

EVENING SITTING

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise tonight to participate in this debate. It may prove to be a very historic debate. It may be the last debate, the opportunity to debate a throne speech, before a provincial election — a provincial election that, I think, will see a return of a New Democratic Party government in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — I want to begin at the outset to congratulate Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, for her participation in the throne speech, and for her delivery. I might say, as a personal aside, that my stepson, Brad, was very thrilled to meet Her Honour in the ceremonies afterwards, and was very impressed with her interest in his education and her interest in education of children generally. I very much appreciated that, as did he.

I want to congratulate, as well, the mover from the government side, the newly elected member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg. It's one thing for, I think, a member to rise in his place along with a number of other rookies because one might be more tolerant of any stumbles, of any mistakes that might be made. But if you're a rookie, as he is, with people who are more or less experienced now in this House, it surely must be a tougher job and I congratulate him for doing his job well, and having performed, I think, rather well in his address.

I would add to that, Mr. Speaker, that I do not rise to congratulate him, or for that matter the government, on the content of the throne speech, or congratulate him on the content of his remarks in large part.

The major reason for that is the lack of any government responsiveness to a major issue facing many of my constituents, and that issue is the question of the Saskatchewan economy, and more particularly for many of them the lack of employment, the lack of jobs, the lack of any hope for jobs. These are tough times for many people in Saskatchewan. Jobs are scarce; they're hard to find. The latest unemployment figures, which show an unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent, I believe it is, in Saskatchewan, only confirm what many people already know through painful personal experience.

The numbers are more than numbers. They reflect real human tragedy in our province, and real human tragedy in my constituency of Regina Victoria. And the people of Regina Victoria also know that the unemployment situation would be much worse for them and for the people of Saskatchewan, that it would be much higher,

were it not for the thousands who have already left the province in search of jobs in other provinces.

This is nothing new to me. I think most members of the Legislative Assembly get calls from people who, because of their situation, are desperate to find employment. And they'll call my office and they'll call the office of my colleague, my seat mate from Saskatoon Centre, or the government members, and they say, can you help me to find a job? And lately, the only advice that one can give them, after exploring the alternatives in Saskatchewan, is to encourage them to look for jobs in other provinces because the opportunities are simply not here in Saskatchewan. They have to go to Ontario, they have to go further east to find jobs; they have to go down the road, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say that it's just not only the lack of jobs that's troubling people. Many more are concerned about the lack of good jobs, that is to say jobs with some measure of security and jobs with decent pay. And the people in my constituency are no different than the people anywhere. Their needs and aspirations are no different. Like people everywhere, they want and need jobs to provide for the basics of food, shelter, clothing, and transportation for themselves and their families. And they will, if need be, rely on unemployment insurance or welfare to provide those basics, but like most people they'd prefer to fend for themselves. And I might add parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, that government assistance is widely seen by my constituents as an invitation to be categorized as a subspecies of the human race by the current Minister of Social Services, and the government — a subspecies not entitled to any dignity or any respect, but a subspecies which is the object of great suspicion and harassment. And I would just say that that is quite a difference, quite a difference for those of my constituents that are on welfare as opposed to the biggest welfare bum of them all, Peter Pocklington, who doesn't seem to get that measure of treatment from the government opposite.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, the people in my area, like people anywhere, prefer to work and fend for themselves and their families; and like people anywhere, my constituents want more than simply subsistence. They have hopes and dreams for better days ahead. I find that young people, when I talk to them, wish for good paying jobs, secure jobs, jobs that will allow them to plan for a future family, but very many are now denied that.

People hope for the day that their employment income is adequate enough and secure enough so that they can afford a better car, or locate a better home for themselves and their family. Many people are deeply concerned that they will not be able to provide the kinds of things that they think are necessary for their children. They're troubled by the fact, as an example, that a university education is something that is becoming increasingly harder to realize.

You know, the blue collar workers in my constituency, and there are very many of them, have always sustained a belief that in this country of Canada, that in this province of Saskatchewan, their children could always aspire to, and obtain, a university education. Those were the days. I

might say that many of my constituents come from countries other than Canada. They are immigrants and they know from experience that, in the countries they left, that a university education in many instances is something that only the elite can aspire to, something that only the elite can take advantage of. And they truly believed that Canada was something different, that Saskatchewan was something different, that here you have a universal accessibility. And it's something that they loved about this country and something that they prided themselves in whenever they talked about Canada, whenever they talked about Saskatchewan. But that is changing.

The PC government has made it that much harder to achieve a university education. You need a lot of money to get through university, and money is in shorter supply these days for many of the people I represent. And they do not feel that things will improve, improve with the current PC government. The throne speech does not address itself to my constituents and their daily lives, and it certainly does not kindle any thoughts for a better tomorrow.

You know, it's almost like we have two worlds out there: one world of the PC Party, and the PC government members, and their cronies, and their friends, and their big-business friends, and their oil company executives, and their bank executives, and their cocktail parties; and on the other hand, the masses of working people who go to work every day to provide for themselves and their family, but who find that no matter how hard they work, they find that the hope and aspiration for a better tomorrow are denied to them because they can't seem to get ahead any more in today's world, that the only people who seem to be getting ahead are that clique of people who run this province, the Tories, the PCs and their friends and their cocktail parties. That's their understanding of what's happening here. We seem to have a province of two solitudes — two solitudes, Mr. Speaker.

And the throne speech is something like that, because the throne speech gives us, on the one hand, a lot of excuses, a lot of excuses about the depressed state of our economy, and on the other hand a lot of hype, a lot of hype of better days ahead. You know, Mr. Speaker, that the economy in this province was in a tail-spin before any drought. Last year's drought, I will admit — and I think that anyone will admit — certainly is adding these days to the depression around us. But the PC government has to start taking responsibility for economic decisions that they've been making in this province since 1982, and which are in large part responsible, and the reason for, the miseries that we have today in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — The PC government's whole economic strategy since 1982 has been to take tax dollars, to take dollars out of the pockets of my constituents, to take those tax dollars and to give them to large business concerns and industries like Peter Pocklington, in the hopes of stimulating the Saskatchewan economy. And I would say that, in isolated situations, that they've succeeded. But in the main, the economy in Saskatchewan has faltered. In fact, it's more

than faltered. Many would say it's come to a dead stop.

Their approach has not worked, Mr. Speaker, and I think the proof is the evidence that we see. The proof is in the high unemployment numbers in Saskatchewan which, at least as far as my memory, if my memory serves me correctly, is the highest that I've ever seen them as long as I've lived in Saskatchewan — 9.1 per cent.

And there's further proof in the high welfare rolls in this province, welfare rolls that I might say have increased dramatically — dramatically! — since 1982 when the PCs took over. And this is the party that says, we don't want people on welfare; we want people to pursue any other alternative to welfare. But on the other hand, the biggest growth industry in this province seems to have been welfare. You figure it out, Mr. Speaker. I can't figure these people out, and certainly my constituents can't figure them out.

But you know, now the PCs say that there are better days ahead. Well they said that in 1982, Mr. Speaker, and they said it in '83, and they said it in '84, and they said it in '85, and they've said it every year that they've been in power. You know, there's better days just ahead, just around the corner — wait for us, things will get better.

The latest example is their Premier now bragging about his trip to the Far East, saying that, boy, there's all kinds of wonderful investor confidence in our province right there in Japan and China and all those places; and they have great confidence in Saskatchewan. Well, you know, he may have found it there, but we're just not finding it here where we really need it. And I hope, and I wish, that all that confidence that he brags about, and he talks about, and he goes on about, will somehow find its way here. And maybe if he talks enough, maybe we'll find it.

(1915)

You know, but it's a different situation here. And maybe he'll get a better idea of that. But, you know, I want to invite the Premier, I want to invite the Premier that on his next trip to the Far East, to stop in my constituency in east Regina — just on the way, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't have to stay for very long but just a few minutes, just to get out of his car on the way to the airport to the Far East — to stop in my constituency in east Regina and talk to the people there. And he would find that there's a different reality, that people just simply don't share his confidence, that people just simply don't share his outlook on the Saskatchewan economy. He would find a world that doesn't share his naive optimism close to home.

You know, and that's important because the people here have been listening to the Premier and his silly statements for the last six or seven years, unlike the people in Japan and China who are only hearing them for the first time. And I suspect that they might be buoyed by all that enthusiasm that they see when the Premier says, golly, gee whillikers, you can't find . . . Give her snooze and you can't find anything better than you can in Saskatchewan, and boy, oh boy, it's going to be a wonderful world. Well the people of Saskatchewan have been listening to that naive drivel for years now. And I don't share his optimism any more.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — You know, for the Premier and his friends in China, economic nirvana for Saskatchewan might be just around the corner, but I tell you, my people don't know which corner, and they're still looking.

And they remember all too well his business preaching and know that things have gone downhill ever since 1982 when he started on with his open for business conference and his open-for-business theme, and golly gee, we're open for business and things are going to get so much better. Well we're still waiting, Mr. Premier.

But anyway, that's the throne speech. You know, you have a real contrast there between what is reality and what is in the throne speech. In the throne speech again you have a bunch of cheer-leading hype, but also a reality in Saskatchewan that is beset with high unemployment, bankruptcies, outmigration, and simply, for many of us who are on the front lines, a lot of human tragedy, Mr. Speaker.

And only the PCs and their political pals in the chamber of commerce believe that the economy is improving. Most businesses are waiting this one out. I think there was a great line by business leaders after an economic statement by the Minister of Finance. And they agreed with the Minister of Finance that, boy, things were really improving in Saskatchewan. And this is what the chamber of commerce people had to say — their political pals — that things were really going to get better, a whole lot better, although, frankly, they hadn't heard of anybody really investing any more money in Saskatchewan as a result of all this hype.

And I guess what I'm saying is that the real bottom line on all this improvement is investment, and most businesses are waiting the current economic situation out. They won't invest until they see some real and potentially long-lasting turn-around in the economy. That is not happening. You know that's not happening, the people on this side know it's not happening, the people in my constituency and across Saskatchewan know that it's not happening. It's a pity that the Premier of Saskatchewan doesn't know that it's not happening, and that the Premier can't understand what is happening in this province because if he did he might have taken a different approach in the throne speech, an approach that might have been more appropriate to the situation that many people find themselves in, and the dire situation that the province finds itself in.

You know, the only other way in which the government — at least according to the throne speech — seems to be dealing with the economy is to sell off our assets, to privatize those things we already own. Now by and large my constituents don't understand what the government is trying to do. And if they do, they do not support the government in its rush to sell off everything we already own.

They don't understand, for example, how selling off a part of SGI is going to benefit them. They say, well you know, my kid here, he's 19, 20 now and he's desperate to find a

job. And I say, well the government is going to privatize SGI. And he says, I know, but how is it going to help him? Well he knows it's not going to help him. This privatization business hasn't helped him. They create a few jobs here, maybe; on the other hand we lose jobs. There is no net gain in employment for Saskatchewan people as a result of what the government is trying to do. They know there is no net gain for Saskatchewan people.

They know that the selling off of the SaskTel directory business, for example, is not going to mean increased profits for SaskTel — profits that might be used to keep telephone rates at a reasonable level or might even go as a shareholder or a dividend payment to the people of this province to pay for health care. They know that that's not going to happen. They know that there's no better jobs; they know that the services won't be improved as a result of this privatization.

But mostly what the people don't understand, mostly what they don't understand is the PC government's total preoccupation with something that they do not perceive to provide any benefit at all. They see a government that is consumed in everything it does, whose whole attention is so tightly focused on the matter of privatization. And they say, well we're concerned about health, we're concerned about education, we're concerned about jobs, but all these people seem to want to talk about is privatization.

Well I find it hard to explain these things to my constituents. They ask, why are the PCs spending all their time in privatization? Why are they not spending time on the more important things? And I say, good questions. Why doesn't the PC government start dealing with the issues that concern people, as opposed to this ideological fixation of privatization, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I was particularly concerned to see that there is no mention of the many challenges facing urban municipalities in the throne speech — and you will forgive me, Mr. Speaker, if I dwell on this issue for a few minutes. This is a matter of some importance to me because of the background that I have. I had thought that the PC government would address at least two pressing issues that concern the public and their local governments, especially in our cities, and I refer to the matter of the ward system and that of shopping hours.

Since the PC government abolished the ward system, in at least one city the public has had an opportunity now to vote very directly on this matter and to say what kind of system they favoured. And I would point out to you, sir, that in the city of Regina last fall, the people went to the polls and in overwhelming numbers — and I forget whether it was two-thirds or three-quarters or more — said that, we want to retain the ward system.

Now I know, you know, that the government sort of orientation last year was to do away with the ward system. But I thought that, inasmuch as the people of at least one city feel so very strongly about it, that they might have listened and that they might have said in the throne speech that, this is an issue that we're going to address, and frankly begin to respond to the people of Saskatchewan as opposed to shoving things down the throats of Saskatchewan people. But we haven't seen

that.

And I might say that whatever the government hoped to accomplish by turning the matter of regulating shopping hours over to urban municipalities, it hasn't resulted in any peaceful resolution of the issue — and that's no news to the people of Saskatchewan. I thought that this is something that might not escape the government's attention, that they might deal with the matter of shopping hours in their throne speech and recognize that their strategy of turning it over to municipalities as a way of solving the issue simply hasn't worked.

And they will know that many cities are now embroiled in this issue. They're in the courts. They're fighting in the courts. Other cities are waiting to see how the actions . . . or waiting to see what the results will be in other cities, because depending on what happens in other cities, it may affect them.

I point to a recent article discussing the situation in Melfort, who's sitting by and waiting to see what might happen in Prince Albert because what might happen in Prince Albert might then determine how they will move in this issue.

Turmoil, confusion is the best way to describe the matter of shopping hours in Saskatchewan. I had thought that the government might listen to what was going on out there and might have given some indication in their throne speech that they were sensitive to this and would begin to deal with that. But I see that the government is continuing its ostrich-like attitude in this matter and, frankly, I'm disappointed, although I'm not surprised. I'm not surprised by any lack of recognition in the throne speech of urban issues, given their general sort of lack of concern for the issues that face our urban municipalities. And it's clear that urban affairs is not a matter of priority, not when it comes to any recognition of the challenges that face Saskatchewan, certainly not when it comes to any recognition of the funding that's needed in this province to set things right.

I do, however, Mr. Speaker, want to make one suggestion in this matter and leave it at that. I want to make one suggestion to the Premier that I think will help him to improve matters in so far as the administration of urban affairs is concerned in this province. And my suggestion to the Premier is: fire the Minister of Urban Affairs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — I say to the Premier, fire the Minister of Urban Affairs. The present incumbent, the member for Regina South, is widely recognized as an ill-informed meddler when it comes to urban issues, who is no asset to the PC government.

It is clear that when it comes to the city of Regina, as an example, that he has lost any sense of objectivity that one might demand of a minister. and he will need to be replaced if the Premier wants to improve relations with at least that city.

And I know that the members opposite will say that, well he's simply playing partisan politics; there's no reason to

fire the Minister of Urban Affairs. Well I tell you that my discussions with many city mayors and councillors — and this is off the record, Mr. Speaker — and many of them are Tories, agree with me. They agree with me. They think that the Minister of Urban Affairs is a walking joke. They think that he should go. They don't understand why the Premier keeps him on.

Well I say if you want to do anything positive, get rid of the Minister of Urban Affairs.

And I know that, given the lack of representation that the government has, especially in our larger cities, it would seem that it would be difficult to find a replacement for him. But I would point out to him that also in the city of Regina is another PC member, the member for Regina Wascana, and I think the Premier should make him the Minister of Urban Affairs. Because — and this is not saying much — but he's twice as smart as the present Minister of Urban Affairs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — You know, he seems to be a well-informed individual, he seems to be a co-operative, amiable kind of person, the kind of person that you need to ensure good relations with all those municipalities. That's an important thing. And he's got that far more than the present minister does. So why not fire the present member for Regina South and put the member for Wascana in there?

I might also point out again that the member for Wascana has got a lot more on the ball than the present minister and would certainly be able to understand the complexities and so on of urban affairs which seem to escape the present minister.

Mr. Speaker, one item that I thought I'd see in the throne speech was the matter of Senate reform. I was sure, in fact I was willing to bet a dollar, that our Premier would take the lead of his colleague to the west, Don Getty, the Premier of Alberta, and announce in the throne speech that in so far as the next vacancy of the Senate in Saskatchewan, that we would fill it through an election of the people in Saskatchewan. That's what I thought I'd see in the throne speech. But boy, was I surprised; was I surprised when I didn't see it there, that he didn't call for an election of a senator from Saskatchewan.

And I might say that . . . I think I'm correct when I say that this present government has only had one opportunity to appoint a senator so far, that senator being Staff Barootes, the big Tory fund raiser in Saskatchewan. But most people will probably know him from his public days as the head of the Keep Our Doctors Committee which did everything in its power, in a bitter struggle, to deny medicare to Saskatchewan people. That's Staff Barootes — that senator.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — And I say to the Premier, I say to the Premier, why not put it to the people of Saskatchewan to determine who the next senator will be? Why not get the people of Saskatchewan to pass judgement on whether

they want to elect the Staff Barootes who tried to deny the medicare, or whether they want to vote for someone else?

(1930)

Well, you know, maybe it's because the Premier has chickened out on this one because he knows that if you call a Senate election, then all the people in the province would have a chance to vote — it's one big constituency — and that the majority of people out there, the majority of people don't support the PCs. They don't support the PCs and the only way that the PCs can get elected in this province is through some crooked, rigged election scheme which means that boundaries of constituencies are altered in such a way to give a great advantage to sitting PC members. Everybody knows that to be the case; everybody knows that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — They know that if an election were held at large in this province, the PC candidate would lose. They would lose.

You know when you have an unrepresentative . . . you know, election scheme, such as we have in Saskatchewan now, the minority of a population can elect a majority in this legislature. And that's what happened in 1986 because of our system and the boundaries hadn't been changed for some time. You had a situation where the minority of people were able to elect the government majority and we said, fine — well that's the system. I mean the boundaries were fair; they're due to be changed again.

Well do you think these guys would do that? No. Their approach is to make the situation even worse, to double ensure that the minority will elect a majority next time. That's their scheme. Well, I got news for you, friends. It's not going to work because enough people in Saskatchewan are simply revolted, revolted by that type of political chicanery.

I just . . . You know, most people in Saskatchewan understand that the average rural constituency — and it's mostly rural constituencies that have elected PCs in the last election — the average rural constituency will have 9,000 voters, and the average urban constituency will have 11,000 voters. Most people know that that situation is not fair.

I say that the PCs couldn't win an election fair and square in Saskatchewan, and that it's going to take every trick in their crooked political book to ensure a re-election for them. But I tell you, I tell you, Mr. Speaker, come the next election it won't be the PCs sitting on that side; the PCs will be reduced to a mere rump on this side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — You know, something that's absent from the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, is the volumes of sleaze and misrepresentation and outright lies that characterizes the remarks of members of the PC government — outright misrepresentations.

The Speaker: — Order. Order.—I'm afraid that I am going to have to ask the hon. member to apologize to the House for unparliamentary language. I ask the hon. member to retract those charges. I believe I know what he's referring to.

An Hon. Member: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you . . .

The Speaker: — No point of order. Order, order. Order. There is no intervention at this point.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly apologize if I've used any unparliamentary language and I do so unreservedly. It's just that I heard a Tory member earlier this afternoon use the word "lie" in that same context. But I'm sorry and I won't do it again.

But anyway, I'm not surprised that, I guess, that that isn't in the throne speech because the throne speech is not the kind of place where you, you know, introduce volumes of sleaze and misrepresentation. That's something that you do outside the throne speech.

I guess I'm not surprised by their attitude of late. I'm not surprised by their actions. When I listen to the members opposite and I read the papers to what they have to say, their attitude seems to be that if you've got nothing positive to say to the people of Saskatchewan, and if you're behind in any event, then sling as much mud as you can in the hopes that some of it will stick. And that's how you win the next election. People on this side of the House know that; the public know that. They listened to the Minister of Finance, they listened this afternoon to the member for Rosthern, throw the mud — throw the mud to see what might stick. They know all about their sleazy politics. They know all about their sleazy politics from the very first day that this legislature sat in the fall of 1986. We called them sleazes then and they're sleazes now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — And you know that that's their strategy for this session; that's their strategy, that's their hope for turning things around. The PC road is the low road, Mr. Speaker. The swamp road is the PC road. Well their strategy seemed to start last year. And I would point out that shortly before Christmas last year, my colleague, the member for Regina Rosemont, wrote to President-elect George Bush, in the United States, indicating some concerns that people in Saskatchewan and that Canadians had about something called the Alameda dam, which is part of the Shand-Rafferty project, more commonly known by the people of Saskatchewan as the shafferty project.

An Hon. Member: — Boondoggle.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — The boondoggle. In any event, my colleague sent a reasoned letter to the President-elect, and so he should, to make him aware of what's going on, of the relations that affect our two jurisdictions. He wrote to him asking the President-elect to consider referring the entire matter to the international joint committee for consideration before any funds were approved. He said that there were environmental problems and that these

needed to be investigated and pointed these out to President-elect Bush. Well, it wasn't very long, less than a week later, and along comes the Minister of Finance, the present member for Qu'Appelle-Lumsden. He also sent a letter to George Bush, he also sent a letter to the President-elect of the United States. Now do you think that his letter might also have been a reasoned one? Do you think that in his letter that he might have said, well you know, we appreciate the letter that the member for Rosemont has sent, but we disagree, for all the various reasons in my letter, that the environmental impact and all the things we'd done on the economic sense that the project makes. Do you think he did that? No, Mr. Speaker. No. What the Minister of Finance did, he sent a letter and he did nothing but sleaze, sleaze the member for Rosemont and sleaze the NDP.

That person is not capable of providing a reasoned response to anything. His only interest seems to be in muddying the political situation in this province and throwing out as much mud as he can and introducing as much sleaze as he can into the political environment in Saskatchewan.

And I want to read to you, Mr. Speaker, just a few of the comments that are attributed to the Minister of Finance. And it said in the Minister of Finance's letter, he notes that the member for Rosemont recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Chile, after which the member for Rosemont stated that only a revolution will restore democracy and human rights to that country.

Well that's no surprise to anybody that has a keen eye for what's happening in Chile. They know that a dictatorship hasn't returned them to any semblance of democracy in their own right.

And the Minister of Finance also goes on to say that the member for Rosemont is on record in favour of nationalizing potash mines — well that's not a bad idea — and favours government ownership of banks, construction companies, life insurance, and pension funds, all those bad things. He makes all those charges about my colleague.

But the thing that really got to me, Mr. Speaker, the thing that really got to me is that the Minister of Finance said, I quote:

I would also advise you that it was a group of New Democratic Party members who burned the United States flag during a demonstration at Winnipeg, Manitoba, a few years ago.

Said the Minister of Finance, in a letter he describes as putting the matter in a proper perspective. Well talk about not addressing the issue but talk about introducing more sleaze.

Now the Minister of Finance knows that New Democratic Party members were not burning any flags in Winnipeg. He knows that, but yet he's inferring that it was New Democratic Party members in Manitoba who were burning flags out there and it's not true and he shouldn't be saying those kinds of things. He just simply shouldn't be saying those kinds of things.

You know it wouldn't be the first time that the Minister of Finance has been off the mark, Mr. Speaker. You know that. Even the government members know that. Everybody in this province knows that the Minister of Finance is off the mark sometimes. I mean, after all, he did project a \$389 million deficit in the fiscal year '86-87 which ballooned to a \$1.2 billion deficit within that same fiscal year. So he's been off the mark before. And I might say he was off the mark, he was off the mark in his letter too, Mr. Speaker, because I have an article from the *Brandon Sun*, I have an article from the *Brandon Sun*, and this article says that at least the member for Rosemont had the right address. He sent his letter directly to Bush via the presidential transition office on Connecticut Avenue in Washington. The Minister of Finance's note went to the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue where Bush wasn't expected for at least another month.

So I think it's fair to say, without any equivocation, that this Minister of Finance has a record for being off the mark and being wrong. And I want the members opposite to know that he was wrong, very wrong in saying that New Democratic Party members were burning flags in Winnipeg.

And we saw a continuation of that approach before the session when the Finance minister held forth on the upcoming session on the changes in opposition critic assignments. He said . . . The Finance minister predicted the most wild-eyed session of the Saskatchewan legislature we've ever had. And the Leader of the Opposition set it up. The session is going to be marred by bell ringing, walk-outs and delays in legislation. Mr. Opposition House Leader, the member for Elphinstone, has a past record of causing disruptions. That's what he said. And he also said, in commenting on the shuffle of critic assignments in the opposition caucus, he said, we see the radical left starting to get positions. Well I might ask, where is my position? But the left has never been happy with Mr. Opposition Leader, the member for Riversdale, and now he obviously has had to make some serious compromises. Well everybody knows how much malarkey that was.

But again it's another example of the Finance minister trying to introduce sleaze into the political spectrum here. And to top it all off, he accused my colleague, the member for Rosemont, of somehow, of some wrongdoing with respect to location of his constituency office, which most people in this city know to be a bunch of malarkey.

And today we saw the attack continue when the member for Rosthern got up and attacked the opposition leader for foreclosing on farmers — something that the opposition leader has made quite clear he has personally never done — yet he continues to stand there. He stood there this afternoon going on and on and on about how somehow the opposition leader foreclosed on farmers.

But, you know, my leader is quite capable, and his caucus is quite capable, of defending his actions, especially where no defence is necessary because he didn't do that. And the member knows that, and won't attack him directly — won't attack him directly. That's the nature of a sleaze — he won't attack directly, he goes a little bit

around about.

I guess the thing that concerned me the most was that the Minister of Finance would write to the President-elect, would write to the President-elect of the United States and attribute to us things that had occurred in Manitoba and substantially misrepresent what had happened in Manitoba. Because it wasn't New Democratic Party government members that were burning any flags . . . But substantially misrepresent . . . anyway, to give the impression somehow that we are responsible, that we are responsible for the actions of New Democrats in Manitoba, and, I guess, by inference, for the actions of New Democrats in other parts of the country.

Well I want to say to the Finance minister and to the PC government that I will accept full responsibility — full responsibility — for the actions of New Democrats in Manitoba and New Democrats in other parts of this country if he will accept, and they will accept responsibility for every crook, grifter, and con artist that has found its way into the Tory party in recent years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — These are not new revelations to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. These are not new revelations. The people of Saskatchewan and of Canada are only too well aware of the crooks and grifters and con artists and others who have found their way into the Tory party, especially in the provinces to the east of us. They know all about that.

(1945)

They know about the federal cabinet ministers. They know about André Bissonnette. They know about Michel Côté, who was fired as a minister of Supply and Services for failing to disclose personal loans. They know about Sinclair Stevens, who was found to have violated conflict of interest guide-lines 14 times as a federal minister. They know all about Tory member of parliament, Michel Gravel, who went on trial for 50 charges and was convicted on a number of charges. He was charged initially with breach of trust, fraud against the government, and bribery. They know all about them.

They know all about the more recent ones, the ones that were reported in February of '89, in the newspaper where it says, "PC riding president charged."

A Progressive Conservative riding president has been charged with fraud and bribery in connection with his contacts with government officials.

Suburban businessmen Joseph Hamelin . . . has been ordered to appear in court . . . in south-shore Longueuil to answer the charges . . .

Hamelin is past-president of the federal Progressive Conservative St-Hubert riding association and former president of the party's Chambly association.

. . . the Crown alleges that Hamelin bribed high

officials of Defence Construction Canada . . .

Another charge says Hamelin obtained \$1,200 from a federal job-creation program by filing false time sheets and salaries scales for two employees hired under the program.

And on it goes. That same paper, Mr. Speaker, related about, "Former MP pleads not guilty."

. . . former MP Edouard Desrosiers pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges of fraud, breach of trust and using forged documents.

The charges against Desrosiers . . . who held the east-end Montreal riding of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve for the (PC's) . . . from 1984 to 1988, were laid after a three-month investigation by the RCMP.

So I say take responsibility for your friends in the Conservative Party as I will take responsibility for other New Democrats to the east of us. I say stand up and account for their actions to the people of Saskatchewan. Account for their actions to George Bush in Washington when you're giving out the full story.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — I could go on, Mr. Speaker, about Bob Wilson, the PC MLA for Winnipeg Wolseley, who was charged and ultimately sent to jail for pushing drugs, pushing drugs on little children in Winnipeg. I say, accept responsibility for his actions. Accept responsibilities for Colin Thatcher, a former member of your caucus. Accept responsibility for the actions of Lewis Brand. Accept responsibility for all those people when you stand up and say that we should somehow be held responsible for things that people didn't even do in Manitoba. I say, stand up and be responsible for all the crooks and grifters and con artists that have found its way into your party in recent years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the motion that's before us. The PC governments are prone to using the word "win." And I know that they have an Everyone Wins program. And I might encourage the member for Regina Wascana to stand on his feet and contribute to the debate or otherwise I might take back the nice things I had to say about him earlier and not sort of wish for him the job of Urban Affairs minister.

But I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Tories are fond of the use of the word win. They've got their Everyone Wins program in which they send . . . They do all kinds of massive advertising, and they send out \$1,000 to every group and organization in the province to, you know, promote Everyone Wins, and I suppose promote the PC government. And they've got a farming to win program which is mostly a bunch of the old boys from the right wing farm organizations trying to encourage young farmers not to get too close to that wheat pool and to make sure that they go to the local inland grain terminal.

You know, they're fond of the word win. The only thing I can say, Mr. Speaker, after listening to the throne speech, after reading it in some detail, is that . . . and after consultation with my constituents, is that my constituents do not feel like winners in Saskatchewan today. They simply do not feel like winners with the present government. And they have encouraged me very strongly to oppose the throne speech, and therefore I will vote against the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Britton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise before this Assembly and speak in response to Her Honour's first Speech from the Throne, which I congratulate her on. I would like to say a few words tonight, Mr. Speaker, on a topic that was mentioned in the throne speech, co-operation and volunteerism in Saskatchewan.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my colleague from Assiniboia. I missed his first speech and I understand it was a good speech.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Britton: — And I, along with the people of Assiniboia-Gravelbourg . . . I relish this moment, Mr. Speaker, this moment being that this is the first time a member of our party represented the constituency of Assiniboia-Gravelbourg. But with a member like him, Mr. Speaker, it will not be the last time.

And I agree with the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, who in his speech reinforced the fact that the people of his constituency sent a message. And I hope the members opposite, especially the member from Riversdale, appreciate the impact of that message, the message, Mr. Speaker, being that the people of the province don't want to be lied to. And I refer to the letter sent by the Leader of the Opposition to the people in Assiniboia-Gravelbourg in respect to the closing of five hospitals. Mr. Speaker, the people don't mind rhetoric but they don't like untruths.

Mr. Speaker, the message that's here is only that there is only one credible party in the province of Saskatchewan; there is only one party that the people can believe in, and that is the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan. The people of this province can rely on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. They want solutions and we will supply them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important component of today's society, a component that we, the government, have reinforced for the past eight years. The component that is so integral to Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker, is co-operation — co-operation, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the members on the other side suggest I don't know what the word means, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest to that member that I know what co-operation means. I have co-operated in my community all of my life and I take pride in that.

The members opposite should take note, Mr. Speaker, of

a few words. Co-operation is defined as a willingness to work together with others, a wanting to work together with others.

The key words, Mr. Speaker, and I wish the member would listen, are willingness and wanting to work together. The member from Riversdale should take note on my short speech today, Mr. Speaker; he could use a few pointers in this area. Co-operate with the people, co-operate with them.

He talks a lot about going to the grass roots on policy, but I think, Mr. Speaker, he and his fellow members across the way are copping out. He's not leading his party, Mr. Speaker; he's waiting for them to come up with his policy. He's not working with the people of the province; he is depending on them and he is using them, Mr. Speaker.

Our government is committed to co-operating with the people in Saskatchewan and working with them. I don't have to mention some of the things we've done — other members have and will — where we are co-operating with employees to become a member of society and have a right to work and something to work for. Co-operation — it is a relevant concept in our society today. The throne speech clarifies my point, Mr. Speaker.

In our objectives this year, almost every area is focused on the necessity of co-operation. Co-operation and volunteerism must be recognized. It is evident in all areas of our life today. I don't have to think loud and hard to come up with examples of government contributing to this component.

In my own constituency we have seen jobs created to govern co-operation with the citizens of the constituency of Wilkie. Take our government's home program, for example. Mr. Speaker, a total of 270 jobs we've created through this program. Our government contributed \$3,000,394 million to the people of the Wilkie constituency to improve upon their homes.

Our government, Mr. Speaker, contributed \$3,197,580 in the form of loans to people in the Wilkie constituency to help them buy a home. Over 3,838 individuals were approved to renovate their homes utilizing the \$3,000 matching grant from our government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, 511 individuals were approved for low interest loans to buy homes. The government and the people of my constituency created 270 jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a look at all the volunteer positions that our citizens fill. Look, Mr. Speaker, at the PALS program, for an excellent example. PALS, Principle of Alphabet Literacy System is a computer-based interactive, instructional system designed to teach adolescents and adults basic reading and writing skills. The project serves over 5,000 students in our province, Mr. Speaker, in the next three years.

Who are their instructors, Mr. Speaker? The instructors are primarily volunteers. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of taking part in the opening of the second centre of computer-based literacy instruction in North Battleford. It is located at the North West Regional College. And at that

centre, Mr. Speaker, more than 75 school age and adult learners are making use of 12 computer terminals for the purpose of upgrading their reading and writing skills.

Co-operation, Mr. Speaker, not only between the people of Saskatchewan and the government, but with IBM Canada Ltd., the private sector as well. We have a three-year agreement with IBM, Mr. Speaker, where they donated \$850,000 worth of software, hardware and personnel, and 24-hour service to the people in that PALS project — co-operation between the private sector, the people and the government.

This example of co-operation represents the first major application of computer-based literacy training in Canada — in Canada, Mr. Speaker. The first one . . . I don't have to think too hard to come up with some more examples. Sporting events come to mind immediately — events like the 1989 Labatt's Brier, and the 1989 Canada Summer Games could not occur if the concept of co-operation did not exist.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has long been a leader in Canadian curling, growing from small community rinks in almost every community in this province, small and large. Many of those rinks were started through the recreation facility grants funded by our government. It was volunteers that went out and raised the extra money needed. Volunteers are the binding force that brings community together and gives it a sense of pride and purpose. That is co-operation and volunteerism.

The people of Saskatchewan and the government built those rinks together and from this tradition and the work of countless volunteers over the years have come curlers demonstrating the team-work and commitment to excellence that characterize an event like the Brier.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 3,000 athletes from across Canada competing in Saskatoon in the 1989 Canada Summer Games. Approximately 6,000 volunteers have donated their time and energy preparing and ensuring the success of these games.

(2000)

Mr. Speaker, over \$9 million in facilities and \$8 million in operating costs are going into the games. Our province has contributed \$2.5 million to help ensure its success.

This money will help to construct many new facilities. The co-operation between these volunteers and the government will generate a great amount of economic activity. Countless hours and many dollars go into hosting these games and our province will benefit through the co-operation of government people and the community. It will benefit, Mr. Speaker, through new and upgraded facilities, trained personnel, and many visitor dollars left in Saskatchewan — all due to the spirit of co-operation.

And on a more local level, Mr. Speaker, this weekend the intermediate ladies will be holding a bonspiel in my home town of Unity. And I know of over 60 volunteers that will be involved in that bonspiel in this little town of Unity.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed, building on this co-operative foundation to continue to meet the needs of our citizens. Mr. Speaker, when our government introduced the Department of Health, Everyone Wins campaign, 10 third-party endorsements came in in one day — 10, Mr. Speaker. Over 10 third-party endorsements. All participated in the announcement. They threw their support behind the government's program.

I want to give you a more specific example, Mr. Speaker: team WESTBRIDGE, Mr. Speaker. Team WESTBRIDGE is made up of members of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. They are sponsored by the WESTBRIDGE computer company and they are working in co-operation with SADAC (Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission), travelling from school to school in Saskatchewan, speaking on drug and alcohol abuse. These three organizations came together to help the Everyone Wins campaign in educating people in co-operation, Mr. Speaker, with each other.

Educating people on living more healthy life-styles — that is co-operation, Mr. Speaker. And I could use examples from health for hours, but I'll stop at this next one, Mr. Speaker.

The Kidney Foundation in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, donated \$30,000 to our government to help implement a transplant program in Saskatchewan. Together, in true co-operation, the Kidney Foundation and the Government of Saskatchewan are working together to set this program up.

In March, we witnessed the annual event of Telemiracle. The Saskatchewan Kinsmen came within \$35,000 of realizing another \$2 million dream, Mr. Speaker. This 13-year-old tradition has been maintained, Mr. Speaker, through the co-operation of all the people in Saskatchewan. The Kinsmen have put more than \$17 million into projects since the telethon began.

Mr. Speaker, 80 cents of every dollar raised goes back to the people of Saskatchewan. This event could not occur year in and year out without the concepts of co-operation and volunteerism, Mr. Speaker. Events such as these make me proud that our government is committed to something as important as the concept of co-operation.

Twenty-nine new businesses were created through the youth entrepreneurs program in 1988. These businesses ranged from shoe repair to optical lens manufacturing. These businesses received nearly \$364,000 in loans from our government to start up. This program was established in May of 1985 to encourage our young entrepreneurs to create small businesses and new jobs. This program, Mr. Speaker, has resulted in the creation of 139 businesses and 265 new jobs. Co-operation, Mr. Speaker, co-operation helps build.

Let me give you an example: the Co-op heavy oil upgrader located in Regina, Mr. Speaker — the first ever in Canada — a joint venture between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Ltd. People and government together co-operating, Mr. Speaker. And that is the thrust of the

throne speech, is to co-operate. This co-operative partnership is increasing heavy oil exploration and production in creating new jobs in Saskatchewan and it impacts very heavily in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, because we have some heavy oil reserves.

The provincial government is building in Saskatchewan; building in co-operation with groups all across Saskatchewan and I'm here to tell you that we will continue to do so. We are committed to it.

And this throne speech, Mr. Speaker, continues that commitment. I therefore urge all members of the House to support the main motion and defeat any and all amendments. I thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koenker: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin, Mr. Speaker, by saying that it's a privilege to give voice to some of the concerns of the people of Saskatoon Sutherland, and to call for a public accounting of the government's action that is long overdue.

I look at this Speech from the Throne, as do many of my constituents, as evidence that this PC government is about to become history, is about to become dust on the face of the province's history, because this speech, Mr. Speaker, adds to the pile of lies and broken promises that characterize this government.

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, order. Order. The issue of unparliamentary language is, of course, one that we have faced before, and sometimes some members might disagree with a ruling. However, I intend to try to enforce it, but that doesn't mean that one isn't human and may not make a mistake from time to time. But, however, I don't think that we should get into the habit of using those kinds of, that kind of language. It isn't good for the House. And therefore I ask the hon. member to please withdraw it.

Mr. Koenker: — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I should have said that this Speech from the Throne adds to the pile of corruption and duplicity, the broken promises that surround the record of this government and is built up around the Premier of this province. Because never, in the history of Saskatchewan, have Saskatchewan people seen a government that is more inept, more corrupt, and more uncaring than this Progressive Conservative government opposite.

And in reflecting on the history of the last seven years and on the words of the Speech from the Throne, I am reminded of the larger panorama of human history and that period in time known as the Dark Ages, or the feudal times.

And much like the feudal times, this government here in Saskatchewan simply doesn't care about the people that it governs. This is a government that doesn't simply ignore Saskatchewan people; this is a government that actively preys on Saskatchewan people — preys most especially on the weak and the vulnerable and those who are unable to protect themselves. This is a government that plunders the public welfare, that plunders and wastes the public

purse while it shovels jobs and patronage appointments to its friends.

And so what we have is really a new form of feudalism — a new feudalism perfected by the Progressive Conservative government opposite. Just as the Middle Ages were characterized by rigid class distinctions, basically in only two directions — serfs and peasants who had nothing and the kings or lords who had everything, this is what we see happening across the province of Saskatchewan in the last months and years.

We now have two classes of people in Saskatchewan: people who have wealth and privilege and power and access to opportunity and preferential treatment; and a second class of people in Saskatchewan, everyone else. In other words, we have the friends of the PC Party and everyone else — everyone else who takes a back seat. So there's life in the castle and there's life on the outside for everyone else.

The proof of this is found in the government's record on patronage. At a time when working men and women are being driven from their work place and from their jobs, at a time when young people are looking for jobs that don't exist, at a time when Saskatchewan families are having to leave the province of Saskatchewan for employment, the list of those who have been kicked out of office by the voters of Saskatchewan and who return to feed off the public purse continues to grow and grow.

And I think of defeated PC cabinet minister, Paul Schoenhals, who is now chairman of the potash corporation to the tune of some \$100,000 a year, who the people of Saskatoon Sutherland, the very constituency that I represent, said that they didn't want serving them as a member of the legislature. And I know from visiting those people that they aren't pleased with him serving as the chairman of the potash corporation.

I think of another PC cabinet minister, Gordon Dirks. Gord has a consulting contract now with the provincial Department of Education. Or, PC cabinet minister, defeated, Tim Embury, interim president of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. How comfortable, how very comfortable life in the palace can be — life close to the palace, for those who are friends of the PC Party and have the access and the opportunity to feast at the king's table.

I think of another . . . There's another PC cabinet minister defeated in this past election, Louis Domotor. Well, what is good old Louis doing now? Well Louis is doing special projects for the property management corporation. Former PC cabinet minister, Paul Rousseau, is now agent-general for the Government of Saskatchewan in England. Gordon Currie . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I'd like to ask the hon. member to please refrain from interrupting the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Koenker: — Former PC cabinet minister, Paul Rousseau, now is feasting at the king's table in England, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Very, very comfortable. The Queen's table perhaps, as an hon.

friend says.

Another PC cabinet minister, Gordon Currie, now at the board table for the youth treatment centre. PC MLA, Keith Parker — they get in the acts too, the MLAs do — working with booze, as assistant chairman to the Saskatchewan Liquor Board. The government that wants to open liquor stores across the province in the constituency of Rosthern, for example, puts its former MLAs to work greasing the skids for that sort of program. And the list goes on and on. Ralphie Katzman is in there, of course — people know that.

And while all this patronage goes on, at the very time that all of this patronage goes on, and we enter the PC era of the new feudalism, the gap, Mr. Speaker, between the rich and the poor widens and grows greater day by day. People only have to read this Speech from the Throne that was delivered last week to see that this government is now going to experiment with the new feudalism down on the farm — feudalism on the farm, Saskatchewan-style, with the introduction of equity financing. What else, after all, is equity financing, but the modern day equivalent of the feudal system where farmers who are strangled by debt are handed over to the lords and ladies of capital to become hired hands, indentured servants on their own land?

And what we have is the Premier of this province who countenances that, in fact, who advances it in this Speech from the Throne; who has no problem at all with farmers being first turfed off their land and then asked to come back, forced to come back and farm it for someone else. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that is not farming Saskatchewan-style, that is farming in feudal style and Saskatchewan farmers will have nothing to do with it.

(2015)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koenker: — And Saskatchewan farmers are losing rapidly all respect for the Minister of Agriculture, who espouses this kind of exploitation of those who work the land, and they're going to give him his just reward in due time.

But it isn't simply farm land that has been transformed by this new feudalism PC-style; this new feudal system that's entered the province with the Premier and his government. Precisely the same dimension, or dynamic, is at work with the forest lands in the northern part of the province.

Just as in feudal times there was a situation in which the peasants or the serfs could not hunt, or even gather fuel wood from Crown land, the same situation exists here today in the province of Saskatchewan. The Premier of the province, just like a king in feudal times, acting on some kind of divine right, sells off Saskatchewan forests to American forest giants like Weyerhaeuser corporation and kicks Saskatchewan people off the land. Purportedly we are told by this Premier that the province receives \$248 million for the sale of the Big River saw mill, the Saskatoon chemical plant, the Prince Albert Pulp Company, and probably more than one-half of the

northern Saskatchewan forests — purportedly \$248 million. But it's not true. There was no money put down at the time of that sale and Saskatchewan people need to know that Weyerhaeuser was given 30 years to pay — no money down and 30 years to pay — at a preferential interest rate of eight and one-half per cent with no payment required in years in which Weyerhaeuser's profit in Saskatchewan was less than 12 per cent.

And to add insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, the people of the province of Saskatchewan are required to pay annually for the building of 32 kilometres of roads in that northern forest area every year, each year into perpetuity, until the end of the forest management lease agreement with Weyerhaeuser. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that agreement will come to an end the day the New Democratic government is elected because the New Democratic government will not see the people of Saskatchewan victimized in that kind of fashion.

And to this day then what do we have to show for the sale, this so-called sale, of all of these Crown assets to Weyerhaeuser, this sale engineered by the Premier of the province? We have less than 10 per cent of the purchase price in the provincial purse; less than 10 per cent of the purchase price in the provincial purse.

And I say to people who are looking at attending the University of Saskatchewan and who can't get in because the doors are locked on them because of inadequate funding from the province, I say that even a down payment of \$100 million could have gone a long way to restore education on the University of Saskatchewan's campus. But that was too much for the Premier to ask of his friends at Weyerhaeuser, the robber barons. Yes, what we have with Weyerhaeuser is a licence to rob the province of Saskatchewan, to rape and plunder Saskatchewan forests, and nowhere do we see the effects, the long-term effects of this feudal system, more than when it comes to young people.

Would you believe that this Speech from the Throne does not so much as mention any kind of job program for young people in this province? Imagine that! How could it be that a government that talks about the importance of the future and loves to talk about the importance of families has nothing to say about the future of young people in the work place? To this day there has yet to be a summer jobs program announced for Saskatchewan young people — and it won't be announced either, in the budget. It won't do anybody any good even if it would be.

But that's like the feudal lord. It's just like the feudal lord to sit in his castle and to imagine what's going on, on the outside; to ignore the reality of what's going on, on the outside, and to imagine what's going on. And the Premier of this province doesn't care enough about Saskatchewan people, young people, to do anything for them.

And I have some statistics. I'll give the Premier credit for this, that he still has a bureau of statistics within the provincial government. I have here the most recent Government of Saskatchewan statistics, dated March 10, 1989, for the Saskatchewan labour force. And I note that the unemployment rate for young people between the ages of 15 and 24 is seventeen and one-half per cent —

seventeen and one-half per cent unemployment rate for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Now what kind of future is there for these young people with no work?

I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, what kind of future there is. There's a future of poverty, and there's a future of alcoholism, and a future of drug abuse because the devil quickly finds work for idle hands even if the Premier of the province can't.

And while the . . . This unemployment rate for young people between the ages of 15 and 24 is more than double the unemployment rate for the rest of the province. Now that's damning enough, but when we look at similar government statistics from the Government of Saskatchewan dated February 9, 1989, we look at outmigration from the province of Saskatchewan, we see that a very similar circumstance is at work.

Who are the people leaving the province of Saskatchewan in the last year? They're basically young people between the ages of 20 and 29. For the age group 20 to 24, there are four and a half thousand people, young people who left the province last year; and another four and a half thousand people between the ages of 25 to 29 who left the province.

And indeed if you look at the government's own statistical figures for the month of January, 1989, we see that there were 1,000 more young people who left the province this past January than a year ago in January — almost 3,000 people leaving the province of Saskatchewan.

And in fact if we look at the total outmigration statistics for families leaving the province of Saskatchewan, we'll see that a similar trajectory is in place, that for the month of January '89, there were almost 1,000 more Saskatchewan families leaving the province than a year ago in January.

While all this is going on then, while Saskatchewan young people are going without work or going out of the province, who is at the banquet table, feasting like a pig at public expense? The Tories. People like Paul Schoenhals and other friends of the PC Party grunting away at the public banquet table. The people of Saskatchewan know something is wrong, and they know what's wrong, and they know that it comes from this Premier and his government with their patronage programs and their preferential treatment for the wealthy.

Just this past week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had the opportunity to listen to a constituent who shared her concerns about her two sons and their future employment prospects in this province. The one is a young man in his teens who is studying to be a psychiatrist. He is studying to be a psychiatrist because he realizes that in a few years there will be so many people with so many problems that the province of Saskatchewan is going to have to have a slew of psychologists and psychiatrists to deal with these problems, and so his employment prospects are pretty great. The second son is much younger and still in elementary school, and this woman reports that his future is not so bright — that he sees that the door to his future education has really effectively been closed if he wants to go to the U of S (University of Saskatchewan) because of

lack of funding and admission quotas at the U of S.

And so when the Speech from the Throne, on the second page, talks about this government increasing educational opportunities, the speech is just that — talk. Talk, empty words, and words are cheap. Empty promises like so much of what this Premier utters.

And young people and parents across the province know full well, know firsthand that educational opportunities at the U of S, for example, are fewer and harder to access. And the same is true really for Kelsey and the technical institute system, with program cut-backs that were instituted after the provincial election in 1986.

Yes, the Dark Ages have settled on the educational system of Saskatchewan with an increase in ignorance and human misery. In Saskatchewan, young people know that the educational system is in shambles; the scholars are leaving the province at the university; the libraries are going without books at the University of Saskatchewan; and that science is being conducted with outdated equipment.

Yes, just like in feudal times, under this Premier and this PC government there is a real transfer, a real transfer of wealth and opportunity from the hands of the many into the hands of the few — the granting of largess to those who already have, and the taking away of services and programs and protections from those who are left on their own.

This is precisely the kind of dynamic or dimension that's at work in the government's privatization agenda — a plan to institute the new feudalism here in Saskatchewan; the new feudalism that concentrates capital in the hands of the lords of capital. The privatization is really the modern-day equivalent of the feudal lords of old who used to ride into villages and seize possessions of the peasantry and ride back to wine and women and songs, laughing about their exploits.

And I think, for example, of the way this Premier wants to waste the province of Saskatchewan . . . the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, to sell it to the Japanese and the Chinese or the Koreans or the Indians or whoever will buy it. And I say to folks on the other side of the sea, you don't need the profits from the potash that's here in Saskatchewan; you aren't entitled to the profits of the potash in Saskatchewan. These are the province's natural resources.

And I say when He created this province and this earth, God Almighty put the potash in the ground here in Saskatchewan for the people of Saskatchewan to benefit from. And the profits from the sale of this resource ought to stay here in Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan people and not get shipped across the Pacific.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koenker: — Ship the potash across the Pacific, but keep the profits here in Saskatchewan.

Indeed it's no accident that Saskatchewan has established some of the finest health care programs in North America

or the world — programs like the prescription drug plan or the dental plan — established these programs precisely because of judicious use of resources like potash and oil, the mineral wealth that belongs to all the people of the province, benefiting all the people of the province, ploughed back into programs that serve Saskatchewan people. But now we have the new feudalism to concentrate control and profits from resources in the hands of a few — welfare for the rich.

(2030)

And we have a similar situation, not just with the resource Crowns but with the publicly-owned utilities like SGI and SaskTel and SaskPower corporation. Two years ago, the Premier promised the people of Saskatchewan that these utilities would not be sold, would never be privatized. But what does this Speech from the Throne announce but the sale of SaskPower and SGI? Another broken promise. And worse than the Premier's broken promise is what this broken promise means for the people of Saskatchewan.

Already, a year ago in April, the PCs announced the privatization of SaskPower's natural gas reserves to Saskoil, 510 billion cubic feet of natural gas, the equivalent of 15 years worth of consumption by all the home owners of the province, signed over from SaskPower to Saskoil. Imagine that resource, that future supply of natural gas to heat all of Saskatchewan home owners for the next 15 years, sold to Saskoil which is now owned 75 per cent by out-of-province shareholders. Worse still, the gas was sold for \$325 million when it had a market value three times greater — a market value of \$1 billion. And what cash do taxpayers have to show for this transaction? Not \$325 million, not even \$225 million, \$125 million. A third of the purchase price is cash in hand and the promises from the directors of Saskatchewan Oil to make up the difference in due course. What a wonderful deal. What a wonderful, wonderful deal for the people of Saskatchewan, orchestrated by none other than robber baron George Hill, the president of SaskPower and former president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan. And the pay-off for such a little raid on the public purse, a salary of some 150 or \$200,000 a year for old George. A deal set up by the Premier of the province who will say one thing, will promise not to privatize SaskPower or SGI or SaskTel, but we watch him do another. We watch him sell it out from under our feet.

The same Premier who says to a group of financial wheelers and dealers in New York when he visits there a number of years ago, Saskatchewan has so much going for it that you can afford to mismanage it and still come out ahead. Well it's that kind of logic and it's that kind of action, that kind of record that nauseates Saskatchewan people, that makes them sick when they realize what's really going on here in Regina. How can a Premier promise, for example, to eliminate the sales tax in his first term of office and then half way through his second term still not have acted on that promise and broken it?

How can the Premier, people wonder, promise to reduce income tax by 10 per cent and break that promise? How can he get away with it? Does might make right? How can the Premier promise to remove the gas tax for ever so that

it will never darken the doorstep of Saskatchewan people and then break that promise too? Make a promise; break a promise. Tax the socks off of everyone but those in the top tax brackets, that's the name of the game with this government. To do what? To build a little private plaything down in Estevan, the Premier's own constituency, the Shand Rafferty project.

Tax Saskatchewan taxpayers to the hilt for a billion dollar plaything to build up the Premier's ego and to enhance his political fortunes, perhaps to impress other empire builders with what's going on in his backyard while he bleeds the people of Saskatchewan with tax grabs.

In 1985, we got the flat tax. It started out at half a per cent of net income and it's increased every year since then: in '86 to 1 per cent; in '87 to one and one-half per cent; in '88 to 2 per cent; and the sky seems to be the limit when it comes to taxation from this government. To pay for what? A billion dollar plaything for the Premier down at Shand-Rafferty — a billion dollars that could have gone into hospitals or highways or any number of other things.

And so we see the Dark Ages descending on Saskatchewan with this government, a government that victimizes its own people, that breaks promises, that introduces unfair flat taxes, and increases the level of debt and ignorance and human misery in the province.

And darker still is the lot of Saskatchewan people when it comes to health care. I say, it's back to the Dark Ages when Saskatchewan people have to die waiting to get into hospitals, and when they wait so long that when they finally do get through the doors, it's not for surgery, but it's for the autopsy. That's scandalous!

And what an indictment of this government, that accident and illness has to plague Saskatchewan people, and that my constituents have to phone me begging and pleading with me to see if I can do something to get them into the hospital beds, to get through the waiting lists. And the government has nothing better to do than to suggest that we install slot machines to pay for the health care costs of the province.

Gambling on people's lives, that's the name of the game, from the Premier who doesn't care. The same Premier of this province who would play God and restrict access to health care, at the same time has a half a million dollars to give to the horse races — that's unforgiveable.

The Premier of this province will even go so far as to equate people who need prescription drugs with drug pushers and drug addicts.

But Saskatchewan people know that there is a better way. Saskatchewan people know that there is a new day coming, that there is a democratic way of providing for basic human needs — a way that's far different from the feudalism of the PC Party that's settled across the province — and that the new and the democratic way of governing this province is predicated on fairness and co-operation and compassion.

Saskatchewan people know full well and remember, in spite of the dark days that they've lived through these last

seven years, times when Saskatchewan had the finest programs of any province or jurisdiction in North America. Saskatchewan people remember the time when they were protected by universal medicare that meant something and that dealt with sickness and accident as it happened, not forcing them to wait inordinately.

Saskatchewan people remember the time when there was a measure of security in the work place, and when there was a decent minimum wage, when there were job opportunities for young people and they didn't have to leave the province. Yes, Saskatchewan people remember a time in education when there was opportunity to grow and learn and go to the university and receive a first-class education.

Once in Saskatchewan there was a co-operative caring and sharing sense of partnership among people, common values that were passed on from mother to daughter, from father to son. And there was optimism and hope for the future. But these last seven years have changed a lot of that, have taken us from a province that had no debt to a province with a deficit and a burden of debt, a province that now spends \$1 million a day for nothing, for nothing other than to service the provincial deficit. A thousand . . . a million dollars, rather, a day that goes to service the provincial debt. A million dollars a day that can't go into hospitals, that can't go into education, that can't go into highways or anything else because it's going for nothing — for a debt that wasn't there seven years ago.

And yet there's \$100,000 for old Paul Schoenhals at the trough and \$200,000 for George Hill and thousands of dollars for empty office space in Regina and Prince Albert. This won't last much longer. There's a new day coming to Saskatchewan and there's a new government that's coming to Saskatchewan — one that will put an end to waste and mismanagement, one that will put an end to corruption and patronage, one that will put an end to the PC style of feudalism that we now live under where the rich get richer and the poor get it in the neck.

People are tired of a Premier who's a deadhead, who thinks only about his friends. People are tired, and sick and tired of a Premier who has a dead heart and who doesn't care about them. Saskatchewan people are sick and tired of living like peasants and serfs in their own province. They're sick and tired of being taken for granted, of being exploited and being left unprotected, victimized by the robber barons and lords of capital.

And it's high time, Saskatchewan people are saying, it's high time for Saskatchewan to have a government as good as its people, a Premier as good as Saskatchewan people. That's the government that's waiting just around the corner when the New Democrats take over and usher in a new day for Saskatchewan people. And it's on that basis and with that realization that I will not be voting for this old feudalistic style Speech from the Throne.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gleim: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a distinct pleasure for me to rise in this Assembly and to join my colleagues and those on this side of the House in recognition of the support for the Speech from the Throne.

It is a document that I believe is both substantial and is also timely. It demonstrates the forward-looking attitude that everyone has come to expect from our PC government while dealing responsibly with concerns we are facing today.

Before I continue, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my personal congratulations to Her Honour on her appointment as Lieutenant Governor for the province of Saskatchewan. Here is a vital role in the tradition of the Legislative Assembly, and in all sincerity, Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my expectations that she will fill it with honour and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, in returning to the Speech from the Throne, I maintain that it is a document expressive of the kinds of direction we as government must take and the leadership necessary in going in that direction. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend this government on the public participation initiatives it has taken since 1982. I believe strongly in the rights of the individual to grow and prosper. I believe in accomplishing that goal, which is why I endorse public participation.

First, Mr. Speaker, in order to discuss this issue properly we have to start with some basic truths — truths that we as government are familiar with, but truths that often go overlooked by people we serve. The first truth, Mr. Speaker, is that governments have no wealth of their own. A government's only wealth is that which has been taken from the individual. Even on rare occasions when a state-owned business shows some return, Mr. Speaker, it is a return on dollars taken away from taxpayers — taxpayers who did not voluntarily surrender their money for investment purposes. So, Mr. Speaker, because governments have no money of their own when they buy up their established Crown-owned corporations, they are using an individual's money to do it, and that, Mr. Speaker, is a truth that is often ignored.

(2045)

The second truth, Mr. Speaker, is that public participation goes beyond the boundaries of any political ideology. Today, Mr. Speaker, we see even socialist governments embarking on public participation strategies in order to stimulate their economy.

Why is it then that the the Saskatchewan New Democrats opposed every initiative government's taken in moving forward, creating opportunity and diversifying the economy through public participation. And, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the success of the various public participation initiatives of this government, you can see that these are all areas where government involvement was not, and is not, necessary.

Through the development of government assets, Mr. Speaker, the formation of new Saskatchewan companies, public participation is now the forefront of new economic development in Saskatchewan. Public participation has

resulted in Crown corporation bonds allowing Saskatchewan families to save at home while earning a good return and creating new economic activity. New ownership opportunities have been presented through investments in shares and new business ventures for government employees and the general public.

Mr. Speaker, new forms of service delivery are encouraging more efficient use of resources, and new jobs are being created and existing jobs are being protected.

I'd like to give you some examples of this, Mr. Speaker. For instance, over 42,000 Saskatchewan residents purchased the SaskPower Plus bonds. This, Mr. Speaker, raised \$343 million for this corporation.

The Meadow Lake Sawmill is another example of kinds of things public participation does. The sale to employees at local Indian bands attracted two new companies: a chopstick factory and a pulp mill to locate and invest in their areas. Mr. Speaker, the new employees and the native owners have created a new spirit of enterprises and attracted new economic activity in that area.

The sale of PAPCO (Prince Albert Pulp Company) in Prince Albert is another fine example of public participation.

The \$250 million investment in the Weyerhaeuser and construction of a world-class paper mill has already brought \$63.5 million of new revenue to the province of Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Speaker, has over 700 jobs created during the construction of the new paper mill.

Since completion, Mr. Speaker, the new mill has created 169 new permanent positions for Saskatchewan men and women, and has just recently announced a \$20.8 million expansion of that mill. That's in direct contrast, Mr. Speaker, to the money-losing corporations, PAPSCO, that cost the taxpayer of the province more than \$90,000 a day to operate.

An Hon. Member: — That's PAPCO.

Mr. Gleim: — Sorry, my mistake. A few more examples, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Just listen for a while, it'll get real interesting.

A few more examples, Mr. Speaker. When WESTBRIDGE Computer Corporation was initiated with a \$13.9 million share issue by its employees, expansion was almost immediate. A \$6 million in out-of-province contracts have already created 50 new jobs and continued growth promises of another 200 employment opportunities.

How about Saskoil, Mr. Speaker? Planned gas development activities resulting in the purchase of underutilized natural gas reserves will create new economic activity with 100 new gas wells and a potential for another 600.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, there is a projected total of 1,000 jobs to be created through that initiative. That's 1,000 jobs in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, jobs that would not have existed without this initiative.

And these are not the only ways of efficiency that's being restarted in the province of Saskatchewan. Increased participation in the delivery of public services is being achieved through new forms of delivery involving contracting of services from the private sector, government employees, community groups and third parties.

Some of these initiatives include: in agriculture, contract services for farm input cost study, for commercial lending, is now in the hands of the private sector.

In Consumer and Commercial Affairs, licensing and inspecting of real estate activities has been done through self-policing on the part of real estate associations.

In Environment, a contract with SARC (Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres) to collect beer and soft drink cans has provided employment for 98 people with disabilities . . . Those are with disabilities.

In financing, contracting the audited service is now privately done. In Highways and Transportation, highway grass mowing is being handled by the private industry, and there is a 50 per cent saving to this government. In Justice, contracts for court reporting and data entry are privately done.

In Parks, Recreation and Culture, private capital investment and leasing arrangements for commercial operations in parks are now available. In Crown corporations, contracts for audit functions, inspection services, security services, and janitorial services have been contracted to the private sector companies. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are part of this success.

In 1988, 15 public consultation meetings were held through the province with over 2,500 people attending, and 1989 meetings are now under way. Mr. Speaker, over 20 informational seminars have been held with over 400 government employees from all parts of Saskatchewan attending. And from these people, Mr. Speaker, we have learned that Saskatchewan people want more opportunities to invest in the province. People want to use their money to facilitate our own economic development. We have learned, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan people want to see more efficient forms of public service delivery that will stimulate and create jobs.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this government has delivered to the people of the province by embarking on these public participation initiatives. Revenues received from the sale of non-essential government assets can be used to fund our health care and education systems.

Mr. Speaker, financing Crown corporation activities through bonds and share offerings will reduce our tax burden in this province. And I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the government is currently paying \$220,000 a day to finance a debt load of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan — tax dollars that could be better spent on essential services.

Mr. Speaker, attracting new investments into

Saskatchewan is creating new jobs for the people of our province, and encouraging greater efficiency in the government will improve public service delivery to the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, whether a share or a bond is bought, a government service is contracted out or an employee bond is formed, public participation is working for Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, the members across the floor have criticized our public participation initiatives and I will respond with those criticisms simply to prove their lack of validity. Before I do that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind those same members of their own drive towards share offerings in Crown corporations that was ended by a 1982 electoral sweep by Premier Grant Devine.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'd ask the member not to use other members' names.

Mr. Gleim: — I repeat, before I do that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind those same members of their own drive towards share offerings in Crown corporations that was ended in the 1982 electoral sweep by the Premier of this province.

On January 14, 1982, Mr. Speaker, at a meeting of Crown investments corporation of Saskatchewan, the board reviewed a management paper which outlined the proposal for:

Providing Saskatchewan residents with an opportunity to invest in provincial industrial development projects and at the same time generate a new pool of capital which would allow the province to take advantage of large industrial projects in an area where capital rationing for Crown investments has become reality.

And then, Mr. Speaker, following the discussion, the board agreed to:

... approve in principle a program to provide Saskatchewan residents an opportunity to make equity investments in Saskatchewan enterprises through Saskatchewan Holding and Reinvestment incorporations.

An Hon. Member: — What party was that again?

Mr. Gleim: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the decision to incorporate SHAR (Saskatchewan Holding and Reinvestment) was made by this same party, the New Democratic Party, who today are determined to convince the people of Saskatchewan that in the name of public good, Crown ownership is necessary.

I'd like to ask the members opposite just what policy they support, Mr. Speaker. Or perhaps, like many of their other policies, Mr. Speaker, that which best serves their political interest at that time is the policy they support.

I think we're all familiar with what the policy flip-flops across the floor means, Mr. Speaker. They support freer trade; they don't support freer trade. They support Meech Lake; they don't support Meech Lake. They support public participation; they don't support public

participation. I can send the list of inconsistencies, Mr. Speaker, but I chose not to.

I would like to respond to the criticism of public participation versus public good, and I will enclose that, Mr. Speaker.

One example used by the socialists to promote Crown ownership is the idea that when the government controls the business, the business is somehow more accountable. History proves that this is not true, Mr. Speaker, and the reverse is the reality. We can stay right here in Saskatchewan for many clear examples, Mr. Speaker, and that is environmental accountability.

Under the NDP government, Mr. Speaker, the City of Regina experienced a PC spill, a very dangerous chemical. This spill happened in 1976. This spill was not discovered until 1978, and it happened to be the mayor at that time was Mr. Henry Baker. And there was a 1,500 gallon leak that was covered up with asphalt. The first indication that they found out about this, the city of Regina, was through the media. This was kept quiet by pouring asphalt over it, hoping that nobody would find out about this — this very serious spill that could have caused many, many things to the wildlife, to the fish, and to the people of this province.

They call that accountability. Well I don't know, I don't know what you call accountability, but I don't call that accountability. The Crown-operated Department of Environment is entrusted by the people to report such environmental accidents and to police all engaged environmentally sensitive activities. When this accident occurred two years later, they covered it up. And like I repeat again, they call that accountability. I think not, Mr. Speaker, I think not.

Mr. Speaker, the governments have the right, the power, and the obligation to pass the laws that ensure accountability and to protect the public interest. Mr. Speaker, governments do not ensure that farmers use chemicals properly by taking over their land. We enforce regulations. Governments do not protect the safety of miners by buying the mine, Mr. Speaker. We pass labour standard laws and health safety regulations. Mr. Speaker, governments do not ensure truthful at advertising by owning the advertising industry. We enforce regulations.

(2100)

Mr. Speaker, the point is that government ownership is not the answer to protecting the public good. When the people who are breaking the rules are the same ones making the rules, the deepest possible conflict of interest exists. The political price is too high, and governments can too easily bury harmful information. Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of accountability that Crown ownership provides.

So then, Mr. Speaker, the question becomes not why private ownership, but rather, why government ownership? The answers, Mr. Speaker, have been given. Mr. Speaker, I'm excited about the prospects at the sale of some of these Crown corporations, such as the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, SaskEnergy, that Her

Honour mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, through the development of more government assets, the formation of new Saskatchewan companies, public participation will create new jobs, attract new investments and revenue dollars into this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that under the dynamic leadership of our Premier, the member from Estevan, that the Progressive Conservative government will continue to provide good kinds of legislation that will build this province and improve the quality of life well into the next decade and beyond.

And with that, I support the Speech from the Throne. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased, as other members have said, to participate in this throne speech debate. Each time we have an opportunity to speak in this House, I think we as members ought to view that as a privilege. And I consider it a privilege to be participating in this throne speech debate.

And I, too, want to join with other members who have congratulated the new member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg. I want to congratulate him on his election victory and congratulate him on his taking of his seat in this House and on his maiden speech. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I fought hard to keep that member from taking his seat. He won, we lost, and the people spoke. And I wish for him, sincerely wish for him a rewarding legislative career. I wish that for him because I can guarantee it's going to be a short one, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Welcome to this House, member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the throne speech debate thus far, I would want to commend my colleague from Saskatoon Centre particularly for her remarks this afternoon, and particularly for her raising of the concerns, the needs and the concerns of seniors, of families, and the needs and the concerns of women, all of which were sadly neglected in this throne speech. I want to commend her for the remarks she brought to this House and to this debate this afternoon.

In her remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my colleague from Saskatoon Centre noted, and noted appropriately, that it has been eight months since this legislature last sat — eight months, nine months, eight months and more since we last sat. For eight long months, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government has inflicted its political agenda on the people and the province of Saskatchewan without debate in the people's legislature. For eight months and more, this government has inflicted its ideological blindness, it has inflicted its course of patronage and waste and mismanagement on the people of Saskatchewan without the opportunity for the people to question this government through their legislature and through their opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure this concerns you, and it should

concern every member of this legislature that this legislature has so been stifled by this government. It is an attack on the very institutions of democracy in our province. It should not be tolerated in a free and democratic society. These are freedoms and institutions that other generations have fought and died for. This government treats this legislature and the democratic institutions of this province with impunity, and they do so without apology.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to see that unfortunately this is typical of this government, typical of its arrogance, typical to the way it does treat the democratic institutions of our province, typical of its disregard for the people of this province. And I might also say, this is typical of a government that is on its last breath, a government that is at the end of its rope, that's desperately clinging to power, a government that's soon to be history.

And when that happens, Mr. Speaker, whether it's this year or next year or the next, there will be a new day in Saskatchewan, there will be a better day, and there will again be a government that has respect for the democratic principles and the democratic institutions of our society.—It can't come too soon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Now one would think, Mr. Speaker, that, given the eight-, nine-month delay between sittings of the legislature, given that it's a full year now since the last throne speech, we could have expected a throne speech that was just full of new ideas, new initiatives, new challenges, new legislation, new directions. One would have expected in this length of time this government could have come up with something new, something different.

Well if that was our expectation, I'll tell you we've been sadly disappointed — sadly disappointed in this throne speech. Mr. Speaker, the most dispassionate of observers, the most objective of commentators have looked at this throne speech and determined that in it there is nothing new.

If you take this throne speech and you remove the commitment to privatization, which is nothing new, if you remove all the announcements, the re-announcements of legislation that we have already seen or heard about, if you pull out all the old rhetoric that we've heard a dozen times, you'll find precious little else, and nothing that could be described as a new or major initiative.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a recycled throne speech, a recycled throne speech, a rehash of the same old Tory stuff that we've heard over and over again. And, Mr. Speaker, I generally favour recycling, but in this case rubbish in has been recycled to rubbish out.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Given the record of this government on the people of Saskatchewan, not only is it rubbish out, it's hazardous waste. It's hazardous waste, Mr. Speaker. We should have expected, we could have expected

something new; we've got the same old Tory stuff.

Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan have been delivered of this kind of recycled throne speech, I think, is indicative of three things. It is first of all indicative of a government that is tired, that is worn out, that is pooped out, that has lost all of its initiative and energy. Others have said it before. I say it again: this throne speech is a tired document from a tired, worn out government, and the people of this province deserve something better than that.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, this throne speech that we have before us is the sure sign, the sure sign of a government that's now hidebound by its own ideology and it has come to the point where it's starting to believe its own rhetoric, and that's dangerous. That's dangerous.

It's as if, Mr. Speaker, the blinkers are on. It's as if they've got themselves so deep into a rut that they can't see out any more. The walls of this rut are threefold: there's the wall of this commitment to de-regulation; there's the wall of commitment to free trade; and there's the wall of commitment to privatization. And they're so deep in that rut that they can't see anything else, they can't see anything else, see any other solutions.

It's as if somehow, Mr. Speaker, this government has got itself on a waterslide, and they can't see out of this waterslide, and they can't stop on the downhill slide. And that's precisely where they're going, downhill, Mr. Speaker, on a free fall. The tragedy is they're taking the province with them. And Saskatchewan people deserve something better.

Mr. Speaker, this throne speech is the sign, a sure sign, of a tired government. It's the sign now of a government that is hidebound by its own rhetoric and its own ideology. And thirdly, and perhaps worst of all, it's a sign, a sure indication, that this government has simply lost touch, simply lost touch with the reality of people's lives and the reality of what is happening in the homes and on the farms and in the shops of Saskatchewan.

Let me illustrate, Mr. Speaker. To read this throne speech, it's as if this government hasn't heard that only blocks, only blocks from the front doors of this legislature there are families living in poverty in this city — only blocks away from this building. To read this throne speech, it's as if this government hasn't heard that only blocks away from where we sit there are children who go to school hungry.

Mr. Speaker, they are so out of touch, they don't know that the poor are at the doors of the legislature. It's a scandal. It's a scandal that here, in the bread-basket of the world, we should have hungry children. It's a scandal that here, in the bread-basket of the world, we should have the second highest rate of family poverty in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, a government that is so blind to that reality deserves to be turfed. They have lost the right to govern in this province. The poor of our society deserve something better than this throne speech. And the day is coming, Mr. Speaker, when they will get better — when there will be

a government that hears their concerns, when there will be a government that acts on their behalf. That day is coming, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, to read this Speech from the Throne, one would also quickly learn that this government is deaf to what the people of this province think of its \$9 million birthday party idea.

I venture to say that in every coffee shop, every beauty parlour, every curling rink, every service station across Saskatchewan, the verdict is the same. The people of the province do not want their money spent on a \$9 million birthday party. When hospitals in this province are begging for equipment, when young people can't get into university, the people of this province don't want their hard-earned tax dollars spent on a political birthday party.

Across the province they're saying that. The verdict is unanimous. What did the people of Saskatchewan get in this throne speech? Another announcement of a \$9 million birthday party.

Mr. Speaker, this government has lost touch. They have lost touch with what people are thinking and feeling. They are out to lunch, and Saskatchewan people deserve better than that from their government. And the day will come, the day will come — and come soon, Mr. Speaker — when there will be a government that will listen to what the people are saying and feeling.

Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago, members of this caucus met with a delegation of people from rural Saskatchewan. And members of this caucus heard a presentation from a young farm woman, a farm wife, and I think we who heard that presentation were moved by what she had to say.

She talked about the stress in the farm home. She talked about the stress of the debt load on farm families. She talked about the pressures on farm marriages, the pressures on farm children. She talked about what it's like to have to maintain these off-farm jobs just to keep the farm going. She talked about the effects on community life. She talked about the effects on health.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, what is there in this throne speech for that farm woman? What is there in this throne speech for her? Well what do we have — the promise of equity financing, the pledge. We're going ahead with equity financing even though people across the province rejected it and rejected it soundly. They don't want to be tenants on their own land. We get a throne speech that brings it back because nobody on that side of the House, in the capital city of Regina, is listening any more. They are out of touch with the reality for life for Saskatchewan people. The farm families of Saskatchewan deserve better than they are getting, and that day too will come, Mr. Speaker, that day will come.

(2115)

Friday, last week, we were delivered the latest of unemployment statistics in this province — 9.1 per cent.

One out of every 11 Saskatchewan people looking for work. Seventeen per cent young people unemployed — 15 to 25 — 17 per cent out of work. And of course those numbers would be higher, Mr. Speaker, as you well know, if people weren't leaving this province in droves.

The escalation of the unemployed in this province is frightening, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps more frightening is the escalation of the underemployed in our province. What is there for the unemployed in this throne speech? What is there for the underemployed?

Well the reintroduction of regressive labour legislation, that's in it. And not a word, not a word about a job strategy, not a word about a new job program. Mr. Speaker, the workers and the working families of this province deserve something better than they've got from this government in this throne speech. It's a government out of touch with reality. Saskatchewan people deserve better, and the day is coming when workers and workers' families in this province will have a government that listens and a government that cares, and that day is coming soon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I walk down the main street in the community where I live, the community I am proud to represent, the community of Moose Jaw, and I pass store front after store front empty and vacant. And behind every one of those vacant store fronts is the story of a family business gone, the story of years of hard labour gone, the story of hopes destroyed, all of them victims of this economy which has been put in the hands of Tory governments.

And the member from Weyburn laughs from his seat, Mr. Speaker. Has this government heard the message from Main Street, Moose Jaw, and the other main streets of Saskatchewan? Has this government heard that message? Well, in the throne speech, what do I find? I find two sentences, Mr. Speaker, two small sentences dealing with small business and family business in our province. The largest generator of jobs in this province receives two small sentences in the throne speech, Mr. Speaker. And not a word in this throne speech, not a word about downtown redevelopment, downtown revitalization — not a word. The small-business people, the family-business people, the downtowns of Saskatchewan deserve better than they've got from this throne speech. These people are out of touch, Mr. Speaker, they are out of touch with the reality of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, to read this throne speech one would assume that this government hasn't heard that 1,400 to 1,600 people are leaving our province every month, each and every month — it's as if they hadn't heard — that young people, the young people are leaving Saskatchewan in search of opportunities elsewhere, in search of employment elsewhere, in search of education elsewhere.

It's as if they haven't heard because there's not one mention in this throne speech of that tragic fact. The government that promised to bring the young people home is driving them away in record numbers. They are

voting with their feet, and that is not good enough. Saskatchewan young people deserve something better than that from their government.

Mr. Speaker, the day will come, and it will come soon, when there will be a government that cares when young people are fleeing the province, a government that will govern for the young people of Saskatchewan to give them opportunity, employment and education right here at home, Mr. Speaker.

This throne speech, this recycled old rehash of Tory ideas, this everything old, nothing new throne speech indicates three things. It is indicative of a tired, worn-out government that has lost the will and the energy and the creativity needed to meet the challenges of today. It is a sure indication of a government that is now hidebound by its own ideology, trapped in its own rut on the waterslide downhill. And perhaps, worst of all, it is a government that is so now completely out of touch with the reality of life in Saskatchewan for most people, that it has lost the right to govern. It is a government so blind and so deaf to the realities of anything beyond the oak walls of its offices.

Mr. Speaker, there are none so blind as those who will not see and none so deaf as those who will not hear. They are blinded by their ideology, they are now deafened by their own rhetoric, and the time for change in Saskatchewan has come.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, deserve something better than this. Saskatchewan people are demanding something better than this, and mark my words, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people will have their way. They will have their way when this government is gone, whether it is this year, next year or the next. And it won't be too soon, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I will cast my vote in opposition to this government, in opposition to this Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start expressing . . . by first expressing, like my colleagues before me, the great honour that I feel to be able to stand before you today and address the Speech from the Throne.

And I'd also like to congratulate Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan on this occasion of her first Speech from the Throne. We, of the province of Saskatchewan, are very fortunate indeed to have a person of such high esteem and respect to occupy this position and execute its duties with such grace and dignity.

I remember very well, last summer, when the announcement was made about Sylvia Fedoruk, the young lady from Canora, Saskatchewan who has a Ph.D. in engineering physics from the University of Saskatchewan, who I knew through sporting circles, in curling, etc., and when she was named the Lieutenant Governor I thought to myself, now that is without doubt

the finest appointment that could be made. And I'm sure that everyone in the province felt the same way.

She is a person who has a remarkable record of achievements — a scholar, as I said, a Ph.D. in engineering physics from the University of Saskatchewan. She was an athlete of national fame. She is one of the world leaders in nuclear medicine, and anyone whose family has been touched with the need for cancer treatment, as our family has, you learn to understand and respect how important that cancer treatment is and what an achievement, or contribution, Sylvia Fedoruk, a Saskatchewan girl, has made to the study of cancer treatment in the world today.

So she's a remarkable person, and it's such a privilege to be able to speak about her in this House. And we're so fortunate indeed to have her as our Lieutenant Governor. But I think the finest quality of all of Sylvia Fedoruk is the opportunity to meet her, the opportunity to talk to her, because she is a wonderful person.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne brought to our attention the path that this government has taken in the past, and in the accomplishments that it has made. It also sets out our agenda for the future, our vision for Saskatchewan as we head into the 21st century.

The vision is one of growth, one of prosperity and healthy living for Saskatchewan, and we are confident that our efforts, in co-operation with the efforts of the people of Saskatchewan, will bring about positive change that keeps in step with the times and that will prepare us for the 21st century and, of course, beyond.

Saskatchewan is a land of opportunity with resources, both human and natural, that have yet to be tapped. We all understand that, Mr. Speaker. In spite of our wealth of untapped resources, Saskatchewan is still a world leader in many areas. It's exciting reading to think about the potential that this province has. One of those areas in which Saskatchewan excels, of course, as a world leader, is in the area of health care. Residents of Saskatchewan enjoy health care that is second to none, and will continue to do so. This administration has spent more money on health care than any other administration in the history of the province. Since 1981, funding for health care has increased by 63 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, budget figures show that the Government of Saskatchewan spends more money on health care per capita than any other government in all of North America. In spite of these facts, my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, and his party still say that they are the only ones who care.

I'd like to briefly review the NDP record on health care. In March ... March 13, 1980 edition of the *Leader-Post*, a headline reads, "Hospital to close off two floors." This is 1980, March 13. The hospital referred to in the article is the Weyburn Union Hospital, and do you know why it was closing the two doors? Well, they were closing two floors because they had been denied financing in the special care unit since it was constructed in 1976.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, that same party that says it is the only

one that cares, forced the Weyburn Union Hospital to close two of its floors because they refused to provide them with any funding. That was in 1980.

A headline, May 31, 1980, in the Regina *Leader-Post*. "Closure of hospital beds called normal practice." And who was it who said this? Who called the closure of hospital beds normal practice? Well it was the former minister of Health, the member from Saskatoon South.

And again, June 6, 1980, the *Leader-Post* shouted from the headlines, "Shortage of nursing staff closing beds in hospitals."

I need not remind you, Mr. Speaker, that those headlines occurred during the NDP administration.

It's ironic, isn't it, that the members of the opposition are now fond of saying that this government is planning on closing hospitals when clearly their own administration is guilty of doing just that when they were in office.

Mr. Speaker, this government, the government of the Progressive Conservative Party, builds hospitals. In the past year there have been major construction projects under way at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, University Hospital in Saskatoon, and the cancer clinic in Saskatoon, and a sod-turning ceremony has already taken place to celebrate the building of a new City Hospital for Saskatoon as well.

Recently major renovations were completed, and the grand opening was held at the Wascana rehabilitation hospital in Regina. How well I remember the story that was told here a couple of years ago about the farmer who had driven into town to come and visit his wife who was in — this was back in the late 1970s — who went to the Wascana hospital of the day, the former reform school when I was a kid growing up in this town, the hospital that the NDP refused to fund, refused to expand. And as the farmer sat there in the parking lot in front of what was then the hospital, he looked across the field to the magnificent Tommy Douglas building, and he said to himself, or to his friend who was in the car with him, he said, the NDP, that's where their priorities are, in the Tommy Douglas building, a building for the civil servants, while his wife and other patients had to live in the Wascana hospital of the day.

Well thank goodness, thank God for this government who have come along and done something with the Wascana rehabilitation hospital. It is without doubt one of the finest rehabilitation hospitals in North America. It will continue to be and grow.

In addition, phase 3 construction of the Regina General Hospital has been completed, and the unit is fully occupied. Some of the smaller rural centres where there has been hospital construction include: Gull Lake, Hudson Bay, Lloydminster, and Watrous, and just a couple of weeks ago the announcement of a new hospital special care home for Lafleche. Again I say, Mr. Speaker, this government builds the health care system and the NDP attack it.

Mr. Speaker, the former minister of Health, the member

from Saskatoon South and his colleagues tell us that we must eliminate waiting lists — eliminate them, Mr. Speaker, he said. Well the member from Saskatoon South said when he was the minister from Saskatoon South and his colleagues tell us that we must eliminate waiting lists — eliminate them, Mr. Speaker, he said. Well the member from Saskatoon South said when he was the minister, and I'm quoting from December 1, 1981, in *Hansard*. He said, under the NDP, and I quote, Mr. Speaker:

I indicated to this House that in order to run an efficient hospital system you must have a waiting list; this is nothing new. I have said this on a number of occasions . . . a waiting list is an efficient way of running a hospital system.

The member from Saskatoon South said:

A waiting list is an efficient way of running a hospital system . . . Those who run efficient hospital systems do have waiting lists.

(2130)

The member from Saskatoon South said the waiting lists are an efficient way to run a hospital. Well this government believes in reducing hospital waiting lists, and that is exactly what we're doing.

In the last four months of 1987, waiting lists in Saskatoon — where the demand for surgery is the highest — waiting lists decreased by 768. Over the past year waiting lists have been reduced by 25 per cent in Saskatoon. I want to repeat that figure for the members from Saskatoon. Waiting lists have been reduced by 25 per cent in Saskatoon this past year. That's progress. That's caring.

Mr. Speaker, this government has increased funding which has facilitated increased numbers of patients that receive treatment and are released from hospitals. Between 1982 and 1983, 1986-1987 in Saskatoon alone, the number of surgeries performed increased by over 11,000.

Mr. Speaker, I would like again to refer back to the NDP administration. In a letter dated July 11, 1977, from the Minister of Health, the member from Saskatoon South, to the administrator of the Cudworth Nursing Home, said this. In that letter, a request by the nursing home for a twelve bed extension was denied because of a moratorium that the NDP administration had placed on special care beds in the province.

The NDP government of the day decided that we didn't need any more nursing home beds. I mean, it's unbelievable to even consider that, that anybody could think that in that day and age, and this in a province with a growing population of senior citizens. The former government decided not to build any more nursing homes. No more nursing home beds, they said, we don't need them.

Mind you, this is the same government that said there was going to be a decrease in the demand for spaces in universities too. They said that in 1982. And we know what happened there — went up 65 per cent. Well they had the same kind of bad advice, I guess, on nursing home beds. In 1982 this government lifted that moratorium, and since that time nursing homes have

appeared in many small communities and almost 2,000 new nursing home beds have been built.

Well that's obviously not enough. We're going to have to build more because the demand is there. It was there in 1980, it was there in 1982, and it's there in 1989. We need to build more nursing home beds and we will. But we've got a good start.

In March of 1987 the Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon opened. It replaced the Saskatoon Sanatorium and the Frank Eliason Centre and has 44 more beds and 91 new staffing positions. Mr. Speaker, we added 400 new nursing positions and the Speech from the Throne indicates that we will expand this number in the province yet again.

This administration set up a commission on health care, Mr. Speaker. For the first time in Saskatchewan history, the people have been asked to participate in designing their own health care system. Given that the NDP say that we shouldn't have set up the commission, they must also think that the people of the province shouldn't have a hand in designing their own health care system. Well they have a right to their own view but, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, this government does not agree with them, nor do the people of this province, nor do the people of any other province in the country believe in the NDP, or they wouldn't be long gone like they are in every province. We believe in the right of the people of Saskatchewan to help design their own health care system, and the response has been positive and indeed encouraging. The public understands the serious challenge to health care, not only here but throughout the nation, and have responded to the opportunity to help share and to help shape our health care for the future.

Mr. Speaker, whether it be health care, agriculture, or economic development, or any other concern of the people, it is this government's duty to set policies according to what the people of Saskatchewan want. We will continue to listen and respond as this government has since being elected in 1982.

All these initiatives are part of this government's dedication to health care in Saskatchewan, and can be summed up quite nicely by the Department of Health's Everyone Wins campaign, directed at improving life-styles and improving healthy living.

Our record speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker, and it was interesting to note the last speaker, the speaker from, I guess it would be Moose Jaw South, who said there isn't anything . . . nothing new in the province, nothing exciting. Well I must say that we have four daughters, and every one of them is being educated in this province and is so excited about the opportunities that are being presented in this province to them and by their desire to take part in such things as SaskPower bonds.

I mean how . . . could you be more imaginative than that? We needed to raise something like \$300 million for ongoing SaskPower projects, so rather than go to Tokyo, or to London, or to New York, or to Toronto to borrow money from somebody else and have to pay heavy interest on it, we went to the people of Saskatchewan. We

said, hey, why don't you get involved in this process? Let us sell you bonds. So we sold, the province sold \$340 million worth of bonds to Saskatchewan people. As a consequence, instead of having to pay the interest to New York, or to Tokyo, or Calcutta, or some other place like that, the interest on that \$340 million dollars will go to the people of Saskatchewan. Now that's public participation.

And it's happening in so many other ways — SaskTel bonds and all the other things that are going on. I think it's terribly exciting. It is new, too. The interesting thing is . . . and, of course, the last speaker from our party that spoke, brought up . . . mentioned that the party across talked about public participation back in 1982.

As a matter of fact, my former tennis partner, Gary Beattie, was one of the people who was involved in this process at that time and, I mean, that was exciting then; it's exciting now. Unfortunately, they didn't have the wheels nor the imagination to put into place, and so we have it, and we're running with it because it's the thing to do. But it is exciting; it's terribly exciting, and the people of the province are joining in with great enthusiasm.

I find, Mr. Speaker, that the tactics of the NDP during the recent Assiniboia-Gravelbourg by-election were reprehensible. We've heard a great deal here tonight from the other side about corruption and patronage and all the rest of that stuff . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: — I may have to go through this list of 91 names, of 91 names that I have in front of me, of patronage appointments, of patronage contracts to members of the NDP party and . . .

An Hon. Member: — Give us a few examples.

Mr. Martin: — Well, I . . . Should I give a few examples?

An Hon. Member: — Just a few. Just to get the flavour.

Mr. Martin: — Well, there's 91 names here, Mr. Speaker, and I mean, I could talk about . . .

An Hon. Member: — Are there any Koskie's on it, for example?

Mr. Martin: — Well there's a Doug Archer on here, a former EA (executive assistant) to Mr. Brockelbank, appointed director of administration, government services, his wife Gloria . . . and now he is the Mayor of Regina. And we've got all kinds. In a matter of fact, some of the names here are people who are now sitting on the opposite side.

Ninety-one names on here, Mr. Speaker, all of them connected to the NDP, and every one of them a patronage appointment. I mean, I could stop . . . I could even get to . . . Well here is Don Faris, Mr. Speaker. Don Faris and Margaret Fern, and there's a Hagel in here. There's a Hagel from Moose Jaw and a Don Keith. It goes on and on — 91 names, Mr. Speaker.

I don't want to read them. I really . . . I find it embarrassing

to talk about these things because they set the standard for patronage in this province. I've lived all my life in this province. I know where all the dirty linen is hid in this province, Mr. Speaker, and those people wrote the book. But I won't get into that.

I would like to go back, if I may . . . I would like to go back briefly, if I may, to the tactics of the NDP during the recent Gravelbourg . . . Assiniboia-Gravelbourg by-election. The tactics, I felt, were really quite reprehensible. They wrote letters of fear to all the constituents saying, the government is going to close all the hospitals in the area. It was a vicious threat, and it certainly wasn't true.

It's interesting to me, Mr. Speaker, that even though the people of the province have seen through this scare tactic the NDP use, is that the NDP insist on continuing to use it. And they've been doing it since 1978 — it worked in '78. It didn't work in '82. It didn't work in '86, and it's not going to work in '90-91. It didn't work in 1988, but they insist on doing it. They insist on trying to scare people. That's unbelievable.

They insist on spreading falsehoods. They insist on distorting the truth. This party of Tommy Douglas, a once great political party, that has sunk so low that they now have to resort to distortion, to half truths, to saying anything no matter how outrageous to win votes. We heard it here in the House just the other day.

Mind you, Mr. Speaker, they are a party that is politically . . . a political party that is morally bankrupt, a party with absolutely no new ideas, no solutions, no policies. As a matter of fact, they are a party whose leader is scrambling for his political life within his own caucus. The knives are out, Mr. Speaker, the knives are out. And the member from Saskatoon Riversdale is in trouble within his own caucus. Unfortunately, the alternative would be worse.

When we listen to their speeches, as we have here tonight in this debate, we might as well be listening to last year's speeches. They're saying the same things they said for the last three years. They have nothing new, they have the same old tired lines, the same old political whining that we've become so used to. They have no new ideas, no policies — nothing. How sad for a political party, how sad for a political party that once had a vision.

Mr. Speaker, I've been a member for just over two years now. It's been an interesting and learning experience, first as legislative secretary to the Minister of Education, the member from Weyburn, and working primarily in northern education. It was an education itself, meeting and talking with the dedicated teachers in the North, and education officials working to design curriculum that is more aware of the northern social and cultural history. And during this past year, Mr. Speaker, I'm a Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health. This too has been a positive experience, as the minister and I met with health groups throughout the province to discuss their needs and talk of new ways to solve old problems.

And the interesting thing is, is that when one travels out in the country, you find that the folks out there really do understand what the problems are. They really do have ideas. They want the opportunity to express their

opinions. They have some innovative and creative ideas. Small towns that formerly would . . . you wouldn't dare going into the small town and take a girl out in that other town; there would be a war. The hockey games are vicious fights.

But now the small towns of Saskatchewan are saying, hey, what can we do together to solve this problem we have? Why don't we work together? Why don't we come up with creative new ideas, some innovative ideas to solve some of these problems that we have? The nice thing is that it's happening and it's really exciting. And when I go with the Minister of Health to these small towns, I learn these things. They know what the problems are. All they want to do is have the opportunity to listen to them.

But the NDP, for some reason, have tried to discourage this government from proceeding with a health care commission. But we found that people of the province want to talk about the challenges of the future because we are all in this together. And if we talk about it in a non-political, non-partisan manner, we will together take on the challenges of the future in health care, just as we will meet the challenges in education, in world trade, the challenges in social issues, the challenges of the environment that are so prominent today.

It's a wonderful, rewarding experience, Mr. Speaker, to listen to all the imaginative and innovative expressions of confidence that come from the young people of this province. I've learned to listen a great deal in this province, Mr. Speaker, as I travel around listening to the young people.

I had an opportunity, just the other day, to be over at the University of Regina and listen to what some of the kids, some of the children had to say. I felt very comfortable being over there, Mr. Speaker, because it is, after all, part of my constituency, and one of our daughters is going to school there now. It was fun. I mean, obviously the students don't all agree with my political thinking, but a great majority of them did over there. So it was a good experience. I must say I enjoyed it.

But you know, it's not only interesting to listen to the bright, young minds of the young people, but it's more interesting, I think, in some ways, to learn from the elderly, to go into the old folks' homes, the elderly special-care homes and talk to the people. They've seen and faced remarkable changes in their lifetime. They have the experience that most of us don't have.

The youth have the energy, and we all have the will; the seniors have the experience. We all have the desire to face the challenges of the 21st century.

(2145)

Mr. Speaker, our top priority, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne, is health care. That's obvious. This government believes in top quality, accessible health care, and will continue to work in co-operation with the people of Saskatchewan to pave the way for improved developments in the health field for Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, in the time remaining to me this evening, I'd like to just go back over some of the positive developments that have occurred in the health field by this government during the last few years. So if you'll bear with me, I'd like to explain these. I think it's important that the public know this, Mr. Speaker. I think too often we don't . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . well I will talk about the dental plan; I can hardly wait to talk about the dental plan, because I've had an opportunity to open five or six dental clinics in this province. I opened dental clinics in Turtleford, all over the province, so I will get to that. So if the member from Elphinstone will just be patient, I will be more than happy to talk about it in just a moment.

Let's first of all talk about hospital services. Funding for hospital services has increased 72 per cent since 1981-82, 323 million in 1981-82 — this is funding for hospital services — 323 million in 1981-1982, to 555 million in 1988-1989; 1,336 new replacement beds built; 740 new nursing department positions — 749 new nursing department positions; CAT scanners in all six base hospitals; expanded open-heart surgery program in Regina; increased day surgery in Saskatoon, which has done much to decrease the hospital waiting lists in Saskatoon — as I said earlier, they are down 25 per cent, and you must be delighted about that in Saskatoon. Established centres of excellence in Saskatoon hospitals; established a pediatric intensive care unit at the University Hospital, and the assessment unit for high-risk babies at the Regina General; establishing a provincial organ donor program; dietetic counselling services in rural Saskatchewan; integrated facility concept for small rural hospitals.

As I said just a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, some of the most imaginative thinking that's going on in this province is occurring in the hospital boards in rural Saskatchewan who recognized the problems long before many people in the city did, I'm sure, because they've been confronted with it faster than the people in the city have. And they are the ones who are coming up with some of these good ideas, and that's why the health care commission, health commission, is out into the rural areas to talk with the people to hear what they have to say.

Let's talk about the cancer foundation. Operating grants to the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation have increased by 73 per cent since 1981-1982, and they were 10.2 million in 1981-82; 17.7 million in 1988-1989; funding construction of the new 70 million Saskatoon cancer clinic; enhanced funding for cancer research and scientific development; provided 5 million over five years for new equipment; funding 37 new staff positions for the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I made reference a little earlier in this speech when I was talking about Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Fedoruk and her contribution to the cancer clinic and to those families in Saskatchewan who probably understand better than most the value of cancer treatment, radiation, etc. And I have not had an opportunity publicly to say how much our family appreciates the work of the cancer technicians who are so dedicated to their work.

And so I think when we're talking about listening to some boring statistics which are often not terribly interesting, but I think it's important that the people who are listening understand that you have to take it in the context of the overall program and bear in mind that all these things are going on in the province.

Ambulance services, for instance, funding for road and air ambulance services has increased 165 per cent since 1981 to '82. Funding for road and air ambulance services has increased 165 per cent since 1981, 1982; replaced old per capita grants with new funding mechanism; introduced new legislation; capped cost for seniors at 150 per road ambulance trip; limited air ambulance charges to \$250; expanded training for ambulance attendants.

Now I'd like to talk about long-term care, Mr. Speaker. Special care homes, increased funding for special care homes by 57.2 per cent since 1982. I mentioned that earlier. Nearly 2,000 new and replacement beds constructed. This of course was a response to the NDP moratorium that they placed on in 1982 when they weren't going to build any more special care homes, no more senior citizens' beds, and this is a response, it's catch up. I mean, we got behind because they refused to fund it; we got a way behind. So as a consequence, the last seven, eight years this government has been trying very hard to try and catch up. And we're getting there, Mr. Speaker — not enough, but we're getting there. Two thousand new beds over these last few years has made a big difference.

What it has meant, of course, is that 2,000 more senior citizens have beds now that wouldn't have if we'd continued with the moratorium that they introduced back in 1982.

Home care: 77 per cent increase in funding for home care; 13.3 million in 1981; 23.6 million. Fully implemented a home care program in all 45 districts in 1984. Adjusted funding in 1986 to better recognize the special needs of people over 75 years of age.

Rehabilitation: introduced new programs to combat drug and alcohol abuse among youth, including community-based services, and Whitespruce, the first centre of its kind in Canada.

Now those people said earlier, there's nothing new; this government's done nothing. If we had done nothing but build Whitespruce — if that had been the only thing government had done in the last seven years, that would have been enough. This is the first adolescent alcoholic drug treatment centre in Canada. There's only two or three in North America, to my knowledge. And we always had to send our youth down to Mandan, North Dakota, or other places in the United States, at great cost.

But this government, under the directorship of Gordon Currie and the enthusiasm of the Deputy Premier and the Premier, have built Whitespruce, the first adolescent treatment centre. And it had a little shaky start to get going, but it's off and running now, and it's going full bloom. We could probably use more space, and I'm sure in the future we probably will.

That is a very important initiative by this government. And how the people across there cannot stand up and applaud the Whitespruce initiative in this province, by this government, is beyond my reckoning. I can't understand it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: — Well we established a new children's rehabilitation centre in Saskatoon; completed construction of the therapy wing of the \$50 million Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina. You can see it out the back door — beautiful place.

Doubled the number of speech therapy positions serving rural Saskatchewan; established a community therapy program; increased enrolment in the School of Physical Therapy by 50 per cent — I think we need to increase that even more, and I think we probably will.

Developed child sexual abuse protocol, and new treatment programs for wife-beaters. One hundred and fifty-three per cent increase for Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living.

Prevention: nearly tripled funding to Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Significant increases for public health in Regina. Trained over 150 volunteer community speakers as part of the AIDS education program. Enriched the school-based dental education program.

Okay, here we go. The member from Elphinstone said, okay what about the dental program? Let's talk about the dental program. This is what I tell people when they say, what about the dental program? Why did you destroy the dental program, they say? Well what we did, Mr. Speaker, was we recognized that the people of rural Saskatchewan were not getting the kind of dental care that could be available to them, and there are several reasons for this.

We have a dental college in Saskatoon that graduates a number of dentists every year. Well the dentists that were graduating from Saskatoon were all going to the bigger cities like Regina, Saskatoon, or Moose Jaw. They weren't going out to rural Saskatchewan because there was nobody to work on. They didn't have . . . If you don't have the young children to work on, you don't have a dental practice. So we couldn't get dentists to go out into rural Saskatchewan, so all the dentists were being centred in Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Moose Jaw.

The only way to get dentists out into rural Saskatchewan, to take our educated dentists, was to get them out into rural Saskatchewan, or they're all going to Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary, or some other place. We're educating them; they're leaving the province. We educate them; they leave the province because there's no place for them to practice.

So we said, how can we get dentists into rural Saskatchewan? The only way you could do it was to give them the opportunity to work on the young people. So we did that. We introduced a program where we now have

something in the neighbourhood of 35 new dental clinics throughout rural Saskatchewan. Ninety-one per cent — 91 per cent of the young people in rural Saskatchewan now have access to a dentist. First time in 26 years that there's a dentist now in Stoughton. I've had the opportunity to open, as I say, several of them, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, one near your constituency, as a matter of fact. It's so gratifying to get the feeling of the people in the community when they realize that now they're going to have a dentist who will work on their children's teeth. That's why it was done, Mr. Speaker, and it has been eminently successful.

Well let's just talk for a moment about the Everyone Wins program to promote healthy living, and this has been going on for over a year now. I wouldn't be surprised if the pace is picked up a bit this summer as we tell people that they have to eat right; they have to keep fit; they have to reduce stress; they have to quit smoking, Mr. Speaker; combating alcohol and drug abuse; avoiding accidents; preventing communicable diseases.

Well I had occasion to use my new plastic health card the other day, Mr. Speaker, and I couldn't believe how well it worked. I had to go see the doctor. I came home and I had this rather nasty condition that I still have — a head cold and a virus and all the rest of it. So the doctor said, well, you'd better get some . . . gave me a prescription. I took my plastic card into the local drug store. Pharmacist ran the thing through — zip, zip — paid my money, walked out, and there it was. It was just beautiful. I mean, it was just great. Great. Got my bill. So now I still have a long way to go to use up my \$150, Mr. Speaker, but it was extremely successful. The people like them, Mr. Speaker, they're handy.

Well in addition to the new plastic health card, Mr. Speaker, we negotiated Saskatoon agreement to eliminating extra billing by the doctors; 79 per cent increase in medical care insurance costs; established northern medical services unit with the University of Saskatchewan to expand physician services in northern Saskatchewan; 35 new rural dental practices since the spring of 1987. Well I can't say that often enough, Mr. Speaker, restructuring the prescription drug plan to contain costs and abuses and extend full coverage of palliative care patients and to provide out-of-province benefits.

Let me just finish off, Mr. Speaker, with a discussion on the capital expenditures: 1,336 new replacement hospital beds built; 130 million has been spent on completed projects, on hospitals, on integrated facility projects; redevelopment of the University Hospital; renewal and expansion of St. Paul's Hospital; completion of package three at Regina General Hospital; therapy wing of Wascana Rehabilitation Centre; new Saskatoon Cancer Clinic. Mr. Speaker, it just goes on and on: 68 per cent or \$510 million increase since 1981-1982 — a 68 per cent in health care expenditures since 1981-1982. Enhanced consultations through several ministerial advisory committees and the Saskatchewan Commission on Directions in Health Care.

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, in the time remaining, I would like to encourage the people of the province to be

involved in making their submissions to the special . . . the Saskatchewan Commission on Directions and Health Care. It's important that the people of the province say what they feel, get their ideas into the commission on health care so this government can make the decisions that they want them to make concerning health care. Obviously some changes must be made as we face new challenges every year and on into the 21st century, and these changes can only be made with the support of the people of the province. It's critical that they do that.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that having had the opportunity this last year to work with the Minister of Health, the member for Meadow Lake, it has been an exciting and enlightening experience for me to learn the extent of the health care coverage the people of this province have. I've known for a long time that we have the best health care system in the . . . probably the best health care system in the world. I didn't realize that it is as extensive as it is.

The Speaker: — Order. It being 10 o'clock, this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 10 p.m.