

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next move:

First reading of a Bill to amend The Education and Health Tax Act for the purpose of repealing provisions imposing a sales tax on used vehicles.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday next I shall move:

First reading of a Bill to amend The Income Tax Act to repeal the flat tax.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday next I shall move:

First reading of a Bill respecting property improvement grants to restore property tax relief.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, as you know, yesterday there was a small celebration in the city of Prince Albert. Canada Weyerhaeuser . . . Weyerhaeuser of Canada has agreed in principle to spend approximately \$500 million in Prince Albert to build a brand-new paper mill.

It's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, today to introduce three executives from Weyerhaeuser Canada. They're seated in the Speaker's gallery. Mr. C. William Gaynor, who is vice-president of timberlands and planning, Weyerhaeuser Canada; Mr. D.R. Andrews, vice-president legal affairs and corporate secretary; and Mr. Barney Lucas, director of public affairs for Weyerhaeuser Canada. Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to give them a warm welcome.

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

**Mr. Muller:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier in extending a welcome to Weyerhaeuser Canada for the job and opportunity he's created in Prince Albert and for the confidence they're showing in our province, and I ask all members to join with me.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Dirks:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly today a group of 25 students who are . . . Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I'll wait till the members opposite are quiet.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. It's very difficult to be heard when you're introducing guests, with all the commotion. I would ask members to maintain silence.

**An Hon. Member:** Particularly members of the opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order.

**Hon. Mr. Dirks:** — Mr. Speaker, as I was beginning to say, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly today a group of 25 grade 12 law class students from Martin Collegiate here in the city of Regina. The collegiate is situated in my constituency.

They have with them their teacher and two chaperons, and it will be my pleasure to be meeting with them for pictures and a discussion later this afternoon. They are seated in the west gallery.

I trust that your visit with us today will be profitable. It's an honour for us to have you visiting, and I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them this afternoon.

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

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Speaker, it is pleasurable to introduce to you and to the members of this Assembly 21 students, grade 10, 11, and 12, from Imperial High School, for the great constituency of Arm River. They are accompanied by their teacher, Robert Payton; chaperon, Mary and Judy — I'm sorry I can't read the second names. I apologize. It's just not printed on here very clearly — bus driver, Larry Cruise, and I ask the members of this Assembly to join with me in wishing them a very enjoyable day and a good trip home, and I'll be meeting with them for refreshments and questions later on. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Currie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure at this time to introduce to you and through you to the members of this House a group of 12 Girl Guides who are presently sitting in the Speaker's gallery. They are accompanied here by their Guider-in-charge, Nancy Holder. I would suggest to these young people that during question period they just sit back, relax, and enjoy themselves, because I'm sure that's what will be taking place down here, and I will be pleased to meet with you after question period for photographs and for drinks. I would ask all the members of the Assembly to join with me in extending a real welcome to them.

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

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had another note handed to me. In the Imperial group there is an exchange student by the name of Gabriella Monroy from — I'm sorry. I won't be pronouncing this name right, but it's from Tapachula, Mexico. I may not have this name right, but I would ask all the people from this Assembly to please welcome our exchange student from Mexico. Thank you very much.

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

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

## Tax Proposals in Budget

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Premier, and it has to do with this evening's provincial budget. A year ago your government hit the ordinary people of the province with the biggest, single tax increase in the history of this province. The people want to know whether you have noted their concern, and can you give the taxpayers of Saskatchewan your guarantee that this evening's budget will roll back the record unfair tax increases introduced in your last budget.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I can assure this Assembly that the taxes in Saskatchewan, under a Progressive Conservative administration, have been lower than they were under the NDP and will continue to be lower than they were under the NDP because we are concerned about families in Saskatchewan. And we have taken the tax off for families; we have protected families against high interest rates; we have protected farmers; we have done all kinds of things to help families, Mr. Speaker. That bunch of seven sisters there with their seven promises for seven people all at the same time are going to appreciate the fact that families are well protected in the province of Saskatchewan. And we'll look forward to this evening.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I noted that the general question did not elicit a response. I will ask you a specific question: will you agree that the flat tax on net income, as structured by your government, which takes close to \$400 a year from the average Saskatchewan family, is an unfair tax and should be repealed, and will you agree that it will be repealed in tonight's budget?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and I have had several discussions, and he agrees, as I do, that there are many people in Saskatchewan who were not paying any tax at all, and tax reform is necessary to get those people to pay some tax.

We now have 97 per cent of those, that didn't pay tax at all, now paying, and I've said it at a time before: I've asked the federal government to reform their tax forms so that we could make sure that all those people do pay tax. In the province of Saskatchewan under the previous administration, these people didn't pay any tax at all. We have changed that, and the hon. member agrees that we should, in fact, have some of these wealthy people — all of them — contribute something to the taxes here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, in the province of Saskatchewan, they do, and I believe that he agrees it's a good idea. He said he'd like to see the tax form rebuilt and I agree with him. We have led the nation in terms of tax reform, and more wealthy people are paying tax in this province than they do any place else in Canada.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, supplementary. As the Premier is well aware, some of the people who he says are now paying tax and did not previously, were people who took advantage of the investment tax credit for farmers, which he took away — which he took away — for the calculation of the flat tax.

I ask you sir: when you took away the investment tax credit for farmers, which you did when you put on the flat tax, do you believe that this led to the federal government taking away the investment tax credit for farmers which they have just done in their budget?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, if we want to talk about farmers and taxes in his legislature, I can remember . . .

**An Hon. Member:** You didn't answer the question, Grant.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — I'll answer it right now. I can remember the former attorney general standing here, and in 1972 he introduced taxes on farmers. He introduced succession duties on Saskatchewan farmers. Widows and orphans in this province had to pay tax to the NDP government.

You can watch and you can talk to people all over rural Saskatchewan, those farm families that had to pay succession duties to the NDP. Widows and orphans had to pay, and if they didn't have enough money, the NDP administration charged them interest on succession duties. They charged them that tax for five years — succession duties on farms and families and businesses all over. And after it was . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. Order. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, after people cried out all over this province because they didn't like the fairness . . . the unfairness of succession duties, the previous administration decided to take it off, and they didn't give 1 cent back to families — not 1 cent. They took \$28 million out of the pockets of farm wives and widows and orphans and small business all across this province, and they never gave 1 cent back.

And they're standing over here talking about farmers. This administration has done more for farm families than all the NDP administrations in the country or in the past.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Premier apparently wishes to talk about 1972 and not 1985. I want to talk about the property tax relief which you took away in your budget of last year. My question is very simple: will you guarantee the people of Saskatchewan that tonight's budget will contain a form of direct property tax relief from home owners and small-business people and renters and farmers? Last year you put it on. Will you agree that you were wrong in taking away that relief, and will you put back some relief in tonight's budget?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, obviously the opposition is going to have to wait until 7 o'clock to hear

the budget. But when we're talking about relief for farmers and families, I'll take the things that we have done to protect farm families and urban families all over this province —protected them from interest rates, protect them in terms of taxes; we've cut taxes for low-income people. And the opposition has one thing on their mind. They always have one thing on their mind. They'd say, well, we'll tax small business and we'll tax farmers; we'll have succession duties; we'll have land bank. Then do you know what they say, Mr. Speaker? They say, we'll give you a grant; we'll give you a grant. The NDP, that's all they know — we'll tax this, and we'll tax that, and we'll give you a grant. Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, this province is an awful lot bigger and an awful lot more proud to be bought with a couple of grants by the NDP. The NDP don't know how to build; they don't know how to expand; they don't know how to create; they don't know how to encourage Saskatchewan people to invest. All they can say is tax, tax, tax, and give them a grant. Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, in the next election in this province people are going to remember what they did in 1982, and they're going to say, the NDP and the road of the grants have gone the same way — down the road.

### Tax Paid on Used Vehicles

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Revenue and Financial Services. I wonder whether he can assure the taxpayers of the province that the budget tonight will deal with the unfair used tax on used vehicles, and whether or not it will be repealed, and whether or not the \$5 million collected on used automobiles will be sent back to those people who paid it over the last year.

**Hon. Mr. Morin:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. And I can assure the member opposite one thing about the budget tonight. There will be no succession duties in it tonight.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister again . . . I can understand why . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please!

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister dealt with used vehicles and an unfair tax that was placed on used half-tons, used grain trucks, used cars that were bought by families in Saskatchewan, and the question was whether we can expect tonight that the \$5 million you collected, unfairly, will be sent back to the families of Saskatchewan, the 60,000 families that it was paid by?

**Hon. Mr. Morin:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, to begin with the people of Saskatchewan thought the succession duties and taxing widows and orphans at a time of bereavement was unfair. And when the former government, the people opposite, finally bowed to the pressure of those people, and the people of Saskatchewan, and removed that tax, of the \$28 million they collected they did not refund a penny.

Now, Mr. Speaker, suddenly they've changed their tune;

they're singing to different music. Mr. Speaker, we have tried to be fair and reasonable in whatever we have done with taxation in this province. We have rolled back taxes on the average citizens in this province, and I believe we will continue to do that.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Final supplementary to the minister. I have here a news clipping coming out of the nominating meeting last night where the Premier states that . . .

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — . . . And of course we know that this is the meeting where the member for Regina North escaped to Regina South to avoid defeat. But the Premier stated, and I quote:

Devine said the sales tax on used cars was a mistake, and that's why he rescinded it.

I wonder whether now, because the Premier is admitting it was an unfair tax, whether you will have the courage and the courtesy to do two things; one, issue an apology for collecting it unfairly; and secondly, send a cheque back to those 60,000 families.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, I can't recall in all the years that the members opposite were government that they ever apologized for increasing the tax in this province from 32 per cent to 52 per cent; that they ever apologized for imposing a 20 per cent tax on gasoline; that they ever apologized for collecting a tax on power bills, for children's clothing, for any of the other things. I don't believe they ever apologized for that. I don't believe they're apologetic today or that they've changed their attitude one bit, and that all we see from them is tax, tax, and more tax.

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

### Prince Albert Pulp Company Purchase by Weyerhaeuser

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Premier. And my question is to the Premier and it deals with yesterday's announcement in Prince Albert.

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

**Mr. Thompson:** — Can the Premier assure Saskatchewan taxpayers that later today he will table copies of all agreements or memorandums of understanding his government has signed with Weyerhaeuser Company of Tacoma with respect to the sale of the Prince Albert pulp mill and other related assets? When will the taxpayers get to see the detailed commitments you have made to Weyerhaeuser in this sale?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement and an understanding to have a major investment in the province of Saskatchewan.

**An Hon. Member:** When?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — We already announced it. It was yesterday. That close to \$500 million that's going to go into the province of Saskatchewan and going to go into Prince Albert — that's \$500 million of new money, somebody else's money, that 's gong to go right into Prince Albert. That's a \$500 million net gain to the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's opposed to, and that's the very opposite to, the NDP approach where they took \$600 million of your money and mine — \$600 million — and they sent it to Wall Street. They took \$600 million and they sent it down to Wall Street for the multinationals to keep. And what did we get, Mr. Speaker? We got a debt of \$600 million. Well yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we got 500 million back and we put it in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, as opposed to giving it to the people in Wall Street.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want one single election issue, if they're interested at all, they can go back and look at history and say: how good was the investment of borrowing \$600 million of Saskatchewan's money and giving it to multinationals in New York versus taking \$500 million of Canadian money, new money, and putting it right into Prince Albert? And I'll tell you what the people will say. They'll say they'll take the 500 million new money in Prince Albert any day of the week.

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

**Mr. Thompson:** — Supplement, Mr. Speaker. The question that I asked the Premier, if he was going to table the documents, he never answered that. But he indicated about the new money. And I suggest to you, Mr. Premier, that there's not 1 cent of new money, if it's guaranteed by the taxpayers of this province.

My supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Premier, you will know that the Weyerhaeuser Company is a major international corporation with assets in the billions of dollars.

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

**Mr. Thompson:** — Last year's net sales by this corporation were more than \$5 billion.

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

**Mr. Thompson:** — If this company is so large and is doing so well, and if this kind of modernization and expansion is such a great deal, why did Saskatchewan taxpayers have to lend money to Weyerhaeuser to help them finance it in the order of a government guarantee of \$248 million of taxpayers' money? Why couldn't Weyerhaeuser finance this deal on his own, Mr. Premier?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, there's obviously . . . We're getting right to the nub of the difference between

that bunch over here and this group here. Right to the nub.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — And they're even getting a little bit worried about it. Right to the nub.

Under the previous administration that pulp company was purchased and going to be turned into a Crown corporation, and it lost money, and it lost money, and it lost money. They said that they don't like multinationals. So what did they do? You know what they do, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. When you ask questions you should be considerate enough to give the government an opportunity to at least answer you. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we're getting to a fundamental difference between the NDP and the people of Saskatchewan. Okay? And I just want to elaborate on it.

The fundamental difference is: they would take over corporations; they would nationalize the corporations; they would borrow money; they'd take the taxpayers' money; and they lost, and they lost, and they lost. They don't like multinationals, so they decided they'd take \$600 million of your money and mine, and they'd give it to multinationals so they could go home to New York and put it in the bank on Wall Street. And it's gone, and what have we got to show for it. We've got a debt — \$600 million.

What we have done, Mr. Speaker: we took new money, new money coming into Saskatchewan, new money from a very large, powerful corporation which is going to make a profit, and we're going to have . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please! Order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — We are going to have a completely integrated forestry, pulp, and paper business — one of the finest companies, one of the finest mills you will see any place in North America, right here in this province, right here in this particular part of the forestry business — the largest in western Canada. And it is going to be integrated all over the world. It's going to have sales offices connected to Japan, to San Francisco, to New York — all over. And we have asked a profitable company to put \$500 million here . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. I'm gong to ask the members to contain themselves a bit. It's impossible to hear. Order!

**An Hon. Member:** He's got a platform here. It's part of the election campaign.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the member is right. This is very much at the nub of the difference between our administration and the former administration that lost so badly. They nationalized companies and they lost the money. They risk the taxpayers' dollars. They used \$600 million of ours, and sent it in to New York, and we never

did get it back. This company is a profitable company and it's coming into Prince Albert and it's going to spend \$500 million. People there appreciate the new jobs and the profit and the excitement and the future. You can go into Prince Albert . . . And I know the NDP are against this paper mill. I know they're against it. They're against the crop insurance moving to Melville. They're against Rafferty. They're against the bacon plant in North Battleford.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Premier, and it has to do with the Weyerhaeuser deal. I take it you are refusing to table any documents. I take that because you have avoided the question by my colleague, the member for Athabasca. May I ask you a couple of simple questions that you can perhaps answer? With respect to the existing mill, is it not correct that the purchase of the Price Albert Pulp Company and related assets by Weyerhaeuser will be done by a \$248 million loan from Saskatchewan taxpayers, and no money from Weyerhaeuser, and the company will only have to pay back the \$248 million out of profits; no profits, no payback? Is that the deal with respect to the existing mill?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, we have invited a profitable firm, Weyerhaeuser Canada, to purchase the pulp mill and to build a fine new paper mill in the province of Saskatchewan. As they just pointed out by the members opposite they made something like \$5 billion last year in terms of sales. That was their sales, and it's a profitable company. They are taking a losing operation that the taxpayers have put millions and millions and millions of dollars into, and they are turning that into a very large profitable organization with a fine new paper mill that can sell all over the world. And yes, they are going to pay for it because they're going to be making profits in the province of Saskatchewan as opposed to debts in a Crown corporation. And I like to see companies come in here and spend \$500 million and make profit and turn things around and provide the job security to people all over this province, and particularly to Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with the word profit. Profit's a good word. Mr. Speaker, if you can make profits you can pay for pulp and paper and you can pay for jobs, and in fact that's what makes the economy go. The previous administration didn't understand that. They nationalized companies, sent the money away, because they didn't like them to make profits. We believe in making profits.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier would desist from these little lectures and answer the question — and it's a financial question. And the question is this, sir: is it true that with respect to the sale of the Prince Albert pulp mill it is being sold to Weyerhaeuser for \$248 million, all of which is being provided by the people of Saskatchewan with no stated rate of interest — at least public — and that it does

not have to be paid back unless profits are made? Is that your deal with Weyerhaeuser?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, our arrangement is for this company to spend all this money here to build a profitable arrangement, to build a profitable company and a brand-new paper mill that will allow the pulp company now, which is losing millions and millions of dollars, to be profitable. And the members opposite don't seem to like profit. Well I know they don't like that word. They don't like the name free enterprise, they don't like small business. They don't like the word profit. I'll tell you, profit's a good word.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — We are asking companies to pay profits. In Saskatchewan, they pay tax on profits, they buy buildings with profits, they create economic activity with profits, they pay employees with profits. How else do you make the economy work unless it's with profits? I mean, what would we do, tie it to a loss? We wouldn't sell this thing and say it's a loss. We are building a profitable operation for the first time in years and yes, it's based on profit and yes, that's the way the country runs, is on profit.

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

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take it then you're acknowledging that Weyerhaeuser has no obligation to pay back the \$248 million unless they make a profit, and that this mill will be part of a world-wide operation and that if they have any skills in accounting they can cite the profit in any portion of any organization they like.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — My question to you, very simply, Mr. Premier, is this: with respect to this proposition, is it not true that the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to transfer the mill, that the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to transfer forest rights, and that as of now Weyerhaeuser is committed to nothing — nothing except to recommend something to their head office? Have you any commitment from Weyerhaeuser, which is any way legally binding, and are you not committed to transfer the mill and to transfer the forest rights?

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — The hon. member raised two points. The first one is that companies like Weyerhaeuser Canada are going to cook the books. That's just what he said. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the nub of the indifference between the NDP and this . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. It's impossible to carry on business with the amount of noise and I'm going to ask for order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, do you know why the province of Saskatchewan under the NDP had such a bad reputation? Because that was their attitude. All over the world that was their attitude. They would either say that . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order. It's your time that's running, if you want to keep talking.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### **Bill No. 11 — An Act respecting the consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Environmental Management and Protection Act**

**Hon. Mr. Embury:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill respecting the consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Environmental Management and Protection Act.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave of the Assembly to move directly to government motions and then revert back to special order.

Leave granted.

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

### **Hours of Sitting and House Adjournment**

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — Mr. Speaker, this motion is simply to accommodate evening sitting tonight so that we may hear the exciting and new budget delivery from the Minister of Finance. So I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice:

That notwithstanding rule 3 of the *Rule and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, this Assembly shall on Thursday, March 27th, 1986, meet at 10 o'clock a.m. until 1 o'clock p.m., and that when this Assembly adjourns on Thursday, March 27th, 1986, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 1, 1986.

The motion that I just described earlier, before I moved the motion, was the one that we moved the other day to accommodate the sitting tonight.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — Mr. Speaker, 281 through 317 inclusive, be moved to motions for return debatable.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Questions 281 to 317, motions for returns debatable.

## SPECIAL ORDER

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the

address in reply which was moved by Mr. Klein, seconded by Mr. Domotor.

**Mr. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I left off last night. I had a few remarks I would still like to put onto the record with respect to what's happening today. I think, Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting to have watched the NDP today and to watch their reaction to what took place the other day in Prince Albert.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that everything that I said yesterday in the House was confirmed by what took place this morning. The NDP are against every project that is on stream in this province. I mentioned 24 items yesterday, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatoon, and I know the NDP have been fighting them all. With particular vigour, they've been fighting the arena, and now I see that they're going to be fighting the paper mill in Prince Albert.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that their accusations that they made today about Weyerhaeuser . . . Those people wrote the book on cooking the book. And now they're suggesting that another very reputable firm, a Canadian firm, would attempt such a thing. I think it's outright scandalous, Mr. Speaker, that they would make the comments that they made under the privilege of the House today and abuse their protection in this Assembly to make accusations such as that.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Prince Albert will pay them their respects when the election comes for the type of interference that they're attempting on the very positive and employment-generating program that's going to be under way in Prince Albert very shortly.

I do want to commend our government, certainly, Mr. Speaker, and also the people from Weyerhaeuser for what they've put together and the benefit that it's going to bring to the province of Saskatchewan.

And I certainly must, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of my constituency — and I'm sure most of the people in the North — condemn the NDP for their very negative attitude that they have taken towards this and so many other major projects, Mr. Speaker, in the province. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that that is so very, very evident from what we saw this morning. I am appalled, Mr. Speaker, that they would take the position that they've obviously taken.

Just, Mr. Speaker, in bringing to a close some of my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people in the Clerk's office who've been of such assistance to all of us members, particularly Mr. Barnhart and his crew. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the services that they have provided to us as members are sometimes overlooked and taken for granted. But the impartiality and the professionalism by which they conduct their affairs in the position of the Clerk's office is something that we as members should not take for granted, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly do not take those people for granted. And I want to from the bottom of my heart thank all of them for the assistance that I've received. And I know other members feel the same way as I do about the help from Mr. Barnhart and his office. They have been of great assistance to us and have made our jobs much

easier.

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

**Mr. Young:** — Certainly, Mr. Speaker, in closing, there's a couple of members in this House who won't be running, who haven't been mentioned to any great extent. I know, Mr. Speaker, it's such that we can't refer to the members by their names, but only by their seats. There's one member here who has the nickname of the "Birk," Mr. Speaker, and I think I know everybody knows I'm talking about the member from Moosomin. And I just want to go on record of thanking him. He's a little sick right now, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure he'll be back in gear. He's had the flu.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this House recognize the contribution he has made to people such as myself who were first-term MLAs from 1982. We were very much in need of assistance in figuring out how to conduct ourselves in this House, and how to do some of our constituency matters that came upon us upon our election. And certainly he was the one, together with the member from Rosthern, who were very beneficial in helping us rookie MLAs out in first term.

(1445)

And again, I'd like to thank the "Birk" and the member from Rosthern from the bottom of my heart for the contributions they made in helping me better serve my constituents in Eastview, Mr. Speaker. And with those remarks, I would only point out as I did in the beginning of my speech, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion.

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure once again to take part in the throne speech debate in this Assembly. The speech delivered by the Lieutenant Governor on March 17th, reflects the initiative, the leadership, and the concern of people that have characterized the past four years of Progressive Conservative government under the premiership of Grant Devine.

Mr. Speaker, this government believes in working with people to help them achieve their own goals. We don't believe in telling people what's good for them or how they have to do things. On the contrary, we believe in giving them the tools to do the thing they would like to do themselves, in the way they want to do them, and the means for providing those opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I think opportunities is a very, very important word as we look forward in the direction that our province should be taking. Opportunities, Mr. Speaker, for people to get the training and the education that they need for meaningful jobs so that they can find their niche here in the fabric of Saskatchewan. Opportunities for rural people to continue the tradition of the family farm which so many of our members know is very important to the make-up of our province. Opportunities for people to establish their own business, both in our cities and also, Mr. Speaker, in our smaller communities. Opportunities for people to participate directly in our resource industries as we heard the very

good announcement yesterday in Prince Albert.

And, Mr. Speaker, all around the province people are benefiting from our government's policies in many different ways. As I travel around this province and around my own constituency of Indian Head-Wolseley, the evidence is there for anyone to see. Evidence, Mr. Speaker, of diversification of industry into small-town Saskatchewan. Evidence, Mr. Speaker, of expanded facilities in the basic fabric of the safety net of this province. Better schools, new schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and of course, more and more young people owning their farm from day one because of the policies brought in by the Devine government, and also more and more people being able to meet their commitments because of low-interest money and the security that is provided by some of the initiatives that have been announced by my colleagues within this government.

Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned several areas in which our Progressive Conservative government has taken major initiatives in co-operation with the people of this province.

I want to turn in more detail now to the area that is one of the corner-stones of our partnership for progress, and that, Mr. Speaker, is the whole area that is very important to the population of Saskatchewan, that is of health care.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure most people remember what the members opposite used to say to the people of Saskatchewan about health care. I remember it so well in 1978 when their battle-cry was, don't let them take it away That's what they said to the people. Well, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is there's a heck of a lot more that they could be taking away now than there was in 1982 when we took office.

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — And of course when we announce all of our health care plans and programs, the members opposite claim they were empty promises. Unfortunately they were making the mistake of assuming that a PC promise is no more real than the empty NDP promises that they were so used to.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. We now have a provincial chiropody program. Legislation has been passed to prohibit extra billing in this province. We have a new Wascana rehabilitation centre growing up just across the park here. We have a new cancer clinic and research building going up in Saskatoon, as well as a new 238-bed, level 4, long-term facility in Saskatoon. The third phase of the regeneration of the Pasqua Hospital is finished and opened, and the third phase of the Regina General Hospital is well under way.

And, Mr. Speaker, those are just a few of the many projects in our steady expansion improvement of the health care system.

Whatever the members opposite may like to think, our five-year programs are re-establishing the foundations of health care in Saskatchewan and repairing the damage done by years of neglect by the NDP.

The \$300 million health capital fund is providing for new and expanding hospitals in many centres throughout this province, and it is providing 1,600 new replacement special care beds in 60 communities around the province. And I can tell you that when I attend sod turnings and official openings at these facilities, along with many of my colleagues who are sitting here today, the local residents appreciate the fact that they now have a government that listens to them and, more importantly, responds to their needs.

Mr. Speaker, as a logical follow-up to our construction program, we have now announced a five-year, \$100 million, enriched, patient care program. This program will provide for substantial numbers of new patient care staff in our health care facilities, as well as for new programs and equipment. And it will provide some long-term solutions to the problems of waiting lists in the Saskatoon hospitals.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite don't want to believe that the program is real either. But all they are proving is that they haven't learned a thing since 1982. They were blind to reality then, and they still can't see what's going on around the world or in the world around them.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite still think that the Progressive Conservatives under Premier Devine are going to take away health care, they are the only people in the province that think that. But, Mr. Speaker, our government is not about to relax in the health care just because all those major programs are in place.

We will continue to work with the people of Saskatchewan to ensure that our health care system remains the best in Canada. We will continue, Mr. Speaker, to expand and improve long-term care services for seniors and the younger disabled. In particular, we will be working to help seniors live in their own homes longer, among their family and friends, as long as possible, where, Mr. Speaker, they tell me and my colleagues they want to be.

We will work to expand rehabilitation services, and we will continue working to expand health care in the North in co-operation with northern residents. We will work with rural hospitals and communities on implementing strategies to enhance rural medical services. And this includes providing an effective role in the community for our small, rural hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the areas that will continue to receive our close attention in the months ahead. They are a reflection of our government's commitment to ensuring a first-class health care system in Saskatchewan, a system that gives people appropriate access to the services they need regardless of where they live.

And, Mr. Speaker, during our first four years in office our Progressive Conservative government has worked with Saskatchewan people of all ages, in all walks of life, and from all parts of this province. Together we have accomplished many things to help Saskatchewan

residents overcome their difficulties, meet their challenges, and achieve their goals.

The throne speech charts out an effective course to build on our achievements and to realize our province's great potential. The members opposite will undoubtedly continue to take a negative approach, preaching doom and gloom. But they will be left behind, Mr. Speaker, as the rest of the province moves ahead and leaves them in the wake.

Leadership, Mr. Speaker, means looking ahead. It means accepting responsibilities and challenges and being willing to meet them head-on. That's the kind of leadership, Mr. Speaker, that we have experienced under Premier Grant Devine. And that's the kind of leadership it's going to enjoy in this province for many, many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as I look back in four years, in the portfolio that I've had the pleasure of looking after for the last four years, when I came in I saw certain inadequacies. Certainly there had been virtually no construction in special care homes. There was a moratorium placed on the construction of special care homes by the Blakeney government. Mr. Speaker, that was our first five-year plan: to construct over 1,600 special care homes across the province of Saskatchewan. That plan is well under way and, I can say, being very, very well received by many communities throughout the province.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, as I looked at the health care needs of our province, it was evident that the acute care hospitals were in need of upgrading, and construction, and improvements, and expansion in space and also in equipment. And that is why last year in the budget, Mr. Speaker, we came forward with a \$300 million capital project for construction in acute care hospitals and special care homes in this province. I'm proud to say that many of those projects are well under way today, Mr. Speaker, and more will be coming in the years ahead. That was our second five-year plan.

It only seemed logical then to look at the needs of the staffing components for the facilities that we were building. And, Mr. Speaker, as you know, in February of this year we came forward with a third five-year plan for health care, and that was to put in place another \$100 million for staffing enrichment and equipment to meet the needs of Saskatchewan health care over the next five years.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, the members of this Assembly, and my colleagues, who have given me good support for these initiatives, that we in the Progressive Conservative Party will make Saskatchewan the leader in health care in the country of Canada and, I believe, in North America and perhaps the world.

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, that's a record we're all

proud of, and that's the record that we will continue.

With those brief words, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am proud to be a member of this party, and I join with my colleagues in voting my whole-hearted support for the throne speech that we heard approximately one week ago. And I look forward, Mr. Speaker, along with a lot of other folks out there in Saskatchewan, for the good news coming tonight in the budget.

Thank you very, very much.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to speak in this throne speech debate, not because of the nature of the throne speech itself, but because I am able to do it on behalf of the people of the Regina North East constituency. It's an honour to do that. I must say that for almost four years the people of that constituency did not have anyone speaking for them. And I am prepared to do as best as I can to speak on their behalf and to represent their interests.

I listened with some interest to the member from Eastview who spoke first in this debate this afternoon, and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that maybe he should take a look carefully at what he said in light of what the Premier was doing today during question period.

I think what the member from Eastview needs to keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, and ask himself, because all of the constituents who live in his constituency will be asking the following: why is the Premier not prepared to table in this House and let Saskatchewan people know what the nature of the deal with Weyerhaeuser is? Is it because there is something that the Premier knows that nobody else knows? Is it because, as we have suggested, the deal could cost Saskatchewan taxpayers \$248 million because they are paying for somebody else to buy something that they own? Is that why the Premier refused to answer the questions today, Mr. Speaker?

And before the member from Eastview repeats what he has been saying in too many places, I would suggest he should consider how he will answer that question when the candidate who is taking his place in his constituency has to respond with some answers, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Health had some things to say about the field of health. The point about what the Minister of Health has got to say about health these days is that nobody but he believes it. Nobody but he believes it. And let me give you an example why.

The people of this province do not get fooled easily. The reason why nobody believes it is the example of his five-year plan which he announced in the last budget, that most intelligent budget. And in that five-year plan the Minister of Health outlines several projects which were going to be completed in 1986. They were part of this brand-new, five-year plan. But lo and behold! Guess what? Every one of those projects that were listed for 1986 had been in the budget for 1984-1985. Smoke and mirrors. Smoke and mirrors, Mr. Speaker. The

Saskatchewan taxpayer and the Saskatchewan people know it. They've had enough of it.

The credibility of this government is no more. They might as well call an election and get their agony over with so they don't have to wait for so long for the inevitable.

Now, Mr. Speaker, speaking near the end of a debate such as this gives a speaker some advantages. And the main advantage is that I have had an opportunity to talk to a lot of people, not only in the city of Regina but people who live in other places of Saskatchewan. And I've been able to hear from them how they feel about what this government is saying in this throne speech.

(1500)

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that my listening to what they have to say in places like Prince Albert, and Saskatoon, and Watrous, and Moose Jaw, and Canora, and Regina, there is a very straightforward and solid message that's coming through. Although these people were from many different parts of our province, and in some ways indeed have different interests because of their home locations and their work locations, one common and unanimous response came from every one of them, and it was this.

It was that the throne speech was that of a government which sounds like a tired government which has given up — the most backward-looking document that has ever been presented in this legislature as long as I can remember it, in my experience here.

Now I want to say that it's not a government that's given up trying to preserve itself in power at any cost — I wouldn't want to say that — but given up trying to deal with the issues that Saskatchewan people are saying are important to them. And as I listen to these comments and look at the dismal record of this Devine PC government, I have concluded that not only has this government given up, I will go further and to say that it never even got started, Mr. Speaker.

Oh yes, and the minister responsible for SGI, he shakes his head. Well I'll have a few things to say about what he's done with SGI insurance, in his term since he came in there, later on. I hope he hangs around; it'll be worth hearing.

And oh yes, Mr. Speaker, they were quick to act in giving millions to Peter Pocklington. He came running along with a big suitcase to the Premier's office, and the Premier said, open it up and shovel it in. They were quick to act to tell Peter Pocklington, a form Tory leadership candidate for the national Progressive Conservative Party — oh, if everybody could only run for the leadership of the Conservative Party, how well off they'd be today!

And they were quick to act, Mr. Speaker, in promising \$28 million to Will Klein, who's now somewhere in the United States, and Pioneer Trust, because he and his friends financed the Conservative Party prior to 1982. That's why they were quick to act.

And oh yes, they were quick to act in giving away \$900

million of the people's money to the oil companies while they were prosperous and there was a boom on. Now what kind of economic logic is this? The oil industry is doing well. They even show you statistics about how well the oil industry was doing, and guess what they do? They say, we're going to give you some incentives; we're going to give you \$900 million which could have gone a long way to stop the kind of deficit which Saskatchewan people are mortgaged for now for generations to come.

Oh yes, for their friends they were quick to act, Mr. Speaker, but when oil prices began to drop real fast, when the oil prices dropped by 60 per cent, the Premier and his government remained silent about the lack of a similar drop of the prices of gasoline at the pump which my constituents had to get their gas from. Not a single word.

And when I ask a question in this House about why the price at the pump had only dropped 5 per cent while the price in the barrel had dropped 60 per cent, all the Premier could do is say something about the rebate that the people were going to get and therefore the price was even lower. Well I've really tried hard to find somebody who fills up his tank at the pumps with his car who's able to qualify for that rebate.

Now I don't know who pushed the button for that particular programmed answer, Mr. Speaker, but obviously they pushed the wrong button because the Premier was not exactly on line on that one. He and his government refused to address the fact that the prices of gasoline ranged by as much as 20 cents a gallon from one part of a province to another because some oil companies are ripping off the consumer.

And oh yes, you know, we've got a Minister of Consumer Affairs in this province. Now I have some interest in that department because I was the first minister who established that department, and it was meant to look after the interests of the Saskatchewan consumer. That's why it was established. But I regret to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the minister is now only a minister in name because that department does not represent the interest of Saskatchewan consumers any more.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — A Minister of Consumer Affairs who would not say one single word when Saskatchewan taxpayers and consumers were being ripped off by the oil companies during these months and weeks, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, represents a government that is really tired and has given up trying.

And so I ask this question, because I think the question has to be asked: why this silence? Why this silence from the Premier and the Minister of Consumer Affairs and all of those people over there?

I'll tell you why, and I know you're interested. Because they don't dare speak out against those who pay the piper. The large oil corporations fund the campaigns of the Conservative Party and the Devine Conservative government has and will continue to reward them at the

expense of ordinary Saskatchewan taxpayers every time — taxpayers who must pay more taxes every year while the services that they receive are deteriorating every year under this government and have deteriorated for the last four years.

Oh yes. Oh yes, Mr. Speaker, this callous and this heartless government is quick to act when their friends who they appoint to government positions ask for expensive perks. You will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because you were in this House — I was not here then — the debate that took place in here about a certain president of the Saskatchewan Forest Products Corporation. The member from Prince Albert will know that very well. This man, a friend of this Conservative government, was paid a salary of \$120,000 a year. And I won't argue about the salary, but he was also paid monthly living expenses, including his rent, he was paid for his groceries, he was paid for his cable television charges, he was paid for his laundry bills, and he was paid for his telephone bills.

Now that's one — that's one. Then there is a more recent example of a certain president of a Regina firm almost wholly owned by Sedco. Now this gentleman gets paid a more modest salary. He's getting paid something like \$8,000 a month, and I won't even bother to argue about that. But I ask: is it necessary, simply because he's a friend of somebody else's friend who sits over there, to also pay trips to his home in Toronto as often as he wants? The rent for a plush apartment? I have no doubt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that these gentlemen also receive free cars at their disposal and maybe credit cards.

Well, I simply want to say this, Mr. Speaker. While friends and appointments of this government get paid for the rent of their apartments, get paid for their groceries, get paid for all of those things that are essentials to the life of any family in Saskatchewan, do you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the Minister of Social Services gives a family on welfare for rent? I'll tell you. This minister, this generous Minister of Social Services, gives those families who are forced to go on welfare because of the lack of jobs created by this government, get \$200 a month.

Now you tell, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how anyone with any kind of compassion in his heart can say that someone making \$120,000 a year should get rent for an apartment paid for, but a family who happens to be on welfare can only get \$200 a month for renting of a suite.

Now I've done a little study, and I went around looking in down-town Regina — some of the poorer parts — for an apartment that would accommodate a family of four, a single parent, a mother and four children. And you know, Mr. Speaker, unless it was really an extremely slum kind of building, there was not one place in which you could find an apartment for that family for \$200 a month.

And so do you know what those people are doing? They're taking money out of their food allowance to be able to pay for the rent. And the Minister of Social Services stands up in this House and he boasts about welfare reform. That's an example of his welfare reform, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now listen, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They are quick to act when it comes to the wealthy and the privileged and the powerful and their friends. A former president of the Progressive Conservative Party, one by the name of George Hill . . . Well, you know, he is appointed now as the chief executive officer of the Souris Basin Development Authority.

Now, we don't know how much he's going to get paid. We don't know how much he's going to get paid because I'm sure if we ask the members they will deal with that question in the same way as they deal with all questions and they will refuse to answer it. But I know that this gentleman's pay as a judge was something in excess of \$100,000 a year because that's what they're paid, and the Minister of Justice, I'm sure, will be able to verify that. I kind of doubt it that the Premier would appoint his friend and a former president of the Progressive Conservative Party to a position at the taxpayers' expense for less than that. I kind of doubt that. But you know, that's a small price to pay. That's a small price to pay for maybe possibly guaranteeing the re-election of the Premier in his constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the throne speech states the following: "Government should be close to the people it serves." And indeed, indeed, this government is. It's close to the board of directors of the oil corporations. It's close to the people who control Canpotex, and who have failed to sell Saskatchewan potash as well as it should have been sold. This government is close to the patronage appointments that the Premier and his cabinet have made. But this government has failed to deal with the problems of the vast majority of Saskatchewan citizens, and it's not close to them. It's not close to them.

And let me give you a real life example, because you are a compassionate man, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Let me give you a good example. I spoke to a young lady the other day who phoned me because she was unable to get a satisfactory answer about a problem she was having. And let me tell this House and the members opposite that it was not a very small problem. Let me, by using her example, illustrate how close this government has been to her.

She recently returned from the city of Montreal because she had been there for a very serious brain operation, not the kind of thing that most people would take very lightly — an operation that could not be performed here in Saskatchewan, and that's understandable. We can't do it all here and they can't do it all there, and we have to do some of this.

(1515)

Now this woman is unable to work, so she has to be receiving assistance from welfare. She's not exactly an abuser of the system who the minister now, the Minister of Social Services, the member from Rosetown, is going to make come to his office's door to pick up her cheque — the member from Rosemont. She's not exactly what you would call an abuser of the system.

Well you know what happened? The doctors in Montreal have sent her an additional bill for \$300, and both Social

Services and the Medical Care Insurance Commission have done nothing to help her, either in payment of the bill or assistance in having those who sent the bill reconsider it. It has been suggested to her that she deduct \$5 a month from her welfare cheque and pay off the \$300 that that bill is all about, the extra-billing bill.

And not only can she not afford the \$5, but at that rate it would take her 80 weeks with the interest considered, to pay it back. And that's what she is being told by this compassionate government and by the officials of that compassionate Minister of Social Services. Due to the nature of her operation, this woman is under extreme stress. She is worried, and all that this government can do is pass the buck.

This, I say to the House and to the people of Saskatchewan, is what the Minister of Social Services calls welfare reform. He sits in a cabinet that squandered millions on cabinet ministers' expenses and perks for his political appointees, so that they can live the high life in the fast lane. But he has brought on welfare reform which will not provide \$300 to an individual to pay a medical bill sent to her after a serious operation out of this province.

Let me say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Saskatchewan people are deeply concerned about who this government is close to, because they know it's not them; that they have paid a big price during the last four years because of this Devine government's concern for the rich and the powerful and disregard for the ordinary citizens struggling to make a living.

And the one real example of how one individual is being ignored, I regret to say, is only too typical of how this government responds to people and the issues that people are saying are important to them. It can be multiplied thousands of times across this province. And instead of a government which shows compassion, we have ministers day after day in this House who try to cover up their government's failures by rhetoric and the most expensive and the most massive government advertising that this province has ever seen — all at the expense of the taxpayer.

Well we have a Minister of Social Services who tries to cover up his government's failures by beating up on the poor. This tough minister publicly takes on all the people on welfare who he alleges are abusers. He doesn't provide enough allowances so children can eat well or take part in sports or be part of Girl Guides or Boy Scouts. He plays cruel numbers, puts people for 22 weeks on a job on some work program only long enough to qualify for unemployment insurance, so that they can go on unemployment insurance. And then they can say, oh, we have put people to work. But it's only a numbers game.

And how does the fugitive member from Regina North . . . Oh, I'm sorry, he's now Regina South, the fugitive member who has run to Regina South. How does he respond? Well he responds, and I quote from his throne speech debate, "We are a most compassionate government." How ironic.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Franklin D. Roosevelt

once said:

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those that have too little.

Well I suggest to you and to this House that on this test, this government has failed. The Pocklingtons and the Imperial Essos and the banks and the rich who can hide their money in tax loopholes of all kinds, they have fared well under this government. But the poor and the low- and middle-income people have not fared so well.

They boast over there of something they call the welfare reform, the training programs. And I say, yes, the training programs are laudable. I will agree with them on that, if only they would implement them seriously. Instead, they are used as smoke and mirrors to hide what they really are doing.

During the 1982 election campaign the Premier, who was then only the Leader of the Conservative Party, made a promise, and his promise was widespread prosperity and jobs for all. Well that promise, I suggest to you, looks dismal today. It looks like a dismal failure. It was a hollow promise and it really is even more vivid when one looks at a recent report released by the National Council of Welfare, which I have here, which was in a Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* very recently, March 15, 1986.

And do you what this national council says? I can make copies and pass it to those members opposite because I know they are interested. It said: "PC government contributes to rising Saskatchewan poverty rates." It's right there. Let me say further what it says: "The ranks of the poor were growing faster in Saskatchewan than almost anywhere else in Canada." That's the legacy of this government, Mr. Speaker. That's how insensitive it has been to the issues that Saskatchewan people have said are their issues. That's how it went about making a lot of promises and delivered on almost none of them, and this is the price that we have to pay.

Now the Minister of Health spoke a while ago, and I listened carefully to what he had to say. He tries to cover up his government's failures by spending thousands of dollars on public relations effort and using smoke and mirrors trying to pretend that all is okay in our system. Volumes of documentation and evidence have shown that our health delivery system is under such stress that in fact dangerous conditions exist in some cases, and the Minister of Health goes around boasting about what a good job his government has done.

On the eve of an election, lo and behold! — we should have an election every year — on the eve of an election he announces more staffing for hospitals. But let's think about it for a while. No one knows yet how much additional staff will be provided, or if most of the money will simply go to previously underfunded and already announced positions.

When I talk about staffing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I mean all staffing, because I know we've tended to concentrate on the nurses because there is more information around, but

it's all staffing in our hospitals.

Yesterday I had the honour of being on a panel with the Minister of Health in Regina. I thought that it went very well. It was a good panel. But the minister said something of interest. He said at this nurses' forum in Regina that he has increased staff in the last four years. The problem is, nobody can find them. When he is asked where they are, he can't tell you.

Mr. Minister, the announcements that you make don't increase staff. And I say to you, that's all that you have done is make announcements. Just like the long list of promises that you and your Premier made in 1982 — lots of promises and no results.

If you have provided or if he has provided all these staff increases, I would like him to take note and explain the following. Why then in the Regina General Hospital — and I know the member from North West will be interested in this — why then in the Regina General Hospital was there in October of 1982, 929 support staff, but on March 1st of 1986 there are only 901 support staff?

What happened to this great increase in staff that the minister speaks of? And those are the figures that he used, both part-time and full-time. But if you consider only the full-time staff, Mr. Deputy Speaker, since 1982 until March 1st of 1986, the staff of full-time people at the Regina General Hospital in the support staff has decreased by 77 people.

The point is that no one really knows if any of this promised funding will ever see the light of day if this Conservative government should happen to be re-elected after the next election.

We have the Minister of Health on the one hand talking about more health funding. That's part of his job, I suppose. But we have other government members like the member from Prince Albert talking a different line. This is the member who now has been given a new status in this caucus. He has now been appointed, I believe, to the campaign committee by the Premier. Pretty important job, so he must have some influence.

Well let me quote out of a newspaper article in the *Prince Albert Herald* of January 7 of 1985 — or '86 — in which the following is written. This is the member for Prince Albert commenting on what he would like to see in the budget:

Prince Albert Conservative MLA Paul Meagher says the provincial budget will follow with tougher measures, hoping for enormous cuts in government spending, especially medicare.

Especially medicare. *Prince Albert Herald*. That's the article, Mr. Speaker. I will table that. Can I have a page? My colleague will pass it over.

The question simply has to be asked: which will it be, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The question simply has to be: which will it be? Will the Minister of Health deliver on his promise, this minister who skips meetings that he himself hasn't staged, and refuses to meet with people who see

the problems every day — the nurses — or will the firmly held belief of the member from Prince Albert and many others like him in the Tory caucus win the day? Which one?

Now I know they get sensitive if we get into a debate on whether the Devine government is firmly committed to medicare and health care or not, so I won't get into that debate. I will assure the members I won't get into that debate. I'm prepared to let the people of Saskatchewan judge them on their record. And that record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say is a record of failure.

The throne speech, as I said earlier, is the most backward-looking document that any government has presented in this legislature in my memory. It is nothing more than an attempt by the government to pat itself on the back.

But for what? I ask — for what? There are children's wards in hospitals with 25 to 30 children at a time, and one nurse is provided to look after them. There are rural hospitals with two floors and only one nurse on duty at night. There are cases of people coming to an emergency ward with an appendicitis attack and waiting six hours for an operation. There are over 6,000 people on the waiting list at the hospitals in Saskatoon. And there's a recent report in the *Star-Phoenix* where the St. Paul's Hospital is closing 77 beds because it has to deal with a deficit.

And this government boasts about their commitment to health care. And guess what the minister has done recently — this great improvement to our health care system. Government announced the other day that routine eye examinations after April 1st will be covered by medicare every two years, instead of once a year as they presently are.

Members opposite probably didn't know that, but that's a fact. This is the new improvement in health care in our province. People could get their eyes checked once a year covered by medicare; now they're going to have to wait every two years . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That's right. My colleague from Athabasca has it right. If you're rich, you're okay; if you're not so rich, or if you're poor, you're in trouble, with this government.

The record of this government has been one of failure, Mr. Speaker, and Saskatchewan people have concluded that they can't afford four more years of this kind of Devine failure.

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

(1530)

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — And by every measure that one can apply, the government has failed. This government has failed to provide health to those who need it. Instead of creating jobs, the policies of this government have led to a doubling of our unemployed. Over 40,000 people are out of work and the numbers keep growing.

In 1982 the Premier promised, and I quote, "widespread prosperity and jobs for all." And what has he delivered?

He has delivered 40,000 unemployed. He's delivered a record number of people on the welfare rolls, more than we even had during the depression, and more businesses announcing closures every day.

They talk about jobs created in the past four years. The unemployed go out to look for a job and they ask: where are they? Where are those jobs? They never talk about the closing of Stelco, the closing of Dominion Bridge — old established firms — the closing of Native Metal Industries, the shutting down of Dad's Cookies, the closing of Eaton's and Zeller's and MacLeod's in Moose Jaw.

Oh yes, they announce an upgrader, and that was fine. But the people said, get rid of Devine. They announced the upgrader here, and yet there has to be a shovelful of dirt turned to begin construction on it. There was a bit of a by-election coming at that time and they needed a little hoop-la, and we're still waiting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other day the member from Lakeview stood up in this House and he spoke about schools that have been built in Saskatchewan, and in Regina in particular, and there have been . . . But he forgot to say that every one of those schools has been built in Regina — and the Minister of Education should pay attention — was built by a contractor that was not from the province of Saskatchewan. Every one of those schools in Regina was built by an Alberta contractor, and I ask, why? Aren't Saskatchewan business people and Saskatchewan contractors good enough?

**An Hon. Member:** The kickbacks are too small.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Well I don't want to get into that, but maybe you have something there, member from Regina North West.

For four years, this government talked about creating jobs, yet unemployment has doubled. People dependent on welfare has reached record numbers, even higher than during the depression, as I've said before. And more people moved out of Saskatchewan in 1985 than moved here from other provinces.

And I have here an article that came out of the *Leader-Post*, March 18th, and it says: "Province net loser." I quote from the article:

More people moved out of Saskatchewan in 1985 than moved here from other provinces, according to statistics compiled by the Canadian Association of Movers.

Now you know, I remember a certain premier before the 1971 election. His name was Ross Thatcher, and Mr. Thatcher had a good measure. He said the acid test of growth is population growth. If that's the acid test of growth, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government has failed miserably, even by that test. And the headline is correct.

Under the administration of this government this province has been a loser. And why has that happened? Because this government has failed to govern in the best

interest of Saskatchewan people. This open-for-business boondoggle has worked the other way. For who? Certainly not for the small-business man in Saskatchewan; it hasn't worked for him.

This government has gone out of its way to discourage Saskatchewan business people from having a role to play in the business that's here. It's failed to recognize the ability of Saskatchewan people to do things for themselves. They seem to think that all you have to do is look somewhere else, and out of the corporate world from all over else in the world the saviour is going to come, and we'll do well.

Well I want to suggest — and I'm about to close my remarks, Mr. Speaker — that while this government spends its time with open-for-business rhetoric and tens of millions of dollars trying to convince voters with its advertising that it is actually doing something for them, the New Democratic Party and our caucus has listened to people from one end of this province to another.

And those people have said to us that jobs should be the highest priority of government today, and we agree. And the people have said housing and affordable mortgages are needed, and we agree. And they have said that Saskatchewan businesses need to be involved to meet these needs, and we agree. We listened and we heard and we have responded. And on Tuesday, our Leader, Allan Blakeney, announced a new housing policy which would meet all three of these needs.

It's always been the Saskatchewan dream, Mr. Speaker, that if you work hard you can make a better life for yourself and your family. In the past four years the Saskatchewan dream has been tarnished. And no matter how hard our families have struggled, the job, the security, the new opportunities just haven't been there.

And that is why, in the upcoming provincial election campaign, our number one priority is to get Saskatchewan working again. A Saskatchewan in which everyone who wants to work has the opportunity to work is the ideal, and it is an ideal to which a New Democratic Party government will be dedicated.

And so yesterday, on Tuesday, our leader unveiled another major plank in a New Democratic government economic strategy, a strategy to rekindle the Saskatchewan dream, a strategy to get Saskatchewan working again.

This policy, Mr. Speaker, will be a direct benefit to Saskatchewan's families, working people, and small businesses. And the number one, job-creation sector, even the members opposite will agree, in a provincial economy is housing. And each time a new home is built, economic activity on many different levels is generated. And even the most cautious estimates agree that at least one new job is created in Saskatchewan for every new housing unit that's constructed, plus the spin-offs.

And in the past two years housing construction in our province has been far below average. Nineteen eighty-four saw the fewest housing starts in Saskatchewan since 1970, I want to tell the former minister of Urban

Affairs. And last year was only marginally better with 5,300. We say that just isn't good enough. We say that the Saskatchewan economy can generate a minimum of 8,000 new housing units a year.

After four years of listening to the ideas and the concerns of Saskatchewan families and Saskatchewan small businesses, New Democrats are ready to act. And for the young family just starting out and trying to pay for their first home, our New Democratic government will provide down payment assistance of \$7,000.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — This program will be in effect for a minimum of three years to provide some stability to the housing market and to avoid the boom and the bust mentality which previous programs of this type have generated. And to provide interest stability for both new and existing home owners and encourage them to make long-term economic commitments, a New Democratic government will provide a family home protection plan guaranteeing 7 per cent home mortgages for 7 years on the first 70,000 of the mortgage.

And there's more, Mr. Speaker. For those living in older homes in need of major repairs or renovations, a New Democratic government will provide home rehabilitation assistance of up to \$7,000. And this would include assistance for renovations to improve energy conservation.

And the fourth part of this policy, Mr. Speaker, is that for low-income families and individuals, as well as senior citizens, a New Democratic government would have a renewed commitment to the construction of social housing, both rental and home ownership units.

And I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of this House and the people of Saskatchewan: the time has come to make decent, affordable housing a right for Saskatchewan people and not just a privilege.

I say, let's build for tomorrow. Stop the rhetoric about open for business, because that's all it is, is rhetoric. And let's do it the Saskatchewan way with Saskatchewan people doing the things for themselves like they know how to do. Stop the waste of taxpayers' money on expensive government advertising — tens of millions of dollars wasted on expensive government advertising just before an election — and put it into jobs for people. Put it into jobs so families can get a decent living.

I say that this government has burdened Saskatchewan taxpayers with the biggest tax increase in the history of Saskatchewan. And the most intelligent budget of the former minister of Finance took millions of dollars out of consumers' pockets, dollars that would have been spent in Saskatchewan business places.

I say to the people of this province that New Democrats are prepared to put their money into housing to help make it possible for our families to buy and own a home, also to create thousands of jobs and to stimulate business in our business community. The Tories have put their money — the taxpayers' money — into the pockets of the

Peter Pocklington's at \$10 million, and the Manalta Coals from Alberta where they sold off the people's coal mines, Pioneer Trust and Will Klein, the oil companies. That's not where the taxpayers' money should go. It should go to benefit the taxpayer who paid it in the first place.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Oh, yes, today we, for the second day, heard about the new developments in PAPCO. Except once again, the Premier and members opposite refused to answer why the Saskatchewan people through their taxes, have to put up the \$248 million with which this company of Weyerhaeuser is going to buy the pulp mill.

Tommy Douglas used to say: some people look at things as they are and say why?; we look at things as they might be, and we say, why not? Young families have said to this government, we want to buy a home; we can't afford a down payment. And this government has said, why? Well, we don't say that, Mr. Speaker. We say, why not? We will make it possible. We will help you, the families of Saskatchewan, achieve the dream of owning your own home.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion let me say this. In 1982 a certain political leader won office in our province by promising people, there's so much we can be. And by golly — to quote a word he often uses — 'by golly' he kept that promise. Four years later we have so much more. We have more unemployment, we have more government debt, we have more taxation of ordinary people, we have more tax breaks for the oil companies and the rich, we have more wasteful government spending than ever before in our history, we have more mismanagement, and we have more scandal, and we have more cut-backs in important government services.

He kept his promise. Four years after this Leader of the Conservative Party, and now the Premier, told us, there's so much more we can be. I say to this House, Saskatchewan people are asking how much more of this can we stand.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — And they have concluded, only as long as it takes to get an election over with — only that long. In four years this government has lost public support and public confidence. It has squandered important opportunities to move our province forward. It's turned its back on its so-called populist principles and become an uncaring, incompetent bunch of desperate politicians with no sense of purpose, no direction, and no future. Never has a Saskatchewan government disappointed so many in such a period of time.

In this throne speech I see no direction at all. This throne speech perpetuates the disappointment of the people of Saskatchewan. It's backward looking. It has no vision. It is

the speech of a government that has failed, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support it.

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

(1545)

**Mr. Sveinsson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly enter this debate with a great deal of enthusiasm. I thank the people of Regina North West, who I do represent, for continuing to support my political endeavours. I also represent those people in this province who are still of the free enterprise stripe, and certainly those small "c" conservatives who have been left so far in the dust by this current government.

The rhetoric that we saw within the throne speech has a very weak support base. We have a government that came into power in the province of Saskatchewan with a great deal of promise. The people believed in them. They were depending on a change. They'd just had 11 years of socialism. They were up to here with that, Mr. Speaker, and they looked at the change in 1982 as something very positive in Saskatchewan.

It started out on a very positive note, I might add. There was a reduction of approximately 140 million annually in taxes on gasoline. That happened within seconds of this administration's swearing-in ceremony. Good legislation, Mr. Speaker, good legislation.

Following that, at a time when the NDP refused to recognize that the home owners of this province were losing their homes to high interest rates, the Conservative government in 1982 responded with a mortgage interest reduction plan. Again, very good legislation, Mr. Speaker. Legislation in fact that defeated the socialists, defeated them at a time when they could have responded as a government to the needs of those home owners across this province. They came in with a program that helped no one.

I recall at the time the NDP offered the people of Saskatchewan — in 1982 as an election promise — a promise that would have offered one out of 25 mortgage holders in the province support. Rates rose from a 1967 level of 6 per cent to an unbearable level in 1979, '80, and '81, of nearing 22 per cent suffered by home owners certainly in my constituency and certainly in many across this province.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately that's where the drama ends; that's where the Conservative promise to the people of Saskatchewan slows up. Interest rates began to fall. A program they'd basically saved homes with, became redundant. Instead of reacting to the needs of those home owners, they extended a program that was no longer a program that helped anyone.

Currently interest rates sit at between 10 and 12 per cent, depending on the term that the home owner wants to accept. It certainly hasn't enhanced the construction of new homes in the province, as can be seen by Sask Housing's own record; 1984 and '85 were the worst two on record in the past 10 years in this province with respect to housing starts.

Their own bureaucrats in the Sask Housing department, under their current support system of thirteen and a quarter per cent, estimate that by 1987, Mr. Speaker, there will be a reduction, a further reduction, in home starts throughout the province. The same bureaucrats indicated in the document, Housing Demand, that's available to anybody in the province through the Sask Housing Corporation, that the reasons for the reduction in home starts in the province are high interest rates and high unemployment.

Their own bureaucrats are leading them, as far as the direction they could have taken in enhancing a program that would have delivered for the people, rather than a program that in fact is negative, in that it costs jobs every time a home start is not undertaken. The multiplier factor above the number of people working on that home is about 2.5. Each housing start in the province offers another 1.78 jobs to the people of this province.

We undertook to recognize this as a serious problem within our system. Recent direction in the U.S. market indicates that since January their 30-year conventional mortgage rate has dropped from 13 per cent to 10 per cent. The result of that change in the U.S. 30-year conventional mortgage rate is a 15 per cent increase in housing starts nationally across the United States of America. This means thousands and thousands of jobs to thousands and thousands of Americans.

It's a time when Saskatchewan people are failing to react to the change in rates from thirteen and a quarter to 10 to 12 per cent. They just don't feel at thirteen and a quarter that many of them can afford to own homes, and they're absolutely right. At thirteen and a quarter per cent the qualification rate for a family to purchase a home in Saskatchewan is somewhere between 27 and \$30,000.

We offered a program several weeks ago that will address many of the weaknesses inherent in our system as they relate to interest rates. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has recently indicated interest rates have still got a most serious effect on our economy.

The program we indicated was that the government would pay the first \$50,000 on all home mortgages up to a maximum of \$50,000 appraised value on homes across this province. What that means to the poor, and the NDP are always certainly considering them in the overall picture, it means in many cases that they can in fact own a home in this province. On a 20-year term on that program, \$206 a month will make the monthly payment on the principal, requiring less than \$15,000 in income to become a home owner in Saskatchewan.

It'll certainly turn the attention to home ownership in the rural areas of the province where I think there has been — as the minister of housing indicated to me in question period last week — there's been a low and a very slow development of housing ownership and housing construction.

A home in the rural area that would be valued at approximately \$30,000 appraised value, could be financed for in the area of 150 to \$200 a month, and

owned by some young gentleman out there that's putting farm machinery together or working at odd jobs, jobs that are available in our communities. But certainly the jobs out there will not support purchase of homes at thirteen and a quarter per cent as has been demonstrated and proved with their own statistics on home ownership and new construction in the province.

Looking at the record in the American housing industry and also looking at the record in Alberta during buoyant economic times, there certainly will be an increase in housing starts based on interest rate projections. The NDP, a government that could not foresee the problems happening to people in 1982 at 20 and 22 per cent, have suddenly jumped into the ball game with a promise of 7 per cent for seven years on \$70,000.

It reminds me . . . and I go back to 1973 and a federal government program at the time called AHOP, which again was designed for the low-income earners. The term was as at that time five years. In 1978, '79, when those terms were expiring, Mr. Speaker, the AHOP home owners in most cases were forced out of their homes because they could not afford the new interest rates placed on those AHOP homes by the banks who were in fact supporting those loans.

That's not a phenomenon that the NDP are suggesting won't happen with their program. In fact I would suggest it would happen in many, many cases, because it doesn't give any long-term guarantee on interest rates to home owners anywhere in the province. They're suggesting a seven-year program. They're also indicating, and I think in their area of housing and home ownership, their credibility has to be somewhat questioned — they're not only giving 7 per cent to the home owners across the province, they're going to give them back their home owners' grant which is just another gift from the NDP with a program like they're designing.

And if you look at the multitude of promises that have come out of the socialist mouths in the last two weeks, going into an election campaign, I think the people of Saskatchewan have to somewhat question who can credibly govern this province. Although the record of the present government may be weak, they've indicated with the sale of Weyerhaeuser, for instance, in recent days, that they are at least willing to turn the corner and sell off assets in order to enhance the lives of Saskatchewan people who somewhere down the road have to pay off a deficit that has to be shared by the NDP.

When this government came into power, certainly there was debt. It was hidden in the Crown sector. But the debt was nearing \$3 billion. Four years later we've got a debt that's nearing \$7 billion when you include the same Crown sector, which is almost 7,000 for every man, woman, and child in the province. Something has got to enhance the orderly economic growth of this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that home ownership, which has to be the most important element and the most important consideration of any family in the province, can in fact do that through a program where the interest is guaranteed and paid for by the province; and the principal, every payment on a home, by every home

owner in this province, becomes an investment in their own future. This can only be done with the election of some WCC members in this province.

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

**Mr. Sveinsson:** — If the people of Saskatchewan will examine carefully the program, there is no question — and we have graphs that I will make available to the people of Saskatchewan that indicate a program of that nature will at least add to the growth in home construction in this province by a factor of three-fold, which would offer approximately 50,000 Saskatchewan residents the opportunity of new, meaningful, employment over a long term.

We would also find that under a program of that nature, Mr. Speaker, we would have a great influx, a great influx of professionals who make a profession of building homes, into this province. And it would eat up the unemployment that's also been supported not only by the former government, but hasn't changed a great deal with the election of a Conservative government who continues not only to expand their own government offices and their own cabinet offices, but also expands the civil service within the province, a promise that they entered government and they took the oath as government, to reduce.

The people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, are not going to take that promise lightly. We are committed to a small 'c' conservative philosophy. The promises undertaken by both the government and the official opposition in this campaign are going to be examined very critically, and rightly so.

We have a deficit that wasn't mentioned, wasn't even suggested as a serious problem, in a document that was tabled as a document basically looking at the future of this province. We have a Minister of Finance who tonight goes to the people across this province indicating that there's no reason at this time to address the huge and growing deficit in Saskatchewan. And certainly the reason the Government of Saskatchewan fails to address the deficit is they are bankrupt of any ideas that will enable the economy of this province to progress.

Another omission in the throne speech is the U.S. farm Bill. That particular piece of legislation in the U.S. will likely have a more dramatic effect on the Saskatchewan economy than any legislation ever passed on this continent. At this time the Chicago futures for number one red spring, range around \$2.50 a bushel, compared to the March futures of approximately 25 per cent higher, Mr. Speaker.

Members opposite will say, well that's an investor's look at the grains market. Well the investors do set the price and the investors are not happy with what could happen to the Canadian grain producer, half of which live in this province. We've poured a billion dollars into their pockets through government coffers in the last several weeks. Certainly the banks are happy because those who can't afford to make their payments, their 50,000 is going directly to the eastern banks.

The other farmers in the province who are in the intermediate area when it comes to financing, I'm certain are happy. They can put their crops in. They can pay for their fuel and their fertilizers.

There's another third out there, and many of them don't want the 50,000, don't need the 50,000. And certainly . . . Maybe that should have been held over for a rainy day. In the next three years, as we're all aware, the U.S. government is putting 52 billion into support programs to support the grains prices to U.S. farmers.

That is what we're competing with, Mr. Speaker. We could see \$2-a-bushel wheat in this province. That means a loss of revenues to the Saskatchewan farmers of probably in the area of a billion dollars if it's taken out at great length. Indicated right now, with a 25 per cent drop in those prices, the farmers are going to suffer in this province a loss of income of at least a half a billion dollars.

That certainly doesn't bode well for a government that's deficit has grown to 7 billion, with no answers to the people of this province as to how that deficit will be addressed.

We offer a program that I wish the Government of Saskatchewan would undertake to implement as legislation, which will guarantee — guarantee — at least a three-fold increase in the number of housing starts, at least 50,000 jobs throughout the province of Saskatchewan. It will also address the needs in the rural communities, where business people are going to suffer astronomically as a result of low grain prices and as a result of drought they've experienced over the last three or four years.

We need something to address the problem in the rural communities. Home construction has traditionally in this country been an engine and a fuel of our . . . an engine of our economy. And I would suggest that at this time in our history, home construction can still be used as an engine to fuel our economy.

A program like the program we've outlined will pay for itself — will pay for itself.

**An Hon. Member:** Why are you stealing our program?

**Mr. Sveinsson:** — The member from . . . Mr. Koskie suggests we stole his program. He's speaking from a position . . . He was in government in 1982. When the home owners and the young families in this province were being forced out of their homes, his answer was public housing. And many, many places throughout Saskatchewan, and the rural members in this House will be aware of this, they are empty today.

(1600)

I was through the community of Avonlea not long ago, during the winter, and a public housing unit was standing with its door open. The people of Saskatchewan do not want competition with the public housing sector. In small towns where people are coming and going and home ownership is not that uncommon, when they have to

compete with public ownership in the sale of their homes in those small rural areas, it's almost impossible to get the market value for that property. And that certainly affects teachers and other professionals who in small towns have been at least in a position where they could afford housing.

So it isn't unfair to be critical of this government's housing record, Mr. Speaker. But I believe that with some direction, and if the mandate is renewed, that they will have the political will and they could have the political will to address the problem. But they have to address it from the position of interest rates. There isn't any other way that you can stimulate housing and stimulate job creation as quickly as you can by lowering interest rates.

We also suggest that the home owners who are in the market-place for interest rates are affected dramatically by the market. If the government supports that interest and pays it and borrows the money on behalf of the home owner, we believe that the interest rates paid by the taxpayers and the owners of homes in this province could be from two to three points lower than interest is currently, tied in on housing.

And I'm sure that the Minister of Finance would support that position, knowing that governments do have a little more leverage in the world financial market in borrowing money that they know will be repaid, borrowing money for a program that creates jobs.

The other thing it does, and the NDP spoke of that earlier in today's debate, it puts money back into those taxpayers' pockets, who have paid the bills in this country — the middle-income earners who are so often called upon again tonight in tonight's budget speech to contribute a little more, to contribute a little more because of the lack of interest that the current government and the last government had in the welfare of those middle-income earners in our province.

It also puts them to work because, Mr. Speaker, these people don't want to be on the welfare rolls. They don't want to be on the unemployment rolls. Their choice in life is to work and to contribute in a meaningful way to society.

They ask us how we're going to pay for such a program. Within their own budget speech they have an economic development program that in fact cost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan \$120 million, Mr. Speaker. That program provides — and I can quote from the budget or from the throne speech:

In the past year alone \$120 million was provided out of the employment development fund, creating or sustaining more than 22,000 jobs, principally in co-operation with the private sector.

Well, I should say that \$120 million will pay the interest annually on the construction of 20,000 new housing units in Saskatchewan — 20,000 new housing units. Just using a little bit of arithmetic, and one housing unit provides 1.78 full-time jobs in our community, plus a spin-off factor of a further 2.54 jobs in our community. So looking at 20,000 housing units, Mr. Speaker, you're going to

create at least 40,000 jobs with the same input, jobs that are meaningful. Not chipping ice of Regina streets, not gathering up weeds in the alleys of Regina and other cities and towns in the province, but putting people into a situation where they can not only build houses and build on their own future with meaningful jobs, but also can afford homes.

And this is a problem not only in Saskatchewan, it's a problem throughout our country, and it certainly relates directly to high interest rates. As I indicated earlier in the U.S. example, in 1982 in the U.S. there were 1.1 million housing starts. In March of this year, the projected number of housing starts in the U.S. market had risen to 2.1 million. It's doubled.

Now the performance of this government . . . By their own admission the number of housing units has actually fallen since they were elected in 1982. The number of new starts has actually fallen. There's got to be a failure somewhere within the system. And the problem is they haven't got possibly the personnel to recognize the problem or they probably haven't got the people qualified to find the problem. Their own bureaucrats are predicting a downturn in the number of housing starts, and in their own documentation they indicate it's due to unemployment and high interest rates.

We have a program that addresses both high unemployment and high interest rates. It eliminates the cost of interest on the principal residence only, and that's what families are interested in. And it allows them not only to buy and purchase houses throughout Saskatchewan, but it gives the unemployed, approximately 40,000 who are recognized as unemployed and certainly many others who are no longer even considered unemployed and are just basically without hope in the market, it gives them all hope and it does so on an annual basis. I think a very conservative estimate would be 15,000 new starts a year within our community.

In 1978 in Alberta we had 47,000 new home starts. That was in a buoyant Alberta economy. It was at a time when rates were rising. People were getting into the market, and I will admit the economy has had a downturn, a severe downturn, and many of these home owners have lost their property simply because they can no longer afford to make the payments because of high interest rates and loss of jobs. But as I outlined earlier, Mr. Speaker, with a program like we've offered, the less meaningful employment, the people who are on the minimum wage, the people who are earning less than \$15,000 in our communities, will have hope of home ownership. In fact I would suggest that a family of three, a mother and two children on welfare, under our program would certainly be considered for home ownership because paying the principal is affordable.

The other benefit our program offers . . . The NDP suggest in seven years their program will expire. Well I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that so will a lot of their home owners expire, because when the interest rate rises to the market seven years down the road, they will not be able to afford those homes.

Under our program, on a \$50,000 mortgage, if you took a 10-year term on the mortgage, Mr. Speaker, your house would be paid for. The \$50,000 of equity would be yours in 10 years. Under the present system, most homes and most young families are tied in for 25 years. The cost is more. For 25 years they pay more. The first 15 years is interest only. You barely touch the principal. Every nickel they pay on their house for the first 15 years, unless it's with a credit union in Saskatchewan, goes to Toronto or Montreal, to an eastern banking institution.

There's no question the government still has to deal with the banks, but we do feel it would be a more equitable, and certainly a more successful method of turning the Saskatchewan economy around, through new jobs, renewed security, and renewed hope by those families who want to own homes, Mr. Speaker.

And I would salute this government if they would undertake a program like ours, and take it seriously, and offer it to the people of Saskatchewan through legislation. They have the time. They have the mandate. And I believe we'll be here for a while longer, until in fact this government comes up with an answer for those home owners across this province.

The NDP promise and our promise has to be taken seriously by your government before you go to the polls, gentlemen, or you could be history. And I don't believe that there's any question that some of the minds in your government may recognize that, and may come in with a program that will be legislated, that will in fact be on behalf of Saskatchewan home owners and on behalf of Saskatchewan people.

The statistics with respect to home ownership under your administration have not been good. I will add that the statistics — the foreclosure statistics — under the past government, the NDP, were not good. That's why they've been reduced to a mere nine members in this Assembly. They recognize the problem is still there. You as a government, I think you've been just a little too laid back.

You've taken on some of the character of our past government. You've expanded in the civil service. We now have 5 per cent people — 5 per cent more employment — in the government circles of this province and it's at the expense of the Saskatchewan taxpayer. If numbers are examined, those 5 per cent, that 5 per cent increase has cost the taxpayer approximately \$300 million a year. If it was trimmed, and if we eliminate other support programs in employment which approach \$200 million, I say to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we can afford a program that we have been talking about.

And I suggest to you, and I challenge you, to offer them at least as much — at least as much — with respect to that area.

It also takes the question of the politics of interest rate stability out of the market-place. We will no longer trade off interest rate reduction for votes, but we will enhance the small-business sector because everybody's equity, over the period of this program, will increase. And that's certainly new in the history of small business, and also families in this province whose experience has certainly

been less than that.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, at length. I've given the Minister of Environment a commitment that I'll allow him 10 minutes in the debate. But I would like to close, with certainly some apprehension, and the apprehension is as a result of promises that I've heard from both sides of this House in this election campaign. The people of this province cannot afford them. You have offered nothing which will replenish the revenues required to pay off our deficit. The news tonight is not going to be good news to the people of Saskatchewan. It's not going to be good news for the Conservatives. It may be good news for the opposition because we may be here for a while longer before an election is going to be an issue for the people of Saskatchewan, to debate whose programs in fact offer them the most security.

(1615)

But take it seriously, gentlemen — deficit reduction before we are ordered by the banks, nationally and internationally, to trim our own ship. There's still some hope, Mr. Speaker, a glimmer. And I would expect the government who does come back with the mandate after the next election to address some areas that the people of this province expect them to address. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure to enter the throne speech debate as a representative of the Kelsey-Tisdale constituency. It's an honour and a privilege to have served Kelsey-Tisdale for the last six years. And certainly the people of Kelsey-Tisdale, the north-eastern part of Saskatchewan, are a very proud lot of people. They're proud of their community, they're proud of the great province we live in, they're proud to be Canadian, and certainly I'm proud to represent them as a member of the legislature from Kelsey-Tisdale.

Before I go into some of the things I want to say about Kelsey-Tisdale . . . And talking of being proud as a member of the legislature, this afternoon in question period I was not proud to be a member of this Legislative Assembly when I saw people — very, very honest and important people — being introduced in this legislature, and I saw members of the opposition, NDP opposition, acting like children, hollering and yelling. I heard one member, the member from Quill Lakes say, when Mr. Gaynor was introduced, "Gainer the Gopher." I can't believe, Mr. Speaker, that this Assembly can condone that type of decorum. That is absolutely, in my belief, not the type of decorum that should be, or ever should be . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — . . . represented by any member of this legislature in this Assembly at any time. I do not believe that, Mr. Speaker, and I do not partake in any part of that.

When you look at people like Weyerhaeuser — the most honest, probably the most people-oriented company that's known in this North American continent — when

you hear members of the opposition, the Leader of the Opposition, actually insinuate that they may have had a criminal offence and maybe scam money off . . .

I can't believe, Mr. Speaker, that anybody, anybody at all, who would invite people of the calibre of Weyerhaeuser into our province — who are going to spend \$500 million in here, who are going to employ 700 man-years of employment, who are going to have 215 permanent jobs — would talk about people like that. That is not, in my belief, being representative of the people of Saskatchewan or not fairly representing this Legislative Assembly . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

Mr. Speaker . . . And I just heard somebody over there say, are they going to fill your pockets? Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any member of this legislature should even talk in that tone of voice, because each and every one of us represent the constituency they come from and the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And if you do not believe that you represent all of Saskatchewan as members of this legislature, then I believe that you should not sit in this Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Mr. Speaker, I heard the member from Regina North East speaking today. He talked about the housing program they had introduced — 7 per cent, or whatever it was. I heard on the radio; I heard it being announced. And I would just like to ask . . . I would just first of all question the . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. It's impossible to hear what the member is saying. I'd like to hear it, and I trust most of you would.

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just question the credibility of such a program. I would like to just put into its perspective how they would recover the cost. I heard the Leader of the Opposition say on TV last night that it would be recovered through the tax structure, that it would be returned.

Mr. Speaker, when we in 1983 had build-a-home program, we did a complete analysis of what would be the return to the province of Saskatchewan. That was based on a 60 to \$70,000 home. It came out in the neighbourhood \$3,000 per unit. That included education and health tax; it included corporate tax, individual tax, and all the other spin-off types of taxes that would come in. We estimated, if we brought that program in, it would be a break-even type of program.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, housing has not increased in value. It is about the same, as I heard Mr. McKinlay say on CKRM this morning. So what does that tell you, Mr. Speaker? If they are going to give you \$7,000 for every new home in this province, they are going to take it out of the tax base that they will have in place. That tells me that they're either going to double the education and health tax, they're going to substantially increase the individual or corporate tax, or they're going to bring on some other taxes we don't know about. Mr. Speaker, either it's not true or they're going to increase the taxes. There's no other alternative to it, whatever it would be.

Also, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the number of houses that they're saying will be built in the province, they're saying 8,000 new homes in 1986 if their program . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Mr. Speaker, but that's not credible. If you listen to the Saskatchewan housing association, they say the number of units that's needed to be built in this province is about 6,500 on an annual basis — 6,500, not 8,000. And also they say, Mr. Speaker, that without the program, there will be 5,500 units built. If you take the . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Mr. Speaker, if you take 5,500 units that would normally be built, you take the 6,500 that would be built regardless of what program was in or what's needed out there over the next three years, you multiply that out, Mr. Speaker, and it's going to cost in the neighbourhood of \$45 million a year to bring on 1,000 extra units — \$45 million a year to give us 1,000 extra units in this province. Does that seem to make sense and is that credible, Mr. Speaker? And that does not take into consideration the 7 per cent interest, the write-down.

So I just ask: is it credible? It comes back to me, is it credible and is it fair? Who would pay? The taxpayer would have to pay. The taxpayer would have to pay about \$45,000 per unit extra to get the extra 1,000 units — 45,000. If you break that down to per family, in this province, of four, that's over 220 to \$250 per family for each unit that's built. Just stop and think of it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure there's many things I could talk about about the opposition, but I really came here today to talk a little bit about Kelsey-Tisdale. I came here to talk about Kelsey-Tisdale and how I feel very proud and important to represent it. And I'd just like to go back over some of the things that's happened over the last four years in my constituency in Kelsey-Tisdale.

And I look at the Tisdale area, and I could just list off a large number of things that have happened, but I'll just touch on a few of the very major important things: a new shopping mall in Tisdale, 20 new businesses; three new implement dealerships, and they're brand-new, Mr. Speaker; two brand-new car dealerships. We've had about 45 new homes built in there, and we've had a manufacturing plant that's doubled its number of employees from 40 to 90. We have Fibre Form, that was closed down when we took over, Mr. Speaker, is now back in full production, in fact expanding and employs another 15 people.

We have 13 new businesses in down-town Tisdale. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have a 40-bed nursing home, something that's been asked for in that area for years. It's going to be built, a brand-new one. We put up a brand-new senior citizens' complex, 36 units. The primary No. 3 Highway from Tisdale west which was needed to be primary status, is now primary status, a cost saving to the truckers in the area, and certainly 35 south has been renovated.

We've got a new seed cleaning plant in the Tisdale area, a brand-new seed cleaning plant. We've got natural gas to the farmers in the area under our natural gas program, and they're also looking at a health care unit centre, with a hospital incorporated with the nursing home. We're looking at a bulk seeding plant in the area and certainly spin-off industries.

And I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but that just gives you some of the ideas of one town in my constituency as what has went on there in the last four years only. In little towns like Prairie River, a new museum and a new library. And Bjorkdale, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we have new low-income homes. We have certainly a new curling rink. We have four new businesses and a brand-new gym on the school.

Porcupine Plain, Mr. Speaker — I was proud of Porcupine Plain to open a handicapped centre which will allow 35 less fortunate than ourselves to be able to be employed, at the same time employ 15 staff. And I certainly could go on.

Talk about our highways. In Kelsey-Tisdale nearly every road has been upgraded or improved or rebuilt to a total of almost \$24 million in Kelsey-Tisdale in the last four years.

And I could go on to a little town called Archerwill, Saskatchewan. If you look there . . . When I went there . . . I remember going back there in 1978 in a campaign, went into there, and there wasn't much more than a welding shop and a hotel and a post office. Today they have a new credit union. They've got a large co-op complex there, with a hardware store, a retail. They also have a brand-new activity centre. They have a new curling rink. They've got a new accounting office. They've got the R.M. office there. And they've got four other new businesses, plus a major welding and repair shop in there.

Now I'd like to move on to Hudson Bay and talk a little bit about how Weyerhaeuser fits into it and how the forest management, which . . . Those people over opposite do not understand forest management. I see the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg smile when I talk about forest management. I know that. He doesn't understand. Certainly the member from Athabasca does, but the other ones don't understand how important forest management and the utilization of our forest is to this province and to the people of Saskatchewan.

Just in the Hudson Bay area, just to give you an example in the Hudson Bay area, over the last 10 or 12 years we've been trying to find a place to sell our chips to, from SaskPly and from Simpson Timber. They've been shipping up to The Pas, Manfor at The Pas. They're just about in the procedure of being closed under an NDP government. Now we'll have a secure market for our chips. We'll have a secure market for our small wood.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, it will allow the operators in the area to log and take out the wood that's normally been left and wasted.

I'd just like to talk about MacMillan Bloedel in Hudson Bay. It has been a very large expansion done

there. It went, Mr. Speaker, from 80 employees in 1982 to 160 employees right now with a possible further expansion. Mr. Speaker, that's opportunities and jobs for a lot of people in my area and in Saskatchewan.

Certainly the signing yesterday with Weyerhaeuser was a very, very important feature that all of us here in Saskatchewan should be proud of. It will be the first time that we'll incorporate an integrated pulp and paper mill together where the usage of all our forests — and certainly the member from Athabasca will appreciate it — the usage of all our forests will be used, not wasted. The small timber, the aspen that's in the area that has been wasted for many, many years will now be utilized in a very high quality paper mill, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, creating a lot of jobs.

And even more important than that, the forest management, the reforestation that is needed, the proper forest management of all our forests — these people are known to be number one in that industry.

And I believe, Mr. Speaker, it's about time. You know, for about three decades now that I can remember, we have really had very little forest management or reforestation. In the last four years, Mr. Speaker, we have planted 40 million trees in Saskatchewan, but that's just not enough. We need more and we need a long-term plan if we're going to have forests here for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, it's getting towards 4:30. I've got just a couple more things I'd like to . . . (inaudible) . . . here. I'd just like to go on, Mr. Speaker, to say that the signing of the long-term forest management agreement with the west and the central part of Saskatchewan, which will allow individual and small contractors a secure wood supply, the inner exchange of wood, the saw logs from PAPCO — as it's known now — to Big River, which hasn't been done before, the utilization to its best return value to the province will happen. Also, as I mentioned earlier, the use of the aspen.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's what I call using to the best of our ability the resources we have. That's good, sound business people working with a good government here in Saskatchewan — and working together for the betterment of all the people of Saskatchewan.

(1630)

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that what it does: it gives opportunities for the province; it gives opportunity for young people; it gives opportunities for our families; much more so, it gives opportunities for tomorrow, planning for the future. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that's success.

Mr. Speaker, we're a proud people, and we're living in a great province with many ups and downs. But as pioneers of today and pioneers of the future we all know that. Led by certainly a young and dynamic, young Premier like Premier Grant Devine, and the grass-roots people that we represent, the people of Saskatchewan, we will lead the nation in growth, and in jobs, and in every other field. Because we believe in our province and our future, and we'll only be satisfied when the highest degree of success

for the people of Saskatchewan has been achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Speech from the Throne.

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

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

**Yeas — 42**

Tusa	Muirhead
McLeod	McLaren
Taylor	Rousseau
Schoenhals	Bacon
Duncan	Johnson
Katzman	Parker
Pickering	Young
Hardy	Hopfner
Folk	Rybachuk
Smith (Swift Current)	Caswell
Myers	Domotor
Dutchak	Meagher
Embury	Boutin
Sandberg	Muller
Klein	Baker
Currie	Glauser
Martens	Sauder
Maxwell	Zazelenchuk
Smith (Moose Jaw South)	Gerich
Hodgins	Petersen
Morin	Swenson

**Nays — 10**

Blakeney	Koskie
Tchorzewski	Lusney
Thompson	Shillington
Engel	Sveinson
Lingenfelter	Hampton

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member from The Battlefords:

That the said address be engrossed and presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are of the Executive Council.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I moved, seconded by the hon. member from The Battlefords:

That this Assembly, pursuant to rule 84, hereby appoints the committee of finance to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty and to consider the ways and means of raising the supply.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.