

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Third Session — Twelfth Legislature**  
**9th Day**

**Tuesday, February 22, 1955**

The House met at three o'clock p.m.

**DEBATE ON ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

The House resumed, from Monday, February 21, 1955, the adjourned debate on the proposed Motion of Mr. Dewhurst for the Address-in-Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. J. Walter Erb (Milestone):** — Mr. Speaker, I have a very bad cold in my head, but I am quite sure if I should suggest that that is all I have in it, my friends over there would agree. I nevertheless hope that you are not going to have too difficult a time hearing me.

In joining this debate, I should first of all like to extend my congratulations to the mover of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the member for Wadena (Mr. Dewhurst), and to the seconder, the member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Heming). These two members, in my opinion, very ably demonstrated a thorough understanding of the respective fields which they represent, and I believe it is for this understanding, together with their outstanding personal qualities, that they have been elected to this Legislature on three different occasions. When one considers the great majority with which these two members have been elected on each location, one is even more impressed by the esteem in which they are held by their respective constituents.

It was of interest to observe that the mover and the seconder were a farmer and labourer, respectively. Listening to them one could not help but conclude that they must have, through the years, made a great and outstanding contribution to what has become the most outstanding farm and labour legislation in the North American continent. They have once again made it abundantly clear that the farmer and labourer have common aspirations and objectives, and that they must, of necessity, constantly take cognizance of each other's problems with the ultimate realization that they are vulnerable to the same institutions which have denied them their fair share of the national income; and that their final view must be one of consolidating their efforts to achieve that kind of the federal administration that will insure a fair distribution of wealth and a greater measure of social and economic security.

To the hon. member for Moosomin (Mr. McDonald) I want to extend my congratulations on his becoming Leader of the Liberal party and Leader of the Opposition in this House. It is a great honour and an equally great responsibility which comes to very few — that of leading a political party, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure the hon. member will conduct himself in a manner that will reflect credit upon himself and the party which he leads.

**February 22, 1955**

As was pointed out in the Speech from the Throne, the year that has just recently ended was one fraught with disappointment for the great majority of the farmers of Saskatchewan. The ravages of widespread rust, hail, frost and excessive moisture created a hardship for many of the thousands of farmers of Saskatchewan; but they nevertheless took it in their stride as, particularly, Saskatchewan farmers do. The farmers have no quarrel with the elements; they have unbounded faith in nature, for they know that nature has smiled upon them more often than she has frowned. They have faith in their own industriousness for they know that they shall, in the main, reap where they have sown; but, Mr. Speaker, the farmers of Saskatchewan have no faith in the Federal Government whose inaction in a time of emergency is tantamount to wanton disregard for the welfare of agriculture. And the farmers have a justifiable quarrel with the rebuke that they should be well off, having produced the equivalent of five crops in three years. Such a deduction is illogical and will not stand up in light of the facts.

According to the D.B.S. index for western Canada, from 1950 to 1953 farm prices have dropped 8 points; in the same time the index for farmers' living costs have risen 16 points. During the past three years prices for farm products have steadily declined so that hog prices, as compared to last summer, have dropped \$13 to \$14 per cwt., and I believe it is even more now. Cattle prices have been cut almost in half and the price of wheat is down by 18 cents per bushel. Had the farmers' cost of production dropped commensurately with the fall in prices for farm products, the farmers' position would have been reasonably good, but the reverse has been the case — namely, that the farmers' cost of production has continued to rise, while the price that he has received for his commodities has continued to fall. As a result there is an ever-widening gap between the farmer's income and his expenditures, and, therefore, if the farmer finds himself, after one poor crop, without financial reserves, it is obvious that he has, through these last years, been producing an enormous quantities of food below the actual cost of production.

For years the C.C.F. has tried to impress the Federal Government that agriculture is the basic industry of Canada, that the welfare of all the other industries is dependent upon the sound and prosperous agricultural economy, and that this being the case the Federal Government has a responsibility toward the agricultural industry in seeing to it that it is maintained on a sound and stable economic level. For years the C.C.F. has pressed for such measures as would insure that kind of stability. Almost every other industry in Canada has secured its economic position. One needs only to peruse the Financial Post survey of industrials for Canada, in the year of 1954, to see that it is true, and I quote:

“Based on an analysis by the Financial Post of the latest published annual report, the combined net income of 326 companies in 1953 was three per cent ahead of the 1952 level.”

The profit return, incidentally, of these companies was 10.04 per cent, and I submit that the farming economy of Canada contributed very materially to the healthy financial position of these industries by having to pay unreasonable prices for combines, cars, trucks and the general needs for every-day living.

For some of these industries a healthy position is maintained by Federal subsidies, and again, for others, protective tariffs and anti-dumping duties, which, in effect, are equivalent to subsidies. Then, of course, one must not overlook the removal of the excess profits tax by the Federal Government, in 1946, as it particularly applied to the industries. Yes, the Federal Government has gone to great lengths to see to it that the industries of Canada are kept in a flourishing financial state; and it apparently has become so satisfied by their success that it is completely oblivious to the needs of Canada's basic industry, agriculture. I contend that if the commercial industries of Canada are the recipients of such Federal paternalism as I have mentioned, it is high time that the agricultural industry be accorded such consideration by the Federal Government in order to enable it to carry on in a solvent position.

The C.C.F., Mr. Speaker, have demonstrated again and again that it is the only party in Canada which recognizes the importance of agriculture as it relates to all other industries of Canada; that it is the only party which, as the government of Saskatchewan and comprising the only effective opposition in Ottawa, has recognized the needs of agriculture in a tangible way.

For example, when, in 1944, the C.C.F. took office, what were the conditions of the farmers in the rural municipalities of Saskatchewan, and what did this Government do? Well, as everyone knows, in 1942-43 the Associated Rural Municipalities asked the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan to settle the 1938 seed debt on the basis of 50 per cent of the principal, with the cancellation of all the interests, and as everyone knows, the Liberal Government failed to carry out that request. In addition to this 1938 seed grain debt was the indebtedness of the rural municipalities and the farmers for other seed grain and relief debts, totalling some \$17 million. Incidentally, the farm mortgage debt and Saskatchewan stood at the colossal figure of \$92 million and the per capital municipal debt was the highest in Canada.

What action did the C.C.F. Government display upon coming into office in 1944, in respect of the problems that I have outlined? Well, this Government first told the Federal Government that it was not going to pay the 1938 seed grain debt except on the basis as proposed by the S.A.R.M. to the Liberal Government of that day, namely, 50 per cent of the principal, with the cancellation of all the interest. The Federal Government, of course, refused to consider this. It proceeded to pay off the banks and to withhold Saskatchewan's subsidy. Only after lengthy negotiations with Ottawa did Saskatchewan finally get a settlement in which the Federal Government refused to accept any responsibility. The C.C.F. Government then cancelled 50 per cent of that debt, and all the interest, and it is continuing to pay the Federal Government \$700,000 on this account. The \$70 million that was owing by the rural municipalities and the farmers for other seed and relief debt was cancelled outright by this Government.

The effect of these cancellations on the depressing obligations that the farmers and rural municipalities had was very materially to assist in improving their financial positions, so that, today, farm mortgage debt is down from \$92 million to about \$9 million, in 1954, and the per capita municipal debt, which was the highest is now the lowest in

**February 22, 1955**

Canada. In addition to this, this Government passed The Farm Security Act thereby protecting farmers from unjustifiable foreclosure. And I might add that, in 1943-44, the Liberal Government of that day appropriated only some \$493,000 for agriculture; this Government, in 1954, appropriated in excess of \$5,000,000 towards agriculture.

What I have enumerated are just a few examples of what this Government has done for the farmer in Saskatchewan, but it is tangible and unqualified evidence that the C.C.F. is the only party in Canada today which can truly qualify as representing the agricultural industry. That which this Government has done lay in the confines of provincial jurisdiction over agricultural matters; and it is in this regard that the C.C.F. in this House and at Ottawa, in session and out of session, have constantly pressed for such measures as would insure the stability of the agricultural economy.

I should like to take only enough time, Mr. Speaker, to enumerate two such proposals which, if implemented, I am sure would make a significant contribution to that stability: first, cash advances on grain stored on farms and storage payments for properly stored grain; and secondly, the establishment of a board of livestock commissioners and the setting up of a national livestock marketing Board. There are those who say, and argue, that cash advances on stored grain are not necessary now in view of the crop failure last year, and the rate at which our present wheat stocks are diminishing. The fact remains that we may one day again have huge surpluses, at which time the farmer will once more find himself wheat rich and money poor, and unable to meet his daily living requirements. Therefore, an arrangement whereby the farmer can be paid cash storage payments on properly stored grain is long overdue. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is commonly known that the federal government of the United States has had, for a long time now such a policy for farmers in effect, and the cost to their federal treasury was surprisingly low, to which I shall refer particularly later.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government at Ottawa, which can allocate almost one-half of the national budget of \$4 million for defence could provide for cash advances on properly stored grains on the farms. Surpluses, in reality, should give us no concern. They should be viewed, not in a domestic but rather in an international relation. There would then be no surpluses, for I contend that the combined agriculture resources of the world could never produce sufficient food, if it had only remotely proper distribution. I want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, surpluses should cause us no concern, providing that the purchasing power of a farmer is maintained by an intelligent and realistic policy, and cash advances on properly stored grain would eminently qualify in such a policy.

My second point, Mr. Speaker, is the establishment of a board of livestock commissioners and the setting up of a national livestock marketing Board. For years farmers have been producing livestock, poultry, eggs and dairy products below the cost of production as often as not. I contend that no commercial business could long survive if it had to operate on such a basis. But the commercial industries can put a price tag on their commodities and the farmer cannot; and therein lies the difference. The magnitude of this difference is particularly evident in the packing industry. The packing industry determines what price the farmer shall

receive for his cattle, hogs, poultry and eggs; on the other hand, it also pretty well determines what the consumer of these commodities shall pay. Because the low prices the farmer receives are never reflected in the prices the consumer is required to pay, it is evident that the bleeding is not limited to the animals in the slaughter houses of the packing industry. I submit, Mr. Speaker, an excellent case could be made for the nationalization of the packing industry. The establishment of a board of livestock commissioners and the setting up of a national livestock marketing board with the purpose of paying guaranteed minimum prices for cattle, hogs, etc., to the farmer, and not to the packer, is long overdue. The fund of \$200 million was set aside under The Agricultural Prices Support Act, of which only about \$60 million is being spent, could be made available to a Board such as I have mentioned, in order to provide that

I should like, very briefly, to make a comment or two in respect to the support prices in the United States and the attitude of both the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Agriculture Department there (Mr. Ezra Benson) in this regard. I quote Mr. Benson, wherein he says:

“It is true that the Government has asked for heavy production during a period of years. That is why I said in my statement, today, that this abundant production of farm products is in response to the request of the Government. Therefore, the Government has an obligation to help make the adjustment now and to help them carry the load during the transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy.

“I feel very definitely that the President was justified in recommending this set aside of \$2 1/2 billion because the government does have an obligation. This excessive production of certain commodities has been due in a large measure to the stimulus and the urging of the Government itself.”

That was on page 23 of the statement of Ezra Benson, Secretary for Agriculture, in hearings before the U.S. Senate sub-committee of agriculture appropriations for 1955.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read something that sounds very familiar. It was given by the Prime Minister of Canada in 1943, and I quote:

“If to help win the war, the farmers are asked to accept the ceiling on prices, we believe they are entitled to a floor under prices to insure them against an agricultural depression after the war. As an essential part of its post-war policy the Government intends to ask Parliament, at the next session, to place a floor under the prices of the main farm commodities.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, The Agricultural Prices Support Act was passed and a broad principle was set forth in that regard, by which the Board could be guided

**February 22, 1955**

under the establishment of this Act, and I would like to quote that recommendation to the Board:

“In prescribing prices they Board shall endeavour to insure adequate and stable returns for agriculture and shall endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those for other occupations.”

The only difference between these two commitments, Mr. Speaker, is that the one has been implemented in the United States, and the other in Canada has not. Surely, if this has been a desirable and successful policy in the United States, there is no reason why a policy cannot be worked out that will just as effectively stabilize the agricultural industry in this country.

I submit that the proposals for the stabilization of the agricultural industry in Canada should not only be of concern to farmers. For a considerable time now falling farm prices and reduced farm incomes are being reflected in unemployment figures in those industries which depend upon the farmers' ability to buy. It becomes quite obvious then that a policy so designed as to stabilize the agricultural industry and increase the farmers' purchasing power would strengthen the entire Canadian economy.

Mr. Speaker, this Government and we, the members on this side of the House, shall ceaselessly strive to win for the farmers, and not for the farmers alone, but for all other classes of people, a fair and just return for their products and labour in proper relation to the national income. The social and economic welfare of the people of Saskatchewan is a divided responsibility between the Federal and Provincial governments. This Government does not expect the Federal Government to meet its responsibilities towards Saskatchewan to a greater degree than the Saskatchewan Government has done and is prepared to do in its sphere of jurisdiction, but it expects no less.

The Speech from the Throne eminently shows the extent to which this Government has carried out its responsibilities to the people of Saskatchewan, and it will, I am sure, be heartily endorsed by them. The Speech from the Throne is a documented panorama of our vast and diversified wealth, of forest, field, and mine and stream. It is replete with great achievements, inspiring in its confidence in challenging in its undertaking, and it is eminently in keeping with this great and memorable year of our Golden Jubilee.

Before making a few observations in connection with our Golden Jubilee, I should like to extend my congratulations to the Golden Jubilee Committee and the various committees throughout the province who have done such an excellent job in arranging and co-ordinating the many activities that will followed during the coming months. I am quite sure that their efforts will be applauded, not only by the residents, but also by the visitors to Saskatchewan. Fifty years in the span of human life is a long time. In the life of a province it is a relatively short time. One measures, in the sense, a human life by its individualist achievement, a province by the collective achievements of his people and generations. At this memorable milestone in our history, we cause then, to reflect, to reappraise and resolve.

It is with reverence and gratitude that we pay tribute to our early pioneers. Many who have passed on and others who, still with us, will re-live for us those challenging the early years. Our pioneers came from many lands, of different tongues and creeds, yet with one faith, that life, though sometimes hard, would be good; and they came with a vision of the good land. Our pioneers found Saskatchewan a good land and out of their faith, courage, vision and toil they fashioned for us a better land. It is we who have now entered into their labours and it is we who are reaping where they have sown. They have indeed left us an inspiring and challenging heritage with which we shall not break faith.

I believe the Government is to be commended in making funds available to the Western Development Museum, for the preservation of the different types of farm machinery, and also for the erection of our present Museum of Natural History that will be dedicated this year. It is good to preserve those things that went into the making of our heritage, and while no one wishes to live in the past, no one wants to sever the links with the past, for some of life's richest and most rewarding experiences are of a yesteryear, and is frequently that we draw from them the inspiration and the courage to meet the problems of the contemporary world.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that in honouring the pioneers there is one class of pioneer that we should also remember, and that is the pioneer country physician, whose ranks are, with the other pioneers, now regrettably thinning. It was his steady hand and reassuring words that helped many a pioneer family over a crisis. For him no day was too long; no distance too far; no family too poor; for him there was no bag of gold at the end of the road; but his reward was one that comes to those whose minds and hearts and sinew are consecrated to the service of his fellowmen. It was his contribution in the field of health that gave impetus to the building of our sanatoria, our hospitals, our mental hospitals, which have become, today, and are ranked with the finest on the continent. And his consciousness of the great importance of health was further projected into the health programmes of Saskatchewan, inaugurated by this Government, during the last 10 years. Future generations, Mr. Speaker, will look upon us with pride and admiration, for this province in the short span of 10 years to have provided itself with the first hospital services plan on the continent, the first free cancer programme, with the finest cancer clinics to be found anywhere, a free mental hygiene programme and a psychiatric service that is the envy of the civilized world; polio clinics and restoration centres for the physically handicapped; a renowned free tuberculosis treatment programme, inaugurated many years ago; an air ambulance service, the first of its kind on the continent; all is indeed a memorable achievement.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is another heritage not made by human hands, namely, our natural resources. There are many things for which governments can take credit; they cannot take credit for the natural resources, as some politicians would like to leave the impression. The natural resources were there eons before the politicians, and they will still be there when some of those same politicians are trying to convince St. Peter that heaven would be a better place but for their presence. Providence has indeed blessed Saskatchewan with untold natural wealth, such as oil, gas, salt, potash, sodium sulphate, fantastic strata of mineral ore, best forest stands, innumerable lakes, and lastly, the substance of breathtaking potential implication, uranium! I believe, Mr. Speaker, we

**February 22, 1955**

should not regard ourselves as possessors of our natural resources so much as custodians thereof, for indeed, they are not only our heritage but also the heritage of generations yet unborn. They are a trust, as it were, to be used freely but wisely in the never-ending march of human progress. I believe, too, that this administration has nowhere demonstrated more eminently its regard for posterity than in its programme for the conservation of the natural resources of our province.

So, as we stand in observation of our Golden Jubilee, we shall, as the year goes into history, highly resolve that we shall so build on our heritage that future generations will acclaim our faith, our vision and our courage. In this Golden Jubilee year we stand, too, on the threshold of a new era. It is the transition period of the forces involved that have, on one hand, filled men's hearts with fear and uncertainty, and, on the other, with glad expectations and hope. We have reached a point in human history wherein the accumulation of scientific data has accumulated a force which, if unleashed, could destroy civilization. We have also reached a point in human history where never has been so much available to mankind, whereby poverty, hunger, sickness, disease and inequity could be wiped from the face of the earth. The nations that possess the H-bomb — and Britain is shortly to have one too, and it is thought that Canada, too, should join that “elite fraternity” — all have minutely calculated the devastation that would take place as the result of hydrogen-bomb warfare, and they are afraid, Mr. Speaker. These are the nations that possess the bulk of the world's resources and technological skill. Predominate among them are the so-called Christian nations. I say, Mr. Speaker, let these nations now calculate, just as minutely, the needs of the under-privileged people of the world, and with equal skill and precision carry out the task of this great and noble alternative.

I profoundly believe that the destiny of the human race lies not in becoming a charred and radioactive mass; it lies rather in a way of life to the fulfilment of which people of good will the world over of every race, creed and colour have consecrated their lives; and I submit, Mr. Speaker, when that consecration becomes the motivating influence of world diplomacy, then shall we have made the transition into the new era.

The C.C.F. movement, Mr. Speaker, was born of men of such consecration. It and kindred movements the world over shall continue to draw unto them, in ever-increasing numbers, people of good will, until that day when they shall make up the councils of the world. It is then that we shall see the vast resources of the earth applied to human welfare in a massive and common endeavour. The exploiter, the oppressor, the warmonger and those who waxed rich on the spilling of human blood will have had their ignominious day. Then shall, indeed, men beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Brotherhood Week, which we are presently observing, is a tangible effort towards realizing this ancient prophecy and hope for mankind. There is no nobler pursuit than that of breaking down the barriers which divide the human family, the barriers of corroding fear and blinding heat, of envy, suspicion, pride and greed, the colour of another's skin and what he calls his creed.



In closing, I want to say that I am more than proud that this Government has taken recognition of the civil liberties and human rights and that it is the only government in Canada that has on its statute books a Bill of Rights. But, Mr. Speaker, a government cannot legislate morality, tolerance, forbearance and love of one's neighbour. These are the products of a refined and self-disciplined spirit. It is this spirit which is the motivating influence of the C.C.F. and kindred movements throughout the world. It is the lighted candle of hope in the hearts of millions of people and, by the grace of God, Mr. Speaker, we shall not let it go out!

I shall support the motion.

**Mr. A.P. Brown (Melville):** — Mr. Speaker, none of us would be very happy about having to follow the Premier immediately after he has spoken in this House. I would just like to say that following the very eloquent member from Milestone (Mr. Erb) is not too happy a spot to be in either.

In rising to take part in this debate I, of course, want to congratulate the mover and a seconder of the address for the very able manner in which they presented their submissions. The choice of the two speakers in the presentations they made demonstrates the teamwork that exists between those who speak for agriculture and those who speak for labour on this side of the House.

I also want to congratulate the member for Moosomin (Mr. McDonald) on the position which he has taken on since we last met in this Legislature. I want to go along with those who have already said in this House that we hope the member for Moosomin will continue to be the Leader of the Opposition for many, many years to come.

In rising, this afternoon, I wish at the outset, before dealing with other matters, to address a few words to the people in the constituency that I represent, the constituency of Melville. The constituency of Melville is also that has felt the full impact of this past year. The abnormal amount of rainfall which we had all this summer, had much the same effect on the crops and on the roads in that area as it had elsewhere all across the province, the consequences being that considerable hardship has been experienced, not only as far as the farmers are concerned, but it will be carried through to the businessmen and the merchants in the towns and villages who are so dependent on the purchasing power and the income of the farmers in their community.

Before this Session is over much will be said regarding the present position of our primary industry. It will be made clear, I have no doubt, by the able members of this Legislature who have adopted the role of spokesmen for our primary industry, that while we have had exceptionally good crops this past few years and it would appear that a reserve should have been built up to withstand a year such as we have just experienced, the average farmer has been in the unfortunate position of having his cost of production steadily going up while the price of the goods he has had to sell has been going down. Certainly no one, whether he is in the business of farming, or any other business, can build up reserves under those conditions. This situation applies to a good proportion of the area in the Melville constituency.

**February 22, 1955**

We have a good agricultural district, with good proportion of mixed farming in our area which has been a big help, and we have some of the finest stock raised in the province. The community to the south of us, the Neudorf, Lemberg and Abernethy area has produced some of the finest grain grown in the country. It has taken top honours at some of the world's fairs at Chicago and at Toronto. The town of Melville in itself, with a population of less than 5,000 is predominantly a labour population, and Melville wage-earners are largely those employed in retail establishments, and offices and railways and stores. They appreciate what has been done to protect the unorganized employees in the lower income brackets, things like higher workman's compensation benefits, the statutory holidays, annual holidays act, minimum wage act. All of these things have worked towards providing a higher standard of living, and demonstrated that this Government has the interest of the wage-earner at heart.

Melville, however, while having a largely predominately labour group, is predominantly an agricultural district; it has an agricultural background. As the community goes, so goes the town of Melville, as was very forcibly demonstrated during the 'thirties. When agriculture was adversely affected, all of us, no matter what business we happen to be in, are also adversely affected.

Melville is also noted as a sports centre throughout the country. It has been and is one of the outstanding hockey centres in the country, and the Melville Millionaire hockey team is known from one end of this country to the other. The town and the community, this year, suffered a very severe setback when a very fine building of ours, our stadium was totally destroyed by fire. It was one of the finest buildings of its kind in the province and, about a year ago, we had installed one of the most up-to-date artificial ice plants, which took a considerable amount of planning and financing. This year, when the league was practically all arranged and everything was all set to go, the building caught fire and was totally destroyed.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of commending the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office for the prompt manner in which they handled their part in settling the claim. Within a matter of few weeks a cheque for \$100,000 was deposited and turned over to the town. It has enabled the people involved to lay plans and make early arrangements for a new building of much the same type.

Another very vital factor in the general welfare of the people of the Melville constituency has been a gigantic programme of rural electrification that has gone on in our area. All the projects in the Melville constituency were completed, hooking up another 125 farm homes, something that is necessary in our rural life. In travelling through the constituency and other parts of the province, one of the real indications of the success of this Government are the miles and miles of power lines that cross this province. Anyone who has stopped to look at the gigantic problems of rural electrification marvels at what has been done. The generation of the power in itself, the miles and miles of power lines, the problems created by the widely-scattered farm houses, the huge programme setup that will mean an increase from 137 farm homes in 1944 to where by the end of 1956 we will have 40,000 farm homes electrified. As was mentioned by the member for Wadena (Mr. Dewhurst) there will be miles of transmission lines instructed that would, if extended in a straight line, completely circle the earth.

On driving through the country there is no greater thrill than driving into a fairly isolated spot in a part of this province, and having the farmer come out late in the evening, turning on his yard light and lighting up the yard and the surrounding buildings, and going into his home where he has all the electrical appliances and modern conveniences so necessary for rural life. I found, on travelling through the constituency and other parts of the province this last while, that there have been many enquiries about the power situation in our province and the province to the east of us, Manitoba. People, of course, hear about the cheap rural electrification programme in Manitoba. They also hear the cheap promises of cheap power that are made by the members on the opposite side, even referring once in a while to the fact that if we are unfortunate enough to have them elected, they will return the cost of rural electrification to the farmers that they have already spent.

I believe it is a natural question for a person to ask who possibly has not had the opportunity to obtain information regarding the enormous problem of rural electrification we have had in Saskatchewan, as compared to Manitoba. They do not realize that Manitoba has had for many years a cheap source of hydro power. They were electricity-conscious and had made plans to use their vast quantities of cheap power while we were still muddling around trying to electrify 137 farm homes here back before 1944.

Manitoba has many advantages. It has the large city of Winnipeg which has turned over huge sums collected from their people from water rates, close to half-a-million dollars in one year, and all of this was used to aid rural electrification. A comparison of the maps of the two provinces shows the widely scattered farm homes in Saskatchewan as compared to the densely settled areas around greater Winnipeg, making the building of transmission lines a very simple job. I have never had anyone who, once the comparisons were made, has not agreed that it is ridiculous to compare the two provinces in this respect.

The great question among the majority of the rural areas is to get the power connected. They are realizing more and more that this huge programme could have been handled in no other way. I always find, when meeting people like that and explaining our power programme and the difference between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, that it is always as well to also include the power programme in Alberta, and possibly suggest to them that, if we had been unfortunate enough to have had a Liberal government in this past 10 years, our scheme would work somewhere along the lines of Alberta scheme. The people of this province know that it could have been handled in no other way than by a public enterprise that has concerted its energy and its planning towards providing services rather than huge profits for small companies through the country.

One thing I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, concerning the town of Melville. In the past federal election we did have the misfortune in my constituency of being responsible for losing one of the most able members who ever sat in the federal House. I refer to Mr. Percy Wright from Melfort-Tisdale. Mr. Wright, as you know, was the member from that constituency for many years. The C.C.F.'s loss was felt as much in Melville as anywhere else. However, we in the town of Melville did gain something by having Mr. Wright come down and contest that seat, something that will be a very valuable asset to us in the future.

**February 22, 1955**

Possibly now, the mention of water and water supply does not seem to be so important with this wet year we have had and the quantities of water through the country. However, I do know that the town fathers of Melville (I happened to be one of them at one time) have had for a number of years, the serious problem in regard to water supplies in that area. It has to do, of course, with sewage and water connections in a growing community. I know that is a problem that is not related to Melville alone; every growing community has that same problem. Before the last Federal election, and with the appearance of Percy Wright on the scene, we had the beginning of the construction of the large P.F.R.A. dam to the north of town. It is now completed, and it dams up the huge body of water somewhere around between 1,200 and 1,600 hundred acre feet and this, when it is connected to the town of Melville, with our source of water supply that we now have that, should provide for a population, I believe, 10 times the size of Melville. I want to take this opportunity of bringing this information to the attention of the Minister of Public Works when he plans his construction works for the future. And the investigation will assure him that any of his future building plans in government buildings or nursing homes, or buildings of that time; an investigation will assure him that one of his main problems will be taken care of by building in that vicinity.

I mentioned at the start of my speech the effect of this past abnormal year on the crops and on our roads. I know there have been many speeches and resolutions made in this Legislature on this matter of roads in Saskatchewan. It has been clear to us the amount of mileage and the standard of road that has to be built with our small population: 38 per cent of the highways of Canada are in Saskatchewan and we only have 7 per cent of the population. The terrific increase in traffic and tonnage in the past few years has made this problem of roads an increasingly difficult one. We are also more than ever aware of the increasing importance of good roads in our province, their importance to agriculture, to the industrial growth of our province; the fact that it is vitally essential that we have main arteries of highways connecting up with the other provinces and the United States to the south of us. Good roads are essential to the well-being of our people, in the economic and in the social and in the security sense. In the past 10 years this Government has had the responsibility of building roads to a new high standard and maintaining them with the increased traffic and tonnage we have had.

To begin with, we inherited in 1944 a maze of dilapidated roads with a highway department with no equipment and no personnel. In 39 years prior to 1944 only \$87 million had been spent on highways in Saskatchewan. When this Government took over in 1944, \$32 million of that \$87 million was still owing; 75 per cent of the roads were worn out. Worse than that was the fact that the whole matter of roads and road construction had become so tied in with patronage and politics that it was impossible to plan a programme for the future. When this Government took over it had to embark on a programme to reconstruct the entire system.

This past summer in the Melville constituency was a hectic one as far as roads are concerned. Early in the Spring and on through practically the whole summer, while the rains continued and washed out portions of the highways and the grades, people were forcibly reminded of how dependent we are on roads and how used they had become to travelling on roads that were well maintained and kept open all the year round. Ten years ago people fully expected to be stuck in the mud after practically every 10-minute shower. This summer, every day meant phone calls; people in to see about a portion of the road

washed out; how soon it would be fixed. I kept track of all the calls I had in one day after it had rained, I believe, for about 10 days steadily, and the first call I got at 7 o'clock in the morning, and from picking up the mail at 7:30 and from calls that I got all through the rest of the day and people in to seeing me I counted 22 different enquiries about roads and grades that had been washed out. That was not including a couple of belligerent and pugnacious gentlemen (I think they were from Manitoba) who came into the shop all covered from head to foot with mud. They had heard that I was a member there, and that I was possibly responsible for a good quantity of the water that had been falling. I think I was on about my 22nd phone call at that time, and I did not greet them in my usual affable and courteous manner; and, very fortunately for me, when things were getting beyond the stage where peaceful negotiations were going on, a good friend of mine came in and was able to persuade these gentlemen that they should go on their way and drop the whole matter. I just mention this, Mr. Speaker, to show you how critical the situation was down in my area.

This Fall was a life-saver in that we had six or seven weeks of good, dry weather. Those few weeks demonstrated the high degree to which our Highway Department has grown and in that short space of time they did a tremendous amount of work improving the roads in our area. No. 10 Highway east of the Abernethy junction, which had been washed out from an overflowing lake in the Reserve, had a great deal of work done on it, and was widened out and is now ready to be blacktopped. It is the only link between Canora and Regina that is not blacktopped. No. 15 Highway east of Melville has a grade built up to standard in preparation for an over-all construction which will be (I understand from the Minister of Highways) going on possibly this year. No. 15 east of Melville, being built up, will allow the people from the southeast part of the province to come into Melville instead of going on into Yorkton where they would much rather come, I am sure. No. 47 has been built up south of Melville. No. 22 from Killaly to Grayson has been reconstructed and low grades build up to standard, and a lot of reconstruction and gravelled.

Our Board of Trade wrote a very nice letter to the Minister of Highways congratulating him on the work that had been done there, and also intimated that they hoped their letter of congratulations would not influence the work that might be done there, this year. In spite of the few bouquets handed out to the Minister of Highways, this matter of building roads and maintaining them is a much greater problem in Saskatchewan than in any other province in Canada. There are a number of very apparent reasons why this is so: the mileage of the roads in Saskatchewan and our population — 38 per cent of the highways and 7 per cent of the population; we have 24 miles of surveyed road for every man, woman and child in this province, nearly three times the mileage of Manitoba and 2 1/2 times the mileage of Alberta.

In Saskatchewan, I think the people are doing everything they can to finance highway construction. I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the machine age and some modern means of transportation have moved ahead so fast that we have fallen behind in trying to provide the type of roads that this transportation needs.

I know, Mr. Speaker, there is not time to go into the matter of providing Federal aid for roads at this time. A resolution will possibly be brought in, and I will have a chance to see more on this problem later on.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that the people in the Melville constituency have been preparing for some considerable time

now an active and wholehearted participation in the 50th Anniversary of our province. Considerable planning and work has gone into preparing, each month, some outstanding event that will underline the remarkable progress that has been made in this province in the last 50 years. All of these events will stress the debt that we owe the pioneer residents of this province, and give an opportunity to the present generation to discover the rich heritage of experience to be found in the history of this province. They will stress also that Saskatchewan has been built on a foundation of tolerance and co-operation among the many people who have come here from different lands. I want, in closing, to congratulate the organizations and the people who have devoted so much time to assure the success of our Jubilee Year.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the Motion.

**Hon. J.H. Sturdy (Minister of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation):** — Mr. Speaker, since ten minutes of my time is gone, I shall have to forgo the parliamentary amenities customary at this time. I would, however, like to congratulate the hon. Leader of the Opposition on his elevation to his high post, an important post. I sympathize with him; I realize that he has a Herculean task ahead of him in trying to rehabilitate the Liberal party in this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am limiting my remarks to the two programmes of the Social Welfare Department which have been brought under attack by the Opposition. I refer to our Old Age Security programme and also to the rehabilitation of the Métis people. Since these are the only two of many programmes of the Welfare Department, I assume that the others are progressing splendidly. I hope at the end of my remarks that this House will conclude that the Opposition made a very poor case indeed in their attacks, and that all is well within the Department of Social Welfare.

As has been said, Mr. Speaker, this is our Golden Jubilee Year, and in the history of a state or a country 50 years is indeed a short period of time. Nevertheless, in Saskatchewan we have observed a remarkable growth attributable in large measure to the sacrifice, the toil, the initiative of our pioneer citizens. We are happy and proud, Mr. Speaker, to have so many of these pioneers of ours with us today; but we must not forget that the labour and sacrifice of pioneer life, the long grim years of depression and drought in this province, and the fact that they were deprived of many of the services, such as health, that we enjoy today, all of these have left their mark on these fine citizens of ours, and it is up to us to do something on their behalf. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, how better can we celebrate our Golden Jubilee Anniversary with pride and with pleasure than by helping to bring to fruition an overall security programme that will be for their benefit, — a programme in which they can take pride, a programme in which there is no taint nor vestige of charity, and one which is theirs by virtue of the fact that they have rendered long and invaluable service to the province and to this nation.

The overall security programme for Saskatchewan's senior citizens had its beginning in 1945, when this Government introduced free hospitalization, medical, dental and optical services for aged people. Over 20,000 of our pensioners and their dependants enjoy these services today. Then followed the establishment of nursing homes for the care of those suffering from the crippling ailments associated with old age. Four such homes, with a bed capacity of 500, are now in operation, and we trust that within a relatively short period of time, we shall extend the bed capacity in nursing homes to 1,000 beds.

For several years, Mr. Speaker, private homes, operated largely by church organizations, provided housing and care and food for needy, aged persons. The housing of 975 persons is presently being met in this way. There is an estimated minimum of 5,000 aged persons in this province who are living presently under adverse housing conditions, in isolation very often, and far from the hospital and health services. These are active citizens who wish to continue to reside in the communities they pioneered. I cannot speak too highly of the fine services rendered particularly by church organizations, in providing for the housing and food needs of many hundreds of our aged people. Indeed, this would appear to be a natural church activity, and it demonstrates in a very fine way Christianity in operation.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that less than two years ago this Government, through the Department of Social Welfare, offered to assist municipalities or groups of municipalities forming a housing area, or church organizations and other organizations — offered to provide 20 per cent of the capital cost of any housing projects and an annual grant at the rate of \$40 per bed. The response to this offer has been gratifying and most heart-warming. This is indeed a programme organized by the people and operated by the people solely (not by the Government) and in the interests of our finest and best-loved citizens, our aged people. This, Mr. Speaker, is democracy in operation in its finest way.

During the past 18 months, 14 church organizations, municipalities, and groups of municipalities, comprising housing areas, have constructed, or are in the process of constructing, or have entered into agreements to provide, housing units for aged married couples, and hostels with common dining rooms in kitchens for single people, in the amount of \$1,578,000 of which the Provincial Government has contributed, or is committed to contribute, \$315,000, besides an annual maintenance grant of \$49,860.

I know it would interest members of this House and the people throughout the province to know where these housing projects are located, and who are responsible for organizing them and operating them:

- (1) there was an addition to the Lutheran Home in Melville, operated by the Lutheran Church and opened in 1954;
- (2) the St. Joseph's housing project in Radville at an estimated cost of \$225,000, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Roman Catholic Church, which should be completed in 1955;
- (3) there is the Sunset Lodge in Saskatoon, at a cost of \$200,000, operated by the Lutheran Church which will be opened early this Spring;
- (4) the Herbert Housing project, operated by the Youth Mennonite Society, opened last year, 1954;
- (5) the housing project at Nipawin, operated by the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada, opened in 1954;
- (6) the St. Mary's project in Weyburn, operated by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross of the Roman Catholic Church, opened in 1954;

(7) the Service Centre and Housing project in Regina operated by the Canadian National Institute of the Blind, costing \$250,000, presently under construction in to be opened this year;

(8) The men's hostel at Saskatoon, operated by the Salvation Army and expected to be opened this year;

(9) The Weneda Park Lodge of Wadena owned and operated by a group of municipalities, construction to start in the Spring;

(10) the housing project at Lloydminster, which will be operated by a Board of Directors from the municipalities comprising the housing area, construction to commence in the Spring;

(11) the Borderline Housing Company of Congress operated by a Board of Directors, construction to commence in the Spring;

(12) the housing project at Kindersley to be financed by a municipal levy, and to be operated by a Board of Directors or by a church organization as may be decided on, building to commence this year;

(13) the Zenon Park Housing Company, to be financed by a loan from Central Mortgage Company and the Provincial Government grant, to be operated by a Board of Directors;

(14) and the City of Yorkton housing project, at a minimum cost of \$150,000, over \$100,000 of which was bequeathed by a grand old pioneer of this province, Mr. Anderson; it is expected that construction will commence this Spring.

It is interesting to know, in passing, Mr. Speaker, that when the matter of this most generous and munificent bequest was discussed with Mr. Anderson, shortly before his death, he had this to say:

“I don't want this housing project to be called the 'Eventide Home' or the 'Last Round-up' or any suggestion that the old guests have one foot in the grave and are waiting to take the final step, or to be shoved in. I want this housing project called the Yorkton Hotel.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, to me these words of Mr. Anderson personify the indomitable spirit of the pioneers of this province who never say 'die'.

There is another bequest of over \$100,000 by a Saskatchewan man whose will is being probated at the present time. The condition of the will is that the home, or the hostel, shall be called after his mother, who herself was a very early pioneer in this province. She was noted throughout the land for her hospitality and for all the other fine qualities which characterize our pioneer women. This guest house will bear her name and it will be devoted to the housing and care of pioneer prairie women.

I know the members of the House and the people of Saskatchewan will also be interested to learn of the areas where housing projects for our pioneer citizens are in the planning and organizational



stage:

- (1) in the Assiniboia Health Region, the municipalities, towns and villages are interested in planning to homes, one at Assiniboia and one at Gravelbourg;
- (2) in Tisdale, where the Senior Citizens' organization have interested the municipalities in a housing project in that fine town;
- (3) in the North Battleford Health Region, where the United Church is sponsoring a housing project of self-contained units for married couples and also a hostel for a single aged persons;
- (4) Saskatoon City is definitely going to have a very fine housing project; there, in Saskatoon, the Pastmasters' Association of the Masonic Order expressed its desire and intention of going into the larger project, with fancy family units, and also the Teachers' Federation, with the approval of the S.T.F. Council, propose putting 20 family units for retired teachers on relatively low pension in Saskatoon, and also 20 units in the housing project that is proposed for Regina; the Service Clubs of Saskatoon are wholeheartedly behind the project and will assist in its financing;
- (5) the Sisters of our Lady of the Cross of the Roman Catholic Church are planning a \$200,000 hostel in Prince Albert;
- (6) the City of Moose Jaw has expressed interest in self-contained units for married couples;
- (7) the town of Nokomis where groups of municipalities are organizing and hope to establish a housing project;
- (8) in Foam Lake and Pierceland, housing projects are in the discussion and organization stage;
- (9) in the Health Region of Swift Current, I am confident that housing projects both in Swift Current and Shaunavon will get under way this year. I am hopeful too that one will be established in Maple Creek to serve the needs of the fine old pioneers of that area. I might say that, with housing projects in Swift Current, Shaunavon and Maple Creek, and a nursing home in Swift Current to serve the needs of that Health Region, Swift Current Health Region will be able to boast the best over all security programme on the North American continent.

You know, I have been amused at the clumsy attempt of the gentlemen opposite in their efforts to politically seduce my friend the hon. member from Swift Current (Mr. Gibbs). Do they think that Harry Gibbs would leave the Olympian heights on this side of the house, Mr. Speaker, to dwell in the Valley of Despond of my friends opposite? And, also, do they think that this champion of the working people who has on many occasions not only avowed his Socialist principles, but has demonstrated them, would give up these principles for the empty shallow hypocritical promises of the gentlemen opposite? Why, they don't know Harry Gibbs.

I wish I had time to tell you of the fine housing project that is being planned for the City of Regina. We are hopeful that this will be a joint City-Provincial Government project. I only wish, Mr. Speaker, that we had television so that the people of the province could see these plans which I am showing to you now. This is the proposed pioneer village, with double duplexes and multiple unit housing. These are for married couples. It is proposed that this be located on, fortunately, government-owned property at Government House, and the married couples will be housed in these housing units, the single people in Government House, and I do not know of a better use to which Government House could be put than that. The charge for the rental for housing — that is the self-contained units — will be a maximum of \$25 a month and for full care — that is, food, rooms, laundry and other services — for single people will be a maximum of their pensions less a generous amount for spending money.

You will be interested in knowing the types of housing that we have here. This is a duplex. Each family of two aged persons will have a total area of 570 square feet, fully modern housing, oil heated, or gas when it comes to the city. Each home is provided with an electric stove and with a Frigidaire. There is a bathroom, of course, bedroom and an over all space of 570 square feet. This is being beautifully planned and will be beautifully landscaped, and if this goes forward in Regina, the city will be able to boast the best housing project for aged people on the North American continent.

I am proud and happy to report on the rapid expansion of our provincially-operated nursing homes for the treatment and care of our chronically-ill aged people. Our newest home of 300-bed capacity is located in the most picturesque area in the city of Regina. It is being built in conjunction with our Saskatchewan Boys' School — an institution that always interests the gentlemen opposite. They should know that, at the present time, that school is being largely used as a treatment centre for those suffering residual effects from polio. So this nursing home of ours will operate in conjunction with it, and the boys who are in the Saskatchewan Boys' School will be moved to a treatment centre wherein handicapped, or rather, seriously disturbed boys and girls (whether they have run counter to the law or not, their problems are exactly the same) will be treated.

**Mr. McCarthy (Cannington):** — Good idea.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — Already we are starting to plan for a 300-bed nursing home on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon adjacent to the medical college and to the University Hospital there. There are those, I know, who will say that I have a personal and selfish interest in such a home, but I assure you that such is not the case. It is the wish of every person, on this side of the House, at least, Mr. Speaker, that a start be made in research and treatment, experimentation and prevention of the crippling diseases associated with old age. In the past 50 years the expectancy of life has increased from 48 years to 68-plus years, and with further discoveries in medical science and with investigations into the field of geriatrics, which is the science of diseases afflicting aged persons, I am sure that the probability of life in the next few years will extend to 75 years, to 80 and even to 90 years. Even hon. gentlemen opposite may look forward to a ripe old age if they watch their step.

Now, I would say that we on this side of the House are not so concerned about having people live longer, but we want them to

live young longer, free from the crippling and painful effects of these diseases — arthritis, rheumatism and others associated with old age.

I am very proud indeed to be associated with a Government and with the people of Saskatchewan who are dedicated to the humanitarian principles of helping those who are unable adequately to help themselves. I personally regret that everything that should be done cannot be done overnight, but it won't take long until the people of this province will achieve a degree of security such as does not obtain anywhere on the North American continent if in the world.

When it became evident, last fall, that we were going to suffer a crop failure and falling revenues brought on by fiscal policies over which this Provincial Government has no control, but is the responsibility of the Federal Government; when we were faced with a crop failure and falling revenues, and this crop failure especially had resulted in the small equity which many of our pensioners have in crop shares being entirely wiped out, I am glad that, in spite of these reverses and in spite of our falling revenues, this Government has seen fit to improve the financial position of many thousands of our pensioners by guaranteeing to them an irreducible standard of living below which no one in needy groups will be able to fall. This is a budget matter, Mr. Speaker, and it will be reserved to the Provincial Treasurer to outline it to you. But, in passing may I say that that one group will have the highest supplementary allowance of any in the Dominion of Canada.

May I recapitulate our senior citizens' security programme, Mr. Speaker: first, for the Sick, hospitalization, medical, dental and optical services; second, for the Chronics — those afflicted with the crippling diseases associated with old age — fine, modern, comfortable nursing homes; third, for the Ambulatory — those who wish to remain in the community they have pioneered, but presently living in isolation and under adverse housing conditions — good housing, comfortable modern housing; and fourth, for All, Mr. Speaker, a pension more adequately related to the cost of living and to the needs of the individual.

No part of this programme — and it is a very fine programme, the most enlightened programme on the continent I would venture to say; no part of this programme with the exception of a miserable total pension \$17.53 per month existed prior to this Government coming into office. One would think that the Liberal Party which had been in power in this province for 35 years and had done so little in this and other welfare fields, would not constructively criticize our welfare programmes, including health and education, and in some instances actually tried to sabotage these programmes — and there are many instances of that, too, of which the people of this province are well aware. I suppose it is axiomatic, Mr. Speaker, that those who criticize the most do the least, and as I look across the floor of the House I do not know of a single Liberal constituency, with the exception of one or two, in which a housing project for the care of senior citizens is being planned and projected. That is a pretty poor record for the Opposition.

**Mr. Cameron (Maple Creek):** — You just spoke about Maple Creek.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I'm not through with you yet.

**Mr. McDonald (Leader of the Opposition):** — You are doing well; go ahead.

February 22, 1955

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — There is, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, a wonderful response on the part of thousands of Saskatchewan citizens, of church organizations, to this programme, and a wonderful response on the part of municipalities and groups of municipalities for housing project; but my friends opposite seem to think, or seem to take the view that, although this programme may be good for aged people, it may be bad for the Liberal Party. I don't understand their reasoning, but that almost seems to be the case. And how wrong they are, Mr. Speaker, because if they would throw their wholehearted weight and support behind this programme it would reflect to their benefit in no uncertain way, besides being a great blessing to the pioneer citizens of this province. I have waited, and so far I have waited in vain, for some interest on the part of the members opposite in this programme — from the member from Arm River (Mr. Danielson), some interest from the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. McDonald) . . .

**Mr. Danielson (Arm River):** — I tried you out last year and you . . .

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — . . . or the member from Cannington (Mr. McCarthy) . . .

**Mr. Danielson:** — . . . you turned us all down. Did not have any money.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — . . . or your seat mate over there, the hon. member from Saltcoats (Mr. Loptson); but so far there has been no interest and no activity in the constituencies which these gentlemen represent. And I would say this to the gentlemen opposite: if you cannot help in this programme, for goodness sake, don't hinder! Surely the welfare of our pioneers far outweighs any political partisan consideration.

I hope to have the opportunity of answering a radio talk which was given by the hon. Leader of the Opposition — I think it was on February 25th, criticizing our welfare programme. I hope to be able to do that in the budget debate, Mr. Speaker, in this House where I can be challenged, and not to give it in the cloister and the shelter of a radio broadcasting salon.

**Mr. McDonald:** — You will be more sheltered here than you would be there.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal, briefly . . .

**Mr. Danielson:** — Prize joke.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order!

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — If it doesn't bother you, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't bother me in the least.

Now Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal, briefly, because that is all it deserves, with that masterpiece of bias, of inaccuracy, of hysteria delivered by the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Dunfield), relative to the Métis people of this province. The fact that the speech was eulogized editorially in the 'Leader-Post' should damn it completely without any comment on my part, Mr. Speaker, but I feel constrained to remark on it. And I say this, that down through the years, ever since Confederation, if there is one thing the Liberal Party and governments should be ashamed of it has been their callous disregard of the needs, yes, and the rights, of the Indian and Métis people in this country. They have permitted these people to be debauched,

exploited, cheated, neglected and outcast, and this has been going on ever since Confederation . . .

**Mr. McDonald:** — For ten years.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — Mr. Speaker, the Indians and the Métis should not be relegated to a second-rate people in our society. They have certain qualities of character, and they have certain strengths that, if they had been given a chance, if a decent programme of assistance had been given a chance, if a decent programme of assistance had been inaugurated, if there had been a degree of understanding and sympathy and helpfulness on the part of the Liberal government in days gone by, and the Federal Government since Confederation, these people might well have been among our most valuable citizens. And now, because the C.C.F. have dared to tackle what has become, through Liberal neglect, the greatest of all our social problems, we are castigated by the people who should help and by a press that should have some understanding of this problem . . .

**Mr. Cameron:** — Is that the ‘Commonwealth’?

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — And I will tell you this, there is no one knows better than those who have worked on this problem — the churches, educationalists, administrators, welfare workers; they all know that they are doomed to many failures in trying to solve this problem, to many disappointments, and to a great deal of discouragement. But I do not know of anything that tends to discourage a programme as the destructive, abortive type of criticism that emanates from such gentlemen as the hon. member for Meadow Lake: not one iota of suggestion or constructive criticism; merely to again take political advantage of an unfortunate situation.

Mr. Speaker, you know that you cannot eradicate the results of generations of callous neglect and exploitation, as well, in a few short years you cannot change overnight the habits of people, the way of life, the pattern of living which have become almost inherited characteristics of these people in 10 years either. If it can be done in a generation, it will have been a great accomplishment, and a great wrong to these people will have been righted. I know that, down through the generations the churches, which had been alone in this field, have carried on an impossible and losing battle against greed, exploitation, dishonesty and injustice practised against the Indian and against the Métis people. And unless governments and responsible citizens, especially those holding office, assume the responsibilities which are theirs, the souls of these people may be saved, but their lives never. That is the position of the Indian and the Métis people that we found when we attempted to institute programmes for their betterment in this province. We in the Department of Social Welfare are collaborating with the Departments of Public Health and Education, of Northern Development, of Co-operatives and with our greatest ally, the Churches, and with interested, sincere, understanding citizens everywhere throughout this province, to do something to solve this problem.

In the prairie region of the province, the Department of Social Welfare has nine projects involving 2,000 Métis people. I might mention some of these. The Lebrét Métis farm of 2 1/2 sections, 1,000 acres, 76 head of cattle, 40 pigs, 1,200 chickens and other farm activities, supports a total of 75 persons. The homes are comfortable

and hygienic. The children go to school in Lebret, and Sister Oliver, the principal of the school there, whom I have known for many years, is a fine teacher and a great humanitarian. I was very proud to hear her say that the Métis children from the Lebret Métis farm attending her school were regular in attendance, they were well fed, they were neat in appearance and that they were doing well in school.

At Willow Bunch there is a community of 35 families of 170 people; it has an irrigated co-operative market garden of 25 acres, with a recently purchased ranch of 100 cattle and with 600 acres under cultivation. There, within the past three or four years, with improved nutrition of the children, and better and improved homes, the teachers of the Willow Bunch school have reported that there has been a marked improvement in the scholastic attainment of those children and their ability to withstand fatigue and ailments of various sorts that hitherto have kept them out of school.

At Lestock (and that is a prize example of Liberal treatment of the Métis people, if I ever saw one) there the Métis were brought in from here, there and everywhere, plunked down on road allowances so that they would be handy to the municipality to get relief during the depression and many families in this area . . .

**Mr. Danielson:** — It was the C.C.F. who did that.

**Mr. McDonald:** — Who burned their shacks?

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — The C.C.F. did it?

**Mr. Danielson:** — Yes.

**Mr. Cameron:** — And who burned the shacks down?

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — That, my friend, is not true.

**Mr. Danielson:** — Oh, yes . . .

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I could find stronger terms to express it if Mr. Speaker would allow me, and you know it isn't true.

**Mr. Danielson:** — He will tell you more about it than I can. It was in his constituency.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — When we came into office in 1944 . . .

**Mr. McDonald:** — You burned their homes.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — . . . in Lestock there were, living on road allowances, over 100 persons in that area. They were found living on road allowances, squatting on private land under the most deplorable living conditions . . .

**Hon. Mr. Douglas (Rosetown):** — Liberal housing!

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — Many were isolated and living in houses with sod roofs, dirt floors, and those poor, unfortunate people were without the energy and without the means to make the homes suitable for human habitation. We purchased a quarter-section of land for home-sites, with 100 acres under cultivation, and our first problem was to build decent homes for these 21 families, totalling 100 persons in this community. The new

project is close to the village school, to hospital, to medical facilities, and a very decided improvement has been accomplished in that area. Several activities have been organized, but our principal objective was to see that the children were well clothed, well housed, well fed, so that they could attend school regularly and secure the benefits of an education.

At Crooked Lake, Mr. Speaker, is a community situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley, south of Grayson. This project includes a two-room school which was built by the Department of Social Welfare and is operated jointly with that Department of Education. There are 65 pupils attending the school, and the average daily attendance is astonishingly high — 90 per cent during the past year. Mr. and Mrs. Saleski are the teachers, and they are doing a wonderful job there. They are the friends and the counsellors of the Métis people of that community. They have a co-operative garden there and they have cows, with milk for the children, which they did not have before; they have a chicken raising project and certain other activities.

The next prime example of Liberal and neglect is at Crescent Lake, which is located, as the hon. member for Yorkton knows, some 12 miles south of Yorkton. This project consists of the school which we built, and a co-operative project. Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch are the teachers of the school there, which has an enrolment of 55, with a high average daily attendance. This, Mr. Speaker, had been an outcast community living on an abandoned Indian reservation, with the children so neglected — yes, and so diseased — that they were refused admittance to adjoining schools. Now I am happy to say (and this may astonish you) that so great has been the improvement there that two or three applications have been received from white families to send their children to the Crescent Lake School. Two years ago, I saw the same Métis children give a demonstration in gymnastics such as I had not seen for many years, and I was entertained by the Crescent Lake school band — it was a fine band, one that any school in the province of Saskatchewan could be proud of. But best of all, there are 10 graduates from that school now attending high schools elsewhere, six of them in the city of Regina. Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch were your guests in the Speaker's gallery last Friday, Mr. Speaker. They had come to Regina in a truck with a portable electrical outfit that they were sending on down to Willow Bunch, since the Crescent Lake school and project are now supplied with power from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. This is what Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch told me; that their greatest difficulty in keeping children in school, especially in high school, was the attitude of the children's parents, who were illiterate and who failed to appreciate the benefits of education. Mr. Hirsch quoted that old Japanese proverb: "A frog in the well knows not the great ocean". He said the adults, parents who had had the benefit of Liberal education in this province, who were completely illiterate, could neither read nor write, did not know and appreciate or understand the benefits of education . . .

**Mr. Cameron:** — Mr. Hirsch said all that?

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — Now, my hon. friend from Maple Creek, I wish you would not assume such a vinegar aspect; you are going to sour the milk of human kindness which is in such abundance on this side of the House.

The great majority of the adult Métis people (the parents)

in this province are illiterate. They are the victims off Liberal neglect down through the years; but I want to tell you that, today, Métis children are being educated, at least up to grade 8 standards and, I would venture to say, for the first time in this province many hundreds of them are going on with high school education and into the various professions. I am glad to see that one of the boys from our Lebret Métis farm as an example is attending the Teachers' College at Moose Jaw, and I am told he is doing extremely well. There are several of them at Campion College, and I do think Mr. Speaker, that, given one generation and seeing to it that the Métis children have educational opportunities to go through public school, through high school and university, if necessary, they will rapidly become assimilated in the society of this province, and there will not be any Métis problem here. The same should apply to the Indians, because as I have said before, these people have many qualities and strengths which could be exploited — and I don't mean in the Liberal sense.

If time would permit, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak of our projects at Duck Lake, Glen Mary and the Lebret village group, and other aspects of our Métis programme. I do want to mention this, however: I cannot speak too highly of the work of Father Blanchard, who has been a member of the staff of Our Department for the past two years. He was born and brought up among these people, and I do think he understands them better, certainly, than any man whom I have met in the province of Saskatchewan. He has a greater love for them, a greater understanding, certainly, than the hon. member for Meadow Lake, whose conception as expressed last year, of a well-adjusted Métis was to picture to us a Métis sitting in his cabin eating a fish, and after he had finished the fish he smacked his lips and he turned to Mr. Dunfield and he said: "My, wasn't that a good fish!" That is his conception of human dignity and well-being. One would think he was referring to a well-fed animal. Thank goodness, we have a little more exalted opinion of human dignity than that.

With respect to Father Blanchard, he certainly has an understanding of Métis problems; he understands and believes in co-operation as the way of life, and is a great student of co-operation and co-operative organizations. It is he who teaches the Métis people their first lessons in thrift of establishing saving unions. He organizes co-operative gardens and co-operative projects of all kinds. He is at one and the same time an idealist and a very practical man. No one realizes better than he does the immensity of the problems which confront him, but he is undaunted in the face of disappointment and discouraging failures. He is patient to a degree I have seldom seen in any man. He is understanding, sympathetic and kind. He is an indefatigable worker, and I only hope that his health holds up so that he can carry on his work to which he is dedicating his life. Isn't it strange, Mr. Speaker, that the worst possible insult you could heap on a Métis or an Indian is to compare him to a white man. "Johnny Beavertale is a liar . . .

**Mr. Danielson:** — I don't blame them.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — . . . he talks like a white man;" or, "Henri is a cheat and a liar, he is the friends of the white man." What a poor opinion they have of the white man. They fear and are suspicious of a white man — engendered in the minds of these people by Liberal governments and policies and the adverse impact that the white man had upon the Indian and the Métis. But Father Blanchard's greatest strength lies



in the fact that he is loved and trusted by the Métis; they trust him as they trust few white man — and with good cause.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have proceeded beyond the time I had intended to talk. I would like again to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his elevation to a very important position. I wish him well. I regret, however, that he has inherited a worn out, broken down, dilapidated Liberal political machine that has cluttered up the highway of progress in this province for the past 50 years. Unfortunately for the Leader of the Opposition, he has to spend all his time in trying to patch up and repair this old machine that he is inherited. I would advise him to shove the thing into the ditch, to set fire to it and then devote his time and his ability and energy to the good and welfare of the people of this province. Forget about that old political machine . . .

**Mr. McDonald:** — I'll set fire to your machine.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I had hoped, too, that you would get rid of some of the 'stains' on the Liberal escutcheon that you inherited, but evidently are not you are never going to be given the opportunity of doing so. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has delved into the must be an unreliable files of the 'Leader-Post', and he has made a spurious attempt to prove that I have lost the respect and the affection and the loyalty of the aged people of this province. I think that I have demonstrated, this afternoon, that such is not the case, that it is the Liberals in this province to have lost the respect in the confidence and the loyalty of the aged people of this province. If I were inclined, Mr. Speaker, to be unkind to the Leader of the Opposition, I might read to him some of the statements concerning himself published just prior to the Liberal convention, last fall, in the 'Yorkton Enterprise,' the 'Leader-Post' and other Liberal dailies of the times. At that time the Liberal daily newspapers were vainly trying to pull 'Jimmy' Gardiner's chestnuts out of the political fire, and they had a very poor opinion indeed of the hon. Leader of the Opposition; and they expressed it in no uncertain terms. But, as I said, then they were courting L.B. Thomson and he was courting them . . .

**Mr. Walker (Hanley):** — No wedding bells, though.

**Mr. McCarthy:** — Who are you courting?

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I don't have to court.

**An Hon. Member:** — Your courting days are over.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order!

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I merely wish to point out . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order! The hon. member knows very well that the Speech from the Throne is pretty much of a free for all, but I think he is going pretty far afield.

**Mr. McDonald:** — Let him go.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy:** — I regret if I have transgressed, Mr. Speaker. It must be my national origin. I certainly did not intend to cause my friends of the Opposition any mental disquietude or qualms of conscience. Every-

**February 22, 1955**

thing I have had to say he has been intended in a kindly and helpful manner. If they have listened and taken to heart what I have said this afternoon, I am sure that I will be able to count the members of the Opposition among my most loyal friends and, in due course, my supporters.

I will vote for the motion, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. T.R. MacNutt (Nipawin):** — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move the adjournment of the debate.

(Debate Adjourned)

**Premier Douglas:** — Mr. Speaker, we have with us, this afternoon, a very distinguished guest and I am going to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that the proceedings of the Assembly be suspended at this stage in order that the Assembly may extend their welcome to the Hon. Richard Wood, member of the British House of Commons:

“Ordered, That proceedings of the Assembly be suspended at this stage (5:15 p.m.) in order that the Assembly may extend a welcome to the Honourable Richard Wood, a Member of the British House of Commons.”

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

**Address by  
the Honourable Richard Wood**

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply sensible of the honour which you have done me in allowing me, for a minute or two, to interrupt your important businesses afternoon; and I can only hope that honourable members here will give me the latitude and kindness which I remember was extended to me when I made my ‘maiden’ speech in the House of Commons at London not very long ago.

I can assure you that I shall not interrupt proceedings for very long, because I feel very diffident in rising to address this House. I only comfort myself by remembering that I have never yet met a British member of Parliament who was deterred by lack of qualification for making a speech about anything. I gather that it is entirely different with your House of Commons in Ottawa, and naturally, entirely different with this Legislative House here; but that is the way I am afraid it is in England, and if it did not occur like that we should all get to bed very much earlier in the evening, and spend fewer of those all-night sessions in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, my purpose in this great and exciting trip which I am making across your country is really as much to look and to listen as to talk. I have been asked to make a number of speeches in the various cities which I shall visit, but my real purpose is to keep my eyes open and my ears open; to hear the kind of things which you are thinking, and to see the kind of things which you are doing, because I can honestly assure you that the things

you are thinking and the things you are doing are going to be extremely important to Britain and to the whole world in the next 30 or 40 or 50 years.

I have been immensely impressed already by the almost limitless (as far as I can see) economic opportunities which stretch before all of you in Canada — in this province and in the other provinces which I have already visited. I have thought a great deal, in the last few years, and no doubt you have thought a great deal more, about the future of this great country, and I suppose the thing that strikes an Englishman who visits Canada most forcibly is, as I say, these almost limitless economic opportunities in front of you; this great frontier still to be pushed back and an immense amount to be done everywhere, and immense possibilities, as I see it, for anyone who is willing to make for himself or herself a full and satisfying life — immense possibilities of doing so.

I happen to have visited, for about four weeks before visiting Canada this time, the United States. I travelled right across the United States, and the Americans south of the border have suggested to me in the meetings that I have attended something which I believe is the most important part which Canada, as a whole, can play in the whole future of the world — even more important than these great economic developments which are ahead of you. I believe that probably all of us here, and probably all of us in this North American continent, would find ourselves in entire agreement about one thing above all. And that is the vital necessity and importance in the future of close co-operation and understanding between the United States on the one side and all the nations of the British Commonwealth on the other.

You have only to imagine for a few moments what might happen if we allowed a deep and serious rift and diversion to divide us. As I see it, your country, Canada, is uniquely well-equipped to play the part of a mediator, ambassador, particularly between my country, Britain, and the United States, because you, situated right along their border, have very close ties, economic and otherwise, with them. I have been particularly impressed at all my meetings, wherever I went in the United States, to find the trust and respect and affection which your neighbours to the south have for you; and I remember, when I crossed the border about a week ago, thinking that all of this great long border between the Pacific and the Atlantic must be the model frontier for the whole world, the most friendly frontier that exists anywhere. If any other frontiers were the same as that then we perhaps shouldn't have quite so much to worry about. Therefore, you have, as I say, these great contacts and ties with the United States.

You also have the advantage, such as no other nation has who has ties with the United States, all knowing about the Commonwealth, because you are a member of the Commonwealth, and I am absolutely convinced — I have said this often in Canada and I have to say it often again, because I believe that it is profoundly important; I am absolutely convinced that if you, in Canada, can play in the future, as you have played in the past, the role of mediator, interpreter, ambassador between the United States and Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth, then you will be owed a debt which I don't suppose we will ever be able to repay, not only by Britain, not only by the Commonwealth, but also by the whole world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much indeed for giving me this opportunity to say a few words and interrupting your business, and I do hope that I have not presumed for too long on your time.

**Premier Douglas:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may express on behalf of the members of this side, as I am sure my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will want to express on behalf of the members on that side, our thanks to Mr. Wood for being here today and particularly for the remarks which he has made. To those members who are not familiar with Mr. Wood, you will be interested to know, of course, that he is a Conservative member of Parliament, representing a constituency in Yorkshire; that he is at the present time, what we would call, in Ottawa, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, or, as they call it, parliamentary private secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and that he is very much interested in agriculture. One of the things he is doing in his trip across the United States and Canada is to take a good look at the agricultural picture and to gather what information he can.

I am sure that most members are aware of the fact that he is a distinguished son of a very distinguished father. Most of us remember his father, Lord Halifax, quite well when he was the British Ambassador to Washington, and before that the British Foreign Secretary. Most of us who have met him in Ottawa when he visited Ottawa, were impressed with his kindness and his dignity and his deep wisdom.

Mr. Wood, as many members know, was a member of the very famous 8th Army which fought in Africa under Montgomery. I would like to say, on behalf of our group here, how delighted we are to have him here. We do not consider that we have interrupted our proceedings. We think it was a privilege for us to have him here, and to give us this opportunity of hearing him say a few words to us.

I was especially pleased that he said something about the interpretive role of Canada between the United States and Great Britain. On the 1st of July, 1953, I happened to be in London when the Canadian Club held its annual dinner, and His Excellency, the Governor General spoke at the dinner and expounded the same feeling. He said that Canada was a bridge between the Commonwealth and the United States. He also said that half of our function was to explain Britain to the United States and the United States to Britain. When I was asked to make a few remarks I suggested that they should begin by teaching the British how to make coffee and the Americans how to make tea. I suggested that would be the basis of the beginning of international goodwill.

But levity aside — of course that is one of the roles in the international picture which Canada can fulfil. We are privileged to be a member of the Commonwealth in close association with the other members of the Commonwealth, and we are also privileged, geographically, to be very close to the Americans. To some extent we think like the Americans, read the same magazines, the same papers, listen to the same radio programmes, and most of the time see the same type of movie, and so we understand the Americans probably better than any other group of people. I think that Canada can do much in establishing goodwill between the Commonwealth and the United States.

I think it is significant, Mr. Speaker, that members from the United States Congress have sat in on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, as associate members. That is interesting. First of all they started to come to the Canadian Parliamentary Association and sit in on discussions there. From that they have now moved into sitting in on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings. That speaks well for the future, and for the time when the United States may be considered part of this great Commonwealth of free and independent nations.

I am delighted that Mr. Wood touched on that aspect of it, and I am delighted that he is going to be saying that kind of thing as he makes his journey across Canada and the United States.

I should like, again, on behalf of the members on the side of the House, sir, to convey to him, through Europe, our pleasure of having him here, our thanks to him for speaking to us, and our best wishes for a very successful journey on his way back to Great Britain.

**Hon. Mr. Sturdy (Minister of Social Welfare):** — I was quite unaware that we had such a distinguished guest in the House, this afternoon, as the Hon. Mr. Wood, or I certainly, Mr. Speaker, would have exercised a good deal more restraint than I did. I want you to understand, Mr. Wood, that these gentlemen opposite are my friends, and they always operate much better if they are ‘needled’ a bit, and I made a clumsy attempt at so doing. My apologies to you, Mr. Speaker.

I do wish to mention what is a strange coincidence. I had the pleasure of meeting Lord Halifax, your father, Mr. Wood; I am not sure whether it was in 1916 or 1917 during a military exercise outside of Etaples in France. At that time I was a rear rank soldier in the Canadian infantry, and I held your father’s horse for, I remember, what appeared to be an unconscionably long time, and I also remember that the conversation which we had was very, very brief, much briefer than my speech today, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** — I want to express our gratitude to Mr. Wood, on behalf of the Assembly, for his kind words, this afternoon. We do hope you have the opportunity of coming back to Saskatchewan in a more salubrious season than we are enjoying now; the next time, instead of a blizzard, we hope we will have good sun and lots of flowers.

**Mr. McDonald ( Leader of the Opposition):** — Mr. Speaker, there is little that I can add to what has already been said by the Premier, but I do want to say to the Honourable Richard Wood, on behalf of the people on this side of the House, that we do consider it an honour to have had the privilege of being present here with you, this afternoon, and to have listened to the message you have for us. We do realize here that probably we are not as great a nation as the country to the south of us, but we know that we occupy the position of a mediator between the great powers of Great Britain and her Empire, the Commonwealth, and that great nation to the south. We are certainly pleased to do everything we can to see these two great nations work in harmony for the belief that we have in the western world.

I am very pleased, personally, on behalf of the Opposition, to have members come from the British House of Commons to visit us here in Saskatchewan. It is only unfortunate that you had not been able to come during the summer months to have seen our western country at its best; probably it would have been even better had you been able to come, this summer, when we will be celebrating our Jubilee. We want to say thanks to you, and I hope that you will not consider it was anything but a pleasure for us to have had the opportunity to be present here with you, this afternoon.

I do hope that you will have an excellent trip across Canada, that you will have safe passage home, and that you will take the message back to your people in Britain that we are 100 per cent behind them in all their activities; and anything they would like us to take a part in, not only as a province, but as the Dominion of Canada, I am sure we will be prepared to do anything we can do to help, not only with dealings between Canada and the United States in between the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States, but also those dealings between Canada and your country, and especially between Saskatchewan and Great Britain.

The business of the House being resumed.

Mr. McDonald moved — That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing:

1. (a) The make, model and registration number of the Saskatchewan Government Airways aircraft which crashed at Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan, on Thursday, January 6, 1955;
  - (b) from whom this aircraft was purchased;
  - (c) the date of purchase; and
  - (d) the purchase price.
2. (a) The total flying time for the airframe at date of purchase;
  - (b) The total flying time of the port motor at date of purchase; and
  - (c) The total flying time of the starboard motor at date of purchase.
3. (a) The total flying time of the airframe on January 6, 1955;
  - (b) The total flying time of the port motor on January 6, 1955;
  - (c) The total flying time of the starboard motor on January 6, 1955.
4. The total flying time of same aircraft for the day of January 5, 1955.
5. The total flying time of same aircraft for the day of January 6, 1955.
6. The total flying time of the late Stuart Millar for January 5, 1955.
7. The total flying time of the late Stuart Millar for January 6, 1955.
8. (a) Whether or not pilots of Saskatchewan Government Airways are permitted to do maintenance work, either airframe or mechanical, on Saskatchewan Government Airways aircraft;
  - (b) If so, the time Stuart Millar spent in maintenance work on January 5, 1955; and
  - (c) If so, the time Stuart Millar spent in maintenance work on January 6, 1955.

9. (a) The total flying time logged by Stuart Millar;
  - (b) Of this total time, the part logged on (i) single engine aircraft and (ii) on multi-engine aircraft.
  - (c) The part of the total number of hours which was day flying on (i) single engine aircraft, (ii) multi-engine aircraft.
  - (d) The part of the total number of hours which was night flying on (i) single engine aircraft and (ii) multi-engine aircraft.
10. The type of licence held by Stuart Millar.
11. The date of Stuart Millar's last medical examination

**Hon Mr. Brockelbank (Minister of Natural and Mineral Resources):** — Mr. Speaker, I want to move an amendment to the Motion for Return. I am only moving this amendment to add certain questions to the motion for the purpose of getting as complete a picture as possible, and as other members of the Legislature haven't got the amendment before them I will read it:

That the following words be added to the motion (for Return):

“12. (a) The make and model number of the motors used on this aircraft;

(b) The frequency of overhaul of motors on this aircraft as required by the Department of Transport for the operations of Saskatchewan Government Airways;

(c) The total flying time since overhaul of the starboard motor on January 6, 1955.

13. (a) The frequency of service inspections of the entire aircraft;

(b) The total flying time of the aircraft since the last check.

14. The standards of maintenance and overhaul.

15. (a) The frequency of issuance of the Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the Department of Transport for this aircraft;

(b) The date of the last Certificate of Airworthiness.”

**February 22, 1955**

I think the purpose in introducing this amendment is obvious, and it is to get the full and complete information in regard to this question. Of course we could not give that unless the House asked for, and I think particularly it is very important that we have the information as to the Certificate of Airworthiness and the date of the last Certificate. I don't think I need to debate the question further, Mr. Speaker, and I would move, seconded by Mr. McIntosh the amendment which I have read and submit it to you.

**Mr. McDonald:** — Mr. Speaker, there is just one question that I would like to ask the Minister. I note that (c) and (d) parts of question 12 are the same, only referring to port and starboard motors. Reading number (c) "The total flight time since overhaul of the port motor on January 6, 1955." Now, just what does that mean?

**Hon Mr. Brockelbank:** — May I have the privilege of House, Mr. Speaker, to answer that question and make a suggestion. I noticed that. It is not too well phrased, and I would suggest that it would be clarified if we changed "on" to "to", making it read "to January 6, 1955"; that was the meaning, so if the House would accept that, Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate it.

**Mr. McDonald:** — That clears up the question, Mr. Speaker. The only other thing I want to say is that I am pleased the Minister has seen fit to add this to the questions that I had already asked, and if we could have this information as soon as possible I would very much appreciate it.

**Hon Mr. Brockelbank:** — It won't take very long to get it.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:40 o'clock p.m.