

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Fourth Session — Tenth Legislature 9th Day

Tuesday, February 11, 1947.

The Assembly met at 3:00 o'clock p.m.  
On the Orders of the Day.

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. J. Gibson (Morse) for an Address-in-Reply.

**Mr. W. J. Arthurs (Melville):** — Mr. Speaker, rising to speak in the Throne Speech I seem to be kind of put back a little bit through a special privilege granted here today. I notice that these galleries on both sides are filled up. I don't know who I should give the credit to, whether it's the press or who, but I have a very nice audience today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with those that spoke before me extending my congratulations to the Member for Morse, mover of the motion and the Member for Meadow Lake who seconded it. I think they did a wonderful job. Only carrying on as back benchers, I believe these Members have done very well in moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne at the first session, second session and third session. They were all good and I must say that these two Members have done a real good job again this year.

I would like also to say a few words in regard to the Cabinet we have here. We were told in 1944 that if the CCF were elected what in the world were they going to do for Cabinet Ministers. After we were elected and the Premier had his Cabinet all picked they found that we had a better balanced Cabinet than they ever had in the Province of Saskatchewan. They said there must be just one or two Cabinet Ministers carrying the load for the whole works, but each one of our Cabinet Ministers is big enough to stand up and carry his own load.

One thing I would like to mention is something that hasn't been mentioned very much here and that is this education tax. I heard quite a bit of it in the country, and you will remember in 1944 before the election what the promises were. I don't think any person will say that the Liberal Party said that they would take off the education tax if elected, and, of course, at that time they had pretty good ideas that they might be re-elected; and the Conservative Party said they would take it off. Well, they knew that they never would be elected so they could promise you anything. But the CCF said they would take off the education tax when they could find other taxes, other means of taxation to overcome it and they have been working along that line. I have been asked to get this tax off. I told the people in my constituency that it was a nuisance tax prior to election and still think it's a nuisance tax. Talking with different restaurant people throughout the country, they said that this odd cent bothers us all the time. The people don't like it. Well, last year we did take off the education tax on

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all meals and all food stuffs. But I find in Regina, though, when I go into the restaurants that the odd cent is still there 71, cents or 82 cents. The only conclusion that I could come to, Mr. Speaker, was that this Government can take off the education tax but these restaurant people still are going to insist on that few cents that they weren't turning in to the Government under the education tax.

Now, there's been some mention here in regard to the old age pension and what this Government did. I want to tell this House that in all my travels every Old Age Pensioner that I've ever come in contact with is perfectly satisfied. You're going to have an awful time to change those people from the opinion that they have at the present time of what this Government has done for the Old Age Pensioner in this province.

Another point is this, it was only last night that I was talking to one of the crew that had had an accident out here at Franks Lake. They went on duty last Thursday night at 22 o'clock and were still on duty last night to give you some idea of what trouble these railroad men have in trying to keep the roads open. They had two engines behind the snow plow and that snow plow is off the right of way now. But yesterday morning the Saskatchewan Air ambulance was able to drop down out in that country and pick up four of them that were injured in the wreck and fetch them to the city. There can't be too much said for the air ambulance that we have inaugurated in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Another thing that I would like to stress a little bit today is the market roads in the Province of Saskatchewan. The speaker said yesterday that he thought perhaps he had as much mileage as any person else in the form of provincial highways. That may be true, but I'm not up here trying to say that I have no provincial highways. In fact, in the Melville constituency we've got 225 miles of provincial highway but our trouble is with market roads to get to the provincial highways. Just to give you an instance, last summer a farmer up in the Finney district came to me. "Arthurs" he said, "I live a mile and a half from the highway here and when it rains it's impossible for me to get out from the highway and I can't get from my home to the highway. I'm prepared," he said, "to write you a cheque for \$800 (and I understand that it would cost \$1,200 to gravel that piece of road, that mile and a half), I'm prepared to write you a cheque for \$800 if you can get the other \$400 so this piece of road can be gravelled." That gives you an idea to what extent some of these farmers will go to get a road. I'm hoping that this year we're going to have more money for market roads and so that we can help the different municipalities build up their market roads so that they can get on to the highways and be able to get to these towns.

Another question in regard to these roads, not altogether market roads, but we've been told what a large tourist traffic we could have if we had the proper kind of roads and I'm referring now to down in the Qu'Appelle Valley. One of the speakers yesterday, I believe, was speaking of a summer resort up in the northern part of the province. My constituency is bounded on the south by about 104 miles of waterfront. I think that's the best tourist place we have in the whole Province of Saskatchewan, that is the north bank of the Qu'Appelle River. That is where we would like this Government to do something for the tourist traffic, to get a road along this Valley so that we

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can get some of this tourist traffic that is waiting all the time from the country south of us. No doubt this is the closest summer resort of any extent for the American tourists coming from the south up into this beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley. But the day before the election in '44 the Hon. J. G. Gardiner threw out quite a bait to the Melville constituency and especially to the town of Melville. He told them that there was going to be an egg plant built in Melville at a cost of about \$225,000. Well this egg plant was built and it's quite a memorial there but I must say it's not running very often. It's closed down at least ten months of the year.

Also the other day I heard a lot said about the municipal elections in the different cities here but I notice that those speakers were kept away from the town of Melville. We haven't got a city in our constituency but we have got the largest town in the province, but nobody ever mentioned the municipal elections in our town this year because if they had they would have found that they were just the very reverse. The labor representative in that town more than doubled the votes of his opponents. About the same time we had a young Liberals convention in the town of Melville, for two days. One thing that amused me (and Mr. Tucker was at Melville at that time, and the two resolutions were printed in the paper), what amused me was this — that one of these resolutions called for giving those 18 years of age a vote. They actually didn't know that in the Province of Saskatchewan for practically a year that they had had a vote and we're not worried very much about that though.

I had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Tucker just a short time ago so when I found out who he was I held out my hand and said, "Mr. Tucker, my name is Arthurs from Melville" "Oh," he said, "I've been to Melville a couple of times and they seem to be very uneasy down there." "Well," I said, "Mr. Tucker, perhaps I'm responsible for that." Then he tumbled that I was the Member of this Legislature. He thought he was talking to some of his own Liberal friends.

An amusing thing happened up in my room the other night. Harry, my roommate, got in ahead of me. When I got in there Harry was busy reading the Leader-Post. So, I said, "You're reading that Liberal paper again." "No," he said, "this is not a Liberal paper, this is a CCF paper." I said, "How do you get that way?" He said, "There was no other single factor more responsible for electing this Government than this paper." But it is amusing to me to sit here in this House, I haven't had very much to say, but doing a lot of listening and hearing the opposition to everything that comes up. They oppose everything. In fact, I was kind of amused the other day. The Member for Moosomin wound up by stating that he would not support the Budget, something that he had not heard yet. He had not heard the Budget yet. He was talking on the Throne Speech. If he thinks I'm kidding him at all, I'd advise him to go up to the boys upstairs and get them to run the record over.

Also, comments he made on our Attorney General. I was kind of pleased, you know, the way he referred to him. Perhaps the Attorney General is quite a bit like I am. He has not got so much to say in the House but under our democratic system, most of our work is done in the caucus and there is quite a bit of thrashing out of legislation in caucus. But when he referred to the latter part of that, upon checking into it I found that our Attorney General is credited today with having the largest listening audience in the Province of Saskatchewan. We are

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talking about the air, Mr. Patterson.

**Mr. Patterson:** — The work is all done in Cadbury's office.

**Mr. Arthurs:** — No, no, the work is not all done in Cadbury's office. It is done in our caucus. That is the way it has always been under this democratic set-up that we've got in this province.

**Mr. Procter:** — If that's the present legislation, we might as well go home.

**Mr. Arthurs:** — Well, that remark — in case the listening audience did not hear that, that was Mr. Procter's remark — the fellow that was Minister of Highways — so you can take it for what it is worth.

But we heard so much here with regard to labor legislation that this Government had went out on a limb as far as labor legislation is concerned. Now, I'm a labor man, have been one for the last 35 years and we have passed some good legislation here for labor and I want to tell this House that there has not been one item of legislation, labor legislation, put through this House that has benefitted me as a railroad man in the position I hold — not one iota. They are only fixing up some of those other organizations that didn't have the proper legislation and I might say that you have got to go a long way yet too to get your labor legislation up to what we've been enjoying for a number of years. I'm also pleased at the civil servants of this province that have been organized and put on a seniority basis.

The Assembly adjourned at 6:00 o'clock p.m.