

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Dirks: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly today, and to welcome here this afternoon a group of 54 grade 8 students who are seated in the Speaker's gallery, from Rosemont School, which is located in my constituency. They are accompanied by Mr. Gary Freitag and Dale West, and it's my pleasure to welcome you here.

I'll have the opportunity to meet with you for pictures and to chat with you after question period. I trust that your time today is enjoyable and educational, and I would ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming this group of grade 8 students here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Hepworth: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to members of the Legislative Assembly, some 75 grade 8 students seated in the west gallery, from the Weyburn Junior High School. This has become a yearly event for the junior high school there, and I commend the teachers for making the trip on a regular basis to see the legislature in action.

They are accompanied today by their two teachers, Jim Nedelcov and Murray Sproule and, as well, bus drivers Brian Tait and Wayne Vilcu. I hope that you students found the tour informative.

I look forward to meeting with you after question period, which I'm sure you'll find informative, for some pictures and, as well, in room 218 to answer some of your questions later. I would ask all members of the legislature, Mr. Speaker, to join with me in giving them a hearty welcome here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Salary and Expense Arrangements with President of Westank-Willock

Mr. Engel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the minister responsible for Sedco, and it deals with your government's handling of the Regina manufacturer Westank-Willock. This company lost more than \$5 million since Sedco took control of it in early '84, yet the company's president, in your words, is doing very well.

Can the minister today inform the Saskatchewan taxpayers of the salary of one Gordon Campbell, president of this company? And can you tell Saskatchewan taxpayers: how much money do you pay Mr. Campbell for his weekly air flights to and from Toronto, from early '84 till January '86?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I took notice of the

question on Friday. The salary of Mr. Campbell is \$82,500 and he replaces both Mr. Van Wachem Sr. and Van Wachem Jr. Van Wachem Sr.'s salary was \$86,500; Van Wachem Jr.'s salary was \$49,000. One man replacing two men — his salary \$82,500. He's replacing two people whose salary was \$135,500.

I would say that, Mr. Speaker, demonstrates not only how this man is turning the company around, it demonstrates how he's saving in senior executives' salaries.

Mr. Engel: He didn't answer the question, Mr. Speaker. The question was: how much did you pay him, in air flights to and from Toronto from early '84 till '86, to this man since he took office, who lost \$6 million for that company that was making money before?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Campbell is in fact turning Westank-Willock around, saving 160 jobs. The travel of Westank-Willock, Mr. Speaker, is as follows. They have to travel to the various branch offices that they have. Those branch offices are located in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Moncton, and Williston, North Dakota. Now the travel involved going to each of those locations, Mr. Van Wachem himself even admits that they maybe expanded a little too much. One of the jobs of Mr. Campbell, of course, was to travel to each of those locations to deal with those various locations, to deal with those various offices in the restructuring of Westank-Willock so it can make money, which it is expected to do in the coming years, saving 160 jobs in the city of Regina. I think Mr. Campbell should be commended, for the actions that he has taken, today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Engel: — Short and simple, Mr. Minister. His weekly flights to and from Toronto to his place of residence, those flights: how much did that cost the taxpayers, weekly flights to and from Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Well, Mr. Speaker, during that period Mr. Campbell flew, as I indicated, to Montreal and to Moncton and to Vancouver, and very often that involved him stopping off in Toronto. They had a very major office of Westank-Willock in the city of Toronto. He spent some of his time working, both in Toronto and working in the city of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the reality and the important thing, if you're looking at how and when you're going to save money — if this person makes \$82,500, replaces two people making \$135,500, I would say that that is, in fact, saving money, and saving far more money than any air fare would cost.

Mr. Engel: — Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want that man to save my money because he went to \$130,000 loss to a \$6 million loss. An accumulated loss of \$6 million isn't saving taxpayers very much money.

How much did his flights cost to and from Toronto? If you don't know that answer, are you going to tell us at a future date?

The second part of my question is: what did it cost to furnish his apartment here in Regina?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Here we go again with the opposition mentality, Mr. Speaker. How much did it cost for a chesterfield and a kitchen table? Mr. Speaker, we are dealing a major company, a corporation in the city of Regina. This particular . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — This particular person, Mr. Speaker is, in fact, turning that company around, is making that company a valid and viable company, and I think he should be commended for doing that.

Mr. Campbell, in fact, has significant experience with the Bronfman's group out of Toronto. He has an MBA out of Harvard and he is an expert, Mr. Speaker, in turning around failing corporations.

Now the members opposite would have you believe that you can hire somebody to turn a company around in 30 days. That doesn't work. This company had to have major structural changes taken to it. This person is in fact turning it around. He has landed a very significant and large contract with the Cypress-Anvil mine in the Yukon, creating 40 new truck-hauling equipment. That in turn will make that company viable, turn it around, save the jobs for 160 people in the city of Regina. A job well done, I say.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Engel: — The only turn-around the people in Regina are looking for is when the election comes. We don't need turn-arounds, Mr. Speaker, that cost us \$6 million. But besides that loss, you paid for his apartment. What are the costs of the apartment, and next, are there any other perks that you've offered Mr. Campbell besides his apartment, besides his trips back and forth to Toronto? What other perks was he getting?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, these sanctimonious people across the way talk about perks. If you want to hear about perks, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, when they were in government, would dwarf anything by way of perks. If the hon. members would care to be quiet, I'll give them a copy and an example of perks in a real way done by the NDP. I wonder if they'd like to hear that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a \$30,000 fishing trip for the cabinet ministers of the previous NDP government — \$30,000 to be paid for by the Government of Saskatchewan. You talk about perks; you talk about somebody sanctimonious. Those people over there wrote the book on it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, a question to the minister in charge of Sedco. Notwithstanding what he has said, would he care to inform the House whether or not Sedco paid air fares on a weekly basis for Mr. Campbell, from Toronto to Regina, and whether or not Sedco provided Mr. Campbell with an apartment?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — I understand they did not.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Would you be clear on what they did not? Are you saying, Mr. Minister, that they did not provide him with air transportation from Toronto to Regina, or are you saying that they did not provide him with an apartment, or are you saying both?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Both.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Do you agree that Westank-Willock had approximately the following record of earnings, or losses: 1981, 152,000 loss; 1982, 500,000; 1983, 900,000 — then along comes Mr. Campbell — 1984, 3.9 million; 1985, 2.6 million without some interest charges which were previously included because of a conversion. Do you agree that that is the approximate statement of the losses of the company?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Well, I'll take and bring back to the House the exact losses if that's what the hon. member wants. But I'm sure the hon. member is not of the view that you somehow with a large company the size of Westank-Willock, that if you are to replace senior management, if you are to close some of the offices that they had, as I listed, across the country, that you would not expect a corporation of that size — it has to go through some fairly structural changes — to, in fact, do it overnight. Now nobody in their right mind would suggest that you can do it in a 30-day period. It takes time to turn that around.

What I am saying to you is that Mr. Campbell has, in fact, turned that around. He has preserved those jobs rather than the other option which would have been simply to liquidate Westank-Willock; loss of that corporation to the city of Regina, loss of those jobs to the city of Regina in the province of Saskatchewan. He has made that effort to turn it around. They have landed a very lucrative, large contract for the Cypress-Anvil mine that's being reopened in the Yukon, that is in fact going to return some good dollars, some good profit returns to that corporation. It is expected it's going to come out from under its problems and become a profitable company once again. The problems of Westank-Willock did not start, as you very well know, in 1984. They started long before that, as the statement would indicate.

Charges Against Regina Business Man

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the minister in charge of Sedco. The other day in this Assembly you made a very serious accusation against a Regina business man. You suggested that in a recent meeting the man had attempted to "blackmail the government," and those are your words, and you know the seriousness of that. You and I are members of the legal profession.

The business man in question, Mr. Van Wachem, has called this: "A complete falsehood," or he is so quoted in the press, and has challenged you to repeat the statement outside this Assembly. I ask you, sir: would you tender an apology to Mr. Van Wachem, or would you give an

undertaking that you will repeat those statements outside the Assembly so that the matter can be dealt with in the appropriate form?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I indicated to this Assembly, which I stand by, Mr. Van Wachem came to see me. He wished to sell his shares to Sedco. He wished to have a price for those shares significantly higher — significantly higher — than his father had arranged for a sale. I indicated that he would not be paid anything more than his father was paid; certainly would not be paid a premium. He indicated to me that he was prepared to take this to the media, to try to embarrass the government, and I indicated to him to go jolly well ahead and do that, that I was not going to pay a premium for his shares to avoid some, what he suggested, would be embarrassing allegations in the media towards me and towards this government. And I stand by that, and I will always stand by that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Will you repeat outside the House the words you used in this House last Friday with respect to this business man? Will you do that, or are you hiding behind your legislative immunity so that you will not have to answer to him for the charges you made against him?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I made my statement today, made my statements before — stand by those statements; stand by those statements. I believe what Mr. Van Wachem proposed to the government was wrong. I told him that it was wrong, and I believe it was wrong.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I ask again: will you repeat outside this House the words you used inside this House last Friday, to give Mr. Van Wachem an opportunity to clear his name?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I stand by what I said. I believe what I said was correct. What Mr. Van Wachem did was wrong. I believe it to be wrong, and I stand by that.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do you stand by it enough to repeat it outside the House where it can be tested?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I stand by what I said. What Mr. Van Wachem did was wrong. I believe it to be wrong, and I still believe it to be wrong.

Interview Requested with Premier

Mr. Hampton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in his capacity as Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Premier, there is a Mr. Hainstock from Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, who has formally requested a meeting with you on several occasions in an attempt to resolve some differences between the Department of Agriculture, Parks and Renewable Resources, as it's affecting his operation. My question to you, sir, is: when would you meet with that gentleman?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I meet with a lot

of farmers. If you want to give me the information, or if he wants to write to me, then I can look at it. But I have hundreds of letters from people all across the province, probably, on a weekly basis. So I'd look at anything reasonable.

Mr. Hampton: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, are you aware that the gentleman is presently in Regina and would like to meet with you? Would you care to meet with him today or tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I will meet with people when I believe that it's appropriate. I have a very, very busy schedule. People can't just walk in and expect to walk through the Premier's door on a moment's notice. I will meet with people if they give me a reasonable notice and I think it's a reasonable thing to do. I obviously can't meet with a million people all at the same time. I will encourage folks to write me, and if they will go through the appropriate channels, I'll be glad to talk with them.

Sedco Grants for Gainers' Meat Processing Plant

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for Sedco. It deals with the Sedco arrangement with Alberta millionaire, Peter Pocklington, and grants that are said to be being given out to this individual. I wonder, Mr. Minister, whether you can inform the Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan whether or not contracts have been signed and if so, because it means millions of dollars possibly going to this individual, whether or not those contracts will be tabled in the Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — I take it that you're asking: is there a contract signed with Gainers' and Sedco? Is that your question?

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the minister will obviously be aware that Gainers' is the name that Mr. Pocklington represents, and the people of the province have come to know this as the Pocklington deal. I wonder whether or not you could tell us whether or not those contracts — whether you intend to table them in the Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Here we go again, Mr. Speaker, with the members of the opposition attacking virtually every project that comes into town. Here we go with the people of North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, with a very good project — 200, 300 jobs in the city of North Battleford that the members opposite are now saying: don't go ahead and do that one; don't go ahead and do that one. But what does their nominating candidate in North Battleford say for the NDP? Oh, no, my leader isn't speaking the right way on this one. I want that project for North Battleford. Mr. Blakeney might not want it, but I can assure you I do, and the people of North Battleford do, and so do we.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the former minister of Finance. I'll tell what the candidate in North Battleford is saying. He's asking where are the contracts. That's what everyone in Saskatchewan is saying. Where are the contracts that gave out \$10 million of taxpayers money? And I ask you the question whether

or not you intend to table the contracts signed with Mr. Pocklington in the Assembly, because they affect every taxpayer in this province. And I will ask you again — the \$10 million that is supposedly being handed to this Alberta millionaire, whether or not the contract will show up here in the legislature?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Well I think if the member opposite had've remembered when the announcement was made: first, there's a bacon plant being built in North Battleford. That's a smaller part of the other announcement. The second part of that announcement was that in the event that the hog population in the province of Saskatchewan can be increased, then they will look at building a further project or plant in another part of the province, Mr. Speaker.

What the contract that they are supposedly asking for is (a) can we tell whether we will give them the contract of getting an industrial incentives grant. Mr. Speaker, there is many, many companies in the province of Saskatchewan getting industrial incentives grants. You don't need a contract to do that. All you have to do to get one of those is make an investment of \$30,000, create a permanent job, and you get a grant for it. Not only Mr. Pocklington's company, but every other company across the province.

The second thing that they do, Mr. Speaker, is they are borrowing money from Sedco. Well, a lot of other people borrow money from Sedco, as they do from other institutions, and I don't think the member opposite would want us to make public every local contract that Sedco puts out. That's like asking does every credit union loan that's put out that you should be making public, or any other loan put out should be made public. Mr. Speaker, some things should be confidential in this country, and that is a legitimate loan being made by a government financial institution to a legitimate company building in this province. We stand by that, Mr. Speaker, and I don't believe it should be made public.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, supplement to the minister. What I hear you say is this \$10 million sweetheart deal you've cooked up with Peter Pocklington, the former candidate for the leadership of the Tory party, that you're not going to give the details in the Assembly. Is that what you're saying?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — I recall, Mr. Speaker, in another day when we used to ask questions, when we were on the other side of the House, about a certain motel in the city of Moose Jaw that happened to be invested in by an NDP MLA. And we asked for details of that. And do you think we ever got details of that? And the lecture that we always got from the then premier was, those are confidential; those are private investments; they should not be made public. They were not made public for a right reason; they will not be made public today for exactly the same reason.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I would ask the minister again: when we're facing a \$2 billion deficit as a result of your mismanagement — and that's the reason you are the

former minister of Finance — I would ask you, when we're handing out \$10 million of taxpayers' money to an Alberta resident who ran for the leadership of the Tory party, when there are many people who believe that there's a direct conflict, that somebody's getting their pocket filled because they ran for the Tory leadership, at the expense of taxpayers in the province, why wouldn't you table the agreements and contracts in the Assembly if they were above-board?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this has been clearly made public at the time it was announced as to the details of this particular proposal. There is going to be a loan from Sedco, and I don't think anybody would suggest that all loans from Sedco be made public. And number two would be, they're applying for the industrial incentive program that everybody qualifies for across the province.

There's been, in fact, 3,600 jobs created through that industrial incentive program — some \$20 million, Mr. Speaker, advanced by the Government of Saskatchewan, and some \$130 million of investment being made in the province of Saskatchewan by business men, regardless of what their politics are. We, in this party, Mr. Speaker, if it's a business man, whether he is Liberal or Tory or even NDP, we treat it the same way. He will be advanced money from Sedco if it's a reasonable project, if it's building on our province, if it's creating jobs in our province because, quite frankly, that is what we were elected to do.

Mr. Sveinsson: — Is your department simply following tradition set by the former government with respect to tabling of this type of document? I refer back to maybe the potash debate and the contracts that were signed in that era. And are you following that tradition today with your government?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — I would say to the hon. member we're not following, in the sense that we are giving more information that would normally have been given by the previous government. They give none of this type of information. We have moved a long ways in the last four years of providing that type of information, providing information as to the salaries of many of the people in the Crown corporations.

But I think the hon. member from Regina North West would not expect a government to make public all transactions involving Sedco and the various thousands of people who have borrowed money from Sedco today and over the history of Sedco in existence. I don't think anybody should ask that, because that is not proper. If that isn't confidential in government, then I don't know what should be.

Housing Starts in Saskatchewan

Mr. Sveinsson: — Involving housing, once again to the Minister of Housing, I would like to ask . . . A document released by the statistical service division of CMHC indicates that in 1985 Saskatchewan had the worst record in Canada for new housing starts. Also a senior bureaucrat in your Saskatchewan housing department indicates that in 1987 he expects a further reduction in

housing starts in Saskatchewan.

I ask the minister: it isn't outlined in your throne speech, but what solutions do you have for Saskatchewan residents who would like to build new houses in this province?

Hon. Mr. Dirks: — Mr. Speaker, we're not about to announce in this particular forum today detailed housing initiatives. I would reiterate, Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite and to the public that last year urban starts in the province increased by 19 per cent. There was an increase over the previous year's total in the province. We anticipate that there will be an increase again this year, 1986. As to what happens in 1987, of course is anybody's guess. That's a little ways down the road.

But this, of course, is not the forum to announce specific housing initiatives or proposals. Those will be announced at a later date. Thank you.

Mr. Sveinson: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What went wrong in 1985, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Dirks: — Mr. Speaker, we had significant initiatives in '83 and '84 that substantially brought forward certain demand here for housing in the province of Saskatchewan. And as the member well knows, if he would travel out into rural Saskatchewan, that we did have rather severe conditions in many parts of the rural areas of our province which significantly reduce the demand for housing starts in the rural areas.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Counter-Trade Agreement

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make a statement today with respect to an exciting new approach to buying and selling that this government has taken. Mr. Speaker, we are currently negotiating the province's first counter-trade agreement, an agreement which ensures that the dollars we spend outside of Saskatchewan flow right back in again.

I'd like to introduce, Mr. Speaker, in the Speaker's gallery today, Mr. Robert Gillespie, executive vice-president of Canada General Electric, and Mr. Gordon Wells, president of Agdevco.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — These are the people Mr. Speaker, who along with our base hospitals in the Department of Health have been working on this deal for some time.

This nearly \$5 million agreement which we see as the first of many such agreements, will bring important medical equipment to our hospitals. At the same time it will give a boost to the provincial economy, which means more wealth for Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, in this kind of arrangement, Saskatchewan gets the best of both worlds.

The Department of Health and six base hospitals are buying six new CT scanners from Canadian General

Electric. The cost is about \$4.7 million. In return, as part of the counter-trade agreement, Canadian General Electric would undertake to market \$4.7 million worth of products that we would not otherwise have sold if there was no counter-trade agreement. It also opens the door, Mr. Speaker, for Saskatchewan companies to make sales to General Electric now, and in the future, of commodities or products the company would be looking to buy in our province. General Electric has already expressed an interest in this counter-trade deal of taking canola, malt, potash, sodium sulphate, electronic devices, and manufactured products from Saskatchewan.

I want to add, Mr. Speaker, that we don't see this, this first time counter-trade agreement, as a one-shot type of arrangement. We've given the mandate to Agdevco, the Crown's export trading corporation, to pursue other counter-trade agreements in addition to the one it's working on right now. We want to use counter-trade again, Mr. Speaker, in helping to meet the needs of our province in areas such as education and health, while simultaneously providing sales opportunities for our companies.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few moments to talk about the importance of the first counter-trade agreement in terms of health care for the province. Bringing six new CT scanners to Saskatchewan means better medical care and a shorter waiting period for patients across the province. We only have two older-model CT scanners in the province now. These will be replaced, and four more units will go to four other hospitals.

The equipment combines an advanced X-ray scanning system with a computer so doctors can study any part of the human body and make a rapid and accurate diagnosis. This precise information helps surgeons plan surgery with the least amount of danger to the patient. CT scanners can also eliminate the need for exploratory or unnecessary surgery, or for painful diagnostic brain or spinal studies.

Mr. Speaker, doctors and patients alike have been waiting for more CT scanners to be set up in the province. I want to commend the hospitals, Mr. Speaker, for their co-operative spirit in the working together to make the group purchase of CT scanners possible. Six hospitals will each get a scanner over the next 18 months. The first three will go to the Pasqua Hospital in Regina, the Regina General Hospital, and St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

And one more thing, Mr. Speaker, about the purchase of the scanners. We believe we're getting the best and most technologically advanced scanners on the market today. We are also getting the most for our money because GE was the lowest bidder for the equipment contract. The bottom line is that even without an agreement to buy Saskatchewan we will have made the best purchase.

Mr. Speaker, our government is very excited about Saskatchewan's first counter-trade arrangement, and I'm sure that everyone in the province shares in this

excitement, with the possible exception of the opposition. Counter-trade is a great idea whose time has come to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and it's sure to benefit Saskatchewan in many ways. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to respond to the Minister of, I believe, Economic Development, who is announcing ... of Trade and Development. But I want to say that I find it interesting that this minister is chosen, rather than the Minister of Health. But I would expect in the name to try to achieve some credibility in making a health announcement, when we have nurses who are telling us that we have a 25 per cent shortage — 25 per cent shortage — of staff in the base hospitals, that you would choose someone other than the Minister of Health to make such an announcement . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. This is not an open debate but, rather, it's a discussion of a particular announcement. I would ask the member to stay with the details of the announcement.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, if people will listen closely they will find that CAT scanners have something to do with nurses, and that you need staff in order to run them. And if we listen closely, I will go on to explain how this first in the history of Saskatchewan use of trade to acquire things is another bunch of boloney that this government is attempting to propagate on the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, you will know, and others will know, that Tommy Douglas used this process to get the first cobalt treatment in a hospital in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — But these individuals, Mr. Speaker, have selective amnesia when it comes to remembering things. Mr. Speaker, the member for Qu'Appelle-Lumsden will remember another individual, Ross Thatcher, bragging about trading for electrical equipment in the 1960s. And I'll tell you that this is not the first time that countries or provinces have used trade to acquire equipment. In fact, I have heard many third-world countries — Honduras and others — talking about trading bananas for this and that. And I say that we have indeed come a long way.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the issue here is health care. The issue here is health care. What we are hearing from the people of the province is that yes, they need CAT scanners. They need these scanners, but they also need people to man them, and nurses to look after them, and nurses to look after the people who will be in the hospital who will use this equipment. And we have reports of many hospitals that already have many pieces of equipment that stand unused because people aren't hired in order to take care of them and man them.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that when you make this phoney announcement, days before an election, on CAT

scanners — on CAT scanners that people have been needing for four years — and you expect the people of the province to believe you when you say, elect us and right after the election we're going to solve that problem, stretches the credibility of even you, sir. And I say that many people will be suspicious — will be suspicious — not only at the timing of the election, but also the fact that the Minister of Health is nowhere to be seen in the Assembly at the time the announcement is made.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Sveinsson: — I would just like to respond for a moment to the ministerial announcement. I believe that the only credibility gap possibly, Mr. Speaker, is in the timing. I believe we need these things very desperately. The \$100 million with which they're being paid for was only announced within the last days. That's coming out of the 100 million, according to the Saskatchewan union of nursing.

I attended a meeting in Estevan last Thursday night, which indicated again to the public that hardware isn't necessarily all the people of Saskatchewan require to reduce waiting lists and address the problems of health in this province.

There is a meeting tonight in Saskatoon which I am aware that the Tories are not attending again. I believe that they should put their ear to the grindstone, and not only is hardware important, but also staffing is extremely important and is a critical necessity to address the health problems in this province.

I accommodate them and praise them for the method of payment. I think it's necessary that Saskatchewan products go around the world, and if it can be done, if we can pay for it with wheat and a shovelful of potash or whatever, I praise them for doing that.

But I think it's a little late, and I believe an election campaign is in the offing, and certainly this announcement isn't premature as far as that election campaign is concerned. But we do need the equipment, and unlike the NDP, I do support the purchase of hardware required for diagnostic treatment of patients in Saskatchewan.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 9 -- An Act to amend The Lloydminster Hospital Act, 1948

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member, I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Lloydminster Hospital Act, 1948.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Non-Controversial Bills.

Bill No. 10 -- An Act to amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member, I move first reading of a bill to amend The

Automobile Accident Insurance Act.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Non-Controversial Bills.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that 73 to 77 be referred to notices of motions for returns debatable.

Mr. Speaker: — Questions 73 to 77 inclusive, orders for returns debatable.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Klein, seconded by Mr. Domotor, and the amendment thereto moved by Hon. Mr. Blakeney.

Mr. Tusa: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to enter into the throne speech debate, and I might say that I'm especially pleased because, once again in the tradition of previous throne speeches that have been introduced by our government since 1982, it was a throne speech which captured the achievements of our past four years in government. and it was also a visionary document which laid out a vision for Saskatchewan as we move through the '80s and into the '90s.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in my capacity as Deputy Speaker I would like to at this time — since we are in the fifth session of the 20th Legislature which is inevitably winding towards its conclusion — I would like to congratulate you on your role as Speaker in this House since '82.

I believe that you have raised the stature of the Speaker's Chair in this province beyond question and in the process in a very, very short period of time, Mr. Speaker, you have gained Commonwealth stature. Also, Mr. Speaker, I know that as Speaker you must try to be as neutral as possible. And I believe that in the past four years you have conducted yourself with remarkable bias neutrality and for that I would like to congratulate you.

(1445)

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the fifth session of the 20th Legislature is slowly winding its way to its conclusion and towards an election. I believe I would like at this time then to recall some of the major accomplishments of our government since 1982 — truly a government which has gone to the wall, as the Premier would say, for the people of this province. And I would like to focus, first of all, on one or two major areas.

Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is certainly the shining example of what our government has done to make certain that

agriculture remains of paramount importance and of absolute vitality in a time, a relative recessionary period in the history of this province. And we have done a number of things, Mr. Speaker, to make certain that agriculture does remain vital, vibrant, and the engine of our economy in this province. I would like to just mention a few of our accomplishments. And I know that the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg will be especially interested in hearing what we have done for the farmers in his constituency as well as throughout the rest of the province.

We have, for example, at a time when it was most important, introduced a cash advance program for the livestock producers of this province. It was something relatively simple to introduce. But I must say that the NDP, with all their years in power — almost 40 years they have been in power in this province — was unable to bring in that simple piece of legislation which would help the livestock producers. The grain farmers have had the opportunity, through the grains cash advance, to have something similar for years, but the livestock producer has not. And we have brought in legislation where livestock producers are able to get \$125 per head interest-free for one year; a program, Mr. Speaker, which is very, very well received, I know, in my constituency, as it is elsewhere.

We also brought in The Farm Land Security Act to demonstrate to the farmers of this province that we have compassion for their situation. As we well know, many farmers are facing extremely trying times and if it were not for The Farm Land Security Act, Mr. Speaker, it is possible that a good number would have been foreclosed on. Facing this reality in 1985, we introduced a farm land security Act, and by doing so, hundreds of farmers and perhaps even thousands are still on the land — another example, Mr. Speaker, of the compassion our government shows towards the agricultural sector as well as other sectors in this province.

Mr. Speaker, also after a few years in power we have quickly moved to introduce the construction of an agricultural building at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. I think this is of significant importance, Mr. Speaker, because the NDP, the NDP with 11 years in power, have not been able to introduce that simple construction project. It demonstrates clearly what they feel about agriculture and the level of priority that they give to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, last fall, was speaking to university students at the university of Saskatoon and he was asked a simple question by the students. They said, why didn't you build an agricultural building while you were in power? And I would like to quote from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix what the Leader of the Opposition had to say about that. Here are his words as quoted in the Star-Phoenix:

When asked about an NDP promise of an agricultural building during its last term as government, Blakeney said it was on the low end of a list of new buildings.

Could you just imagine the premier of this province

saying that an agriculture building was at the low end of a new list of buildings. Well I can imagine that. What the premier, the former premier, was saying is that agriculture is in effect on the low end of a long list of priorities in the NDP Party. That's what he was saying; that's what he was saying. Agriculture is at the low end of a long list of priorities. And of course none of us are surprised to hear that, because when the NDP were in power they did nothing of significance for the farming population — nothing whatever.

Now I recall one or two that they did do, Mr. Speaker. I recall that they tried to make tenant farmers out of all the farmers in Saskatchewan. I recall that. And I might say that was a very, very significant issue in my constituency.

I also know that in my riding it was so popular that even people in land bank were voting for the PCs, that's how popular land bank policy was.

They had another program, Mr. Speaker. I just don't recall offhand the year it was. Somewhere in the middle '70s, they had some kind of a grant that farmers could buy a few fence pickets with.

So there's what the NDP did in 11 years in power, from 1971 to 1982. They had a grant which a farmer could buy a few fence pickets with. They introduced a land bank program which sought to make state farmers out of our agriculture community.

Oh, yes, and there was one more thing, and I'll relate that to the farm fuel rebate program, which we have just introduced — 21 cents per gallon, Mr. Speaker. and simple calculation tells you that a farmer who farms approximately 1,000 acres of land at 21 cents per gallon will save at least \$1,000 a farm a year.

Now that compares, Mr. Speaker, with the NDP program. Now what was the NDP program? And I recall it well — and I recall the NDP program. Three hundred dollars, \$300 maximum, is what the farmers were able to get under the NDP. And after two or three years the former administration said to the farmers, you don't need that \$300; we're eliminating that grant — which once again is not surprising, because they always have treated agriculture as the former premier just said. Agriculture was on the low end of a long list of priorities. And their actions certainly demonstrated how they felt about agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the production loan program is another extraordinarily beneficial program to our farmers. And of all the beneficial programs we have introduced, that is the one which has captured the needs of our farmers the most vividly. So those are just a few of the various programs we have brought in for our farming population.

It might also be said, Mr. Speaker, that as we have gone to the wall for our agricultural community, so too we have gone to the wall for our senior citizens. Our senior citizens have been treated with dignity which they so lacked under the previous administration. And we have brought in one or two or three new programs which will certainly help them and also the general population.

The respite bed program and the adult day-care program are two programs that are widely used by our senior citizens. The senior citizens' home repair program, which allows senior citizens to receive \$1,000 to repair their homes, and by so doing remain independent for more years, is also widely acclaimed and widely received by our senior citizens.

And in the nursing home construction field, Mr. Speaker, there too in the nursing home construction field we have responded. While the previous administration had a moratorium of seven years in the construction of nursing homes, and in those seven years prior to '82 they did not construct one single new nursing home, we have taken a dramatically different approach. We have a five-year program to build 1,500 new nursing home beds in Saskatchewan.

Small business, as well, has been recognized, and we have introduced an interest reduction program at nine and five-eighths per cent. And that program, Mr. Speaker, is being used by over 5,000 small-business men in this province.

I might also say, Mr. Speaker, that in my constituency I have recently held four regional seminars specifically for small-business men. And I have listened and heard the views and opinions and needs of those small-business men. And they may be certain that their views have been brought back to the government, and I am confident that in the upcoming budget their needs will be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, often we hear the NDP accuse us of not keeping our promises. I would just like to go back to the three major promises we made in the 1982 election. All three major promises were quickly carried out on becoming government.

The major, major promise we made was the removal of the gas tax. Mr. Speaker, that was the largest single tax cut in the history of the province. I tell the people of Saskatchewan that if the NDP get back into power they will put that gas tax on one way or the other. I want to share with the people of Saskatchewan that for four years since I have been a member in this legislature, year after year I have heard NDP members stand in this House and criticize our government for removing the gas tax. I find it very, very interesting that as they lay on their deathbed once again, now they say to the people of Saskatchewan, oh, don't worry, don't worry, we won't put the gas tax back. Well, I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan are too smart to be fooled by something like that. They know that if those people get back into power — which they will not — they will put that tax back.

And I want, Mr. Speaker, to show the people of Saskatchewan in categorical terms what that will mean when the NDP puts that gas tax back. In four years we have saved the taxpayers of this province \$625 million, an average of \$625 per year for each man, woman, and child. If we take a family of four, in the four years that we have been in power, Mr. Speaker, we have saved a family of four \$2,500 in gas taxes alone — \$2,500. And you may be sure that those families will not vote for the NDP to tax

them \$2,500 every four years.

The mortgage interest reduction plan, Mr. Speaker, is another promise which we immediately carried out. Here's what the NDP once again had to say about the mortgage interest reduction plan, and let me quote from *Hansard*, June 24, 1982, page 270: Allan Blakeney stated that the mortgage interest reduction program was only a subsidy to the banks and to persons with \$150,000 swimming pools, and equipped houses.

The member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg once again, as quoted in *Hansard*, June 23, 1982, page 217 is as follows. The member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg said that the mortgage interest reduction program was a program "... to provide welfare payments to people with incomes of \$80,000 if they have mortgages."

that's what the member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg said. That's from *Hansard*, June 23, 1982, page 217.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to put that in rather graphic terms, I would like to inform the people of Saskatchewan that, according to the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, 44,000 families in this province got welfare payments on their mortgage interest reduction plan. Forty-four thousand families, Mr. Speaker, have received benefits totalling \$65 million under that program. That's another program they don't like, and they may eliminate that as well. They like taxes. The NDP like taxes, Mr. Speaker.

The farm purchase program — another program to eliminate the land bank. Over 5,000 farmers are being helped by the farm purchase program, Mr. Speaker, and I want to share with you what some farmers in my constituency are telling me. They are telling me: Arnold, we're extremely happy that the Progressive Conservatives are in power in these times because you and I can be sure if they were in power they would be buying millions of acres of land under that land bank program, and they would be running around telling the people of Saskatchewan that oh, these poor farmers, they can't buy it. The state has to buy it. Here's big brother. Here's your friendly big brother, the state. He'll buy it. He'll buy it, millions of acres, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have not purchased a single acre. But in those four years, 5,000 farmers are passing on their land from one generation to another through the farm purchase program. Those are the progressive agricultural policies that the people of Saskatchewan like. Those are the progressive agricultural policies that the farmers of this province like.

(1500)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I should like to turn briefly to my own constituency. My own constituency, Mr. Speaker, has benefited from a Progressive Conservative government. Now we often hear the opposition say, those Conservatives, they don't spend money on highways, they say. That's what they say. Well I want to share with the people of the province, and especially with the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood, that since 1982 there has been over \$12 million spent on highways in Last

Mountain-Touchwood constituency alone; \$12 million, a very, very significant sum of money. And we will continue to do that. And the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood can be certain and assured that with another Progressive Conservative government further improvements will be made on the highway system in our constituency.

Mr. Speaker, education is another area which we have focused upon, and once again the people in Last Mountain-Touchwood have benefited significantly from our forward-looking educational policies. I want to share with you, Mr. Speaker, and with the people of Saskatchewan, that every school in Last Mountain-Touchwood which has asked for renovations or additions has received them. Every single one. And I might say that that is a very, very impressive array. And I would just like to go through the number of schools so the members opposite realize how well we're looking after the educational needs of our citizens.

The following towns have received renovations or additions since '82: Lipton, Dysart, Cupar, Southey, Earl Grey, Bulyea, Strasbourg, Govan, Semans, Lestock. Ten different towns. Every single town which has asked for any improvements has received it, Mr. Speaker — every single town.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn very briefly to the area of enriched housing, another area in which Last Mountain-Touchwood has benefited very, very significantly. And while we have built enriched housing units in various parts of Saskatchewan, I would like to focus especially on Lipton.

The town of Lipton told me that for years, under an NDP government, they could not get any enriched housing units built in their town. And they came to me shortly after we were elected, and they say: this is the situation; what can you do for us? And I said, let's go to work together, and I promise you, you will get that enriched housing unit.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we stand here in the House debating the throne speech, that enriched housing unit is being built out at Lipton. Mr. Speaker, Last Mountain-Touchwood can look forward to more of those progressive-type programs taking place with another Progressive Conservative government.

In the area of health, in the area of health once again our constituency has benefited. The town of Nokomis requested an integrated facility, and as we all know, that is an area which is sadly lacking in Saskatchewan due to the past policies of the NDP. Once again the people of Nokomis came to me and said, can we get an integrated facility built onto our hospital? And once again I said to the people, let us work together, which we have done. And once again, Mr. Speaker, as we stand here this afternoon debating the throne speech, an integrated facility is being built in the town of Nokomis.

Mr. Speaker, the rural natural gas program is another program which the NDP opposed, and I recall that vividly. When our party suggested a rural natural gas program, they said it could be done — it couldn't be

done. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just mention a few of the towns in my constituency which are benefiting from the rural natural gas program. And once again, I have worked with the people in these various communities to make certain that they receive the benefits of cheap gas.

The following communities, Mr. Speaker, have received natural gas: Semans, Raymore, Quinton, Southey, Markinch, Cupar. Those communities, the farmers, the rural people of those communities, are already receiving the benefits of cheap gas.

Under the 1986 program, Mr. Speaker, Nokomis, Earl Grey, Sifton, and Craven — they will receive natural gas. And I know that the people in the Strasbourg and the Southey district have worked hard to put together a program. And I say to those people here this afternoon that I will work with you hand in hand after the next election to make certain that you will soon get natural gas in your communities as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn once again to an issue which I'm sure that the members opposite will be interested in hearing. Mr. Speaker, as you well know, this past year was heritage year, and in our constituency we honoured people who were pioneers in various areas of our life.

For example, we honoured in Southey, this summer, the man who invented the first rock picker in the world, a man by the name of Pete Anderson, and we unveiled a plaque in his honour.

And as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I know many of the members here travel through Southey as they go home to their constituencies, and you might be interested in stopping in Southey and having a look at a self-propelled rock picker which that man invented, and it's still there on display. I was told by the local people that the Department of Highways purchased 12 of those self-propelled rock pickers and there's still one there. As everybody knows in this House, Anderson rock pickers have encompassed the globe, and they are being used in different parts of the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk briefly about the history of health in our province because this summer once again, we honoured the man in our constituency, another man from that Anderson family, a cousin, who is the father of medicare in North America. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's correct. He was the father of medicare.

Now, Mr. Speaker, often politicians and political parties like to take credit for things that have been done, and the little people who had the original ideas and who got things going are often forgotten, and it seems that in this very, very critical area of health care that this has happened. And I want to share with the people of Saskatchewan here this afternoon, since the man I am talking about lived in my constituency, and his family still lives in my constituency — I want to share with them briefly the history of medicare which has not been told to the people of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the man I am talking about is a man,

Mr. Matt Anderson, senior, who unfortunately is no longer with us. Mr. Anderson was a Norwegian immigrant who came to Saskatchewan back around the 1920s. He came from Norway to Minnesota, where he was unable to make a living, and from Minnesota he moved to Bulyea, where he homesteaded.

In the 1930s, Mr. Anderson noted that many people were unable to get adequate health care, and therefore he thought back on his homeland, Norway, where health care was already in existence. And Mr. Anderson was rather astonished that in a nation which had the riches that we had, people unfortunately were unable to get the basic needs of health care in Saskatchewan. Therefore, he thought to himself, why don't we introduce a medicare plan similar to the one in Norway.

He became a reeve for the R.M. of McKillop, and at the annual provincial conventions he would introduce a resolution to that effect, but each time — each time — the resolution was defeated. So Mr. Anderson decided that he will try to implement a medicare scheme in his home R.M. Rather than trying to do it provincially, he thought, let's do it locally in the R.M. of McKillop. And he began to have meetings with the people in that constituency, asking them if they would agree to a \$5 per capita tax up to a minimum of \$50 to provide for medicare in his R.M. After many meetings and a plebiscite, the people of Saskatchewan . . . the people of the R.M. of McKillop agreed to it.

However, it wasn't that simple, because it was illegal for an R.M. to implement that type of tax. They had to work with the government of the day. And the government of the day in 1938 was the Liberal government, and he worked with them. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, legislation was introduced in this House to implement a Bill to allow R.M.s to tax their citizens for health care needs.

It's also interesting to note that Mr. Anderson was the only civilian in the history of our province, the only non-elected member in the history of our province, who was given the right to speak on a Bill being passed through the legislature. And because of that, his Bill soon became the Matt Anderson Bill. It became known as that.

What's even more interesting, Mr. Speaker, is a letter I have, written by Mr. Anderson to Dr. Lewis Brand, who was a member of parliament for Saskatoon. Now the CCF . . . Now the members opposite like to pretend they're always in favour of it, always in favour of medicare.

But here's a direct quote by Mr. Anderson to Dr. Lewis Brand, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada, dated July 14, 1966. And here's what he says. He says: "To me it appears very inconsistent that, as you will notice in this article, that most of the five CCF members spoke against the Bill."

Spoke against the Bill. Nevertheless, after dozens of health districts proved it to be successful, then in 1946 the CCF took credit for the whole plan. Interesting. Very interesting.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that plan spread throughout the province. And the hon. members, as I'm not surprised, ridicule it. I'm not surprised that the hon. members sit in their chairs and ridicule the little guys in this province, because that's the type of people they are. They never were for the little guys. All they . . . They run around pretending they are.

But when we talk about a significant achievement by one of the great people in this province, one of the little people, they sit and they ridicule him. And I want the people of Saskatchewan to know — I want the people of Saskatchewan to know — that as I talk about Matt Anderson, one of the great people in our province, the members opposite sit and ridicule.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that plan of Mr. Anderson spread throughout this province. And as a matter of fact, by 1961, when the CCF were piloting legislation for the whole province through the legislature, Mr. Anderson was a special adviser to the CCF government on the legislation they introduced. Nobody knows about that either, because the CCF, as this letter indicates, have tried to take credit for it by themselves — have tried to take credit for themselves.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I relate that to the people of Saskatchewan just so that the little people of this province are given their due credit for the things they have done. And this very, very important area of health care, where a man from Norway, an immigrant, was the pioneer — I would just like to share with the people of Saskatchewan that the pioneer of health care in this province was one by the name of Matt Anderson. And I acknowledge the fact that other political parties used his plan, and they implemented right across the province and later right across Canada. But I like to give that man, that little person in our society who has not been heard of like he should have been, the credit that is due to him.

(1515)

Now, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, then, I would like to turn to the coming election. Now I have heard those members over there, in the last few days, saying, let's have an election. Well let me say, let me say, I am saying the same thing. Let's have an election. Because I know that the people of this province are ready; the people in this constituency are ready; the people in Saskatchewan are ready. They're ready to once more repudiate the negative, backward-looking policies of the NDP. And, Mr. Speaker, we are all looking towards this day with anticipation. The voters are looking forward to it. And with that I would just like to conclude my remarks by saying that I will be supporting the main motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have this opportunity today to speak in the debate on the Devine government's final throne speech. And when I say the Devine government's final throne speech, Mr. Speaker, I mean exactly that.

The proud people of Cumberland, who I have been privileged to represent during the last four years, have

told me of their disappointment with the performance of this government. They have told me of the opportunities lost, of employment lost, dignity lost, patience lost, and lives lost through despair and suicide.

The term of your administration, Mr. Speaker, the term of this PC government's administration can best be described as four lost years. The people of Cumberland have told me, Mr. Speaker, of the progress which was made during the Blakeney government to improve the lives of the people in northern Saskatchewan. They tell me that things haven't gotten any better now. These people across the Assembly have not kept their promises. And so now much of the progress that was made during the Blakeney years is all lost. In fact, Mr. Speaker, conditions are worse now than they have ever been before. My constituents, Mr. Speaker, can't afford to waste four more years. They want you and the Conservative Party to get lost.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for a few moments about why I decided to get involved in politics, and why I will continue to work within the New Democratic Party for social justice. The answer is a desire to serve people, and the answer is a desire to create a society which offers fairness, hope, compassion, and an opportunity for all.

Many people have commented that my colleagues and I have been a very energetic and effective opposition. Our energies have come in part from the people and our desire to serve them. We cannot rest, Mr. Speaker, while the citizens of this province endure the kind of injustice and missed opportunities that have taken place under the Devine PC government.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow bright, loving, cheerful young students to become filled with bitterness and stress because they have no hope of finding work or using their education. We can't allow that to happen. We can't stand by to see these young lives wasted. We can't sit idly by while the Premier spends hundreds of millions of dollars in his already wealthy constituency of Estevan to ensure his personal re-election, while he has ignored the northern part of the province which has massive unemployment.

I ask the Deputy Premier: where are your priorities? Where are your moral responsibilities to the people of the North, with 90 to 95 per cent unemployment. That is a fact. They need help now, Mr. Speaker, and we can't allow this to continue — high rates of unemployment. It's too great a waste and it is not fair.

We can't ignore the fact that our provincial government has money to give away to the wealthy, to the rich. They have given gifts of \$300 million a year to oil companies — big oil companies. Millions of dollars for millionaires like Peter Pocklington. The PC government's mismanagement and political patronage to their rich corporate friends have put Saskatchewan and our people \$1.5 billion in debt. Hundreds of millions of dollars in loan guarantees, Mr. Speaker, for companies that don't really need the help. And yet, Mr. Speaker, children go to bed hungry and families live in shacks that many PC government members today, and their corporate friends, wouldn't use because of their prestige and power. And,

Mr. Speaker, capitalism is a system which does not work for northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Premier, this PC government is bankrupt, financially and morally. We can't allow this to continue, Mr. Speaker. It's too great a waste and it's just not fair.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yew: — And yet there is even more talk about your version of welfare reform and not talk on your part about northern jobs, northern housing, and adequate health and social services. We can't ignore the fact, Mr. Speaker, that many of the unemployed people who find themselves in correctional centres, because they steal to get money for food and clothing for their children, experience a higher standard of living in jail than they can at home.

The PC government, Mr. Speaker, is uncaring. It is unfair, and it is just plain stupidity on their part.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yew: — We can't allow these people to continue. We can't allow the PC government to continue administration in this regard.

And while the people of northern Saskatchewan are forced to accept second-rate health care, they hear all kinds of expensive advertising telling them how wonderful the Devine government is. A million dollars a month wasted on government advertising. Obviously you think your advertising money is more important than good quality health care in the North, fresh food subsidies for northern people, and decent housing programs, and health and social programs.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Deputy Premier, that this PC government is bankrupt, financially and morally. And I have told you once already and I'll tell you again: people in this province are going to tell you people to get lost.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yew: — On the positive side, Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads. The people of Saskatchewan will soon be asked to cast their ballots in a provincial election. They will have the opportunity to choose between the Devine Conservatives or a confident and caring NDP administration led by Mr. Allan Blakeney.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear.

Mr. Yew: — My constituents have told me that they share the New Democrats' vision of a better Saskatchewan, a Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, which demonstrates its humanity by providing jobs for all people of Saskatchewan as well as northern Saskatchewan; by providing essential services to those in need; by providing northern people with the ability to regain control of their own lives and destinies; a Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, which develops our northern resources, develops health, education, recreation, and community facilities, develops our forests and fishing industries, as

well as our northern training and employment opportunities; a Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, which develops strong local government and strong northern communities through fair revenue-sharing programs and an expanded economic base; a Saskatchewan which has commitments for native self-government and native self-determination; a Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that builds on strong and independent people.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the vision of Saskatchewan that the New Democratic Party and the people of Cumberland constituency share and share alike.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as we approach what I believe to be the conclusion to this session and this Assembly, and the outset and onset of a provincial election campaign in which I will not be a candidate, I want to take a few moments to make some personal observations upon my time as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

I spoke earlier of my motivation for serving, of a desire to serve the people of Saskatchewan and my fellow northerners, of the need for social justice. As a member of this House, I have been able to share with you a vision of what can be, and have experienced the honour and satisfaction of serving my people.

I want to thank the people of Cumberland for the privilege of serving them for the last four years as their MLA. I want to thank my family for their support during what has been in many ways a very tough four years. When I grew frustrated with the fact that this House and the system was not serving the needs of my people, the needs of the people in northern Saskatchewan, I could always count upon the love and support of my family to help give me strength, faith in the future, and the determination to continue the fight.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

(1530)

Mr. Yew: — I want also, Mr. Speaker, to thank my many friends, constituency executive in Cumberland, and our party members for their assistance and support. It was, and has been, and is, genuinely appreciated.

Finally I want to thank my caucus colleagues. They have proven to me that they do care for the people of the North, and that they share my hopes for the North, my faith in northern people, and my conviction that one day, hopefully soon, that the people of the North will be equal partners in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the good Lord, our Creator, for his many blessings. I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all members of this Assembly, that I have respected and have been encouraged by your tradition of prayers before going into the routine proceedings of the legislature. Mr. Speaker, I hope the wisdom and guidance we pray for will be granted and will help make Saskatchewan a better life for all our people.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the presentation made by the throne speech on March the 17th. Thank

you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Folk: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to join in the throne speech debate on this date, on behalf of my constituents of Saskatoon University.

Mr. Speaker, one of the main objectives of our Premier and the Progressive Conservative governments has been to provide the citizens of our province with the means to build a better future for themselves and for their families. We believe that the development of our province must begin with protection, and with protection for our families.

Our government has acted to provide that protection — protection that the people have asked for, but prior to 1982 nobody had listened to. For example, protection for home owners from high interest rates, a saving of over \$3,000 per year, in some cases, for Saskatchewan families. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't need to remind you that in the early 1980s, when interest rates were approaching and beyond the 20 per cent range, that the NDP government sat on their thumbs and did absolutely nothing to help the families in our province.

Also, protecting the earnings of Saskatchewan people by the elimination of the gasoline tax, a saving of approximately \$150 a year for the average family. Once again, Mr. Speaker, in the early 1980s and late 1970s, when gasoline and oil was becoming a big industry in our province, the NDP sat back, watched our neighbours to the West — no tax on their gasoline, but ours was hoarded by the NDP government.

Also, protection of the family farm and rural communities through rural gasification, through private telephone lines, and through low interest loans. Protection of our small business community — the nine and five-eighths interest program, the industrial incentive program, the venture capital program, and a commitment to develop a tourism industry that right now is becoming one of our second biggest industries in our whole province.

When we think of protecting our family, we should also think of health care in Saskatchewan. Prior to 1982, buying potash mines had taken precedence over the building of hospitals and nursing homes and cancer treatment facilities in the province of Saskatchewan under the NDP. I need only to remind the members opposite of the moratorium on nursing home construction that was imposed under the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, across from us is an example of people who would rather spend their money buying potash mines that were already in existence, rather than purchasing and upgrading much-needed health facilities in Saskatchewan.

Under the Progressive Conservative government, Mr. Speaker, we have laid the foundations and have begun building hospitals and nursing homes. In my constituency alone, in Saskatoon University, we have started on a 78-bed Lutheran Sunset Home. Construction began last

fall on a two-storey addition to the University Hospital. This will mean an additional 78 beds at a total cost of about \$35 million. Add to that, about two years ago the children's rehab centre opened at Brunskill School, in co-operation with the Kinsmen Foundation — something that was sadly neglected by the previous administration in our province.

Just recently a contract was let for a \$16 million cancer clinic and research facility on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. speaker, a couple of weeks ago I was in Saskatoon with our Premier for the announcement of a \$78 million agriculture building on the University of Saskatchewan campus. And I heard many people at that time say they had been waiting for upwards of 25 years for a new agriculture college on the campus. Mr. Speaker, not only is that a great addition for the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, but for agriculture in general throughout our whole province.

Mr. Speaker, also when you look around the province, at the campus of the University of Saskatchewan we see needed facilities that have taken place in the last four years under a Progressive Conservative government. The geological sciences building — it was also neglected by the NDP. Mr. Speaker, the administration building is almost completed now — a needed facility that has been in disrepair for many years under the NDP. And now a new college of agriculture.

As a matter of fact on Friday afternoon when I drove into Saskatoon, going down College Drive, I looked at the sign saying "University of Saskatchewan" and above the sign I saw four cranes — four cranes in operation at the University of Saskatchewan campus. They are proving our government's commitment, not only to health, not only to agriculture, not only to higher education in our province, but needed facilities and needed programs, needed research that is going to go on in this province for many years to come. And these are just some of the new projects in the Saskatoon University constituency.

Other health care facilities under construction in our city of Saskatoon are the \$53 million expansion to St. Paul's Hospital, which will increase their bed capacity by nearly 112 beds. And also, the Saskatoon City Hospital has begun plans for a new, 482-bed hospital at a cost of \$115 million. Nursing home and special care home construction projects include a 50-bed Circle Drive personal care home, plus a new 238-bed long-term-care facility to be completed in late 1986 or early 1987.

The Minister of Health recently announced an additional \$100 million program to enrich hospital and special care services across the province; \$40 million is being made available to enrich patient care services in hospitals, including the provision of 500 — I repeat, 500 additional nursing positions. Sixty million dollars will be provided for staffing and other costs associated with the new beds they make now available. This program was developed in consultation with health care officials and will go directly to patient care. And, Mr. Speaker, I believe this compares very favourably with the record of the NDP when they eliminated much needed nursing positions in the province of Saskatchewan in the late '70s and early 1980s.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan elected a government in 1982 that would listen and respond to their concerns and their issues. Our Premier and our government have responded to the concerns of men, women, and children in all areas of our province. This government has been protecting our families and building on our strengths even during difficult times — brought on by adverse agricultural conditions and falling world prices for many of our resource commodities, difficulties over which we, as a government, had no control. Providing jobs and opportunities was a commitment in 1982, and is as strong now as it was then.

Under our Premier and our government, Saskatchewan has maintained, on average, the lowest rate of unemployment in all of Canada. This government has a firm commitment to creating jobs and opportunities for the people of our province, and we have instituted programs and initiatives to give Saskatchewan people that opportunity, an opportunity to work here at home and not have to leave our province to find work — part of the protection of our families in our province.

These are programs and initiatives which work; programs developed in consultation and co-operation with other people in the province of Saskatchewan; programs like our winter works program, a program endorsed by the private sector, the business community. Over 5,000 jobs were created last year under this particular program.

We are committed to the long-term economic development of this province, not the way the previous NDP government did it. Their idea of economic development was to buy up the farm land; buy up potash mines for hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars, invest in uranium mines — which now I don't know what their latest position is, but I believe they want to close them down. Mr. Speaker, that's where they put their money in, rather than needed services throughout our province.

For the first time ever, Saskatchewan has a well-planned, long-term employment strategy, a multimillion-dollar, five-year program for job creation. In the first year of the program, some 22,000 jobs were created and sustained. The Opportunities '85 program helped some 10,000 students — young men and young women staying at home and earning an income, enabling many of them to go back to school and complete their education.

We are encouraged by the success of the youth employment program over the past three years. Here is just one example of government and small business working together in a partnership of progress. My colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Small Business, just recently announced the Opportunities '86 program — a further commitment of eight and a half million dollars to create 8,500 jobs and help our students complete their education.

For our youth who are about to enter the labour market for the first time, this government has expanded technical and vocational training by almost 60 per cent at a cost of almost \$55 million. In addition to technical and

vocational learning expansion, we have provided \$125 million to our universities over the next five years under the university renewal and development fund providing new research and teaching equipment.

I mention the new agriculture college at the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. And this college will help meet the growing demand in agriculture research and enable our farmers to continue as leaders in agricultural production and agricultural techniques.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of education — which we have made very clear is one of our four cornerstones for progress, along with employment, health, and agriculture — through the institution of the educational development fund our educational process in our whole province will be upgraded.

Mr. Speaker, I can't help but notice that in about the five-to-ten-year period the population of the city of Saskatoon increased by about 50,000 people. And under the NDP there was not one new high school built in the city of Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, that is not a commitment to education. It's one of the fastest-growing cities in the whole of Canada, yet the NDP stood idly by and watched the students get into overcrowded conditions. And I'm very pleased that since the election of our government in '82 there are two brand-new high schools in our city of Saskatoon.

Providing jobs and opportunities is a commitment of this government, and in that aspect we continue to pursue new investment and new markets for Saskatchewan products. Take, for example, the high-tech industry. There are approximately 130 high-tech companies that operate in the province of Saskatchewan, and at least 20 of them are in the city of Saskatoon. Saskatoon is rapidly gaining national and international recognition for new technological advances.

For example, let's look at SED Systems in Saskatoon. One of the province's key high-tech companies will consolidate its operations into one location. And that project is an \$11.8 million complex which will create 135 construction jobs and should be in operation by the end of this year. This is another example of business and both the federal and provincial government working together, employing approximately 300 people, and putting Saskatoon and Saskatchewan on the map, exporting their products and their services around the world.

(1545)

The people of Saskatchewan have pride. They have pride in their homes, in their families, and their work. And under this Progressive Conservative government that pride is coming back. We saw it in our celebration of heritage year, and we'll see it again at Vancouver at Expo '86. Mr. Speaker, in heritage year, as has been touched on by the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood, over 900 communities in our province celebrated heritage year by organizing community functions on their own, some of which he so adequately described to us. And believe me, there was a feeling of optimism, a feeling of pride across our province. And this year, in 1986 at Expo

'86, we look forward to having a great Saskatchewan presence at the Expo, and over 1,000 of our young performers are going to be out there entertaining people and showing the rest of the world just what kind of talent Saskatchewan really does have.

The people of Saskatchewan have been provided with strong leadership and a sense of pride, and that sense of pride has come back — pride and initiative that under the NDP had been buried by big government. Today I'm very proud to live in our city of Saskatoon and our province of Saskatchewan, a province under the leadership of our Premier and the Progressive Conservative government that is providing the opportunity for the people to realize their dreams and their aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard much on the radio lately about some of the campaign promises coming up for the NDP. One of them is unfair taxes. Mr. Speaker, I've already outlined some of the taxes that we have eliminated as a Progressive Conservative government, but I did a little bit of digging. I found out that in 1971 when the New Democrats came to power, the total provincial expenditures for the government of Saskatchewan was just under \$600 million. Mr. Speaker, when they left power in 1982, those provincial expenditures were almost \$3 billion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how their mathematics work, but somewhere in there, in order to raise \$2.5 billion a year, taxes had to be increased. And where did that money go? Did it go towards improving our health system? I say not. Did it go to improving our education system? I say not. Rather, Mr. Speaker, it went to building their own empire of potash mines, uranium mines, land bank, things that the people of Saskatchewan spoke very clearly against in 1982, and very clearly for a definition for the future of our province that is with the Progressive Conservative government and our present Premier.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be supporting the motion before us on the throne speech. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me today to enter into this debate on the throne speech. This is the first one that I've had the pleasure of being involved in since becoming a member of this House last spring. I think that it's very important to the people of this province to realize that this throne speech carries on a four-year tradition of growth and expansion in our province, a forward, growing-looking outlook, which the people of this province appreciate, and I think particularly in the field of agriculture. When you speak about Thunder Creek, Mr. Speaker, you talk about agriculture. That's our life-blood out there.

I think of the fair and equitable programs which this government has brought in over the last four years. And I think of things like the farm purchase program, which over 5,000 people have availed themselves of in this province, and that is young and first time farmers who are now actively engaged in agriculture that probably would not have been there before.

I think of the livestock cash advances and the thing that we did through our drought relief programs as far as our livestock producers went. Never before in the history of Saskatchewan has a government taken the livestock sector to heart like ours has in the last four years.

My constituency is one which is blessed with irrigation, and the \$100 an acre incentive programs which this government brought in — and have put 18,000 acres under water in the last three years, a great many of which were in my constituency — has got to be a big plus for this province. Because irrigation is one of the things which I consider a resource, a renewable resource which can be used over and over and over again, and it's something which our province needs to utilize and build on for the future.

I'd like to think of our loan production program, which was introduced in December, as probably one of the most forward-looking agricultural programs ever introduced anywhere in Canada, and with the tough times which we have had over the last few years with drought and grasshoppers, with lower commodity prices and higher inputs, I think this program is probably the most well thought out piece of legislation which has come along in a long time.

Also our royalty rebate which is going to help farmers with that 21 cents a gallon rebate on fuel which is a direct result of the expanded oil industry which we have in our province, and is a direct return to the people of this province so that farmers can lower those inputs as they seed the 1986 crop.

We also have the new incentive programs for hogs and cattle through ACS (Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan).

I think all of these programs lumped together have really been appreciated by the rural sector in Saskatchewan and particularly by the people in Thunder Creek. Because obviously last spring when we had the by-election in that riding, Mr. Premier, they responded to the agricultural programs of this government and returned me, or put me in this House, with a very comfortable majority. And I'm sure that with the things that we've done since, they'll increase that majority in the upcoming election.

I'd like to contrast some of this with the previous government. You know, last week in this House, Mr. Speaker, we paid homage to a great Saskatchewan citizen, a former premier of our province, the Hon. Tommy Douglas. And there is no doubt that Mr. Douglas did a number of things in this province which will never be forgotten because they were good for the people of this province — and yet nowhere, in all the eulogies of Tommy Douglas and the things said about him, did I ever hear that Tommy Douglas could make it rain.

And as I've sat in this House for the last year and listened to the opposition formulate or try to formulate an agricultural policy, I guess you could sum it up in, pray for rain. Because I haven't heard one concrete thing that has come out of this group over here as far as agriculture in this province. And if all they've got to give to the people of

this province is a prayer for rain, I suggest they not show themselves in rural Saskatchewan come the next election.

You know, the hypocrisy of the members of the opposition is just about too much to believe. They talk about used car taxes and a few dollars. And to think of the gift tax and succession duties which that government perpetrated upon the people of this province for four and five years. They were taking money off widows and orphans, and it ran into 28, \$30 million. And I didn't see anybody return anything.

When you think of a group of people, as the opposition are, who claim that during their tenure in this province that they had all kinds of money — they had balanced budgets and they had all kinds of money — and I only have to think about the irrigation potential in this province, Mr. Speaker, that has sat there unused all during their tenure.

And they admit that they had all kinds of money. And yet when we came along through a drought period in this province, when that irrigation potential had the ability to maintain the livestock sector in the entire south-west region of our province and it wasn't utilized, I wonder where their priorities were.

I think about the 22 per cent interest rates which came along in 1980 and 1981. And every farmer and every business man out there had an operating loan in place, and those interest rates were sky-rocketing. And once again, the members opposite claim that they had lots of money in this province at this time, you know. They were balancing their budget and they had all kinds of cash revenue. And yet I didn't see one program aimed at agriculture to do anything about those 22 per cent interest rates.

It makes me wonder, Mr. Speaker, if during the period that the NDP were in government in this province, they didn't have a caucus made up of badgers and pigeons, because they seem to have a great fascination with used holes in the ground and tall buildings. And if that is their attitude — and it seems to continue on, because the only thing that they've offered us is land bank and nothing else — then I suggest once again that the NDP not bother to show themselves in rural Saskatchewan.

You know, when you talk about my seat and agriculture, there's also a few other things that happen out there. There's a quality of life involved in Thunder Creek, and I like to think of the town of Central Butte.

Central Butte is the largest town in my riding, and it's the only place that you can find more than two NDP votes in the same block. For years and years the town of Central Butte was promised an old-age home, but nothing ever happened under the previous administration. Once again, they had lots of money, but Central Butte could never get a senior citizens' home. Under our government there is now a beautiful, 30-place senior citizens' home in the town of Central Butte.

We go to highways, Mr. Speaker. I can remember very

well in 1975 the NDP candidate in Thunder Creek standing up and saying that Highway 42 is a guaranteed proposition; elect me and you'll get Highway 42; but you don't even have to elect me, because I've been down and talked to the minister of highways and you're going to get Highway 42.

Well I'm happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that there is now a \$1.7 million project to rebuild Highway 42 from Riverhurst to Central Butte. And it will be reality, and people will no longer bounce over the pot-holes in Highway 42, and folks going up to Lake Diefenbaker to their cottages are now going to have a good highway to ride on. But I suggest to you, sir, that if it had been left up to the members opposite that that highway probably would have deteriorated into a country trail before anything had happened.

And then we have Highway 363, which runs down into the edges of Mr. Engel's seat — or sorry, the member from Assiniboia's seat — and on over to the west, and once again, we had a highway that had a lot of promises made about it over the years but nothing was ever done. Well I'm also happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that Highway 363 is now under construction and will be done in the next year so that the people from the south-west part of my riding will have a decent road to drive on.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that with the programs which this government has announced, both recently and in the throne speech, things like individual line service, and the ability of our rural producers to be on a par with any in the world, that I believe this throne speech is going in the right direction. I believe our budget, which is upcoming, will prove to the people of this province that this government is going in the right direction. It gives me a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to support the throne speech.

Hon. Mr. Embury: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to join my colleagues today and those who have spoken last week in this debate on the throne speech.

Two things are for sure, I guess, Mr. Speaker, this year. One, it's spring; and secondly, there's an election coming. It's the only time, once every four years, that you find the NDP attempting to become sincere — and I'll tell you, the most insincere thing you've ever seen is NDP trying to look sincere.

You know, it's every four years, Mr. Speaker, that that bunch over there try and perpetrate the con game. I mean, they get their suits on, they get their ties on, and they brush their hair, and they try and look reasonable, and they even try on occasion to sound reasonable; and we've been listening to this for the last week, Mr. Speaker. We've been listening to the opposition trying to sound reasonable and trying to sound concerned. Once every four years — every four years this bunch tries to sound concerned.

Every four years, Mr. Speaker, they become concerned about small business. These folks, who would have a minimum wage of six bucks an hour; these folks, who'd have a payroll tax, every four years try and get concerned

about small business.

Every four years, Mr. Speaker, this bunch across the way becomes concerned about seniors — about seniors. These are the folks who saw no need to build nursing homes, but every four years they become concerned about seniors.

Mr. Speaker, this is a con game. Every four years — this being one of them — every four years this bunch become concerned about home owners. This is the bunch that four years ago said that interest rates were the responsibility of the federal government and couldn't give a hoot if home owners lost their homes. But this year they're concerned. Every four years, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This is the year that the moon comes out and that bunch over there are concerned about farmers. They're concerned about farmers. Right now, they're concerned about farmers. I mean, for years and years they nationalized millions of acres of farm land. This year is the fourth year. This year they're concerned.

(1600)

Well, Mr. Speaker, I mean, this con game goes on and on. This is the year. It's one of those years and it's election year. They're concerned, all two of them over there. Every four years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they've become concerned, and this year they're concerned about young people. This spring they're concerned about young people. These are the folks who taxed not only the living, but the dead. But this year they're concerned about young people. It's got to be an election year. The moon is out. There they go.

This has got to be the fourth year. Every four years they become concerned about municipalities. The member from Regina North East is here and I'll tell you, he was concerned about municipalities when he was the minister of finance, because I was on council then and I can remember the year that he wouldn't give one penny, one red penny, to any municipality anywhere in Saskatchewan for capital works. Not one. But this year the moon is out and they're concerned about municipalities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Yes sir, they are concerned.

They are concerned about municipalities. This is the fourth year. This is the fourth year and they're doing their ritual again. And now they're concerned about health care and nurses. Now this is the bunch that cut 400 nurses out of the health care system.

An Hon. Member: — How many?

Hon. Mr. Embury: — Four hundred. But the moon is up and they're concerned now about health care. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I don't know how many people are taken in by this, but it's got to be an election year and it's got to be spring, because this year they're concerned.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth year and they are now concerned about the common man. The common man. This is the bunch that four years ago made a god out of the family of Crown corporations, but this year they're

concerned about the common man.

Well, I don't know, Mr. Speaker. It didn't come as any surprise to me to talk to my constituents over the weekend after hearing the promises made last week by the Leader of the Opposition in his election platform. It came as no surprise to me that my constituents listened to those promises with a healthy dose of scepticism — with a healthy dose of that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this bunch over there have been known — I mean this bunch now talking from their seats — they are producing their kinds of policies that one would expect from socialists in an election year, in this four year . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

There we go. The WCC member. You know, that member is an interesting oddity in this House. He's an interesting oddity. Here is a member that got kicked out of the Liberal Party and then the WCC took him, and after a week they left. Well, I mean, you know, in any other definition of popularity that is called the plague. However, he has been speaking from his seat, and I'm sure he'll get up later in this debate, I'm sure.

An Hon. Member: — Three parties in four years.

Hon. Mr. Embury: — Three parties in four years. That's right.

Anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the NDP made their promises last week, and my constituents who I talked to over the weekend, they were a little sceptical about these promises. You know, Mr. Speaker, there are two things that my constituents get nervous about when you talk about the NDP. The first things they get nervous about are the things that they say. And the second thing they're nervous about are the things they don't say. And I want to deal for a moment, Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all with the things that they did say last week.

First let's deal with the things that they did say. Well first of all they said that they were going to have some money to go to the people over the age of 60. Well actually when you listen to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they said that they would have some money to go to some people over the age of 60. And actually, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition who said it in the first place, was that they were going to have very little money to go to some people over the age of 60, which I guess is a pretty good indication of how concerned they are in the first place. So my constituents listened to these promises with some scepticism.

Well what else did the NDP say last week? I mean, remember the moon's out; some more of them came into the House. Well they're going to bring back the PIG grant at a cost of \$115 million; and they're going to end the municipal business tax for the cost of 40 million bucks; and they're going to end the flat tax at a cost of 100 million bucks; and they're going to increase the fuel rebates at a cost of 20 million bucks; and they're going to remove most of the education portion off of your property tax for another 250 million bucks. And all of this is going to cost over 500 million bucks; and oh, by the way, ain't that deficit terrible.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my constituents take those promises

with just a little bit of scepticism, because the only way we're going to pay for this, apparently, according to the NDP, is that we're going to tax the rich. And that's okay, except what makes the folks nervous is that you people are going to define who's rich. And that's what makes them nervous, because they've seen who you've defined as rich before. You defined widows as rich before. Your folks in Manitoba have defined employees as rich and employers as rich. As a matter of fact, there is some sneaking suspicion that you'll define anyone who can rub two nickels together as rich. And that makes my people a little nervous when you talk about spending 500 million bucks.

Well remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the moon is out. These folks are concerned. They are back here for their four-year little act that they put on. It's the four-year con.

Well as I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my constituents are nervous, are very nervous about what the NDP say. And there's only one thing that scares them more and that's what they don't say. And I'll tell you, what they don't say in the past has cost a lot of money. I mean, they didn't say much about potash before they took them over. They didn't say much about land bank until they started it. They didn't say much about uranium mines before they did that. So it's what they don't say that really makes my people nervous and also makes them sceptical about the promises.

You only have to go back to 1982 and we know what was said in the NDP campaign. But we also know what wasn't said. And ask anybody in the life insurance business about what wasn't said in 1982. Or ask anybody who owned an auto body shop what wasn't said in 1982. Or ask anybody who was in the funeral home business what wasn't said in 1982. They didn't promise to touch those industries, but we know they were going to.

In other words, the NDP, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have a hidden agenda and a public agenda. And they have tasted some of their public agenda last week. I briefly dwelt on that. I have noted why my constituents are a little nervous about their promises, where they're going to get the money. And they are also nervous, very nervous about what they will not tell, what they will not tell the people in Regina Lakeview.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a great pleasure of mine to stand today and voice my support for the measures outlined in the throne speech brought down by the Lieutenant Governor last week. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Regina Lakeview, and as its MLA, I'm extremely proud to be a Progressive Conservative when I examine the record over the past four years, and the vision of Premier Grant Devine and his party, the vision for the future, not a future made up of Crown corporations, masses of people with numbers, but the vision that the Premier has put forward over the last four years.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, during my six years as an alderman representing ward 3, the ward in which much of my constituency now rests, and during the subsequent four years in which I have been privileged to represent the people of Regina Lakeview, the residents of this

constituency have told me what they expect from this government.

First they expect to be reasonably and fairly treated as individuals — as individuals. They expect a government which helps them when help is truly needed, and then they expect to be left alone, to not be controlled and over-regulated by a government when it is not necessary. They expected and they do expect to be rewarded for hard work, not punished.

And the people of my constituency are compassionate and caring people who want to help others less fortunate, in true need of help. But they will not be taken advantage of. The constituency of Regina Lakeview, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is a middle ground with people of all walks of life, of all racial origins, and of all ages. There's a mix of civil servants and business people, doctors and lawyers and architects and young families with children and senior citizens and single men and women. In fact, Regina Lakeview is a microcosm of all that is urban Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1982 the constituents of Regina Lakeview made a decisive and positive decision — they voted for the Progressive Conservatives. They voted for a party which promised to strengthen traditional social institutions like education and health. They voted for a party which promised that we could indeed have a government which maintained and improved needed social programs, but equally important — but equally important — a party which did not demand that individuals would have to sell their souls to a socialist government in order to receive these programs.

They did not then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, nor do they today believe that the government should own or control everything. They did not and they do not believe today that being a tenant to the government is preferable to being an owner. In short, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the constituents of Regina Lakeview see government as a servant of the people and not the other way around.

And most important — and most important, Mr. Deputy Speaker — the people of Regina Lakeview, ordinary Canadians, are tolerant people. They do not believe in singling out one group of people or one occupation simply because that group of people are successful, and making scapegoats of them.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate but true that the socialist feeds on attempts to polarize people, to turn one group on another, and the group they usually target for this type of attack are those who have become successful. Rather than congratulate and encourage success, they heap scorn on those who would take a risk, who would invest their savings with no guarantees. And they especially attack these people if they invest their earnings together with others to a common goal of making a profit.

(1615)

Now I realize, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I realize that this may sound strange because the socialists claim to support organizations like co-ops and credit unions, whose stated goal is to invest together for a common goal. But, Mr.

Speaker, let those very same investors who have their moneys in the co-ops or the credit unions invest money in an oil company and all of a sudden those same investors are rip-off artists.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP today keep score on those individuals who invest in stocks and bonds or shares in oil companies. There is one reason for this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That reason is that the NDP hope to feed on jealousy. They encourage people to be jealous of those who have worked and saved and invested and, as a result, have profited. The socialist encourages, not promotes, this jealousy amongst people in order to justify the confiscation of the wealth these individuals have created for use at the whim of the socialists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Regina Lakeview saw through this tactic in 1982, and that is why they turned out the NDP and voted for a party of reason, the Progressive Conservative Party. They voted for a party who encourages the creation of wealth, not one who scoffs at it. They voted for a party who encourages each individual to reach for the limits of his or her potential, not one which believes that profit and enterprise are dirty words.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they voted for a party, the Progressive Conservative Party, who believes that only by encouraging the creation of wealth by individuals can the social programs which we ask of government be maintained and improved.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Grant Devine has delivered on the promises made in 1982. During some of the toughest times in the history of this province, tough times brought on as a result through the cruelties of nature and of depressed international markets, this Progressive Conservative government established the best four-year job creation in the nation.

Ordinary Canadians by the thousands have found work in Saskatchewan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the policies of this government have created an environment which has benefited ordinary Canadians more than any other group, for it is this group, it is this group who normally is the first to fall victim to high unemployment, and this province has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation over the past four years. This government's policies have worked during some very tough times.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me speak for a moment about oil. Because of this government's policies, thousands of new jobs were created in the oil patch, and because of the dramatic increase in activity, revenue to the government to pay for the social programs we demand are up. Now the NDP scoff at this. They suggest the small investor from Regina Lakeview should not voluntarily risk his money to buy shares in one of the hundreds of small independent oil companies which have flourished under our administration. Instead, the socialists believe that those same small investors in Regina Lakeview should be forced, through their taxes, to buy shares which they would never own in a state-owned oil company. Then, if that oil company makes a profit, well that's okay. But if it showed a loss, then those Lakeview investors would be forced, through their taxes, to subsidize that oil company

for the good of the state. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we just have to look at the potash industry to know of what we speak. It's typical NDP nonsense. It's typical NDP nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

This Progressive Conservative government is proud of its energy policies, and I am proud that the revenues received from the activity in the oil patch resulting from our policies is helping to pay for the increase in health care, education, nursing home construction, and many other services which the people of Regina Lakeview desire.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is indeed open for business. Now the NDP scoff at this as well because, well, of course, they are fundamentally and philosophically opposed to private enterprise. Mr. Speaker, there are many small businesses located in Regina Lakeview. They are run by ordinary Canadians — entrepreneurs — who work tremendously hard and long hours providing needed goods and services to the public.

This Progressive Conservative government has no qualms about actively encouraging and supporting small business. We do so by removing unnecessary red tape, most of it created by the former NDP administration. We do it by freeing up the market-place for them to compete in, not by creating government businesses to compete against them. We do it by providing interest rate protection for them so that they have some idea what their borrowing costs will be. We do it by encouraging government and non-government purchasing agents to check to see what they can do to buy products manufactured or supplied by Saskatchewan business. And we do it by meeting with small-business people on a regular basis at their convenience, and for free, to discuss firsthand what more we, as a PC government, can do for them. And I mention that we do this for free, only to contrast the Progressive Conservative attitude toward small business with that of the NDP who charge 150 bucks per person for small businesses to meet with them.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, this government believes in open for business, and our record shows that, despite tough times, this belief is well founded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me turn now to senior citizens. Regina Lakeview, as I mentioned earlier, has a large seniors' population. And I'm proud of the accomplishment Premier Devine's Progressive Conservative government has made in four short years for senior citizens. Premier Devine's government recently introduced the senior citizens' heritage program, a permanent ongoing program of grants to low- and middle-income seniors, to assist them to live an independent lifestyle with the dignity they deserve. I had the privilege, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of introducing this legislation in the House on behalf of Saskatchewan and Regina's Lakeview seniors.

As a member of the legislature for Lakeview since 1982, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've been pleased that this government has been able to introduce a good number of programs for seniors. Having seniors in my family has helped me understand not only the special problems seniors face, but also the significant contributions that

they have made to society.

And that is why, over the past four years, this government has put a great emphasis on senior programs, specifically the provision of nursing home beds. Unfortunately, the previous NDP administration has put a freeze on the construction of nursing homes that lasted for five years. And in fact in nine years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in nine years they built only 245 new beds. Since 1982 this Progressive Conservative government has built 688 new beds, and our commitment is for 1,000 new beds and 500 replacement beds by the end of 1987.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were pleased to introduce a new foot care program for Saskatchewan, and, as well, we eliminated extra billing for medical care.

In 1984, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the seniors' bureau was formed to establish a focal point within the provincial government from which seniors can obtain information, help, and advice. For senior home owners a new home repair program was introduced with over 20,000 seniors participating in the program.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, low-income seniors had the provincial supplement doubled for singles, from \$25 to \$50 per month, and for couples, from \$45 to \$75 per month. And it's interesting to note, in this year of the moon, that under the NDP administration, the supplement was increased in total — in total — only \$5 in seven years. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that Premier Devine and the Progressive Conservative government is a government with a heart, unlike the NDP who talk like they care but in 11 years demonstrated they really don't care for the needs of the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Regina Lakeview suffered through 11 years of deteriorating water quality. They asked the former NDP government to help to solve the taste and odour problem. They elected a premier from Regina, a minister of Urban Affairs from Regina, and seven other NDP MLAs from Regina, and in that 11 years, did those NDP MLAs do anything to help solve the water problem? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

In 1982 the people of Regina decided to vote for a new Progressive Conservative government, and did we solve the taste and water problems? Did we? The answer is yes. Did it take 11 years? The answer is no. It was done in the first of many consecutive terms of Progressive Conservative governments.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on the topic of things which this Progressive Conservative government has done for Regina, I might just list a few that I have mentioned to my constituency in Regina Lakeview. The list goes on and on, and I'll try and be brief, but I think it's important . . .

An Hon. Member: — That would be much appreciated.

Hon. Mr. Embury: — I think the member for Regina Centre is speaking again, which is kind of a help. We thought he might have died.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to point out a number of things that Regina has seen done for them in the last four

years. Of course the highlight as far as investment dollars and job creation is the NewGrade heavy oil upgrader, which is the largest project in Saskatchewan's history. Mr. Speaker, this is a \$650 million project and alone it will create 3,000 new jobs in the construction phase. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the NDP talked a lot about upgraders in their last term. They spoke a lot about them. They'd even found a site for them, but they never built one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had mentioned before the \$15 million carbon filtration plant which was built at Buffalo Pound. Mr. Speaker, that bunch there had 11 years, 11 years to build this and not a penny was put forward, and we drank that green sludge until they were defeated in 1982. In 1982 we got into power, and it is now built, and we are now enjoying tasteless and odourless water.

Mr. Speaker, probably what some don't realize — and I'll just mention it — is that Ipsco has not undertaken a \$63 million expansion. Ipsco, Mr. . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The member from North-east wants to know how many people Ipsco have laid off. I might remind that member that without oil policies of this government those people would have been laid off four years ago, and it would not be working today under your policies. Under your policies Ipsco may well have been shut down by now.

Mr. Speaker, Ipsco is now undertaking a \$63 million expansion — \$63 million expansion. The Kalium mine just outside of Regina is undertaking a \$100 million expansion.

(1630)

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, more importantly to the people in Regina Lakeview, Regina has had one of the best job creation records in the last four years of any city in Canada — in any city in Canada. As a matter of fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, last year Opportunities '85 created 974 jobs for students in Regina, while Opportunities '84 created another 834 jobs. The employment development fund, Mr. Deputy Speaker, created over 1,500 new jobs in Regina, and over 900 jobs resulted in this city from the winter works projects. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're talking jobs; we're talking about the families in my seat and other seats in this city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all know that Regina — if anyone has seen the news in the last month — that Regina has the lowest gasoline prices in the nation. We also know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that last month we saw the largest decrease in food prices in this city in recent memory. And we also know that we have the lowest inflation rate intake country in this city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over \$42.5 million of new school construction and renovations have taken place in this city since 1982 — over \$42.5 million. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over \$95 million have been committed for health care projects in the city of Regina since 1982. Over \$95 million have been committed to this city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1982 when interest rates were 22 per cent, when the NDP said it was not their responsibility, and we introduced a program in this

House to alleviate that and to save homes — to save homes in this city — well, as a result of the mortgage interest reduction program, in this city, Mr. Deputy Speaker, 11, 860 Regina home owners have received \$18.5 million in benefits. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's an average of \$1,570 per household since 1982. The NDP said it was not their responsibility, and we provided that protection for those home owners.

Since 1982, Mr. Deputy Speaker, since 1982 over 1,200 Regina families received grants from the Build-A-Home program — over 1,200 families from the Build-A-Home program — for a total of \$3.5 million. Mr. Speaker, another program delivered by your government to the people of Regina.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can remember when the NDP decided to give their friends from the East a nine and five-eighths per cent loan — nine and five-eighths per cent loan — for the Cornwall Centre. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that there are 605 small businesses in Regina who have benefited from our nine and five-eighths per cent interest program — 605 small businesses. Those businesses who started in Regina, whose owners live in Regina, and whose employees live in Regina — 605 of them. Not one developer from the East, but 605 businesses in Regina have benefited from our nine and five-eighths interest reduction program. Mr. Speaker, I think it is evident that we, in this party, have a different emphasis on business than those across the way.

Mr. Speaker, something that I worked on when I was on the council in the city of Regina, and I was happy to see proceed and get finished through this first term, the first of many terms in office was the completion of the Lewvan Expressway. Mr. Speaker, the Lewvan Expressway goes south from the tracks, the portion that we built at a 100 per cent finance by the provincial government for the cost of \$5.7 million, proceeds through my seat and has helped the traffic flow through my seat, and through my colleague from Regina South's seat, a great deal. I can tell you, as I'm out in my constituency, the people of my seat, and I'm sure my colleague in Regina South's seat, have thanked him for the completion.

The completion of that road which was promised for 12 years, which was promised for 12 years — well before I was on the city council that this thing was promised by the former government — but it was built and completed by ourselves after 1982. I'm happy to say that the people of Regina Lakeview appreciate that highway and remember who built it.

Mr. Speaker, another accomplishment, another thing that we have now provided for the city of Regina, is the Winnipeg North campus of the Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences. Mr. Speaker, we have expanded the spaces in the training schools in this province because we know — and I wish that my colleague from Rosemont was here — but I know that members opposite do not agree with welfare reform. I know that the members opposite would rather simply just hand out cheques to those on welfare and not put a training component into the system.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we don't believe that. Welfare reform

has been a very positive step. And part of that was the building of this new Wascana Institute, which now provides over 400 students a chance to educate themselves, Mr. Speaker — and it was not there prior to 1982. This institute, Mr. Speaker, was opened in September of 1985, and the cost of that building was \$12 million.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the summer games are coming to Regina in 1987. And I am happy to see that a new \$6 million field house is being built in the city of Regina, another building that was sorely needed in this community.

Mr. Speaker, I have indicated before that I have many seniors in my seat. And I would like to remind my constituents and the people of the city of Regina of the new housing units for seniors that are being constructed now under this government. Mr. Speaker, 159 new units of senior citizen accommodation will be built at the Trianon and at the St. Basil's projects. Now, Mr. Speaker, these projects will mean that there will be more than 1,600 units of subsidized living for seniors in Regina. Mr. Speaker, Palliser Place in the Cornwall Centre is a modern complex for seniors, and that also was established by the Progressive Conservative government since 1982.

I was happy to note that in my seat there will be 60 additional beds, Mr. Speaker, at the Santa Maria home which will expand that facility in Regina Lakeview. This facility has long wanted to expand; had been after the former administration for some time. Of course there was a moratorium, and they could not get the approval of the money from the NDP. They now have the approval, and construction will be beginning at the Santa Maria home, Mr. Speaker, in May of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative government recognizes the importance of protecting seniors who now comprise, interestingly enough, over 12 per cent of our population. Mr. Speaker, over 2,100 Regina seniors — over 2,100 of them — received a grant from the senior citizens' home repair grant program. Over 2,100 seniors who wished to remain in their home, who wished to upgrade their home, have received assistance from this government — and, Mr. Speaker, 2,100 now and thousands to come. Grants totalling in excess of \$2 million to the seniors in this city for repairing seniors' homes have been received since 1982.

Mr. Speaker, another benefit that this city has received since 1982 can be seen at the exhibition grounds. The Canadian Western Agribition has received a total of \$5 million from this government for expansion. We realize, as do the citizens of this city, the importance of the western agribition, not only to the city of Regina, but the province of Saskatchewan. And the Progressive Conservative government has since 1982 been very supportive in the way of grants from the Department of Agriculture. Now we were most happy to co-operate with agribition and provide \$5 million in grants for an expansion there.

Mr. Speaker, there are other institutions in this city which have received the assistance of this government, such as

the restoration of the historic Turgeon residence as a youth hostel; as the building of the Regina North West Leisure Centre at a cost of \$2.3 million; and the restoration of Government House, which is the historic lieutenant governor's home. Government House was renovated, obviously a major Regina historic site.

Mr. Speaker, the city has received more from this government. We have increased funding to the University of Regina. The University of Regina, Mr. Speaker, has received an operating budget of \$37.8 million, which is a 5 per cent increase over '84-85, an increase equal to the highest university operating budget in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, we do believe and we have a great belief in operating those universities, and especially the University of Regina, for our young people.

Mr. Speaker, along the same lines, we have provided \$200,000 which will be expended for the renovation of Darke Hall on the old campus of the University of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, turning to another aspect of Regina's economy, I would like to point out that since 1982, new technology firms established in Regina now total 23. Now, Mr. Speaker, never before in this city's history, in the history of this city, has there been that many new technology firms in existence. And surely, Mr. Speaker, this would not have happened under the NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, we have provided for new facilities for the provincial archives in Regina. In 1983, the provincial government acquired the new and enhanced facilities for the provincial archives in the city of Regina.

We have also provided money, Mr. Speaker, to modernize the Regina Public Library, and we have increased funding in this city for the crisis service centres for women and children in Regina.

We have provided, Mr. Speaker, \$4.5 million for a new court-house in the city of Regina. The members opposite don't like to hear this, but I think that my constituents and the constituents in the city of Regina should hear this, Mr. Speaker. It is funds and it is progress in this city, something that was long overdue. Mr. Speaker, \$4.5 million have been provided for a new court-house in Regina. The new provincial court-house will be built along the 1800 block of Smith Street and of course will be one of the most modern judicial centres of its kind.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about the business climate in this city. It's interesting to note that since 1982 there have been three national investment dealers who have located in Regina as a result of our positive investment climate. Mr. Speaker, Dominion Securities Pitfield, Merrill Lynch, and Burns Fry have all set up offices in Regina since 1982. Those three were absent under the NDP.

(1645)

Mr. Speaker, there has been a positive economic growth in Saskatchewan. And positive economic growth in Saskatchewan has reflected in Regina as well. We have in the city of Regina created an air of confidence in this economy which has meant the construction of new

business and new offices by the private sector, such as the Continental Bank building, Pioneer Place, the SuperValu store, and the expansion of the airport, to name some examples.

Regina's skyline, Mr. Speaker, is changing rapidly, and it's changing because of private sector development — private sector development stimulated by confidence in this government.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on. I could go on, Mr. Speaker, about the accomplishments that have been taking place in this city since 1982 because of the government of the present day. And it's a good story, Mr. Speaker. It's a good story. It's a story of accomplishment; it's a story of opportunism and opportunity, and it will go on in the second term of this government and further accomplishments will be made in this city.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us look to the future. Let's look to the future. In the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, Premier Devine and this Progressive Conservative government have again led the nation with the innovative idea of a Saskatchewan pension plan. This plan will provide pensions, Mr. Speaker, to those who cannot currently qualify, such as home-makers, part-time workers, and small-business employees — ordinary Canadians, Mr. Speaker — ordinary Canadians who again are aided by this Progressive Conservative government.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan pension plan is innovative, and it fills a need, and it has been well received. By talking to my constituents over the weekend, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is being very well received.

To highlight the difference between our government, Mr. Speaker, and the reaction of the NDP, one need only to look at the fact that this government proposes that participation by individuals in this pension plan be voluntary — be voluntary, Mr. Speaker. We believe individuals can best decide if the plan is what they want. The NDP, the NDP with its typical condescending attitude toward the individual ordinary Canadian does not believe that the individual is intelligent enough to choose for his self or herself. The NDP thinks that the program should be compulsory. They think it should be compulsory, that we should force people to join whether they want to or not. Big brother knows best — typical socialist scorn for the intelligence of the individual, ordinary Canadian.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is running ads claiming Premier Devine has not kept campaign promises made in 1982. Let me remind the NDP that the day after the election this PC government cut off the NDP's gasoline tax — the largest tax cut in Saskatchewan history — which is a campaign promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, we promised to solve Regina's water problem and we did. Another promise kept. We promised to improve health care and education and we did. We promised to help out farmers who needed help and we did. Promises kept, Mr. Speaker. We promised and we delivered — the lowest unemployment in the nation;

thousands of jobs have been created; help for seniors; red tape eliminated; and much more.

Mr. Speaker, in March of 1982 the NDP told the people of Saskatchewan that we had a balanced budget and a heritage fund. And based on these statements we also suggested that we strive to cut income taxes and sales tax. And, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that we found, on obtaining office, the NDP misled the public once again — and there was no heritage fund and there was no balanced budget — despite this, Mr. Speaker, this PC government has kept its promises and has cut personal taxes and has cut sales tax. We have not gone as far as we thought we could, because the combination of empty cupboards left us by the NDP and falling government revenues, because of world market forces and drought, have prevented us from cutting taxes further.

But, Mr. Speaker, these downward economic factors will reverse themselves and we will be able to cut taxes and balance budgets in contrast to the NDP who raised everyone's taxes by huge amounts, hid deficits in Crown corporations, and did all this when world markets were strong and nature was good to the farmer.

Mr. Speaker, the individual, ordinary person in Regina Lakeview, and indeed in all of Saskatchewan, need only look at this Progressive Conservative government's excellent record during the tough years in order to realize — and they are realizing; and they are realizing — that Premier Devine and this PC government have done a very good job indeed.

Yes, we have made mistakes. We admitted them. Yes, we will probably make more, for we are only human. But, Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative government — a government dedicated to the enhancement of the services provided by government, such as education and health care, and committed to the respect of the individual — this government and this Premier will continue to provide this great province with the kind of government the people expect and deserve — good government. Government as servants, not masters. A government as good as the people, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I add my name to those of my colleagues who speak in favour of the Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lusney: — I'm very pleased to be able to get into this debate on the throne speech today, Mr. Speaker. Listening to some of the members opposite, one would think that a throne speech would be sort of a blueprint for what this government's going to be doing, what they plan for the coming year.

But, Mr. Speaker, when I looked and listened to that throne speech, I didn't see anything in there that would indicate to the people of Saskatchewan just what this government's going to be doing for the coming year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone in the province was able to understand or figure out just what that throne speech was offering for them.

I believe maybe what's happening is that the throne speech isn't going to be an indication of what they're going to do. They're probably saving it all for the budget, more than likely planning an election soon. So they're going to have a nice-looking budget that's never going to get passed in this House, and nobody will have any benefits from it. That, Mr. Speaker, is what I think this government's going to do. They are going to make more and more promises as they have in the past.

We've heard their promises back in '82 and now it's getting close to the election and we're hearing promises again. Every minister and every speaker on that side of the House that gets up keeps saying that they are going to be doing so much more. We heard that in '82, that there's so much more this province could be. But, Mr. Speaker, I think the people are still waiting to see what that so much more is, that they can be.

They promised smaller government to the people of Saskatchewan because they said the NDP were nothing but a big government party. Well, we've seen them come and we see what they are. That small government they're supposed to be — they came in with 25 ministers; that was the small government. That was the small government. They bring in more civil servants than we've ever seen. The Premier of this province spends more money in his office than the Prime Minister of Canada.

That is the small government that they were speaking about, Mr. Speaker. They promised the people smaller government but none of that has happened. None of it has happened at all. The government got a little smaller now, they say.

They decided about a month or two ago that they should trim that government down a little. So they got rid of some of their ministers and they have less ministers now. And they're going to go back to the people again in this election and say, we're again promising you small government and we're doing something about it. We're reduced the number of ministers we've had.

But for four years they were using the taxpayers' money to pay every one of those ministers for trips. The former minister of Highways used some \$63,000 in flying around this province.

Mr. Speaker, I listen to the member for Regina North. He isn't in here at this time but he's still saying that we are going to do more. They are going to do more. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this province think that they've done enough.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lusney: — I think they've done enough, that's what the people of this province are saying. They can't afford another four years of what's been happening. They can't afford to get more and more debts put on their shoulders. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what is happening. That's what has been happening in this province for the last four years and the people are saying, we just can't afford any more of that.

We've had the member for Kelvington-Wadena. He's a rural member. And I could understand the member from Regina North saying that they can do more. But the member for Kelvington-Wadena, a rural member who, you would think, would know some of the problems that exist in agriculture . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . As the member for Regina North West says, they threw a lot of money at it, at agriculture. Well that's true, they did. They've done some of that just recently. And why would they be doing it now? Because there's an election coming up. That's why they're starting to make more promises and offer more money for rural Saskatchewan. For four years the farmers have been losing their land; they've been losing their equipment; they've been giving up their farms to the banks and going to work. For four years they didn't think it was important enough to give them more money. But now they've decided to give them more money. But now they decided to give them more and they didn't really give them anything. They gave them a loan — another loan. And they're telling them, if you're in trouble now, borrow yourself out of debt. We'll give you a little more.

Well I don't know of anyone that could borrow themselves out of debt, Mr. Speaker. That isn't the solution for the problems that we see in agriculture. You can't borrow yourself out of debt. That, Mr. Speaker, is what this government is saying to the farmers of Saskatchewan: borrow more.

An Hon. Member: — It's a banker's Bill.

Mr. Lusney: — As one of my colleagues is saying here, it's a banker's Bill. Well I suppose most of the things that are done in this House and by this government were only done to benefit either the banks or the large corporations. But it certainly wasn't done to benefit the farmers, because they didn't benefit anything from it.

The member for Kelvington spoke about all the jobs that they have created in the last four months.

An Hon. Member: — Where?

Mr. Lusney: — Well, as was mentioned here, where? It's a good question. I don't think anybody really knows where those jobs are created. There's a few more promises being made. There certainly is. And we would understand why it's happening in the last four months. All of a sudden we see that this government is starting to say that there are going to be more and more jobs in this province. And that would indicate, I suppose, that there has to be an election coming up very soon, because they certainly are promising more jobs. We haven't seen that in the last four years.

When you look at what's happened in the last four years, you see that the unemployment rate has gone up from some 20,000 to 40,000. You see the welfare rate go up from 40 to 60,000. So they put more people on unemployment, more people on welfare, and now they're saying, we're going to create more jobs.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the figures, they've got to create at least 40,000 jobs to break even from what it was when they took over. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone in this province is going to believe

promises, empty promises like this government and the members of it are making at this point. The people just aren't going to believe that, because all of those that are unemployed and all of those that are on welfare and can't get a job aren't going to believe that all of a sudden this government is going to change, and everybody is going to get a job and they'll be off welfare. I don't think the people are going to believe that.

An Hon. Member: — Let's hear some NDP solutions.

Mr. Lusney: — And some of the opposition is saying we need some solutions. Well the solutions are simple. Start providing programs that are going to create jobs. That is the solution. And this government refuses to do that. They refuse to do that.

They just keep saying that everybody is in trouble; the farmer is in trouble; oil is in trouble. They're trying to find excuses now to get out of doing something that will be of benefit to the people of Saskatchewan. That, Mr. Speaker, is what they're trying to do, is try to get themselves out of a corner now, make more promises, and say that everything is going to be good.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the member for Kelvington-Wadena, one of the people that are . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. Being 5 o'clock I now leave the Chair until 7 p.m.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.