

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
First Session – Sixteenth Legislature
6th Day

Thursday, February 22, 1968.

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.
On the Orders of the Day.

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

Mr. I.H. MacDougall (Souris-Estevan): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to introduce to this House this afternoon a group of grade eight students from the St. Mary's school in Estevan. There are 20 students in all and they are brought here this afternoon by their teachers, Hugh Bitts and Rich Mickler and also Bill Owens, one of their drivers. This is quite a famous little school because Mr. Bitts has an orchestra known as the Blue Bands Orchestra. I understand that next summer he is going to take this orchestra down to California to play several engagements down in the United States. I welcome them here this afternoon on your behalf, Sir.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. F. LaRochelle (Shaunavon): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce through you to this Legislature a fine group of grade 11 and 12 students that are sitting in the Speaker's gallery. They are from the Consul school district. They are accompanied by their teacher, Miss Maxlin and also by Mr. Strain and their bus driver, Mr. Les Harder. Mr. Speaker, these students have driven over 300 miles to attend the sitting of this Legislature today. I think this is a group that comes from the furthest part of the southwest part of the province. I would like to wish them a very instructive visit while they are in the Legislature and I would wish them a very safe journey back home. They are a fine group of students and I certainly want to see them get back home safely.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. H.H.P. Baker (Regina South East): — Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased on your behalf and on behalf of this Legislature to welcome a very fine group of young men and women in the east gallery from Miller high school in the city of Regina. This school is located about three and a half blocks from where I live and I am very pleased to be able to greet them this afternoon. As you know this is a new school and already it has made its mark not only in our city for higher education but throughout this country. The building has received national and outstanding recognition and the facilities are the most up-to-date in Canada. They are accompanied by Mr. Zrymiak and Sister Catherine. I want to say that Sister Catherine also gained much fame in this community when she walked for 30 miles in the March for Millions. I will always remember it because I was one of her financial sponsors.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: — I want to welcome them on behalf of everyone here. I hope they will gain much from the deliberations during this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. G.B. Grant (Regina South): — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the Members of this House, I would like to introduce the students in the first three rows of the west gallery. They are students of the W.C. Howe school and from the stronghold of free enterprise, Regina South, under the direction of Mr. Ochwita, the principal of the school. They are grade eight students. Last year there were some 18 of them here, this year we are close to 50. I surmise that word-of-mouth advertising has paid off well and I know we all join in welcoming them to this session this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. C.L.B. Estey (Saskatoon Nutana Centre): — Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to introduce to the Members of this Legislature the students from a class in Buena Vista school in Saskatoon. They are accompanied this afternoon by their teacher, Mrs. Hoge, and are occupying the back three rows in the west gallery. Buena Vista school, I need hardly add, is located in Nutana Centre constituency, the constituency about which I know a great deal. We congratulate Mrs. Hoge on giving her students the opportunity to view this House in session and trust that the students will enjoy their stay with us and return safely to their homes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ANNOUNCEMENT

BOY SCOUT WEEK

Mr. A.E. Blakeney (Regina Centre): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wonder if I might call to the attention of the House that this is Boy Scout Week. As Members may know, the Boy Scout Organization is a world-wide organization. We in Saskatchewan last autumn had the opportunity of welcoming Sir Charles McLean, the Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, and I know that we who are associated with the movement looked forward to that opportunity, even though the day he came here happened to be October 11th which was a rather busy day for me as a result of some other activities. I think Members may know that the Chief Scout of Canada is His Excellency the Governor General, and you may have seen him on television last Sunday evening. The Chief Scout of Saskatchewan is our own Lieutenant Governor. I have been very happy to be associated with this movement over a period of many years, and I would hope that the House would be willing to join with me in expressing best wishes to the movement in Saskatchewan and in Canada. It is one of the more prominent organizations in the independent sector of our provincial life. Before I take my seat may I express a cordial invitation to attend the Scout-Guide Tea on Saturday afternoon. Last year I had the pleasure of sharing the receiving line with Mrs. Thatcher, the wife of our Premier. I am sure that all Members who could take advantage of that opportunity would find it a pleasant occasion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS

THE SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMIC REVIEW

Hon. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition): — I would like to direct a question to the Premier. It arises from the answer to a question he gave yesterday. His answer intimated that The Saskatchewan Economic Review printed in 1967 was released in April of 1967. My perplexity and question arise out of the fact that I had written to him on April 25th asking for a copy and as yet I haven't received a copy of the Review or an answer to my letter. My staff have on several occasions asked the proper officials and we haven't got it. May I ask, since it was issued; is it the intention of the Government to table this in the Legislature?

Hon. W.R. Thatcher (Premier): — If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would have this individual direct another letter — I am sorry I am not aware of it — we would certainly see that he gets a copy.

Mr. Lloyd: — That isn't the question I asked. This individual was myself who wrote to himself, and I got no reply.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lloyd: — My question was; is it the intention of the Government to table this report in the Legislature and distribute it to the Members?

Mr. Thatcher: — I'll look into it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lloyd: — Mr. Speaker, that prompts another question. May I ask the Premier when he intends to look into it. It has been nine months since it was issued. Surely it won't take too long. When will we know?

Mr. Thatcher: — We have been kind of busy this last nine months as the Hon. Member knows. However, we will certainly see that he gets a copy very shortly.

MOORE COMMITTEE

Mr. F.A. Dewhurst (Wadena): — Mr. Speaker, last year when we asked for a report on the Moore Committee, we were informed that there was a shortage and we could expect further reports at a later date. I wonder if the Minister of Education (Mr. McIsaac) could now supply us with a copy of the Moore Committee Report?

Hon. J.C. McIsaac (Minister of Education): — I'll look into that, Mr. Speaker, as the Member may know there has been a considerable run on those reports for other reasons since that time, but we'll see what we can do.

Mr. Dewhurst: — The Members of the Legislature would like to have one.

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Mr. E. Kramer (The Battlefords): — Mr. Premier, the other Members of the House would certainly like a copy of the Economic Review as well. It has been customary to mail one when they are printed and issued, and we would certainly like to see that practice continued in the future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. McPherson (Regina South West) and the proposed amendment thereto by Mr. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition).

Mr. G.T. Snyder (Moose Jaw North): — Mr. Speaker, before I adjourned the debate yesterday, I had a few words to say concerning some of the immediate problems of the constituency that I represent in this House. I had also remarked about the confused and muddled attitude of Liberals, both in Saskatchewan and Ottawa, concerning the introduction of a National Medical Care Plan. I had also suggested to the Government opposite that, upon receipt of that \$14 million from Ottawa, it should take another look at its 1964 election promise to include drugs under medical care.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Snyder: — I had suggested an immediate start by covering terminal cancer patients and other exceptional categories. Finally, I had drawn attention to the need for stringent observation and control by an agency of government to ensure that excessive drug costs would not jeopardize the plan.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words concerning the performance of this Government since it assumed the reins of office in 1964. This Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is punctuated with dire warnings of our immediate future, of tight money and of high interest rates, and it hints again of the intention of the Government to impose a variety of new taxes and imposts upon the people of our province. When we hear the Premier proclaim, as we did on television recently and repeated again yesterday, that he has a tiger by the tail, we cannot help but wonder, Mr. Speaker, what it is that has suddenly gone wrong in this so-called new Saskatchewan. Where are all of the new industries, Mr. Speaker, that were to take the tax-load from the shoulders of the Saskatchewan people? The Hansard of this House has the Premier on record during the 1965 session as uttering this profound declaration and I quote him:

We know that every new manufacturing plant, every mine, every retail business that comes into this province adds to the Provincial tax-base. As the base is widened, we can provide better social services, improved education standards, better highways and so on. I say again, we intend to use private enterprise methods. We must nourish our investment worthiness; we must improve our methods of attracting new capital.

One might wonder, Mr. Speaker, how a Government which claims to be a true champion of free enterprise could have encountered

any difficulty whatsoever in attracting new industry. The facts would seem to indicate that difficulty has been experienced in holding on to what we have. Since 1964, Mr. Speaker, Hardply Corporation, Prince Albert, closed its doors, laying off 96 employees in April of 1966; Burns meat packing plant, Regina, closed in June of 1967 with a loss of 80 employees; Intercontinental meat packing plant, Regina, closed in September, 1965, with a loss of another 50 jobs; NorCanAir, Prince Albert, closed their maintenance operation with 50 jobs lost in June of 1966; British American Oil Company transferred 22 employees to Calgary in July of 1967; Mobil Oil, Regina, transferred another 30 employees to Edmonton in May of 1966; Robin Hood Flour Mills in Moose Jaw and the oat mill closed a short while ago, with a loss of over 169 jobs; Western Decalta Petroleum, Regina, closed its Regina office October 12, 1967; Prairie Bag Company, Moose Jaw, closed its operation in September of 1967, with a loss of another 20 odd jobs; the Cement Company, Regina, shut down for four weeks on October 23, 1967; the Steel Mill, Regina, was working only a three-day week last fall.

So, Mr. Speaker, so much for lost jobs and lost industries. There are a few more that could be added to this impressive list. What about the new industries, Mr. Speaker, that have been announced by this Government but failed to materialize? The Heavy Water Plant, we all remember, made good copy in the Leader-Post, but produced nothing more. A \$20 million ammonia plant for Estevan, announced in May of 1965, joined the Heavy Water Plant. A \$5 million chemical plant in conjunction with the Prince Albert pulp mill became another mirage, Mr. Speaker. This was announced in September, 1966. The Volkswagon Centre for Regina, announced in August 1966, also failed to materialize. A \$25 million iron pellet plant for Regina also never appeared on the scene. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) mentioned the other day, Primrose Forest Products, Meadow Lake, announced an operation in April of 1965. The Government proceeded to build what was supposed to have been a \$400,000 road. It spent approximately \$2 million on this road which ended in the wilderness; and this company never began production, Mr. Speaker. An asbestos pipe manufacturing plant was announced for Regina valued at some \$2.5 million in June of 1965, and this never appeared. The development of the Choiceland iron ore deposits announced also in April of 1965, and since that very little has been heard. A number of potash developments have been announced and re-announced, Mr. Speaker, without tangible results to date. The TISCO steel wire plant for Moose Jaw also vanished shortly after the October 11th general election.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you today that the Throne Speech which is presently under discussion stands as mute testimony to the failure of this Government to attract new industry or to hold on to what we have, to provide that wider tax-base which the Premier spoke about only a few months ago.

In the letter which accompanied the 1967 Homeowner Grant, the Premier had this to say and I think it's worthy of quoting to you:

As was pointed out last year, this assistance was made possible by the new industrial development and diversification which has continued to gain momentum in our province. This growth is permitting us to widen our tax base.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the widening of this tax-base I think will be best understood after the full impact of the 1968 Budget is felt by Saskatchewan people. The sad and the unfortunate aspect of it all, however, is that more and more tax revenues will be provided by those who can least afford to pay, if the Government proceeds with plans that have already been made public through the news media.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that we have had better than average crops over the past four years, and in 1966 we harvested the largest crop in our history. If this Government, Mr. Speaker, now has a tiger by the tail, then it will have to look elsewhere for the trouble. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the cost of providing Government services is increasing progressively. Under the former CCF Government, budgetary requirements rose from \$30 million in 1944 to in excess of \$197 million in 1964. Expanded health services, education, highway construction, power development, grid roads, sewer and water systems, and many other services claimed an increasing share of increased revenues. A CCF Government, Mr. Speaker, introduced the first Hospitalization Plan in North America and financed it alone for over ten years until the Federal Government introduced a similar plan. A CCF Government introduced and financed the first comprehensive pre-paid Medical Care Plan in North America, and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the CCF Government paid off \$143 million of dead weight debt, inherited from the previous free enterprise Liberal Government, and in 1964, Mr. Speaker, had a net asset position of \$33 million.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Snyder: — Since the Thatcher Government took over in 1964, Mr. Speaker, medical care premiums have been increased by \$20 per year. Tobacco and liquor taxes have been increased. Gasoline tax has been increased. A new tax has been imposed on cleansers and detergents. Automobile insurance rates have been increased sharply, and fire insurance rates have increased from 40 to 50 per cent across the entire province. Municipal taxes have increased at an unprecedented rate since the Liberals took over in 1964, in spite of the Liberal promise that methods would be found for reducing municipal taxes. Licence fees have been increased. University tuition fees have been increased, Mr. Speaker, with the latest increase being announced only a few weeks ago. Grazing lease fees were increased sharply by this Liberal Government, Mr. Speaker, and a new hospital revenue tax has been imposed on the people of Saskatchewan. In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, increased revenues to this Province under the terms of the Dominion-Provincial Tax Sharing Agreement from 1964 to 1967 amounted to a figure in excess of \$29 million.

With all these new sources of revenue, however, Mr. Speaker, this Government could not resist the temptation to snatch from our senior citizens that additional \$30 a month which Ottawa provided. This Government seized that \$360 a year from all those who are on supplementary allowances. More recently the \$1.50 cost of living bonus has also been taken from them. What Ottawa gave, the Thatcher Liberals took away, Mr. Speaker. To put the frosting on the cake, Mr. Speaker, this Government has also accumulated an additional \$109 million in additional gross debt since 1964. I expect the figure is considerably higher at this stage. This is a practice, Mr. Speaker, which it deplored when it was in opposition, and it

was perennially unable to distinguish between dead-weight debt and self-liquidating debt. So, Mr. Speaker, this Government after establishing a record such as this, after less than four years in office, now finds that it has a tiger by the tail, I suggest to you that a tax on sickness will not solve the problem. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is its own free enterprise tiger, and that the Government should lose no time in getting around to the other end of this ravenous beast and pay some attention to what it is it has been feeding him over the last three and a half or four years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Snyder: — Some of the items on the menu, Mr. Speaker, include timber rights which have been secured on terms which the Government chose not to divulge. This monster has already swallowed a Government air-line, and as insurance against indigestion, the Government has committed itself to pay out \$275,000 a year for ten years to the new owners of NorCanAir. This Government, Mr. Speaker, has sold sodium sulphate reserves at Alsask belonging to the people of Saskatchewan estimated at 2.2 million tons for the paltry sum of \$22,000 or one cent a ton. Other reserves at Snake Hole Lake were disposed of for \$60,000.

In answer to a question asked in this Legislature some time ago, we were provided with an impressive list of road building machinery which has been disposed of by this Government. This was property owned by the people of this province, which provided a valuable yardstick to measure efficiency and to judge the value of services provided by private contractors. The Premier, in his 1966 Budget Address, I believe, sounded some words of warning. He said:

This year we will spend approximately \$40,600,000 on highways. We have run into some difficulty expanding our program this past year. Many contractors simply lacked sufficient equipment.

What he may have implied, Mr. Speaker, but failed to make clear, is the fact that there has been a drastic increase in the cost of highway construction over the past three or four years. At this present pace of highway construction, Mr. Speaker, there has been no need for contractors to sharpen their pencils and become involved in genuine competitive bidding. According to the Liberals' own figures, unit bid prices for grading increased from under 17 cents a cubic yard in 1963 to 26.7 cents in 1966, or an increase of just about 60 per cent. Other figures are just as revealing. From 1963 to 1966, oil surfacing aggregate less haul in place increased by 76 per cent. Bituminous surface less haul in place from 1963 to 1966 increased by 41 per cent; sub-base course less haul in place from 1963 to 1966, up 123 per cent, Mr. Speaker, base course less haul in place from 1963 to 1966, an increase of 79 per cent; gravel surfacing aggregate less haul in place from 1963 to 1966, Mr. Speaker, an increase of 116 per cent.

I just want to point out today, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan's highway development under the former CCF Government was one of the success stories of this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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Mr. Snyder: — Saskatchewan people were taken out of the mud and the entire highway system was re-built with the prudent use of highway dollars. Recognizing that Saskatchewan has within its borders one third of all the highway mileage in the whole of Canada, I suggest to you that a remarkable job was done during those years.

It is apparent, Mr. Speaker, that this Government has learned nothing from the costly experience over the past three years. This Government intends to ignore the supply and demand factor according to a news release in the Leader-Post of January 18th of this year. At that time, Highways Minister Boldt told the Prairie Road Builders' Association that his highway budget this year will be equally as large as last year's \$58 million expenditure, thus setting out quite clearly, Mr. Speaker, the order of priorities established by those who sit opposite.

Another choice morsel which has been fed to the private enterprise tiger, Mr. Speaker, is a bite out of the insurance business in Saskatchewan. This was accomplished by raising automobile insurance rates, and even more blatant, Mr. Speaker, the increase of fire insurance rates from 40 to 50 per cent across the entire province. This is an increase, Mr. Speaker, which has yet to be explained properly by the Minister, who a short time previously announced that the SGIO had just enjoyed the best year in its entire history. A recent news release by the Premier indicates that he is prepared at this time to place another piece of Saskatchewan Government insurance on the chopping block in payment for services rendered. For all this, Mr. Speaker, the Government seems to have but one answer, "We believe in private enterprise." This it holds to be inviolate and untouchable, Mr. Speaker. It is possible that vision becomes blurred with age, but it seems there was a time when the Premier was able to see these matters more clearly than he does today. On May 19, 1945, the Moose Jaw Times Herald carried a news item in the following terms:

The CCF Government has done more for the people of this province in the ten months it has been in office than was previously done in 39 years of administration by Liberal and Conservation Governments.

So said W. Ross Thatcher, Federal candidate for the CCF:

It has begun a program for securing the benefits of the natural resources of the province for the people as a whole instead of a few.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the Premier's position on practically every matter of importance indicates that he is trying to balance the scales in the favor of the few. In almost every instance, it is not difficult to find the beneficiary in the background.

It appears, Mr. Speaker, that this Government, in common with the Liberal Government in Ottawa, refuses or fails to recognize the consequence of conducting the affairs of a country or a province for the benefit of a few. It may agree that it had a tiger by the tail, but it is not sure what's wrong, whether the trouble is functional or organic. Liberals talk glibly about pepping up the economy or slowing it down, or the merits of tax reductions, the need for tax increases, or the benefits of high interest rates. One of the Members to your

right, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Highways (Mr. Boldt), recently advocated more unemployment, suggesting that a reservoir of unemployed would be a desirable feature. This represents, Mr. Speaker, the thoughtful and profound approach which some Liberals suggest to solve the nation's ills.

The Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, fails to set a meaningful order of priorities. The frequently announced proposal to impose deterrent charges upon hospital patients would seem to be predicated on the assumption that through this measure we can summon some kind of black magic to deter sickness. I'm sure it's well known, Mr. Speaker, that the patient gets admitted to the hospital on the authority of a doctor and he is discharged by the same process. The word, "deterrent" is a misnomer. This so-called deterrent is simply a tax on the sick, Mr. Speaker, and an erosion of the Medical and Hospital Services Plan. This, Mr. Speaker, can easily be regarded as another channel through which additional business may be fed to private insurance companies at the public's expense. Undoubtedly, many people will feel obliged to carry insurance to cover the possibility of having to pay this new tax and they will certainly find insurance companies ready to accommodate them. At the best, Mr. Speaker, this proposal can only be regarded as a tawdry effort on the part of a frustrated Government to stimulate an economy suffering from too many fire sales and unable to match up to the boisterous and repetitious advertising of phantom industries that never got beyond the imagination stage.

I'll conclude my remarks today, Mr. Speaker, by expressing my disappointment that the 1968 Throne Speech fails to recognize some of the most pressing problems of Saskatchewan people. This Government, Mr. Speaker, was less than frank and honest with the Saskatchewan voters prior to the general election. The Throne Speech forecasts tough times and increased taxes at a period in our history that has been marked by buoyant revenues, better than average crops and continuing economic growth. I see nothing in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, which provides the kind of stimulus which is needed in the constituency which I represent in this House. Accordingly, I will be voting against the motion and supporting the amendment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. Messer (Kelsey): — Mr. Speaker, before I begin my address this afternoon I would like to voice my pleasure at having been given the privilege to sit as a Member of this Assembly. I wish at this time to express my appreciation to the residents of Kelsey constituency who put their confidence in me as their elected representative. I aspire to serve them well and be worthy of that position I now hold on their behalf.

For thirty-four years the people of Kelsey and the Province of Saskatchewan have been fortunate to have in their midst the dedication and competence of Mr. J.H. Brockelbank.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — And I'm certain that all Members of this Assembly will join with me in conveying to my predecessor good wishes for many rewarding years in the future.

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I also, Mr. Speaker, want to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this Assembly. My personal appraisal of your position is that it is an onerous one at times, but I assure you that I have heard complimentary remarks regarding you from both parties represented in this Assembly. To receive such comments can only mean that your actions and decisions in the past as Speaker of this House have been impartial and even-handed, and I am certain they will continue to so be.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the number of years that this Legislative Assembly has met and governed this Province with different political parties sitting on the Government and Opposition sides of this Assembly, we still, Mr. Speaker, find a great many failings, weaknesses and lack of necessary legislation in our province. I don't suppose we will ever reach a point where there are no issues of importance, for as time goes on, circumstances change. Solved problems of the past given the right conditions reappear as new problems. Governing bodies must act on new and better and more legislation, consequently government will always be faced with new and important issues. But, in responding to these issues, we must keep foremost in our minds that it will be for the betterment, not only of the people we represent in government but of all mankind, both now and in the future.

There are areas where the present Government of this Province has shown and is showing lack of foresight and concern. In the field of agriculture, which we still must consider Saskatchewan's primary industry, considering the important role it plays in the economy of Canada, it is indeed very disappointing that this industry receives more and more attention but less and less action from not only the Provincial Government, but also the Federal Government of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — Now, Mr. Speaker, before I elaborate on the agricultural field of Saskatchewan, I want first to comment in regard to a statement made in this Assembly Tuesday last. This statement was to the effect that the New Democratic party on this side of the House or for that matter, the entire organization, Federal and Provincial, was controlled by labor. This is not the first time, Mr. Speaker, that such accusations have been made. We don't get too excited about them, because we associate them on the same plane as we would children fighting. After one has been defeated and they are walking away from each other, the loser picks up a stone, tosses it in a last effort at victory. Doesn't it seem strange, Mr. Speaker, if it were true that we were dominated and controlled by labor, that we should have sitting on this side of the Assembly twelve farmers or people associated with the professional or semi-professional fields? This representation, Mr. Speaker, farmer, labor and professional are working in harmony towards a better Saskatchewan and indeed a better Canada . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — . . . with no individual segment dominating the other. Consequently this accusation can only be a last ditch, on erroneous assumption on behalf of the Liberal party.

I also, Mr. Speaker, want to inform this Assembly of one of several serious problems within the constituency of Kelsey which I represent. Since early December, 1967, residents and other motorist travelling highways within the constituency have been confronted with not only serious but dangerous driving conditions because of ice on the road surfaces. Highway No. 3 from Crooked River to Hudson Bay and Highway No. 23 from Chelan to Bertwell and from Chelan to Greenwater Lake have been extremely hazardous during most of this winter. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring it to the attention of the Government that residents depend on these highways to commute from home to town for supplies. Travellers depend on them for service in the area; school buses to transport students to and from school depend on them. Truckers depend on them to service supplies as well as resident truckers who make their livelihood from trucking over these highways by hauling material to and from two local industries that the area is somewhat dependent on. Municipal authorities, individuals and myself have contacted numerous people in the Highway Department but have received no satisfaction from them, because they state that the expense is too great to remove this icing problem. Mr. Speaker, I ask you: which expense is most important before this serious condition is attended to? The expense of local contractors going broke, the expense of loss of service to the community or even more serious, the expense of a loss of life. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the cheapest expense would be to remove this hazardous ice condition now, as the cost of solving by sanding, in comparison to the hardships that the people of these communities are suffering or may be suffering, is relatively cheap and I urgently recommend the Government to do so.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the field of agriculture, we find that the present day position of the farmers is not good and the prospects of it improving within the next several years are not favorable. When we look at some of the facts, the problems and the cost-price squeeze in which the farmer now finds himself, we find that it is not only a fact but an actuality that in many areas his position is either stagnant or worsening rather than improving. One of the primary reasons for this is that he is without an international wheat agreement for which the farmer can thank the Federal Liberal Government. And there is no guarantee that such an agreement will be negotiated for this summer. It is also a fact that deliveries in Saskatchewan to January 17, 1968, are 94 million bushels less than grain deliveries to January 17, 1967, a drop, Mr. Speaker, of 38.8 per cent. It is further a fact that production costs of the farmer have soared from \$17.95 per cultivated acre in 1962 to \$23.48 per cultivated acre in 1966, an increase, Mr. Speaker, of \$5.53 per cultivated acre in a period of four years. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that these costs are now somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30 per acre. I might also add that during this time of increased production, the prices of the farmer's produce have not changed significantly. And also the cost of land has spiralled something drastically. It is also a fact that the Canadian farm wheat production total is down 233 million bushels from 1966. And in the Province of Saskatchewan the farmers' wheat production is down 198 million bushels. And to further worsen the farmer's position, the present price for cattle and pigs has not increased but is lower than it has been for some time. This holds true when the present Government is encouraging diversification of some swine facilities and increasing the number of livestock within the province. Before this seems practical to me, a more reasonable floor price

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should be established whereby the farmer, going into these diversified fields, will be able to survive the additional debt he has incurred, if the prices of livestock drop.

It is a fact that according to statistics of ARDA, 60 per cent of Canadian farmers are earning a living which is below poverty level. This means in dollars and cents that 60 per cent of the farmers of Canada have an income of less than \$3,000. It is also interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Economic Council of Canada calculates the Canadian rural living standard to be one-third below that of his urban neighborhood. This fact, Mr. Speaker, holds true for farmers who have many thousands of dollars investing in the farming operation. And it is no fault of their own that they are in this position, but the fault of the present agricultural system. These are facts, Mr. Speaker, sober, honest and unvarnished facts, that show that the farmer is not in a desirable situation, yet the present Government has done little to alleviate this problem. Indeed in many areas it has worsened under its administration.

One of these areas is in the purchasing of farm machinery. You will remember that under the previous Government, the Agricultural Machinery Administration tested and published reports on farm machinery so that a farmer purchasing new implements knew the capabilities of that machinery. This service is no longer available, and we now find that farmers are confronted with time-consuming breakdowns, costly repairs and maintenance bills because of inferior agricultural equipment. Due to numerous complaints by farmers the United Grain Growers of Canada conducted a survey in July of 1967. This survey showed that in the Province of Saskatchewan, 88.8 per cent of the farmers requested a program such as the Agricultural Machinery Administration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — This questionnaire showed that only 4.5 per cent of the farmers in the three prairie provinces were totally satisfied with new machinery bought. 24.4 per cent of the farmers felt that over 50 per cent of their machinery purchases were not satisfactory for performance or durability. This survey further showed that 54 per cent of the respondents felt that the three prairie provinces should establish and administer a testing program. 24.5 per cent of the respondents suggested that the Federal Government undertake such a program. 78.5 per cent of the farmers in the three prairie provinces felt the need for a field-testing program, whether it be Federally or Provincially administered. This survey, Mr. Speaker, clearly indicates that the farmers of the prairie provinces feel that a testing program is needed and that it is needed especially in Saskatchewan, where 88.8 per cent of these farmers felt the need for this program. In fact this program should not be limited to machinery alone but should include farm chemicals, fertilizers and other farm necessities. I find it impossible to understand the present Government's thinking when it abolished the Agricultural Machinery Administration, and I now find it even further impossible to understand why it refuses to reinstate it. When the need is so great, as it appears now the Government is more concerned in protecting the machinery companies outside of Saskatchewan rather than the farmer inside Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — I would further suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is time we update and refurbish the Agricultural Representatives Branch so that it meets the needs of present day agriculture. Due to the fact that a farmer's total year's production in grain or specialty crops or any other farming operation for that matter may be destroyed or seriously damaged within a matter of days by infestation of bugs, insects or other disease, the local Agricultural Representatives Service should be so geared so that he may, within a short time after being contacted, survey and analyze this Liberal situation and make recommendations before a substantial loss has occurred to the farmer. As it is now, the agricultural representative is no more than a middle-man between the farmer and the Agricultural Extension Department.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that, if his ranks cannot be increased and his services updated, it would be more convenient and economical to replace this middle-man service with a telephone. Due to the highly technical field that agriculture has become, and since it is rapidly becoming more specialized and more technical, I believe the local agricultural representative should personally contact every farmer in his district at least twice a year so that he may discuss problems and farming practices with farmers in his area. There should also be more local research done with each agricultural representative district. Included within this district office there should be a family farm improvement representative who would be capable of undertaking and planning and developing of rural farmsteads.

I would also suggest that they carry out more research on the common problems encountered by the farmer. This would involve water and sewer, feeding equipment and all other labor-saving and production equipment on his farm. I believe it possible to extend crop insurance to cover crops that are not covered now, such as rape seed which has become a major crop in the Province of Saskatchewan. This program could also be expended in its individual coverage per farmer and be made available to all farmers in this province. This program could well be administered through the District Agricultural Representative Office and by combining these services and possibly others associated with the agricultural industry, we would have a nucleus of service and assistance established throughout the province. I realize, Mr. Speaker, that these increases and the expansions in the agricultural representatives services and localizing agricultural research and assistance would demand a bigger share of the Provincial Budget. But would we note that in the year 1967, agriculture received \$11,638,000 as its portion of the Provincial Budget or only 3.84 per cent of an over \$302 million Budget, making it the second lowest department in receiving a portion of that Budget. There is most definitely a great deal of room for a larger share of the Budget so that we may maintain and improve the agricultural industry in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — There are other fields of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, where improvements could be made, such as the development, leasing and selling of Crown lands, a guaranteed and updated floor price on livestock, more assistance to young farmers embarking on a career in farming. Indeed if we are to truly help the farming economy, I believe that we must launch an all-out

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effort, firstly, to increase the farmer's net income to a point where it relieves him of the present cost-price squeeze; secondly to maintain an equal relationship between the farmer's cost of production and the marketing price of his produce. There are several other areas besides that of agriculture that I would like to mention. One of these that has a tremendous effect on the future of our province is that of education.

We find that the present Administration is concerned about education but concerned only from a financial point of view that lacks concern for progressive education. The taking-over of the financial control of our University is evidence of this. By so doing they are removing the autonomy and academic freedom of our universities, whereby our education may suffer from lack of university personnel and lack of funds available for research at this level and indeed the loss of students because of these factors.

This Government has also neglected to make available the necessary loans that are direly needed by these students, at least to some of these students anyway. Students need these because university tuition fees have increased twice since 1965, the last increases averages \$75 per student. Combined with these tuition increases, there has been a rise in the student cost of living. This, along with the increase in the number of students attending our Universities and requiring loans and grant for which insufficient allowance has been made by this Government creates financial hardships that many cannot bear and, because of this, are forced to discontinue their education. We also find that the local school taxes are soaring because of the lack of Government funds to provide the necessary facilities. If our pre-university school system is to be maintained and improved upon in this province, it should not and cannot be dependent upon the local taxpayer but must be more of the responsibility of the Federal and Provincial Governments. I think it unfortunate that we have a crisis concerning the teachers in the Province of Saskatchewan, because of the legislation which this Government has attempted to force upon their profession and which would have taken away the negotiating facility of teachers and divided personnel in that field on a divide-and-rule basis. Mr. Speaker, if we continue with such an outlook in the education field, the younger generation and consequently the province stand to suffer.

In another important field, it was announced several weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, that the payments be discontinued to eight hospitals in this province as of April 1, 1968. There may be hospitals in our province that are in a position whereby they could be put to better use, if they were converted into homes for elderly people or for some other type of specialized care; but this possibility could only be considered after pre-arranged plans had been completed for the medical care of these people in communities that had experienced the closing of their hospitals. In the eight hospitals which we may very well witness closing this spring, there is a lack of provision made for the number of patients who will be relying on the already overcrowded hospitals in larger centres. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that, if we in this province have reached the stage where we cannot provide proper medical care or proper education for our people, because it is a losing proposition economically, then we surely must re-assess our values.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Messer: — Now, Mr. Speaker, there are numerous other issues which due to time I'm not able to discuss, but from what I have said, the Hon. Members should be well aware that I will not support the motion, but will vote for the amendment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. I.H. MacDougall (Souris-Estevan): — Mr. Speaker, firstly, I should like to join with other Members of this House in congratulating you on your reappointment as Speaker of this House. It speaks well for you, for your past performance and the fair mindedness in which you have conducted your job. In my humble opinion, Sir, you will rank as amongst the best speakers ever to preside in this Legislature.

I should also like to congratulate the new Members of this House who have spoken in this debate thus far, and in particular I should like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address-in-Reply on their maiden speeches. Both Regina and Saskatoon can be justly proud of these new Members.

Finally, I should like to thank the voters of my own constituency of Souris-Estevan for having given me a mandate to represent their interests in this Legislature for the third term. It is particularly sweet in view of the dirty campaign which was waged against me, but I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that I should have expected the tactics that were used when I consider who my opposition was. The Hon. Premier read an excerpt from the propaganda sheet known as "The Commonwealth" indicating just a sample of the smeared tactics which were used in the last campaign. Why, Mr. Speaker, they even insinuated down in Estevan that we slashed tires and tore down signs, and that we even had a Hitler youth movement. Let me tell you that those young ladies and gentlemen who were working in my campaign were a far cry from any Hitler youth movement.

The NDP seem to work on the theory that if you throw enough mud, some is bound to stick. The Member for Moose Jaw North (Mr. Snyder) who spoke earlier in this debate today spent ten minutes yodelling about the tax increase under the Liberals but let me remind the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, that if the NDP had become re-elected as the Government, with all the promises of free services, free drugs, oiled roads to every farm, free university tuition and all that free stuff, yes, with all the promises that they gave the people of this province, we would be looking at some real tax increases in the years to come.

The cost of services and goods are going up all over the land, and I suggest to the NDP that they speak to some of their labor bosses in an effort to keep some of these costs in line. The next few years, Mr. Speaker, should prove interesting ones in Estevan.

Only last month final approval was given to the participating school boards to proceed with their plans to build a comprehensive high school. This school will be of great benefit to the city and to the surrounding area. Permission to proceed with the plans culminates several years of hard work by the Estevan Collegiate Board and the other participating school boards. With the completion of this comprehensive school and its added facilities for education, we hope it will be a further

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incentive for some new industry to locate in our area. And I look forward to the day, Mr. Speaker, however far down the road it may be, for Estevan to become a centre for a junior college. With the new comprehensive school it could easily become the centre and the nucleus for such a college. I therefore urge the Premier in his capacity as Minister of Industry and Commerce to keep Estevan in mind and indeed actively seek a new major industry for our city. With all the natural resources available locally, and by this I mean our oil, gas, sulphur, power, etc., Estevan becomes a natural for the location of new industry and, Mr. Premier, I don't mean another heavy water plant either because even if we had one we probably would have had it out on strike by now with some of your friends on the other side of the House.

I want to speak a bit about transportation in the south part of the province. For several years, we along the Soo Line pressed the former Government for public transportation between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. When this Government took office in 1964, we shattered the old Socialist theory of operating buses only within the province. We linked up with a private company to give us service from Regina right through to Winnipeg, along the Soo Line. I am told that this service has proved to be not only popular with the people in the area, but most profitable to the Government as well as the private company. Now, keeping that venture in mind, I understand that another private company wants to try a similar venture from Estevan to Minot, North Dakota. A very inconvenient situation exists in Saskatchewan in the fact that we have little, if any, cross-border public transportation. Souris-Estevan alone has five ports of entry but no trains or buses to expedite passenger movement down into the United States. If a private company wants to run service into Estevan, then I urge the Minister-in-Charge to expedite such a venture as soon as he receives their proposal.

Lastly, in the field of transportation, I am going to urge the Minister of Highways (Mr. Boldt) to complete the oiling of two highways which are vital to the welfare of Souris-Estevan. No. 47 was oiled from Estevan to Benson in 1964, within weeks after we took office. A year later, the balance of this road was re-built from Benson to Stoughton. While we recognize that it takes a few years for these roads to settle and become compacted, we now urge the Minister to oil the last 14 miles of this road before it starts to deteriorate. It is imperative to the Estevan business community to oil the balance of Highway No. 47 in order to bring traffic south to our city from the entire area both east and west of Stoughton. The completion of the oiling of Highway No. 9 south of No. 18 to the Northgate border-crossing is another highway of prime importance, not only to Souris-Estevan, but to Cannington and the lakes as well. We harvest a great many American tourist dollars at the Moose Mountain resort and as you well know, these tourists are loath to travel on dusty, gravel roads. The portion of No. 9 from 18 to Northgate was built three years ago and it is now ready for oil treatment and I therefore urge the Minister's immediate attention in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, because 1967 was such a dry year, I found in my travels that a serious water shortage existed along the Souris River between Estevan and Carievale. So much so that we had to ask the Saskatchewan Power Corporation to release some water from Boundary Dam to help the stock men with their water

problem. The SPC was very co-operative and it did release some water to help downstream farmers. The topic was brought up again at the Southeast Municipal Convention and resolutions passed asking that the SPC do not release water in the early summer, but rather hold excess water until late fall for release, when it would do the livestock farmers along the Souris Valley the most good. This at best, however, is only a temporary solution and at worst there are times when no water is available at the Dam. I would at this time urge The Water Resources Commission to investigate the possibility of the construction of several smaller dams to hold water all along the Souris. This is a vital and serious matter to all those concerned in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I will devote a portion of my remarks today to the health programs because I feel they are of major importance to the people of this province. I am sure that you will agree with me that my concern is shared by my colleagues and that this year's Throne Speech shows that a Liberal Government puts health high among its priorities. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition fully realizes what this means. They would chalk it all up to a carryover from their Administration and ignore the fact that we are providing superior services in virtually all areas and new services in other areas. This Throne Speech reflects a concern for people and their problems, a Speech that recognizes that new programs and long-term plans are basic to raising the health standards of every person in Saskatchewan.

One of the programs that impresses me most is the survey which will be carried out this year to diagnose cases of unsuspected diabetes. This is a program which shows real progressiveness and points the way for other health departments in other provinces. The danger of diabetes is too often overlooked. Its economic and social costs too often go unrecognized. Yet the incidence of this disease is alarming and becomes progressively higher in the upper-age groups. Few diabetics are under 30 years of age, but in the 50-59 age group over 10 per cent of the population may suffer from this disease. The incidence is much higher among those who have a family history of the disease and slightly higher in women than in men. It is particularly desirable to diagnose diabetes in its early stages. Yet in its early stages, the symptoms are so vague that they may be attributed to another cause. Many early diabetics never go to a physician.

Last year a project was conducted to ascertain if diabetes testing should be instituted regularly by the Health Department. The results dramatically pointed the way to the inclusion of testing in this year's health program. Efforts of the pilot survey located approximately 370 previously unsuspected diabetics and both they and their family physicians were advised to confirm the diagnosis. In all approximately 39,000 people participated in the test for sugar tolerance which pointed out the possibility of the existence of diabetes. The test, carried out in conjunction with tuberculosis testing was particularly recommended for anyone over the age of 40 with a family history of the disease. One of the interesting highlights of the testing was that four cases were discovered among 156 public health employees who were tested at the very beginning of the survey. Certainly no one is immune.

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This year the program is to be continued. The survey will again be carried out with the close co-operation of the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League and the physicians of Saskatchewan. The Tuberculosis League has not yet finalized its schedule of tuberculosis testing, but this is under current consideration. It is expected this year that the survey will begin in Estevan, and I hope that the citizens will avail themselves of the diabetes testing as well as the tuberculosis testing. As many Members must be aware, tuberculosis testing is done in a different part of Saskatchewan each year, and, by combining this new survey with the services provided by the League, it is possible over a few years to bring this test to the entire province.

Diabetes surveys are a new concept in public health medicine, but their importance is obvious. The Health Department has received letters from physicians attesting to the value of this program, and I am proud that our province is a leader in this development.

In the area of planning health services, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be significant for me to point out that there will not be a mass adult polio immunization program this year. This announcement is particularly significant in the light of the method by which the decision was made, when we consider that one year ago it was believed that a mass immunization program would be necessary. The Government, anxious to ensure the health standards of our citizens, took steps to ascertain the immunity level of the population. The method involved was to test a representative sample of the population and project the results. This was a very large task and one which many public health officials have felt could not work. It was considered absolutely necessary, for the results to be valid, that at least 75 per cent of those asked to participate would have to be willing to co-operate. Many considered it unlikely that co-operation on that scale would be possible.

I believe it is a tribute to the responsibility of our citizens that over 76 per cent of those contacted provided a blood sample as requested. Of the 592 contacted, there was only one who refused to co-operate. A number of other people had valid reasons for not participating, such as illness, or having left the province. Less than 20 per cent declined to respond or could not be accounted for because of other reasons.

The results of the survey showed that over 90 per cent of the adult population was protected against polio and therefore an epidemic is virtually impossible and isolated cases very unlikely. These results also showed that earlier polio immunization programs seem to have long-term effects. By continuing immunization programs among children, the disease will never again be the dread menace we once had in the 50's. I would also submit, Mr. Speaker, that the survey showed the concern of this Government for the welfare of the population and the responsibility in using public money.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacDougall: — Mr. Speaker, one of the characteristics of our expanding health service is that the expansion is reflected in the organization. For some years, the Health Department has exhibited a concern for the rehabilitation and treatment of long-term illness. Various programs have been conducted by

various branches. Now in recognition of the unique and special problems associated with chronic illness, the Department has set up a new branch, the Medical Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Branch. This Branch will provide overall planning and coordination between other branches of Health and Welfare which are concerned with rehabilitation and chronic care. It will also work with the University Hospital in Saskatoon, which recently became responsible for the Physical Restoration Centre there, and the South Saskatchewan base hospital, which is to assume the administrative responsibility for the Wascana Hospital in Regina.

The development of this Branch is in line with the levels-of-care concept primarily developed by the Saskatchewan Hospital Plan. The administrators of the Plan have long recognized that there must be numerous levels of care, both in the hospital and in the community, and that coordination must ensure the proper placement of patients for maximum recovery. For this reason, the Medical Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Branch has been assigned responsibility for developing home-care programs. For both economic and therapeutic reasons, home-care programs are an extremely important addition to hospital and private services now in existence.

A home-care program for patients at home is physician-directed with medical, social and nursing service provided. To be effective it must be centrally administered and thoroughly coordinated. It must include planning, evaluation and follow-up procedures that are ordinarily provided in a hospital. For the most part this type of program will make use of doctors, nutritionists, social workers, physiotherapists and nurses who are already in the community. It is also necessary to develop homemakers in the community who can provide services to patients on a fee-for-service basis.

The home-care program has already been tried in various parts of Saskatchewan with varying amounts of Government aid. One of the most active groups so far has been the Victorian Order of Nurses which has developed a program in Regina. Saskatoon has two programs, one of which is for discharged psychiatric patients. Moose Jaw and Prince Albert have programs sponsored by their district medical societies. The Health Department has developed another program in Central Butte. This year the Medical Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Branch is promoting programs in Swift Current and Yorkton. Money and human resources are being made available to these centres in the hope that they will marshal community resources for home-care programs. Prospects are excellent that this will. I feel I can predict, Mr. Speaker, that home-care will become an increasingly important adjunct to hospitalization.

The new Branch will also supervise medical rehabilitation for children with congenital deformities. They will conduct a paraplegic program which will provide such appliances as wheelchairs and electronic lifts. Coordination will be provided between the orthopedic shops operated by the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children and Adults, the Wascana Hospital and the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Branch will pay salaries and travel expenses of people who will carry out assessment clinics in various parts of our province.

During the 1968-69 fiscal year, the Medical Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Branch plans to conduct a number of studies. These will include a full-scale investigation of existing

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geriatric programs. A study will be made defining areas of responsibility between the Health and Welfare Departments for rehabilitation and chronic care. The Branch hopes to be able to forecast the need for health social workers in the next few years, and will recommend a program for obtaining qualified people. A detailed review will be made of the needs of physically disabled children and a registry of handicapped persons in the province will be started.

The creation of this Branch, Mr. Speaker, is a result of the Government's conviction that the needs of some of our people are special and that the services that they receive must be special, too. Mr. Speaker, I see that my radio time is now up. I will not support the amendment. I will support the main motion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R.A. Heggie (Hanley): — Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak for the first time in this House with a good deal of humility. I entered this august Chamber for the first time as a student back in 1935 to observe how government worked. Although it has been a long road before I could occupy a seat in this Legislature, my interest in good government has remained steadfastly the same. I have had the good fortune to serve my fellow citizens in civic government in Saskatoon and on the judicial side as a Magistrate. To me, and I say this with humility, service in this Chamber is service to the whole of the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — Mr. Speaker, I now want to join with other Members of this House in offering my congratulations to you on your re-election to the high office of Speaker. I anticipate you will continue to rule in a fair and impartial manner throughout your new term of office. I also take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues as mover and seconder in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. They are to be commended on their excellent presentations. I want to congratulate Premier Thatcher on his re-election in Morse with a 1,000 vote majority . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — . . . and the re-election of the Liberals as the governing party. I am convinced that the people of Saskatchewan will never return to the era of Socialist experiment that this province went through from 1944-1964. I said it during the recent election campaign, and I say it in this House, that one dose of Socialism will last the people of Saskatchewan for a long time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House to the new voting patterns in Saskatchewan. For 20 years Liberal ranks drew their strength mainly from the southeast and southwest and a fringe of scattered seats across then north. Let us look at the voting pattern from the 1967 election. Liberals broke through in the cities to elect 5 Members from Regina and Saskatoon. But what is more remarkable is the complete breakthrough in central Saskatchewan. Look at the political map now.

1. Wilkie 2. Kerrobert-Kindersley 3. Rosetown 4. Elrose 5. Arm River 6. Hanley 7. Watrous 8. Last Mountain 9. Humboldt 10. Rosthern 11. Saskatoon Nutana South 12. Saskatoon Nutana Centre 13. Saskatoon City Park-University. All held by Members of the Government party. A clean sweep of 13 seats gained or retained in central Saskatchewan.

The solid centre is the new phrase supplied to this area. There must be a reason for this trend towards Liberal strength in central Saskatchewan. The answer, central Saskatchewan is growing up; it is becoming industrialized through oil and potash; its new-found prosperity is appreciated by the majority of the people of this area.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — Blue collar workers have joined with white collar workers, white hard hats have joined with the felt hats of the professional people, the highly mechanized farmers have joined with the computer-oriented business men to make sure that the benefits of industrialization will not be lost by an election of a Socialist party dedicated to big government and big labor.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — The oil workers, the potash workers, the farmers large and small, the city folk, are not going to lightly throw away their new-found gains made possible by a Government with a free enterprise outlook. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that my constituency of Hanley is a part of that solid Liberal centre.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the citizens of Hanley for electing me. Hanley is a unique seat. I like to call it a suburban seat. Four-fifths of this seat lies to the south and east of Saskatoon; one-fifth lies to the west of the river on the edge of Saskatoon. Hanley is a seat of grain farmers and stock farmers, and farming remains its principal industry. But underneath the soil of Hanley lies one of the thickest potash veins in the world. Millions of tons of this mineral resource are there, waiting to be mined and shipped to areas of the world whose soil will not produce without potassium as a fertilizer.

Within the boundaries of Hanley constituency are three potash mines, Duval Corporation located west of Saskatoon; the United States Borax and Chemical mine at Allan and Potash of America mine, with two shafts ten miles east of Saskatoon. Mining interests from Europe are negotiating for another potash mine in the Dundurn area. In addition, Hanley can boast of a cement plant, a chemical plant, a steel fabrication plant, within its boundaries. These mines and plants have changed the whole outlook in central Saskatchewan. Farm boys work in the mines in the winter time. Families of workers move in from every province in Canada looking for housing. The town of Allan has doubled its population since 1964. The villages of Bradwell, Elstow, Blucher and Vanscoy have grown to the point that they have housing problems and are clamouring for sewer and water and natural gas. After years of stagnation these towns and villages are modernizing, and rural citizens are beginning to enjoy a share of the good life of their urban cousins. Potash and potash alone has done this, Mr. Speaker.

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How does this all affect taxes? The result is a much more broadly based tax structure for rural municipalities in this area. The rural municipality of Blucher has two mines within its boundaries, the rural municipality of Cory has one. These mines have brought problems with them, problems of new roads, better roads, paved roads, better road maintenance. Rural municipal councils have to wrestle with these new problems, but I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that they would never want to go back to the status of no mines and no problems. One particular problem facing these councils is the sharing of what is termed windfall taxation from potash mines. This problem will be worked out and the Government has indicated in the Speech from the Throne that it will assist. But is it not better to have to share excess taxation than to have no tax money at all? I only emphasize this, Mr. Speaker, to show the contrast between the new industrial solid centre of Saskatchewan and its position of immobility during the CCF regime.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — There are 10 municipal councils within the Hanley seat, each with problems of its own. I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that since my election to this House, I have attended the council meetings of seven of these rural municipalities and will attend the other three as soon as time permits. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that it is at this level of local government that we legislators are confronted with the real problems. Local councils are the grass-roots of our governing bodies. For example, three municipalities are meeting to explore the possibility of amalgamating, doing this on their own accord, setting up continuing committees to carry it through — a far cry from the county system which the previous Government tried to impose from the top.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — I daresay, there will be a move for more amalgamation of rural municipalities, a genuine attempt to bring more efficiency to local government.

Mr. Speaker, let me turn to development of another kind in Hanley constituency. I refer to the opening of the Gardiner Dam and Diefenbaker Lake. As a result of this, the central part of the Hanley seat has become a network of reservoirs and canals. Broderick, Brightwater, Blackstrap, Bradwell, and all reservoirs on this new waterway. The Blackstrap reservoir, lying between Hanley and Dundurn is a veritable man-made lake, three quarters of a mile wide and 9 miles long, a boon to recreation for the citizens of Hanley and the citizens of Saskatoon.

The Department of Natural Resources has laid out a five-year program to develop the Blackstrap into a playground which will only be 25 miles from Saskatoon by a four-lane divided highway. Already a public park and recreation area has been designated for the east bank and some 700 cottage sites will open up for private development on the west bank this spring. The interest in this new recreation area is phenomenal. I commend the Government for its vision and foresight in getting this development under way in 1968. In addition, the canals will bring life-giving water to thirsty towns and villages presently with poor water supplies. Potash mines will draw huge quantities of water used in the mining process.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne mentions the introduction of French as a language of instruction in schools in certain areas where there is a sufficient concentration of French-speaking citizens to warrant it. In the light of national events I think this is a good move. In a country where one-third of the population speak French I am fully convinced that children in Saskatchewan will derive full benefit from speaking two languages from childhood. These French schools will be as great a benefit to the English-speaking families as to French-speaking. Would not our university students be in greater demand if they were fluent in two of the world's major languages. I am proud to say that in the Hanley seat, the areas around Vonda, Prud'homme and St. Denis are French-speaking communities, and a local group of French-speaking citizens is now working with the Department of Education with a view of setting up a French language school of instruction, one of three pilot projects in the province. I urge the Hon. Minister of Education (Mr. McIsaac) to move this project forward with all possible speed. I await the outcome with a great deal of interest and excitement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words to my friends across the aisle, those who sit to the left of the Speaker. I am not going to chastise them because they are Socialists. As a matter of fact, I know many of them, and some are personal friends of mine. I daresay, most of the Opposition Members are sincere and dedicated men. I only disagree with their economic views as they apply them to our social structure. I just cannot agree with them that the Government can do everything for everybody. I cannot agree that government enterprise is better than private enterprise when applied to our total life. I agree, and I think most liberally minded people agree, that there are sectors of our economy in which the government must take a hand, and use its vast taxing power to supply certain services that people demand in a modern industrial state.

A national airline, a national railway, or a pipeline are cases in point. We must have these services to survive and compete in world markets and the burden of paying for them must fall equally on every taxpayer. The Liberal objective is to allow as much free competition as possible to regulate the law of supply and demand. If it fails to properly distribute income, then the government has a duty to step in and take a hand.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member from Moose Jaw North (Mr. Snyder) said, in his speech to this House yesterday, that he hoped Liberals had a higher motive in life than that of selfishness. I presume he was alluding to the profit motive. Is the Hon. Member from Moose Jaw saying that Socialists have a corner on virtue? This is the usual type of fuzzy, wool-headed thinking that doctrinaire Socialists indulge in.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — Liberals are just as dedicated to virtue as Socialists are.

Hon. D.G. Steuart (Provincial Treasurer): — More, more!

Mr. Heggie: — The difference is that we Liberals are wise enough to harness the latent motive power of the profit incentive to

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propel us forward. This power is there and we may as well use it. I liken it to a jet engine using the hot gases from the exploding fuel a second time before they are expelled into the atmosphere.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heggie: — Ours is the most economical way of doing things. It comes back to the old saying, “There is nothing wrong with Socialism, except that it won’t work.”

An Hon. Member: — That’s Ross’s line!

Mr. Heggie: — Socialists in action remind me of the line from “The Rainmaker”, “The Preacher was so busy talking about what is right that he forgot what is good.”

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that to speak in this House is a privilege, a privilege accorded to me by the electors of Hanley, a privilege those same electors can take away at the next election if they see fit. What the people of Saskatchewan want and the voters of Hanley, in particular, is good government, responsible government, government dedicated to progress, equity and sound financial policies. To achieve these aims within the ability of our citizens today requires measures that may be unpopular in the short run, but correct in the long run.

The Speech from the Throne has indicated policies which will achieve this end. I therefore urge this House to adopt the motion before it and defeat the amendment. I will vote accordingly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J.C. McIsaac (Minister of Education): — I am very pleased at the opportunity to take part in this debate. Before I do so I should like to add my words of congratulations to yourself, Sir, on your appointment, also my words of congratulations to the mover and seconder of this debate, and as well to the new Members who have joined us since the October election on both sides of the House.

Just listening to the Hon. Member from Hanley (Mr. Heggie) who just sat down, points up again some of the changes that took place last October. I always had a great respect for the former Member from Hanley. However, I think it’s going to be a lot easier to respect the present Member now that he is sitting on this side of the House!

Mr. J.E. Brockelbank (Saskatoon Mayfair): — . . . Where you’re standing!

Mr. McIsaac: — I should like, Mr. Speaker, to report at this time on a number of developments in the Department of Education during the past year. Time neither today nor tomorrow will permit me to go into all of them, but before doing so I would like to review quickly the scope of the provincial education system and some of the growth trends both in diversity and in enrolment

figures. As you know, Sir, the Provincial Department of Education is responsible to a degree for the elementary and secondary school systems as well as vocational training and of course at the university level also.

Now figures for the elementary school enrolment in the Province for the past two or three years are I think quite interesting. September 1966, the enrolment in the elementary schools of this province was 176,900 students. In September of 1967 that figure was 178,600 and the projected enrolment in the elementary schools next September of 1968 is 180,000. These figures do indicate levelling off of enrolment at the elementary levels of our school systems. However, while enrolments as such are levelling off, it does not necessarily follow that classroom requirements for our elementary grades are also remaining static or levelling off.

I'm sure that Members on both sides of the House, the rural Members particularly, are well aware of the trend to urbanization which is continuing in our province as well as in other parts of Canada. While this trend has many implications and has been going on for some time, I only refer to it here insofar as it relates to the construction of school facilities. In other words, new classroom space at all levels, the elementary particularly, is still being required by our urban boards to meet the increasing number of students who show up there each fall for their instruction.

Up until the past year or two, most of the school facilities that were being emptied or left behind as a result of this centralization or as centralization progressed, were largely the older types of building which in many cases were due for renovation or up-dating, if not complete renewal in any event. However, this situation is changing somewhat. We do have some isolated instances at least of new facilities being emptied that were built within the last ten years or so and emptied as a result of centralization, centralization, perhaps not necessarily at the suggestion of the local board, but at the wishes of the local people themselves. It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that the Department is very carefully scrutinizing the request of unit boards, particularly for buildings and additional classroom space, in some of our smaller urban centres particularly.

It is for this reason also that we are suggesting to any of these unit boards who require additional elementary facilities that they very seriously consider the use of portable facilities, facilities, which, after they have served usefulness, could easily be moved elsewhere for school purposes or disposed of perhaps for other purposes. I am not suggesting that the present trends in population movement will necessarily continue. However, I think we would all agree we don't wish to find ourselves ten or twelve years hence with a number of permanently constructed classrooms in the wrong places.

We have already asked a number of school boards to consider the use of portable facilities, particularly as I say at the smaller centres and particularly with respect to additions or extensions of elementary classroom space. This does not mean, I might point out, Mr. Speaker, as some people think, that such facilities cannot be good sound facilities. Many changes in the development and design of these facilities have taken place in the last few years in particular. Portables as such are not new in the province. Many of our city systems have been and

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are using such classrooms at a number of their school sites and have been doing so for years.

School boards themselves are very interested in making the best possible use of the tax dollar to provide the necessary classroom facilities for our students. I am sure that they will give full consideration to the possibilities of good quality portable classroom space in their building program.

Of course another reason why we are closely examining all requests for the construction of new school facilities is the current high cost of money. The threat of inflation which we are witnessing, partly as a result of heavy public spending of borrowed money, is a further reason. The Premier in his remarks yesterday dealt with these two points so I don't propose to dwell particularly on them today.

The Government will propose certain amendments at this session, Mr. Speaker, which will spell out more clearly Provincial authority to make regulations pertaining to the construction and the location of new school facilities. I might say that these amendments will not result in any significant changes from present practices now adopted by the Department.

The Speech from the Throne also made reference, Mr. Speaker, to legislation which will permit the use of French as a language of instruction in certain designated schools. This legislation will be of a permissive nature, in that it will allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to name certain school systems, or perhaps I should say particularly certain schools within that system, where French would be the language of instruction. The terms and conditions or the controlling regulations have not yet been finalized, simply because the whole question is still very much under active study. Departmental officials have already met with a number of interested groups who have presented briefs on this subject. We are dealing primarily with a group known as the ACFC (Association Culturelle Franco-Canadienne). I'll have to be a candidate for one of these schools myself. However, the curriculum and the qualified teacher supply and other relevant factors are currently being assessed. One suggestion from Gravelbourg College is an example of what is being considered. A curriculum suggestion from the people at Gravelbourg would place heavy emphasis on French instruction at the kindergarten and grade I level, with a gradual reduction to perhaps half French and half English in grade 6 or in around that area and more English than French in the senior grades. I say again, Mr. Speaker, that our policies in this regard have not as yet been completely formulated. Policy regulations, it may easily be seen, that might fit the Gravelbourg situation could perhaps not well fit the situation in Prince Albert or Regina or elsewhere.

The Government did feel that this was the only way we could make a beginning this year, a beginning, Mr. Speaker, which we are very happy to make, and a beginning which we were happy to expedite to this session at the request of our Prime Minister during the recent Constitutional Conference in Ottawa.

We have said, and I repeat again, that we in no way envisage setting up an additional school system. Economics themselves simply do not allow it. However, at the moment the only real cost that I could foresee would be cost associated with texts, curriculum and other such matters. We have said also

that we will consider schools in areas where there presently is a high concentration of French-speaking people.

We met with a number of groups, the Member who just took his seat in Hanley (Mr. Heggie) mentioned a group in his area that has been down to see us and we are working with these people to develop regulations that will fit the situation.

I should like for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to turn to comment on curriculum developments. I think there is probably no function of the Department of Education as such that has a greater impact on what our schools are and what they do and the product they turn out, than the work in curriculum development. The very quality of the instructional program can only be as good as the quality of the curriculum guidance that we give. I want to tell my Hon. friend from Kelsey (Mr. Messer), who was speaking earlier this afternoon, that this Government is interested in all aspects of education, financial as well as curriculum and other changes.

I would like to refer just briefly to our approach to curriculum improvements. The implementations of programs in divisions 1 and 2 has proceeded to the point where we feel we can seriously begin to try and assess the results. I think all programs, I think everyone would agree, should be subjected to the test of performance and this one will certainly be no exception. Our officials in co-operation with the teaching profession recently instituted an evaluation procedure of the operations of divisions 1 and 2.

In recent years also, Mr. Speaker, there has been a major change in the curriculum for the senior grades, as well as for the first six grades. Accompanying this change-over to the many new courses as well as new and additional subject materials there has been a change in the grading system, better known to most people as the Division System. Revision of the courses at the high school level itself, particularly in the technical and vocational end, has been pretty well completed. Last fall new courses for grades 7, 8 and 9, now known as division 3, were made available to our teachers in the school system of the Province. In the meantime these newly developed courses and the programs previously in use will both be authorized for use.

This reorganization of the curriculum with the new courses in mathematics, new science courses, industrial arts and many other subjects came about under the guidance of two special steering committees set up for that purpose. Extensive consultation with trustees, with educators and of course with the teaching profession itself at all times, took place during the development of those courses. We are trying, I say again, Mr. Speaker, to do everything possible to upgrade the instructional program in our school system.

In spite of this there is still, I think, perhaps a good deal of confusion in the minds of many parents particularly with respect to what is going on in the changes in the curriculum and the changes in the grading system. It is a double change in that we have revisions of different courses, a new curriculum at the same time accompanied by a change in the grading system. Despite the tremendous efforts of the many people involved in the development and the implementation of these policies, this Government felt that further study and continuing study was still required. So that accordingly last

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December we appointed a special two-man advisory committee to gather information to look into the operation of division 3 and division 4.

This committee has begun its work and I must say to date that they've proved a great help to me and to the Department. They are looking at several main areas with respect to the Division System, the additional school building requirement for the implementation of division 3 particularly, the additional teacher requirement and the extent of centralization which would be involved to implement the full degree of the program in the rural areas particularly. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few more comments on this committee and on other matters tomorrow and at this time I beg leave to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

MOTION

ALLOWANCES TO PAID MEMBERS

Moved by Hon. Mr. Thatcher, seconded by Mr. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition):

That this Assembly is of the opinion that the recommendation contained in the Culliton Report of 1962 for a periodic review of allowances paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition under authority of The Legislative Assembly Act, and the salaries paid to the President and Members of the Executive Council, should be acted upon forthwith by the establishment of a similar committee to review the said allowances and salaries and in addition to review the provisions of The Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Act, the recommendations of the said committee to be laid before this Assembly.

Hon. W.R. Thatcher (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, I shall speak only very briefly on this particular motion at this time. You may recall, in one of the debates during the last session, I indicated that if this party should be returned to power we would look at the matter of Members' indemnities. And this resolution proposes to do precisely that.

It proposes to set up an independent committee, which will review first of all indemnities, and secondly the Superannuation Bill. I would remind the House that this matter was last looked at in 1962, five years ago. The procedure followed at that time by the Government of the day, was the same as we are proposing at this time. The Chairman of an independent committee was Chief Justice Culliton. One of the recommendations which were made in 1962 was that there should be a periodic review of this particular matter. We are suggesting that such a review should be made this year. I have no hesitation whatever in saying as Leader of the Members on this side of the House, that we feel there should be some adjustment in the indemnity, and probably in the pensions. I would remind the House that in the last five years civil service salaries have gone up anywhere from 20 to 30 per cent. Indeed in some categories they're up, I understand, as high as 35 per cent. When I was looking over the University budget a few weeks ago I was quite surprised to

find dozens and dozens of professors who are receiving more money than are Cabinet Ministers. Time and again we have watched other provinces in the last few years raise indemnities to a point where Saskatchewan, I believe, is in the lower category as far as financial remuneration is concerned. Not long ago we watched Ottawa raise indemnities from \$10,000 to \$18,000 a year. I am quite aware that this measure may not be popular throughout the province. However I ask myself, "Is it right?" I don't think there is a Member in this House who can't earn substantially more than they are earning as an MLA.

Therefore we are proposing that a Special Committee be set up again with the Chairman, Chief Justice Culliton. Other members of the Committee who have been suggested are Mr. Bill Leonard, the secretary of the Civil Service Union; Dean Barber, dean of Commerce, Saskatchewan University; Dean Carlyle King, dean of English at Saskatchewan University. It might be that we could find a Conservative farmer.

Mr. F. Meakes (Touchwood): — There's none left!

Mr. Thatcher: — Now my understanding, and no doubt the Leader of the Opposition will explain his own party's position, is that there is support for this resolution on both sides of the House. Perhaps the Commission will recommend no change at all, and under those circumstances of course we will not move. However, the Chief Justice is prepared to call his Committee into being. They are prepared to study this matter in the weeks ahead, once he is notified that the Committee wishes him to proceed.

Hon. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, as was indicated, I am the seconder of the motion and will say only a very few words about it this afternoon.

As the motion indicates this is to be a matter of reviewing the situation. Certainly the idea of the periodic review of the remuneration which Members of the Legislature receive is as apt and appropriate as the periodic review of wages or salaries or other kinds of remuneration for any other group of people. I think it was the Member for Hanley (Mr. Heggie) who in speaking earlier this afternoon mentioned with considerable respect the position of Members in this House, that this was a position of very great importance. I hope that the people of the province accept that point of view and will continue to accept it, I hope that, along with that, they realize that Members can't be expected to bonus the operation of public business out of their own income. When I say bonus I use that word quite seriously. I am quite convinced from having talked with many of the Members, with whom I have been associated over a period of years, that being a Member of the House does, for some of them at least, mean an economic sacrifice. The Premier has referred to that. Regardless of that point, Members spend increasing amounts of their time at public business. Certainly it is in order that this be re-examined from time to time. As the Premier has said, it is a difficult job for Members of the Legislature. All of us talk from time to time of better machinery of doing it, but none of us seem to get around to doing much about creating that better machinery. In the end the fact is that we have to make up our own minds on it.

As I understand the resolution, the Committee will examine, the Committee will report back and the specific recommendations, if any, arising out of the report, will come before us in the form of legislation or some other form.

Motion agreed to.

SECOND READINGS

Hon. G.B. Grant (Minister of Public Health) moved second reading of Bill No. 2 – **An Act to establish the Alcoholism Commission of Saskatchewan.**

He said: Mr. Speaker, before moving second reading on this Bill, I think a word of explanation is in order. The Bill provides for the creation of a Commission to administer the Alcoholism Program of this Province. Alcoholism is a condition that has become well known throughout our society, and it has become an increasingly serious problem not only in Canada and the United States but throughout much of the entire world. It is estimated that there are approximately 15,000 alcoholics in this province. Thousands of additional persons such as employers and members of the alcoholics' families are also directly affected.

The Bill contains a definition of alcoholism. I think that, for the purpose of this debate, it will suffice if we think of an alcoholic as a person whose drinking habits have become such that they affect his health or his social or economic well-being.

Many studies of various kinds have been undertaken to prove that alcoholism is a serious problem and that the adverse effect upon health or social or economic well-being, is a grave one, not only for the individual person directly involved but for society as a whole. I would like here to point out only a few statistics that are to me particularly tragic. In 1965 the consumption of liquor was involved in 18 per cent of all automobile fatalities in Saskatchewan – 44 deaths. In the same year, liquor consumption was involved in at least 12 per cent of non-fatal automobile accidents – 873 persons. In the fiscal year 1965-66, 652 diagnosed as suffering from acute effects of alcoholism spent a total of 5,753 days in the general hospitals of this province. It is also known that many persons who were treated in hospital under a different diagnosis were nevertheless suffering from the effect of alcohol consumption. Many other studies have been undertaken in connection with such matters as in employee absenteeism, social aid costs, imprisonment for offences relating to alcohol consumption. And in all cases it was generally agreed that the results of these studies indicate that alcoholism has a most serious effect upon our community, both in terms of human illness, misery, and unhappiness and in terms of cost.

This Province began grappling with this problem in 1953 when the Bureau on Alcoholism was established within the then Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation. In 1959 this Bureau began operating the Alcoholism Counselling and Referral Centre in Regina. This Bureau was transferred to the Department of Public Health in November, 1965, because it was recognized that the treatment of alcoholics was basically a health problem. Since the transfer, a referral and treatment centre was opened in Saskatoon. While this has provided much needed service, it has also helped to highlight the need to take more energetic steps to fight this major health problem.

Accordingly, it was decided to undertake a study in depth of the problem of alcoholism, so that recommendations could be developed to allow this problem to be tackled in a more energetic and scientific manner. A committee, known as the Minister's Special Commission on Alcoholism, was established on August 24, 1966, to conduct this study. I must give credit to my predecessor, the Hon. D.G. Steuart, for initiating this move and setting up the committee. The chairman of this Committee was the Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, the Hon. E.M. Culliton. The Committee made various recommendations respecting measures to be taken and recommended that the program be administered by a Commission. It would have a close working relationship with the Provincial Department of Public Health. It is a well-known fact, Mr. Speaker, that in the field of the treatment of alcoholism, the work done by members of the Alcoholics Anonymous has been singularly effective. In any province-wide program for the control of alcoholism, it is therefore necessary to proceed in close co-operation with the members of this organization and the organizations composed of the husbands and wives of AAs.

The Committee's recommendations, that the program be administered by a Commission has therefore been accepted by the Government, since it provides the basis for participation by interested persons. It would not be possible to the same extent if the program was government-department operated. The Bill, Mr. Speaker, provides for the establishment of a Commission and empowers the Commission to operate a program of the kind set out in the Committee's report. The Bill provides for the Commission to consist of between 8 to 12 persons; four of these persons, including the chairman, are to be appointed to hold office at the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It is my thought, Mr. Speaker, that it would be beneficial to have certain persons appointed who, because of their position, could maintain a proper liaison between the Commission and the Departments of Government, including particularly the Department of Public Health. These persons should hold office indefinitely and not be subject to the provisions of the Bill affecting terms of office and reappointments, as would apply to the other members. They would, therefore, in a sense, be ex-officio appointments.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the members of the Study Committee, headed by Chief Justice Culliton, for having served on the Committee. Each member spent a great deal of time, not only in serving as a member of the Committee itself, but in serving on several sub-committees. I have been impressed with the high quality and soundness of the Committee's report and I know that their recommendations will be a most useful guide to the Government and the Commission in the future.

Mr. G.T. Snyder (Moose Jaw North): — I think that Members on this side of the House would be inclined to agree with the statement in the Throne Speech to the effect that alcoholism must be regarded as one of the critical social problems that we face, not only in Saskatchewan, but in other provinces. I have had the opportunity to look over the Bill only in a very limited fashion, and I know that other Members wished to have a little more time to devote to it. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I beg leave at this time to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

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Hon. G.B. Grant (Minister of Public Health) moved second reading of Bill No. 3 – **An Act to amend The South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre Act.**

He said: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is quite a short one and quite a simple one and it is being proposed purely for administrative reasons. It is proposed that the number of members on the Board of Governors of the South Saskatchewan Centre be increased from seven to nine. It is being recommended so as to give more flexibility to the appointment and composition of the board committees. As a consequence of this amendment it is also proposed that a quorum of the Board be changed from four to five. The work of the South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre will grow by leaps and bounds in the next few months in spite of what the Members opposite say and think. In addition to the workload of proceeding with the Base Hospital, they will be, after April 1st, involved in the operation of the Wascana Hospital, and this is a justification, I feel, for the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. A.E. Blakeney (Regina Centre): — I would like to ask the Minister a question before he resumes his seat. I wonder if the Minister would, with the permission of the Speaker, comment on whether or not he proposes to introduce House amendments or another Bill on the same project, which would deal with the question of superannuation of employees who may be transferred from Wascana Hospital to the South Saskatchewan Centre.

Mr. Grant: — That will be handled in another Bill.

Mr. E. Whelan (Regina North West): — People in Regina are very interested in the activities of the present board. There are some comments that I would like to make and therefore, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:43 o'clock p.m.