

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to members of the House, 22 grade 8 students from Sutherland School in Saskatoon from the Sutherland-University constituency.

They are accompanied by their teacher, Tim Comfort, and chaperons, Diane Mycham and Liz Stefanuk. I'd like to ask members of the Assembly to please welcome them here to the legislature today.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Budget Projections

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance.

Madam Minister, as you know in last year's budget you set a target of 2,000 new jobs, which you failed to meet. Yesterday in your pre-budget news conference you said that the government wasn't setting any targets for jobs in this year's budget so people wouldn't be disappointed when you failed to meet them again. But, Madam Minister, page 27 of your budget did in fact contain a job target of 5,000 new jobs for 1994. This is the first time I've heard a Finance minister trying to distance herself from her own budget before it's even released.

Madam Minister, do you believe you will reach your target of 5,000 jobs? Where will these jobs come from, or do you think Saskatchewan will fall short of that target and see no new jobs created, as occurred last year?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are going to have to get in the habit of checking exactly what the truth of the situation is. I was asked with respect to a particular program — infrastructure and capital spending — what number of jobs we were going to attach to those programs. And I said to those particular programs we don't attach any particular job number.

We have a commitment to create jobs in the province. The problem of jobs is not just a Saskatchewan issue. All across Canada governments are finding that as their economies recover there is a lag in jobs. That's why the main focus of this budget, Mr. Speaker, is on job creation — short-term job creation through infrastructure, through capital projects; long-term job creation through such things as the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, the ag equity corporation

and other initiatives in the budget. So jobs are our number one priority.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, the employment projection is one of the major assumptions of the budget, which you just said, yet you seem very uncomfortable with your own projection and for good reason.

Last year individual income tax fell by \$20 million short of your budget estimates because no jobs were created in the province. That's why that money had to be made up last year by massive utility increases.

Now, Madam Minister, this year you project, you predict, that the revenue from individual income taxes is going to go up \$40 million. How do you plan to make up that amount if your employment figures once again fall short like they did last year?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would direct the member opposite to an independent source, Professor Rushton from the University of Regina, who has looked at all the economic forecasts for Saskatchewan in terms of the growth and the economy and the projected growth in jobs. And what he says about the estimates in this budget, when it comes to growth in the economy and growth in jobs, is that we have been extremely cautious.

So one of the reasons we are on track in our deficit projections — and I know this would be a mystery to the members opposite, that you would actually bring a budget in on target; this is a world they are not familiar with — one of the reasons we are on track is because we are always cautious in the assumptions upon which we base our budgets.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, I would like to hear your thoughts on another one of your assumptions that you're making on behalf of your government, and that is that the projected deficit will be \$190 million. I notice that you have budget transfers from the federal government equivalent to a hundred million dollars; that accounts for nearly all of your forecasted drop from 294 to 190 million.

Should the federal government decide to reduce any of this volume of dollars in transfers, Madam Minister — and the deficit reduction will be almost equivalent to that volume of dollars that the federal government will not give you, Madam Minister — what assurances have you received from your federal counterparts that this figure will not change, Madam Minister?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I obviously do not want to upstage Mr. Martens's budget on Tuesday,

but I will say this. The main increase in costs that this government incurred over the last year was because of the federal government. They offloaded onto the province responsibility for status Indians' welfare payments. The cost . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . your former friends in Ottawa.

The cost to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan is \$40 million a year. There have been, as my colleague says, other offloads, changes in Unemployment Insurance. The Liberal government, when they changed, added a 7 per cent increase to unemployment insurance premiums; that cost us a million dollars.

We went to Ottawa with the argument that listen, you have offloaded a major cost onto the province and we would like some offset. We feel very secure in equalization; it's a five-year agreement. The commitment of the new federal government has been: no surprises, cooperation with the provinces. We feel secure about this year. And as I said in my budget address, after that we do not believe the Liberals have a long-term game plan, so we don't know.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Madam Minister, one revenue item under your control is transfers from Crown entities. Your budget has forecasted a 50 per cent increase in funding from Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan — 50 per cent, Madam Minister, from 40 to \$60 million. These revenues come from SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskTel, SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and other Crowns.

Madam Minister, is this why you refuse to comment on no utility increases for the next year? Are you planning to raise \$20 million in taxes through utility rate increases this year or just an arbitrary increase in transfers from CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) as we get closer to the election?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make two points to the member opposite. First of all, I do wish he'd try to get the full story. Money coming from CIC can come from Crowns. If you look at what happened last year, it also came from asset sales. So it does not mean that we're getting \$60 million from the Crowns. It means we're getting \$60 million from CIC, some of which could come from Crowns, but also from asset sales.

The other point I want to make is with respect to utility rates. There was a change as a result of this budget. In last year's budget, the package of utilities — car insurance, telephones, electricity and home heating — the package of utility rates in Saskatchewan was the second lowest in Canada . . . was the second cheapest place to live in terms of utility rates.

What direction are we going in terms of utility rates? In this budget Saskatchewan is the cheapest place to live in terms of utility rates, so we're moving in the right direction. In fact we have the lowest utility rates in

Canada.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, you have also budgeted an increase in gaming revenue of about \$50 million, Madam Minister — \$50 million. That is more than double the estimate for '93-94; more than doubled, Madam Minister.

On the news this morning the minister responsible for Gaming said this: figure does not include any revenues the government may receive from implementation of the casinos.

My question is simply this: where does it come from, Madam Minister? What assumptions have you made that gives you the confidence to more than double the revenues from the gaming commitment from the minister of Gaming? Would you answer that, please?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, this assumes no expansion in gaming. All it assumes is that what was in place for only part of the year, this year — and we got revenues for only part of the year — will now be annualized. You get the revenue for the full year.

I want to make a comment about the gaming issue, and this is directed to the Liberal leader as well. It's fine for opposition parties to sit there and say, you know, we're far too pure to get into gaming. We wouldn't get any money from gaming. I want to ask them, especially the Liberal leader, if she doesn't want to be in gaming, where is she going to get that extra \$75 million? Which tax is she going to raise or which cut is she going to make? Opposition parties have to be accountable as well.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, it seems to me that you're skating on thin ice. Out of a hundred million dollar reduction, 40 million depends on individual income tax, which is suspect — hopefully for more employed people; hundred million depends on the federal government; 20 million comes from the Crown corporations; and 50 million comes from the gaming assumptions. Not to mention forecasted natural gas revenues of over \$50 million. That's about \$260 million forecasted in increases that must be generated or compensated for to have you reach your forecasted budget of \$190 million deficit.

Madam Minister, would you agree that your revenue projections are too generous, optimistic, especially given the heavy burden of government taxes on people and businesses you have imposed, even last year, and now again this year?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan would find it ironic, to say

the least, that a member of the previous administration would stand in this legislature and give us advice on how to keep the books of the province. There is an element of hilarity to that.

What I'll rely on is not what I say, what they say, I'll rely on an independent source — Professor Rushton — who said on two different media occasions yesterday that the assumptions upon which this budget were based were very realistic.

But the main point I'd like to make to the members opposite, if they'd ever take time to listen here . . . It sounds like a barnyard over there.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I don't want to interrupt the minister because she is on the question, but I can't hear the question. There's too much noise coming from the members opposite. And if you asked a question, I think you should give her the courtesy and listen to the answer.

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — My final point is this. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Last year we said we'd bring in a deficit of 296 million. We delivered less than that. We said the deficit for the next year is going to be 190 million. We'll deliver that as well. This is a government that delivers the promise.

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

### Gambling Revenues

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the minister in charge of the Gaming Authority.

Mr. Minister, you have stated in the media that the projected increases in gambling profits in your budget do not include the new casinos but will be generated from VLT (video lottery terminal) operations. How much money will have to be bet by the people of Saskatchewan to generate \$50 million in extra profit for the government?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the member's questions, I would want to say that the figure that we have budgeted is very realistic, as the Minister of Finance has indicated.

And I guess I have a question for the member from Greystone. She stands in this House and she says, we support what you're doing but we don't support how you're doing it. She knows full well that the revenue that we're going to be generating from the gaming industry, from the video lottery terminals, is going to be turned back to the people of this province through health care, through education, through highways, and through the budgetary process.

Mr. Speaker, she knows full well that that is the case. On one hand she says, no gambling; on the other hand she says, balance your budgets. I say to the member from Greystone, the only thing that you get from sitting on the fence is slivers, and the people of this province know that.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I have a far greater chance at winning at any high-risk gambling game than I do getting an answer from you.

Mr. Minister, there are 700,000 people of gambling age in Saskatchewan, people over 19 years of age. This year you predict that the adult members of Saskatchewan families will lose more money to the government through gambling — in other words, \$81 million — than the entire family of Crown corporations will pay in dividends — \$60 million.

If, Mr. Minister, the extra \$50 million in revenue is based on slot machines returning 7 per cent profit — which is what they do — shared by you the government and the site owners, it means approximately 843 million loonies have to be plugged into those machines for you to get your \$50 million in profits.

My question is this: would you agree, Mr. Minister, that every single gambling age person would have to bet more than \$1,200 per year to create those profits?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, in answer to the member from Greystone's question, let me say this: she knows full well what the revenue percentage and the shares of those revenues are with respect to the video lottery terminals. It's based on 85 per cent of the profits going into the Consolidated Fund and 15 per cent to the vendors. She knows that.

And I want to say to the member: would you in fact deny the rural hoteliers the right to maintain a viable business? Is that your position? And I say to you, the member from Greystone, Mr. Speaker, would she rather that we increase taxes as Liberal governments across this province do? Where would we get the money to pay for her 37 per cent wage increase that she just received?

I say, Madam, would you rather have a 7 cents a litre gas tax? Is that your option? Would you rather have a 1 per cent increase in E&H (education and health) tax? Is that your option?

I say to the member, you can't have it both ways. Get off of the fence and decide where you're at.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what you're telling us, Mr. Minister, is you don't know the answers to this. We're talking about taking \$15 million out of struggling Saskatchewan communities. We're talking about hoteliers, okay? That's what we're talking about. We're talking about taking \$15 million out of struggling Saskatchewan communities even though a few dollars are left behind for the site owners today before you introduce your casinos. Surely you have full information on the impact that this will have on those local economies.

Would you provide us today with the economic impact studies that assess these particular impacts that this will have on the communities of Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, what I will provide for the member today is the fact that 86 per cent of the people of this province gamble. I would provide for the member that what we are trying to do is to maintain those gaming dollars within the boundaries of this province.

Who does she support? Do you support the rural hoteliers? Do you support the FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indians) and the aboriginal community who are looking for this as an economic development opportunity for job creation for them? Or do you support Premier Filmon?

Would you want to see gaming dollars leave this province to support the Manitoba treasury, or would you rather we keep these dollars within this province?

I say to you, Madam Minister, get off the fence because the only thing you're going to get on that fence is slivers.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, you've spent a considerable amount of time rehearsing your non-answer but I'm still going to try. Mr. Minister, according to your own social impact study, only 15 per cent of the people surveyed actually play video lottery terminals. And that creates a very obvious problem for you. Maybe you should try to figure this out. You're the minister of Gaming.

You have to agree that we cannot rely on the current 15 per cent participation level shown in your study, because that few people just cannot bet the necessary volume of money.

My question to you is this: how many new gamblers do you expect to entice and what level of spending will be required for them to support your \$50 million in profit projections?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, let me say to the member for Greystone, that it is a fact that 86 per cent of the people of this province involve themselves in gaming of one form or another, whether it be the break-opens, the bingos, whatever form, that 86 per cent do.

I want to say to the member from Greystone that the incremental dollars we want to see are what we may be able to attract from people coming into this province and spending dollars in our province on gaming, as opposed to our people going to Winnipeg and to North Dakota and to Alberta.

I say to the member from Greystone that she can't have it both ways. If she is an opponent of gaming expansion in this province, have her tell this House where she would suggest we generate this revenue. Mr. Speaker, I say to the member one more time, she

can't have it both ways and she should get off of the fence on this issue.

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

### Cuts to Rural Hospitals

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Your government's delivering the promised budget is going to deliver only one promise to rural Saskatchewan — and that's to cut back on acute care bed levels in rural hospitals.

Madam Minister, you say that your bed target levels for rural Saskatchewan will be 1.5 beds per 1,000. Just to give you an example of what 1.5 beds per 1,000 means to the Moose Mountain Health District, Madam Minister, Dr. Schneeberger from Kipling Hospital said: the Wawota hospital will be closed; the Kipling hospital will be cut from 30 beds to 8 beds; the Redvers hospital will be cut from 28 beds to 8 beds; the Arcola hospital will be cut from 26 beds to 8 beds.

Madam Minister, the Moose Mountain Health District won't deny these closures or cut-backs are coming when the health boards receive their budgets April 1. Madam Minister, can you give us the commitment today that your budget will not cause any further hospital closures in rural Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is fully aware of the fact that the budget levels in this budget allow district boards to continue to operate the services that are in their district. The member opposite is also fully aware, because I've answered this question several times in the House, that the bed targets are of a provincial nature; they are flexible; they are to be phased in over a long period of time as we develop alternative community-based services.

So the member opposite is fully aware that that question has been answered in considerable detail in the past and this budget this year allows the districts to continue to operate the services in their area.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, what that provincial nature means to rural Saskatchewan is further closures. That's what it means, is it not Madam Minister? The cut-backs I mentioned are for one health district using your formula for bed targets. This is what is going to happen in the Moose Mountain district, Madam Minister. It's going to happen all over rural Saskatchewan in addition to that.

About a year ago you accused the official opposition of stirring up trouble by reporting rural health hospital cuts. But, Madam Minister, the axe did fall on rural hospitals. You denied any hospitals would close, but they did close, Madam Minister.

It's pretty easy to sit back and say it's up to the rural health boards in rural Saskatchewan, but it is you, Madam Minister, that sets the numbers. It's you that sets the budget, it is you that sets the acute care bed levels, Madam Minister.

Madam Minister, can you tell us in the Assembly today how many rural hospitals will be closed and how many beds will be eliminated in rural Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is clearly opposed to reforming the health care system in a manner that is going to provide higher quality health services for Saskatchewan people and keep us in tune with what is happening around this world. The member opposite is clearly opposed to that. He is bent on proceeding in a certain direction that meets his political purposes, and he doesn't want to see what's happening around the world that will take us into the 21st century.

The member opposite is fully aware of the fact that the government has established a new initiatives fund for rural communities, that is going to increase the community-based services, the health promotion, and disease prevention programing in those communities; that will develop services in the home that will allow people to stay in their home instead of pouring money into services that do not meet real health care needs. The member opposite, I know, does not want to face the reality of targeting funds to health needs.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, Dr. Schneeberger of Kipling says, and all other rural doctors are saying, Madam Minister, greater consultation is absolutely imperative before any further cuts are made to rural hospital beds. He says that all hospitals are going to suffer as a result of the inevitable second axe that is going to fall on rural hospitals all across rural Saskatchewan, and the whole health care reform started on the wrong foot.

That is what one doctor in rural Saskatchewan and that's what other doctors in rural Saskatchewan are saying about your changes, Madam Minister. Discussions of further hospital closures of rural Saskatchewan, rural hospitals, are dramatic cut-backs. That's what's happening, Madam Minister. And they should not be made without consultation with elected boards, Madam Minister.

We are receiving calls from all across Saskatchewan about rural health care boards, Madam Minister. We want to know today and receive a commitment from you, Madam Minister, that you will hold democratically elected board elections as absolutely soon as possible, as you have promised.

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — You know these words really ring hollow from a party that right next door in Alberta

is implementing huge cut-backs in health, much larger than what this government has done.

**An Hon. Member:** — Savage.

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — They're savage cuts without a plan, without any way of minimizing the impact of these cuts. This government had a plan from the day it took over as government, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — And the member opposite is fully aware of what's happening in Alberta, yet he stands up and criticizes what's going on when we have had an absolutely massive consultative process which is ongoing and continues.

And in response to his question about Moose Mountain, I just have received information from my office which actually says they get an increase in this budget.

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

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Why is the member on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Goulet:** — Could I have leave to introduce some visitors?

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to introduce visitors from the Regina Home Schooling Association. With the Regina Home Schooling Association we have 75 students ages 5 to 10 years old, along with some adults.

Mr. Speaker, we have with the association Gareth Dillistone who is on the steering committee for the Association of Regina Christian Home Educators. As well, Mr. Speaker, we have the president of the Saskatchewan Home-Based Educators, Judy Whiting.

Mr. Speaker, I will be visiting with them right after this question period and I'll be meeting with them also at room 218 and will be there also to take pictures, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all the members to welcome the home-based association — home schooling association.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I ask leave to make a statement.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I'm not by orders of the day yet. I've got ministerial statements and introduction of Bills to do yet, and then I'll recognize the member.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before

orders of the day, I ask leave to make a statement on athletes in the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Leave granted.

(1030)

# STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are eight Saskatchewan-born athletes and officials on the Canadian team at the Olympic Winter Games which opened on Saturday, February 12 in Lillehammer, Norway. In speed skating, Mike Hall and Catriona Lemay are currently residing in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and are athletes at the Olympics.

Catriona Lemay from Saskatoon is on the women's speed skating team. Catriona was a Saskatchewan sport athlete of the month for December. She qualifies for the 500 and 1,000 metre events at the Olympics.

Mike Hall, from Regina Beach, is one of Canada's top male speed skaters. Hall, aged 23, was named to the Canadian team after competing at the national long-track speed skating trials in Calgary. Hall competed in the 5,000 metre event and he finished 22nd among 32 — 32 competitors — this past weekend at the Olympics.

In the luge, Bob Gasper, originally from Bruno, is on the luge team. Ben Morin from Gravelbourg is also a member of the luge team's mission staff.

In figure skating, Mr. Speaker, Susan Humphreys, originally from Moose Jaw, is competing in women's figure skating. In hockey, George Kingston from Biggar is the director of hockey administration. Troy Parchman from Moose Jaw is an equipment manager with the Canadian hockey team. Kevin Muench, now living in Moose Jaw, has been named to the officiating crew for the Olympic hockey competitions. Muench is the only Canadian hockey official at the games.

In the cultural Olympic competitions there are six Saskatchewan participants in the cultural side of the Olympics.

They are competing in the snow sculpture competitions. Mr. Speaker, they are Ms. Patricia Leguen, captain, from Saskatoon; Miss Mariana C. Neves from Saskatoon; Mr. Marius Paul from Beauval; Mr. Lloyd Pinay, captain, from Langham; Mr. Laurie Afseth from Saskatoon; and Mr. Kim Ennis from Big River.

On behalf of all members we congratulate these individuals and we wish them well in Lillehammer, Norway.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to make a private members' statement regarding the 20th anniversary of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the members for leave in order to make this statement.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I inform the House that tomorrow, Saturday, February 19, marks the 20th anniversary of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council.

There is a Chinese proverb which states that the big river is strong because small rivers flow into it. This proverb may be applied to multiculturalism. Our province and country have all been made stronger because of the contribution of many cultures who have settled here and who've brought their own cultural traditions.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has long been one of the most active in all of the province of Saskatchewan and continues to be an active participant in community matters and does a superb job of providing a centre through which immigrants and refugees are welcomed into the community and assisted in their settlement needs.

The council also provides an annual outdoor recreational festival called Motif for the enjoyment of all residents and tourists. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in recent years Motif has had to expand from a one-evening to a two-day celebration of the collage of cultures that make up our community.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council plays an important role in promoting intercultural understanding and awareness by working closely with city officials and other agencies in Moose Jaw.

And today I ask the House to join with me in congratulating the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council for reaching this important milestone.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### MOTION FOR COMMITTEE OF FINANCE (BUDGET DEBATE)

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. MacKinnon that the Assembly resolve itself into the Committee of Finance.

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege on behalf of the opposition yesterday to respond to the speech from the Hon. Minister of Finance. And I guess in quoting from her book, *Delivering the Promise*, is probably more accurate than what we had at first

intended to respond, on the basis that it is a good title for the budget. It's delivering on a promise, Mr. Speaker, and members of this Assembly, it's delivering on a promise of more taxes.

Last year the Minister of Finance said, this is what the taxes are going to be for 1993-94 and she committed herself to that. And, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, you delivered. You also delivered on delivering the promise. This is sequel 2, Mr. Speaker, and members of this Assembly, this is sequel 2 of delivering on the promise, delivering on the promise of more taxes. And that's not the only promise that's being delivered through this — and indirectly a promise to increase utility rates like they've never been increased before. That's delivering on the promise, Mr. Speaker.

And I believe, as we've raised in question period and other areas, I believe, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, that the delivery on the promise is, as you said, going to impact in Saskatchewan. It's going to impact not as you said, positively, but it's going to impact negatively.

We have had, Madam Minister, as we've tried to question you, a reduction in the volume of dollars that are going to be coming in because of income tax. And why, Mr. Speaker? Why is this delivery going to be less in income tax than it was expected to be? Because, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, there are 9,000 less jobs in the province of Saskatchewan today than there were when they took office. That is the reason, Madam Minister — 9,000 less jobs. And that's the reason why we have a delivery on the promise.

But, Mr. Speaker, there's other things that are going to be impacting here. And why is there a reduction on jobs in the province of Saskatchewan? Why is there a reduction?

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out in my questions yesterday that there are increases in many, many areas in this government's review of what they're going to be doing. For example, Mr. Speaker, the tax increases come, and utility rate increases. We have had increases in sales tax, income tax, gas tax, resource tax, liquor tax, SaskPower rates, SaskTel rates, SaskEnergy rates, driver's licences, vehicle registrations, STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company) rates, tuition fees, livestock fees, brand fees, incorporation fees, business registration fees, pasture fees, crop insurance premiums, workers' compensation premiums, prescription drug charges, property taxes, because of their offloading. And, Mr. Speaker, it even costs more to get married these days in the province of Saskatchewan because these people increase the fees on everything that moves.

As a matter of fact as I was thinking about this yesterday, my father bought a \$22 rifle in 1937. And if he wants to go to a game show . . . or if I took it to a gun show in the province of Saskatchewan I would have to pay \$50 to have that gun at that gun show.

Madam Minister, you have raised fees on everything

that moves in this province, and even those things that are static. And, Madam Minister, the people of the province are to the point where they can't give you any more because they have been taxed right out of existence.

And that is a very, very serious problem. Businesses can't continue to exist under those kind of tax rate increases that you have provided the people of this province.

In the short run . . . and speaking as a part of an article that I read in the *Leader-Post* on February 16: In the short run, businesses will be looking for more positive signals in the Saskatchewan budget this week.

Madam Minister, there were no positive signals. The signals are that there is going to be an increase in taxes in this province that come indirectly to every person and every person wanting to do business in this province.

And that is the reason why we are rejecting this budget. That is the reason why the people of the province are rejecting the budget. That's why in today's editorial page from a leading political columnist, Mr. Eisler says that you are going to cause a serious problem with the tax increases that you have in the province of Saskatchewan.

What you see on the top, Mr. Speaker, is nothing. But on delivering on the promise, Madam Minister, you are delivering on the promise you made last year to collect more taxes. More taxes from the people of the province of Saskatchewan who are already leaving the province in droves because they can't afford to do business here.

And my view, Mr. Speaker, is this: that if we want the economy of this province to grow . . . and I've been a person who has resided in this province all my life, and I believe in this province. I've worked in this province; I've invested in this province. But I can't take my land and my equipment and my farm and my ranch and move it to Alberta like business people can. I have to continue to exist in this province.

But, Madam Minister, people are saying over and over again that they will have to move, if they want to continue to do business, in this province. They have to move elsewhere.

Madam Minister, it is a serious, serious problem when the wealth of this province is going down instead of up. We have to increase the wealth of the province. We have to increase the volume of taxpayers in this province in order to have the people in the province pay less tax. That's the only way we're going to overcome this hurdle and you haven't even considered that in response to the kinds of things that you've done in setting up this budget.

Madam Minister, we need more taxpayers in this province. This is without a doubt. And what we have had is a steady decline in the volume of people prepared to pay taxes.

As a matter of fact, Madam Minister, it's been the opposite. There are more and more people who are requiring assistance in this province than ever in the history of this province — 20 million more people on welfare. You put in the . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — 20,000.

**Mr. Martens:** — Twenty thousand more people on welfare, Madam Minister, and you are putting onto the people of this province another \$40 million worth of taxes in welfare and social services that have to go to pay for those 20,000 extra people. That, Madam Minister, is the wrong way for this to be going. It's the wrong trend, and if we want to talk about trends, Madam Minister, the trend is to move out.

Madam Minister, as I pointed out in my questions this morning, there is a hundred million that you're anticipating coming from the federal government. Where does that come from, Madam Minister? That comes from my taxes. That comes from the people of the province of Saskatchewan. That hundred million, that's more taxes; it isn't less taxes.

Madam Minister, you talked about the gaming going up \$50 million in revenue. The gaming people in this province are going to have to contribute another \$50 million to the economy of this province. Or as a matter of fact, Madam Minister, are you going to take it more? Are you planning on taking more out of the people who provide services out of the benefits they get from the bingo halls and the Nevadas? Are you going to take that money from those people who provide benefits to their local hospitals, benefits to their local communities, are you going to take that money away? Is that what the plan for the \$50 million is?

And if it is, Madam Minister, you are in very, very serious difficulties because those people are providing health care services across this province. And, Madam Minister, it is important for you to remember that and that's why I'm pointing it out to you today.

Mr. Speaker, she talks about another \$20 million increase in income tax — \$20 million increase in income tax. And she, in her forecast of what is going to be concluded in the March 31, is that she is going to have \$20 million less income tax in '93-94 than she had predicted — \$20 million less than she predicted, and now she's going to increase income tax even more.

My view of that, Mr. Speaker, is this: she doesn't understand that in order to have the capacity to pay income tax, you have to have income. And in order to have income, enough to generate the differential between last year's forecast and this year's forecast . . . is a differential of \$40 million, Mr. Speaker. And is she going to get that out of the economy of the province of Saskatchewan the way she is operating it? No, I don't believe she is. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what causes a serious problem.

(1045)

Mr. Speaker, a column in today's newspaper said this, and I believe Mr. Eisler is absolutely accurate in that the headlines say: "If this is good news, I'll take the bad." That was his headline on his political story. And this man has carried political stories against my government, against my political party, but this, Mr. Speaker, is an indictment of the Minister of Finance's capability of leading the finances of this province. He says this:

It is really just an extension (part 2, sequel 2, of delivering the promise) — part two, if you will — of last year's bad-news budget.

That's what he says, and he's absolutely right. He's absolutely right.

We're told (he also goes on to say) that we should be happy because it's not worse than what they said it would be.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you're getting beat up year after year after year, you finally get used to it. And people are getting to the place, Mr. Speaker, where they're choosing, where they're choosing . . . we have had people on that side of the House say people are choosing between drugs and food. And, Mr. Speaker, the cost for running the government of this province keeps going up — keeps going up. The costs keep going up, Mr. Speaker, and I think that people in the province have recognized that.

We are speaking in many cases exactly what the people of the province of Saskatchewan are telling us. We are speaking about the issues that people in the province are telling us. We are identifying issues that the people of the province of Saskatchewan are telling us. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that what the Minister of Finance needs to do, and do far more of, is go and find out what the people of the province really think about what her budget is.

A street poll — today's paper — a gentleman says:

I think the fact that we've got one of the highest per capita tax rates says there is something wrong. I also don't think the fact that they are playing politician with this is good. When they first start they say the deficit is bigger than it is, then at the end of their term, they make things look good. That is not right.

And, Mr. Speaker, the public of Saskatchewan are starting to understand, not only what this government is doing about a high deficit projection when they took office, but they saw also in Mr. Chrétien's, or Mr. Martin's budget analysis and financial statement that he made when he took office, that he had overextended the volume of deficit in his budget.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is coming back to haunt. It's coming back to haunt. They had a huge increase in write-offs, and what do they say about write-offs today? Well if we have to write off a little bit, that isn't



going to make too much difference on the budget. And that, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what they did in 1991 when they took office. And now they say, well it doesn't really matter; we'll let it slide.

But the public, the public don't believe you any more and that's what they're saying. They don't believe when they're telling you that that's what the budget is going to be because there's too many places to hide. There's too many places to hide.

This budget address dealt with 60 per cent of government spending — 60 per cent of government spending. But where did the other 40 per cent go? The other 40 per cent is not available to this Legislative Assembly to assess and judge whether it is spent in the way that the people of the province want it to be spent. That is what the people have to deal with.

There is 40 per cent of this budget, or of the budget spent by this government, is not identified in this budget address. Forty per cent is not there. Three billion dollars is spent by the Executive Council of this government, \$3 billion is spent by this executive and that, Mr. Speaker, is spent without this Legislative Assembly being able to address it.

That's what the problem is. Three billion dollars is hidden from the people of Saskatchewan, it's hidden from the members of this Assembly. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what this budget talks about — a hidden agenda in the utility rates. I read them. Fee increases. All of that is all identified as a part of what has to be looked at in this legislature in the future. And that, Mr. Speaker, people want to have access to that. The people of Saskatchewan want to have access to that.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the question from a constituent of mine yesterday. A constituent of mine asked, in utility rate increases in the province of Saskatchewan, I would like to have somebody regulate and control that. When was the last time that was heard, Mr. Speaker? Was that heard in the 80s? No. People in the '80s didn't say we had to have somebody looking after our utility rate increases. No, they didn't say that. But in the 1970s, they did. Why? The highest single increase in the history of Saskatchewan was in the energy component. And that, Mr. Speaker, was phenomenal.

People in the province of Saskatchewan have to have some way of controlling the socialist agenda of the province of Saskatchewan in dealing with utility rate increases. And they're asking for it again, Mr. Speaker, from the people of the province of Saskatchewan; are saying to this government, can you give us a chance to have somebody review the utility rates. Somebody has to review the utility rates.

And, Mr. Speaker, this Assembly, this Assembly should have the opportunity to do that. Members of this Assembly should have the opportunity to do that. Members of this Assembly, whether they're government members, back-benchers, or opposition, should have some way of knowing what those utility rate increases are. They should also, Mr. Speaker,

know, as sure as I stand here, what the budgets of those Crown corporations should be. That's what they should know. We should know what they are.

What we review on a continual basis, Mr. Speaker, is this. Two years after, as long as three years after, we get to review some of the budgets that have taken place and the financial statements that have occurred because of budget spending. We don't know what the budgets are. Can we find them? No. Should this Assembly have a view of 40 per cent of the province's spending? People of Saskatchewan are saying yes. People of Saskatchewan are saying yes, I want an opportunity to see them just as well as anyone else.

I have to have a responsibility as a member of this Assembly to show the people of the province of Saskatchewan where the money is being spent in utility income. I need to know. I need to know, as people of the province of Saskatchewan need to know, where that money is being spent.

And, Mr. Speaker, do we know, for example, last year where \$64 million were spent in the Crowns? Do we know? Do we have a way of finding out? The capital projects expected in this budget are \$700 million. Do we know where they're going to occur, Mr. Speaker? Is this Minister of Finance and Executive Council going to show us? No, Mr. Speaker, they're proudly not.

The minister responsible for SaskPower, the minister responsible for SaskEnergy, the minister responsible for SaskTel, and all of the other ministers with their Crown responsibilities, are they going to tell us where that capital project alignment is going to be? I doubt it, Mr. Speaker.

What you will find, somewhere in a flash is they can open up a building, open up a facility. Will they tell us where the Liquor Board is going to spend their money, putting in a Liquor Board store in northern Saskatchewan when the hospital is made up of ATCO trailers, Mr. Speaker?

That's the kind of spending these people do. And the people of the province of Saskatchewan don't want to have that any longer. That's where it's at, Mr. Speaker. And we want to represent that opinion in this Assembly and we believe in it. We believe in it fundamentally. That's why we have suggested changes to the people of this Assembly, and hopefully we have some way of making them realize, some way of making them realize that they have to take and do what the people of the province of Saskatchewan elected them to do.

They didn't elect them to hide and cover up. Forty per cent — 40 per cent of what the people of the province pay to this government is not identified in this budget. Forty per cent is not identified. And that, Mr. Speaker, is wrong. And it has always been done that way and I still think it's wrong.

The people of this Legislative Assembly should have the right to identify where those projects are going to

have their money spent, what they're going to be, whether they have value. And people of the province need to know that.

Mr. Speaker, this opposition caucus has suggested some very important changes to this Assembly, and I believe that they should be identified. And I'm going to do that.

I want to start by saying that the Minister of Finance made a statement and said:

We have opened the meetings of the Board of Internal Economy to the public and will appoint an independent commission to review the salaries and the benefits paid to MLAs.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it was the Leader of the Opposition, it was the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Thunder Creek, who first initiated that statement that the Board of Internal Economy should be opened up. It was the member from Thunder Creek who said that first. And that, Mr. Speaker, is being . . . the credit is being taken.

We'll let them have the credit. But will they go the step further, Mr. Speaker, will they go the step further and allow members of this Assembly to regulate and have a voice, have a voice, Mr. Speaker, in how the utility rates of this province are set.

We have asked this Assembly to consider a Bill, Mr. Speaker, to consider a Bill that would allow the people of this Assembly to have a view of the utility rates and their increases and the benefits they would be to the province of Saskatchewan. We have asked this Assembly in a Bill before this Assembly to address that, to allow the members of this Assembly to see those utility rate increases.

Mr. Speaker, and what do those members opposite say? No. Do you know why, Mr. Speaker? The back-benchers on this Assembly might not be capable; that's what they said. The back-benchers in this Assembly may not have the intelligence to deal with utility rate increases in a very pragmatic, political way. They have said that about themselves.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say on behalf of the opposition caucus that we believe our members are capable of identifying the need or not the need of increasing utility rates or whether it is there for strictly a partisan purpose.

Mr. Speaker, that is the reason why we have suggested it. But there is a lack of confidence on the Executive Council, the cabinet, the Premier and his cabinet, to allow his back-benchers any view of what those utility rate increases . . . What they probably were told — go out and sell it. Go out and sell the fifteen and a half per cent increase in natural gas costs. Go out and sell it, all of you. Go out and sell it. See whether it sells. Go up and down the malls in your communities and Main Street and coffee shop and see whether it sells.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't. It doesn't sell at all, and they

know it. Does an increase in SaskPower rates sell out in your community? Do the people realize what they're getting? No, Mr. Speaker. Each one of these members of this Assembly has come to the place where they say, what does the cabinet tell us to say?

And that, Mr. Speaker, comes and leads to the next point that we need to start in this Assembly. We need to start to say, do the individual members who represent their constituencies in each and every one of you, do you represent your constituencies and the people who elected you? Are you having a voice in this Assembly on how this Assembly should be run? Are you having a voice in this Assembly on how and what should be done in it?

Now that's a very, very important question because the perception in your minds may be that you are, but the perception out in the country is that you don't listen. You don't listen. And that, Mr. Speaker, is very, very significant in this discussion.

We are proposing more free votes in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and that gives me an opportunity to represent my constituency as they wish. And it gives each member in this Assembly the right to represent his constituency in the way that they wish — which is very, very important, in my opinion. And that, Mr. Speaker, is where we need to go.

We are also suggesting some, I believe, innovative ways of reducing cost of administration. Mr. Speaker, the people of this province in the next election are going to have eight less members of the legislature — eight less. So that really the load is going to be carried by eight less people for the province of Saskatchewan.

And what we have also suggested, Mr. Speaker, is a reduction in the cabinet ministers equivalent to that. We have suggested that if there is a limit to what should be . . . let's take an arbitrary number like 25 per cent, of a quarter of the people of this Assembly should be cabinet ministers, then they should have a reduction today of cabinet ministers.

(1100)

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure just what one cabinet minister costs, I'm not sure of what two cabinet ministers cost, but what we would have is a substantial saving in this Assembly and for the people of Saskatchewan. If the ministerial offices were closed down and shifted the responsibility to other ministers, it would reduce the volume of load on the taxpayers of the province of Saskatchewan and the tax they would pay, very, very significantly.

And, Mr. Speaker, another observation I would make is this. Is there a way we can reduce the costs further? Is there a way that we could do this in many other ways? And, Mr. Speaker, I have a whole lot of suggestions that could be made in how we could reduce the costs.

For example, members of this Assembly being allowed to be on boards of directors on Crown

corporations. Mr. Speaker, today, today we have people in this Assembly who are individuals who have responsibilities — and some of them assume them — to their constituents. But, Mr. Speaker, other than that they do nothing. And I think it's time, Mr. Speaker, that they be allowed to sit on boards of Crown corporations. I think they should sit on those boards and they should give direction.

There should be a committee of this Assembly reviewing those utility rates. Members of the opposition should be allowed to be on that committee. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the way we would systematically allow the people of the province some control, the people of the province control, of what the rates are going to be, how they govern, and that's what the agenda today is, Mr. Speaker. And if this government, if this cabinet, the Premier and this cabinet, do not recognize that, they are going to lose and lose big time.

Mr. Speaker, society today is not going to stick, society today is not going to stick with the political party that they were a part of yesterday. And that has nothing to do with whether I do right or wrong. It has to do with an attitude that is out there today, Mr. Speaker, and that attitude is that I am a consumer and I will shop, Mr. Speaker, I will shop for that political party that most likely is there to serve me.

And if this Legislative Assembly wants to continue to hide behind the cabinet, the closed doors of the cabinet decisions and the boards of directors of Crown corporations, then they will be rejected by the consumers of the province of Saskatchewan, in a vote, because 40 per cent of their budgets are not being considered by this Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, the public today are going to say, as a consumer, I can't buy that any longer. That's what this gentlemen said from the streets of Regina. He said, I can't buy that any longer, and that is the reason why we are saying, Mr. Speaker, open it up, open it up. The people of the province want to see; they want to see what we're doing. They want to understand what we're doing.

And the reason they don't understand is because we don't give them the facts. The Minister of Finance has not given them all the facts. She's 40 per cent short. In a baseball game, if she was hitting 600, she'd be good. But in the Legislative Assembly, she's not. If she was writing a test at the university, she'd fail, Mr. Speaker, on a 60 per cent hit. And maybe the member from Churchill Downs did make 60 per cent in order to get his law title, but the rest of us have to compete on a higher level than that, Mr. Speaker.

And that is what we are suggesting to the members of this Assembly that we do. Open it up to the public so that the people who are the consumers have a right to judge whether you're doing the right thing. And that, Mr. Speaker, is where we have to go.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that we have suggested as a review of this Assembly — and I have

spoken considerable time on Crown corporations — we would like this Assembly, in reviewing the financial statements, to have the individual appointed from the opposition to chair the Crown Corporations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it works in the Public Accounts Committee. Precedent has been established that the Leader of the Opposition has the freedom to appoint an individual from the opposition caucus to be the individual to be the chairman of the Public Accounts.

Mr. Speaker, why does the Crown corporations . . . 40 per cent of the spending, 40 per cent of the spending of the Government of Saskatchewan in Crown corporations is only identified and reviewed after the fact? After the fact, Mr. Speaker. And that's what's wrong with it.

The consumers of the province of Saskatchewan believe, Mr. Speaker, that that is wrong. I want a say, is what people are saying to us. I want a say in what's going on. I want a say and I want to review what's going on. I want to know why my utility rates go up. Is it to offset income in the Consolidated Fund? Let me make the decision to do that then. Is it cross-subsidizing other Crown corporations that shouldn't be subsidized?

Mr. Speaker, as we go through the process of identifying the issues, as we go through the process of identifying the issues that there should be a review made by the individuals of this government, the cabinet, the Premier and his cabinet, individuals on this side of the House will be identifying in the various areas their responsibility. They'll be identifying in Health what they see needs to be fixed up. They'll be identifying in Education things that need to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, over and over again we will be identifying. And the reason, Mr. Speaker, that I have identified that Crown corporations is an item that we should assess in this Assembly is this, that that is my responsibility. My responsibility is to ask this Assembly about the spending of CIC, Crown corporations, and my responsibility is to make sure that the people of Saskatchewan are getting their money's worth.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe they are. We need to have a way for the people of Saskatchewan, the consumers in the province of Saskatchewan, to know what's going on. And we don't have it. And what we are going to do as a part of our responsibility here is ask the government over and over again, can we have an opportunity to have a chairman on Crown Corporations Committee? Can we have members of this Assembly review the spending of Crown corporations? Can we have that? Is that the way for the consumers of Saskatchewan to have it?

And I believe it is because the people in the province of Saskatchewan have to pay. They have to pay their telephone increases, they have to pay for how utility rates are increased. They have to . . . they'll

understand that. They want to understand that.

Mr. Speaker, as I've made these points this morning to the members of this Assembly, I can only say to you that if you want to be identified with the consumers of the province of Saskatchewan, which I want to be identified with, then I believe, I firmly believe it's time for you to change your agenda. Change your agenda so that we together, that we together can walk into the 20th century having the people who are the consumers of the province of Saskatchewan identify with the load they've got to carry.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the province are prepared to carry a lot of weight in this province. Traditionally they've been . . . they have cared for their community. Traditionally they set up those telephone companies at the beginning of time. They set up hospitals. They set up nursing homes. They did all that. They took it out of their pocket over and above the taxes, Mr. Speaker.

We're prepared to share the burden, the responsibility, but, Mr. Speaker, the consumer today says, he says over and over again, I want to understand from you what the implications are going to be. And we in this province need to understand it and we're all as consumers saying, allow an opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to become involved in this Assembly. They're asking that, Mr. Speaker, all across Canada, all across democracies in the world. They're asking, can we as consumers become involved as people in the province of Saskatchewan.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is what we're going to push for as members of the opposition in this budget debate as they talk about health care, as they talk about utility rates, as they talk about education, as they talk about labour responsibility, employment responsibility, business responsibility, economic growth. People want to take the opportunity to create wealth.

But, Mr. Speaker, if on every corner they get it twisted and wrung out of them, they're not going to do that. And I believe that as a part of a group of legislators, we need to take the opportunity that we have today and deliver on that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be voting for this budget; I don't believe it identifies in a very clear way what we should be doing in jobs; I don't believe it identifies what we should be doing in health care; I don't believe it identifies what we should be doing in education, job creation — any of those areas.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's a dismal failure in allowing the people of the province of Saskatchewan to view what they should be viewing in the terms of covering only 60 per cent — 60 per cent — of the budget of this province, the spending of the budget of this province. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will not support this budget.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Merci, M. le Président. I want to first of all to say welcome to all the members of the legislature in this current session. I also want to congratulate and welcome the new member from Regina North West. I know that she's participated in the democratic exercise and certainly I hope she fulfils her role responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the Minister of Finance, the cabinet, and my colleagues for putting together this particular budget. And I want to say that, at the outset, I will be supporting this budget. I will be supporting the direction this government has taken from the outset and I most certainly am supporting the direction and delivering on the promise.

Mr. Speaker, a great politician once said, I must find out which way the people are going, so I can get in front of them and lead them. I do not totally subscribe, Mr. Speaker, to that story, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, we as a government, when we were elected in October of 1991, faced some monumental challenges and had to make some very important decisions for the people in the province of Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Speaker, took some very, very decisive decisions. And, Mr. Speaker, we did that, and again I applaud the minister for that direction.

When we were first elected in 1991, we promised to open the books. And we did that and we let the light shine into those books. And what it revealed to the people of the province of Saskatchewan was that this province was in dire financial consequences.

And because of those dire financial consequences and the financial situation, we had to implement a very, very, very ambitious and very difficult direction, and we did. And I want to say that for the most part, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the people in the province are very supportive of the promise. And that as I go around my constituency and I speak to business people, to families, to working men and women, I can tell you that they are supporting and they are understanding what this government has to deal with, and they most certainly are determined to support us to the end.

(1115)

As I said at the outset, that when we took office we inherited a very dire financial picture. The projected budget deficit for 1991 had been pegged at 265 million, projected. However we quickly discovered after opening the books that the actual deficit was going to be \$1.3 billion — a slight miscalculation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again we took some very deliberate action to counteract this grave financial situation. People of the province said, you must address this and you must get the financial affairs of this province in order. And, Mr. Speaker, we have done that.

We've looked at internal operations in government. And we've looked at every possible cost-cutting measure we could implement. And in the first year we

took dramatic steps to try to trim some of those expenditures. And some of these reduced costs have been, cutting cabinet ministers' salaries by 5 per cent, cutting MLA communication allowances by 25 per cent. By making common sense, day-to-day changes, we have saved an extra \$30 million over two years. One of these, as the Finance minister indicated yesterday, is by just instead of providing new health cards each and every year — just sending out a sticker — we have saved \$200,000 to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

We are going to be introducing legislation to reduce the number of MLAs by eight. Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to hear the member from Morse say that this was an assault on rural Saskatchewan and that the people of the province of Saskatchewan were going to be the losers in the reduction of MLAs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we instructed an independent commission to look at the demographics and to take into consideration the changing demographic picture of the province. And they did this independently, and they reported back, and then they held public hearings on their findings. And if we believe in the concept of one voter . . . one person one vote, Mr. Speaker, we cannot find too much at fault with the report.

And, Mr. Speaker, this again speaks to major initiatives; all of these cost-cutting measures speak to delivering the promise, and that is, delivering a more effective, more efficient, more responsive government at less cost to the taxpayers of this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, we'd welcome that the other members, the opposition and in particular the third party, would do the same. The Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, instead of supporting and doing her part to save money for the taxpayers, instead has increased the money coming to her by 37 per cent. And, Mr. Speaker, in a year-end interview with some of the media, the Leader of the Third Party said that this government had not cut costs enough.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday as she was being interviewed, the Leader of the Third Party said that this government should increase funding for education and other areas. Well which is it, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Does she want this government to cut costs further, or does she want it to increase spending? Which is it?

Mr. Speaker, again it points to this leader sitting on the fence and eventually, as the minister in question period said, she's going to end up with some slivers.

Mr. Speaker, another area that we have reduced costs has been renegotiating some of the previous administration's deals, and in particular the megadeals. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that some of these deals were probably formed for the good of the province. However, unfortunately some of them did not, I believe, have a proper due diligence done on them, in particular, on the financial viability of these projects.

And that \$1.7 billion guarantees that we had on these megaprojects, Mr. Speaker, was not looked favourably in the eyes of our investment community and as well by the bond rating agencies.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was not right and it was not fair for the taxpayers of this province to accept such deals. And we moved swiftly and we renegotiated these megaprojects, these deals, and that has reduced the taxpayers of Saskatchewan's exposure to these particular deals by \$400 million. That is delivering on the promise.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that one area that the previous administration . . . and certainly they have damaged the financial situation of this province. But there's also another important area, Mr. Speaker, that they have damaged even more seriously, and that is the credibility of government, the credibility of the political institution.

And wherever you go, Mr. Speaker, in this province — in my constituency, certainly, and my constituents are probably the same as anywhere else — they look to their leaders, their elected leaders, to guide them and lead and govern for them. But they're also sceptical because of the past 10 years under the former administration.

So we've taken initiatives and we've implemented measures internally in government to make government more accountable to the people and the taxpayers of this province.

Some of those measures, Mr. Speaker, are releasing mid-year financial reports so that the people and the taxpayers have an opportunity to look at our projections, to look at the financial projections that this government makes, and to judge whether we're on course. Dramatically different, Mr. Deputy Speaker, than the previous administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've also taken some initiatives as far as financial reports on the Crown corporations, agencies, boards, and commissions. They're timely, they're precise, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they definitely reveal the financial state of these particular agencies.

We as well opened up the Board of the Internal Economy to the public; again, so the public and the people of this province could see exactly how government and how we spend their money on administration in the legislature. Again, dramatically different than the previous administration.

We're going to be appointing an independent commission to look at MLAs' (Member of the Legislative Assembly) salaries and per diems and benefits.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're providing summary financial statements which provide the Provincial Auditor, again as I say, with timely, precise financial

statements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's ironic that the member from Morse in his presentation this morning claims that the government is not showing all of the financial picture to the auditor. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a quote here from the Provincial Auditor in which he states: the province's financial statements are the most useful financial statement issued by any senior government in Canada. And that's delivering on the promise.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, we're delivering on another promise. There's another, equally important reason for delivering the promise. Over 70 per cent of provincial government spending goes to third parties — to local governments, schools, universities, and so on. They too have shared in the necessary pain of the past two years but they have not been surprised. And that is because we have announced in our annual budgets what these third-party governments would be getting for the previous . . . for the next two years. So as I say, there is no surprises, and certainly they appreciate that.

The level of funding promised in last year's budget remains unchanged. Planning for them was certainly difficult, as it was for us, but they knew exactly what they had to plan with. Mr. Speaker, because we have endured, because they have taken part in this remarkable fiscal turnaround, this budget promises that barring any unforeseen problems, this will be the last year third parties will receive funding reductions."

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly on how we are delivering the promise for jobs and economic renewal. At the beginning of our mandate, we put together a blueprint, an economic blueprint for this province. That blueprint was called *Partnership for Renewal*. And in that document, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we identified 31 initiatives that had to be implemented. And I might add that this document was consulted . . . we consulted extensively with all of the major stakeholders in the economy and they all agreed on the blueprint.

And one of the features of this economic strategy is that it has specific time lines. It states quite clearly in the document where this government's priority as far as economic development and job creation are going. It has put that emphasis on small business and cooperatives and putting the emphasis on the small and medium-sized business instead of the megaprojects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, again you can see the resemblance between our *Partnership for Renewal* economic document, the blueprint for the economic future of Saskatchewan, again identifying the initiatives in conjunction with our stakeholders, putting it out for them to see, putting out the time lines, and you can see the resemblance with the budget, our balanced budget plan.

We have put out for the people of this province the budget plan, the balanced budget plan at the beginning. And they can see for themselves that we are meeting our projections and our targets, and we're going to be doing the same on the economic side. And that again is delivering on the promise.

(1130)

Some of the major initiatives in our economic renewal strategy paper are the Trade Development Corporation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's no doubt when we went around and consulted with business people, with labour, and with associations and interested stakeholders in the economy, there's no doubt that business people — small, medium, large business, but in particular small business — identified the need to have some type of corporation or agency to go out and identify and develop markets for our products.

They felt that was one of the resources that they were lacking. And our government has responded to that request. And I'm very proud to say that the Trade Development Corporation is going to improve provincial marketing services, and I think will lead to a substantial increase in export opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses and Saskatchewan products.

As well, we've announced the Tourism Authority — Mr. Speaker, again one of the initiatives in our blueprint. What this does is that we've identified tourism as a major catalyst in the economy of Saskatchewan. We believe however that the partners, the stakeholders in tourism, should come together so that they can collaborate and cooperate more closely to expand the opportunities in tourism. And that is being implemented.

And one of the most important pillars in our strategy paper, our blueprint, is certainly the development of regional economic authorities. And as we head, Mr. Deputy Speaker, towards — and I should say as we rush — towards the 21st century, it is going to be imperative that we refit, we restructure our economy to better meet the new challenges of the 21st century.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, what that speaks to is more cooperation, more collaboration, amongst the stakeholders in the economy. And that's what regional economic development authorities speak to, is identifying the resources that you have in a given area. And once you've got it identified, the resources and the strengths, and you also have identified the weaknesses, you come together as stakeholders and work more closely to pool these resources so that you can better meet the challenges, as I say, of the 21st century.

I am proud to say that we've already announced a regional economic development authority in Prince Albert, and there's more to come and they will be announced in due course, Mr. Speaker.

We're also working on a research and technology commercialization plan. And it's ironic that when you look at some of the most developed nations and some of the most industrialized nations in the world, there's something very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker; that is, these nations spend more, both in terms of the public and the private sector and the cooperative sector, on research and development than any other nations.

And if we are going to meet the challenges, as I say, of the 21st century, which is going to be a knowledge-based society, then it is imperative that we put more money . . . and we work more closely together with our stakeholders to identify more funds for research and technology.

We're also working on a comprehensive transportation policy. And this is very important because I believe and it's my sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the pace of change that is going to happen in the next number of years is going to be very, very dramatic; in particular if the federal government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, starts to offload more and more of its traditional, historical responsibilities on the backs of the provinces and of the people.

And one such area that I want to identify is the Western Grain Transportation Act. And the link here between this Act and a transportation policy is that since the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was implemented, there is tremendous pressure on the federal government to dismantle or dramatically reduce the amount of money that goes into this particular program.

And I want to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Saskatchewan where we have some of the most extensive branch line and rail line systems and we're seeing it being dismantled, if the change in the Western Grain Transportation Act should pass or if they should decide that they're going to eliminate it — which I fear, and I would advise them not to even consider — it is going to have a dramatic impact on our rail line system and the way we transport goods in this province, in particular, wheat and grain.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — And it's ironic, it's ironic that the federal government — and we participated in the national infrastructure program — it's ironic that on the one hand they might be cutting back on such a program, the western grain transportation subsidy, that will dramatically put pressure on our infrastructure, no doubt about it. It's going to increase the costs dramatically because more and more of the grain transportation is going to be by truck-trailer, thus putting pressure on our infrastructure — our highway infrastructure. Isn't it ironic that when they're going to be contemplating cutting back on that side they're going to be putting some money on the infrastructure side?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that they're working at cross purposes here if they're considering dramatically

cutting back on the transportation subsidy. So we're working, and I know my Minister of Highways is working, very arduously and diligently on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, on a comprehensive transportation policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also are advancing with two new uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan, a \$250 million expansion. And we're also participating in a multi-party training plan to train Northerners for at least 60 per cent of the resulting jobs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I pointed out earlier, as we prepare our economy, as we prepare our society for the new economic order we're going to live in and the new challenges of the 21st century, it's going to be imperative that in any economic development plan . . . and when we talk about the economy and when we talk about the creation of jobs, I think we're going to have to recognize that a lot of the new jobs are going to be driven by technology — high-tech jobs and knowledge based.

And it's interesting to note that if you look at the Canadian economy, from 1990 to 1993 there was an increase . . . or I should say a decrease, an elimination of jobs; 185,000 jobs were eliminated in the Canadian economy in that three-year period between 1990 and 1993. But if you go below that number and you start to dissect exactly where the job gains and the job losses happen, it's very interesting. It tells another story.

If you look at individuals who came out of university with a university degree, the expansion of jobs in Canada was actually 300,000, so there was actually 300,000 new jobs for this particular group. If you then go to individuals who are coming out of colleges and technical institutes, these individuals that had trades, the increase in jobs was 185,000 — 185,000 for this particular category.

When you go down to individuals who had a grade 12 education, the loss of employment opportunities or jobs was actually 16,000. And then if you go down to individuals who . . . high school drop-outs — and again, sad; we must do more — but the job loss for this particular sector was a whopping 600,000.

So what does it say? It's imperative that we put more emphasis, and I certainly want to point to the federal government, that we put more emphasis on training, on education, and on preparing our young people for the future and the 21st century. And I can tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that our government is working on that and that is a priority for us in the coming years as we prepare this province for the future.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, no economic recovery can fully be realized in Saskatchewan without getting agriculture and the agricultural industry back on track. And to that end we have released our strategy paper, our vision for agriculture not only in the coming years but again, as I say, for the

21st century.

And one of the priorities in this strategy paper is, again, identifying the sector, the unit that has been the most productive for the agricultural industry and for Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the family farm unit. And we're prioritizing that because we have seen in the history of Saskatchewan and we're going to see in the future of Saskatchewan that this is the most viable, the most efficient, and the most productive unit in the industry and anywhere in the world.

And I'm proud to say that Saskatchewan farm families and Saskatchewan farmers have been the most productive in the history of this province, and they're going to be the most productive in the coming years. And they will meet the challenges of the 1990s and of the 21st century. And our ag strategy paper speaks to that.

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

(1145)

**Mr. Roy:** — Our strategy paper, Ag 2000, also speaks about diversity. And that is absolutely crucial to the future recovery of the ag economy. And we've seen in the past couple of years some dramatic steps forward as far as diversifying the agricultural industry.

And to that end I'm proud to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that our government is implementing the agri-food equity fund. This fund will support diversification and establish new, value added agribusinesses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've said it many times but I'll say it again. I'm one of those proud Saskatchewan farmers, and I for years have been involved in growing specialty crops. And I started this rotation on my farming operation many, many years ago because I believed there was a future, and certainly the future sustainability of my farming operation. And I've seen the rise of interest; I've seen the rise of new uses for specialty crops. And our government is encouraging that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I have in my home community of Bellevue some of the most innovative, some of the most ambitious specialty crop dealers and business people that you will find anywhere. Belle Pulse, a company from Bellevue, has been in operation for nearly 20 years in purchasing and selling pulse crops right around the world. And they tell me that the future in this particular sector is unlimited and in some ways untapped.

I find it sad that we see that where we have a resource like this that we're not adding the full value to that product. I find it sad that we see pulse crops being exported out of Saskatchewan to wherever it is — Montreal or Winnipeg — and the value added is done in those communities and in those cities.

And I'll give you an example. Prior to 1986, the peas and lentils were sent out of province, and in particular, peas — to be polished and split, Mr.

Deputy Speaker, to polish and split peas. Nobody can tell me that we can't do that in Saskatchewan. We can and we are doing it because we have placed a priority on value added and taking our indigenous natural resources and resources like peas and lentils and adding value right here in Saskatchewan. And that's diversity. That's one example.

They're now talking about looking at a soup, an extension of pulse crops, peas and lentils. Why should we send our peas and lentils to eastern Canada and they make soup and they send it back to us or they send it around the world? Why don't we look at producing the soup right here in Saskatchewan.

Again, we have to be responsible; we have to do our due diligence on this. We mustn't be like the former administration — go headlong into something and then realize it was a failure and a catastrophe. We got to be responsible and we're going to be.

So those are some of the new types of industries, a new type of value added economic activity that we can create and we can have in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're also working because we believe so firmly and so fervently and strongly in Saskatchewan farm families and the Saskatchewan agricultural industry. We're working on renegotiating with the federal government a whole farm safety net program.

And discussions are under way, as farmers and most other people in Saskatchewan realize. By 1995 we will be exiting from the gross revenue insurance program. And as I said, because we believe in our farm families, we believe that we must implement another whole farm safety net program.

Now I just want to go back here a little bit and look at this particular program which was the gross revenue insurance program. And I want to identify some of the deficiencies in this particular program so that members opposite, in particular the members from the Liberal Party, so that they can mention it to their colleagues in Ottawa, some of the deficiencies in the former gross revenue insurance program.

When this program was designed, it was designed to shift the funding of agriculture and particular safety net programs from the federal government to the backs of the province and the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And we will not accept that.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — When you take a look at the levels of funding in the gross revenue insurance program, you see provinces like Quebec and Ontario that had per capita spending on this program, \$30 and \$18 respectively, and then you come to the province of Saskatchewan that has been the bread basket of this country — I might add, of the world — and you see that the federal government, in this particular program, has put \$146 per capita on the backs of Saskatchewan people when we have 50 per cent,



almost 50 per cent of the arable land in this country and we have less than one-fifth of the population, the smallest tax base anywhere in this country.

The responsibility, the constitutional responsibility of agriculture has always been with the federal government — in partnership, certainly, with the provincial governments, but none the less agriculture is a national issue and a national responsibility. And here they are offloading nearly 35 per cent of the costs of safety nets on a small, beleaguered province like Saskatchewan. Shame, shame on them.

And I want to tell the members from the Liberal Party here in the House to make sure the message gets through to the federal Minister of Agriculture and to the federal government, the Prime Minister, to ensure that they take back their historic responsibilities in funding of agriculture.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, we're also looking, when I speak of diversity, we're also looking at putting more emphasis on the livestock industry. And in that vein and with that view in mind we have put together a beef export marketing agency.

And again cattlemen from across the province of Saskatchewan have been telling me for years again there is tremendous opportunity in this particular sector. Unfortunately we have not been paying the kind of attention and we have been not identifying and developing markets the way we should.

And what have we done? Well, Mr. Speaker, we have answered their concerns. We are developing a beef export agency that will go and identify and cultivate these new markets. We again are delivering on the promise.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Again, it's all part of a very comprehensive agricultural strategy paper, *Agriculture 2000*, the future direction of agriculture in Saskatchewan. And I think members opposite and the people of Saskatchewan should monitor very closely the success of this particular document and the progress as we implement the measures.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak a bit on health and families and the commitment that our government is making in this particular area. When we moved to reform health care, phase 2 of medicare — and I think members in the House have commented many times about how fragmented, about how in some ways health care and health care deliverers were disorganized in some ways. Four-hundred-and-some health boards across this province delivering a variance of programs and services, but in lots of ways not communicating with one another; in lots of ways when they were delivering the very same services and programs or similar programs, but not communicating with one another — a duplication.

And we moved to restructure and to reform that kind of health care delivery. The communities across the province decided for themselves how they would reorganize their particular districts. We left it up to them to decide because we wanted to be developmental and evolutionary.

And we've done that. We have 30 health care districts in this province and for the first time their funding . . . the provincial government will fund these district health boards directly. And with that in mind, the announcement yesterday by the Minister of Finance, our government is committing itself to spending an extra \$10 million for rural health initiatives — initiatives such as emergency, palliative, and community-based services in rural Saskatchewan.

And I want to ask the members opposite, in particular the member from Shaunavon who said that rural Saskatchewan and rural health care was being eroded and that the needs of the people were not being looked after, I want to ask that member what he has to say about this particular initiative and delivering on the promise for better health care for people of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, we're also providing province-wide breast cancer screening programs, another major initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the families. And if we are going to have all of the things that we desire — a sound fiscal financial picture, economic growth, jobs, a good agricultural industry — all of this depends that we have a strong family environment. And to that end I'm proud to say that the Minister of Finance has announced some again major initiatives with respect to this particular issue.

We are announcing the action plan for children. And this will focus on prevention and support for children in situations of need. I think that is absolutely crucial, and it's important I think in the context that 1994 is the International Year of the Family.

(1200)

We're also putting into place a children's Ombudsman. And this, Mr. Speaker, again answers to children who unfortunately in our society are being marginalized, who do not have a voice. And we won't accept that. That's insensitive, uncaring. And again our government has its priorities in order, and one of those priorities is families and children.

We're also implementing a Unified Family Court which will be implemented in the coming year.

Again, all of this speaks to a government that has its priorities straight, unlike what is happening in the neighbouring provinces. Let's look at friendly Alberta. And you know, the members opposite and some people out in the general public spoke in such glowing terms of Alberta. Well let's take a look at

glowing Alberta. We have seen a Premier and a government take a severe, harsh, almost brutal approach to reducing expenditures, in some respects not cutting programs but whole amputations of programs with no considerations for the ramifications. What's going to happen to these people?

Is that the kind of government, is that the kind of priorities that the members opposite want to have? I don't think so.

And that is why, when we did our restructuring, we did our reforms, it was based around priorities. And those priorities are, number one, a quality health care system. People have said how we must have quality health care, and we're answering that.

People have said that the family and social safety nets are important. And that's one of our priorities and we're answering that, Mr. Speaker. People have said that economic development and jobs are important. And we're answering that, Mr. Speaker. People have said that agriculture and family farms are important, and our budget speaks to that as well.

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

**Monsieur Roy:** — Monsieur le président, j'aimerais prendre une opportunité de vous donner des remarques à des membres, les députés de la législature sur l'objet que madame la ministre a délivré hier ici dans la Chambre.

Monsieur le président, les premières deux années pour notre gouvernement ont été assez difficiles. On a hérité, monsieur le président, une dette accumulée de quasiment \$14.5 milliards. Incroyable, quand tu regardes à la grosseur de la Province de la Saskatchewan, quand tu regardes la commande produits et services qui sont produits dans la province. Quand tu regardes le montant des contribuables dans la province, c'est incroyable de considérer la magnitude du problème du déficit qu'on avait quand on a pris les repêches du gouvernement. Et, monsieur le président, et mes chers collègues, hier, la ministre des Finances nous a délivré un budget qui démontre clairement que notre gouvernement a pris contrôle et a implementé des mesures pour renverser la situation grave fiscale dans la province. Il y en a certainement dans la province qui nous disent "mais vous allez trop vite; vous êtes trop sévère avec les compressions". Mais je peux vous dire, monsieur le président, que si on n'aurait pas implementé les mesures, pris les initiatives qu'on a pris, notre province serait quasiment banqueroute. Et si on n'a pas, si on a pas une société, comme une province, la flexibilité fiscale, comment qu'on va délivrer et rencontrer les attentes que les gens de la Saskatchewan ont.

Alors, on a implementé les mesures pour le bienfait des gens de la Saskatchewan. Puis, ça été difficile, oui, je comprends, puis je suis en accord, oui, je suis sensible à les premiers deux ans. Ça été difficile, oui, puis je remercie les gens de la Saskatchewan d'avoir compris, ou d'essayer de comprendre pourquoi on a implementé les mesures qu'on a implementées.

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

**Monsieur Roy:** — Monsieur le président, quand on a pris les mesures, quand on a implementé nos initiatives, c'était très important d'avoir nos priorités identifiées. Puis, je dirais que le budget qui s'en vient, le 22 février ici la semaine prochaine, l'honorable Jean Chrétien, le premier ministre du Canada qui va délivrer, et aussi, monsieur Paul Martin et aussi monsieur Chrétien, le premier ministre, qui vont délivrer le budget fédéral. Je souhaite bien, que eux, ont leurs priorités bien identifiées. Parce que je peux dire que les priorités pour le gouvernement de la Saskatchewan, c'était une qualité de services médicaux qui était premier, le premier clause dans le budget du Canada; puis certainement, si on regarde le restructuration qu'on a fait, c'est pour sauver et garder le meilleur système de santé qu'on a dans le Canada.

Deuxième des priorités, c'était les familles et les enfants de la Province. Monsieur le président, je peux le dire que dans notre budget, on a des mesures et des programmes et des services pour les gens de la Saskatchewan, pour les familles et pour les enfants. Ça, c'est une autre priorité.

Monsieur le président, une autre priorité, c'est des emplois; du développement économique. Et, monsieur le président, on a un plan pour le futur quand ça vient à des emplois et du développement économique. Le plan, c'est appelé *Partnership for Renewal*. Puis je peux vous dire qu'on a 31 initiatives dans le plan. Ils sont bien identifiés, ils sont clairs, ils sont dret là pour les gens de la Saskatchewan. Les hommes et les femmes d'affaires, ils peuvent regarder avec confiance et dire oui, ils sont là, on peu les voir, puis quand c'est qu'ils vont êtres implementés. Je peux vous annoncer avec fierté, avec confiance, que dans le budget qu'on implemente, il y a beaucoup d'initiatives qui sont clairement identifiées dans le plan. Encore, monsieur le président, on renèguas sur la promesse.

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

**Monsieur Roy:** — Monsieur le président, je veux dire un mot sur notre économie agricole, certainement une relève de notre économie, ça ne peut pas se faire sans l'agriculture. La province a toujours été basée sur l'activité dans le système agricole, dans l'industrie agricole. Puis je suis fier, monsieur le président, et mes chers collègues, d'annoncer qu'on a une ligne de conduite; on a une stratégie pour le futur et pour le vingt et un siècle, puis ça, cette stratégie là c'est appelé *Agriculture 2000* et je peux dire que là dedans, les priorités ont été identifiées et sont annoncées. Puis, une des priorités, c'est les fermes familiales. On a identifié celà comme priorité parce que la ferme familiale ça toujours été un des coins de la fondation qui a été très importants dans la province de la Saskatchewan.

Et on a des mesures et des programmes pour aider les fermiers. Cette année on va faire des changements a des programmes d'assurance récolte. Certainement, il

y a des producteurs dans la province qui nous ont dit qu'il y avait des inquiétudes, des graves inquiétudes à propos du programme d'assurance récolte. Je peux vous le dire, monsieur le président, qu'on répond à ces inquiétudes là-pà. Il va y avoir des changements, et je pense que les producteurs vont voir très clairement que les fermiers de la province, que oui, on répond a-pà leurs demandes, qu'on répond à leur concernes quand c-pça vient aux programmes d'assurance récolte.

Aussi, monsieur le président, on essaye d'agrandir le secteur de boeufs et de cochons, de porcs. On veut agrandir ce secteur-là puis en ce secteur là, je suis fier d'annoncer qu'on va implementer une agence de développement pour le boeuf. Puis cette agence lé va aller dans le monde entier, dans les pays autour du monde pour identifier, pour développer des marchés pour notre boeuf et des produits pour notre boeuf. Certainement, ça, c'est quelque chose que les producteurs, les fermiers de boeuf nous ont dit que dans la province, qu'ils voulaient qu'on fasse. Encore, monsieur le président, on répond, on délivre sur notre promesse.

En terminant, monsieur le président, je voudrais dire a-pà mes chers francophones dans la province, que notre gouvernement est aussi sensitif a-pà les attentes et les besoins des communautés francophones. Durant l'année passée, on a implementé, on a passé le projet de loi numéro 39 qui vise a-pà implementer une composante d'école francophone. J'étais très fier d'avoir été une partie de ce projet de loi, de cette initiative et je suis très heureux que nous, les francophones de la province on va être finalement capable de gérer nos propres écoles et notre système d'éducation. Oui, c'est pas complètement implementé, on a encore des obstacles, mais on va continuer et je souhaite que par l'automne de 1994, qu'on aye la composante en place. Et je vais travailler très fort pour réaliser cet objet.

Dans l'année qui s'en vient, monsieur le président, notre gouvernement, certainement va être en consultation, en communication et on a des discussions présentement avec des communautés francophones pour essayer d'améliorer les services pour les communautés et les gens. Et je suis fier de voir que les communautés francophones ont identifié et ont mis en place leurs attentes et leurs besoins. Et certainement, mon gouvernement va travailler très fort pour essayer d'implementer une ligne de conduite pour des services en français pour les francophones de la province, monsieur le président.

Alors, en terminant, je veux remercier pour tous les voeux de support et certainement les gestes d'amitié que vous m'avez envoyés et le support que vous m'avez envoyé durant l'année dernière. Et je regarde avec une . . . je regardositivement pour travailler avec vous dans la prochaine année. Alors, je vous remercie pour avoir travailler avec moi et certainement, je pense que l'année prochaine et les années qui suivent vont être très bons pour les communautés francophones.

(Translation:

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give some comments to members, deputies of the legislature, on the subject that Madam Minister delivered yesterday in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the first two years for our government have been very difficult. We have inherited, Mr. Speaker, an accumulated debt of \$14.5 billion. Unbelievable, when you take a look at the size of our Province and look at the services and products within the Province. When you look at the number of taxpayers within the Province, it is inconceivable to imagine the magnitude of the problem that we have undertaken. And, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, yesterday, the Minister of Finance delivered a budget that clearly demonstrates that our government has taken control of the situation and taken measures to reverse the serious fiscal situation of our Province. Some may say, you are going too fast; you are too strict or severe with all of your cut-backs. But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that if we would not have implemented all of these measures, taken the initiatives that we have taken, our province would surely be bankrupt. And if we don't have as a society, as a province, fiscal flexibility, how are we going to deliver and meet the expectations of the Saskatchewan people.

Therefore, we have implemented these measures for the welfare of the Saskatchewan people. It has been difficult, yes, I understand, and I agree, yes, and I am sensitive to those first two years. It has been difficult, yes, and I am grateful to the people of Saskatchewan for having understood or for trying to understand why these measures were implemented.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, when we took those measures and implemented those initiatives, it was very important to have our priorities identified. Then I would say that when the federal budget of February 22 will come down next week, that the Hon. Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister of Canada who will deliver this budget and also Mr. Paul Martin who will deliver the budget, I would venture to say that they have their priorities set. Because I want to say that the priorities of our Saskatchewan government have been a need for quality medical services, that was our first priority in the budget of Canada; and certainly, if we look at the restructuring that has occurred, it was set to safeguard the quality and the best health care services that we have in Canada.

The second priority was that of family life and for the children of our province. Mr. Speaker, I can say that in our budget, we have taken measures and implemented programs and services for the people of Saskatchewan, for the families and for the children. That was another priority.

Mr. Speaker, another priority was that of employment and economic development. And, Mr. Speaker, we have a plan for the future when it comes to employment and economic development. This plan is called *Partnership for Renewal*. There are 31 initiatives in that plan. These initiatives are well

defined, clear, and are there for the people of Saskatchewan. Business men and business women can look with confidence and say, yes, the initiatives are there, we can see them and we can see when they will be implemented. It is with pride and confidence that I can say that in the budget that will be implemented, there are many initiatives that are clearly identified in the plan. Again, Mr. Speaker, we kept our promise.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on the agricultural economy, certainly a renewal of the economy cannot be made without touching on agriculture. This province has always relied heavily on its agricultural industry. And I am proud, Mr. Speaker, and so are my colleagues, to announce that we have undertaken a line of conduct, or a strategy for the future, towards the 21st century, and that line is called **Agriculture 2000**. The priorities have been identified and have been announced. One of those priorities is family farms. Family farms have been identified as our number one priority because farms have always been known as the foundation of our economy and play such an important role in the province of Saskatchewan.

And we have measures and programs to help farmers. This year, we are planning to make some changes to the crop insurance programs. Certainly, there are producers in the province that have expressed anxiety, serious worries concerning crop insurance programs. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that we are responding to those anxieties. There will be change and I believe that the producers will see very clearly that the farmers of the province, that yes, we are responding to their needs and that we are responding to their concerns when it comes to the crop insurance program.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of expanding the beef and pork sector. In this area, I am pleased to announce that we are planning to implement an agency to deal effectively with the development of beef markets. This agency will go across the whole world, across the countries of the world, to identify and develop new markets for our beef and beef products. Certainly, this is something that the producers, the beef farmers have said, that in the province, that they wish that we could do. Again, Mr. Speaker, we are responding and delivering on our promise.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words to our francophone population within the province, that our government is also sensitive to their expectations and the needs of the francophone communities. Last year, we implemented and passed Bill no. 39 towards the implementation of a francophone school component. I was proud to have been a part of this Bill, of this initiative and I am pleased that the francophones of this province, we finally will be able to administer our own schools and system of education. Yes, it is not completely implemented; there are still some obstacles, but we

will continue and it is hoped that by fall 1994, that this component will be in place. I will be working extremely hard to make this project succeed.

In the year to come, Mr. Speaker, our government will certainly be in consultation, in communication, and is planning many discussions with the francophone communities to try to improve the services for their communities and services for the people. I am proud to see that the francophone communities have identified and implemented their expectations and needs. Certainly, my government will be working diligently to try to implement a pipeline for francophone services for the francophones of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Now, to end, I would like to thank all of my fellow colleagues for the support and friendly gestures towards me, throughout last year. I see, with.. I look forward to positive results in the following year. So, I thank you for having worked with me and certainly I think that next year and the years that follow will be very good for the francophone community.)

Mr. Speaker, and fellow colleagues, in closing I just want to say that the past two years have yes, demanded a sacrifice from the people of Saskatchewan. And I understand that our measures have brought on some hardship for some people. And I sympathize with them and I thank them for their understanding. Because as I go around in my constituency and I talk to people, people are of the view, Mr. Speaker, that without financial freedom there is no future for the people and the province of Saskatchewan, and in particular the future generations that will come behind us.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — I want to say that I will be wholeheartedly supporting this budget. I will be supporting the Finance minister. And again I thank the people of Saskatchewan for their patience and their understanding and their contribution. And I thank my caucus colleagues for helping us to deliver on the promise. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to begin, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating the member from Kinistino for an excellent speech. Indeed I think it is fair to say that the quality of the speeches given this year in the throne speech and so far in the budget speech have been well above what I remember in past years. Government members and opposition members have made some excellent speeches. And I think the public have been well served by their representatives in this Chamber.

I also want to congratulate the member from Regina North West for her recent election. I was active in the campaign although we didn't always . . . we were pursuing the same objective but she got it. And I really

want to congratulate you for what I thought was a well-organized campaign.

And I want to congratulate the member for so far what has been diligent attendance in the House. You've been here most days and I want to congratulate you for that.

It is this Chamber which is really the essence of democracy. It is here that the government is called to account; it is here that you get to present your alternatives. And I want to congratulate her for what has been a diligent attendance to date.

I wished I could congratulate the Liberal Party for their campaign in Regina North West. I was frankly, Mr. Speaker, I was frankly appalled by it. The Liberal campaign in Regina North West was just simply a disgrace. It was built upon half-truths, upon mistruths and misinformation.

Mr. Speaker, the . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Ned, you just talked about all the good speeches. Now let's do something more.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Well this then, I say to the member from Moosomin, this is going to be a change of pace. Nobody's promising you a good speech.

Mr. Speaker, when the members opposite, including the member who just spoke from his seat, when those members were in government they had no rules and no regulations with respect to payment of MA (ministerial assistant) salaries. It was all over the ballpark and it depended pretty much on how aggressive their minister was in getting the salary. If there was any other system to their payment of MAs besides how aggressive their minister wanted to be on the subject, it totally escapes me.

And like many of the problems which that group bequeathed us, this one has taken some time to sort out. But we finally did. We finally put in place a grid for the payment of MAs. And that is what . . . that badly needed reform is what the Liberal Party used to campaign in North West — outright intentionally misrepresenting a badly needed reform.

I know the members opposite think they're cute. And I can tell you that you sometimes win an election with that sort of a fraudulent campaign. What you can't do is ever build a good government on that kind of a campaign. Witness the members opposite. These were the people who ran in 1982 a campaign which reached a low watermark, an absolute low watermark. And look at the government which they built upon that.

You build upon how you campaign. And if the Liberal Party continues to campaign in such a fraudulent fashion — you had to have known that it was fraudulent — if they continue to campaign in such a fraudulent fashion, the public can expect from them pretty much what they got from the PCs (Progressive Conservative).

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — So I want to say to the member from Regina North West who has been diligent in attending this House — I assume you do so because you hope to make a contribution to public life in Saskatchewan — you can't make a contribution to public life and run a campaign of that sort.

You might have raised the issues of wellness, you might have raised the issues of fiscal reform, you might have raised the issues of agriculture, you might have raised the issues of unemployment. None of those were featured. And I've got all your literature if you want to argue the point.

You have none of that. What you have is twelve and a half per cent increase, a fraudulent campaign.

So I say to the member opposite, I assume that you're relatively conscientious or you wouldn't have been here as much as you've been. And I've noted that. But do think carefully about the style of campaign you ran, because you can't build a government on that.

I want to congratulate as well the Minister of Finance for her . . . for the budget and the speech yesterday. I thought it was a command performance, just a command performance.

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Mr. Speaker, I could not help thinking yesterday as I listened to the speech what a remarkable achievement the public of Saskatchewan have to their credit with this budget delivered yesterday. This is a remarkable achievement by the people of this province. And it is the achievement of the public of Saskatchewan.

What this government attempted to do was nothing that John Crosbie didn't attempt to do at a point in time, was nothing that Allan MacEachen didn't attempt to do a generation earlier. But only in Saskatchewan were the public prepared to make the sacrifices and to carry the freight and to do the things that had to be done to achieve the reform. Only in Saskatchewan. And the people of this province have to their credit a truly remarkable achievement.

This is the province, Mr. Speaker, which was a basket case, as we learned to our horror on November 1, 1991. This province had the most serious financial problem of any jurisdiction in North America — bar none — with the possible exception, I suppose, of Mexico. But we had the most serious problem.

We now have the lowest per capita deficit in Canada and a province which is well on its way to fiscal health. That is a truly remarkable achievement that I think the public of this province should be proud of.

And I say to the members opposite if you have any . . . if you know anybody in Ottawa, you might pass the word on: if the public of Saskatchewan, with all of the

difficulties we have, can get their finances in order, there is no excuse for the federal government continuing to make the situation worse, as they are. There is simply no excuse for what I hear coming from Ottawa.

I hear coming from Ottawa Paul Martin's team out skilfully selling the notion of extremely high deficit. Let's call it something under \$40 billion. I hear them out skilfully selling it. They may sell it in the short run, but in the long run this country deserves better than that, because in the long run it is going to lead to some very serious problems.

So I say to the members opposite, if you know anybody in Ottawa, pass on the word that if we can do it, you can do it. There's no excuse for what I see coming out of Ottawa.

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance stated yesterday, fiscal reform is not an end in itself — it is a means to an end. The New Democratic Party, of which I've been proud to be associated, defines itself as the party which has led the drive for social justice in Canada. That has been our contribution to this nation. We have led the drive for social justice.

As was observed by Mr. Blakeney, in a speech given to the 1984 national convention of the NDP at the time we were celebrating our 50th anniversary, in 1934 the U.S. (United States) was a demonstrably more progressive society than Canada; in 1984 the opposite was true. The difference over the half-century was the NDP-CCF (New Democratic Party-Co-operative Commonwealth Federation).

Mr. Speaker, that's what we still are. We're the party which leads the drive for social justice in this country. We have done so through the instrument of government. We have used the provincial government of Saskatchewan, and other governments which we have been fortunate enough to be elected to, to achieve social justice. And that's what this government is all about.

But if we are going to use government to achieve social justice, the government's finances must be put on a sound footing. And that's what we're doing.

This is the first step to an activist program for social justice in Canada. And I predict, Mr. Speaker, that this government will be re-elected at the next election, and thereafter it will be the province which returns to its historic role of achieving social justice.

Mr. Speaker, we're not waiting however until 1996, the start of our second . . . what I predict will be the start of our second mandate. While we suffer from these extremely serious economic problems and while we have taken some fairly stringent measures to deal with them, we are, Mr. Speaker, active in the area of social justice.

There's a number of initiatives which have been taken, Mr. Speaker. We have done some things in the past. We have provided additional funding for child hunger programs, we've provided additional grants to child day care centres. There was in the past, Mr. Speaker, a home adaption program for seniors. We've approved additional money for water and sewer in northern Saskatchewan. And those are things which have been done in the past. That continues, Mr. Speaker, with this budget and with this throne speech.

The throne speech announced, Mr. Speaker, amendments to The Labour Standards Act so that we might put in place laws to protect workers who do not have the leverage, the economic power, to protect themselves. I'm going to be returning in a more comprehensive way in a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to what we hope to do with The Labour Standards Act.

We're doing the same thing with The Trade Union Act. Members opposite did their level best to make it as difficult as possible for working people to achieve a measure of justice in the market-place. Members opposite did whatever they could to make it difficult.

The former member from Melville, who could I suppose not be more different from the current member from Melville, the former member from Melville seemed to take a pride in this. Well, Mr. Speaker, we're going to level the playing-field. Unlike members opposite, we're not putting a thumb on the scale, that is not our thought. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that if we level the playing-field, workers and management can work together for their mutual benefit.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague will be in due course introducing amendments to The Ombudsman Act which will go some distance towards assuring that the rights of children, those who cannot vote and who therefore in some ways are powerless within society, that their interests and rights are spoken for and protected. This, Mr. Speaker, is yet another step in the drive for social justice in Canada and we're taking it this year with all of the difficulties which we face.

(1230)

Mr. Speaker, the throne speech also announced that we would be introducing amendments, or perhaps a new Act, which would give police and law enforcement officers the tools to deal with domestic violence. I again, Mr. Speaker, will not get into this in detail. Suffice it to say that I don't think there's a law enforcement officer and I don't think there's a battered wife in the province who doesn't think that this legislation is badly needed. I don't expect it to be universally acclaimed and I will be pleasantly surprised if either opposition party vote in favour of this, but the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that this is a badly needed piece of legislation. We need to provide law enforcement officers with the tools they need to protect the victims of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, we will, in addition, be approving additional funds — as the Minister of Finance said yesterday — we'll be approving additional funds for the action plan for

children.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are some of the measures which government will be introducing in our drive to achieve social justice in Canada. I predict, Mr. Speaker, many of these measures . . . all of these measures will be adopted in Saskatchewan and many of them, Mr. Speaker, will spread throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a few moments, I want to spend a few moments talking about the labour legislation. I hope, Mr. Speaker, as the throne speech stated, I hope to introduce these Bills later in this session. I obviously will not get into the detail of the Bills. I do want to lay out however the background and the reasons for our action in this field.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to The Labour Standards Act and the amendments to The Trade Union Act will mark the completion of a comprehensive program of reform of labour law. This program, Mr. Speaker, which was initiated under the leadership of the Minister of Justice, is the most comprehensive program for reform of labour legislation in Canada bar none, bar none. Mr. Speaker, we have the most comprehensive program in Canada to reform labour legislation. Nobody is attempting to do what we are doing. And in passing, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the people in my department who have worked so hard to make this program possible.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Justice himself could point out, when he left as deputy minister of that department in 1982, the department had 286 employees. When he returned as Minister of Labour in '91, it had 147. That, Mr. Speaker, is by far and away the smallest Department of Labour in Canada. It is a fraction of the size of departments of Labour in Alberta and B.C. (British Columbia).

And with that skeleton staff, we have managed to bring forward amendments to six major Bills. This, Mr. Speaker, is a remarkable achievement by the officials in the Department of Labour.

I'll leave the subject by saying that it has been for them, it has been a labour of love. And if it had not been a labour of love, it would not have happened all. There is no way in the world one could command the kind of performance we've got from that department. You can call that department on Saturdays and Sundays; someone answers the phone because they're back there working on these projects. And I want to pay tribute to a remarkably dedicated group of public servants.

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Mr. Speaker, the department, through some consultations, and myself through a series of visits around the province which we've come to call labour tours, have engaged in extensive consultations with the Saskatchewan public. And, Mr. Speaker, there are some things which are becoming

clear and there are some comments which I can make with a fair degree of confidence because I've heard so many different people in so many different communities make these comments.

Mr. Speaker, they want legislation which will provide protection for those who are not able to protect themselves. There is widespread agreement around the province that we need legislation to protect the single parent family which is having difficulty coping with today's labour market. They want measures which will protect the part-time worker. They want measures which will protect families and which will foster and encourage a strong family unit and will enable parents to fulfil their duties to their children. These things have become clear as I've travelled around the province.

With respect to The Trade Union Act, Mr. Speaker, the amendments to The Trade Union Act, some things have also become clear. It is clear that the vicious anti-union sentiment which the members opposite peddle in their approach of divide and conquer is simply not shared by the public of Saskatchewan.

I have listened, Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite while in government portray unions as some sort of an evil imposition from afar. And I hear them doing the same thing in opposition as they ask the Deputy Premier questions about the contracting policies of SaskTel. I have heard them continue to try to peddle the notion that unions are some sort of an evil imposition from the East.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, with respect to trade unions, they are democratic. Union leaders get elected and union leaders get defeated, and they get defeated on a fairly regular basis. Unions are voluntary. Unions are certified and unions are decertified. A trade union is a voluntary, democratic organization of workers who get together to promote their interests. They are doing in the union halls precisely what the chamber of commerce are doing at their meetings, talking about their mutual interests — nothing more and nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the public of Saskatchewan are tired of the approach of members of the opposition; they're tired of the approach of members opposite who want to divide and conquer.

It is clear the public of Saskatchewan want us to put in place some structures which will enable labour and management to work together, and the lobbyists who take extreme positions are simply offside with the public. The public fully support the efforts of this government to level the playing-field, and in so levelling the playing-field, enabling labour and management to work together.

I say to members opposite, if you want to be a part of the future as distinct from the past, you'd better rethink the strident anti-union language which we hear coming from the opposition daily. That is simply not a part of Saskatchewan in the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, if you asked members of this government to describe in a single phrase what this government is about, I suppose you might get 56 different answers. But if you asked me, I would use the word, restructuring. We were elected to head a government and a society which was stumbling towards catastrophe, and our efforts have been directed to heading off that catastrophe.

As we turn briefly to the budget yesterday, to say that it was clear that we have . . . at least the crisis is some further distance back than it was some time ago. We are slowly but surely getting out of this bog that the PCs got us into.

We are restructuring in health. Wellness is not about saving money. The percentage of the budget which will be spent on health will increase each year. It is not about saving money, it's about putting in place a more effective health program. And I predict by the time the Lieutenant Governor issues the election writ, it will be patently obvious to most people in Saskatchewan that wellness has produced a much better health system. I make that prediction.

And that may be why the members . . . the Liberal Party chose to campaign not on wellness, but on a phoney, fraudulent campaign. Maybe that's why you didn't want to talk about health care — because this government's program is working, and it is becoming increasingly obvious it's working.

Mr. Speaker, we have put in place a program in agriculture which is restructuring the industry, and it has been a difficult, painful period. But I sense it is beginning to produce some results. I sense the rain clouds are beginning to lift a bit from the agricultural scene. I sense there's a ray of light there.

And we're doing the same thing in the economy, Mr. Speaker. We are restructuring. Mr. Speaker, there is no question but what there is a recovery in place in the economy. There's no question about that. In some areas, Mr. Speaker, it is imperceptibly slow. In some areas it's slow, but perceptible. And I think I might mention the retail trade as an area which sees a bit of an uplift — the clouds have lifted a bit, but they haven't cleared.

But there are some areas of the economy, Mr. Speaker, which are enjoying a runaway boom. Dimensional lumber, farm machinery, oil and gas, trucking — those are industries which are going flat out, limited by ability to get the equipment and trained people. When you think about those industries, Mr. Speaker, they have one thing in common — they're all export. This is a recovery which is being led by exports.

And, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to continue, if Saskatchewan is to survive in the . . . if Saskatchewan is to do more than survive, if Saskatchewan is to thrive in the 1990s, it is essential that we be competitive on a global market.

**An Hon. Member:** — Free trade.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Farm machinery manufacturers . . . well the member from Kindersley chimes, free trade. I think many members of this caucus would have no difficulty with free trade if that's what the North American Free Trade Agreement were. It is not in fact free trade; it's a highly structured trade.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to compete on a global economy, we must be competitive. We don't have an awful lot of advantages in Saskatchewan. We have some, but they're not many. What we have, Mr. Speaker, is a highly productive workforce. And that's why farm machinery manufacturers are succeeding and that's why many of the others are succeeding that are exporting.

If Saskatchewan workers are to be productive so that we can compete, they must be highly motivated. If they are to be highly motivated, there must be a cooperative relationship between management and labour. And that is the way of the future.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about building cooperative structures between management and labour so they can work together, we are very much talking about the future. And when we say we want to set aside the conflict which has so characterized the English-speaking world in labour-management relations, when we say we want to set aside the conflict, we want to set aside the past and we want to prepare ourselves for the future.

Mr. Speaker, the program of labour law reform which the Minister of Justice set in motion two years ago, is all about that. Progressive labour law is not just something that produces social justice. It is an essential part of economic restructuring.

Mr. Speaker, the industries which are succeeding are largely industries which have developed new technology. That is true in dimensional lumber. It is fascinating to visit my colleague from Meadow Lake. It's fascinating to visit a mill in his riding, I think called NorSask lumber mill. Highly computerized, technologically advanced for the world, and is succeeding, and succeeding grandly.

That is true of the oil industry who have largely in this province developed horizontal drilling. And that's why they're enjoying a runaway boom.

These industries, Mr. Speaker, have been propelled onto the world stage by technological advances done here in Saskatchewan. If they're going to work, the workers must buy into it and must work with it and be prepared to accept it. That means that the workers have to be protected from the risks. They have to share some of the benefits in addition to sharing the risks. This new technology inevitably involves a risk to jobs.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to protect them from the risks of what succeeds in the 1990s, Mr. Speaker, we must pass this labour law. We must introduce these Acts which will enable workers to share in the rewards as well as the risks of the new technology.



(1245)

I noted with interest, Mr. Speaker, a paper published by the Canadian centre for market productivity . . . I haven't quite got the name right. It is a body established by the federal government composed of equal representatives of business and labour. It is called the Canadian centre for labour productivity.

I noted in a recent document which they published, they made this very point that if we are to compete with the economies which are competing, we have to avoid the corporate cultures of the sort that I see coming into Canada. And some, without naming them because they do not have an opportunity to respond in this Chamber, some of the retail discounters which I see moving into this province, Mr. Speaker, they import not just a method, they also import a culture. And it's a culture of dealing with people that we ought to squarely reject. We ought to reject it on human, compassionate grounds. You do not treat people as some of those retail discounters treat people. But more than that, we should reject those methods because they don't work. That, Mr. Speaker, is very much in the past; that is old-style thinking.

And these wars between retailers, Mr. Speaker, it is a war between a brontosaurus and a tyrannosaurus. These are wars between dinosaurs.

The future belongs to management and labour which can work together. And that is the structures which we are putting in place with this labour legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to avoid going a lot further — I'll be into the detail of it and I think I might offend a whole lot of people, I think, including Mr. Speaker. At that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to I think adjourn debate and I will make it clear before I do that, that I'm supporting this budget.

I'm doing so with enormous pride, pride in what we have accomplished, but more important, pride in what the public of Saskatchewan have accomplished with this truly remarkable turnaround. I support this budget with real pride. And I ask, Mr. Speaker, for leave to adjourn the debate.

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

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:48 p.m.