LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN Fourth Session — Twelfth Legislature

32nd Day

Friday, March 23, 1956

The House met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

On the Orders of the Day

Re Press Report

Hon. I.C. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with I would like to make reference to a serious mis-impression created by an editorial in the 'Leader-Post' and a subsequent cartoon. The editorial is headed: "Humiliating Secession Talk" and reads:

"Mr. W. M. Johnson, C.C.F. member of Parliament for Kindersley, and Agriculture Minister Nollet of the Saskatchewan C.C.F. Government, certainly are not to be commended for resurrecting the old bogey of secession of the west from the rest of Canada."

Mr. Speaker, I never resurrected any bogey whatever. I never made any reference to any knowledge of secession talk, other than mention of it being made in the Legislature here when I said, when I was speaking, "Some of the hon. members opposite said there is a secession talk in the west"; and I am going to say, Mr. Speaker, that unless our national government very soon provides a comprehensive marketing policy for this country, they are going to have more of that kind of talk, and it is indeed disturbing to anyone. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, regarding condoning this kind of talk — my position has always been that I would never condone secession talk, and regret if anyone talks of secession. I have always expressed the opinion that we should have the kind of equality of opportunity that would unite this country more firmly together, by finding a solution to our economic problems.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to correct any mis-impression created in the minds of the general public by this particular editorial, and I hope the 'Leader-Post' will correct the impression that they have left, rather, the mis-impression that they have left.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I have no desire to rule as "Rex Toby Nollet" in Saskatchewan or anywhere else. I will always remain a member of the proletariat.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:35 o'clock p.m.