

EVENING SITTING

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. Koskie:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I enjoy this opportunity to enter the debate on what I consider to be — in fact is going to be — the last throne speech of the government opposite.

I want at the outset to say, since we will be going to the polls very shortly, and our party is ready and waiting for the announcement . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — I know that a number of the members opposite have decided that they will not seek re-election. And I want to say that, in my view, that a number of them have made a very wise decision.

But certainly as others have joined, I want to join with those to congratulate the contribution made by some of the members of this House who have decided not to seek re-election.

I want to join with others in respect to the member from Rosthern, who has added some to the House — all of his efforts, I know, in a very sincere way. I want also to say the member from Cumberland, on our side . . . It was a pleasure working with the member from Cumberland, and I know he did a tremendous job on behalf of the people he represented.

I want to also say that these last four years have been a great challenge — a great challenge to our caucus, because following the last election, Mr. Speaker, we were confronted by some 56 stampeding members of the government. And they thought that never again would the New Democratic Party rise to where the people of this province would be seeking them to form the government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — And what I want to say is . . . and I want to congratulate the co-operation and the dedication of the eight members of our caucus that work together as a team and endeavour to bring forward opposition. And I think even the press will admit that with so few, we did an excellent job in bringing the issues to the people of Saskatchewan. And so I want to congratulate the tremendous effort of each and every one of the members of our caucus, and our leader.

I want to say that we are now heading into an election. And we have had the throne speech, which we would have thought would have outlined sort of the future

economic development and direction of this province.

But this throne speech is, Mr. Speaker, a culmination of four years of PC government. And as such, it is a document that sums up all that we have come to learn about the members opposite: a government that substitutes rhetoric for reality; a government that believes only what it wants to believe; a government that hears only what it wants to hear; a government that believes inequality is a fact of life, and it works to keep it that way; a government that believes if you assist the wealthy, that eventually the poor and the unfortunate will benefit.

This is a government that substitutes press releases for action and economic development; a government that believes taxation should be based on the ability to evade, not on the ability to pay; a government that believes that fairness is a socialist plot; a government that says it believes in family, and legalizes liquor advertisement.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — A government that constantly is saying it believes in the family, and it uses pornography as a source of revenue. A government that believes that the natural resources of this province belongs to the corporations that develop it, rather than the people who own it. A government that believes that if you are poor, you should be taxed, and if you are rich, you should in fact be rewarded.

A government, Mr. Speaker, that believes you must sacrifice the many for the benefit of the few; a government that believes the bigger you are, the better you are. You know, a government that makes a major commitment to a new start in education by reducing the amount of money it spends on education. A government that implements so-called management efficiencies by outrageous patronage appointments. A government that believes welfare reforms means the weak and the helpless must suffer; a government whose job creation policy means the unemployed will suffer; a government which claims to be listening but whose hearing-aid has been turned off since elected in '82.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — A government that believes the secret to success was sincerity, and that once they could fake that they thought they had it made. A government, Mr. Speaker, that attempted to persuade the people of Saskatchewan that they had a model Premier. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, *Webster's Dictionary* defines "model" as a small imitation of the real thing.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is a government where image was all important; nothing else mattered. And as a result, this is a government that has given us politics of misery and confrontation and politics of exploitation. Four wasted years, Mr. Speaker, summed up in this throne speech, a dismal recitation of failed strategy and of failed philosophy.

Mr. Speaker, soon the Premier will plunge this province into an election. And I want to say that the people are

waiting. They are filled with expectation. This will be their opportunity. And I want to say to the members opposite, the public will not waste this opportunity. They will pronounce their verdict on your four years of misperformance.

And I say that when the Premier sallies forth to meet the people, he should look to history. Conservatives are fond of history. They look to the past with relish. They even try to turn the clock back to the past. They seek to live in the past.

When they look at the past, as they prepare to call this election, the Premier should remember the soothsayer who said as he passed Caesar, "Beware the Ides of March."

Or perhaps the Conservatives should look to the past here in Saskatchewan and remember what happened to the last Conservative government, the Anderson government, that sought re-election and was rewarded, and was rewarded, Mr. Speaker, with the political extinction it so richly deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you that there is nothing more spacious in this world than the room that this government has for improvement.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — Unfortunately, the people are no longer willing to provide you with this opportunity. Mr. Speaker, history will repeat itself when you go to the polls, I say.

The people have rejected the politics of greed. I say that the people rejected the politics of meanness. They have rejected the politics of fear. The people have rejected the politics of exploitation. The people have weighed you in and balanced and found you wanting.

They have pronounced the verdict, Mr. Speaker: guilty on all counts. And they wait now for the opportunity to deliver the sentence once more — political oblivion.

And it's ironic, Mr. Speaker, that it is the Conservatives themselves that will provide the opportunity. For in thousands of homes and farms across Saskatchewan, I'll tell you the people of this province are waiting — quietly, confidently, expectantly — for the opportunity that will soon be provided them. We ask, Mr. Speaker, in our cities, in our towns, in our villages, in our farms, the people of this province are waiting. The people have evaluated — four long years they evaluated. Four mean and wasted years they have had to take a look at. The people know and they say that enough is enough. And now they wait for the opportunity that this outfit must provide to the people — an election.

Mr. Speaker, how could a government that won such a mandate four years ago find itself in such a position as they did in Regina North East. Mr. Speaker, it was bad enough to know that in Regina North East, that they reached rock bottom. And what makes it even worse is that they have no where to go in the rest of the province but down.

Mr. Speaker, this government should have remembered before it implemented its short-sighted, disastrous economic and social policies, that if you live only for today you will surely ruin tomorrow. And, Mr. Speaker, this saying is truly correct, and it is their tomorrow that they have ruined.

Mr. Speaker, the people looked at the government whose vision of the future is determined by a party which faces the past with closed and shuttered minds; by a party whose allegiance is to the blind traditions of the past. A party whose vision of the future is determined by blind reliance on failed dogma; a party whose vision of the future substitutes slogans for substance, and prattle for programs; a party whose vision of the future is determined by men who live by exploiting the misery of others. Mr. Speaker, the people will reject the politics of exploitation, the politics of meanness, and the politics of inequality.

(1915)

They will instead choose, Mr. Speaker, a future with security for all, a future with dignity for all; a future where exploitation of man by man will end; a future where reward comes with effort; a future where individual worth is recognized; a future where the qualities we value are honesty, caring, and commitment.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the people wait. They await the election call, and their judgement, I predict, will be swift for the members opposite. It will be, in my view, a terrible experience for them. Your mandate will have to be nasty, but short, and worse still for the members opposite, the people will remember. They still remember. And on every farm, every home, every hamlet, in every village, in every town, in every city throughout this province, people will say: never again — enough is enough. It is time to turn faces to the future, a future of new hope.

Mr. Speaker, four years ago there was high growth in this province, economic growth. There was increasing population. There was a low provincial debt. There was a fair taxation system in place. And four years later we have virtually no economic growth; high unemployment — over 40,000 people are unemployed; almost \$2 billion in debt in four years. We have a tax system that is blatantly unfair. And we have a population, having seen the operation of this government, are starting to leave.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan people are fed with the PC record of unfair taxes, rising unemployment, financial mismanagement, weak leadership. These are the things that people of Saskatchewan are saying about the members opposite. They have brought unfair taxes, the highest in the history of the province, last year. They say they have economic development, and unemployment is rising. They say that they have economic development and we have the highest welfare rate in the history of the province. Over \$200 million spent annually on welfare — over \$200 million annually on welfare.

And I want to say to you that we have weak leadership. Never before in this province have we had a premier so spineless and lacking so much of direction. This province

has had strong tradition of leadership. We had Tommy Douglas, Woodrow Lloyd, Ross Thatcher, Allan Blakeney. And now take a look at what we have in the chair of the Premier and the Deputy Premier.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan people have asked themselves: can we afford four more years under the Devine government? That's the question they ask. Can we afford four more years under the Devine government? And the people will say — I say the people will say — never again.

The Saskatchewan people are going to return again to a government that is committed to fair taxes, to real job creation, competent financial management of the province, and compassion for those in need — and committed, I may say, to stand up against the Mulroney wrecking crew in Ottawa. That's what the Saskatchewan people are seeking.

The Saskatchewan people will turn to a government where large corporations and the wealthy will be made to pay their fair share of the taxes in order that we may, in fact, finance the cost of education and health in this province; where taxation policies will ease the heavy tax burden on the low and middle income earners.

And the Saskatchewan people will turn to a government that will replace the flat tax, that tax that allowed the wealthy of society to deduct as an expense their houseboat at La Ronge, their apartment buildings, or their oil wells, or their film ventures. But this flat tax placed on ordinary people . . . I'll tell you they couldn't have any deduction for their children. They couldn't have as a deduction the medical bills and they couldn't, even if they made a contribution to a charity, have it as an exemption.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you and tell the people of Saskatchewan here tonight that the flat tax that is based on the ability to evade rather than the ability to pay will in fact be removed. We will also restore, I want to say, the money collected under the unfair tax on used vehicles to the people from which it was gouged.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am getting letters from my constituents, writing in and saying — the Premier himself has stood up, the Premier has stood up, and he pulled the tax on used vehicles, the E&H tax. And they say, he put it in last April in his budget and he said in December it's an unfair tax — and he pulled it. And they say, well where was he when he put it into effect, they say. Where was the rest of the cabinet? Why didn't they know it was unfair when they put it into place the first time? And you know what the people of Saskatchewan say? We wouldn't have minded if he had left it in place at least during the year of the budget, but to have pulled it half-way through is of benefit to some; but why should I be penalized?

And I'll tell you, to the people of Saskatchewan that paid that unjust tax, we in the New Democratic Party are promising that we will, in fact, reimburse them for the E&H tax that was charged on used vehicles. Mr. Speaker, I say to you that the people of Saskatchewan will turn once more to a government, a government that will provide

real jobs and real opportunities to every person in Saskatchewan. Because here we find, in Saskatchewan under the Tories, one person in 10 here in this province who is now either unemployed or on welfare.

I say that we will have a job program of meaningful employment. The people of Saskatchewan will turn once more to a government that will encourage small business to grow and create new job opportunities by guaranteeing stable interest rates. The people of Saskatchewan will turn once more to a government that will work in co-operation with local governments to eliminate the burden of municipal taxes on Saskatchewan business men. The people of Saskatchewan will turn once more to a government that would have an employment policy of Saskatchewan first; where government contracts would be awarded to Saskatchewan businesses and jobs would be available to Saskatchewan workers. The people will turn to a government that will build needed public facilities today to be used by Saskatchewan people tomorrow.

I say to you that the government will build public facilities today to create immediate jobs now and real assets for our future, hospitals and nursing homes, highways and university facilities, schools.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that our leader today announced what I think the people of this province will welcome, and that is a housing policy which I think will meet with the approval of thousands and thousands of people across this province.

Today the New Democratic party, through our leader, announced, unveiled a major new housing policy which will create 1,800 new direct jobs and generate \$1.3 billion in new economic activity over the next five years by setting a minimum target of 8,000 housing starts for Saskatchewan for each of the next five years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — And what I want to do, Mr. Speaker, is go over the four-point housing policy that is being provided by the New Democrats.

First of all, \$7,000 in down payment assistance for first-time home owners. Let's go through that again. For a new home owner, first-time home owner, \$7,000 down payment assistance. And I want to tell you that this assistance will be not for one year, for two years — for three.

Secondly, a family home protection plan will guarantee home mortgage interest rates of 7 per cent for seven years on the \$70,000 of the mortgage. In addition, Mr. Speaker, a home rehab assistance plan will provide up to \$7,000 in assistance for making major renovations or repairs to older homes.

This I say, Mr. Speaker, is indeed having a faith in the people of Saskatchewan. If you take a look at the basic impact that it will have, the impact of increasing the number of new housing units from just 5,000 that they had last year to a minimum of 8,000 would be major. As I say, it would create 3,000 new direct jobs a year in

Saskatchewan; 15,000 new direct jobs over the next five years, without counting the many spin-off jobs created by the purchase of appliances and carpets, and fencing and landscaping, and so on. It would generate \$240 million a year in direct new economic activity for a total of 1.2 billion over the next five years. And the housing rehab program will generate 600 direct new jobs a year or 3,000 direct new jobs over the next five years. It would generate up to 30 million a year in new economic development, or a total of 150 million over the next five years.

And I say to you, Mr. Speaker, what we have, what we demonstrate here is faith in the Saskatchewan people. We have said that under the Tory government during the past four years we have seen the social cost of their economic mismanagement. We have seen unemployment rise to over 40,000 — 15 to 16 per cent young people unemployed. We have seen 60,000 people receiving welfare. We have seen the human tragedy that is associated with being on welfare and unemployed. And we say, Mr. Speaker, that the housing program will put young people to work, will put the plumbers and the electricians and the carpenters to work.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, it's a program of working with the people of Saskatchewan, not working with the multinational corporations outside of this province.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, building today is what we're doing, building today to provide future opportunities for our young people — real jobs for our young people, not work projects, not work projects as the minister of social welfare has been providing; real careers for our young people, not the quick fixes and the part-time jobs that you've been providing.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, when I was walking around and campaigning in the last federal election, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you the human tragedy of unemployment. I went into one of the towns in my constituency. I was knocking on doors. I came to this door, to this home, and I'll tell you as I was approaching . . . These people laugh at the human tragedy of their economic policies. They laugh and they think it's funny when I tell you of the human tragedy that's going on. But I'll tell you . . . I'm going to tell you what it is. Here is a human being, a young man, 30, 35 years of age. He has worked all his life. It was, I believe, in the fall when I met him, and all that summer he had not been able to get a job. He was walking and pacing back and forth around his house, almost in the stage of a nervous breakdown. And I spoke to him and I said, how are things going? And he indicated to me what had happened to him.

(1930)

He said, I've never been unemployed in my life. He said, I don't know how to adjust; I've tried everywhere to find a job. He was out working on highways in heavy construction, and he says, they've practically shut it down in this province. And he says, I have tried all over Saskatchewan and I'll go anywhere. And when I . . .

**An Hon. Member:** Give me his name. I'll hire him tomorrow.

**Mr. Koskie:** — The member from Kelvington-Wadena says he will hire him. He'll give him a Tory job, one of these \$4.50 jobs — that's what he'll give him.

And the housing program is going to get Saskatchewan turned around and working. Okay. Laugh, laugh. Look at the jokers laugh. Yes, I like to see you laugh. All right. A tremendous economic development will take place with the housing program, and they will provide real jobs and real opportunities to look to the future with certainty and pride, and not with fear and uncertainty as exists today.

The people will turn to a government that will protect our farm families by reducing the price on farm fuel by a minimum of 32 cents a gallon, by introducing measures that will cut the cost of farm fertilizers, that will pressure the federal Tories to make possible the development of low-cost, generic farm chemicals. The people will turn to a government, Mr. Speaker, that will fight the disastrous recommendations of the Nielsen task force report on agriculture.

The people, I say, Mr. Speaker, will turn to a government that is committed to putting people first; a government that will restore opportunity and fairness to Saskatchewan life by providing a guaranteed income for Saskatchewan seniors 60 years of age and over; improving and extending mortgage protection for Saskatchewan families; increasing health care staffing levels; improving and extending home care services; providing affordable and accessible day care of the highest quality; creating an educational system that will provide equality of opportunity to all, and in so doing guaranteeing that our young people will be truly prepared to face the future confident in their ability and training; creating a business climate which will reward creativity and initiative.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the people, I say, will reject the failed strategies of the government opposite. The people will reject the flawed philosophy of the members opposite.

And I say to you, Mr. Speaker, they will look to the future — a new future: a future which puts humanity first; a future where the real purpose of our existence is not to merely make a living, but to make a life; where we look not to the standard of living, but to the standards of living; where we do not love things and use people, but rather use things and love people. A government that values not what we take, but what we share; a government bound together by common ideals, common objectives, and a common dedication to the great cause, the welfare of people of Saskatchewan; a government confident in the belief that, as our problems are man-made, so also can they be solved by man. A government committed to building bridges between people, reminding us of our feelings, desires, and hopes, and confident that the forces that unite us are greater than those forces that divide us; a government that refuses to believe that man's destiny is settled in the market-place alone.

In fact, in the last four year this government has

attempted to build here in Saskatchewan a society, as I said, based on greed and selfishness and ruthless competition. And I say that you have reaped the tragic harvest of social and economic insecurity.

The people realize and look now to a government that will remember the founders, the makers, and the builders of our province — our basic heritage; that will remember that kindness and compassion are virtues that cost little yet have great purchasing power, and that only the truly strong can show compassion. A government that recognizes that our provincial character and history has made great virtues out of some of the sterner qualities of man — frugality, discipline, and endurance — and that these should be rewarded; a government that recognizes that those people whom we seek to serve have out of their hardship learned to work together for their mutual benefit. A government that recognizes that willingness opens the door to achievement, and that we must provide that opportunity to each and every resident of our province; a government that realizes the extent of our sensitivity to the rights and needs of others is an excellent measure of the kind of society in which we want to live.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to this throne speech. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is a shabby document, devoid of compassion, short on hope — failed vision of the future. The people of Saskatchewan deserve more, so much more, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan want a vision of the future that will command hope, bring respect, and provide opportunity. Those are the things the people seek. A command of hope, bring respect, provide opportunities. I say, Mr. Speaker, this document with its recitation of the past offers none of these.

It will be a new government, Mr. Speaker, and a new throne speech, that will once more bring hope, respect, and opportunity to the people of Saskatchewan. A government which believes that destiny makes us brothers, that no one goes his way alone, that what we give to others comes back into our own. A government where peace, love and brotherhood speak out loud and clear; where every man, woman, and child shall blend their hope in one; where our province shall indeed be one brotherhood and stand in everlasting sun.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we on our side of the House are looking forward to an opportunity to going to discuss with the people of Saskatchewan an alternative to the disastrous efforts of the government opposite. Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to the Speech from the Throne.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Dutchak:** — Mr. Speaker, it indeed gives me pleasure today to rise and speak and I want to pay particular attention to the implications of the throne speech on my constituency of Prince Albert-Duck Lake.

Today I sat here and listened and found the members opposite talking rather humorously. And I don't think it was their intention to be humorous, but in this day and age when one has to cling to moments of reality on occasion, their comments do appear humorous, unless one were a little twisted in opinion.

This business of the big corporations and the wealthy being to blame for all the world's problems is something I heard, Mr. Speaker, in the early '70s and in the '60s, and I don't think it's any secret that the members opposite are locked into that era and in fact think they could somehow get the public to support them if they can beat up on a corporation or rich people.

And as my colleague, the Environment minister, mentioned a few days ago, their definition of rich people unfortunately includes widows, elderly — people who I don't consider rich. That's the problem. That's a fallacy with their position.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, the other thing that is a bit disheartening is that a good number of my constituents watch these proceedings and take an interest in our democratic system. And the advent of television in the legislature has given an opportunity for our people to watch our proceedings and to learn about the differences between the two sides, the opposition and government.

Now, unfortunately the members opposite don't seem to want to be factual on what they say and I want to just correct some of the things that they have just mentioned, for the benefit of my constituents, because I don't think it's fair that people are misled in that manner.

For example, a few minutes ago the last member that spoke indicated that the unemployment rate in Saskatchewan was 10 per cent. Well, that's simply untrue. The latest figures are 7.6 per cent. It is one of the best unemployment rates in Canada, and it has been consistently the best since we were elected in 1982. Mr. Speaker, there's no excuse for the member to have said that the unemployment rate was 10 per cent because it's simply untrue. I had hoped that the NDP would have learned by now that this simply doesn't impress the public, and is irresponsible, because we have a duty as legislators to be forthright and honest with the people we serve, regardless of our political beliefs.

The throne speech spoke about the vision for the future, and I suppose one advantage we have as a governing party is that we now have nearly four years of government under our belt and we can rely on performance and statistics and what we have done to counter the accusation and innuendoes from the other side. So clearly it's an advantage.

We, for example, can prove clearly now that we didn't take medicare away, and you'll recall that the members opposite promised the people of Saskatchewan that we would, and we haven't. In fact we've improved health care; built more nursing home beds than ever before, ended the moratorium on nursing home beds that the members opposite had placed. So clearly, the jury has come in on that issue and that issue is that they misled the public again.

Now let's look at some of the other issues that have been brought up in the last few days. Let's look at the last four years. As a member from the Prince Albert area, I have further responsibilities in northern Saskatchewan. Unfortunately for the people in northern Saskatchewan,

they aren't represented by responsible MLAs and they are represented by two NDP MLAs. So clearly, they've haven't brought forth the facts as to what the opportunities are in northern Saskatchewan, as to what government policy has done in northern Saskatchewan in the last four years.

Well let's just deal with some of them — uranium, for example. The Northerners obviously have been concerned that the decision of the NDP to close the uranium mines and destroy hundreds of jobs is not good for northern Saskatchewan. Whichever definition of employment you use, I couldn't find one that said that closing mines creates employment. But the NDP in their battle against unemployment feel that they must close the mines to work in that direction. So clearly the Northerners have difficulty in understanding that concept.

(1945)

Next we look at the gold industry. Now the gold industry in the La Ronge gold belt, for example, has never been as vibrant as it is now — never before in the history of this province. It is because there were some fundamental changes in the tax structures that affect the gold industry.

Saskatchewan includes northern Saskatchewan, which is truly open for business. We said that to the investors. We changed the rule that enabled the state, the province of Saskatchewan, to simply come and take over half of a mining venture if the government felt like it. We changed that rule.

And we said to potential investors, to small investors everywhere in Saskatchewan, to larger investors, we said to them, if you risk your money in a high-risk venture such as a gold operation, we will simply tax you on your rewards. We aren't there to steal your industry from you after you've taken the massive risks that are necessary.

And what's happening up there . . . And I can hear the NDP are starting to squawk from their seats. And you know you're getting to them when you mention, when you're hearing that sort of thing, Mr. Speaker. It's music to our ears lately because you know you're talking about facts that people see and realize ever day in northern Saskatchewan.

What's happening in the La Ronge gold belt? Well, we have the first gold mine being constructed, together with a gold mill. Employment will be roughly 75 people full-time when it comes on stream, which is soon. It's presently under construction.

The content of northern people employed in the industry at this stage is beyond 50 per cent, which is remarkable without legislating affirmative action, like the previous government attempted to do. We didn't force anybody to hire X number of people from the La Ronge area, or X number of people from Buffalo Narrows. We sat down with the industries and told them what we expected. And in a co-operative sense we've been successful, because we work with the private sector; we don't fight the private sector. And that's a distinct difference in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Now we looked at other things in northern

Saskatchewan. And closer to home, we're building a technical school in Prince Albert. The technical school will be able to handle over 600 students per year. And the school is targeted at producing education connected to the mining industry, to the forest industry, to everything that's good and productive in the northern part of Saskatchewan.

I might add that another political party that leans to the left, and in fact has toppled over on occasion, promised that particular school for three elections. In three campaigns we heard the promise in the Prince Albert area. And it sort of made me think back when I heard about the last member speaking, making his promises about housing construction. It sort of rings a bell, that election time is here and so are the promises.

Mr. Speaker, the people in my constituency are more astute than that. They look at performance. My colleague from Prince Albert indicated today that we have a difference in reputation, the NDP and the governing party.

The Conservatives are known for building and the NDP are known for spending and promising. They promise a lot. They don't build anything, but they spend. They nationalize industries without creating one new job. And that somehow creates employment. I don't see it. I'm not sure it makes any sense at all.

Now I heard some interesting comments yesterday. One of the NDP members got up and said, capitalism doesn't work in northern Saskatchewan and will not work. Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of northern Saskatchewan believe in free enterprise. They believe that small businesses can work. They don't believe that profit is sinful. And it's working in northern Saskatchewan. Therefore we've embarked on new uranium ventures. A new mine will come on stream in the early 1990s, creating over 400 direct jobs and hundreds of indirect jobs.

Now some of the other comments that were made yesterday — I think I have to deal with them because again I feel I have a responsibility to the people in my constituency who I think were offended by some of the comments by the NDP yesterday. For example, one of the NDP members indicated that people in his constituency are committing crimes because they don't live in the same conditions that they would in a jail. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have never ever heard such warped, twisted logic from any political party before. It shows you how far these people have gone in their endeavour to discredit anything good that happens in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I have people in my constituency that don't live with the same amenities that people in the provincial correctional institute live under. I have people like that. But those people would never think of going out and committing a crime because they don't appreciate the way they live. And that comment is an insult to people in my constituency and other northern constituencies which the member was referring to. And I think he owes the Northerners a public apology for that particular statement.

A final point on that particular issue. If the member feels that the standard of living is too good in the provincial institution in Prince Albert, he should have recalled that it was the NDP government that designed and built that particular institution. And there are many people that say that perhaps it's a little too cosy. But we didn't do it, Mr. Speaker.

Now the issue in northern Saskatchewan ... There are a number of issues but clearly the NDP have been going around the north country these days. They didn't go there much during the four years. They weren't very interested. Even the MLAs themselves didn't travel around much. But they, I guess after they heard the throne speech, they had to go into the communities and throw cold water on anything that sounded good and expressed optimism in northern Saskatchewan. So their solution is, well, let's bring back the DNS, that institution of perfection. They want to bring it back, Mr. Speaker.

Today I think I'm firm in saying — and I'm sure the Premier would say it if he was here as well — we will never bring back the DNS to northern Saskatchewan as long as we're in government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Dutchak:** — So what else would be done? If you bring back the DNS then they would close the uranium mines. I talked about that. You have to close the gold mines because these royalty structures are too unfair because they are creating a private sector opportunity. These awful corporations and investors are able to make a profit which surely can't happen in northern Saskatchewan. So the NDP would want to shut them down.

But the NDP are getting into some areas that are even more fundamental and a greater threat to the social security of Northerners. The latest promise they've made is that they will immediately ban leg-hold traps in northern Saskatchewan. Now it's my understanding that the two northern MLAs didn't say that, or skated around the issue when they were back home, but clearly that's a position taken. A traditional basic industry in northern Saskatchewan is being threatened by the NDP because they happen to be a little cosier with Greenpeace and with some of the left-wingers from eastern Canada. They are being dictated to so they decide to sing to the music. So you have to ban leg-hold traps. Forget about the industry, forget about the jobs that are created in northern Saskatchewan. That's their position.

Well I mentioned earlier that the Premier wasn't here, and the reason for that is that the Premier had some work to do in Prince Albert today. Rather pleasant work, Mr. Speaker. And I was there, as well. And, in fact, many people were there to participate in a very exciting time for a fine city in Saskatchewan.

And the announcement was carried over the media today, and the announcement simply was that a paper mill will be built in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. That particular paper mill will create over 200 direct new jobs in Prince Albert. The spin-off jobs, according to economists and experts, will be over 400. Those are

indirect jobs in the service sector, in various service industries that provide services to the new paper plant. In fact, the paper plant will be the second largest in Canada and will produce approximately one-fifth of all the paper supply in the country.

Much of the trade will be with the United States, another arch-enemy of the members opposite. However, this enemy of the NDP will probably be buying a great deal of the paper produced in my home town. And I'm proud of that, Mr. Speaker.

The throne speech talked about vision. And what we saw in Prince Albert was a city achieving vision, achieving a goal.

It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that we've worked on that project for over two years now. It's taken time, and it took hard work, not only on the part of the Premier and the Minister of Economic Development, but also the people involved in PAPCO — the management, the workers. It was a joint effort.

I just wanted to go over some basic details on this fantastic announcement, because everyone in Prince Albert is very proud of this announcement. New opportunities are to be created in local businesses, new opportunities everywhere. The whole region will prosper and benefit. Northerners are going to play a major part in providing wood for the industry. Those arrangements are already under way.

The technical school is geared up and almost ready to turn out employees who are going to be trained in forestry. Never before in the history of Saskatchewan have we had an institution particularly targeting at northern enterprises. And today we saw a northern enterprise come into reality, a dream of many people in the Prince Albert area.

The NDP talked about real jobs earlier. Now, I don't know whether they think that paper mill jobs are for some reason not real jobs. We know that the only job creation the NDP would really do is in the government sector, and maybe they're saying those are the only real jobs that exist. Now I can understand that. That's consistent with their philosophy. But, Mr. Speaker, today when the Premier made that announcement in Prince Albert, and I looked around at small-business people, employees, truckers, everyone, it was clear that they believed that a paper mill job is a real job.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Dutchak:** — So I flew back to Regina, Mr. Speaker, and I thought, well, it was such a happy day for the people in Prince Albert. The NDP in Prince Albert didn't even speak up, and I'm not surprised that they didn't. I didn't expect them to congratulate us through the media. I went home for a few minutes and switched on the TV. What is the first thing that I saw? It was the NDP members screaming and ranting and raving about the biggest announcement that we've seen in Prince Albert. They were accusing the government, and in effect accusing the people of Prince Albert, of putting together one of the most innovative paper mill deals in the history

of western Canada. And there they were, on the screen, criticizing, typically criticizing free enterprise.

I couldn't believe what I was seeing so I thought, well I'm going to take some notes here and determine whether there is anything legitimate. From past experience I've learned that there isn't much legitimate about the NDP but I felt I owed it to my constituency to determine whether there was anything factual in what they were saying.

Well one of the members said it's a gift to business. Well, Mr. Speaker, I happened to review some of the older documents and I find that the purchase price is very similar to the price that the NDP paid when they nationalized the industry. And that was simply the pulp mill.

So it's considered by them as a gift. Now I guess their little fiasco with the Cornwall Centre, alias white elephant, wasn't a gift to big business. I guess they see some distinction there. We should build more Cornwall Centres and fewer paper mills.

(2000)

Now I felt really concerned that my memory was failing me because I remembered; I remember what the former government did with PAPCO. There was a vibrant industry which was announced by the former Liberal government. Mr. Speaker, guess what political party opposed the building of the pulp mill in Prince Albert. The NDP. The NDP in opposition opposed the pulp mill. Mr. Speaker, within a handful of years guess which party's candidates were taking media pictures in front of the pulp mill for election purposes. The NDP.

So I dragged out an old press release, Mr. Speaker, and I read it to be sure I was familiar with my facts. And I'll quote it to this Assembly because it is an important day for Prince Albert today, an important day for Saskatchewan. I quote:

First of all some adjustments must be made before the price is fixed, but in any event it is not CIC's intention to operate the pulp mill over an extended period as a wholly owned company. We are looking for an operating partner. Disclosure of the price paid for the shares at this time could jeopardize any further negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, guess who said that? The former NDP cabinet minister, Mr. Cowley, on December 17, 1980. Never disclosed the price. Issued a press release. At that time they simply wanted to nationalize it, but didn't really want to nationalize it — they just wanted to keep it for a while.

Well, we know what they think about keeping things for a while. They kept the potash mines for a while. That's why the taxpayers are forking out millions of dollars per year to pay and subsidize the losing operations — because they kept them for a while. Now, Mr. Speaker, another NDP member said, well, the money is our concern. It's losing money only because of the Tories.

Well, Mr. Speaker, no one in the industry would ever say anything of that nature, but just to show this Assembly how ridiculous the arguments of the NDP are, I want to further quote the same press release, from the same Mr. Cowley, saying as follows:

Cowley noted that the company has long-term contracts for its output although the pulp market has shown signs of softening in recent months.

Now it appears, Mr. Speaker, that either the NDP are misleading the public or Mr. Cowley and the industry could feel the effects of the Tories coming on stream. It appears that they again have misled the public.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there was one individual from Prince Albert who decided to comment negatively about the announcement even before he heard the announcement. He commented yesterday, and he was one of these union leaders. He's actually an NDP spokesman disguised as a union leader. But he sat there with his feet up on the chair, and he said, well, I hate to rain on your parade — hate to rain on your parade, because the company that's coming in happens to be high-tech and therefore we won't gain any jobs. We won't gain any jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's much choice but to really ask for the resignation of that particular union leader who happens to come from Prince Albert. And I don't think he's going to be on Main Street for too many days. He'll want to stay a little low for a while because he was ultimately wrong.

When the announcement was made today, it was found that the Weyerhaeuser corporation is one of the best paper corporations in the world, with fantastically-run Canadian operations.

In fact one of the executives that were in celebrating with us today happened to be from Saskatchewan originally, and he gave me a bit of a history of the Weyerhaeuser corporation. And I was very satisfied to hear about their progress and the way they had managed to integrate into communities and help communities become economically stronger. Mr. Speaker, that is why the people of Prince Albert are so excited today.

And the president of Weyerhaeuser indicated today that, yes, they are high-tech, but even if they are high-tech they are hiring 215 new employees in this particular high-tech industry. So unfortunately, the NDP spokesperson disguised as a union leader was caught, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a number of other issues I think I have to bring to the attention of the House. I wondered where the NDP received the basis of their latest promise. The promise hasn't filtered up to Prince Albert yet, because after hearing the tech school promised for three elections, promises aren't taken that seriously from the NDP side in my constituency. But I wondered where they got this housing idea from, because I didn't think there would be anyone innovative enough to think about it. And clearly they took one of our programs and decided to make it a little better, and twisted it around a bit, and now they figure, we're going to gain some points by at least throwing out the promise. At least throw out the promise.



See what happens.

Well, Mr. Speaker, coincidentally, as I'm riding back on the plane today after announcing the paper mill for Prince Albert, I picked up a Prince Albert *Daily Herald*. And guess who's buying advertising in the Prince Albert *Daily Herald*. The embassy of the U.S.S.R. And I have never seen this before. This said, "The Soviet Union for a better and peaceful future." Someone said, only in Prince Albert. Well I don't think only in Prince Albert. I guess this is going to start to appear in other magazines, other publications, and I'm not saying that the NDP have anything to do with this particular timing, but I want to quote a little section from what the Russians are saying about their wonderful economy. And they're trying to communicate with us for some reason. One little paragraph said:

The plan is to provide every family with a modern, self-contained apartment or house by the year 2000, a standard currently enjoyed by 80 per cent of the urban and over 90 per cent of the rural population. Much more housing will be both built and modernized than ever before. The government will also provide more assistance to those building co-operative housing and individual homes.

So clearly, I guess what's happening is, even your left-wing politicians are starting to understand that the people on occasion require assistance in housing. In 1982, the NDP didn't understand this. Now they understand, Mr. Speaker; now they understand. When interest rates were 20 per cent, well, it wasn't feasible. We're too busy nationalizing potash mines; we're too busy doing everything else. And even the people at Socialist International didn't advise the Leader of the Opposition to try a new scheme to support people who want to own their own houses. So clearly I am not surprised with the NDP announcement. If the Soviet Union is seeing it, I'm not surprised that the members opposite are seeing it. Everyone is understanding that we must protect home owners and must provide a safety net.

But I want to tell the members opposite that even the Soviet Union is a step ahead of them. And I'll quote another part:

Over the next five years, wage and salary increases provided factory and office workers in productive sectors will for the first time be essentially derived from and limited by the revenues earned by the enterprises themselves.

Now get this one, Mr. Speaker.

This will motivate employees to work as efficiently as possible and to produce goods of the highest quality.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for a few moments I'd like to discuss things that are relevant particularly to my constituency of Prince Albert-Duck Lake. We have a bit of a historic area

there. Obviously the area has produced prime ministers, and I believe I'm the third Minister of Justice from my constituency. We've had a leader of the Liberal Party. Senator David Steuart was the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake — a fine man who is still doing a fine job.

And people in my constituency still have a high degree of respect for our democratic system and our political system in general. And people in my constituency are very astute politically. And they as well look beyond promises, and they look at who delivers, Mr. Speaker.

In my constituency we've done our research. Today more people are working than in 1982. There's no comparison, Mr. Speaker. The optimism is higher today than ever before because of the excitement in the Prince Albert area. And obviously the excitement was heightened today with another promise that we made to bring new economic development to Prince Albert and area. And the paper mill is another sign of us as government keeping our promise to the people in Prince Albert-Duck Lake.

Well who can deliver, Mr. Speaker? That is really going to be the question that my constituents ask whenever an election rolls around. It's a question they always ask because they are astute people. They watch the political scene and they're concerned about the constituency and the area, their children, their families.

Well, the people in Prince Albert-Duck Lake are very pleased that the technical school in Prince Albert, the Northern Institute of Technology, is nearing completion. And in fact many young people and adults from my constituency are starting to enroll in the school. Fantastic opportunities, Mr. Speaker.

In relation to seniors, when I became a member I did some research and discovered that there was a high ratio of seniors in my constituency. Across Saskatchewan we have a growing percentage of seniors, growing by over 2 per cent per year. In fact by the year 2000, 25 per cent of us will be senior. And clearly in Prince Albert-Duck Lake we have a high number of seniors.

So we identified the needs now. The public, obviously the voters in my constituency never believed the NDP when the NDP said that we would take medicare away. And that scare tactic unfortunately was tried on the seniors in my constituency. And it didn't work, Mr. Speaker.

Now we therefore brought to my constituency a seniors' home, over 100 units, Mr. Speaker, the Northcote Manor. It's now opened and people in my constituency occupy that particular building because they deserve to occupy that type of a building. They've earned it, Mr. Speaker.

The comment made by the NDP member yesterday hits home there as well, because many of the seniors that live in the Northcote Manor went through the times when their standard of living was nowhere near what the inmates enjoy in the Prince Albert correctional institute. But they didn't go to jail. They didn't go out committing crimes like the NDP said they would, because the people that built this province don't operate that way and never will, Mr. Speaker.

From there we looked at the other parts of my constituency. For years small towns in Saskatchewan were virtually ignored by the NDP and the throne speech identifies that, identifies natural gas for farmers. I've got farm families in my constituency that are saving virtually hundreds of dollars a year because they're able to use natural gas to run their farms. That was done. We delivered, Mr. Speaker.

I have two small towns, one town and one hamlet, in my constituency which I'm very proud of. One town is a very historic town, one of the oldest towns in Saskatchewan, Duck Lake. For years and years and years the NDP would promise: well, you elect us because we've got to keep fighting those multinationals, and free enterprise doesn't work. The Tories, if you elect them, they're going to take medicare away. Well my constituents in Duck Lake said no in 1983. They said, we don't believe you, to the NDP. And they elected me.

(2015)

It wasn't very long, Mr. Speaker, that Duck Lake received a nursing home, a 30-bed nursing home. It's presently under construction, which is very interesting because I remember when I announced it, the next day the NDP said: no, he's lying; he'll never build it. The province of Saskatchewan will not build that nursing home. They're trying to trick you.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I was in Duck Lake last week and I could have sworn that I saw a nursing home going up as I drove down one street. I think I was right. I think it is being constructed. Again the NDP are caught by what they've said.

So, Mr. Speaker, the NDP are chuckling from their seats and they don't think it's very important to Duck Lake to have a nursing home. In fact, I understand they had their gruesome group of has-beens and hopefuls drop into the town of Duck Lake last week. Of course they just came from Prince Albert where they promised everything that was asked for — everything. They rode into Duck Lake and they walked into the town hall. I guess they heard they were needed back in Regina because they left fairly quickly, and it could have been because no one showed up, because that's what happened, Mr. Speaker. The people in Small Town, Saskatchewan have had it with the NDP because they simply don't deliver.

Well a little closer to Prince Albert I've got a little place called Macdowall, a little hamlet. I'm mentioning these things because Macdowall isn't very much different than a lot of small towns and hamlets across Saskatchewan. Well Macdowall was desperately trying to get itself together to . . . It's roughly 14 miles from Prince Albert, and as small hamlets are in a lot of cases, they have fierce competition from a larger centre. But the Macdowall people enjoy living in Macdowall, and the people around Macdowall enjoy sending their children to school in Macdowall. And under the NDP government there was a concern that the school would close down in Macdowall.

Well of course the NDP in two or three elections, I believe, said, well we have to bring you a school. The

Tories would never do it. The Tories will be busy killing medicare, so that they can't build you a school. Mr. Speaker, guess who delivered the school — the Progressive Conservative government.

And in addition to that — in addition to that — the enriched housing units across Saskatchewan is a Tory innovation. I guess when we were busy destroying medicare we had a little bit of time to design enriched housing. So, many communities, including neighbouring communities of Shellbrook in the Shellbrook-Torch River constituency, have received enriched housing units.

And Macdowall has received a small enriched housing unit, a self-contained unit, which certainly boosts the local infrastructure, provides life, allows elderly to stay with their families. They don't necessarily want to move into the city, and that should be their choice, Mr. Speaker. And we've done that across Saskatchewan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I finally want to say that although we get a little disappointed in what the NDP say, and very frustrated . . . In fact, earlier tonight, when I heard the NDP say that we had 10 per cent unemployment, it gets under a person's skin after a while, even though us politicians are said to have thick skins, Mr. Speaker.

But when I think of it another way, I guess there isn't much damage being done, because when you think of it, we have a very progressive community in Saskatchewan. We have progressive people. We have people who are awake, who know what political parties say and what they do. We have a public that's very aware. We have an educated public, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore I will support the throne speech. And people in my city of Prince Albert, as I was leaving today, asked me to pass on a message to the government side — to keep up the good work. And we will, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Amendment negatived on the following recorded division.

**Yeas — 6**

Thompson	Lusney
Engel	Shillington
Koskie	Yew

**Nays — 29**

Devine	Morin
Tusa	Muirhead
Berntson	McLaren
Schoenhals	Bacon
Duncan	Johnson
Katzman	Parker
Schmidt	Young
Smith (Swift Current)	Hopfner
Myers	Caswell
Hepworth	Glauser

Dutchak  
Dirks  
Martens  
Smith (Moose Jaw South)  
Hodgins

Sauder  
Gerich  
Petersen  
Swenson

NDP would tax breaks to oil industry. The NDP believes it can get close to \$300 million more in taxes from the oil industry, and will try to do so if re-elected.

The article goes on, Mr. Speaker, to say:

They said \$300 million in tax breaks to the industry could be cancelled. Activity in the oil patch could be maintained close to its current level and the money redirected.

That's their philosophy, Mr. Speaker, or at least that was their philosophy on January 2, 1986, as reported in the *Star-Phoenix* from Saskatoon.

Less than a month later, January 28, 1986, in the *Pipeline*, what does the Leader of the Opposition say? "The opposition leader went on to say that the NDP incentive program implemented during the 1970's did have holes."

Well it did, Mr. Speaker, because they paid for dry holes. They paid for non-producing holes.

But what else did Mr. Blakeney, the Leader of the Opposition, say? After saying that they would cancel the tax incentives, the tax breaks to the oil industry, he's quoted in the *Pipeline*, a very prestigious magazine that's read by all the energy people across Saskatchewan. Mr. Blakeney . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. I would ask the member not to refer to other members by their names, but rather by their positions or their constituency.

**Hon. Mrs. Duncan:** — The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Allan Blakeney, said:

We have no objections to tax holiday incentives for exploration. We believe in generous tax incentives to the oil industry.

Well I say, Mr. Speaker, it's a flip-flop. You cannot believe what the members opposite say. And the people that work in the oil patch, the people that work in the energy field, the young workers, the old workers, they know that the NDP speak from both sides of their mouth, fork tongues, and they will continue to do so, because they don't care about the people. They don't care; they never have. Their policies show that, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that it's evident that the people of this province will respond, come out in great numbers and support the Conservatives.

I believe that in the Speech from the Throne which was aptly delivered last week, we have proof positive, Mr. Speaker, that this government is just beginning to hit its stride. We have a long forward-looking plan for Saskatchewan. We are fortunate to have a leader that has a vision, a vision of where this province is going, and a vision of how to get there, and the fortitude to implement the programs necessary to go that way.

I believe that in the past four years, we as a Conservative government have brought in more solid legislation than

**Hon. Mrs. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that it is indeed a pleasure for me to be able to take part in this debate. For now I believe that we Progressive Conservatives can look back on the past four years: four years filled with achievement; on four years of promises kept; on four years in which we have indeed opened this province for business, and in reality, Mr. Speaker, have turned this province around and set it on a new course, Mr. Speaker, a new course which will benefit each and every person in our province. I believe that the people of Saskatchewan can see the benefit of our policies and will send us back in full force.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the people of the province will, some time within the next 12 months, be called upon to make a very, very crucial decision. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this province have seen the fruits of the last four years and I believe they have no doubts in their own minds of which way they are going to go.

What we have seen in the last four years with the members of the opposition is flip-flopping, flip-flopping, flip-flopping.

I look at my own constituency, Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Maple Creek, which is a pleasure and honour to represent; a constituency filled with vibrant people, people who look towards the future with a great positiveness; people who are not afraid of the ups and downs that we have found ourselves in and will continue at times, to find ourselves in.

I look at the gas activity, Mr. Speaker, that has sprung up in my constituency in the last four years because of policies brought in by this Progressive Conservative government. Things are happening in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, that 10, 5, 15 years ago, people didn't think would be possible because of the regressive, oppressive policies of the former administration.

I find it highly amusing, Mr. Speaker, after having the pleasure of sitting as an opposition member for four years and listening to the anti-business, anti-success, anti-profit rhetoric from those members when they were in government. And those members sitting opposite, Mr. Speaker, have seen the positive results of some very innovative policies that have been brought in by this government.

(2030)

And one I find very interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that I would really like to hear from the real Leader of the Opposition. It's interesting that with all their vitriolic rhetoric in the House, their anti-oil company, their anti-business rhetoric, they go on day in and day out. January 2, 1986, recorded in the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix*, the headline:

any other government in the province's history. But, Mr. Speaker, that is just a start, because the full benefits of what has happened will become apparent for years and years to come.

But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that despite our accomplishments in the four short years that we have had the privilege of leading this province as its government, I can assure the people of Saskatchewan that this government is going to be just as energetic and just as forceful in seizing the opportunities ahead as we have been in our first term.

And I can say with great pride, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all government members, that we look forward to serving the people of Saskatchewan in the next four years with the same diligence as we have in the last.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we should consider a few highlights of this government's achievements. Perhaps our greatest accomplishment has been our success in reducing taxes dramatically while still providing so many services to the people of our province.

The tax cutting started hours after the election in 1982, hours after the transition of power, when we killed the gas tax. The gas tax we felt was an extremely unfair tax, a tax that was perpetuated on the people of Saskatchewan by the NDP.

That one single move, Mr. Speaker, is saving Saskatchewan drivers 7 to \$8 every time they fill up their tanks. And since 1982, according to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan has had the lowest energy prices in the whole country. And I think that's a great accomplishment; it's something we had campaigned on in 1982. And it was one of the first campaign promises that we delivered on.

But then after removing the gas tax we immediately moved to eliminate the taxes on children's clothing, and taxes on electricity for farms and homes. That itself was a great overall annual saving to the people of our province.

We also created the Public Utilities Review Commission which has also slowed the rate of increase for car insurance costs, home heating costs, and electricity costs. We, as I said before, also eliminated the sales tax on electricity in homes.

I think perhaps one of our important achievements, or accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, was the introduction of the mortgage interest reduction plan, a plan which helped 52,000 home owners across the province. Home owners who were threatened with foreclosures, home owners who were threatened with not being able to have money for their basic necessities, because of what was being gobbled up in high mortgage interest rates that they had to pay. That was also a plan, or a promise that we had campaigned on, and it was delivered in the first year. The NDP of the day said it couldn't be done. We said it could, and we did it. We also, as a government, reduced the personal income tax rate. They also said it couldn't be done; we said it could.

I think one of our prouder achievements is the

billion-dollar commitment to health care to rectify the years of neglect by the Blakeney government. And, Mr. Speaker, I must say I find it rather uneasy — I get an uneasy feeling when I hear the members opposite scream and holler, day in and day out, about the lack of nursing home beds in the province, and the lack of nurses to man our hospitals.

I think if you look at the record, the record speaks for itself. The former administration did not have the foresight — either unwittingly or knowingly, refused to recognize that Saskatchewan has one of the fastest growing rates of seniors in the whole of the country. They chose to ignore that fact deliberately I believe, when they established the moratorium on the construction of new nursing home beds in the province. And that neglect, that unwise decision by the former administration, is coming to light.

Right now, we do not have enough nursing home beds to accommodate the number of people wishing to go into these wonderful homes, but with the announcements by the Minister of Health, we are well on our way of providing the necessary beds and the necessary capital construction to correct a very serious error by the former government.

I believe that that is one of our commitments to one of the corner-stones that we feel are very, very important. We have put the elderly first, of course, with the programs such as the \$11 million injected into the special care home construction area.

In our first two years of government, Mr. Speaker, in the first two years we spent \$11 million on nursing homes compared to, I believe it was \$7 million spent by the NDP over a course of 11 years. We financed 164 new beds and 164 replacement beds in 1984-85, and we are committed to building another 300 beds in 1985-86. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, we are putting over a million dollars into special care homes for home care services such as respite care, day programs for seniors, and enhanced home care for people with intense service needs.

I believe that we have made a very major, major commitment, Mr. Speaker, to cancer research and treatment facilities, equipment, and the staffing of these facilities. The new Mental Health Act ensures the human rights of patients, and expands mental health services for children and the youth, and provides more training opportunities and more training positions for psychiatrists. And new funding also was increased for crisis hostels in Regina and Saskatoon.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that our commitment as a Tory government, our commitment as Progressive Conservatives to look after the needs of others, that need is well documented and very plain for everyone to see.

Our investment in rural and regional care centres total over \$50 million, Mr. Speaker, whereas the NDP spent less than \$20 million in 11 years in this area. Ambulance funding was increased by 19.4 per cent. We have co-operated with the Kinsmen. Kinsmen, as you know, are people who volunteer their time and their efforts and do a great service, not only here in Saskatchewan, but

across the country. Here in Saskatchewan, as I said, we co-operated with the Saskatchewan Kinsmen Foundation to establish a children's rehab centre in Saskatoon. And with the Lions Clubs we co-operated to establish the first eye bank in western Canada.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that those are two fine examples of how people who volunteer, people who give of themselves to others — how people that volunteer to those organizations can work hand in hand with government and together accomplish something that benefits all the residents of Saskatchewan.

And I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we as a government recognize the contributions made by these organizations such as the Elks and the Lions and the Kinsmen, and the thousands and thousands of other groups out there that work for others.

Patient care. Patient care is what matters. That's an area that matters very much to this government. And Mr. Taylor, the Health minister, announced late in February a \$100 million program to fund 500 new nursing positions. This will help reduce the waiting time for surgery. Some of the money will be earmarked to buy new equipment and diagnostic services, and to increase, as I say, the patient care staff.

Mr. Speaker, every day in question period in this session so far it seems that there is a question from either the member from Shaunavon or the member from Regina North East on the number of nursing positions or the inadequate number of nursing positions.

And when they go out around the province, Mr. Speaker, speaking to groups of nurses and groups of people who are keenly interested in this area, the NDP are never quite honest, Mr. Speaker. They will never admit that in 1976 they cut 420 positions in the budget that year. And the cut came effective July 1, 1976.

**An Hon. Member:** They've been known to lie. They've been known to lie.

**Hon. Mr.s. Duncan:** — Well, they've been known to be less than honest.

But, Mr. Speaker, I can say with great pride that since the member from Indian Head has been named Minister of Health, the number of nursing positions has increased year by year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 1983-84 the Department of Health, under the able leadership of the Minister of Health, added 80 new nursing positions, and another 500 are promised over the course of the next few years. I believe 200 are to be integrated into the system this year.

But even with the doom and gloom that the NDP espouse every day, we should have a good look and an honest look at exactly what is happening in Saskatchewan in the area of hospital beds.

(2045)

Saskatchewan is 36 per cent above the Canadian average in general hospital beds per capita — 36 per cent above

the average Canadian number of beds. Saskatchewan is also 21 per cent above Canadian coverage in general nursing staff per capita. I think that that speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker, and as I said we have looked at 11 years of neglect, prioritized our priorities in the order that things had to be done.

When you look at our commitment to health, our commitment to education, our commitment to agriculture and our commitment to job creation, those are the four corner-stones of our province. Those are the areas that people are interested in. People expect good services in those four areas. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this government is a government that delivers.

I find it disconcerting that when we maintain the level of educational funding in the province and in fact increase it while other provinces are decreasing the commitment to funding education, that we were able to come up with the \$150 million educational development fund. That fund, Mr. Speaker, has been called by respected and well-known educators in our province as one of the great moves in this province's educational history. And we believe rightly so; it should be considered one of the greatest moves. It gives school boards and universities time to plan forward, forward for five years to make their long-range plans. We believe that our youth is one of our major resources and because of that education must have a very high priority.

The money out of that fund is being directed to such things as acquiring computers for schools, improving libraries across the province, programs to prevent drop-outs and to improve attendance. It is strengthening the programs for gifted learners and we're putting money into career counselling and into teaching skills that are needed in today's workplace.

We must not forget that we are discussing not only a government that has a genuine concern for people — one that cares — but we are talking about a government that has a vastly different way of doing things than did the NDP. We are a government that consults, listens to the people. We consult with groups that are affected by different types of legislation. When we look at changes that are needed in education we consult with those that have hands-on daily experience in the job.

I think that we can just look at a simple thing like the wonderful heritage celebrations that went on last year. We asked the people of the province, the people of the municipalities, the towns and the villages, to come up with some ideas for heritage year. And they did absolutely admirably, with not a lot of money injected. When the NDP had Celebrate Saskatchewan, hundreds of . . . well, not hundreds, I'm sorry, that's an exaggeration, Mr. Speaker, but millions of dollars went in to administration. The way we did things — we encouraged towns and villages to set up show-cases to display their local crafts, to honour their pioneers, and literally every town and village across Saskatchewan participated in the celebrations last year, and I believe about a million people came home for a lot of these celebrations. That's just an example of what people can do if they're given a little bit of seed money, a little bit of

encouragement. They can just do marvellous things. And I think that speaks well of the people of Saskatchewan because people of Saskatchewan have a pride, a very inborn pride of going out and tackling a situation or a problem or a challenge and the pride comes in accomplishing what they set out to do. That's a throw-back to our pioneer days, I believe, Mr. Speaker.

I can say that in the last four years they have not been the most buoyant of times that we have seen in Saskatchewan. We've had difficult times with grasshoppers, low commodity prices, increasing input costs for farmers, all those type of things. But perhaps we have to be optimistic. We have to look to the future. These things run in cycles, and perhaps the commodity prices have hit the bottom of the cycle and they're on the way up. But I think the past four years and the type of weather and all those things that sometimes we don't like to talk about have occurred. We must put it into perspective.

As I've said, all we have to do is look at what the energy industry has done for us in this province since it came to power. Every Saskatchewan citizen knows how the energy policies have paid off, Mr. Speaker. And it's no wonder then that Saskatchewan's oil program has become a case study at the nationally acclaimed school of management in Banff, Alberta. A Banff school official says that our consultation with the industry is an example of how to do business in the '80s and is a good example of how to work together so that everyone comes out ahead, Mr. Speaker. "Everyone" means the government, the people of the province, the taxpayer of the province, and of course that particular industry.

I referred earlier to the exciting developments that are going on in the gas fields of my riding of Maple Creek. I know that these developments, as other markets are found for the gas, will continue and that prospects for export sales early this spring will encourage further exploration. And I might say that a lot of the people that work for the companies in my area are young farmers, young farmers who are trying to get a little bit of off-farm income; farmers who understand the importance of having a vibrant industry.

I talked to farmers who are very pleased with the surface rights lease payments that they get and only wish that there would be more activity going on, on their particular farm.

But maybe, Mr. Speaker, when we look at some of the challenges that we have faced over the course of the last four years, I would have to say that probably one of the most difficult challenges faced by this government was the drought of the last two or three years and the devastation that it brought. I think that no one could argue that the drought has been very, very serious — perhaps more serious than we can describe.

But what happened with the programs that we brought in, either by ourselves or in conjunction with the federal government? I would have to say that last year probably saw the largest drought assistance package ever undertaken by any government in this country — not only our government; any government — and by mid-November the various programs that were available

to producers had put something like \$312 million of cash into our farmers' pockets.

But we as a government didn't just decide, well this is what we're going to do and go ahead and do it. We met with the various farm groups, the stock growers, SARM — well, a whole bunch of them. We worked on this package together because we didn't want to bring out something that was not acceptable to that group, the group that was most highly affected by it. As the people know, we did bring in sort of a two-part program to assist Saskatchewan farmers affected by low commodity prices and poor production. We brought out the 6 per cent cash for operating loans for farmers and, of course, the oil royalty gas rebate program; whereas farmers and the people of Saskatchewan can see the direct benefits of having a vibrant industry in this province.

I would say that these programs provided the largest single cash injection into the agricultural community ever undertaken by a Saskatchewan government and that money, Mr. Speaker, finds its way back into the towns and the villages and the cities of the province. That money was used to pay off fuel bills, grocery bills, and buy Christmas presents and whatever. So it's a matter of giving these people some hope, some direction, some optimism for the future.

When I go around my riding in the past few weeks, the producers are very optimistic. We've had a fair amount of rain last fall and a fairly good snow coverage this past winter and people are looking forward to be able to plant their crops once again and have their cows and heifers calve out this spring. People are in quite a good mood. I think that's largely because we sat down together and worked out a program that was good for everyone.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there isn't a person in Saskatchewan, whether it's a school child or an adult, that would not argue that agriculture is our most important economic base in the province and we must look for other ways to enhance it. We have nearly 40 per cent of Canada's farm land and yet too much of what we produce is simply exported as raw grain. Everyone recognizes the need to process more food at home, to convert that grain and roughage into meat right here. And it's the livestock industry, Mr. Speaker, that can give us the value-added things that we're looking for and help create jobs.

When I look at Gainers meat-packers and Intercontinental Packers, these two firms have the foresight and expertise to help in this area. They have the expertise to market in California, which is a huge potential market for us. And I was please to see that both firms have committed themselves to building that type of processing capacity here.

I call this the latest move in a strategy to turn this province's livestock industry around. And when you look at what's going to happen when these two giants complete their expansion here, the Gainers project will mean roughly \$200 million per year going into our agricultural economy through increased hog sales alone. It will mean 600 new jobs in the plants, and another 600 to 800 in hog production, feed supply, transportation,

and other related services. It will mean \$150 million worth of new investment in hog production facilities, and about \$250 million in new exports, and millions of dollars in new tax revenues — tax revenues that will be used in the four areas that we feel are the corner-stones of our province.

I can remember how the opposition scoffed at this development, and even today, and over the course of the last week, in their responses to the throne speech, have still scoffed at this development. But I think they should be well off to read the press release of the Deputy Premier who, I believe, described the situation very well. He said that:

This is important because for the first time in 40 years it means a government in Saskatchewan has said, we're tired of sitting by and watching other provinces diversify their agriculture production while we continue to produce export grains for world markets, which are increasingly uncompetitive because of foreign subsidies.

He went on to say that:

We are tired of sitting by, as previous governments have done, and watching other provinces use incentives to attract agriculture processing away from Saskatchewan.

It was a move to tell the world that we in Saskatchewan are going to build on our major strength — agriculture. And Mr. Speaker, I am sure the farmers and the producers of Saskatchewan will remember some of the comments of the members opposite in their speeches of late and things that had been said during the announcement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that it has been an honour for me to serve as a cabinet minister, and it's been an honour to participate in this government's efforts to turn this province around. And I would like to spend a few minutes on just a few of the things that we have done in my department, the Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs.

Last year we introduced a new classification system for films and videos shown in the province, a classification system that will provide parents with information that they need to make informed decisions on what they and their children will view. I believe that this is a small step, but at least it is a step, towards combating the problem of pornography and violence in our society.

My department is now providing senior groups with timely information packages dealing with such subjects as travel and prescription drugs and hearing aids, and how to avoid market-place scams.

We have greatly improved the efficiency and the costs of the Corporations Branch, which registers the firms doing business in the province. We are, at present, trying to reduce the amount of legislation, legislation that we inherited from the former administration. We are attempting to streamline our entire operations, and this has a two-fold objective.

One is, of course, to reduce our costs and ultimately the cost to the taxpayer, and also an important objective is, of course, to provide better service and quicker service to the public.

One of the major changes we made was the changing of the auditing requirements under the Non-profit Corporations Act, and this saves small corporations substantially in auditing fees and other related costs.

We have developed, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in Swift Current, a self-help package outlining the consumers' and the businesses' rights and responsibility in the market-place. And that particular package has been a great success and is often used as a teaching tool in many seminars held in community colleges and whatever, throughout the province.

(2100)

I believe very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that more than anything else politics is actually about leadership. And if there is one person in this province with a sense of the times for Saskatchewan, it is, of course Premier Grant Devine. He is the person who is listening to the people. He is showing the people that he can respond. But I think his leadership goes beyond that particular sector.

The market for our products is, of course, the world. And Saskatchewan's challenge is and will be in marketing, and the Premier, above anyone else, knows and understands marketing.

As I said before, our province has 40 per cent of Canada's entire farm land base, and our farmers are well educated. They have the best machinery and the best equipment, and they have the best access to the newest in farm technologies, technologies in the areas of chemicals, of management and bookkeeping techniques. Irrigation programs are coming on-stream. Not one Saskatchewan farmer couldn't produce more if the markets were there for his products or his production.

But this province must have access to markets, and it's a continuing concern to us. Premier Devine understands the importance of marketing like few politicians, past or present. He was raised, of course, we know on a Saskatchewan farm and worked as an economist for government and the universities. He has a degree in business administration, and that degree includes a lot of hard work in marketing.

I believe that that marketing expertise will be vital to us in the years ahead. We are a resource province, Mr. Speaker. We market our products all over the world, and if we don't find the markets, there is no use in us producing or enhancing our production.

Premier Devine is already acting, and we saw that in the very forceful way in which he brought agriculture to the very centre of national policy, making in — that has never been seen in this province. He convinced the Prime Minister of Canada to place agriculture on the agenda at the recent first ministers' conference in Halifax. And that, Mr. Speaker, has set the wheels in motion for development of a new food strategy, not only for

Saskatchewan, but a new food strategy for Canada. But more importantly, he has assured that Saskatchewan will play a key role in developing this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I would, in closing, say that I believe that our government has brought in innovative programs, programs which have garnered the support of the majority of people of Saskatchewan. We understand, as a government, that we will never get the support of 100 per cent of the people, but we will continue to be satisfied with the support of 80 per cent of the people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to support the main motion. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting the motion on the floor, and I'd like to take this opportunity, before I begin my remarks, to thank the member for Maple Creek for her very enlightening remarks that we've just had the pleasure of listening to, Mr. Speaker.

I think that what we had last week, Mr. Speaker, was something that a lot of us here in this House have known for a long time. We had the NDP come out with their election platform, and it confirmed to a lot of us here that, as we expected, the NDP is totally void of any new ideas. They're void of leadership. I think that's probably, Mr. Speaker, the reason that they're void of ideas is because until you have a leader, it's pretty hard-pressed for any party come up with some decent direction for this province. Certainly as Conservatives we have the leader in this province; the NDP are void of a leader. Certainly I imagine that shortly after the next election they will group together and attempt to come up with some sort of leadership for their party. But until that time, Mr. Speaker, I think that there's only one real choice for the people of this province, and that's the Grant Devine and Progressive Conservative leadership that we've had for the last four years.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. The member knows that he should not be using the names of individuals, but rather their positions, and I would ask him to do that for the rest of his speech.

**Mr. Young:** — I will refer to the Devine government or something along those lines if that's permissible. Thank you.

I would also like to point, Mr. Speaker, the address that we have had as a government to the seniors of this province. Certainly, if you recall that for the last seven years of NDP government there was only one \$5 raise for senior citizens on their cost of living increase, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, the record of our government over the last four years is certainly many-fold of that of the NDP.

We took it upon ourselves, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the situation of seniors in this province, to raise the income plan as far as singles went, Mr. Speaker, from 25 to \$50 per month, and as far as couples, senior couples

went, Mr. Speaker, from \$45 to \$75 per month. And I would like all members in this House just to reflect on that for a moment and compare that to what the NDP did over their much longer term in office. Five dollars. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, that's far from all we have done as a government to assist the people who built this province.

Mr. Speaker, we have introduced here in the last year our seniors' heritage program, Mr. Speaker, that will assist approximately 75,000 seniors across this province who have incomes less than \$30,000, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, couples will receive up to \$700 and single seniors, between 25 and \$30,000 a year annual incomes, will receive \$500 per month. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, this is a far cry from what the NDP provided along those lines to seniors when they were in government for so long.

But certainly, Mr. Speaker, the NDP are quick to jump to the defence of seniors and profess that they are behind the farmers, and even yesterday in the House, the Leader of the Opposition, I couldn't believe it, but he got up and pretended that he was in support of small business. This is a guy, Mr. Speaker, who has fought business and small business through his entire political career. He gets up in this House after he's defeated in 1982 and has the gall to suggest that he is the great champion of small business.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I've been here four years; I'm not going to be here much longer, but certainly that man showed more gall than I've ever seen before in this House when he got up and suggested that he was the champion of small business. Certainly, I don't think the people of Saskatchewan are going to be fooled. They know how he cross-checked them and intersected them in every opportunity in his 11 years of office, and for the people to believe that he will now make a one-eighty and come to the defence of small business is just too hard to believe, Mr. Speaker. And I suggest to you that it will not come to pass that, if he were elected to office, he would continue on with the same dogmatic socialistic policies that run interference at every intersection with small business. And certainly we can see, Mr. Speaker, what it has done in the ways of job creation in this province, what small business has really been — the engine of our economy, Mr. Speaker. And certainly another four years of Conservative administration will continue to nurture the engine of our economy.

In closing on the senior citizens, I want to also point out the benefits that our seniors' home repair program has had. Certainly it is one, Mr. Speaker, that applied to just about all seniors. If they were in a very healthy income group, they certainly didn't receive the advantage of it, but for most people, Mr. Speaker, most seniors in the province, this program came to their benefit and, as an aside, Mr. Speaker, it provided to small contractors and small repairmen, home repairmen and the likes like that throughout the province, some business and some work which I am sure was appreciated by them, possibly as much as it was appreciated by some of the seniors. In that respect, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my government on that particular program.

I also want to point out some specific instances that our government has assisted seniors, and particularly within



my own constituency of Saskatoon Eastview. Last summer, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency the even took place at the St. Ann's nursing home, but there was an announcement that the Premier and the minister in charge of Sask Housing, and many other officials were there, we announced the largest ever in the history of Saskatchewan seniors' housing construction program that has ever taken place in Saskatchewan. The three locations are St. Vladimir's Village, which will be on the intersection of the freeway and Taylor Street; St. Ann's nursing home; and the third one is the University Drive Alliance Church. And Reverend Boldt and the good people of the University Drive Alliance both are presently up and going with their seniors' complex. The St. Ann's expansion will be going under way, and similarly when the ground freezes out, thaws out, Mr. Speaker, the St. Vladimir's Village.

And I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, of what a far cry this has been from the policies of the former government. We have a candidate who was the former minister of health with the NDP who is running adjacent to my constituency in Saskatoon. And this guy has the gall to get up on platforms in Saskatoon and suggest that he has somehow or another made a one-eighty turn and he's behind seniors now. He was the man, Mr. Speaker, who put the moratorium on nursing home construction under the NDP administration. And this guy, as with the gall of the Leader of the Opposition, now has the gall to stand up and suggest that has somehow or another made this great change and that he's behind seniors.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the construction that's taking place in my own constituency, and I could go on and on about nursing home and senior citizens housing construction throughout Saskatchewan, but I'll just stick, for these purposes, to the constituency of Saskatoon Eastview. I think, Mr. Speaker, that anyone can see that our policies and programs that we have had with respect to seniors in Saskatchewan have been far in excess of anything that the NDP did over their years; their priorities were certainly elsewhere, Mr. Speaker. They were interested in potash mines, buying what was it — \$183 million worth of farm land — their head was in another space, Mr. Speaker. The seniors — they could wait, they could wait for a while but certainly their priorities were not the seniors. I think, Mr. Speaker, again my government must be commended in its priorities. I think to a great extent, Mr. Speaker, a government can be judged on its priorities, and I think that we will stand well in any such judgement, Mr. Speaker.

(2115)

I noticed as well, Mr. Speaker, that it strikes me as odd, when the NDP came out a day or two ago, or was it even this morning possibly when I heard it the last time, with their 777 plan, and this is their catch-up to our thirteen and one-quarter program. Four years have went by; when people were losing their houses, Mr. Speaker, when interest rates were 22 per cent, these birds had the audacity to suggest that it was a federal program. They said, let Ottawa take care of that, we're busy buying potash mines and buying land bank; that interest problem can't be us. As far as Wes Robbins, who was the minister

of finance at the time, he said, well that's impossible, the thirteen and one-quarter program just can't work; it can't be done. And of course, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robbins was done, the program came into being, it's been very beneficial, and now, after four years, these people are coming up with a kind of a warmed-up version of it. But certainly we're beyond that. We have the program. People appreciate it, Mr. Speaker. We're on to building paper mills, upgraders, nursing homes, cable manufacturing plants, bacon plants, etc., etc.

And these guys are coming out of a time bubble, Mr. Speaker, four years late, and suggesting that they're going to be the great saviour of the home owner. Well certainly, Mr. Speaker, they have old leadership; they have old ideas; they have warmed-over Tory ideas at the very best.

And certainly I could go on to picking holes in the 777 program that they've announced, Mr. Speaker. But I think that it's fair enough to point out that it's four years late and it is nothing more than a program that we already have in place. And certainly the leader stepping out of his time bubble and looking at the people of Saskatchewan as we looked at them in 1982, certainly isn't going to be what the people want in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we have a very imaginative government with our present Devine administration; and that to go back in time, to walk backwards to the way things were before, is certainly a regressive step and is not the vision that I believe both people in this province think of when they think of their future. I think that certainly our Premier is the Premier with a vision for the future. He is certainly not a negative, living-in-the-past leader, such as the NDP opposite unfortunately have to claim as their best.

I'd like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that 44,000 families in this province have taken advantage of our thirteen and a quarter program. On the average it works out to 3,400 smackeroos in everybody's pocket. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is a far cry from any proposal of the NDP. I would imagine their 77 program will be wrought with means test and red tape and things that we can't imagine here today. If they were ever elected, it would certainly be a regular NDP program.

You'll recall, Mr. Speaker, that our program had no means test. You had a house, your interest was over thirteen and a quarter, you got the program. Certainly the NDP are renowned for having programs that apply to everyone. They're targeting their particular political group, and certainly to the detriment of most of the people most of the time, Mr. Speaker.

As well, I want to again remind my constituents in Saskatoon Eastview of our gasoline tax program. I think it's fair, Mr. Speaker, to remind the electorate, to remind them just how the NDP tax worked. How it worked was a lot . . . it was the same way as they increased their salaries here in the legislature, as MLA's. It was sliding. The thing worked even if the legislature wasn't convened. Even if it wasn't brought up on the floor of the legislature, the gas tax piggybacked and up it went — piggybacked onto federal increases.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, they didn't want to face the light of day here in the legislature, so they designed that tax. Similarly, as pertains to their own salary, they also had a mechanism built into The Legislative Assembly Act whereby their salaries as politicians would automatically raise without them monkeying with the legislation — the cowards that they were, Mr. Speaker.

Now we took office and we passed, as the times came up, Mr. Speaker, legislation addressing the NDP legislation and zeroing out our increases as members. Certainly the cabinet did the same thing.

Now the NDP could see with our majority that there was no way that they could stop those motions of ours, so you can understand how they came out on those issues.

But I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if we had not been elected government, those birds over there would not have touched that legislation, and their increases would have went up without being noticed and without being accounted to the public, Mr. Speaker. And again, I think that my government should be commended for addressing that situation in the open and frank way in which they have.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come from an urban constituency, Saskatoon Eastview. I do note on my list of electors there is the odd farmer who lives in my seat. Certainly it hasn't as many farmers as most rural seats. But I think, Mr. Speaker, that it's still my duty to go on and point out to the people in general what this government has done in the area of agriculture.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that it would be fair to say, and I think most members sitting over there and most members sitting over here would think that no matter who was the Premier, if it was the Liberals or the NDP or our particular Premier, that something would have been done for the farmers in this province, having regard to the severe weather conditions and hopper conditions and every other sort of condition that fell upon farmers in the last few years.

But on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I really don't think that there's anyone in their heart of hearts who would believe that any other government would have done as much as the Devine government and this administration has done for farmers. I really don't believe that.

I look back at the types of solutions, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP had for farm problems. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, not only did they not do as much in a dollar and cent way for farmers — we have given over a billion dollars to farmers during our administration in assistance — their biggest address to the agricultural problem was land bank. And even that address was only a \$183 million expenditure.

But it wasn't an expenditure on farmers, Mr. Speaker. They can't chalk up the 183 million that they spent as assistance to farmers. It was in fact, Mr. Speaker, assistance to their philosophy. It didn't benefit the farmers to be buying their land. In fact, what it achieved was a driving up of land prices so that anyone wanting to get into the business had another bidder in the game.

I know in the R.M. where I grew up, and in most of the R.M. maps that I have looked at, before we got into government the largest single owner of land undoubtedly was the Saskatchewan land bank commission, Mr. Speaker. They had worked their way into every little R.M. in this province as the largest land owner.

Now that is the way the NDP addressed the agricultural problem. They certainly would not deal with gas prices. Far from it. That was Ottawa's problem. They dealt with the farmers in some pretty cruel ways, Mr. Speaker.

I remember when my dad was alive, Mr. Speaker, he had worked all his life and built up a real nice farm, and inflation came roaring along between 1972 to 1975; 1975 is when it really hit hard. Prior to that, land was 15, \$16,000 a quarter, but during those years it jumped right up to . . . it was selling around \$50,000 in 1975.

In this legislature, right in here, Mr. Speaker, there was a real smooth fellow by the name of Roy Romanow. And he said in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and *Hansard* will bear me out — he introduced the death tax. He said, well this is for the real rich people. This tax is going to take money from the rich. He said all these big-business men, we're going to get their money when they die. Well, of course, Mr. Speaker, they were a lot smarter than he was. I don't know if they ever got a nickel out of these guys. They moved their assets around and were not really subjected to the death tax. But he said in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, that this death tax is not to be after farmers. He said it wasn't the farmers that they were going to get the money for. He said it's for these rich people. The NDP always have these rich people that they're going to get, eh.

Mr. Speaker, when it was all said and done, when the taxes had been collected and finally after considerable political pressure, the NDP withdrew the death tax. When it was all said and done, Mr. Speaker, over 95 per cent of the money that those birds over there collected from the death tax came from farmers. You betcha. That was their farm policy, Mr. Speaker, the death tax. Hit them when they're down. Hit them when they're down. Hit the widows, hit the orphans. Hit them when they're confused after a death. That's how they did it, Mr. Speaker. I say shame on those people. That is some farm policy you birds had. Tax at the time of death, that's real nice. I condemn you for that.

Mr. Speaker, there's families out there who have paid that money. Did you people ever suggest that you would pay it back after you changed your mind? No way. Tens of thousands of dollars per family, at that particular time in the family that you took it. You birds had no conscience at all. That was it. Sorry folks, the tax is over. We're not going to look back.

But when the shoe is on the other foot, for a paltry \$4.3 million you really have a lot to say. All of a sudden you have this great conscience. I suggest that a lot of the farm families, Mr. Speaker, are going to remember the cruelty of the NDP death taxes and are going to be hard-pressed for a number of generations to grant those people any forgiveness for what they did to the farming community.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the NDP history in agriculture. I say that, certainly for the new farmers who live in my constituency, but generally for the benefit of people throughout this province to really get a grip on the differences between their policies, Mr. Speaker, and the farm policies that we have had.

I could go on and on and on with stabilization program and feed transport programs, and this and that and this and that. But I think, Mr. Speaker, that that ground has been well ploughed by other members on this side of the House in our throne speech. I'm going to leave that. But I certainly wanted to bring out Mr. Romanow and the words he said about the death tax and where the money would come from and then in fact where it came from — the farmers. I don't want to let those people over there sleep, thinking that they got away with that ploy, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, our rural gasification program was not on the agenda of the NDP. It was not something where they wanted to spend any of their resources. They were more interested in more ingenious methods of dealing with the farm problem, Mr. Speaker. And I condemn them for that oversight. It certainly took a new government before movement came afoot in that area, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to also, just before I go much further, Mr. Speaker, address Saskatoon particularly. Certainly I am one of 10 MLAs who are all Tory MLAs from the city of Saskatoon, and I can remember living in that town for many years under eight NDP members.

One of the things that strikes my mind, Mr. Speaker, and I've never yet been able to figure it out. And possibly the Clerk some day will come through and just show me what happened. But each MLA, as we all here in this House are aware, and certainly I think a lot of people out in TV land are aware, we get an allowance, Mr. Speaker, to run a constituency office and to provide communications to our constituents.

Now the MLAs in Saskatoon all have constituency offices. They all have secretaries and phones. You can go in there and deal with your problems. You know where to find your MLA in other words.

The NDP, one of them from Saskatoon was a full-time school teacher and came down here when need be. Had no constituency offices. The NDP that represented my constituency had no constituency office. There was one office in Saskatoon with one person to look after 10 constituencies.

Now some of my other colleagues in Saskatoon did some research, and they found out that these birds pulled the full amount of secretarial allowance, the full amount of communications allowance, and I don't what happened to the money, Mr. Speaker. They certainly . . . it's not evidenced in the years that I was in Saskatoon before I was elected.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatoon MLAs must be commended in coming through with the pure purpose of their moneys. We all have offices, and I would think that

the people in Saskatoon appreciate that.

I know the fellow nominated to run in Saskatoon Eastview. His name is Ray Martineau, and he has pledged that if he gets elected in the constituency of Saskatoon Eastview that he will have an MLA office with a secretary and run her above board like you should, Mr. Speaker. And I want to commend him at this point for that undertaking and again ask those members across the hall: what did their colleagues do in the last term with that money? It totally escapes me. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, I will leave that.

Another thing, we had eight NDP MLAs in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker — eight of them — full slate. They had her 100 per cent. And in 11 years in that city of mine the only thing that I can see that they can claim to be their accomplishment is one building — the Sturdy Stone Building. That's the building, Mr. Speaker, that had the marble bathtub, and named after a bunch of their earlier followers. That's all they had. Eleven years, one building — the Sturdy Stone Building, Mr. Speaker. Nothing else. Everything went into Regina. Everything went to Regina, Mr. Speaker. They had eight members; they took the place for granted, Mr. Speaker. There was no effort generated by those members to help out the city of Saskatoon.

But now they have the nerve, Mr. Speaker, to be running for their party in Saskatoon again. They've changed, of course. It's another 180 on their part. This time they're going to stick up for Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Well I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that people will buy that in that city.

(2130)

I'm just going to name a few things, Mr. Speaker, and I want everyone here to bear in mind that the NDP in 11 years brought the Sturdy Stone Building. Four years with a full deck of Tory MLAs in Saskatoon has brought what? There's 24 different things here, Mr. Speaker. I just want to read them into the record so that the accomplishments of the 10 Conservative MLAs in Saskatoon do not go unrecognized or unnoticed by all members of the House, Mr. Speaker.

There's in-place funding of \$14.75 million for a multi-purpose arena. Saskatoon has been crying for an arena for 10 years. They called it the old barn, the arena that we had for along time. This government comes out now . . . Of course after the event, the Leader of the Opposition says: oh, me too, me too. If we happen to be elected government, that funding will still be in place. And his little NDP candidates are running around the constituency with the me too, me too, at the door, saying that don't worry, we won't take away your arena if we get elected. Well, I'll believe it when I see it.

Canpotex, the international marketing agency, has moved to Saskatoon. Now these birds get up and they fight Canpotex at every intersection, eh? That's real evil, that thing. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I think that the people involved in Canpotex in Saskatoon appreciate that company, what it's doing in the marketing of our products. And certainly moving its head office from Toronto to Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, is not unappreciated

by the people of my constituency and, I'm sure, the people of Saskatoon as a whole.

A \$7 million refurbishment of the Western Development Museum — now certainly, Mr. Speaker, you're getting into some big dollars here. And I think that that is something that the Conservative MLAs can take credit for, and so they should.

We have a new child care incorporation which provides pre-school day care to approximately 300 new families in Saskatoon. That's over and above anything that the NDP can take credit for.

The cancer clinic, Mr. Speaker, \$17 million worth of cancer clinic, 100 per cent financed by this Devine government, Mr. Speaker. Certainly our record in health care, hospital construction, etc., etc. — I could go on all night on that, Mr. Speaker. But sometimes something like the cancer clinic, it gets the bubble of the news release — a \$17 million, yes, cancer clinic — and it's soon forgotten by a lot of people. And I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that it's unwarranted for me to remind that to members and to people throughout Saskatchewan that, certainly, if anyone has had the tragedy of that disease in their family, they will darn well appreciate the compassion that's evidenced by this government in addressing a new cancer clinic.

Certainly hand in hand, Mr. Speaker, the big, bad, free-enterprise people, the people that these birds attempt to downplay at every intersection — the McDonald's hamburger people and Bill Mitchell and a lot of other good people from Saskatoon have built a Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon to work hand in hand with people who have relatives suffering from cancer, where these people can stay while their loved ones are being treated for cancer.

That certainly, Mr. Speaker, is something that, I think, was nurtured — the idea of community participation was certainly nurtured by our government, although by no means am I here taking claim to it. It was certainly workings of the community. But I think that this government is certainly not one that would run interference with anything like that. And I don't know to this day what the NDP position is on the Ronald McDonald House, but I'll have to wait and see, Mr. Speaker.

We have the geological sciences building at the university — another \$18.6 million — and announced just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, \$78 million worth of agriculture building. I think most of us in Saskatoon are familiar . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Young:** — . . . with what you get, Mr. Speaker, for that kind of money. We're all familiar with the Ramada Renaissance hotel that was built by Mr. Remai, and you can see what sort of mortar and stone you can get for numbers of this size. And certainly the agriculture building will be as big and good, I would hope, having relatively the same amount of money spent on it, as that particular complex. That certainly is going to provide

jobs, Mr. Speaker, and certainly works hand in hand with our government's commitment to agriculture.

The NDP have said emphatically, Mr. Speaker, that that building was on the low end of their priority list. And from that, Mr. Speaker, we can all rest assured that, if they would have been elected in 1982, that particular building was not going to be placed in any other position on their list other than the bottom of the list, where it was when we built it.

Thirty-one million dollars worth of engineering building at the university, Mr. Speaker. And all in all we have increased our actual and real funding to universities. When we took office, Mr. Speaker, \$100 million was going to universities by way of funding by the NDP. We took office; on every budget I would sit here and listen to increases in our spending on university. Now I could go on about secondary education, technical colleges — new ones, additions, on and on and on — but in the areas of university alone, our last budget was \$133 million, a full third more funding than the NDP funded the university.

Certainly it's autonomous, Mr. Speaker. We shoved the money under the door. The university administration spends it as best they can, and they decide which colleges are going to have so many professors, and so on and so on. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, without the funding that we provide, the universities in Saskatoon and Regina could not be carrying on nearly as well as they are today.

And I think that when I watch the Students' Union president and the presidents of the university come here with their teeth filed every budget time wondering what's going to happen, and they walk out with smiles on their faces, Mr. Speaker, after every budget, I certainly think that we have been pulling our load in the area of education.

And I want to commend our government on the funding. Coming from a university town like Saskatoon, that has come through for funding of the university in Saskatoon, that has come through for funding of the university in Saskatoon. It's very, very important to the lifeblood of Saskatoon, and certainly we have been pulling our load in that area, Mr. Speaker.

All in all, \$202.9 million of planned and ongoing hospital construction in Saskatoon. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, every one of our major hospitals in Saskatoon, St. Paul's, University, and the City Hospital — City Hospital, brand new hospital — are spinning towers on top of the University Hospital every time you turn around. The new expansion of St. Paul's Hospital.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are addressing the capital requirements of the universities — \$100 million here the other day from our Minister of Health towards staffing, CAT scan machines like never before, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, certainly when we took office Saskatchewan was the eighth province in Canada on health care spending. In other words, just about every other province in this country was spending more per capita on health care than Saskatchewan. We were the bottom of the barrel, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly today we are at the top, or second from the top,

on health care spending, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, health care and health care spending is very near and dear to the hearts of the people of this province.

The NDP made much of it. Every election they would drag out the old grey mare, Mr. Speaker, and say, listen, if you elect those Tories, they'll destroy medicare. I mean these guys had worked the situation right to the bottom of the barrel by this time, but they still campaigned on it, and, I might add, successfully in 1978.

But the people of the province who were not sure of the NDP, they elected a government — our Devine government — and they've seen health care spending go right off the map, Mr. Speaker. We certainly have been pulling our load, and never again will those rascals over there be able to go to the doors and campaign with the scare tactics that they used successfully for so many elections. Don't let them take it away, they would say. Well that particular campaign slogan is long gone by the NDP. Certainly we can use that slogan if we really wanted to, because the improvements that we have had everywhere in health care are certainly such that never again will the NDP be able to pound on that drum, Mr. Speaker. \$2.7 million for the Kinsmen's children's centre; \$40 million for the science and technology research; 12 research infrastructure facilities in Saskatoon; 1,230 new jobs created through Sask employment development program for social services in Saskatoon — certainly, Mr. Speaker, an imaginative idea that we would have never seen if the NDP would have remained in office. We have 354,000 in grants to seniors' organizations. We have \$11 million in grants to organizations in support of the handicapped, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly I have had, as an MLA, a lot to do with handicapped people in my constituency. I have Cheshire Homes on Louise Street in my seat, and I have Elmwood Lodge, and I have a lot of residences where both people with physical and mental handicaps reside. And I know very much what goes on in those places, and I know that our increases in funding have certainly been appreciated by the both mental and physically handicapped people at least who live in my constituency.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our Minister of Health and our government for recognizing the plight of some of these people and addressing their problem by way of dollars and cents, which was certainly a lot better than the rhetoric address that they received from the NDP. I'm very proud of that. And when I leave this House, Mr. Speaker, that will be one of the things that I will look back on I'm sure over the years and be proud of.

There was the Canada Summer Games which we scored in Saskatoon. And I'm very proud of that, Mr. Speaker. And I know that every one of us MLAs lobbied over the telephone and in letters to the Minister of Sport in Ottawa. And I like to think, Mr. Speaker, that possibly our efforts pushed it over the top and secured that for Saskatoon. And I want to thank my colleagues for the work that they did in working towards obtaining those summer games. It's down the road a bit, but it's going to be a big deal, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Young:** — Finally, Mr. Speaker, \$24.5 million for 240 special-bed nursing homes located in the Fairview constituency, the largest nursing home in the construction.

Some of my members are peppering me with numerous megaprojects, Mr. Speaker, that I have missed. But certainly it's beyond anyone's capability to remember all of the construction projects and programs that have taken place in Saskatoon since we've been elected. And I for one, Mr. Speaker, would need another three or four pages here to make the members on my side happy with the recitals of construction that will be ongoing in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that undoubtedly this will be probably my last speech in the House, certainly my last throne speech. And over the weeks that I have had knocking doors in my constituency with Ray Martineau, the nominated PC candidate, I certainly have a warm feeling of our prospects in Saskatoon and across the province.

As a lawyer, Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of what's called the dying declaration. And in law, if someone on their deathbed makes a declaration, all of the rules of evidence are suspended, and it's allowed to be introduced into a case without any further proof. And I would think, Mr. Speaker, that in a situation that I find myself tonight, being my last speech, I think that members will kind of appreciate the sincerity that I have.

I think that, Mr. Speaker, we have a very good chance of winning just about all of the seats in Saskatoon. On a good day we'll win them all. And I think that my fellow colleagues in Saskatoon are the cause of that. Their hard work, the things that we have brought Saskatoon, the things I recited, Mr. Speaker — when compared with the Sturdy Stone Building, and no constituency offices, and a bunch of rhetoric — is certainly a far cry from what the people are being provided today.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that that's going to pay off, and a heck of a lot of us from Saskatoon are going to become elected again in the next election due to the hard work that's been done. I know that Mr. Martineau is working as hard as I have ever seen anyone work, and I think that's he going to come through with flying colours, Mr. Speaker.

I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP have not had much noise in their throne speech about health care. And I think some of the things that I've pointed out that have happened in this province are certainly the cause of that. They certainly want to keep their heads low on that point, and rightfully so. If they stick them up they will get knocked, because we certainly have been coming through on that issue. And I think again, Mr. Speaker, that in the long haul of things, and I say this as my last speech in the legislature, our record in health care is going to carry us a long, long ways in an election and in years to come, Mr. Speaker.

I want to, just in closing, point out to everyone here that when you leave this place, Mr. Speaker, I get a ticket to come to parliamentary dinners, and I appreciate that. I'm certainly going to come to them in years to come. I have

the right to sit on the rail when I'm long gone. I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that I'll ever take that up. But what I will come out of here most of all with, Mr. Speaker, is an appreciation of how things work and how things don't work in government, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to have 64 friends that I will know forever, I'm sure. I know someone now from every nook and corner of the province, Mr. Speaker. I certainly didn't have acquaintances everywhere in this province prior to my election to the legislature. I'm going to appreciate that. I'll be able to play 'do you know who?' with anybody I meet across the province and know a substantial person from that neck of the woods.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that I look forward to meeting everyone again down the road in my life to come. I will certainly have some good friends, I'm sure, out in the world after the election. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks that I really wanted to get in down the road. I would ask leave to adjourn debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 9:45 p.m.