation to protect Saskatchewan farmers for many months.

Nineteen eighty-four has been a difficult year for our farmers, Mr. Speaker. The elements of nature — the weather, has not been good to our farmers. Burdensome costs and uncontrollable costs have hurt our farmers. And, Mr. Speaker, this government will not sit by and see the family farms suffer or lost. That is our commitment to the farmers of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, common sense, caring, and conservative values are the guiding light of the government. As Saskatchewan enters its 80th year in the confederation of Canada, a most promising future is ahead of us. This government has the courage and the conviction to build on the values of our pioneers, forging ahead knowing all along that, yes indeed, our achievements and policies are working.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for some time yet, but at this time I would like to turn a little bit to my own constituency, and just review some of the achievements that have been made in my constituency of Melfort. As I have stated earlier, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Conservative, and I'm very proud to represent the fine people of the Melfort constituency.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we review the record of the past two and a half years, I stand all the more proud. And I speak of such things as a hospital being built in my home city of Melfort. I understand that approximately \$8 million is being spent on an addition to our hospital.

I take a look at education, Mr. Speaker, and I can cite in this legislature that virtually every school in my constituency has been under some form of construction. We have three schools in Melfort that have had recent additions put on them, a new school in Star City.

Mr. Speaker, we have housing projects in my constituency of which I am also very proud. We have highways that are leading to our city and helping our farmers deliver that grain. And Mr. Speaker, the people of Melfort, Melfort constituency, are very proud of the achievements that we have in our home town.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very, very important that we understand that the money that we have spent on behalf of the taxpayers of this province and my constituency have gone to things that, I believe, are traditional, and that I believe government should be spending money on: — health, and education, and highways.

And I'd like to compare this, Mr. Speaker, with the record of the former administration. When those people had extra money to invest in the 1970s, what did they do with it, Mr. Speaker? They squandered it. And I particularly disliked the squandering of money in such things as uranium mines. And then those people on the opposite side of the House had the audacity to say that they don't think we should be in uranium mines.

Mr. Speaker, I think when the public judges a government on their performance, they will look at the fiscal responsibility of that government. Did the government spend the taxpayers' money wisely? And, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in saying that this government is spending taxpayers' money to the best advantage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give some of my colleagues an opportunity to speak on the throne speech. I do want you to know that I will most definitely be supporting the Speech from the Throne.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. MORIN: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise in the Assembly tonight and participate in the Speech from the Throne debate. And before I comment on the Speech from the Throne, I'd like to congratulate you for the fine way in which you've handled some very trying days in this Assembly in the last few days. We count on you to keep decorum in the Chamber and within the past number of days you've been required to go above and beyond what that expectation should be, and I commend you for that.

I'd also like to congratulate the member from Riversdale in Saskatoon for the very fine way which she moved the Speech from the Throne. The member from Riversdale is, of course now, one of the most often elected members in this Assembly. And as of that turn of three victories she's certainly showing herself to be doing a fine job here. I also would like to commend my colleague, the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood, for his seconding of that speech.

We've heard, in the past couple of days, comments that the members of the government's side haven't been dealing with the Speech from the Throne. And we've heard comments that there was really not very much in the Speech from the Throne.

I'd like to begin my comments tonight by dealing with the Speech from the Throne, page by page, and just commenting on the types of things that are in it. To begin with, within the first paragraph, this speech deals with unemployment and the problems of unemployment in our province.

It goes on and talks about how we're going to deal with these problems by counting on the depth and strength and commitment of the Saskatchewan values, and self-reliance and co-operation of initiative and enterprise, and while at the same time it's doing that, that we're going to protect and enhance the quality of health care, education, and social services within the province.

The speech talks about economic renewal. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, we need that economic renewal not only in Saskatchewan, but in Canada as a whole.

The speech goes on and talks about new capital spending in Saskatchewan which in 1983 rose by 10.3 per cent, even though capital spending in the rest of Canada declined.

It talks about crop production and the problems that we've had with the weather this year. And the fact that our harvest this year was down 20 per cent. And it talks about how it's going to address that problem.

It talks about changes in the crop insurance Act which were much welcomed by farmers. Changes which allow farmers to individually insure their crops. Changes which this year in very, very tough times allowed farmers not to have to plow under their crops if they weren't going to combine them, but to save that money and simply have the adjuster in to adjust the crop.

It goes on and talks about the operating loan guarantee program which we had last spring. Mr. Speaker, the members of the opposition are talking about plans and proposals that they've had for what should be done in the farm economy. Going back to last spring, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that our government at the time addressed the problem of the day, that the problem was that farmers were having difficulty obtaining credit or capital to put the crop in. And we addressed that problem, and we solved that problem for them.

The opposition was talking about debt moratoriums and one thing and another in the springtime before we even knew what kind of a crop we were going to have. And it was clearly premature for them to be doing very much of any of that type of talking at the time.

Further on in the speech, Mr. Speaker, it says:

1984 has, however, been a particularly difficult year for farmers, and further government action is required to protect the family farm. Accordingly, my government intends to introduce in this session comprehensive legislation to provide security for viable family farms jeopardized by uncontrollable costs, burdensome debts, and the impact of adverse weather conditions.

Yesterday in the House we saw that legislation tabled, and it was precisely what the situation calls for. I've talked to farmers in my riding, and I've talked to people who deal in the farm economy, and they tell me that their perception of that Bill is exactly what is required. It protects the land which our ancestors came here to farm. It protects the farmer from any difficulty that he may be having with a financial institution, and it gives him time to rethink his situation, to restructure his problems, and to move on into the future. Nothing radical, nothing foolish, just good common sense legislation to help the farming community.

Further on in the speech, Mr. Speaker, we talk about water management. And surely, if there's ever a way that we're going to insure the province of Saskatchewan's agricultural base, it is going to be to drought-proof it. And how can we go on and take steps toward drought-proofing our province if we haven't secured the water resources that we need for irrigation. And I'd like to commend my colleague, the Minister of Energy and the minister in charge of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation, for the foresight that he's shown and the great work that he's done on this.

In the Battlefords, we're fortunate to be the regional office of the Water Corporation. And from that office, the plans that we're making now to develop the North Saskatchewan River for not only industry but for agriculture, for tourism and recreation will benefit my region, the north-west corner of the province, for years to come.

Further on again in the speech, we begin to talk about jobs and job creation. And one of the programs that has been very successful for us, the Saskatchewan Skill Development Program is mentioned. And that program has created 3,500 jobs for people who were on welfare. Mr. Speaker, in my riding alone, there have been roughly 70 people given the opportunity to move off of welfare dependency into self-sufficiency. And those people have regained a measure of dignity and a measure of opportunity to contribute to society and participate in the overall scheme of our life-style. And they're grateful for that program. They appreciate the opportunity for a job and an opportunity to contribute to our society.

In his response to the Speech from the Throne, the Leader of the Opposition ridiculed the training programs that we've come up with. He said they haven't worked. Well, clearly, they have, Mr. Speaker, if he would look at the people who are unemployed in our province, what he would find is that most of them are young people. Fully half of the people unemployed in the province of Saskatchewan are under the age of 25, and many of them have not either completed a high school diploma or have any particular training to make them more competitive, to give them a competitive advantage on the job market.

What we have done as a government since 1982 is to increase the number of training spaces within the province by over 1,000. We will be providing additional capacity in the 1984-85 year. We have initiated a career counselling program, and we're expanding our community colleges. And this year, for example, in the Battlefords, the Mistikwa Community College allows students from our region to take their first year university completely in the Battlefords. First time in many, many years that that has ever been available.

Now those type of things, although the opposition would certainly say that that doesn't put money into people's pockets or whatever, certainly it does. Because if you're a parent from my area and your child can take his first year and hopefully eventually the second and third year of university at home in the Battlefords, that's a considerable saving over what you would have to spend to

send that child to university in either Saskatoon or Regina. And those things, the subtle things that can be done to help out the citizens of our province, are clearly an advantage to them in terms of savings of dollars, and, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, a dollar saved is very much the same as a dollar earned.

In terms of our employment policy, Mr. Speaker, we go on in the speech, and we talk about Opportunities '84. We talk about the Students-in Industry Program, we talk about the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program, and we talk about the number of jobs which those programs have created. And they've created fully 8,000 jobs for young people, for students in our province to allow them to carry on with their education, to fund their education, to give them a measure of self-sufficiency and independence so that they don't have to be dependent either on government or on their parents, but to give them the dignity to go on in their own futures.

Further to that, we've developed such things as New Careers Corporation. And I had the opportunity quite recently to spend some time with people involved with the Saskatchewan Sailing Association, and they're planning a large tourist attraction for Saskatchewan in your riding, I believe, Mr. Speaker, near the Elbow. Through the New Careers Corporation, there will be a park developed at Elbow, and a natural harbour to allow for what will be called "Sail West '85". It will be the largest sailing event in western Canada of the year. And it will go on in an ongoing basis. It will attract hundreds and hundreds of tourists into our province, which will be good, not only for the economic development of our province, but it will also be good to help develop the competitive spirit and open another avenue of recreation for our people. All that through the New Careers Corporation.

In addition, we've done such things as Seniors' Home Repair Programs, which is a very popular program in my riding. I haven't kept count, but I must have given away 100 applications for Senior Home Repair Programs.

(2130)

Because many seniors are not capable of getting downtown to my office, I've delivered many of these to their home. And without fail, they're telling me that they're going to use the money to put in a bathroom, or to fix their sidewalk which is chipping out, because they don't walk well anymore, and they'd like to have a nice flat sidewalk so they don't need to be worried about falling, or they don't want to have to go up to their second floor bathroom.

And these types of programs for people, Mr. Speaker, are very much appreciated and are going over very well. And the people remember who did this for them, and they will continue to remember.

Mr. Speaker, we've all seen and looked at the problems of governmental co-ordination, and we've looked at operations like the Canada Employment Centre. And we've looked at DREE and we've looked at Advanced Education and Manpower, and all of the different programs in various levels of government who work on employment development.

And often when we've looked at those things, what we've seen and what we said to ourselves is that they don't seem to know what they're doing. We've said they're all copying each other. One is going one direction; one is going another direction. They're both doing the same thing. There's no co-ordination.

And recognizing that, Mr. Speaker, we've appointed a minister responsible for employment. And today, I guess, in the House we introduced the Act that would create the department that he'll administer. And that minister, with the use of Bill 2, the Act to create this employment agency, will co-ordinate the activities of government provincially, to ensure that we don't have the type, any waste or any inefficiency going on, but that we can get the maximum impact for each tax

dollar spent in the area of employment and employment creation.

Further in the speech, Mr. Speaker, we mentioned that we, in Saskatchewan, must learn to respond to events by adapting our traditional industries, as necessary, and by exploring the potential of new industries that may arise.

The provincial government has a key note to play in its response, but others must be involved as well.

The Minister of Agriculture talked about the export of cattle to Bulgaria tonight. And certainly, that's one area that we can be expanding in. We've expanded in a number of ways. We're looking at using our traditional products, our wheat, to break it down and use the starch for other than food uses. We're using starch from Saskatchewan wheat now in the potash industry, in my riding in the Battlefords, we're doing biotechnological research which will create new crops, new varieties of crops, new opportunities for farmers to become more and more self-sufficient.

And these are all things, Mr. Speaker, that we want to remember that the farmers and the farming community of the province of Saskatchewan are looking toward the future. They're looking for opportunities to do more than simply grow grain, load it on a boxcar the way my grandfather and great grandfather did, and ship it out to a coast, and hope that it would eventually find its way onto a boat.

We've got to do things within our province to utilize our own natural resources, to develop them and process them here to create jobs at home for our own people. And those are the type of things we are doing. That's the direction we're going. And thanks very much to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, we've made strides and progress in that area that had never been dreamed of in this province before.

I heard when the member from Pelly spoke earlier. He looked at a program called . . . The name of the program just misses me right now, but it's . . . Don't overlook rural Saskatchewan. He talks about an ad running in a Vancouver paper. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell you where that program came from. Prior to becoming involved in politics, I ran a development corporation in the north-west corner of the province. And one day we were at a meeting in Unity talking about how we could attract industry to the small communities in north-west Saskatchewan, and we were going around the table and we came up with a very novel idea. We said, "Why don't we tell people the opportunities that are here and ask them to come in, so we'll advertise." And we went to the provincial government of the day and we said, "Here's what we want to do. We want to go to small communities, the Battlefords, the Unitys, the Maidstones and we want to say, here's an opportunity. They need a barber, or they need a mechanic, or they need a new garage, or whatever, and we'd like to run an ad in the newspapers." We picked the Toronto Globe and Mail at the time. We said we want to run an ad telling people, "If you are fed up with life in Toronto, and you're fed up with big cities in eastern Canada, you want an opportunity, come to Saskatchewan. We have an opportunity here for you." And what do you think that former government told us? No money. No money.

Since the change of government, Mr. Speaker, we've made that program a reality and the number of people who have come to Saskatchewan as a result of those ads in newspapers all across Canada has been incredible. We've got a terrific province here, and as a friend of mine from the United States is prone to say, he said, "You've got the best kept secret in the world, is in Saskatchewan." And the former government wouldn't let us tell anybody about it. They wouldn't spring for \$1,000 to put an ad in the paper to encourage people to come into Saskatchewan and do business, to create jobs, and in small communities which they claim to be so in support of.

We've done a few more things, Mr. Speaker, and we talk about them in this speech that they claim doesn't deal with anything. Further in the speech, we say economic activity in

Saskatchewan has continued at an encouraging pace. My government's major projects inventory now monitors \$9 billion in large scale construction being planned for implementation over the next five years. What we've done with those large projects, Mr. Speaker, is break them up to make it attractive for business in Saskatchewan to bid on, to compete in. In the past that never happened. What used to happen whenever we had a large project was that they'd tender the whole project out and, naturally, because of our population base, we didn't have the size of corporation in the province of Saskatchewan that could handle the entire project, so they went to the Stearns-Rogers and Commonwealth Constructions in Vancouver and they went to Toronto and they went to Montreal firms who then came into the province. And what we've done is broken those contracts up to allow the smaller, locally-based contractors and service organizations to compete on them and to bid on them.

And within my own riding . . . Something that the minister in charge of the power corporation has done is to take the \$400 million that the power corporation used to spend outside of the province, and make a list of opportunities and make it public to the people of Saskatchewan. And within my own riding six companies are now supplying goods to the Saskatchewan Power Corporation which used to come in from outside of the province. They're employing people in my riding, keeping money at home, and we're looking after our own. And that, Mr. Speaker, is really what we should be doing in this province, and it's what many of us have called for for years and years and finally it's become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I go on to the final page of the throne speech, where it talks about the industrial incentive program; a program that we introduced last spring which we took a considerable amount of criticism from the opposition over. And what has it done in a few short months: — created 1,500 jobs, Mr. Speaker, \$40 million of new capital construction in the manufacturing and processing industry in our province. Here — not exported to Alberta, not exported to British Columbia, not exported to Ontario — here in Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the type of thing that the people of Saskatchewan see. They see new corporations coming in; they see their businesses in their home community expanding and growing and hiring more people, and they recognize the benefits to themselves and to the province.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we go on and we talk about Saskatchewan Heritage 1985. My original home is near Fort Carlton which is part of the Riel Rebellion scene, and 1985 will be a very big year for that whole stretch across the central part of Saskatchewan from the Battlefords through Duck Lake and Batoche and Carlton and on, and what we've done as the government is to recognize 1985 and not only the Riel Rebellion, but a multitude of other things that are going on that are being celebrated in 1985, and we're saying that it's time that the people of the province of Saskatchewan had a government back them up on their pride.

Our people from all over — every corner of this province — came here from somewhere else with a dream and courage and not much more. They felt that they could do things here which would open opportunities to them which in their own homeland were not there.

In my own case, my family in 1985 will have been here for 90 years. That's a good long time to be in a province that's less than that old and we'll be celebrating with pride on our land which Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel used to ride over. And we'll be going down to Fort Carlton and partaking of the celebrations. And we'll be visiting the museum at Duck Lake and Batoche, and, certainly, in the Battlefords, where we have major celebrations planned, where I have had the good fortune to initiate a committee several months ago to make sure that we got in on the celebration of the North West Rebellion. And that committee is working hard to put on a number of different festivities which will celebrate the 1985 activities that took place there.

We'll be doing things in and around the Battlefords to celebrate that, to attract more tourism, to encourage business and development. A lot of that will come as a result of a having a government that was committed enough to the people of this province, that they were prepared to stand behind them and put some money behind them, and say, "Go out and celebrate your heritage."

And that, Mr. Speaker, is in that throne speech.

Mr. Speaker, this speech is quite short. It's a mere eight pages. But what it is is a blueprint for progress in our province, the likes of which we haven't seen for years and years.

And, Mr. Speaker, what do other people say about this, particularly the opposition? What does the Leader of the Opposition have to say about it? Well, to begin with, I refer to his comments in Hansard on December the 3rd, and he is not very impressed with the speech. In fact, as I already mentioned, he ridicules the training programs. He says they don't do anything. And I guess that his solution, in terms of the people who are on welfare, people who are unemployed, is simply to throw a little money at them, but don't throw any opportunity to them. Don't help them to develop skills and to develop abilities which will give them a competitive edge in the market-place. Don't do anything like that for them.

He goes on in his speech, and he says that: "A recent study of the Farm Credit Corporation shows that farmers who are in the most trouble are the ones with the highest debt." I'm sure that we're all struck by the fact that that's an amazing revelation. My colleague from Prince Albert, I can see a smile on his face saying, "That's an amazing revelation." The guys who are in trouble are the guys who owe a lot of money. Of course. The guys who don't owe any money aren't in trouble. You wouldn't expect that.

And he goes on, and he says: "But it goes to show that these aren't marginal farmers. Indeed, 33 per cent of the farmers with the highest debt produce 50 per cent of the farm products." And if you carry that argument on logically, then you end up in an argument that says, the more money you owe, the more productive you are, which is clearly ridiculous. Although, when you look at that thinking and that mentality, and you apply it to the way that they ran the Crown corporations, it's not far wrong. When you look at the huge, nearly \$2 million debt in the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, clearly that thinking was applied to that. The more you owe, the more productive you are.

I'm sure that they thought that the way to get the Crowns productive was to simply get them into debt up to the eyeballs and everything would be good. Unfortunately, it didn't work that way, Mr. Speaker.

He goes on and he says, now what should we do for agriculture? And we've heard often in here their solution. They say all farmers need a fuel rebate. Alberta has a fuel rebate of 32 cents a gallon.

Well now, Mr. Speaker, let's go back in time a little bit. Let's go back to the 70s in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. While the province of Alberta was accumulating the kind of money that they needed to pay farmers that 32 cent rebate on their fuel, what was the province of Saskatchewan doing with their resource money? They were pouring it into mines; they were buying potash; they were squandering it on anything that happened to come along; peat moss, factories, rabbit farms, on and on and on.

Certainly now in tough times the province of Alberta can afford to rebate money to their farmers, because they managed good in the good times. And clearly that's what we didn't do here and what we're beginning to do now.

And he goes on and talks about crop insurance, which I've already dealt with, with the very major changes that we've made as a government.

I also want to deal tonight, Mr. Speaker, with the type of things that other people say about us. Within this Chamber, the Opposition have often quoted the *Sask-Trend Monitor*, and I have a recent edition here in my hand. But when they've quoted that, they've never been able to find anything good in it, and I thought it would make an interesting exercise to take the most recent

edition and to go through it, and just see what it does say.

(2145)

So I begin on the front page, and I remind the members of the House, this is the fair and objective companion to the Opposition. This is what they stand up in the House and wave, and criticize our government.

And what does it say? Well, on the front page under "Highlights" it says "Private Sector Leads Job Growth, Moose Jaw Wage Earners Smiling" — a terrible indictment of our government. It goes further down, "Employment," and it says "Still the best in Canada." And I go further into the magazine and it talks about job creation, and it says, "Last month's news-letter suggested that the private sector jobs had begun to move ahead. This trend has accelerated further. In October the year to year growth in private non-agricultural jobs was 6,000."

And further on in this publication that's supposed to be damning to our government, they're talking about retail sales, and retail sales are a critical indicator of the direction that the economy is going, because when consumers have confidence they spend; retail sales increase. When consumers don't have any confidence, they save their money for the future, and therefore retail sales go down.

And what does it say about retail sales? "Women's clothing stores have been able to increase their sales in August, in September, and will likely end the year on the plus side." That's fairly encouraging. The member from Prince Albert thinks his wife must have been in town, but I'm sure it must have been more than that. And further on it says, "Investment upturn continues. The dollar value . . ." I hope his wife isn't in the gallery.

AN HON. MEMBER: — She is.

MR. MORIN: — Investment upturn continues . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh, well, I'd like to say that I'm glad she is in the gallery, because my wife is in the gallery too, and I would be afraid if they weren't both here they'd both be out improving the sales in women's retail. But the investment upturn continues. The dollar value of building permits issued for all three categories in construction rose by encouraging amounts in August in the range of 50 to 72 per cent. The new trend tends to substantiate the forecasts of an increase in investment which was highlighted in the August newsletter.

And further on, farm cash receipts post a large advance. Farm cash receipts have picked up sharply over the last two months. Receipts to the end of September were ahead of last year by 9.2 per cent. Receipts under the Western Grain Stabilization Act, 56 million, and crop insurance, 61 million, accounted for about 4 per cent of the increase.

And potash sales are impressive. Official Saskatchewan potash production numbers are only available to April. According to the Potash and Phosphate Institute, Canadian production during the July to September period increased by 35 per cent from a year earlier. Production is up 35 per cent. Gross sales are up 19 per cent. Manufacturing shipments up 7.1 per cent.

And on and on and on. All of this terrible news for the province of Saskatchewan. Everything getting better. Everything going up. More jobs being created. Wages higher. Labour is smiling. All that bad news about the economy.

And what else are we doing in the economy? Well, the labour force is up by 6,000, year over year. Manufacturing shipments are up by 7.3 per cent, year over year. Manufacturing production is up by 12.2 per cent, year over year. More investment is up 10.3 per cent, year over year. And investment in tourism and recreation sector is up 155 per cent, year over year. Now where's the bad news? You know, all we hear from the opposition is doom and gloom and terrible things. But

we don't see any bad news.

And what about the future, Mr. Speaker? Where are we going in the future? Well, Mr. Speaker, the report on the nation from the *Financial Post* deals with the provinces. And I have a copy here of a graph which I wish everyone could see. Growth in real domestic product, per cent in 1985, and they have a little bar graph above all the names of the province. And Saskatchewan is fully double virtually everyone else. And you look at Ontario and Quebec, they're traditional economic leaders in this country, and we're double Ontario and Quebec in percentage increase in production for 1985. Manitoba is considerably behind us, that's for sure.

And the unemployment rate forecast for 1985, and again we're the lowest. Highest increases in production; lowest unemployment. Not very much bad news there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've heard about the terrible, terrible times that we're going through from the members in opposition. And I'd like to invite the member, I'd like to invite the members of the opposition to my riding to preach that gospel. And I'll provide them with a forum. I'll find the most visible place in my riding and I'll put them up a soap box. And that place would be on the corner of 11th Avenue and 101st Street in North Battleford. Right in front of my brand new, eight storey office tower. The first office tower, the first office complex in the Battlefords to be above two storeys, ever. It started construction in the fall of '82 and went on the drawing board after the government changed, now completed and approaching being fully leased.

And as the members of the opposition are standing there on their soap box in front of this beautiful new structure in downtown North Battleford, looking into the beautiful North Saskatchewan River valley, they'll see a \$2 million water slide development begun last spring, opened last summer, and doing terrific business. Largely, one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we had a record year ever for tourism in the Battlefords. And if they pick their eyes up from that and continue to look across the river valley, and they look to the town of Battleford, they're going to see a company called Lift Systems International, and what that company does is manufacture pump jacks. And they're a new company to the Battlefords; they're currently employing 15 people. They built a big new building in the Battleford industrial park. They're predicting that within a year they'll have 40 people. And those pump jacks, Mr. Speaker, are being used here at home. Built here at home, used here at home by Saskatchewan people to pump Saskatchewan oil.

And as they turn around, they'll look over to a company called GLM Tanks which manufacture oil field tanks for the oil industry. And the owner of that company, Mr. Speaker, is on record as saying that if the government hadn't changed in 1982, he'd have locked his doors. Mr. Speaker, today that company employs 50 people in my riding. The heavy oil head office for Gulf Oil for Saskatchewan is located in the Battlefords. And they too are on record as saying, "If the government hadn't changed, they'd be gone, with their 40 jobs." Manufacturing in my community has never been that big, ever. We've never had as much optimism and activity going on. And certainly had the government not changed, we wouldn't have had it.

You know I recall the Leader of the Opposition in his speech, saying that he had been down to the Agribition, and that the people that he met weren't overly optimistic. I can understand that, I can understand that, because listening to the opposition talk here almost depresses me, and I'm a pretty optimistic guy.

But I suppose that there's another thing to be considered there, and that is this: that probably most of the people who were talking to the Leader of the Opposition were likely of the NDP persuasion. And I can imagine that looking at what's going on around the province today and the past two and a half years, and then talking to the Leader of the Opposition wouldn't give me much room for optimism either, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, every year one of the newspapers in my riding publishes what they call a progress

edition and they recently published that. And what's the headline? Mr. Speaker, the headline in the progress edition of the *News Optimist* for 1984 is that the Battlefords are expanding in every direction. And on the front page of that progress edition we see the water slide that I talked about that would've never happened. We see oil activity that never would have happened. We see a \$4 million hotel being built, the first one in 25 years in the Battlefords which never would have been there. I had the pleasure to turn the soil when they broke ground for the construction of that hotel. And the owner of it . . . I said quite frankly, I said, "Why are you building your hotel now?" He said, "Finally, I've been in business here 28 years, finally the climate is right."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. MORIN: — And also on the front page of that, my eight-storey office tower, as I say, the first building in downtown North Battleford to be above two storeys. Mr. Speaker, I almost find it embarrassing to walk down the streets of the Battlefords. Things are so darn good there and then I come back here and all I hear is how tough things are supposed to be, and I feel a little guilty that they're so good in my area. And I don't get an opportunity to be out in the other regions of the province very much because I'm either in Regina or I'm at home. But I'd like to have the opportunity to go around and see if everything is as good in the other corners of the province as it is at home in the Battlefords. Because if it is, I'd like to take the members of the opposition around and tour them around and I'm sure that if they'd only get out of Regina and get out from under the dome that they would see the opportunities there are in our province now.

But, Mr. Speaker, in considering the things that I said and the type of things that are going on here in our province, I think it's a very valuable exercise to consider the alternative.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand the resolutions from the recent NDP convention. And one of their first resolutions is: be it resolved that the Saskatchewan New Democrats affirm support for the socialist solution proposed by the *Regina Manifesto*, and called upon the party to adopt a settlement which builds upon those basic ideals.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what is the socialist solution? When the socialist solution was imposed on Saskatchewan in 1971, 23,000 people left. When the socialist solution was erased from the province of Saskatchewan in 1982, 25,000 people came back home.

And when you look at probably the best example of the socialist experiment in the world, you'd see Germany divided by a wall, and one-half of it's one of the jewels of the western economy, and the other half is a disaster.

But, finally, Mr. Speaker, dealing on the throne speech, what would their speech have been had they been government?

I could go through a whole litany of things, Mr. Speaker, but the one thing I want to mention before I close is this, and that is that His Honour would have had to stand up and announce that the family of Crown corporations was pregnant again, and that it was going to be a multiple birth, that we would have had the Saskatchewan autobody group; we'd have had the Saskatchewan farm insurance; we'd have had Saskatchewan life, and that would have given a whole new meaning, Mr. Speaker, to the life insurance term, "On your side for life."

Mr. Speaker, I can't imagine still living in Saskatchewan two and a half years later, if the government hadn't changed.

And, Mr. Speaker, it will go without saying that I will be supporting the Speech from the Throne.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

The Assembly adjourned at 10:00 p.m.