

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ORAL QUESTIONS

Conflict of Interest Guide-lines for MLAs

Mr. Koskie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Premier, and it deals, Mr. Premier, with your long-standing promise to introduce conflict of interest guide-lines for your MLAs.

You first promised the conflict of interest guide-lines for your MLAs during the Redberry Lake affair a year ago, and on March the 17th in the throne speech you also alluded to the fact, or promised again to introduce them. And on April 1st in the House when I asked you, you claimed that the guide-lines would be made public, and I quote you, "within the next couple of days."

And so I ask the Premier, can you explain why the unexpected delay in introduction of the conflict of interest guide-lines, and can you tell the people of Saskatchewan when, in fact, they will be made public?

Hon. Mr. Devine: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member; I should have tabled them earlier this week. I'll table them tomorrow so that he will have them. I don't have them with me, but you'll have them tomorrow.

Mr. Koskie: — I thank the Premier for attending to that. I'd like to . . . As I understand, Mr. Premier, what you're proposing here is, rather than the guide-lines, a white paper in order that you may, in fact, proceed with public hearings. Is that your intention, to proceed by way of a white paper as alluded to in the budget?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well you'll see the details tomorrow. But, Mr. Speaker, we have put together what I think is a reasonable white paper that has some pretty stringent restrictions on elected officials here with respect to conflict of interest. And we are going to have, and request to have, an independent, respected person review that white paper and so that it can be reviewed by other people.

And we are quite prepared to entertain the suggestions, certainly, that are in the conflict of interest guide-lines. We want some input from the legal profession and some input from the public, and we're prepared to look at anything that is reasonable.

Delayed Answers to Written Questions

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Premier, and it deals with the difficulty in attempting to get answers from this government. We are now on the 20th sitting day of this session, and I would ask the Premier, we have a number of written questions that were ordered to be answered by this Assembly nearly two years ago.

Can the Premier tell the Saskatchewan people when your government will be finally answering the questions such

as the employment arrangements of the former PC candidate, Terry Leier; the government employment arrangement with your brother-in-law, René Archambault; the money paid to your main advertising agencies by the government departments in Crown corporations; the money paid out to various law firms by government departments in Crown corporations; and the out-of-province travel of your Minister of Justice?

Now I know that it takes some time to get answers to these questions because some of the numbers are fairly significant. But I think two years is becoming outrageous, and I wonder whether you can give a commitment that we will have an answer by the end of this week on these questions that are on the order paper for this length of time?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure the hon. member is entirely accurate when he says that these haven't been dealt with for two years. I can recall in my estimates, and certainly in the legislature, where we dealt with Mr. Archambault and in terms of how much his contract is, and all the rest of that.

An Hon. Member: — We didn't get any answers though.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — We certainly did get answers and I provided the answers. So I don't believe it's fair for you to say that none of these have been addressed. They are addressed in the normal course of events, year after year, as the estimates come up. And if people have questions on an annual basis, then they're addressed in the legislature, and I can remember addressing at least one of those that the hon. member mentioned. So, Mr. Speaker, they will be dealt with in due course, as they always are.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — If the minister would look at the returns from 1983-84, he would find that return no. 118 dealing with René Archambault and the employment from May 8th, '82 to March 22nd, '84, has not been answered, and if you have that information now, if you've been giving it out, we haven't heard it. But maybe you could give it to us now here in the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I obviously don't have estimates information with me in question period, but I can recall going through my estimates, Mr. Speaker, what the information was, and they asked me, and I provided them with the information. I mean, it's dealt with on an annual basis, and it comes up on an annual basis. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to deal with it in that fashion as it's always dealt with in the legislature.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, you could correct the Premier. He seems to be totally confused about orders of the legislature for answers to written questions. What we're talking about is orders from this legislature that call on you to give a written answer. They are now two years old, and I refer you to — some of the answers were given last week — but 29 questions, ordered answered by motions of this Assembly, remained unanswered, and six of them are nearly two years old. Among these unanswered questions, the written questions that I referred to, are the cost of your out-of-province travel for that time period, the cost of out-of-province travel of 21 different cabinet

ministers. These are the answers that we need.

They're written questions. They're on the order paper. They've been ordered by the Assembly to be answered, and they're not estimate questions. And if you care to read the rules of the Assembly, after four years you would think the Premier of the province would understand some of these very basic principles of the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, before I was in the legislature, and while I've been in the legislature, I have always understood fairness, and maybe the members opposite never did figure that out and that's why they're sitting over there.

In fairness, Mr. Speaker, we have been tabling information in the legislature. We tabled some last week; we will table some this week; we will table some next week, and he knows that that's the procedure. And we will continue to do as it's been done in the legislature for as long as the House has been sitting.

When we were in opposition, we asked for information, and we received it when it was tabled. All right. So you will receive it when it's tabled in here, and we will respond to it on the normal course of events.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier mentions fairness, and I would be fair to him. Are you giving the commitment, then, that next week the balance of these questions will be answered?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I give the commitment that in due course those items will be tabled in the legislature. Some have been tabled last week, some will be tabled now, some will be tabled next week. Maybe it will be two weeks, maybe it will be three weeks. But, Mr. Speaker, I give the commitment that over time they will be tabled as they normally are, year after year.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Final supplementary to the Premier. Do you think it's fair that members of the opposition and the public have waited two years for the disclosure of the cost of trips by cabinet ministers, and they're still waiting? Do you think that we would be insisting too much if we asked you that next week you could come forward with the cost of the travel of your cabinet for the period last year and the year before? Do you think that would be fair?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I can say that this administration has provided information faster than any administration that has been in the legislature in Saskatchewan. And we provide that information quickly, and we respond, and we table the information; and we have in estimates, and we have for requests. So, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing different in the way this is handled now than when it was handled in the past. And, Mr. Speaker, in fact most of it is handled quicker than it ever has in the past.

Cost of Government Advertising

Mr. Thompson: — My question is to the Premier, and it deals with the cost of government advertising.

The *Public Accounts* have shown that your government

spent approximately \$17 million on self-serving advertising in 1984 and 1985, and it is reasonable to assume that you spent more than 20 million on such advertising in the physical year just ended, 1985-86. Does the Premier have any idea how much his government plans to spend on advertising in the current year? Will the figure top 20 million once again, and if you deny that, can you supply the Assembly with your own figures, Mr. Premier?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, it's not accurate, and I don't want the public to believe that the figures that the hon. member has put forward . . . what I said a few days ago in the legislature with respect to advertising. There is a significant difference between what we spend our money on and what the former administration spends their money on. We have to have, and the public wants, information on new job programs; information on new agricultural programs, and information on the economic conditions in agriculture and what you can do to get some help. And they appreciate that. What they don't want, Mr. Speaker, is what they saw before, was millions and millions of dollars spent by Crown corporations advertising a monopoly, calling it the Saskatchewan family of Crown corporations. It was an insult to every family in the province.

Crown corporations, my friend, are not families. Crown corporations are bureaucracies. Crown corporations have a role, but they don't have the role in this province, under my administration, to sit there and say you must deal with a Crown corporation because it's a family.

Mr. Speaker, when we use public funds to provide information in this province, it's to provide information; information to students, information to people in agriculture, information to those that want health care, information for seniors, information on how to access programs — not blowing up a Crown corporation and calling it a family.

Mr. Speaker, there's a significant difference — a significant difference between advertising and blowing up Crown corporations, calling them a family, versus giving solid information to students and seniors and farmers. And, Mr. Speaker, they appreciate it, and we will continue to provide that information under this administration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, I asked a very straightforward question, and I would appreciate a straightforward answer. Do you, or does anyone on the government side, have any idea how much tax money your government proposes to spend on the advertising this year?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, we will provide the House with the estimates of what we will spend in 1986-87, and when we go through the estimates and the accounts of the previous year, we will go through exactly what has been spent and where it has been spent. My point is that we will defend those expenditures as information to the public so that they can have good access to all the programs.

The members opposite are concerned, and they tell me they are concerned, about unemployment. And they say yes, they're concerned about it. When we put out a publication that says: here's where you can phone, here's where you can get education, here's where you can get training, they complain about it. And, Mr. Speaker, it was a good publication because people read it. It was in the middle of newspapers, and young people came to me and said, that's the first time I've been able to find that kind of information. And the NDP are against that.

Mr. Speaker, there's one thing consistent about that bunch over there — they're against everything. They're against information for students. They're against information for farmers. They're against projects. They're against economic development. They're against all kinds of agricultural programs. They can stand there day after day after day, and they're against helping people. If there's unemployment in the oil patch, they say, well that's too bad.

Mr. Speaker, we will provide the information on what we spend, and we will certainly defend it as good, solid information to students and seniors and farmers and the general public in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: — Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. On March 25th in this Assembly, the Deputy Premier took notice of questions with respect to the cost of specific government ads. Do you or your government have that information now, Mr. Premier? You undertook to provide that information to the Assembly and to Saskatchewan taxpayers nearly three weeks ago. Do you have it, and if not, why do you not have it?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I don't have it with me, and if I do, I haven't got it at my fingertips. And if the Deputy Premier took notice of it, Mr. Speaker, then I'll provide it as quickly as I can.

Agricultural Representative Services in Kamsack

Mr. Lusney: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Premier, also the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Minister, two years ago your government decided to remove the ag rep service from the town of Kamsack. You transferred the existing ag rep at that time, and you didn't replace him with another ag rep. In April of '84, Mr. Premier, your minister of Agriculture at the time defended that position.

Mr. Premier, has your government learned its lesson, as it has in the used car tax and many other issues, and will you now agree to again reverse your decision and put an ag rep into the town of Kamsack in the very near future?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lusney: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, I appreciate you saying that. I realize that after . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lusney: — . . . after all the fighting that we have done to get one back in there . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lusney: — . . . it appears, Mr. Premier, then this is going to be politically expedient for you to replace that ag rep. And I suppose what we can call this is an election ag rep. Will this ag rep remain there after the election?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I can say, Mr. Speaker, that in my consultations with the community of Kamsack and with the farmers, and particularly with people like Rod Gardner, that they drew this matter to my attention and they said it's important that they have permanently — permanently — an office and an ag rep office in Kamsack, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't have as much confidence in the members opposite as I do people like Rod Gardner and some of the associates and real farmers there. And they said to me, Mr. Speaker, that that should be open. And, Mr. Speaker, I said yes, I agree with you, and there will be an ag rep there.

And when it comes to, Mr. Speaker — and my hon. colleague mentioned that they have changed their mind from time to time and they congratulate me for removing the tax off used cars, I would just say I was wise enough to remove it within a few months, Mr. Speaker. They had a very, very unfair tax on people in this province, called the NDP death tax. And, Mr. Speaker, they did not remove it for years and years and years. And when they did remove it, Mr. Speaker, they never gave 1 cent back to anybody in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please.

Employment Status of René Archambault

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I have a question to the Minister of Education. Minister, a week ago in this Assembly I asked you a question to which you took notice. That is a week ago, a question with respect to the employment status of the Premier's brother-in-law, one Mr. René Archambault.

My question to you, Madam Minister, is: is René Archambault still employed by your department? If so, in what capacity? Is he on permanent staff or on a contract as a consultant? And what is his rate of pay?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to answer the member's question today. I have the information with me.

Mr. Speaker, the status of Mr. Archambault is one of being on permanent staff with the Department of Education, and has been since 1984. Previous to that, from 1982 to 1984, he was on a secondment from College Mathieu. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Mr. Archambault's salary is at the range of the professional 7 level, which is approximately \$4,000 a month.

I believe that there was a second component to the hon. member's question last week, and it had to do with a \$1,000 grant, as outlined in *Public Accounts*. And I would like to inform the member that that grant was for travel, and the reason it is in the grant section is because it is 100 per cent reimbursable, through the Secretary of State, from the federal government. There are approximately two or three other department employees that have their travel grants to do with French education in that section of the *Public Accounts*.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Madam Minister, a supplement. Thank you for the information. I am still wanting to pursue the question of why a grant was provided for the purposes — as you say, travel. I consider that to be highly unusual, even though I know some of this funding for the Official Minority Language Office comes from the federal government.

Do you not think, Madam Minister, that to provide a grant to an individual for travel is unusual when you consider the fact that in the operations of the government travel is paid for in other ways? It is legislated and by regulation. How do you justify the paying of an individual a grant for travel purposes?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: — Well, Mr. Speaker, no, it is not unusual in this particular case. And the hon. member, if the member from Quill Lake would be quiet and listen . . .

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat my question. I want to know how the minister justifies the paying of a grant to an individual who's a full-time employee of the department for the purposes of travel. Isn't that an unusual practice, Madam Minister? And if it's not, will you be prepared to table the regulations or the policies of the federal government which provide this kind of payment in the form of a grant?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: — I would be happy to answer once again, Mr. Speaker. No, it's not unusual; and yes, I would be glad to table the regulations and policy as it pertains to the reimbursement of expenses paid by employees of the department. Now in this particular case it is for professional development — conferences, that type of thing. And as I stated, it is fully reimbursable from the federal government upon receipt for expenses incurred for professional development. And that is exactly what has happened in this particular case.

I have also pointed out to the member that there are other employees to do with the Official Minority Language Office that are in the same category, and they fall under the same section within *Public Accounts*, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing unusual about it.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. Now will you answer the latter part of the question? Are you prepared to table the claims and the policies under which this kind of grant for travel purposes is permitted? I will accept your word that it is not unusual, as you say, because of some federal government policy through which they provide the funding. But will you be prepared, as soon as possible, to provide me with that information so that I can satisfy

myself that indeed this is not an unusual practice?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: — Mr. Speaker, I would be glad, and in fact I will take it one step further and I will give the member the information so that this government and this House no longer puts up with allegations of no information.

The claims in this particular case, Mr. Speaker: travel, for air flight, are \$387.88; the lodging was \$316; and the registration, meals, and parking was \$287.25 which came to a total for the person in question of \$991.13 and I will ensure that not only is the policy tabled in this House that this pay-out comes under, but I will ensure that a copy is sent to the hon. member from Regina North East.

Payments to Inner Dimension Design Associates

Mr. Engel: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Supply and Services. *Public Accounts* for '84-85 show that your department paid out \$59,981 to a company called Inner Dimension Design Associates. The principal of Inner Dimension Design Associates is a Lois Devitt, who also happens to be the wife of your deputy minister, Otto Cutts. Can the minister explain how this kind of payment, which would have to be done with the knowledge and approval of your deputy minister, is not a clear conflict of interest.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Speaker, the individual in question is a professional in her own right, but obviously I don't have details of this particular thing, so I will take notice of the question and bring the details back.

Mr. Engel: — Supplement, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, this \$60,000 contract to a company run by your deputy minister's wife — was it awarded by tender?

Mr. Minister, I have a letter dated August 14, 1984 from your department which makes it clear that this contract was possibly not awarded by tender. It is from the executive director of your department's planning and development division, and, by way of information, it was addressed to Lois Devitt and it begins:

The Department of Supply and Services wishes to offer your firm the commission for full design and supervision services for interior improvements at Saskatchewan Place.

Can the minister explain how his department decided to offer a \$60,000 contract of government business to this firm as opposed to any other firm?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Speaker, I would make a couple of points. As I've indicated in this House and publicly around the province, there have been a very significant increase — in fact a 30 per cent increase — in the number of self-employed women in Saskatchewan since this government came to power.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Now I know that that party is not only against business, but is against business women;

however, I would point out as well that the deputy minister was only recently married, and, as I indicated earlier, I don't have details on the thing. I will get the details; I will bring them back and report to the House.

Mr. Engel: — I'm surprised that the minister would try to turn this into a women's issue. Can you explain . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Two other firms doing the same kind of work likely have women involved, too, Mr. Minister. Can you explain how your department goes about splitting up this kind of work between companies? Last June during *Estimates* when your predecessor attempted to defend this contract, he claimed that there's only three companies in Regina which are qualified to do this work. Now you say she got it because she was a woman. I maintain . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That's exactly what he said. That's exactly what he said, Mr. Former Minister. The former minister is trying to go on the defensive, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could question him.

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. If the member has a question, will you get to the question.

Mr. Engel: — Mr. Speaker, I would love to ask the former minister this question, because he's the one that should be on the hot seat.

Mr. Speaker: — The member continues to make remarks and isn't getting to his question. The time has elapsed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Resolution No. 4 — Economic Development, Trade and Tourism Help Growth

Mr. Parker: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise this afternoon in the Assembly and too, at the conclusion of my remarks, I'll be moving the following resolution:

That this Assembly commends the efforts of the Government of Saskatchewan in encouraging the growth and development of the province through the policies and programs of the Departments of Economic Development and Trade, and Tourism and Small Business.

My motion will be seconded by my colleague, the member from Regina North, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's well documented, the commitment that this government has made, and continues to make, to the growth of this province, particularly through the areas of tourism and small business. We recognize the importance that this sector plays in the growth of our province, and we continually strive to address the needs as we hear them put to us by the members of that sector of our business community.

Mr. Speaker, one only has to look back recently to the 1986 budget tabled by our Finance minister to see the commitment that has once again been made to the growth of our province and to the growth of the small business sector.

Now I'd like to address and confine my remarks this afternoon primarily in two areas, Mr. Speaker. One, to the area of small business. The programs which we have enunciated to help promote growth in small business, and also in tourism, because as everyone knows the tourist industry is basically comprised of a large number of small businesses . . . And the growth potential for this particular industry is tremendous, given the fact that right now it represents the second largest industry in the world and, in fact, leading economic experts have indicated that by the year 2000 the tourism industry will in fact be the largest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's particularly important, particularly for small-business men in Moose Jaw and small-business men around the province, to get some kind of an idea of the programs which have been put forth by our government. In some cases the programs which have been developed maybe have not been made clearly available to the merchants.

I think that at this time I'd like to review some of them in order that any of the small-business men who are listening, and who are aware of course of some of the changes which were made in the 1986 budget, might also get an understanding of some of the programs which were in place, and continue to be in place, so that they may take advantage of them and capitalize on the positive aspects of them.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most positive programs which we initiated would have to be the small business interest reduction program. When it was first initiated, Mr. Speaker, the feeling was that merchants were being really pressed by the uncertainty and the continual climb of interest rates. And we know that the small business community rarely ask for very much government assistance, Mr. Speaker. They're the backbone of the job creation sector in this province, and we continually look towards them to help fight the constant problems facing us in terms of creating jobs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one only has to look back to the environment and the atmosphere which we encountered in 1982, when we formed government, to see the effects of the uncertainty of rising interest rates and the havoc that they can play in the market-place with respect to small business, particularly.

Now I can relate back to the city of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, and prior to 1982 when interest rates were hovering in the 20-plus per cent range, and the government of the day chose to ignore the pleas of small business. At that time businesses were virtually being forced into closure, massive reductions. They were put into a very uncomfortable position in terms of trying to maintain their competitiveness. And in small businesses in Saskatchewan, relying on the fact that most of the consumer goods that are brought into this province have to be transported in, in order to maintain a competitive edge it's necessary for stores in this particular province to maintain very high levels of inventory. And when that's not possible, we find that they operate in a very, less than desirable, competitive capacity.

What we were finding around Saskatchewan in 1981, 1982, was a situation where those stores and those businesses that were able to stay open and compete were forced to drastically cut back their inventory levels because they just couldn't afford to stock up at the levels that they felt necessary, given the uncertainty and, indeed the level of interest rates at that time.

Now we had another problem in the city of Moose Jaw, and I'm sure that other cities have encountered it as they came on stream, and that was the disastrous reassessment which was done provincially by the previous NDP government. And of course what made things worse in our particular case, Mr. Speaker, in Moose Jaw, was the fact that we had two members who were sitting members of that NDP government, one of them a very high ranking cabinet minister, who had no concern for the citizens and the businesses of Moose Jaw — as a matter of fact, offered no assistance whatsoever to help explain the disastrous effects of the NDP reassessment, the results of which are documented, and as a result we're still in a rebuilding process, Mr. Speaker. Now when you couple the effects of the reassessment, provincially administered by the NDP, with the high and uncertainty of interest rates, it's no small wonder that the small business interest reduction program was received so well.

But we weren't satisfied just with introducing a program, Mr. Speaker; we find that it's a very desirable policy to follow up once a program is introduced, just as we do before we introduce a program by going around with a consultation process at which we encourage the businesses to come out and sit down with the minister of the day and his officials and discuss the problems which they're encountering. It's through this exchange of dialogue that . . . I think it's only natural that we can achieve the best results in terms of how the provincial government can co-operate with the private sector in doing the types of things that the private sector does well, and that is, creating jobs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, after introducing the nine and five-eighths per cent interest reduction program, through further consultation we found that there was a need to perhaps even improve upon this program. The program itself had, not unlike other programs, had room for improvement. And this was addressed in the 1986 budget, Mr. Speaker. We have now moved to an 8 per cent program, and we've increased the ceiling from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We've also expanded it to include automobile dealers and implement dealers. And these were two items that came up consistently when we had our meetings around the province talking to small-business men. And I'm particularly pleased, and I'd like to thank my colleagues in cabinet and the minister for taking heed of the pleas of the small-business community and responding by making the changes to an already popular program and coming out with our new interest reduction program, but at an 8 per cent interest rate as opposed to the nine and five-eighths.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this program, combined with our two year corporate tax holiday and the other programs which I will be enunciating, certainly

is being very well received in areas such as Moose Jaw.

And as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I notice that the small-business men in Shaunavon are particularly pleased with the latest budget. I notice here that a Mr. Jim Turner of Turner's Department Store in Shaunavon was quoted in saying, "I'm very pleased with this budget". One of the areas he is most happy about is the elimination of the sales tax on clothing and most types of footwear. He said this measure will cut out a lot of confusion when shoppers under 14 who didn't pay tax on clothing bought adult garments which were taxable.

It's just another commonsense measure, Mr. Speaker, that was taken to respond to the types of concerns and the types of requests that have been made to this government through our consultative process.

Another budget item that helps the small-business men is reducing the loan rate to 8 per cent and raising the ceiling on the borrowing amount to \$100,000. As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, this is a quote from a business man from Shaunavon who found the budget and the programs as they apply to small business particularly appealing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have problems, as do all small urban centres and medium size urban centres in the province of Saskatchewan and, I'm sure, not unlike the problems encountered throughout western Canada. When changes occur in the market-place, we see shifts. We see closures and movements of one type of store because of the competitiveness and because of the market-place, and we see the openings of other types of stores.

And this is certainly not untrue in the city of Moose Jaw. We've had a large number of new business starts in Moose Jaw in the last four years, Mr. Speaker. And at the same we've unfortunately had some closures, and most recently they have been of the department store variety. And if we noticed, we see a trend provincially in this direction. And Moose Jaw, of course, is not immune to this type of trend in the market-place.

But one thing I will have to say, Mr. Speaker, the business community of Moose Jaw, and the chamber of commerce in Moose Jaw, have got a tremendous make-up. I think it's one of the things that has kept Moose Jaw and made Moose Jaw what it is. I'm confident, and I know for a fact, that with the co-operation, and through the consultative process, that this provincial government, sitting down with the city of Moose Jaw and the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce, are going to address those temporary concerns, and we're going to see a revitalization in down-town Moose Jaw.

And I know that the business people in Moose Jaw have to be commended for the way that they have withstood the problems which plagued them under the previous NDP government. It's well documented, the fact that the NDP have no love for small business. They make that known abundantly and in many ways.

But with respect to the small business interest reduction program, Mr. Speaker, and as it applies to the city which I represent, Moose Jaw, we found that with the nine and

five-eighths program, we had 135 applications, and we had about 587 jobs that were maintained in addition to new jobs that were created. So you can see, Mr. Speaker, the program was well received. And I'm certain that now that it's been improved to an 8 per cent program and the ceiling lifted, the next set of figures are going to be even more enlightening.

Another program, Mr. Speaker, which is very well received in Moose Jaw and very well received throughout Saskatchewan, I would say, is the winter works employment program. And of course, as everyone is aware, the winter works employment program was created to address the high levels of seasonal unemployment and the problems faced by businesses during the economic slow-down by offering an incentive to businesses for new job creation. Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is program which was brought about through the consultative process. It was a program which was put in place to address a specific need, and I would suggest by the success of the program that it certainly has accomplished that.

Once again, in the city of Moose Jaw we find that there were 80 approved jobs under the winter works program, Mr. Speaker — very successful. The total amount paid into the small business sector in Moose Jaw to complement the winter works program was well over \$100,000 last year, Mr. Speaker.

Another program, Mr. Speaker, which I think is very, very well received, was the small business employment program. Now, Mr. Speaker, I notice the members across, in their usual way, are trying to interrupt because they don't want to pay attention. It's once again another indication of their total lack of regard for small business. I think it's important that the small business community are aware of these programs and are aware of the benefits which can accrue to them and how they can participate in them.

The small business employment program was created to address high unemployment and the problems faced by small business during the economic slow-down, by offering an incentive to small businesses for new job creation. It was open to all Saskatchewan-based businesses and profit-oriented co-ops which had net taxable income of \$200,000 or less. Excluded industries were farming and construction, Mr. Speaker.

Final statistics, as of November, indicate that 2,297 full-time jobs were created in 1,174 firms. These firms received total payments of over \$10 million, Mr. Speaker.

Once again, Moose Jaw was able to participate and take advantage of this program. We found that there were 34 applicants received under this program and 81 jobs were created, Mr. Speaker.

(1445)

So I think it's very evident that the programs that we have been designing, and the programs that the Department of Tourism and Small Business, and Economic Development and Trade have been putting forth, are programs which are fitting into the need out there.

They're programs which are responding to requests which are coming to us from small business. I think it's the way that small business likes to see the government support what they do best, and that is invest their money, take their chance, and create jobs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another popular program was the fixed rate finance program. The fixed rate finance program was open to any Saskatchewan industry, trade, service, tourist, or commercial undertaking. Excluded from this program, Mr. Speaker, are farming operations, primary producers, financial services, and professional groups.

Now here again, Mr. Speaker, the basic criteria for any business who feel that they would like to participate in this program: the loan must be used for establishing a new business or for financing the expansion, upgrading, or the modernization of an existing business; the loans must be within the 30 to \$500,000 range, with a payment term of three to five years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to point out that any small businesses who are interested in applying for any of these programs can certainly contact their MLA, and the information on these programs will be forthcoming.

The lending institutions will apply their regular credit analysis in assessing loan applications, Mr. Speaker. And once again, another program which has been very well received by the business community.

Another program, the product development management program, a program which some small businesses may not be aware of. The program provides expert product management and technical assistance to Saskatchewan manufacturers who are not large enough to have their own research and development facilities.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it's an area which we found . . . Through the consultative and through the management assistance program, we find in talking to small businesses that a lot of times the problems that they encounter aren't necessarily problems of a financial nature. They don't necessarily need a direct infusion of capital. What they need is advice. They need assistance, technical assistance. And here, once again, I'm very proud of the job which has been done by the Department of Tourism and Small Business, and Economic Development and Trade in responding to this sector of the economy who can certainly benefit by these types of programs.

I won't go into the details of the types of businesses who have applied and successfully taken advantage of this program.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant programs which this government has introduced in the last four years has been the venture capital program. Now this program, Mr. Speaker, is one which we would certainly like to see expanded in our city, in Moose Jaw. I know the areas which have taken advantage of the program have found it very, very successful, and the venture capital program . . . Since the enactment of The Venture Capital Tax Credit Act, 52 venture capital

corporations have been registered with a total capitalization of over \$32 million, Mr. Speaker.

So once again, we can see that we have a situation in Saskatchewan where we have a significant abundance of capital, and we have another problem where we have a significant number of small businesses. We have a lot of business men with good opportunities, good ideas, but under-capitalized, and it's a matter of bringing the two together. And I think that no program has done that as successfully, and continues to, as the venture capital program has.

And once again, we weren't satisfied with just introducing the program and leaving it at that. Through the consultative process, going around the province and discussing the programs, having them critiqued by the public, by the consumers of the programs themselves, the small business community, we find that there was a need to expand this program. And I'm pleased that the minister and his officials have risen to the occasion and have come through with much needed expansion to include a wider range of Saskatchewan communities in the venture capital program. And I suspect that communities such as Moose Jaw is certainly one which may be addressed at some time down the road to respond to the request for the application of this very successful program by our business community.

Another very successful opportunity for businesses was unveiled with the small business seminars, Mr. Speaker. Now the small business seminars are an effective means to providing management assistance to Saskatchewan small businesses. The improvement of small business management is possibly the best means, of course, for generating long-term strengthening of small business employment opportunities.

I mentioned earlier the management assistance program. And I was fortunate enough to participate in more than one of the management assistance programs throughout the province, and I found them to be extremely successful; very, very popular. It's the type of program that . . . Well, as a matter of fact, over 43 communities in the province of Saskatchewan have participated with over 930 businesses who benefited from the services of private consultants.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the high cost of engaging a private consultant, as faced by small businesses throughout this province, quite often makes it virtually impossible for the average small business to take advantage of this opportunity, or this required service. So by introduction of the management assistance program, we find that consulting is now being provided by 16 private consulting teams.

Now there's another 10 communities with a total of 200 businesses that are going to be added to the program this year. The reaction from the participants indicates a general assessment of the program as being very beneficial and useful, and I certainly found that myself to be the case.

The consultants are getting additional assignments with the small businesses after the program has been

completed. This suggests that the program is also encouraging small business consulting in the community. So once again, Mr. Speaker, in a lot of cases the small business sector might not otherwise have occasion to engage with the private consultants, and it's an excellent opportunity to give them the benefit of that expertise, and at the same time it expands the opportunities for the consultants.

The new business publication, Mr. Speaker, has been developed. And basically, if you're starting a new business in the province of Saskatchewan, it's a new book which provides information on planning a new business as well as government regulations and programs of assistance. And this book, Mr. Speaker, has been in extreme demand. The publication has now had its third printing. To date, over 16,000 copies have been requested by small businesses and business-related organizations.

A series of 29 business aids publications have been completed and are available through the business resource centres. Eleven additional titles will be completed shortly. And of course the significance, Mr. Speaker, is the need for concise publications to assist people buying or starting new businesses, and it's been borne out by the overwhelming demand and the large number of comments and testimonials received from the business people.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again, what we find out there in the business community of Saskatchewan is not strictly a request for an infusion of capital by government. There are a lot of programs, Mr. Speaker, which can be met and which can be set up to address the needs of small business without a lot of cost involved to the government and to the small business sector — provide a service which certainly there's a demand for. And that's what it's all about, Mr. Speaker, responding to the needs of the business community.

I think one of the areas that we were asked to address when we took office in 1982, Mr. Speaker, was the area of deregulation. I think it was no small secret that the number of obsolete regulations which were hindering the business functioning in this province certainly had to be looked at. And it's something which we did look at immediately upon assuming office in 1982, and I'm certainly pleased to acknowledge that over 1,000 obsolete regulations have been abolished.

I could go through reams of obsolete regulations which have been abolished, but leave it to say that there are a significant number, and we're continually working towards abolishing more regulations that prevent small businesses from expanding and doing the kinds of things which they like to do in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the community economic development program is a program which is currently being enjoyed by 53 communities in our province. Eleven of those communities have been involved in the program for four years now; 20 of the communities have been involved for 18 months; and 22 have been involved for just eight short months. And we find from this program, Mr. Speaker, that 116 new businesses have located in these communities.

We find that 14 existing businesses have expanded their operations; 24 professional services have been acquired.

Now I think that's proof in itself, Mr. Speaker, of the results that one can achieve in the province of Saskatchewan in the small business sector if one addresses itself to the needs as expressed by the participants, by the small business community themselves.

Rather than government sitting in a closed room and deciding what they feel will be good for the people, our philosophy of going around and consulting with the small business community certainly is starting to pay off, because the programs that we're starting to come out with, and have been coming out with for four years, are programs which have been designed and tailored to best meet the needs expressed at the various meetings around the province. And I'm happy to say that those meetings shall continue.

The community profile program, Mr. Speaker, is a program to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the economic and social resources of a community, that would be of interest to a potential new resident or a new business investor. It's the only source of this type of information about a community that's currently under one cover. Now there again, Mr. Speaker, one can certainly think of the practical applications of a program such as that — and another program which has been found to be very, very positively received by the business community.

One of the programs which we hear a lot about and a program which is really catching on around the province is our "Buy Locally" days program. Here again a lot of communities are taking a lot of pride in the ingenuity and the imagination which they can put into their "Buy Locally" days program. And the purpose of the program, of course, is to influence consumer behaviour by pointing out to Saskatchewan consumers the importance of supporting the local business community whenever possible, thereby contributing to the stability and viability of a community regardless of its size.

It's the first program of its kind in the province, Mr. Speaker, and I think the significance speaks for itself. Saskatchewan is a province made up, as we well know, of small communities spread across a vast land mass. And one of our constant battles is to maintain the viability of the small town and the small urban centre. And nothing addresses that and points it out more significantly than our "Buy Locally" days program.

And when we find the presentation of awards at the "Buy Locally" days program annual celebration, and we hear of the imagination and the various ingenious methods of promoting local businesses that are taking place around the province, I think the small business community in each of the various communities certainly are to be commended for their participation in this very popular program.

The entrepreneurial immigration program, Mr. Speaker. We find quite often that immigrant entrepreneurs with

solid business backgrounds and sufficient financial resources can add needed retail commercial services in smaller centres as well as create employment for existing Saskatchewan residents. So here again, Mr. Speaker, is a program which has a very significant application. And when one considers the multicultural make-up of the province of Saskatchewan, one certainly realizes the scope of possibility for this type of a program. We are continually encouraging the development and stability of our smaller centres, and this is one way, Mr. Speaker, that small centres can take advantage of additional capital moving into their area. And quite often we have inquiries from entrepreneurs who are coming in from outside the province who would like to have information. And this program certainly addresses that need.

The marketing benefits and import replacement program, Mr. Speaker. It's a system which contains 1,400 profiles on Saskatchewan manufacturers. The system will help match public and private sector procurement requirements with the products and capability of Saskatchewan companies. The data being compiled is an inventory of the personnel, machinery, and plant employed by manufacturers in the metalworking, woodworking, plastics, and computer industries.

(1500)

Mr. Speaker, another program which has been very, very positively received is the Saskatchewan farmers' market program. A recently completed study shows that the equivalent of 65 full-time jobs at \$15,000 a year are created at a cost to the department of less than \$1,000 a job. Of 28 farmers' markets, they generate approximately a million dollars in earnings for hundreds of small vegetable, food, and craft producers in the province of Saskatchewan. Esterhazy and Outlook are the two new markets established in 1985. They also provide important social and tourism benefits to their communities, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another significant gesture by the department is the guide to public sector purchasers. We find that the directory entitled *Meet Saskatchewan's Public Sector Purchasers* was published in response to a need identified by Saskatchewan's manufacturers and suppliers. Suppliers of goods and services have written to tell us that the directory is an invaluable tool in reaching the people who make purchasing decisions for all three levels of governments, schools, and hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, just as we have "Buy Locally" days, another program which certainly has achieved prominent success throughout the province is our Saskatchewan Made program, and I think the name speaks for itself. To date 614 Saskatchewan manufacturers, service firms, and craft producers have applied to use the logo, Saskatchewan Made. Approximately 1,500 Saskatchewan products are now being identified as Saskatchewan made. And I think that this is a program which not only can be deemed with a great deal of pride, but a program which certainly lends itself to the advancement of investment and development of manufacturing here in the province of Saskatchewan. It's something that a lot of manufacturers are taking an awful lot of pride in, and well they should.

As a matter of fact, the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* produced a 14-page section in the December 6th *TV Times*, featuring advertising and editorial stories about Saskatchewan products. And it's this kind of endorsement and support from the media which certainly assists small businesses in getting the recognition that they so dearly deserve in promoting products in a competitive market-place, which are products which can bear the insignia of Saskatchewan manufacturing. The Regina *Leader-Post* also produced a two-page spread in the December 14 edition featuring Saskatchewan-made product advertising in editorial stories, and apparently they are looking forward to doing an even larger story this year.

So the Saskatchewan-Made program, Mr. Speaker, is certainly one program which is continuing to build and adding enthusiasm and confidence to the manufacturing sector of our province. Now the Saskatchewan manufacturing opportunities show, Mr. Speaker — the first in 1985, the show attracted 40 exhibitors including both railways, Ipsco, the cities of Regina and Saskatoon, Supply and Services Canada, Saskatchewan Supply and Services, Crown corporations, and Saskatchewan businesses. Here the exhibitors displayed samples of imported items which they would prefer to have made in Saskatchewan. Manufacturers were invited to visit the displays and examine opportunities to make contact with buyers. This type of import replacement show has proved successful, and plans are well under way to host the 1986 show on February 10th and 11th, 1986 — or it was hosted on February 10th, 1986.

Both railway companies pointed out that they were successful in obtaining some new suppliers as a result of the '85 show and are now wishing to pursue new initiatives. Mr. Speaker, here again it's a very practical application of putting together a need which is met by an opportunity and creating the climate and the environment necessary to allow the small business and manufacturing community to address itself to a need for products which we already have defined by the users of the products, and in this case they simply bring them in to an exhibit and have the two parties meet, and certainly the results are proving to be very successful. They are very positive.

The Saskatchewan-Made handicraft show and sale, Mr. Speaker — the work of 40 of Saskatchewan's top crafts people featured in a three-day sale held in the Saskatchewan gallery. And here again, Mr. Speaker, I was very, very pleased to be able to participate. Over 500 people were invited to attend, among them people who run commercial galleries, people who select retail stores, design building interiors, or buy office furniture in the larger public offices, or buy official gifts or retirement gifts.

Mr. Speaker, for any of the members who were fortunate enough to attend the gallery, as I was, they would certainly have taken a lot of pride in seeing the types of craftsmanship and the types of skills which are evidenced here in the province of Saskatchewan by the various crafts workers. I certainly encourage any of the members, the next time we have an opportunity to have the craft show held, particularly here in the legislature, to participate

and go in and examine the works and the wares that are available by our Saskatchewan crafts people, because it's certainly well worth while. A supplier development initiative was undertaken by the branch in 1984, and it's assisted many firms to improve their products and marketing. The two main areas that are being concentrated on right now, Mr. Speaker, are the oil and gas industry, as well as the public sector procurement.

Now for example, Mr. Speaker, we find throughout the province accomplishments such as the Bay Trail Plastics in Humboldt, who are now producing plastic salt-holding tanks for Lyle's Water Treatment Ltd. in Regina. Now these are tanks which were formerly produced in Ontario. So we can see the types of jobs which are being now fulfilled in the province of Saskatchewan, providing opportunities and supplying materials which were currently . . . we were forced to go outside the province to . . .

Another one, Mr. Speaker, Wood Master Enterprises Inc., supplied shelving and customized storage and desks for the new Prince Albert technical institute — there again, Mr. Speaker, an opportunity for a local entrepreneur to capitalize on a need for a product which otherwise would have had to have been met from outside the province of Saskatchewan.

Inventronics in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, a company which I'm very familiar with — this firm was given the opportunity to supply customized computer desks to Supply and Services. Once again, Mr. Speaker, were it not for Inventronics having the ability to meet the demand and have this opportunity to supply, the products would have had to have been, no doubt, brought in from outside the province.

Instrumental in alerting Fabro Enterprises Ltd., from Swift Current, to new equipment needs — a computerized lathe to thread API casing and a stainless steel, sand-screen winding machine, a potential sale to Esso Resources of \$1.5 million in oil well sand-screen, and immediate casing threads for Mobile (Saskatchewan) Oil and Shell at \$600,000. These screens were formerly fabricated in Texas, and threading in Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

So once again you can see the significance of replacing shipments of goods and services formerly brought in from outside the province by goods and services manufactured right here in the province of Saskatchewan. And of course I don't have to remind anyone that along with that is the advancement of new job opportunities.

Arco Display Limited in Saskatoon now supply with marketing branch efforts numerous Saskatchewan firms with labels, decals, name and instruction plates, from their newly acquired computerized duplicator. And I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. I won't belabour the point.

There's numerous accomplishments which are evident, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure that the members opposite, with their lack of respect for small business, aren't interested in hearing them. But the point being, Mr. Speaker, there are numerous new business opportunities now in the

province of Saskatchewan where we find opportunities, and we're creating jobs at the same time and fulfilling a demand which otherwise had to be met by importing from outside the province.

In concert with the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker, we find the following were achieved. Leon's Manufacturing in Yorkton; they're now manufacturing transformer cases for Federal Pioneer. Purchases by Federal were previously from an Alberta firm and represent \$650,000 a year — \$650,000 a year previously purchased out of the province of Alberta, now being produced in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And with that, a significant number of jobs for Saskatchewan people.

Brekmar Industries in Saskatoon now produce \$500,000 a year of fibreglass transformer bases for Sask Power. There again, Mr. Speaker, transformer bases which would otherwise have had to have been brought in from outside the province are now being produced here in the province of Saskatchewan. Brandt Industries in Regina and Leon's Manufacturing in Yorkton are now manufacturing \$350,000 annually of anchor screws for Sask Power. These were formerly supplied by Ontario.

I know the members opposite don't like to hear this because it means more jobs created in the province of Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan people, but it's the type of thing, Mr. Speaker, that this government is addressing itself to. Where we see opportunities, where we have our Crown corporations such as Sask Power, who are going to be spending taxpayers' dollars, significant numbers of dollars in a given year, purchasing commodities which are otherwise necessitated to be brought in from outside the province, and now we find opportunities to open up manufacturing possibilities here in the province and, at the same time, creating jobs. And that's basically what the bottom line is, as far as this government is concerned, Mr. Speaker, and that is the constant creation of new jobs.

The department organized and led 25 user and purchasing public sector personnel on plant tours of Leon's Manufacturing, Ram Industries, and Morris Rod-Weeder in the city of Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, I would confine myself to basically two areas. One was the area of small business and the opportunities which have opened up due to the programs of Tourism and Small Business, and Economic Development and Trade. The other area I indicated that I would touch on, Mr. Speaker, is an area which I feel very, very close to, and that is the area of tourism and the expanded tourism marketing programs which this government has brought in.

Mr. Speaker, we find that we had over a \$1.5 million increase in the tourism marketing budget, and it's resulted in increased activities in the tourism sector, particularly in the North. It's projected that the total program will result in incremental tourism expenditures of \$25 million by the end of '85 and could create almost 1,200 jobs.

Now as I indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, when one recognizes the significance and the growth potential of

this dynamic industry, the tourism industry, and all one has to do to showcase that is to watch television and see the build-up leading in to the Expo in British Columbia this year, to see the kind of impact that tourism and the tourist destination can have on small business, and growth potential, and job creation.

We are blessed with many tourist destinations and potential tourist destinations in the province of Saskatchewan. And in creating and developing those tourist destinations to their utmost potential, the opportunity exists for the small business sector in this province to once again take advantage of the opportunities with the assistance of the provincial government where necessary, and at the same time the spin-off benefit, of course, is the creation of literally thousands of new jobs.

(1515)

Mr. Speaker, the intensive efforts opposite the package tour development, for example, in the Department of Tourism, resulted in the following Saskatchewan tours that were developed. Some of the members may very well have participated on one or more of these tours and be familiar with them.

The Heritage covered-wagon tours. No doubt in the area of Shaunavon down in through there, they would find these covered-wagon tours very, very popular in the summer-time as it relates to tourism promotions.

Bear hunt Saskatchewan, at Little Bear Lake and Hudson Bay. And I know that probably no two members in the legislature would be able to take advantage, in terms of their constituents able to develop new job opportunities and new business opportunities opposite tourism promotion, than our two most northerly members.

As we pointed out earlier, the focus on tourism at the present time seems to be directed most often in the northern part of our province. And I think that's given the perception of Saskatchewan, and justly so, as a great place to come to enjoy the over 100,000 lakes that we have in northern Saskatchewan, and the types of recreational activities which accompany lake development — dog sledding, group fishing, photography, wilderness trails, canoe riding, motor coach tours, Mr. Speaker, and on and on. And once again, I won't get into all the details of all of the program.

But once again we find that the department initiated a program to give support to private sector and motor coach operators, Mr. Speaker. And here again, it's not necessarily strictly an infusion of capital that's necessary to promote and develop the tourism industry. We find in this particular case that selling aids and other support to assist the private sector in selling Saskatchewan, in selling tour packages, have been developed, including bi-monthly newsletters providing continuous updates and items for inclusion in tour itineraries; audio visual materials, Mr. Speaker, editorial support materials, and travel information collections. We find that we have the most comprehensive inventory of tourist facilities and services now exist, with approximately 4,000 listings on a computerized system.

And here again, Mr. Speaker, when we're addressing the needs and the opportunities as they relate to tourism and the growth of the tourism industry in this province, we find that one of the biggest hurdles that we have to overcome is getting our message out and telling people what we're all about. It's no secret to anyone, I don't believe, that the perception of Saskatchewan had always been that we were basically flat, boring, dull, and cold. I think that we're finally starting to portray the proper image of what we are all about. We've got the make-up, we've got the history, and we've got the types of tourist attractions, Mr. Speaker, which offer a refreshing change to the travelling tourist public. And I think that this year it's very important for the tourism industry in Saskatchewan to capitalize on the massive traffic, particularly automobile traffic, that's going to be going through our province both ways — going to and from Expo in Vancouver.

I think that plans are well under way for various communities across Saskatchewan to try to detain and try to encourage the travelling motorist route off the wind tunnel, off the Trans-Canada Highway, and see a little bit of our province. And I'm sure once that's accomplished we'll find that our tourism receipts in subsequent years will significantly increase.

We find that we have a year-round, toll-free, travel inquiry service, Mr. Speaker. It's available throughout Canada and the continental United States. This telephone service allows quick access to Saskatchewan travel information — just another service benefit. And it's this type of benefit and availability and convenience that the tourists are looking for.

Tourism travel has become a way of life, Mr. Speaker. It's accepted that people are travelling more, and they're spending more money on travel, and as such they're demanding more. And you have to respond to this. The Saskatchewan tourism industry is certainly responding to this, and they have to be congratulated for their efforts.

We find that out-of-province Canadian marketing has significantly increased the inquiry share of provinces other than Saskatchewan in the total inquiry mix. We note that Saskatchewan in 1984, for example, benefited significantly from major federal marketing in the United States and Canadian markets. These promotions resulted in inquiries being referred to the province.

The Canadian program is totally absent in 1985, and the U.S. media buy was approximately 50 per cent of that in '84. We find that a total of 57,600 tourism inquiries have been received to the end of September '85. And the responses to department travel aids are up over 1984 totals by a factor of three to one.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, the significance of the efforts being put forth by the Department of Tourism in recognizing the importance of this industry. And I think for years it's an industry which was basically taken for granted. You know, we didn't address ourselves to it, and I'm certainly pleased to see that this government has done so.

And I'd certainly like to commend my colleague, the member from Regina North, who I had the pleasure of working with in the Department of Tourism, and the significant inroads which were accomplished through his leadership certainly are being recognized and still acknowledged by the tourism industry throughout Saskatchewan. It's the profile of this important department that is going to get the response necessary from the business community, and we're certainly starting to see that.

We are opening up new visitor reception centres, Mr. Speaker, and of course ... The existing centres, we found, were a disgrace to this province, and they seriously detracted from the image of Saskatchewan as progressive and innovative.

And as a matter of fact the member from Moosomin indicates and reminds us that we have a brand-new one in Moosomin, and it's certainly one that I'm sure visitors will feel very, very welcome and very proud to enjoy when they do come into the province of Saskatchewan on the Trans-Canada from Manitoba. My understanding is that there are going to be several. There will be a new one near Maple Creek and Langenburg.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a very important complement to our tourism promotion package, and that is the visitor reception centres. I think it's very important that, when visitors first cross the border, that they are greeted with the type of information which will encourage them to stay in the province and also give them an opportunity to find out what we're all about, what opportunities exist here, and certainly they are numerous.

The Saskatchewan conference on tourism — once again, Mr. Speaker, we see the response evident at these conferences. The conference in 1985 in Regina had to be termed extremely successful. I was fortunate enough to attend that conference, and the attitude evident amongst the delegates certainly spoke for itself. We find that the enthusiasm and the interest in the tourist industry is starting to really swell, Mr. Speaker, and particularly, I think, with the introduction of the tourism task force, Mr. Speaker.

When the Minister of Tourism appointed his task force to address some of the concerns which were evident in the province as it relates to tourism, we found that Saskatchewan was the only province in Canada, in fact, not to have its own private sector tourist industry. And I think that, Mr. Speaker, I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity and take a great deal of pride in having chaired the minister's task force on tourism.

And one of the things that was apparent throughout the province was the fact that many of those in the tourist industry resented the fact that all of the direction, as it relates to tourism, was coming from the government. We have this tremendous number of businesses throughout the province of Saskatchewan engaged in dealing with tourists every day — engaged in dealing with tourists every day, Mr. Speaker — and yet all of the direction, all of the promoting, all of the ideas on how we promote ourselves as a province, coming strictly from the

government.

Well this government, Mr. Speaker, recognized the importance of the business community and the private sector. One of the prime functions of the tourism task force was to consult with the tourist industry throughout the province as it existed. And one of the things we found, Mr. Speaker, was in the province of Saskatchewan we would have something in the neighbourhood of 75 associations currently dealing in tourism, all going in their own direction, Mr. Speaker, with no umbrella organization to maximize the benefits of the strength of that association. And I'm particularly pleased, Mr. Speaker, in knowing that the steering committee which resulted from the minister's task force is now addressing that need.

And I feel very, very confident that in the very near future we will have a Saskatchewan tourism industry association operating somewhat similar to tourism industry associations in other jurisdictions, in other provinces. And I think that this type of an association, Mr. Speaker, working in conjunction and co-operation with the provincial government and the Department of Tourism and Small Business, will certainly give us that extra thrust that's necessary for us to compete effectively.

We will find ourselves in a situation where right now we have the Canadian government promoting tourist travel into the country. The Saskatchewan government certainly should be addressing itself to promoting tourist traffic into the province.

And once the tourist gets to this province, the private sector tourism industry association will be in a position to treat the tourist the way a tourist likes to be treated. And no one should know better how to treat the tourist than those who deal with them on a day-to-day basis in their business operation, and that is namely the small-business men around the province of Saskatchewan who will make up and comprise the Saskatchewan tourism industry association.

And I feel very, very proud, Mr. Speaker, to have been involved in the task force on tourism under the minister, and I'm looking forward to the achievements of the Saskatchewan tourism industry association. Because I know that the type of people who worked on that task force and subsequently are working on the minister's steering committee certainly have the best interests of this province's tourism industry at heart, and they're certainly all very capable individuals representing every geographic area of the province and virtually every area of the tourism sector.

Mr. Speaker, one of the areas we felt was necessary in order to give the average travelling citizen an opportunity to promote our province was the Saskatchewan ambassador program. It's a program, Mr. Speaker, which was encouraged to ask our residents to promote Saskatchewan during their vacations and travel outside the province. It's a first-time effort to encourage the promotion of Saskatchewan by the residents, to spread goodwill, and of course raise the province's profile.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've had countless cases myself, as I'm

sure all other members have had, of individuals who have returned from trips abroad, having taken the Saskatchewan ambassador kit with them and encountered fellow tourists and individuals in other jurisdictions, and having done an excellent job of promoting our province as a tourist ambassador and exchanging pins and the various tourist information which is available in the kits.

And this particular program, Mr. Speaker, is one of the best programs that the department was forthcoming with, and I think that it's a program which will have continued success in the years ahead.

The tourism marketing assistance program, Mr. Speaker, is a program which offered financial support to private sector tourism organizations. It was provided through the tourism marketing assistance program, and to date we have approximately 100 projects which have been supported on a cost-shared basis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we find that over three-quarters of a million dollars of new money has been spent by the private sector on tourism marketing. We find, Mr. Speaker, that the community marketing planning assistance program, financial and technical assistance — it was provided to tourist-related organizations, community promotion agencies, with an objective of developing and implementing sound and viable marketing plans.

(1530)

Now, Mr. Speaker, once again, it's simply a matter of assessing the situation and working closely with the people who are working on a day-to-day basis with the tourists and finding out what kind of programs and what kind of assistance is necessary. Quite often it's not an infusion of capital, as I've stated before, it's simply offering the kind of assistance to complement what they're already doing, and providing an environment in which to allow the development of the tourist industry to take place.

We find, Mr. Speaker, that we have a lot of problems yet to encounter, and problems which are going to have to be addressed in the province of Saskatchewan because of, once again, regulations, the fact that access is very important when we're discussing the opportunities as it relates to tourism. We find that it's a constant challenge to promote our province. The increased costs which we encounter today, Mr. Speaker, make it important to focus our attention on a rifle approach to promoting tourism in this province as opposed to a shotgun approach.

No longer is it possible to, for example, indicate that we're going to promote Saskatchewan tourism to United States. It's just simply not realistic. So one has to constantly be aware of the market availability and the potential market availability in the various areas in northern United States, and in the other provinces across Canada, and then zero in on those target areas, on those areas with tourism potential.

One of the most recent gestures by the department, and one of the most successful, had to be our new

Saskatchewan tourism film, *Sun Spirit Saskatchewan*. And I think, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that everyone in this Assembly witnessed that film. And I know that we've shown the film in Moose Jaw on two or three occasions, and we've received nothing but compliments on the quality of the film. It's amazing how many people, when they view the film *Sun Spirit Saskatchewan*, it's amazing how many people don't realize the opportunities and the beauty that exist in this province as it relates to tourism attraction.

Now I could go into the details on the film, but I assume everyone here has probably seen the film, Mr. Speaker, so suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, that the film was produced here in the province of Saskatchewan; it was done locally. The film was produced locally, Mr. Speaker, here in the province of Saskatchewan. They engaged local actors to play the parts in the film. And I think it's very worthwhile noting, Mr. Speaker, that subsequent to the initial showing of the film, the film *Sun Spirit Saskatchewan* has captured several major awards at competitions, not only in Saskatchewan and Yorkton, but also in the United States/

An Hon. Member: — Everybody should have one of those.

Mr. Parker: — It's the kind of a film, as the member from Shaunavon has indicated, that everyone should have a copy of. And it is available on video cassettes, and I would encourage anyone who hasn't seen the film to take advantage of any opportunity you may have and look at the film, because you'll certainly achieve a great sense of pride in knowing that you're from Saskatchewan, once you've seen this film.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, tourism advertising, particularly out-of-province tourism advertising, is a cost that, while it can become very expensive, is certainly very necessary when you're promoting this kind of a product. You have to go out and you have to tell the world what we're all about. And unfortunately that's the way the game is played.

Saskatchewan's first extensive, out-of-province, tourism advertising campaign started in Ontario, Alberta, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. As a result of that, we had over 13,000 inquiries, which was over six times the number of inquiries received from the previous time period. They're projected to generate an incremental \$9 million in tourism expenditures. Saskatchewan, as we know, has never really had a multi-media campaign on the U.S. market.

Of course it's obvious that increased visitations, increased revenue, and most importantly, increased jobs, are going to result. A survey of inquiries that were received from the business reply card that was attached to the ad showed that 56 per cent of the respondents intended to visit Saskatchewan that particular year.

Now another area, Mr. Speaker, which we have decided to implement assistance as it applies to tourism development, was our venture capital program. As you will know, Mr. Speaker, one of the original intents of the venture capital program was to make it available for any

business or any party interested in expanding or developing new facilities opposite tourism. This was simply a gesture on our part to show the significant respect that we have as a government for the increased possibilities and the need to update and upgrade and improve our tourism attractions.

The results have been very encouraging, Mr. Speaker, when we combine the venture capital program with the fact that we have embarked on a program also to encourage private sector development in the provincial parks. This is something that was unheard of under the previous administration and is something we're finding very, very well received.

There's no need for the government to own everything in the provincial parks. Because of the cost associated with operating and administering our public parks, as I'm sure that the average taxpayer in Saskatchewan will appreciate, quite often we find ourselves in a situation where the potential for improved facilities in a provincial park quite often leaves some of the parks lacking the types of facility additions and improvements that one might like to see.

So now we have an opportunity for the private sector to get involved if they have an idea or if there's an opportunity or a challenge which can be met. And jobs can be created, and small businesses at the same time are allowed to open up and flourish and participate in our tourism industry. I think that as our overall tourism industry starts to increase, which it's already showing significant signs of doing, we'll find that it's going to be that much easier, Mr. Speaker, to encourage development in the provincial parks.

The awareness and hospitality advertising are very, very important as it relates to promoting tourism. And as I mentioned before, one of the important rules that I think we all see the private sector tourism industry picking up the slack and taking the aggressive role in, is our hospitality training, and in awareness.

And I think that one of the programs which we had, Mr. Speaker, in effect, which was a function of the provincial government — and it's a program which I certainly would like to see, and I'm sure will see, shifted over to the private sector to have them carry it on — and it's a program, Mr. Speaker, for tourism development, for awareness development by the industry. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a program where the individuals in the various communities were encouraged to participate at the local level. And an awareness program was instigated to show them the possibilities and the potential that they enjoy as part of a tourist destination, just as we as a province and we as a country were really not aware of the opportunities of the dynamic growth and wealth that is available in the tourism industry.

You can well appreciate, Mr. Speaker, when you get into Small Town, Saskatchewan, it's once again very, very challenging to encourage people in the smaller communities to accept the fact that they really are a tourist destination and they have that capability. I think that one of the challenges that we have, the fact that we don't have a brand-name attraction. We don't have

Disney World or, you know, Banff, or Rocky Mountains, so we have to capitalize on what we do have, and in order to do that, we have to have the co-operation of, in some cases, an entire community.

And I know that this last year I had the occasion to go down to Eastend, Saskatchewan, and we opened up a small strip mall in Eastend, and at the same time we had a ribbon-cutting for an extension to a highway, the Red Coat Trail. And it's surprising how many of the residents in that area, in that community, when discussing the opportunities of attracting tourism and what it could really mean to their community, when they sat back and thought about it, you could see them starting to think and use their imagination in the types of things they could do to expand the attractions which were already in existence.

And I'm sure that a lot of our small communities, Mr. Speaker, are going to take on a new look and a new image as we witness the attractions of Expo. And we continually hear about tourism and the impact of tourism on the job potential and the business community at large.

I think that's no more evident anywhere than in the city of Moose Jaw. I think that Moose Jaw, in the province of Saskatchewan, has probably one of the best potentials for becoming a four-season tourist destination. The city is blessed with a name which is very, very well world renowned, and for a variety of reasons people have a tendency to remember that name. And that's significant when you're going to be offering yourself as a tourist destination.

When a city such as Moose Jaw assesses what it has in terms of its potential, quite often overlooked are the ingredients which are necessary to make up a popular and very viable tourist destination. I use for example the wild animal park situated in Moose Jaw, which many people probably from the area would take for granted, but yet a facility such as that is not enjoyed by very many communities indeed in western Canada.

And when we look at an average summer in the city of Moose Jaw we see that the two most popular and the two most significant weekends throughout the entire summer are associated, one, with the Saskatchewan air show at CFB in Moose Jaw, and the other with the Kinsmen band festival in Moose Jaw. And one only has to look at that to get the significance of what tourism can mean to a community.

In other words, statistically it's been proven that if you had a new corporation or a new plant with 100 employees and that you had the opportunity to increase your tourism traffic by 100 people per day, you would be farther ahead in many, many aspects to go for the increased tourism attraction or ability of attracting 100 people a day. I know that may catch a lot of people by surprise, but statistics bear out the fact that the benefits are very, very overwhelming in terms of what tourism traffic can do to a community, not only in terms of job creation but in terms of the overall viability of that community.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my opening remarks, I wanted to focus on just those two basic areas. I feel very

strongly, particularly in the area of tourism, because I feel that cities such as I mentioned, Moose Jaw and many other communities in this province, have a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on a dynamic industry.

And I know that I'm going to be working very hard, as we have been working, in working with the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce and down-town business development, the city, and as a member of the Moose Jaw tourist board, to do what I can to assist in developing tourism opportunities in the city. I think that it's a perception that I think our city would enjoy. I think the great forte we have now is our geographic location and the history of Moose Jaw.

So, Mr. Speaker, I take a great deal of pride in moving the motion:

That this Assembly commends the efforts of the Government of Saskatchewan in encouraging the growth and development of the province through the policies and programs of the Departments of Economic Development and Trade and Tourism and Small Business.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by my colleague from Regina North. Thank you.

(1545)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Klein: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take pleasure in seconding this motion made by my colleague, the member from Regina North. There is no question that he certainly covered a majority of the programs that are available to the business community through two of our departments — the Department of Economic Development and Trade as well as our Department of Tourism and Small Business, Mr. Speaker.

They always say that a good story is worth repeating and I believe that I would just like to for a moment if I may, go into the highlights of a couple of the programs mentioned by my colleague.

But I think that first I would like to talk about a couple of programs and policies of our Department of Economic Development and Trade. One of the first programs that comes to my mind, Mr. Speaker, is the Aid to Trade program. It's a program that's designed to help manufacturers and producers of various goods in our province to take advantage and export their products from Saskatchewan to wherever they might be able to cultivate their business with.

And obviously any increase in business, or any exports that they could come up with, new markets and the like, would obviously do two things. It would either expand their business to the point that it would create additional employment, or certainly it would solidify their market-place and provide much needed job security for their existing employees.

And that's why the Aid to Trade program is so vital to us and to our manufacturers and processors. Because as we

see it, free trade, trade of any kind is, to put it mildly, the life-blood of our province. The implications for free trade or freer trade or a comprehensive trade arrangement are pretty significant for Saskatchewan, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, significant for all of Canada.

And I guess as you think about trade, you might say it begs the question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why trade at all, I suppose. Or secondly, if you're going to trade at all, why trade with the United States, for instance? Well, why trade at all? I think that it's fair to say that our ancestors originally came to Canada, settled Canada, and they came to trade. They were used to trading from the parts of the world where they originated.

And I suppose they left Europe mostly, or various parts of the world, and opened up this part of North America basically by trading. And I suppose one of the early trade companies was the Hudson Bay trading corporation, and certainly the railroads, it was an assistance to . . . Oh yes, and the railroads were an assistance to trade, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And probably it's fair to say that our province, Saskatchewan, was built and our wealth was built up because we depended on trade. And I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we do it well. We have a very good reputation for trade. We're honest, we produce top quality products, and by and large most people like that when you can deal with that kind of a person.

Last year in Canada we had \$170 billion in two-way trade between us, as Canadians, and the United States. And the good news to that is that nobody forced us into that. It's number one with the United States in trade, and we are their best customers. It probably contributes to most of our jobs in Canada. Canadians are very hard workers, have a good reputation, and we have a good work ethic, so most of our jobs come from trading with other people.

Now speaking about Saskatchewan, almost half of the farm land in Canada is in our province. We produce a lot more than we can eat, so we sell it. We sell it to other people or we trade. One reason that we might trade is because it lowers our cost of living. We can trade our products for the products that are manufactured elsewhere, particularly the United States where they have a large industrial base, compared to us here in Saskatchewan. It does lower our cost of living. Most of the things that we use in our home — for instance, we can cut costs on our clothing, on our appliances, our fridges, stoves, on our washing machines, sewing machines, and so on. And significant costs can be cut by trading, as we sell our products for those.

Well I suppose those are some of the reasons why we might want to trade. Our ancestors used to do it; we still do it; we'll probably do it in the future — and it's paid us well. We have a lot of jobs and probably one of the highest standards of living in the world.

So that would lead to the next question, Mr. Deputy Speaker: why on earth would we trade with the United States, or why would we want free trade or trade arrangements with the United States, with the Americans?

Well first of all, they're our biggest customer and we don't burn their flags on the step of our legislature. We kind of like Americans. They buy most of everything we produce. I don't know why. You figure it out if you can. You probably can't. We trade with people all over the world, but mostly we trade with the United States.

Let's take Ontario, for instance. And pay attention over there, members in the opposition. You may not know this, but Ontario trades \$50 billion a year in exports with the United States. That's larger than any country in the world that trades with the United States — Ontario alone. Ontario trades more with the United States than Japan does. Now I don't know why. I guess they like it. Nobody forced them into it, but I would suspect that it means an awful lot of jobs for Ontario.

So nobody else in the world trades more with the U.S. than we do, and I suppose it's fair to say that they kind of like us. They sell us a whole bunch of their stuff. We buy it and we like it. And I guess we must because nobody forces us to deal with them, and yet we've got 70 to 80 per cent of all of our products, trading with each other, forward and backward, and without tariff.

I suppose we trade with them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because they're close to us. Another reason, I would suspect, is because the Americans have an awful lot of money — millions of American consumers, and they spend money. And they've got a lot of it to spend. So we trade with them because they have a lot of money and they like to spend it. Makes sense.

Another reason that we consider the United States, of course, is that access to over 100 million residents as a trading partner, where it's the largest unmanned border in the world, where this free trade can occur very nicely without any problems.

So you ask the question: why freer trade? Why more trade? Why trade arrangements at all? Well I'm speaking about the Aid to Trade program in the Department of Economic Development and Trade, and just exactly what it's got to do with . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . First of all, we can't seem to get the Europeans' attention. That's why we should trade with the United States. Or we can't get the Japanese attention either, because they have very high tariff walls.

The next thing is hindrance to free trade, protectionism. And that's why this Aid to Trade program in our Department of Economic Development and Trade is so important, so vital. We must break down protectionism.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as people go through exchange rate differences and high interest rates and periods of high unemployment, they get frightened. And they come to their local politician and they say, if you want to get re-elected in your riding, you'd better protect the jobs there. Therefore, I suppose, you'd better say it's just for your area, so don't trade with Manitoba, or don't trade with Alberta, or don't contact that guy from North Dakota, but protect us right there in Saskatchewan because we're frightened.

Well that feeling of protectionism is real in the United

States. We have a 35 to 40 per cent advantage in trading with the States, and the productive sector of the U.S. is hurting — the timber business, the cattle business, the hog business, and others — because of exchange rate differences. And people are frightened because they're worried about unemployment and losing their jobs, so they say: keep Canadian goods, and keep other goods out.

So what are some of the threats of freer trade or more trade? I believe that the biggest threat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have is from Ontario and Quebec, not from Montana or Nebraska or California. We haven't lost out to our neighbours in the South. We've lost out to central Canadians. Now I'm all for central Canada, but because of the transportation differences and the population differences, we have lost out on trade. So when it comes to threats, I'm not afraid of trading with Japan or with the Americans, but I am a little afraid of trading with Canadians, and historically because of the freight rate differences and the population base.

I suppose, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's quite fair enough for the province of Ontario to strike a free trade arrangement with the United States on automobiles — the auto pact. And they do it. And I don't hold that against them.

But for anybody in Ontario to say that they're not for a freer trade, I've got to question whether they really believe that or not — \$50 billion a year exports out of Ontario to United States, plus a free trade arrangement on automobiles. Anybody in the automobile business who would come out to Saskatchewan, a labour leader, and tell us or tell anybody that we shouldn't be involved in freer trade with the United States, I don't believe is on my side.

I think we should have access to those markets because other people have had access and have made good use of access to those markets. And they must be good markets for us, and that's why this Aid to Trade program in our Department of Economic Development and Trade is so vital. Because the U.S. Senate finance committee, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Senate finance committee tells us that they're afraid to free trade, to have free trade arrangements with Canada. Can you imagine the United States of America being afraid of Canada?

So that valuable, that protectionism that I was mentioning, if that's so important, that has to tell me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that free trade is good for us and that we better continue doing our very best to go after it.

That, too, is another reason why our Department of Economic Development and Trade opened up our trade offices around the world — Hong Kong, London, soon Minneapolis. We have presently a trade officer in Minot, North Dakota. And you might say, well why? Well, I just spoke about the free trade situation.

But we have all kinds of Saskatchewan manufacturers, Saskatchewan processors, that employ our Saskatchewan people, that are looking to expand their markets. And what better way to expand them than to have our agents around the world selling their products for them, telling the people abroad of exactly what we have here in

Saskatchewan?

That can't be done by the politicians sitting in this glorious building that was built by our ancestors, but rather we must get out and tell the whole world about the fine goods and the fine products that our good people in this great province of ours are capable of producing, and how we can compete in the international market-place and how we should compete because our products rank with the best. They are world-class, first-class products.

Another program through our Department of Economic Development and Trade, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is our industrial incentive plan. Now this is an incentive to outside investors or inside investors to come along and expand their existing manufacturing plants or food processing plants. And we have to provide some form of an incentive because, after all, they're going to create jobs. And through that industrial incentive plan, they create the jobs, they put up private sector money, and the government simply comes along with the incentive.

(1600)

For instance, the Gainers plant going to North Battleford that is going to create some 3 or 400 jobs — that was done exactly through this industrial incentive plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's through these incentives that the private sector recognize that here in Saskatchewan we offer a good, healthy business climate for them to function and to operate and to create their profits, because it's through their profits that they are able to pay their taxes. It's through these plants and industry and processing that they are able to maintain and create new employment. It's not government that creates employment, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but rather it's the private sector. All we can do as government is to act as a catalyst, a co-ordinator of various problems that industry might have, to encourage them, to entice them, to provide the incentive for them to continue the good work that they are doing in this province.

It's absolutely vital for this province to expand its resource base. Agriculture is our number one industry, and it probably will be for an awful long time. But that doesn't mean that we can just sit back and let agriculture do its thing, because there are so many forces that we as government have no control over that affect that part of our sector. We can't control drought; we can't control grasshoppers.

So therefore it's just absolutely vital that we expand our base here in Saskatchewan and diversify it. And there are several ways that we can do that. Agriculture probably will still be number one, but tourism, which I'll speak on in a few moments, is a vital industry that was totally ignored by the prior administration. And we all know that tourism will be the number one industry in the world by the end of this century, and that's not very far away. All economists are predicting that. So it's through this diversification of manufacturing, of small business, of service industries, of tourism, that we diversify and not be so dependent on our agricultural sector.

I know that to help and assist manufacturers and really entice them to become first-class producers, the

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with our government have sponsored a new award of excellence program, the ABEX (Achievement for Business Excellence) award. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you'd be surprised at what a challenge it is for the various sectors of our industrial businesses to compete for that award. They're very, very proud if they can win their sector, or certainly if they can go on and win the award as the best exporter or the best manufacturer in our province. It's a very meaningful situation, and it provides them with additional incentive on which they would like to proceed.

Those are just a couple of the programs, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now I would like to speak about policies just for a moment. The Department of Economic Development and Trade carry forward the policies and philosophies of the Progressive Conservative Party. And our philosophy is based purely and simply on free enterprise, and free enterprise is the engine that drives our economy, and we're not ashamed to say that because that's where it all happens. And as a result of this free enterprise philosophy that we have, when we carry it forward and develop our programs which are always developed in consultation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the private sector . . . It's fair to say that a minister or his department or his officials or whoever they might be can't design effective programs in a vacuum. They can't do it alone. It's a combined effort of working together that these programs and policies are developed.

And that's why, when we go out as MLAs or as cabinet ministers, we like to consult and listen to the various interest groups that we deal with. In the Department of Health the minister listens to the doctors and listens to the nurses and listens to all the other professionals involved in that particular industry, so that they can develop meaningful programs that are what the people really want; so that as we go about in this industrial situation or in the small business sector, and listen to the various people, again, together we can provide programs that really and truly mean something to the business community because it's a response to what they're looking for.

And it was just that kind of a feeling that made our government successful in bringing forward a new paper-mill to Prince Albert. We were dealing prior with a pulp-mill that was a Crown corporation of staggering dollars that Saskatchewan had put their money in through the prior administrations. Not only was the investment sitting there idle, but year by year by year we were losing money on the profit operation of it. And you might say: well, why? You hired the best people. And it's fair to say that the prior administration certainly had well-paid people trying to run it, but we don't have the expertise; we don't have the marketing connections that are required in that type of a competitive business throughout the world, so the only way that it will work is in the private sector.

Now when we came up to the private sector with this pulp-mill that was hanging around our necks and costing us money and losing us money, not only were we able to make a deal to sell that pulp-mill, but in fact the private sector said, I'll tell you what we'll do; we'll invest another

\$250 million in Prince Albert; we'll create a lot of jobs and we'll start a paper-mill too. So now we've got the best of two worlds. And I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker, it will make money because they have the expertise, they have the knowledge, the technology, they have the marketing skills and marketing ability, to move this Saskatchewan-made product throughout the entire world and do it at a profit. And as they do it, as they do it on that profit . . . And I'm surprised that the member from northern Saskatchewan is against that — the very thing that's going to create employment in your area, and you don't like it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it just gets me so mad to listen to them when they're against a project like that. They keep hollering about unemployment all over this province and in the North, and when we put a project like that together that's going to give you exactly what you wanted, you don't like it. Well you can't have your cake and eat it too. If you want to create jobs, you've got to go out and do it and make things happen, and the private sector make things happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Klein: — Now here in Regina we've got the new Regina upgrader. I guess you don't like that either, and you don't like the jobs that it's going to create. And you don't like the spin-off benefits that are going to accrue to small business in Regina. Well I'll tell you, it will happen, and it will accrue . . .

Mr. Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I believe the hon. members are just causing a little bit too much noise. The speaker is not able to carry on in an intelligible fashion so all can hear him. So would all members please calm down.

Mr. Klein: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very comfortable in delivering my message to the people this afternoon because I truly believe that after my 25 or 26 years in business I understand business and what it's about. I have had the distinct pleasure of creating jobs and hiring people for most of my life. And by applying that same principle, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . And they don't like to hear this. They know about my record in business and they know that I have over a period of 25 or 26 years created several hundred jobs. Now we're talking that by applying the same principle to our government, we can in fact create thousands and thousands of jobs as we have done. You know very well that our job creation program is the best of any government in Canada, and certainly far better than what yours has been.

But the Regina upgrader. We'll just talk about that for a moment because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people in this city, the people in Regina, are really excited about that. All my friends in the real estate business, they know that while this construction is on there will be a lot of activity for real estate requirements; the small business community that will be able to take care of all the spin-off benefits as a result of this big project going into place.

It's so easy to say \$600 million. That's what the project costs — \$600 million. It's so easy to say that. But try to get that into real terms — \$600 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker,

that's a significant amount of money and all going into this one project. It's the equivalent of, I don't know what. Even 10 hospitals wouldn't be \$600 million. So that's the magnitude and size of that project and that's certainly going to create an awful lot of employment and bring a boom back to Regina.

Now our recent announcement of the new fertilizer plant that's going to be attached to that and will accrue additional benefits. And you know, there goes the NDP again down on this, down on that — the same old boloney.

Do you know what? We put that upgrader project together with the co-ops. Now traditionally the co-ops were supposed to have been socialist minded and friends of yours, and here you couldn't even put that deal together with them. It took the private sector type of government to go with the co-ops to make that happen. And happen it will, and the fertilizer plant with it, and again another expansion and more jobs and more industry for our city.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Klein: — Now I mentioned earlier the industrial incentive plant in North Battleford and Gainers coming in. That's just the first phase of their operation. Again, in here, you people in the opposition, you don't like Gainers; you don't like what's happening in North Battleford; you don't like that industrial incentive plan. Your candidate in North Battleford sure likes it. Why don't you guys get your stuff together? You can't say one thing in here and one thing out there. Be consistent . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That's what you're doing.

Here in Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker, another one that they said doom and gloom for — Supercart International, that nice little plastic grocery car manufacturing outfit in Regina. Well, that would never get off the ground; that was just somebody's pie in the sky; that wasn't going to work; whoever heard of a goofy plastic grocery cart; is what was coming across. Well, I'll tell you what, they've got 60 or 80 people working there now. They're manufacturing. Those plastic shopping carts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will be exported to all corners of the world — and right here in Saskatchewan. And by the time they finish that project they will probably have 3 or 4 or 500 people working in that plant right here in Regina.

So we know that our philosophy, we know that our policies, we know that our programs are indeed working and will continue to work.

I will now, Mr. Speaker, just touch briefly on small business. I guess there's a couple of things that I should point out first, Mr. Speaker. The first thing we did for small business and with small business, because we recognized just how vital that sector is to our economy and is to our government and to our province, we formed the Department of Tourism and Small Business. Because that had to happen if we believed in it. And we do believe in it.

So the first thing we did was form that department. And, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Tourism and Small Business acts as the advocate for the small business

community in this province. It kind of is their inner voice in government and to the inner circle, so that when there's a problem that they encounter out there in the small business community, we can just carry it right through our department, right through the minister and into cabinet, and deal with it. And there's a solution; their voice is heard. That's something that you have a lot of trouble with in the opposition, because you don't understand small business. You never have and you never will.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to quote for a moment some small business information from the members' opposite research department, the Regina *Leader-Post*, and this was published last fall. It must be true because it's their own research department. But none the less, an article in here says that the NDP has yet to address the issue of free enterprise. And that's true. The closest that they came, Mr. Speaker, to addressing the issue of free enterprise, was to have a dinner in Regina with the small business community, for which they charged \$125 a plate. I go to dinners with the small business community, Mr. Speaker, and we go for nothing. I mean, they can talk to me any time they want. They might buy me a dinner; I might buy them a dinner. Lord knows, I don't charge them \$125 to sit down and talk to me, to find out what's going to happen. And then, Mr. Speaker, what do you suppose happened? The results of that dinner meeting was one of the best kept secrets in the world. I didn't hear a thing about what you talked about.

(1615)

And I'll tell you something else; I'll tell you something else. I talked to some of the small business community that went to the dinner, and they said that it was a joke. They said, you know, they just don't understand what we're talking about or what our problems are. They must be shorter than you are, Klein, because it's going over their heads.

None the less, I'll continue, Mr. Speaker, with . . . This article is excellent. This little research material means an awful lot to me because it just hits it right on the head. It says that the NDP seem so ideologically hidebound that it is either unable or unwilling to tackle such a basic economic principle as free enterprise. And you know, that's true. Because you know, the solution to farms, for instance, was their land bank — well we'll buy your farms; you come and work for us and be sharecroppers, and that's how it's going to work in farms. And then in businesses, well I'll tell you what, we'll get somebody to start a business and then we'll come along as government and we'll buy that business and we'll give them their money to take out of our country — which they did — and then we'll try to operate this. And if we lose money, it's fine because the taxpayers are going to keep paying. And on and on. And that's their idea of business. Well it doesn't work that way. Now this article:

To appreciate the rhetorical strait-jacket that the NDP finds itself in, all you have to do is scan the resolutions passed at successive party conventions.

Now I had a good time with this one the other day when I

was speaking to the Real Estate Association of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Because when I got to that, I read one of the resolutions. Do you know what that resolution was? That resolution was to nationalize the down-town cores of Regina and Saskatoon. Well if I hadn't heard anything funny . . . The real estate industry was not impressed with that. I said, can you imagine if you wanted to sell a building or sell a lot or sell something out of the down-town core, you would first have to go to the NDP government and probably they wouldn't let you do it because they wouldn't pay you commission. But if you were a big developer from eastern Canada and wanted to come in and build a great big building in Regina, you could in and, in spite of the fact that the interest rates are 13 or 14 per cent, we like you, you big developers from the East, and we'll give you a 30-year mortgage at nine and five-eighths per cent, and away you go. Well we don't work that way because nothing works that way in business and in capitalism and in free enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, in the legislature — and this is true, and you may remember — not once has an NDP member stood to talk about the merits of private initiative and free enterprise and how it has built the Saskatchewan economy. And you know, that's true. They have never stood up in this Chamber and expounded on the merits of free enterprise — never. And while I had the privilege of serving as a minister of our Premier's cabinet, Mr. Speaker, as I recall, there were only three or four questions that were ever asked of me, and they all related to my portfolio as minister in charge of Sedco and not as the minister of Small Business. Because they didn't understand; they didn't understand the basic principle of what small business and free enterprise was all about.

The NDP behaves as if it is incapable of understanding the profit motive, or even appreciating its value to the economy as a source of job creation.

Well the fellow that wrote this great article is sitting up in the gallery. And I'll tell you, he's right on. Not only do you behave — what he says is exactly true — you don't understand the profit motive. You don't appreciate how small business and how an industrial economy creates jobs. You just simply don't understand. And he's absolutely right, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP is still trying to come to grips with capitalism, an economic structure that it vowed to eradicate when the founding principles of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation were recited in the *Regina Manifesto*.

And do you know, that's true.

They want to eradicate capitalism and eradicate free enterprise.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're the opposite of that. We believe that everything functions around the small-business, free-enterprise sector.

And this is a good one; this gets back to that dinner that the opposition had with small business. They've got a

committee now going out trying to get together with the small business community.

The NDP small business community — what they face is somehow pining away for the party's socialist ideology to make concessions to the reality of Saskatchewan's economy.

Well you can't find concessions. You can't make it work one way and the other. In free enterprise it works one way; it doesn't work both ways. Either let them do their job and encourage and cultivate them to do that work, to do what they know best because they're profit-motivated, and when they make profits they pay more taxes. You'd think you'd be more interested in that — you people most of all — getting more tax money from those profits. So I can understand why you have trouble with that one.

And this is another true statement, Mr. Speaker:

The fact that the vast majority of Saskatchewan people believe in capitalism and free enterprise creates what is a very real, practical, political problem for the NDP.

And you know, that's true. That's true because you know that the majority of Saskatchewan people, in fact, do believe in capitalism; in fact, do believe in free enterprise. You know, people want to own their own homes. They want to own their own farms. They want to own their own businesses. And all you've got to do is encourage them to be able to do that. So it's no wonder that you have a problem with that.

Well all right. I would just like, Mr. Speaker, to go into one final thing, I suppose, and that's resulting . . . as to the importance of the private sector and free enterprise and small business.

And again I'm going to refer to the loyal opposition's usual source of information and criteria, the *Regina Leader-Post*. But it says it right here: "Small firms create most jobs." Mr. Speaker, after the little dissertation that I gave on free enterprise, I would just like to say why, and it's very well put in here by Roger Sauvé, who is a writer for the *Leader-Post*:

If it were not for small business, employment levels would likely be stagnant. The media examines and dissects the ups and downs of large businesses while ignoring the real driving force in job creation . . . the small business sector.

The reason for the disparity of reporting as between large and small business is simple. Large firms are very visible to the public at large; they affect large numbers of employees at any given time . . . In contrast, individual small business are virtually invisible.

(The) new tax-based data tabulated by Statistics Canada and released late last year suggest that small enterprises (fewer than 20 employees) created 80 per cent of all new non-government jobs in Canada between 1978 and 1982.

Four out of every five new jobs created by small business in Canada. And

(the United States) reached the same conclusion for the 1980 to 1982 period . . . 75 per cent of all new jobs (in the United States) came in the small business sector. Trends in Western Europe are . . . similar.

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

Governments have developed enhanced programs to help small businesses grow and survive. Interest reduction and venture programs are the most visible.

So having said that, Mr. Speaker, it's very obvious my feelings, my support to the private sector and to small business. And as a result I'm very proud to second that fine motion made by my colleague, the member from Moose Jaw North. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koskie: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have a lot of gall and a lot of nerve to put forward a resolution in the nature of this resolution. I want to read it, Mr. Speaker:

That this Assembly commends the efforts of the Government of Saskatchewan in encouraging the growth and development of the province through the policies and programs of the Departments of Economic Development and Trade, and Tourism and Small Business.

Now I would have thought that if that was taking place — that there was economic development in this province — that surely the Minister of Tourism and Small Business or, I should say — correct me — the former minister of Small Business and Tourism would have got up and he would have been able to provide to this Assembly some of the concrete economic indicators to show that there is economic growth in the province. But sadly, Mr. Speaker, they were unable to come forward with any evidence of economic growth.

I would have thought that if we had an economy that is booming, as they try to claim, that then we wouldn't have a huge deficit. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, in good times you think you were generating an economic climate and that the provinces would have a balanced budget. So that's the first indicator that we should look at and see what these birds have done during the last four years to this province.

They have taken the people of this province, their credit card, and they've put on a little Tory party. But they're using the people of this province's credit card — charging it up to the people of this province and to the children and future generations.

That's how good this economy is booming, when we look, and look, and see a \$2 billion deficit — and when we left office, \$140 million surplus. And they have taken this province to where there is over \$200 million annually in interest payments alone. Now that's the first indicator.

Now a province has to be really booming to be able to create an economic debt of that magnitude in the province in four years.

But let's take a look at some of the other wonderful things that are happening here during the four years of the administration opposite. We could take a look at Premier Devine's record in many of the economic indicators.

Let us take a look at housing starts — housing starts in Saskatchewan. Do you realize that the number of housing starts in 1985 was the lowest since 1971, and we came out of an economic depression under the Ross Thatcher government. So the lowest number of housing starts. Now you would think that if the population were growing, and that people were coming back to Saskatchewan, that one thing you'd have is economic activity in the housing. But not so.

So two indicators. Let's take a look at the two indicators. One: massive, massive debt; \$2 billion of debt placed on the backs of the people of this province — \$2 billion. And not only that. It would be far worse, this debt, if they hadn't, in fact, sold off many of the assets which were owned by the people of this province. You can take a look at what they've sold off. They've sold off Saskoil for over 100 million. They've sold off a coal mine for over 100 million and have blown it. They've sold off the highway equipment and appointed a new Minister of Highways, and they don't give him any equipment. What a job. But before they appointed him Minister of Highways, they let him auction off the sale of the highway equipment. And after he has no equipment, they appoint him as Minister of Highways. Now that's a challenging job you have. I hope they gave you a wheelbarrow and a shovel.

(1630)

But let's go on and see what other assets have they sold off. Well you can take a look at the assets, the drag-lines that the power corporation owned. They've been sold off and they've blown the money. If you take a look at the equipment in the potash mines, they've sold them off, leased them back, blown the money. That's what is happening. And despite that, they have a massive debt here in this province.

And you know what more? If you had economic activity, you'd have money generated and an increase in the taxation — income tax, revenue would be increased, sales tax, and so on, corporate tax. And you know what happened? They had to increase on the people of Saskatchewan, impose on them, the highest increase of taxation in the history of this province. So it's really booming under this new administration.

But let's take a look at some of the other indicators. If we take a look at metal fabrication, well in 1981 there was \$106 million worth; and if you look in 1985, it was down to \$56 million. And of course that means fewer jobs for ironworkers and more unemployment for ordinary Saskatchewan people.

Let's take a look at machinery production in Saskatchewan. Well in 1981 when we left office, \$188 million in the production of farm machinery. Do you

know what it is in 1985? A hundred and twenty-nine million. Now that is economic growth. Now we're really booming here in Saskatchewan. And I can understand why the last speaker is no longer the minister — because he started to believe the stuff that he was pouring out here in the Assembly.

Let's take a look at some of the other indicators — private and public investment in Saskatchewan. If you look in agriculture, 1,330 million in 1981. Well, do you know what it is in 1985? It's 1,044 million — down in agriculture. If you look in manufacturing: 1981, \$183 million in manufacturing; in 1985, down, 174 million. In trade, finance, and commercial services, if you look in 1981, \$525 million; in 1985 it's down to \$465 million.

So what I say is each and every indicator that we have put forward there is decline. There's a loss of jobs, there's loss of opportunities, there's shattered hopes and the betrayed dreams of people which depended upon their rhetoric during the last election. People of Saskatchewan will remember your slogans — there's so much more you can be. And I'll tell you, they're going to give you so much more. They're going to turf you out of office whenever you have the courage to call an election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koskie: — Let's take a look at some more of the indicators to see how well we're doing here in Saskatchewan. Let's take a look at public and private investment. And one would think that if, you know, open for business or open for big business was operating and was providing jobs and they had a buoyant economic condition here in Saskatchewan, that obviously what you would have to have is increased public and private investment. Let's take a look at it. Let's take a look at the public and private investment in Saskatchewan. In 1981, \$5.2 billion in investments. Do you what it was in 1984? Five point zero billion, down. In 1983, it was down — 5 billion. In 1982, the year they took over, 4.7. So the public and private investment is down, and those are the cold, hard facts, that the public and private investment is down.

And I would think that if the province, and if we're zooming along with economic development in the province, that surely we would be able to sustain, or at least level off the increase in the public debt. But you know what you find in respect to the public debt, Mr. Speaker? We find that in 1982 the public debt in this province was \$3.4 billion. And the public debt under these birds opposite, under this booming economy, under this economy that they stand up here and try to brag about, is now \$8.7 billion.

And then if you want another indicator to see how well we're doing, how the people of Saskatchewan are prospering, you take a look at the province's equity, the Consolidated Fund, and also the Heritage Fund, the combined Heritage and Consolidated Funds. And you know, in 1982, as of March 31st, the provincial province's equity was 1.91 billion. And you know, in 1986-87, in their last budget that they've brought down, there is a minus \$740 million. Now I'll tell you, that's booming. That's a booming economy that they have put

forward.

Well let's take a look at some of the other indicators. Are there more jobs being created here? Well the recent statistics, we find that in respect to the retail stores have not experienced the hoped-for recovery. Growth in sales for 1985 was the second lowest in Canada in retail store sales. It was the lowest in Canada other than Prince Edward Island, but worse than every other province in Canada — that's in retail sales, increase in retail sales. Now that's a booming economy; I'll tell you, it's really booming.

And I say, in new investment in the province's economy is declining. New investment has declined in real terms from 5.1 billion in '81 to 4.2 billion in '85. And let's take a look at employment. We find that, first of all, in respect to youth employment, that under the respective Tory governments across this nation it's a national disgrace, and there's no exception here in Saskatchewan.

And the Minister of Justice laughs. He thinks it's funny because he's sitting at the highest paid job that he ever had. It's funny that young people are unemployed. He thinks it's a joke; he's laughing. That's fine. But I'll tell you, the young people will laugh when they kick you out of office next time, Mr. Minister of Justice.

I'll tell you, youth employment is a national disgrace — and it's a national disgrace and it's a provincial disgrace also. There were 7,000 fewer young people working in 1985 than in 1981 — 7,000 fewer young people. Unemployment among young people is 18,000 — 18,000 people among young people, or about 16 per cent. And they say our economy is booming. Confidence — we're marching ahead.

But I'll tell you, there are some winners and there's some losers. And I'll tell you, it's not the young people of the province who are the winners, because there's 16 per cent of them unemployed; 18,000 young people looking for work.

And then take a look from 1981 to 1985. The labour force grew by 10 per cent, but employment increased by only 6 per cent, and unemployment increased by 90 per cent. All of us know that last month the statistics came down in respect to unemployment, and here in Saskatchewan there was a total of 47,000 people unemployed. And they say, what a booming economy; what a job we have done. Join and take a look. You know, you're doing wonderful — 47,000 people unemployed, one in 10 either unemployed or on welfare. What a great accomplishment. You should be proud. You should be proud of that.

If you take a look in respect to welfare, there's 65,000 people on welfare in this province — 65,000 — one in 10 either unemployed or on welfare. And you know, under this booming economy, do you know what? Well, I'll tell you. They're saying that oh, there's new jobs created. Well, I'll tell you that 47,000 people were unemployed last month — one of the greatest increases in unemployment across Canada.

And if you take a look at the unemployed employables —

unemployed employables — when we left office there was about 4,500 people, unemployed employables, on welfare. Do you know what it is today? There's 15,000 unemployed employables on welfare. On welfare! And do you realize . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Now, I'll tell you.

One key indicator whether a society has a strong economic base, whether it's expanding, is how much are you spending less on welfare. Well let's take a look when we left office, our last budget. How much was paid out for welfare assistance: 96 to \$98 million. That's what was paid out under our administration. And do you know what. Do you know how much it is under these birds, under this booming economy: \$206 million is being paid out.

And they say we have economic growth and economic opportunity. Well I'll tell you, the people of Saskatchewan don't believe your rhetoric. And the people of Saskatchewan don't believe your Premier any more. You can't get support by going around and by press releases announcing that there's going to be jobs in the future.

Here in Regina we saw how ridiculous, in fact, this government can be. They have announced the building of an upgrader. They haven't even . . . Well, they had an opening. Not many people turned up, mind you, at the opening. Just a few people turned up, but they turned the sod. And they are going to build this upgrader.

Well they got another announcement. Now they're going to build a fertilizer plant, and they're going to attach it to this non-existent upgrader. Now that is economic growth, economic development. I'll tell you, people are excited. They were excited when you made your announcement of the upgrader in Regina, because you know what? They had a by-election in North East where that upgrader is — and I'll tell you the people of Saskatchewan were excited. And the people of North East were really excited because here they had an opportunity to go to the polls and demonstrate how pleased they were with your economic policies.

And do you know what happened? In Regina North East, where you had won it by over 1,700 votes in the last election, a by-election was called, and in spite of all the announcements that you made, despite the announcement that the upgrader was in the Regina North East, the member, the former Finance minister, on the ballot . . . And I'll tell you, he received about 72 per cent of the vote.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koskie: — So there is no doubt, there is no doubt that the people of this province have written you birds off. They don't believe you. You go around with press releases. People can't live on press releases. They've got to have jobs, and you haven't been creating them. And you know, recently it was pointed out that not only did we have a massive increase in unemployment, but if you look at the creating of new jobs for our people, that we rated eighth, only ahead of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Eighth! Eighth in creating jobs. So this is a

tremendous . . . I'm glad you brought forward this here resolution. I don't how much time you spend on thinking up these great resolutions so that we can have an opportunity to get up in the legislature and explain and inform the public in respect to the great performance of your government.

(1645)

So let's go into one other area, and as the former minister of Tourism and Small Business was alluding to, he indicated that really what's going to save us now here in Saskatchewan — we have gone for the big business type of approach in the development of the economy. We are going to give substantial grants to former leaders or potential leaders, or candidates for the leadership, I guess, of the Tory party. And we're going to be handing out huge grants to the Pocklingtons and we're going to develop Saskatchewan this way. And around and around, they're marching around this province making press releases. No jobs, but somewhere in the future there might be a job.

In the meantime we find people being laid off at Ipsco. We find the closing of Dominion Stores. We find the exodus of young people from this province. Do you realize that last month, Mr. Speaker — or last year, pardon me, in 1985 — there were 6,040 more people left this province than what came in? Six thousand and forty exodus from this province, out-migration over in-migration, out-migration over in-migration — 6,000.

And do you know what happened the first two months of this year? Thirty-four hundred people more left this province than what came into this province. That's a total of 57 per day. That's the rate of out-migration from this province during January and February.

And they stand up and they say what a fantastic deal we have. Oh, is this economy booming! Well I say there are some winners — there are some winners. The winners are the oil companies, of course. They made some money — \$300 million — \$300 million in tax and royalty holidays. They're a winner. And I guess Peter Pock from Edmonton is a winner when he can come in here and open up his brief-case and get it filled with \$10 million of taxpayers' money. He's a winner.

The other thing that the little minister of . . . the former minister of Tourism and Small Business, well, he said, maybe we haven't been doing too well. But he said, we've got a new plan. We have a new plan. And I wonder what it would be. And he said, we're going to have free trade with United States. And how come we're going to have free trade? How do we know that that's a fact? Well, because our little cheerleader said we're going to have free trade; so therefore we're going to have free trade. Well I guess they should have gone down to the United States. They should have gone to the United States and should have had a discussion because the U.S. committee of the United States, U.S. committee, indicates that it's going to veto free trade with Canada. This is what the Americans have said, the senate committee.

And now they're trying to deceive the public into

believing that there's going to be a great economic development by the use of free trade. They haven't carried out any discussions. They don't know what free trade means or have defined it, but they have hired someone at \$92,800 a year. Well they've done the same with trade offices in Hong Kong and they have one in London and they have another one — they had one over in Vienna.

But I'll ask you, Mr. Speaker, go around Saskatchewan. Go into the towns and villages of this province and see whether or not there are any new industries. Well I'll tell you, the industries were there before these birds took office.

In my constituency alone we had a great array of manufacturing, and what an economic base it is to that area. We have Doepker Industries at Annaheim; and in St. Gregor we have a trucking firm; we have Michel's windows and tarps; and we have Western Industries. We have at Englefeld, Schulte, and over in Wynyard we have Plains Poultry. And we can go north of Watson, we have Dyna-Fab; and we go into Lanigan, we have industry. All of those were put in place under the economic policies of the New Democratic Party when they were in office.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koskie: — And I challenge you to get up in this House and to name those plants that have been built under the operation of this government. All that we have is some press releases that Peter Pock is going to get \$10 million because that's going to make it.

Husky Oil got a \$90 million grant. And then, oh well, big business is our theme. That's how we're going to build this province, they said. Free enterprise is going to do it. And then you take a look at the upgrader here and you . . . How many private dollars are invested in the upgrader here in Regina? Well it costs \$650 million. And I'll tell you, 350 million is from the federal government guarantee and the rest is guaranteed by the province. And taxpayers — there's not a single private dollar in the upgrader by any . . . So what you're doing is using taxpayers' money, because you can't even attract your friends to come and invest in the province. That's how bad you are.

So obviously, Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at the record, if you take a look at what they have done, the people of this province are fed up. They're sick and tired of them. They are pleading with them to call an election so that they can turf them out of office for another 50 years.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am going to move an amendment to the resolution:

That all the words after "Assembly" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

Regrets that the policies of the provincial government have failed to create widespread jobs in economic prosperity, have produced a 90 per cent increase in unemployment, have produced financial mismanagement, and a deficit of over

\$1.9 billion; and further, that this Assembly urges the Government of Saskatchewan to take immediate, positive and concrete steps to ensure widespread economic growth for all Saskatchewan people.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by my colleague, the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The debate continues concurrent.

Mr. Engel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I adjourn debate on this, I have one point I want to make and read into the record. I listened to the former minister — little minister — talking about the environment they're creating. I wanted to read just one line into the record as reported in *Business* on April 1986, Roger Sauvé on business. I want to quote:

In the '70s the vitality of the goods producing industries and the urbanization of Saskatchewan has encouraged the growth of the service sector (the growth of the service sector — the '70s). Over three-quarters of all new jobs in the province were created in the service category during the 1970s. The share of new jobs was larger . . .

Now listen closely, fellows, because this happened during the 1970s:

The share of the new jobs was larger in Saskatchewan than for Canada as a whole. According to the 1981 census, Regina had the highest service employment ratio in western Canada.

The highest in western Canada. He's done a detailed study.

And listen, fellows, we weren't out advertising as open for business and using old clichés like the Minister of Finance drummed up and learned when he was cutting his teeth in politics as Darrel Heald's assistant. We weren't using old second hand slogans. We had a climate out there that was suitable for the service sector. The service sector moved ahead.

I have so much more I want to talk about on this topic, so I beg leave to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:58 p.m.