

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: Tuesday, June 6, 1989 8:00 p.m.

Date: 89/06/06

[The House resumed at 8 p.m.]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

head: **CONSIDERATION OF HER HONOUR
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

Moved by Mr. Clegg:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable W. Helen Hunley, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session. Moved by Mr. Martin that the motion be amended by adding the following:

, but that the Assembly condemn the government for failing to uphold commitments made in the Speech from the Throne of February 17, 1989, failing to introduce tax fairness measures that would ensure that wealthy individuals and profitable corporations pay their fair share, failing to protect Alberta's environment, supporting higher taxes and cuts to vital services in the federal budget of April 27, 1989, and supporting the so-called free trade agreement with the United States even though it means lost jobs and opportunities for Albertans.

[Adjourned debate on amendment June 5: Mr. Musgrove]

MR. MUSGROVE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to make a few comments about the amendment to the throne speech. I must confess that my first reaction to the amendment was that it should have been ruled out of order because it completely changes the intent of the original motion. However, through some research last night and this morning I discovered that this type of an amendment is acceptable on the throne speech only. Having spent a lot of time in municipal government, where we operated under *Robert's Rules of Order*, this of course would have been ruled out. So you can see why my reaction was that it wasn't in order.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment strongly says that the province has failed to endorse the throne speech of February 17, and those were some of the things I wanted to talk about. First off, it is my understanding that this is not a new throne speech but an addendum to the February 17 throne speech in that it says that all commitments made by the province in that throne speech would be adhered to. So I don't know why we keep referring to the difference in the two throne speeches. They are actually ones that honour each other, so I don't know why we keep saying that.

In the amendment it says "that wealthy individuals and profitable corporations pay their fair share" of the taxes. Now, I think it was pointed out by our colleague from Edmonton-Norwood last night that the figures that have been thrown around were not accurate in how much taxes corporations pay. But one of the things that our socialist friends don't understand

is that if we take the risk-taker out of our society, we don't have a society anymore. They are the people who create the jobs, and we would have lost the 40,000 jobs that were created in Alberta because of our recognition of private industry.

MR. TAYLOR: If you want to try a risk, run as a Liberal sometime.

MR. MUSGROVE: Still socialists.

In his address to the amendment the hon. Leader of the Opposition talked about diversification. I would like to respond to that to some extent. To me diversification means taking advantage of the natural advantages in your area. In southern Alberta, of course, that has to be the production of food and food processing. Natural advantages are something that is in your vicinity that makes you able to compete at an advantage over other places. To give a brief example of how that would work, it would be that a man from Texas couldn't compete with an Eskimo in northern Alberta at selling igloos, because there is a natural advantage in Northern Alberta because that's where you would make igloos. We have some examples of that in Bow Valley constituency . . .

MR. FOX: They'd melt down there.

MR. MUSGROVE: Exactly.

In Bow Valley constituency we have people who are starting up a sand and gravel business because they have a natural advantage of some very good aggregate that needs no washing or processing. So they have a natural advantage there.

Of course, in northern Alberta the forestry industry is the natural advantage they have, and why shouldn't they take advantage of it? We talk about environmental controls. Now, during my stint on the Alberta Water Resources Commission we did quite an extensive study of the environmental controls that are being placed, particularly on pulp mills in northern Alberta, and we were told that they are the most stringent environmental controls in the world. They said that the pulp manufacturers are not objecting to this, because the price of paper is the highest it's ever been. So at this point they can afford those environmental controls, and they are happy to do it. Now, we hear about reforestation, and it's my information that we are capable now of reforesting three times the amount of acres in Alberta that we harvest as the forestry industry per year. So we're not destroying the forests of Alberta; we're just using them as a replaceable resource.

The other thing about the forestry industry that's new is the use of aspen as a forestry product. At one time aspen was considered of no value as a wood industry. Nowadays not only do they use it for the manufacture of pulp, but the Alberta research commission has developed a chipboard that is hardwood out of aspen that is second to no chipboard in the industry. They have also developed a type of studding that's made out of it -- it's kind of a circular type -- and that is going to be a fast-growing part of our building industry. The one thing about aspen is that it can be regenerated in approximately 12 years, where some of our other wood products take from 35 to 40 years.

Also, in the Leader of the Opposition's address building up to the amendment he mentioned tourism and how the province hasn't addressed that. It's quite clear in the throne speech that the intention of tourism is to be built up to a \$10 billion industry within the next decade. Certainly, through our tourism depart-

ment that is improving as fast as anyone could hope for.

The idea, Mr. Speaker, is that with diversification we will be less dependent on the gas and oil industry. I believe we have moved our budget figure from dependency of 50 percent on the gas and oil industry in 1988 down to 30 percent, and then when we do get a lucrative gas and oil industry, of course, it's a plus to every person in the province of Alberta.

But he did mention how deregulation had hurt Albertans. In my constituency, Mr. Speaker, we've had oil fields that were completely developed that were shut in for four years, particularly in natural gas. Those people that developed those fields were paying interest on that money without being able to sell any of it. Now, certainly after deregulation those fields are in complete operation. Natural gas is not at the top price, but it's certainly not too bad, and the industry is moving.

The Leader of the Opposition also made some statements about home care, and I believe, I'm not sure, that I heard him say that the province should help with certain things in home care. Now, for instance, he said Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels are funded through family and community support services, which are 80 percent funded by the province of Alberta and 20 percent by the municipalities. The other part of home care, that has nurses traveling to visit people daily, is funded 100 percent by the province of Alberta. Now, in this throne speech, actually on page 9, it says that more money will be put into home care. So I don't understand what he was saying when he made those comments.

Plus the throne speech also says that there will be 1,500 added beds to long-term disability and some added self-contained units and new lodges. Certainly in the seniors' department that's got to be a benefit. Also, the new medical alert system is in order. Although I think in most places in Alberta there's been some provision of medical alert systems, in this case the province is taking over and supporting to the extent of \$700 per unit on medical alert systems for people who need them.

They also are doing a pilot project on garden suites, and I think this is an ideal way of keeping seniors in close proximity to their families and not putting them in institutions. This unit will be a movable unit that families can have in their backyard for seniors of their own family or friends, where they can stay and be within a few seconds' walking distance from somebody that will be watching over them.

I was about to respond to some of the comments made by the Liberal Party on their amendment, and although I recognize that in both cases these people were at their maiden speeches, I thought they got a long ways out from the amendment on the throne speech or even the throne speech. As a matter of fact, it reminded me of a couple of lines from a poem I once read. I believe it was in *Alice in Wonderland* where it said:

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of [sailing] ships -- and sealing wax --
Of cabbages -- and kings . . .

So if that is the response that we got to the throne speech, I don't know how we will govern in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, I have to again say that the throne speeches of February 17 and June 1 were compatible throne speeches, and they were linked together, and one was an addendum to the other one. So as far as I can see, this amendment means nothing as far as how it affects the June 1 throne speech. So for that reason I suggest that we defeat this amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

MR. WOLOSHTYN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On this, my maiden speech to the House, I will take the liberty of broadening the intent of the amendment and perhaps wander as much as the previous speaker did.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Speaker on your appointment and on the Deputy Speaker's as well. I was most impressed by the opening remarks of the Speaker, and I'd like to take the liberty of quoting some of the words as they are printed in *Hansard*. The words go as follows:

Each one of us represents all of our constituents no matter what their political stripe, cultural or linguistic background, whether or not they voted for us or chose not to exercise their right . . . at all.

Mr. Speaker, better words could not be chosen, and I'm pleased to be a member of this Legislature who subscribes to that philosophy.

I'd also like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate all of the members of this House on their first elections or re-elections, whatever the case may be. I look forward to working with the members from the constituencies that surround my pretty place; namely, Westlock-Sturgeon -- that's the second compliment for the hon. member that he'll get from me. The hon. Member for Barrhead shares a bit of the county of Parkland with me, and I certainly look forward to working with him, especially after I heard the eloquent closing remarks in the afternoon session. The Member for Whitecourt I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, and I'm looking forward to that, and certainly Drayton Valley, which is a source of a lot of the county's problems. They all share a portion of the county of Parkland with me and Stony Plain. There are other privileged members of this House who have what is their west boundary and Stony Plain's east boundary, namely Edmonton-Jasper Place and Edmonton-Meadowlark. I don't know if I'll work with them. They're way off in the urban areas, and I do love the rural countryside.

This speech, Mr. Speaker, my maiden speech, is directed primarily to the people who elected me. I'd like to begin by thanking the people of Stony Plain from the bottom of my heart for giving me an opportunity to represent their interests in this Legislature. It is a privilege and one of the greatest challenges that I've faced.

Explaining the constituency of Stony Plain a little bit to you -- for those of you who have gone through it and haven't noticed, it's got three primary highways. One runs north and south; it's Highway 60, commonly referred to as the Devon highway. The other two are 16 and 16X. One is referred to as the Yellowhead; the other is referred to as the future Yellowhead, and they both go out to Yellowhead. If you start at the North Saskatchewan River, which is basically the south boundary of the Stony Plain constituency, and you go about two miles north, you run into the beautiful botanical gardens of the University of Alberta, a good place to take your family on a Sunday afternoon outing, I might add. It's a very, very nice place to visit.

If you go a few more kilometres north and you happen to read the signs, because this is about the only way you'll notice where you are, you'll enter Stony Plain Indian Reserve 135. The reserve is the home of the Enoch Band of the Cree Indians. They've got some very, very fine facilities there, which they were able to build during the boom years. Unfortunately, these

boom years happen to have left the reserve, and I really feel for them; they're struggling to make a go of it. Also on this reserve, Mr. Speaker, you'll find a school that's unique to all of Canada. It's a school that was constructed on the reserve with funding from Alberta Education, the county of Parkland, and the department of Indian and northern development. That school is unique not only because of its funding and its location, but it is operated by a local school board on federal lands, basically. But they bus children from the surrounding acreages to the reserve to attend the school. It is rather an interesting experiment, something that one might keep in mind. That, plus the fact . . . Now I skipped a spot. I'm not reading well.

If you go another eight miles down the road, you'll come to the beautiful city of Spruce Grove. It's stuck between highways 16 and 16X. It's well planned, offers a large number of recreational and business services to the surrounding area. Also, Alberta lands and forestry has a research branch located there, and the regional offices of Alberta Social Services also make their home in Spruce Grove. Spruce Grove also has a claim to a special educational facility; it's called the Kokusai Kaiyou, Canadian branch, high school. That is a Japanese high school, the only one in Canada, and that's where the Japanese send their students three or four times a year. They do a wholesale changeover, and they come to experience the Canadian culture and get immersed in the English language.

There is only a mile between the corporate boundaries of the city of Spruce Grove and the town of Stony Plain, and these two urban areas get along very, very well. Stony Plain, as you might well know, has the very famous Multicultural Centre, and again I extend an invitation for you to visit the centre. It's a good tourist attraction and serves excellent meals. Recently Stony Plain opened up the Shikaoi Park, which is a Japanese theme park. Stony Plain is also twinned with a city in Japan. There is going to be an opening of a portion of the botanic gardens next year sometime, which also have a Japanese theme. So, Mr. Speaker, I might point out that the constituency of Stony Plain and the country of Japan are developing some very close ties.

We also have a village. Some of you might have heard of it; it's the village of Wabamun. It has long been the centre of recreation on Wabamun Lake. It's a very progressive village, largely due to the fact that it has an excellent tax base and that one of the power plants is located within its boundaries. On the eastern shore of Wabamun Lake you will find another Indian reserve. It's called the Wabamun Indian Reserve 133A and 133B, and that's where the Paul Band stays. They are a group of Indians split roughly half and half between the Stony and the Cree heritage.

The county also has been attracting for the past 20 years a large number of acreages, especially in the east end and around the city of Spruce Grove and the town of Stony Plain.

As well as these kinds of activities that are happening, I am also proud to announce that the garden suite project, which the previous member alluded to in the throne speech -- the rural component is being piloted in the county.

Agriculture contributes a great deal to the constituency. There are at least three major poultry operations, large grain farming, quite a bit of forage harvesting, intermixed farming, cow/calf operations, and horse boarding and riding arenas are becoming a rather common appearance in the constituency.

In addition, TransAlta Utilities is a major employer. It's got three power plants with the associated mines; consequently, that particular aspect contributes quite a bit of tax revenue as well as

employment to the constituency. All of the municipalities within the constituency actively support business ventures and are continually striving to attract new economic activity to the area, and that's a part of their desire to twin with Japan. There are industrial parks in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and the county of Parkland. They've got pretty well everything in order; all they need is a little bit more investment.

Recreation facilities aren't overlooked. They are constantly being upgraded, and they vary from half a dozen golf courses to a few ice arenas. Programs seem to be quite effective, and I think the constituency of Stony Plain will settle the argument of where the real area of champions is. Notice that I refer to the area of champions. This year the LaDawn Funk rink from Spruce Grove won the world ladies junior curling championship. In addition, two hockey teams from Stony Plain have won the provincial championships, and one of them placed quite high up in the nationals too. This year the particular area zone finals for the Alberta Summer Games are being hosted by both Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, with activities happening in the city, in the town, and throughout the constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I've just barely touched on the potential of the constituency. There's a whole proliferation of communities that are quite active, with names like Carvel, Brightbank, and Rosenthal. Two of the communities are having their 80th anniversaries this summer: just an indication of how active the area is. In addition, they are very active on the church scene. There have been two sod turnings and another one coming up for new church facilities in the constituency. I'm quite proud to see that the people in that particular constituency work very well together.

From a personal note, they have very heavy demands on their MLA. Since the election -- which in budgetary terms has been a very, very long period of time; from an MLA's point of view, an extremely short period of time -- I've participated in quite a few MLA-type functions. I opened up the Clymont community hall, with the company of my predecessor I might add; two trade fairs; two church sod turnings; two school graduations; the Japan/Canada friendship weekend gala which just passed; a couple of addresses to chambers of commerce; and have met with about four of the local governments. So they are rather a demanding constituency, and that's really nice to see because they are interested in what's going on.

I'll try to relate some of what the previous members have alluded to in the throne speech to the Stony Plain constituency. I'd like to start off by saying, Mr. Speaker, that I was very, very pleased to see the commitment to secondary highways as was laid out in the second throne speech, I guess. I would like to see this commitment implemented properly, planned thoroughly, and I'd also like to see the government designate more of the roads within my constituency as secondary highways so that Stony Plain could also benefit from this great, progressive move of improving the economy of the province. So those of the ministers who are listening, keep Stony Plain in mind. I don't mind paved secondary highways one bit. [applause] For the hon. members across who've given me that applause, I really appreciate it. I'd like to remind you that the secondary highway program, or paving initiative, was a New Democratic idea of about three or four years ago.

MR. KOWALSKI: Aw, get off of it. Go jump in the lake. That's a bunch of nonsense.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. WOLOSHYN: If I wasn't so nice, I would respond to that, but I will serve notice to the hon. Member for Barrhead that this is the first and last time he'll get off so easily.

MR. KOWALSKI: Tell the truth.

MR. WOLOSHYN: That is the truth. I'll continue with my speech here, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member for Barrhead will bear with me.

Agriculture is identified as the number one priority and the foundation of the province. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that this foundation is in dire need of repair, not with just the band-aids that seem to be floating out of this throne speech but with a lot of sincere effort and new direction. The demise of the family farm should be stopped; a genuine commitment must be made to guarantee that young farmers in fact succeed. Mr. Speaker, the speech did not indicate any effort to increase farm income, to protect farmers from unrealistically low grain prices, nor to give them duty free access to the U.S. market, which was promised in the free trade agreement. Instead, there are just contributions to subsidize whoever's gouging the farmer's input costs.

Mr. Speaker, the government has indicated it will encourage individuals to pursue trades as a career. I would like to go along with this direction. I would also like to point out that a good starting position is to revitalize the high school vocational programs and to resurrect the Westerra Institute to the level originally intended for that educational institution when it was planned.

Exciting new educational initiatives were also being developed in the throne speech. Distance learning for rural schools: if this is a typical educational program, the seed funding was there year one, and we're now into year three. I would suspect year two there was a slight slowdown, and in year three the local school jurisdictions will likely have to pick up the costs on their own. I don't know what the support for the inner schools will be, but we're waiting patiently to see what those announcements are.

I was glad to hear also that there's increased spending on community schools to bring them up to a level of four years past. The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that it's inadequate to return to levels four years old. Also, there is no provision made to accommodate the numerous community schools that were left with charters in abeyance. That should have been addressed. I hope it will be addressed in the budget. There's also reference to equity funding for school boards. I would hope the equity funding is not the kind of funding that was imposed on the county of Parkland board of education. Some time past it was decided to create a municipal district of Brazeau and along with it, although a little bit later, the school district of Twin River. At the time administration and, I would imagine, local politicians from the board of education indicated to the government that they were worried about an increased cost to the county board of education. They were assured over and over again that there was no cost. The 1989 school tax notices were mailed out about two weeks ago. "No cost" is now translated into 60 percent tax increases, most of which can be attributed directly to the increased cost because of the creation of a new school district and municipality. That to me is a very, very poor example of equity funding.

The government made a commitment to native people. I was glad to read that, only I hope the implementation of that particular commitment also is taken a little bit more seriously than has been in the past. One example comes to my mind, and I'll just stay with it very briefly. I'd like to point out that day cares located on a reserve can get a letter of authority to operate, can get some small operating grant from the provincial government; however, they can't get any subsidies regardless of whether the person seeking the subsidy lives on or off the reserve. This puts the operation of the reserves' day cares under the gun very severely because people who live off reserve find it very, very uneconomical to put their children in very well run Indian day cares simply because they don't qualify for the subsidy. That has to be addressed. It's a very discriminatory approach to citizens of this province.

Also, I'd like to point out that Highway 60, which I alluded to a little earlier -- 20 years ago or thereabouts, before the current government made it into power, the old Socreds decided that highway had a large enough traffic volume to rate being upgraded to four lanes. Twenty years seems to be sufficient time to procure highway rights-of-way, but I guess if you move slowly, heaven knows how slow you can go. Currently the government is negotiating for a right-of-way. A government that spends up to \$20 per square foot per year on rental on office buildings in Edmonton chose to reject an offer from the Enoch Band to sell their heritage -- because when a band gives up its land it sells its heritage. They were going to sell their heritage to them for 69 cents per square foot. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but the highway was widened once before, and would you believe that the accessing of the right-of-way still hasn't been resolved to the band's satisfaction? I wouldn't want to even suggest who would have made an error there.

While the government sat sorting out Indian land claims, I would suggest that they go up to the hamlet of Duffield. Who is responsible for this one, I have no idea. Somebody bought the property that the private landowners have from the Indian Band for the hamlet of Duffield, but in their process they forgot to buy the streets. The Indians own the streets. They let us use them, and I'm forever grateful to Chief Walter Rain for his generosity, except they won't let the hamlet put any sewers in these streets. So they have a problem with sewage there, and all that the band would like to see happen is for them to get their just rewards for giving up the hamlet along with the streets. So I would suggest that the government, if they want to take the initiative from the throne speech, could start off in the area of native affairs and sort out the problems that we have right on our doorstep. There are some others, but we don't want to get into those at the moment.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to announce that I will be primarily in the role of education and youth critic. I'm going to make every effort to push the government to exercise its responsibility to education. The area of distance education, community schools, and the overall funding to education must be improved. The new School Act must be monitored to ensure that, in fact, it functions as intended, to benefit the students and in the end to benefit the families of these students. Policies and procedures must be enhanced in the area of native education. We're very, very weak there. Curriculum development and implementation have to be looked at and monitored very closely.

The youth of today must be assisted so that they will reach their highest potential. Youth problems have to be identified and worked on in a very positive way. This area needs a great

deal of attention.

On that, Mr. Speaker, I thank the indulgence of the House. Thank you very much for the uninterrupted privilege of presenting my maiden speech.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make a few observations on the amendment to the Speech from the Throne that has been presented, particularly as a result of my reading this afternoon of the Blues, in which I read the comments of the hon. leader of the Liberal Party and his participation last evening. I have to very honestly admit to my colleagues that as I read these comments I was reminded of the hon. Liberal leader's participation in the recent election campaign where he was pictured on the top of a garbage heap. It seemed rather fitting that he was there, in terms of the comments that I read, very frankly. I was moved, certainly, to rise to make a few comments in response to the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker, I think that while I rather enjoyed the hon. Liberal leader's suffering from a recent attack of fiscal responsibility, which I think we all must enjoy in today's times, I note that over the years past, as I witnessed his attack on many of us who tried to exercise some fiscal responsibility, in particular his comments about the social services policies and trying to prioritize and send additional funds to handicapped children's services and other areas of dire need. At that time admittedly in taking some of those funds away from single employables, I certainly got an example of what we are in for in terms of the hon. member's sense of what fiscal responsibility is and how it is that he will prioritize had he had that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in leading us, as I gather that we will be led out of the wilderness in our lack of fiscal control in terms of the government side, I notice that the hon. leader exemplifies his decisiveness in terms of, for instance, his handling of the landfill site for the city of Edmonton, which still is not a reality. I find myself reasonably appalled at some of the comments that are made about the government when, in fact, we all have problems that we must speak to, and so to be handing them off in terms of them being just enjoyed by one party in this Legislature is, at the very least, an unfair observation.

Mr. Speaker, there were other observations made, for instance, about the high unemployment rates, notwithstanding the fact that in a recent comparison for April the Alberta rate was 7.5 percent. It always needs to be improved, but in light of the Canadian rate of 7.8 percent, when Alberta enjoys usually the lowest rate in Canada with Ontario, surely that can be recognized in terms of Alberta's standing in this area.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member spoke about the incredibly depressed sense that he seems to have about Albertans. That is borne out only in attitudes that in some degree are pervasive by the leaders of this province. So, if he wants to talk about his own constituency and the attitudes that he finds there, I think that it is important for us to note that those attitudes may be inherent there, but fortunately, because he has not had an opportunity to have some sort of effect on the constituents of Three Hills, we will not find those attitudes there. From my perspective, the strength of our people in my constituency who believe, I believe with our encouragement, that they have an unwavering belief in this province and its promise -- and that is exemplified by the kind of effort that the Three Hills constituency and the constituents put forward in order to build the kind of province that we see building today.

The hon. member spoke, for instance -- for somehow we

should feel humiliation about our leadership and the way it is that we look on a national level. Isn't that interesting, Mr. Speaker? If you'll notice, for instance, the leadership that was displayed. Who was the first province to speak out about the national sales tax and subsequently had other provinces follow? Who was the first province who spoke out about interest rates and had other provinces follow? In the very heart of the Three Hills constituency and eventually the leadership by this province, where did we find the Triple E Senate emanating from? Alberta, Mr. Speaker, and led by Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual, given the kind of attitude that the hon. leader displayed, for him to pick on the very worst statistic he could find in terms of the potential growth for Alberta. It is interesting to note the difference between the leadership in the two cities as exemplified just prior to the last election. If you were to read the comments of the hon. former mayor of the city of Edmonton, no wonder it was so difficult for us to get investment to come to this part of the province as opposed to its coming to Calgary. Surely if I were to read as an outsider the doom and gloom as presented by that mayor, I would not have looked to invest in the city of Edmonton either. This is typical of the kind of comments that are made.

So the hon. member talked about no plan, no future. Let's look at the kind of leadership that Alberta has shown here today in Alberta. The economy: where else do you see the kinds of investments in diversified projects other than in Alberta? On a per capita basis, absolutely the highest in Canada. You can look at the economy. Take a look at the environmental standards, and you're looking for the federal government to lead? Who is it that has the highest environmental standards in Canada? Again Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, look at the programs, for instance, in the vital area of education and upgrading of skills. The workers of this province, all of us, must find ourselves ready for the future. What I would use is the analogy of the triple threat position as they use in basketball: you must be ready to move at any time and any direction. With the kind of employment programs that we have -- the skills upgrading and the attitude so far of the workers in seeking to upgrade themselves because they have not yet been influenced by the hon. leader of the Liberal Party -- we do have the best workers, the best skilled, and the highest education, along with British Columbia, in this country of Canada.

Take a look at the social programs, Mr. Speaker. A number of the hon. members of the opposition have admitted, over time, that we have many programs that lead the country. They don't mention it too often because it would be embarrassing, because it is not for them to be talking about anything positive. I can just mention, for one, the family and community services area, which allows municipalities to set goals and speak to the individual needs of their municipality. Those communities are doing that right across this province.

As well in the health area, Mr. Speaker. Again, on a per capita basis, when you look at what is happening in Alberta, the kinds of educational opportunities, the research that is going on in Alberta that manifests itself in terms of good care for Albertans, we are second to none in Canada. And we'll never apologize for that; thank you very much.

As we go on and speak of what has been the subject of a House discussion just recently, let us all remember, I think in a very positive sense, the kinds of opportunities that the forestry projects present for Albertans in diversification. I think the hon. Minister of the Environment was trying to indicate today that if

we take the high road and we discuss all of these projects and environmental concerns in a co-operative way, we will have the positives that are so important for Albertans. But if they're going to become a political football and only used as scare tactics by the opposition, we will lose some incredible opportunities for Albertans.

I'd like to quote from a paragraph of a letter that was circulated, I believe to all of us, in respect of the forestry industry in this province. It came from Jack Heidt, who is the chairman of the Rocky Mountain section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, department of forest science at the University of Alberta.

On an environmental note, harvesting more of the forest under stringent guidelines and sustained yield philosophies will create a healthier balance between mature, adolescent and juvenile forests. The more vigorous forest resulting from this better balance in age classes will in turn make more of a contribution to resolving environmental concerns such as CO₂ imbalances, be a better home for our wildlife, and provide more diverse recreational opportunities. Of course, in Alberta, harvesting is linked with a solid commitment to regenerate the forests, and sometimes this may include the use of environmentally safe herbicides. Here, we have to deal, as mature individuals, with a potentially difficult subject, aligning "short term" philosophical concerns with the "long term" view of environmental consequence.

Mr. Speaker, the words "mature individuals" were used in those comments. I'm sure that in terms of the faculty that does so much study and provides so much information to government and others, they see themselves as able to provide objective advice. I think they are calling upon all of us to demonstrate our maturity in dealing with that advice, and not in a political context but in a context that will provide opportunities for our children and our grandchildren and for many generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly don't have all the answers on the government side. And I'm sure that everybody over there will applaud that, so admittedly, that must be said. But I think as we go through this session of the Legislature, we'll probably hear more of a discussion about rights. It's a word that I hear used very often and, to some degree, overused in many, many ways by the opposition. I hope that they will introduce another word into their vocabulary, and that other word is "responsibilities." Because in terms of all the rights that we enjoy as Albertans, we will not have those rights unless we exercise the corresponding responsibilities. It is unfortunate that it appears that many times the opposition finds it embarrassing to talk about responsibilities. But we in the government will continue to discuss that, because it is important and because, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the opposition will discover much that the government has discovered over the last number of years, and that is that we can have faith in Albertans and we can, if we invite them, expect them to exercise their responsibilities. I look forward with some hope to the opposition doing that as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Some normally sleepwalkers over there have encouraged me to get on, so I will. I will keep to my usual high standards of statesmanship and not try to be too critical of what poses as a government over there, Mr. Speaker.

Speaking on the throne speech, I was very hopeful, although I realize the learning curve or the lag that occurs between stimulus and result over there is often very long, but I thought -- the Premier having been elected from a rural riding and having told the people of Alberta how much he did love farmers and how maybe he would be squishing through the cow pies of Stettler in a short time as he settled into his new grounds -- that there would be something about agriculture that was a little more advanced than the usual trite comments that I've become familiar with in the last while. I did enjoy reading the Associate Minister of Agriculture -- that's the quaint position that was invented some years ago to try to make the Minister of Agriculture bisexual here, in having both an associate and a minister. She was able to come forward with some comments in *Hansard* that were a bit more enlightening than what the Premier had. I look forward to someday having an associate Premier and trying the same idea, Mr. Speaker. I think, after all, if we have to have two people to run it, Mr. and Mrs. Agriculture, we should have a Mr. and Mrs. Premier. I think, seeing that they adopted my idea of going for an elected Senate, maybe I'll put that on me table, and with the usual gestation of one year or nine months, whatever it takes over there, we can see a Premier and a Deputy Premier in the next throne speech.

One thing that bothers me -- and I'm going to try to be as coldly logical as possible. As the Member for Three Hills said, she wanted to get more responsible opposition. I can see why she must feel that way, because it looks, with the graph, the curve, and how the people are thinking, as if the opposition will be the government the next time around, one of the opposition parties. Consequently, I suppose she is as concerned as many Albertans out there that the opposition be responsible and intelligent, because they look like -- it's almost inexorable -- they will be government next time around.

The thing that I wanted to touch on for a minute was the question of farm debt. It has continually puzzled me, as a businessman that's been in debt more than he's been out of debt. As a matter of fact, any businessman that tells you they've been out of debt more than they have been in debt in the last 10 years in Alberta is no bloody businessman. He is a baloney artist, or she is, because times have not been that good. I won't try to lay that on the government. However, having been very experienced at losing money, and making some, I can never understand the whole structure of debt as far as farmers are concerned when I think the solution -- I wouldn't say it's easy -- stares us in the face.

The big cost that faces most of our farmers is retaining a piece of paper that says this property belongs to him. Now, it's all right if your great-grandfather was a buffalo hunter or fur trader and chiseled the Indians or somebody out of land and then passed it on to you, but most farmers are not that fortunate. They have had to buy the land themselves or make some sort of deal, and it's a huge amount of money that gathers interest. It's always bothered me why we have not used, as they have in other countries of the world, particularly Holland and Denmark as two of the ones I think of, a leaseback system -- voluntary, mind you -- a lease system where a foundation or the government eventually ends up owning the land but leases it out on a 99-year basis or a lifetime basis to the farmer, who in turn has a right to pass the lease hereditarily, passes it on.

As a matter of fact, businesswise it's used quite often. If any of you have been to London, England, nearly the whole west end of London is leasehold. In other words, leasehold is a very

common method now in western Europe of just passing on generation after generation, and the income generates to a foundation or sometimes governments; sometimes it's an educational institution. But it does allow the people that are on the property, whether it's a farm or an apartment building or whatever it is, to put all their money into operating the business, not holding title to a piece of land. Yet this government has had a wonderful opportunity -- through the fact that they were the Alberta Development Corporation, being the lenders in many cases to the farmers and repossessing land -- to go into a system such as that. Start it up, first of all offering it to the farm family that they're pushing off the farm in the best tradition of Charles Dickens, telling them to move on, pack up, almost a *Grapes of Wrath* idea of moving in from Vulcan to Lethbridge or Vegreville to Edmonton or whatever it is, pushing them off the land, then dumping the land back onto the market and taking whatever is offered.

Well, first of all, the land is offered back when there are bad times, so they are going to realize very little money on the land. Therefore, it leaves one questioning whether that is a good financial deal for the taxpayer. If they held onto the land until prices were a little better, they'd get a better deal for it. Secondly, putting a family off the land -- and the only one able to buy the farm, of course, is usually someone in the neighbourhood that's wealthier and amasses more land -- must mean that there's one family less getting on that school bus. It often eventually means there are one or two rooms less in that school. It means that the school is closed down. It means a few families less in the curling club, in the golf club, in the local church. So the town starts to fall apart, and the school gets smaller. It means less families buying groceries in town and going to the service station and going to the parts dealer, so the parts dealer closes down. So the whole thing sets in motion almost an inevitable type of wheel of fortune, or wheel of misfortune, that means that the land goes into bigger and bigger ownership.

It's been repeated so often in history. Whether you read the Old Testament or about the Roman Empire or the British clearances, it's always that we go into a case where land gets more and more involved in larger and larger blocks. Then of course there were the old days, where the easiest way was to go out and shoot the landlord and hang the government and then start all over, what they call "land reform." Now, I'm saying that we can have ongoing land reform, not get into this inevitability. And, of course, it's traditional that Tories do look backwards rather than forwards, much like the Olympic rowing champions. They wave their hands, go like hell, look backwards, and never pay any attention to which way the boat is going. But this type of thinking means that we're going to get into the same type of process in the years ahead in the concentration of land ownership, and we'll have to go through the whole process of getting out of it.

So I suggest that we get into the leaseback mode, which gives a chance for the family to stay on the land. Now, it's very easy. We have debt adjustment boards and a few others. They can easily look at where a farm is being repossessed by ADC or FCC or even a private banker, although we must remember that 70 percent of repossessions and quitclaims in the last two years have been either the federal or provincial governments together, so they're the biggest landlords. They went into it not with any idea of doing harm. Everybody, all politicians -- Liberal, Conservative, NDP -- thought it was a great idea to loan farmers money in the '50s and '60s and '70s, but then they had to collect

it when the '80s came. But I'm saying that the method of collecting it is ridiculous. We're setting ourselves up for a land reform revolution down the road, trying to break up the large land blocks and get people back on the land as they want to.

Secondly, by dumping the land back on the market, the government is undermining the pension of the old farmers, because what the old farmers depended on in the past was being able to sell the land at a good price to go into retirement. Quite often, admittedly, it was sold to their own family, but they did sell it. But now we have managed to do the double thing. We have managed to shaft the younger generation by pushing them off the land and, at the same time, take away, or denigrate, the pension and the collateral that the old-timers have built up. Because of other land being dumped on the market, their land, of course, comes down in value, so they don't get the pension out of it that they'd expected to.

We have to do some very heavy thinking on debt. And I don't think there's a Liberal attitude to debt or a Conservative attitude to debt or an NDP attitude to debt. There's the commonsense attitude to debt and a commonsense attitude to holding land, and I'd like to see this government show some enlightenment on that.

I may touch on a few other things in the budget: transportation and the road paving program which got this government and the Premier into so much trouble. When you go out to a rural area, you can see why. There are a lot of farmers, and I would hope -- and there again I'm letting my sense of charity run away with me. I suggested how they could get out of the Triple E Senate mess. I've suggested how you can get out of moving farmers off the land. I'm now going to suggest how you maybe can handle paving secondary roads a little better. I, personally, think you should leave it up to the municipalities, because many farmers would prefer a good wide gravel road to a narrow paved road, particularly when road ban season comes. Most city slickers figure that a tarred road is a tarred road, but when it comes to road bans and you're trying to move anything on a cheap road that's paved, it's shut down for twice, sometimes two and one-half times as long as a gravel road. So why don't we allow the municipalities to decide, with the budget? Give them enough budget to pave every road if they want to, but they may well not want to pave every road.

Lastly, I was bothered by the fact that we make much about free trade. The hon. Member for Chinook mentions how farmers are going off to sell their products. This government did its best to promote free trade, although I notice one of the advisers for free trade was the Canadian president of Cargill. Now, asking the Canadian president to advise the farmers of Alberta on the advantages of free trade is, you know, rather like asking Colonel Sanders how he would be able to preserve the lives of chickens. Nevertheless, that was one of the advisers on free trade.

The other point that came up on free trade that was in the last throne speech but was missing in this one was that apparently we were going to try to set up a committee to show farmers how to get an advantage out of free trade. Now, I was hoping to see that the hon. associate minister would touch on it in her speech yesterday. She didn't do too much on that. Now, the only thing I can conclude is that the selective amnesia that often hits governments made them decide that maybe that wasn't the best thing to do, how to advise farmers how to get the best of free trade. But on the other hand, I thought it maybe could have happened that those little gnomes they hire to do the research in the

back bowels of the cabinet couldn't find any advantages in free trade for the farmers. So, naturally, if you could not find any advantages of free trade for the farmers, you wouldn't want to set up a committee to help farmers take advantage of free trade, would you, Mr. Speaker? Consequently, I am very concerned or very interested in what happened to that committee that was going to teach the farmers how to take advantage of free trade.

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

Lastly, and the minister did touch on this; she did talk about preserving the land base. I must admit, if I may make a compliment to the associate minister from Chinook, that her speech was much more enlightening than the budget was, although she did speak about the budget. I'm going to suggest to the Premier or the associate Premier next year that they be allowed to write part of the throne speech for him and her. But she did mention preserving the land base, and this bothers me a great deal, because this is very sanctimonious talk from a government that has done more than any government that we've had since 1905, Mr. Speaker, to see that the land base of Alberta has been destroyed. There's more land gone under to city expansion or to gas and oil plants. This is probably the only province that I know of in Canada where a municipality can pass a law saying that number 1 and 2 farmland can be converted to gas plants without any hearings. That's something that this government allows.

The municipal Act of this province -- and I'm sorry that the new convert to Municipal Affairs is not present, Mr. Speaker. At least hopefully he's not out organizing a new party now that he's settled in as a cabinet minister. Nevertheless, it would be nice to ask why there's nothing in the throne speech about doing more to preserve the agricultural land base, because Tories will come and go, Liberals will come and go, and NDP will just plain go, but we'll always have the problem of protecting our land base. [laughter] I'm sorry I did that, Mr. Speaker, but I did notice a couple were going to sleep, and I thought, with all due respect to you, I would wake them up for you.

But the land base has to be protected, and we've done very, very little to it. It should be sacred. Number 1 and 2 land should never, never be converted to anything. Now, I know it's been said for years and years that the Tories' idea of a wilderness is a Safeway parking lot without parking stripes on it, but we have to get down and realize that number 1 and 2 land is truly sacred. We can't build on it; we can't build gas plants; we cannot do anything that would take it out of food production.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've many other items to cover, but I notice the keen look of anticipation on people's faces. They all want to get up and put in their two bits. I don't think there's any media downstairs still listening on their speaker anyhow. So I'd like to finish off by saying that the throne speech was a small step in the right direction. I wouldn't say they were going backwards by any means. I know the hon. Member for Three Hills had suggested that the Liberal Party was out plotting destruction. We've got a new sense of responsibility. Twenty-nine percent of the electorate means that we actually should be over measuring the seats over there. Mr. Speaker, we will sit back and try to constructively criticize and point out the ways and solutions to them. Actually, it's not because we're so kind and so intelligent by doing that. It's that we know they're so obtuse, they won't follow it anyhow.

Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clover Bar.

MR. GESELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pride and humility that I rise today to speak to this Assembly in debate for the very first time to deliver my maiden speech as the member for the constituency of Clover Bar.

It is a great privilege to speak this evening in support of the Speech from the Throne, which was presented so eloquently by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor. May I say how fortunate we are to have such a gracious and distinguished lady as the Queen's representative in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that I consider it one of the highest honours in life to be a member of this Assembly, and I pray that with your guidance and wisdom I shall be of beneficial service to the people within the constituency of Clover Bar and all of Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering an amendment to the throne speech. Since the amendment is exceedingly broad and references the entire throne speech, I wish to, firstly, oppose the amendment and, secondly, add my strong support to the throne speech. However, before raising these points, I would like to clarify a comment made by the hon. Minister of Career Development and Employment. She talked about the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry standing on a pile of rubbish during the election to make a certain speech. That pile of rubbish is known as the Clover Bar landfill site. Mr. Speaker, Clover Bar landfill site is not within the constituency of Clover Bar. It is, in fact, in Edmonton, and I wanted to clarify that to the members here.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment in its opening phrase states: that the Assembly condemn the government for failing to uphold commitments made in the throne speech of February 17, 1989.

This statement, Mr. Speaker, is contradictory and directly opposed to the actual words in the throne speech of June 1, 1989. These words state, and I quote again from the throne speech:

During this important session my government will reaffirm the legislation and budgetary policies for the priorities and programs outlined at the opening of the Fourth Session of the 21st Legislature on February 17, 1989.

The amendment attempts to twist and misrepresent the clear and concise statement of the throne speech. Because the speech reaffirms the commitments of the previous throne speech, the amendment fails. It is not logical, not reasonable, and attempts to condemn for failures that do not exist. There can be no other action but to vote against the amendment.

The throne speech offers Albertans a vision of the future much like that which was held by our parents and their parents before them, and like those visions that were held by the pioneers who built this province, through hard work and determination, into one of the greatest provinces in this nation. The vision expressed in the throne speech is a vision of Alberta that is confident, diverse, and strong. It is a vision of Alberta that holds a unique identity among all provinces, an Alberta that leads the nation with new ideas. It is a vision of Alberta that is vital and progressive but also caring and compassionate. This Speech from the Throne leads to the future.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has not been privileged to hear a maiden speech from the constituency of Clover Bar for a considerable period of time. I believe the majority here have never heard one. With your indulgence and the indulgence of this Assembly, I would like to reacquaint the members of this Assem-

bly with the constituency of Clover Bar. I would also make members of this Assembly aware that I am exceedingly proud to be the first Progressive Conservative member elected for the constituency of Clover Bar.

Clover Bar is located immediately east of the city of Edmonton and the constituency of Sherwood Park, a constituency that is ably served by the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade. It comprises the rural area of Strathcona county and portions of the counties of Lamont, Beaver, and Leduc, as well as the entire city of Fort Saskatchewan. There are 28,715 people residing in this constituency. Mr. Speaker, Clover Bar is considered to be a rural constituency. The urban area of Fort Saskatchewan in the northwest part of Clover Bar, the large number of acreages which are located throughout the Cooking Lake moraine -- which should be classed as really semi-urban rather than rural -- as well as the traditional farming area north of Highway 16, provides me with an appreciation and a sensitivity for the desires and aspirations of urban and rural residents. Clover Bar is truly a constituency with a balanced representation ranging from densely populated urban areas to the traditional family farm.

Members may be unaware that not only can the constituency of Clover Bar lay claim to having some of the finest agricultural land and some of the most skilled artisans and craftsmen and women in Alberta and even in the nation, it also has the proud honour of being the first self-governing area in Alberta. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Clover Bar achieved this enviable status under the Statute Labour and Fire Ordinance in 1903, a full two years prior to formation of our province in 1905.

I share this information with you for a purpose, Mr. Speaker, for the people of Clover Bar are extremely proud that we began our collective lives as the first self-governing area in Alberta. Further, we in Clover Bar have always had an appreciation for law, order, and justice. The city of Fort Saskatchewan was invented by lawmen. The North-West Mounted Police founded it as the Sturgeon Creek Post in 1875. This knowledge of our pioneering history has made us appreciate the great importance of a strong community working co-operatively to achieve common goals. It has also taught us to be forward thinkers and progressive in our outlook towards the world around us. It has taught us to value our health, our family, our community, and the land which provides for us.

In recognition of those important roots, I think it only fitting that a group of individuals from the Clover Bar constituency have taken the lead in forming a working group to plan the centennial celebration of our province for the year 2005. The time from now to the year 2005 is only 16 years. By starting the planning process now for the many provincewide activities in celebration of that milestone, we can ensure an inspiring tribute to the early pioneers of Alberta. It will be a true celebration and recognition of initiative, creativity, and the belief in the freedom of the individual and the strength of the family. These fundamental values are the foundation of the people of Alberta. These values have made our community strong, and they have allowed our province to prosper. Given its early history of self-government and its contribution to the settlement of Alberta, the constituency of Clover Bar looks forward with anticipation to a leading role in the co-ordination of the province's centennial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also pleased to stand today and applaud those initiatives outlined in Her Honour's throne speech. I am particularly pleased with the continuing focus of this govern-

ment on economic diversification. The people of Clover Bar, like all other Albertans, support economic diversification because we know that a diversified economy enables us to prosper and grow stronger as a community. Social and economic development are inseparable, and we view these initiatives as a great benefit and opportunity for Clover Bar and for Alberta.

Such diversification will enable us to build better roads such as secondary road 630 -- or as it is locally known, the Wye Road -- which links the county of Beaver past the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot grazing and recreation area, the acreage area of Strathcona, the urban concentration of Sherwood Park, and flows directly into the Sherwood Park freeway directly into Edmonton.

Such diversification allows us to provide better and comprehensive health care facilities to serve and to meet the present demands for acute, long-term, and auxiliary care in Strathcona and in the city of Fort Saskatchewan.

Such diversification supports our first priority: to provide quality education for our youth and to provide a high standard of support services.

Diversification has resulted in new activities in forestry, high technology, and tourism, all of which are now complementing our traditional industries of energy and agriculture. The magnitude of current investment is nothing short of spectacular. Over \$18 billion has been invested in pulp mills and newsprint plants, magnesium and petrochemical plants, new meat packaging and processing plants, in oil sands development and heavy oil upgrading projects.

Our economy is reaping the benefit of diversification. Nowhere is this clearer than in our employment record. A diverse economy means higher and more stable employment. This leads to perhaps the most important point: diversification builds stability and confidence in our economic future. The Alberta economy is far more resilient than it has ever been. In light of some of the recent projections regarding the economic outlook, this resiliency will mean that we are able to withstand unforeseen international downturns in prices for our traditional resource-based commodities.

Diversification has also vaulted Alberta into being an international player in the development of new high-technology industries. Mr. Speaker, this feat did not happen by chance. It happened because the government took the initiative to join together with the private sector and academics to create an environment whereby new ideas could be shared and expanded upon, a true partnership and a healthy business climate.

Perhaps the most significant element of this initiative is the progressive and forward thinking attitude it has helped to foster among Alberta's entrepreneurs. Alberta companies such as NovAtel, General Systems Research, Chembiomed, Synphar Laboratories, to name only a few, are proof that this approach is working. But the success of this attitude goes even further than the shining examples I have just listed. Take as an example two companies in the Clover Bar area: Jireh Industries Ltd. and Gibmar Laboratories. Jireh is a company which invents and manufactures specialized food processing equipment. Its holdings include W.P. Foods Inc. and Hygaard Fine Foods Ltd., both in Sherwood Park. Jireh provides local employment for nine people and maintains local business. Its products are second to none in the world. The latest innovation is the development of a high-pressure water jet cutter. This prototype was built on-site in Clover Bar and is the first Canadian product of its kind. Gibmar Laboratories, the other example, is a manufacturer of clini-

cal and diagnostic material such as petri dishes, which are used in laboratories across Canada. Gibmar employs 15 people and utilizes animal by-products as its raw material. Gibmar has recently enhanced its manufacturing operation through the addition of a full-scale abattoir.

These two companies are achieving technologically spectacular and important results for Clover Bar and our province. They are new industries which are creating new jobs for Albertans. Of particular significance, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that industries such as these are, by choice, locating their operations in our rural area of Clover Bar. They are choosing areas like Clover Bar because we are able to offer a quality transportation and communications infrastructure, which is essential for any business to succeed in today's business world. And they are choosing areas like Clover Bar because of the strong and vibrant community services which are so vitally important in raising a family today. The promise of the throne speech of love of family, home, community, and province facilitates these choices. The family day Act is an excellent start, and forms part of the measures stressing the importance of Alberta families. I want to applaud our Premier for the introduction of this initiative.

But there are signs of concern on the horizon which may soon begin to affect our ability to continue to attract new business and families into our area. Mr. Speaker, the concerns I speak of are the ever growing issue of waste management and particularly that of our dependency on landfill sites as a solution to our waste disposal problems. Landfill sites and waste disposal are not popular or glamorous subjects to speak about, but I would be remiss in my responsibilities to my constituents if I did not raise our concerns about their impact on our constituency, on our environment. True, perhaps we in Clover Bar are a little more sensitive about this subject than most Albertans. I feel I have the right to be concerned, given our proximity to major landfill sites serving our major urban neighbour to the west. Far too long now, waste has been viewed as someone else's problem. As long as the waste pile was not in our own backyard, it really was not an issue we needed to be concerned about. Unfortunately or, as some would hold, fortunately, we have now found ourselves in a position where we are running out of other people's backyards. We can no longer ignore the problem, and we must take steps now to protect our environment before it has been damaged beyond repair.

On the issue of waste management, we as a province must work on developing feasible alternatives to the present practice of landfill. We need to look at provincial leadership, to encourage co-operation within regions, to encourage greater use of such disposal methods as composting, recycling, incineration, gasification, and reduction of wasteful forms of packaging of goods. I know all members share my concern over this growing problem, because I know they share my concern for protection of our environment. One of the most efficient ways in which these concerns can be addressed is through the development of enhanced waste management programs.

Mr. Speaker, recycling is an idea whose time has come. It is a growth industry that will provide a new source of employment for Albertans. There is value in waste, and proper management is the best method for extracting it. Last year the value of recycled material in this province exceeded \$300 million, and there is tremendous opportunity to significantly increase that amount. Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to leave the impression that the government has been sitting idly in facing the growing waste

problem. In fact, this government has long been a leader in encouraging and assisting recycling programs across the province. For example, funding has been made available since 1977 under the resource recovery grant program, which has enabled a number of communities throughout the province to initiate recycling projects in one form or another. Edmonton initiated perhaps one of the largest curbside recycling programs in North America. At present approximately 75 percent of the residents have demonstrated their commitment to this project on a purely voluntary basis.

Another highly successful project currently under way is the Paper Chase project. This is a paper recycling project which collects waste paper from government offices and private business, which is then taken to a central depot for sorting and baling and then sold to paper suppliers for remanufacture.

Similarly, recycling projects are being undertaken in a number of communities, large and small, across the province. In Hanna, for example, the local chapter of the Lions Club, in conjunction with the town, has established the Hanna recycling centre, which collects newspaper, cardboard, lubricating oil, and household glass and metal. Another example of recycling is under way in the village of Riley. This particular project has village residents storing all organic wastes, such as food wastes and lawn clippings, which are then collected on a regular basis for transport to a community composting site.

But as encouraging as these initiatives may be, there is much, much more that needs to be done. As a province we must begin to move out of the pilot project stage and into the full implementation of integrated waste management programs. We must also address the matter of household hazardous materials disposal, and we must continue to work closely with industry to ensure the safe disposal of all toxic wastes.

Mr. Speaker, by undertaking a provincewide comprehensive waste management program, we will create new jobs and will become more efficient in the utilization of our resources. It is incumbent upon us to do all we can to ensure that our legacy to future generations of Albertans will not be marred by the proliferation of landfill sites. Further, by preserving the natural beauty of our environment, we also help to strengthen our ever increasing tourism potential. As we all know, Alberta is blessed with some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. With due respect to those members whose constituencies border or include the national parks, tourism in Alberta means more than just the Rocky Mountains.

In the constituency of Clover Bar, for example, the Cooking Lake moraine, with its many scenic lakes, is ideally suited to attract visitors from all parts of Canada. This moraine includes Elk Island National Park, the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot grazing and recreation area, and the Ministik bird sanctuary, I believe the first bird sanctuary in Alberta. I fondly call this area the lakes district of Clover Bar.

Many Albertans will be able to recall a time when North Cooking Lake and Lakeview were one of the most popular resort areas in the province. It was a common event for Edmontonians to board a train for a trip out to Cooking Lake, where they could then transfer aboard a big paddle wheeler boat for a tour and a dinner cruise around the lake. Although the popularity of the area declined in the years following World War II, I am confident that with the encouragement and assistance of the government's new tourism initiatives, we could see this area once again become a major tourism destination. A start in that direction has been made by establishing a sailing

club at the Lakeview area, funding for the development of a day camp area at south Cooking Lake, the [inaudible] resort area on Hastings Lake, and the experimental liming of Half Moon Lake in an effort to improve water quality.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives, as well as all other initiatives contained in the throne speech, clearly show this government's vision of a strong and prosperous future, a government which has confidence in the people of Alberta. It is a government with the leadership and ability to get the job done. It is for these reasons that I am proud to represent the people of Clover Bar, for they are strong, kind, generous, and I share with them their feeling that it is a privilege to live in the constituency of Clover Bar. I'm proud to be an Albertan.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their appointments to the Chair.

I rise in great pride, Mr. Speaker, to give my maiden speech on behalf of the citizens of West Yellowhead. They sent me here because of the poor representation of the past. Now the future of those people will be fully represented in an open and honest fashion. As a new member of this great Legislature, it'll be quite a transition for me, a journeyman for TransAlta Utilities for the past 17 years who served on the local council of Edson for three years from '83 to '86 and was their mayor until successfully defeating the last Minister of the Environment. This was brought forth by the wishes of the fine people of West Yellowhead, who believe in open and honest government. They will see this in the future, Mr. Speaker.

This government and this throne speech lack in many ways how this province should be run, always funding big business, caring very little about small business. In my riding, Mr. Speaker, small business is what has created the jobs over the years. I pray that programs such as Vision 2020 are never again going to be put before the municipalities. It was a totally ridiculous program, very expensive to municipalities. They asked the municipal leaders to have a vision for 2020 when this government has a hard time having a vision for the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, this government has done some very good things. I want to thank the Minister of Transportation and Utilities for the twinning of Highway 16. This has been a great achievement. We're looking forward also to the upgrading of rural roads and paving where necessary. In traveling many times through West Yellowhead, meeting with many mayors, councillors, and other people in the riding, they've asked me to address some of the concerns of the total riding.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that sometime in the near future this government will address the question of alternate sources of energy. Throughout West Yellowhead we have the greatest potential for geothermal energy of any place in the province. We have temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Celsius. In foreign countries -- the U.S., Iceland, and others -- people use this geothermal resource for medical reasons, agriculture, and for recreation. This government has failed to assist us in putting any money towards these projects in our area. Also, Mr. Speaker, geothermal is a renewable resource. It's available, and environmentally clean.

This government should put school funding back to 85 percent, where it was when they took power. One hundred percent would be better, Mr. Speaker. It would take the burden off the elected municipal leaders for collecting requisitions for the school boards. My constituents would be more pleased to pay the difference in a broad way than pay the extra for the

municipality collecting these taxes. While talking taxes, Mr. Speaker, let's think about those who are called away from their families in most serious and adverse conditions to do mandatory overtime: nurses, firemen, policemen, utility workers, and others. Can we not give them a break on provincial taxes on the overtime hours they have worked?

I am most pleased that in the throne speech new Fish and Wildlife officers will be added to stop and curtail the poachers in our province. I would hope there will be support staff added to those to make sure these officers don't spend all their time in the office.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

My constituency, Mr. Speaker, is made up of the municipalities of Hinton, Edson, Grande Cache, and the beautiful community of Jasper. In Hinton the council has been lobbying for an extension to their airport for many years. The time has come for the tourism potential to draw the people to Jasper. Also, we need no more construction in Jasper or Jasper park. Rather, the Jasper-Hinton corridor could be built up for housing for those people on low wages working in the supply industries in Jasper. Hinton shortly will be having a new shopping centre. They expect to have city status sometime in the near future and by all means should be the next city in the province of Alberta.

Grande Cache, Mr. Speaker, would like to accommodate a ski hill for their great tourist potential. The natives from Jasper who were moved to Grande Cache in the early years are now residing there with no washrooms, no water, and I think it's time we addressed those situations for those natives in that area. The highway to Grande Cache has been a tremendous asset to the people from Grande Prairie to the Hinton area. I think now it is time that the road that was proposed by that great member from Jasper, Mr. Dowling, from Edson to Fox Creek, was started again. It was in the plans some years ago and was discontinued with the last member sitting. Also, Mr. Speaker, in the Grande Cache area this government provided some \$5 million in grants or loan guarantees to the mill, yet the young people of Grande Cache are not able to get jobs within that mill.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

The town of Edson is a very big base for timber, oil, and coal. We had the first plant in oriented strandboard, made by the aspen of the region. I have a problem with the way the timber has been cut in the area. Removing the poplar could be done in a way that does not harm the evergreens and the birch trees. Beautiful evergreens and birch have been just dragged over in a mad rush to get the poplar out of the area. I would hope that in the future in the total province our forests would be better protected by selective cutting rather than clear-cutting.

Mr. Speaker, some years ago in the community of Edson the provincial building was vacated and a new building was built. That building has sat empty now for some four years. I think it's time that this government made a decision to dismantle that building and clean up the main street. Within the community of Edson or shortly therefrom is the ski hill of Silver Summit. It is the highest ski hill outside the national parks, owned by an entrepreneur from Edmonton. Also, in the plans for Edson is a new hospital, for which I hope we have a solid commitment in the near future. Jasper, Mr. Speaker, is in need of an extended health care complex. I'm very pleased the government has spo-

ken on providing more hospital beds for long-term care.

Jasper is kind of hamstrung though, Mr. Speaker, by not even having a licensing bureau in their community. They have to drive 50 miles to get a licence plate, or the young people who have to try for a driver's licence have to drive to the community of Hinton. I think it's time we established a licence bureau in the town of Jasper. Rooms for the employees in the many tourist attractions in Jasper are at a critical stage. These must be addressed in the very near future. Some more funding I'm sure the government will be lobbied on, as I have been, is for that great train 6060 owned by Mr. Harry Homes from Jasper. I think Mr. Homes is looking forward to some projects he's already discussed with the government.

In the Cadomin-Robb area, Mr. Speaker, at one time there was a wildlife park. I would like to see that park put back in place. At the Cadomin campground's Wildhorse Creek, forestry for some strange reason installed horse stalls in the middle of the campground. There have been many complaints on that, and I would hope forestry would clean up that mess.

In summing up, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that reforestation must be handled at a faster pace. Those trees between Grande Cache and Robb are not coming back in the years that the government had said they would. A more sensible way of cutting those trees has to take place. Implementing a regional tourism plan in the area of Jasper, Edson, Hinton, and Grande Cache is a must. That plan was put together prior to the CTA plan and has been on hold gathering dust for some two years. It was totally funded by the municipalities of West Yellowhead.

In some way, Mr. Speaker, we as a united front of all parties must address the sewage problems and the way we're polluting our rivers. I feel it's an absolute disgrace on small rivers throughout this province. Every municipality seems to have no place to put their sewage but in the rivers. We must address this. Also, with the road kills near the Jasper park boundaries and poachers again, we should seriously look at putting a buffer around Jasper park of approximately 10 kilometres.

There's a great need also, Mr. Speaker, in the Emerson Lakes area, which is north and east of the community of Hinton. There are large hoodoos there, and the forest is being cut within two kilometres of that area. We must establish a provincial park in that area.

Mr. Speaker, in summing up, I would like to say that there is not one thing more important to the West Yellowhead riding than the sale of western Canadian coal. We have more employees in the coalfields in West Yellowhead than any other place in western Canada. I appreciate Mr. Bradley's help in the past through the Alberta Research Council when I was chairman of the coal mining communities of western Canada, and I would hope this government would get on side and seriously push for the sale of western coal to the eastern markets or to other markets. If we don't start using our low-sulphur western coal and putting westerners back to work, we in total are going to have to pay for the cleanup of the maple trees and all the other fruit fields of eastern Canada through our federal tax dollars. I think it's time we aggressively approached that situation of selling this western coal and cleaning the total environment up, not only in Alberta but in all of Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Assembly, it is an honour for me to rise to deliver my maiden speech in response to and in support of the Speech from the Throne as the

Member for Banff-Cochrane.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the other members of this Assembly in congratulating you and offering you my best wishes on your election to the Chair.

May I begin by sharing some of my personal history with the Assembly. Both my mother and my father were born in and continue to reside in Edmonton, our provincial capital. I grew up here and began my legal career in the city. My wife, Debbie, and I chose to move to Canmore in 1976 because of our love of the outdoors and our desire to raise our children in a smaller community. Because of the many relatives and friends we still have in and around Edmonton, as well as the many friends we made in the Bow Valley, I find myself in a somewhat unique position of being able to cheer for both the Calgary Flames and the Edmonton Oilers with equal sincerity and enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, Banff-Cochrane is an amazingly diverse and complex constituency of some 16,500 electors which begins at the western edge of the city of Calgary and continues along both north and south of Highway 1 to the British Columbia border and north along the Jasper-Banff Highway as far as Saskatchewan River Crossing. To drive from one end of the constituency to the other takes some two and a half hours on the primary highways, driving at or near the speed limit. Thus far I have been able to keep to those speed limits and avoid any altercations with the authorities. I understand from speaking with the Solicitor General, the Hon. Dick Fowler, that this is also rather unique in this Assembly.

I would like to take this Assembly on a journey through Banff-Cochrane, beginning in the east, in the rolling hills of Calgary's western limits, traveling westerly to the foothills and on to the majesty of the Rocky Mountains. But before I get on with this, I must comment that I've listened intently to the various members of this Assembly who have proclaimed the many virtues of their ridings and how their particular ridings are the most beautiful in this province. Having traveled this province from north to south and east to west, I share their enthusiasm for all areas of Alberta. However, when the discussion comes to the most beautiful area of the province, I must in all sincerity remind them that the area that is the focus of provincial, national, and international tourism in Alberta is Banff-Cochrane, the area they and their constituents travel to for their Alberta breaks. This is because of our natural advantages, Mr. Speaker -- the mountains, the lakes, the rolling hills -- but also because of the friendliness and the openness of the people who live in our constituency. None of us will ever forget the 1988 Winter Olympics. Our constituency and its people played a very significant role in the success of those games. Canada Olympic Park, Mount Allan, Nakiska, and the Canmore Nordic Centre are all located in Banff-Cochrane constituency.

Tourism is a very important industry in our province at present, and it will become even more so in the 21st century. I am very pleased to see the commitment of our government to the industry, as evidenced in the throne speech. Clearly, diversification of our provincial economy is critical to the long-term prosperity of Alberta, and what more logical means could there be to assist with diversification than by utilization of our natural advantages? The beauty and the hospitality of our constituency will assist our province greatly in achieving a \$10 billion tourism industry by the year 2000. Similarly, expansion of our forest industry in a responsible manner will help to ensure that Albertans are afforded protection from the fluctuations in our energy and agriculture sectors so as to ensure a more stable eco-

monic climate and thus greater prosperity for all Albertans.

While tourism and the forest industry are important building blocks for Alberta's economy, I am delighted with our government's continuing commitment to the environment. The Speech from the Throne re-emphasizes that our government will not compromise future generations for short-term gain. A clean environment is critical to Albertans today and will be tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to have been chosen to chair our caucus environment committee. This new committee is concrete evidence of this government's commitment to our environment. Our committee looks forward to meetings with groups and individual citizens concerned with environmental issues. My intention is that the committee will be proactive, and I am anxious to communicate with Albertans to advise them of our existence and to welcome their input. I discovered very early in the last campaign how important the environment is to the people of Banff-Cochrane. Regardless of which area of the constituency I visited, I found that the environment was always in the top three issues raised.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to impress upon this Assembly the importance of agriculture in our constituency. In particular in the eastern half of the constituency, there's a great dependence on this industry which has been a cornerstone of our provincial economy. I am pleased to see that the throne speech recognizes agriculture as this province's number one economic priority. The farming community embodies all the virtues most important to this province: determination, endurance, self-reliance, co-operation, and optimism.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Banff-Cochrane for the warmth and sincerity they showed to me during the campaign. Whether it was a worker who tirelessly devoted time and energy to the campaign or those we met in their homes, on the street, or in their businesses, I was uniformly impressed by their courtesy and their interest. I feel a great responsibility to work to the best of my ability to represent them as effectively as I can.

On the morning of the first day of the 1989 campaign I had the honour of being assisted by Mr. Roy Copithorne, a rancher from the Cochrane area. Born and raised in our constituency, Roy has a great love and respect for the land. The Copithorne name may very well twig memories in this Assembly. Roy's father, Clarence Copithorne, served the people of this province for many years with distinction as the MLA for Banff-Cochrane. He was first elected as an independent in 1967, and in 1970 he joined the Progressive Conservative Party. He is best remembered provincially as the Minister of Highways and Transport.

To begin the journey in Banff-Cochrane, I'd like to begin at Calgary's western edge. During the campaign I met with citizens of Bearspaw and Springbank who reside just west of the city, many of whom work in Calgary and contribute to its prosperity. I questioned a number of these constituents as to how they felt about being part of the Banff-Cochrane constituency. Unanimously the response was positive. They advised me that they either had lived all their lives in the country or they had moved from the city to enjoy the amenities of the country. These comments are particularly important at this time, as our government will soon be reviewing the Local Authorities Board's recommendations regarding the annexation proposal of the city of Calgary. Especially in the Springbank area many of the residents appear to be opposed to the annexation, and I trust my colleagues will carefully review this issue when the Local Authorities Board's findings are presented to

our government.

I am very pleased that during the campaign I was given the opportunity to meet with Chief Roy Whitney of the Sarcee Nation as well as the chief and elders of the Stoney tribes, the Bearspaw, the Chiniki, and the Goodstoney bands. The native peoples in our constituency wish to have a more significant provincial involvement, and I have pledged to work with them by becoming more knowledgeable about their unique challenges and hopefully helping them to become more active participants in provincial affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Redwood Meadows, a residential community situated on Sarcee lands, face an identity crisis because of their quasi-municipal status. I hope to be able to assist them to develop their own unique identity during this term.

In close proximity to Redwood Meadows is the community of Bragg Creek. The citizens of this hamlet are currently examining the issue of incorporation, with the able assistance of our Department of Municipal Affairs. On September 14 of this year they will vote, and the results of this vote will be made known to the hon. Ray Speaker.

To the north of Highway 1 is the town of Cochrane. With a population of some 4,000 residents, this community is gearing up for the increase in tourism which undoubtedly will occur when the western heritage centre, a joint venture of the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation and the Canadian Rodeo Historical Association, becomes a reality. The purpose of the centre will be to display artifacts relating to the history and the practice of the livestock industry and the rodeo industry in western Canada. The success of the Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller and Head-Smashed-In museum in Fort Macleod make me very optimistic about the potential of the western heritage centre.

Further west and north of the Stoney reserve, we find the Ghost-Waiparous area along highway 940, the Forestry Trunk Road. This unspoiled area, where ranching is still king, is truly a gem.

Even further west, and south of Highway 1, we find Kananaskis Country and Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. All Albertans should rightfully be proud of these areas. Based on a multiple-use concept which acknowledges the historical activities in the area and focuses on recreation potential, the Kananaskis has something to offer all our citizens. We as Albertans should be particularly proud of William Watson Lodge, nestled in the provincial park. This complex of cabins is exclusively for physically and mentally challenged individuals and their families and is of a kind unique to this country and to the world. I have been privileged to serve as a member of the Kananaskis Citizens' Advisory Committee for the past 10 years, during which time the committee has reviewed the development and now the operations of the area as representatives of the people of the province of Alberta. I feel very fortunate to have been able to contribute in some small way to the committee and to Kananaskis Country.

Again further west, Mr. Speaker, Exshaw and Seebe, which are found on the eastern end of the Bow corridor, face increasing challenges from tourism and industry, and they are currently creating their own strategies to enable them to benefit from the opportunities that lie ahead.

Banff National Park is Canada's first national park. The park, which includes Lake Louise, is by far this country's most popular tourist destination. The direction taken by the Canadian Parks Service regarding expansion of tourism potential will greatly impact this province's tourism master plan, and I hope to

have the opportunity to work with federal representatives to ensure that our province has a voice in the decision-making process. I am delighted to see reference in the throne speech to the historical legislation which will be introduced to enable Alberta towns in national parks to be incorporated. The people of Banff townsites have shown their strong support for such incorporation, and I am happy that I will have the opportunity to sponsor the parks towns Act on behalf of our Department of Municipal Affairs.

I would like to end this tour in my adopted hometown of Canmore. My wife Debbie, my daughter Kylee, my son Taylor, and I have formed a deep attachment to this community and its people. The open, friendly, and helpful citizens of Canmore are sterling examples of the qualities of the people of Banff-Cochrane that make this part of Alberta so special. Canmore is facing increased pressures due to its tourism potential, and I am pleased to observe that our government is responding in a very positive and helpful manner to those pressures, including housing and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, whether you come to our constituency to ski, hike, bike, ride, climb, canoe, golf, or even to hang glide, I am sure you will not be disappointed.

I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to compliment my predecessor in this Assembly. The hon. Greg Stevens served our constituency with impeccable dedication for some 10 years. I am proud to call Greg and his wife, Pat, friends. They were both tremendous examples to me and to my family. Had it not been for Greg's example, I might very well not have been as involved in provincial matters as I have been in the past 10 to 12 years. Greg's caring nature, his enthusiasm, and his selfless dedication to his constituents represent what we all should be striving for.

Mr. Speaker and members of this Assembly, I am deeply honoured to have won the trust and the support of the people of Banff-Cochrane. I intend to repay that confidence by doing my very best to represent them well, to bring dignity to this Assembly, and to assist in whatever way I can to make Alberta a better place. I am confident this Assembly is just as dedicated as I am to these goals, and I look forward with great anticipation to the 22nd Legislature of the province of Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, in view of the hour, may I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, those in favour of the motion please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, please say no. The motion carries.

The Chair would just like to make a brief comment for the record. It's not a matter of serious admonition to the House, but it is a comment that there has been a great deal of leeway and there will continue to be a great deal of leeway in discussion of this particular amendment to the throne speech. All hon. members, especially the new ones, should bear in mind that as the House proceeds to other matters, there will be less allowance in terms of leeway to wander so far and large in terms of our verbal perambulations of issues and keeping so far away in many aspects from the exact relevance of the amendments. Again, the Chair points out that this is just a general comment so that all of us are aware in future days there will not be quite so much leniency.

The Chair also wishes to comment to members who have spoken, especially those with their maiden speeches. One other comment the Chair hates to point out, but I'm sure all members will learn rapidly so there won't be the reading of speeches after you get past the second week of session.

One final comment, if I may, is this. All of us have the best constituency in the province, so if we ever did a vote on it, we'd suddenly discover that 83 constituencies are the best, including Calgary-Egmont.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, it would be the intent for the government tomorrow to call the consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's speech as the government business of the day, and in addition, as members I believe know, it is the intent of the government on Thursday evening to call the budget speech.

[At 10:10 p.m. the House adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]