

Friday, November 29, 1974.

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

On the Orders of the Day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PRIORITY OF DEBATE - AVAILABILITY OF POTASH TO FAMINE STRICKEN AREAS

MR. D.G. STEUART: (Leader of the Opposition) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I request leave under Rule 17 to move a motion asking for:

Priority of Debate for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. I state that matter to be the need for immediate action by the Government of Saskatchewan to make potash available to those areas of the world such as India and Bangladesh requiring fertilizer in order to combat the daily starvation that they are faced with.

RULING

PRIORITY OF DEBATE - AVAILABILITY OF POTASH TO FAMINE STRICKEN AREAS

MR. SPEAKER: A notice regarding this matter proposed for Priority of Debate was received in the Clerk's office at 12: 20 p.m. today, for which I thank the Hon. Member. After careful consideration of this matter two areas of concern arise. The matter raised for debate must be an urgent and a recent occurrence. I refer all Hon. Members to Erskine May's Parliamentary Practices, 17th edition, page 365 which states that:

The fact that a grievance is continuing is not sufficient if it is not of recent occurrence. If the facts have only recently been revealed that does not make the occurrence recent.

Although all Members would agree that the plight of the starving people throughout the world is of concern to everyone, it is not a matter which has just arisen which would necessitate a Priority Debate today.

And further from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, fourth edition, page 90, Citation 100(5):

The adjournment of the House cannot be moved with reference to critical conditions generally prevailing in certain parts of the country.

The second point of concern is that the matter of priority must fall within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. I refer all Hon. Members to a Speaker's Ruling, dated November 30th, 1973, which states as follows:

A motion for Priority of Debate 'must involve the administrative responsibility of the Government' and it must be so pressing that public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention. This Assembly cannot give attention to matters over which it has not jurisdiction (Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, fourth edition, Citation 100, page 89). (See the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 1973, page 18.)

The matter raised today by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart) involves the export of potash to areas outside of Canada. International trade falls clearly within the responsibilities of the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and not within the provincial jurisdiction. Because this matter is of a continuing nature and is not within the provincial jurisdiction, I rule the motion out of order.

MR. STEUART: Mr. Speaker, speaking to your ruling, may I respect - fully suggest...

AN HON. MEMBER: Order.

MR. STEUART: I submitted a request for an urgent public debate. You have said for example in your ruling that there is nothing that this House or this Government can do about it. I should like to make a case that clearly it has been, and it is the continuing action of this Government that is denying these people fertilizer right now.

MR. SPEAKER: The point the Hon. Member wishes to raise is the subject matter not the urgency of debate. I have tried to carefully go over all the rules of precedence to show what the rules are. I would further like to quote from Beauchesne, page 90, Citation 7, this was a ruling made by the Speaker of the House of Commons on February 19, 1932:

There is no appeal from the Speaker's decision that a motion to adjourn the House for discussion for an urgent matter of public importance cannot be made unless the Member's statement shows that there is actual urgency of debate.

The Speaker's decision of that day decided that the decision on this particular point was final. The House voted on it. At that time in the House of Commons they still had the right of appeal, the same as we have here, and the House voted on whether the Speaker's Ruling would be upheld. I think that is the position we are at right now. The House can either confirm the ruling or they can reverse the ruling and have the Priority of Debate go on. But all the authorities that I can find would rule this out of order because it is not provincial, it is international involving the country of Canada and other countries.

I rule it is out of order.

MR. STEUART: Mr. Speaker, you have made a ruling and you have said

that in your opinion it is not anything that this Government can do something about. That it is national and international. I recognize that trade is national and international and is the responsibility of the Federal Government. However, this Government clearly can decide and has decided on the amount of potash...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. BLAKENEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order. As I understood it you had made your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: I have made my ruling.

MR. BLAKENEY: If you have made your ruling and if I understand the rules there is no possibility of debate on it. What is open to the Hon. Member is to appeal the ruling and that is all that is open to the Hon. Member and not to debate it, if I understand the rules.

MR. STEUART: The Premier is not quite yet a dictator. I am raising a question and asking a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! We cannot debate the subject matter of a proposed motion on the Speaker's ruling. We must debate the ruling if the ruling is left open for debate. Once the ruling has been made the House has the right to challenge the Speaker's ruling under our rules. That is the only avenue that is open at this time.

MR. STEUART: My question then is, Mr. Speaker, you are saying that we don't even have the right to question when you suggest that this is something they cannot do. I think it clearly is, when you suggest that it is not of immediate importance and when I think of 30,000 people starving every day it is important.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the majority of the Members of the House reverse my ruling it cannot be debated. But it can be put on the Order Paper as a standing motion and debated when it comes up on the Order Paper. It can't be debated under the rules of Parliament or our Legislature. My ruling is that the Motion is out of order.

MR. J.G. LANE: (Lumsden) Mr. Speaker, I think we do have the right to question the reasons for your ruling and those are the matters we are taking into account. There is no question that this...

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I think the Hon. Member is well aware that if you don't have the right to question the ruling, you can challenge the ruling and at a later date you can bring the motion up on a substantive motion. I have quoted from Erskine May and I have quoted from Beauchesne plus our own rulings of

the past of this Legislature. I rule that the Motion is out of order.

MR. STEUART: I realize, Mr. Speaker, the Members opposite who have callously allowed this to happen don't want a debate, they don't want to talk about it. However, I challenge your ruling. We will find out whether they want to vote about whether 30,000 people today starving to...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Leader of the Opposition has challenged the Ruling of the Chair. Will the Members take the ruling that I read as read or do you wish it read again?

Is it the pleasure of the House to sustain the Ruling of the Chair? I declare the ruling sustained.

MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Speaker, according to Rule 17(7)...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, we are in the midst of a vote and you cannot raise another point now.

MR. RICHARDS: This relates to the correct rule under which we should be operating. It is my understanding that Rule 17(7) is the relevant rule which says that if objection is taken, the Speaker requests those Members who support the motion and if more than..

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

The Hon. Member is not in order. If he would read five and six he would find that seven follows those.

My ruling has been challenged and those in favour that the Ruling of the Chair be sustained will please rise.

Ruling of Chair sustained on the following recorded division:

YEAS
Messieurs

Blakeney	Brockelbank	Matsalla
Dyck	MacMurchy	Faris
Meakes	Pepper	Owens
Wood	Michayluk	Gross
Smishek	Byers	Feduniak
Romanow	Thorson	Comer
Messer	Whelan	Rolfes
Snyder	Kwasnica	Lange
Bowerman	Engel	Hanson
Thibault	Robbins	Feschuk
Larson	Tchorzewski	Kaeding
Kowalchuk	Taylor	Flasch

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NAYS
Messieurs

Steuart	Gardner	MacDonald (Moose Jaw North)
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Coupland
Guy
Boldt
Wiebe

Weatherald
Lane
MacLeod

Malone
Richards
Grant

- 13

CONDOLENCES

HON. A.E. BLAKENEY: (Premier) Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Steuart):

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing during the last year of three former Members of this Assembly, expresses its grateful appreciation of the contributions they made to their communities, their constituency and to this province.

Hon. Robert Leith Hanbidge, Q.C., who died on July 25, 1974, was the 12th Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan, serving from 1963 to 1970, and was a Member of this Legislature for the constituency of Kerrobert from 1929 to 1934. He was born at Southampton, Ontario in 1891 and received his education at Southampton Public School, Port Elgin High School and Owen Sound Collegiate in Ontario and Wetmore Hall Law School in Regina. He was a member of the Regina Rugby Club from 1910 - 1912. This Club won the Western Canadian championship in 1912 and later became the Regina Roughriders Football Club. He articulated with the Regina law firm of F.W.G. Haultain and was admitted to the bar in 1915. In that year he moved to Kerrobert where he established a law firm with his brother. He maintained his Kerrobert law firm from 1915 to 1963 when he became the Lieutenant-Governor. In 1933 he was appointed King's Counsel. He was a town councillor for Kerrobert, then mayor from 1921 to 1923, and later was chairman of the school and hospital boards. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1958 for the constituency of Kindersley, and was re-elected in 1962. He was chairman of the Board of Stewards of the Kerrobert United Church, and was a member of the Scottish Rite, the Odd Fellows and Elks Lodges. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Saskatchewan in 1953 and 1954. He was invested as Knight of Grace of The Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Governor General Vanier in 1963. In 1968 he received an honorary Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

James Gordon Taggart, who died on June 11, 1974, was a Member of this Legislature for Swift Current from 1934 to 1944 and was Minister of Agriculture for that period. He was born in 1892 at Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. He was educated at River Hebert, Nova Scotia public school, and went to high school at the College of Agriculture in Truro, Nova Scotia. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ontario, in 1912 with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree. He was Superintendent of the Swift Current Dominion Experimental Farm and Principal of the School of Agriculture, Vermilion, Alberta. He was the Saskatchewan Minister of Reconstruction, Labour and Public Welfare from May 1944 to July 1944. He joined the federal Department of

Agriculture and was Deputy Minister from 1949 to 1959. He had two honorary degrees conferred upon him and was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Sinclair Alexander Whittaker, who died on July 10, 1974, was a Member of this Legislature for Moose Jaw County from 1929 to 1934. He was born and educated in Port Perry, Ontario in 1888 and moved to Briercrest, Saskatchewan in 1910 where he operated a small chain of general stores, Whittaker's Ltd. He was one of the founders of the Briercrest Bible Institute which opened in 1935 and was chairman of the board for many years. He was an active supporter of The Gideons, Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Canadian Sunday School Mission, the Evangelical Alliance Mission and Christian Business Men's Association. He also served as President of the Retail Merchants Association of Saskatchewan.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathies with members of the bereaved families.

May I, Mr. Speaker, add a word or two of a more personal nature, to the more formal motion of condolence?

We have noted this year the passing of the Hon. R.L. Hanbidge. R.L. Hanbidge was one of Saskatchewan's most distinguished citizens. Dinny Hanbidge had an outstanding career as a lawyer, as an athlete, as mayor of his home town, as chairman, or board member of almost every civic endeavour in Kerrobert, as a Member of the Provincial Legislature, Member of Parliament, finally as Lieutenant-Governor.

Dinny Hanbidge was not only respected, as he undoubtedly was, but he was beloved by many tens of thousands who have come under the spell of his charm, his genuine friendliness, his fondness for people in all walks of life. I know, many of us knew Dinny Hanbidge. He was one of nature's gentlemen, one of the real natural political figures of this province. And he used to say, he had his ups and downs in politics and he left this Legislature with the consent of the majority of his constituents, but he didn't in any way lack those political gifts which many of us envied. I recall when he was sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor and the little story is indicative of what Dinny was like.

The late Mr. Lloyd and I went down to the dinner which Mr. Hanbidge gave for many of his friends upon the occasion of being sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor. He had a good number of his friends around and we looked around, and he saw us looking around and when he got up to speak he said that he saw people looking around and he could guess that they were wondering about the political complexion of the group. Doubtless they were wondering whether or not they hadn't recognized a good number of these people in political circles, particularly circles of the Conservative Party. I must say that thought had crossed my mind. He said, "Yes, that's true, there are a good number of people here whom you might call 'Tories'. And it's also true that Lieutenant-Governors are neutral in politics. But I want to tell you that I was sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor today and these invitations to all these people went out last week." That was an indication of the sort of charm he used to radiate. I remember Woodrow Lloyd and I leaving

that dinner and thanking our lucky stars that he was being sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor and accordingly could not be a candidate in either the constituency of Biggar or the constituency of Regina Centre.

On behalf of the people of Saskatchewan I extend sincere sympathy to Mr. Hanbidge's daughters and their families.

Mr. Taggart, I did not know. He was active as a public servant in Ottawa until relatively recently and there may be some in the House who were familiar with him. It's clear from the description of his career that he has made an outstanding contribution to agriculture in Canada.

Mr. Sinclair Whittaker, I had met. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker in October, 1973 on the occasion of the official opening of the new dormitory residence at the Briercrest Bible Institute. The residence was dedicated in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker and was named Whittaker Hall. I addressed a few remarks on that occasion and so did Mrs. Whittaker, who had proved to be a real pioneer Saskatchewan woman who, without particular reference to notes, recalled the early days of the Briercrest Bible Institute and the struggles of the Whittakers and others who established that Institute, first in Briercrest and later at Caronport. I have great admiration for people like the Whittakers. They were and are builders of Saskatchewan. They were the sort of pioneers who felt that with a lot of work and a lot of faith, many things were possible in this province. The Whittakers were particularly interested in young people and in their obligation to create and build organizations in society for the benefit of young people. I know that Mr. Whittaker will long be remembered for his contribution to Briercrest, to this province and particularly to the founding of the Briercrest Bible Institute.

On behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, I extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Whittaker and to their daughter, Mrs. Rohde and their son Morgan Whittaker.

MR. D.G. STEUART: (Leader of the Opposition) Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to join with the Premier in paying a word of tribute to these three men who served our province, and indeed our nation in the past, and to whose memory we pay tribute to today.

Unfortunately, Dinny Hanbidge left us some time ago. The tributes poured in from every corner of this province, in fact every corner of this country and beyond.

I suppose when you think of Dinny Hanbidge, if you thought of someone who was a typical Saskatchewanite from a small town in rural Saskatchewan, who could handle himself in any situation whether it was at a rural sports day or at an auction sale, or in the House of Commons, or as Lieutenant-Governor at a very official function, he would be the ideal.

As the Premier, said, he had a great sense of humour. I'll always remember when he was Lieutenant-Governor and he would read the Throne Speech, when I first knew him, when the late Woodrow Lloyd was Premier, the CCF Government then and later we were the government, every time that he would read that phrase, 'my Government;' he would get a little twinkle in his eye. He used to say on several occasions, "You know, Pave, some day I

would like to be able to sit up there and say 'my government' and really mean it all the way down to the bottom of my heart."

You couldn't help but like Dinny and you couldn't help but love him. He did make a tremendous contribution at every level of the community, the province and the nation, in sports, in politics and a host of other activities.

He was a wonderful man. We all miss him. He came the closest of anybody in the history of this province of becoming, I think, for a great many interesting circumstances which he used to enjoy as much as anyone, almost a permanent Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

I knew James Taggart. I met him in the late '50s. He had a very interesting career. He was Minister of Agriculture for many years in the Province of Saskatchewan and later became Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Federal Government. In those years covering a span of about a quarter of a century, there were many advances made in agriculture and in almost every one of them he played a role in their development.

He was an outstanding man both as a politician, as a Cabinet Minister, in this province, and as a public servant for many years with the Federal Government.

I didn't know Mr. Whittaker, but having come from Moose Jaw I remember hearing about him and I know that he enjoyed a reputation as a very sound and honest successful businessman. What is even more important and more note worthy he enjoyed a reputation as a very dedicated Christian, who made a public commitment, as the Premier has pointed out, to the health and guidance of young people.

The Province of Saskatchewan is a better place because of these men who passed this way, and because they served here. Their loss is a loss to all of us and I join with the Premier and every Member in this House in paying tribute to their memory and in passing on to those who are still here, their relatives and friends, our deepest condolences.

HON. A. TAYLOR: (Minister of Social Services) Mr. Speaker, I count it a particular privilege as the MLA now representing Kerrobert-Kindersley, to have this opportunity of saying a few words regarding the Hon. Robert Leith Hanbidge.

Compared to many other Members of this Assembly I knew Dinny Hanbidge for a relatively short period of time. However, during the few years I did have the opportunity of knowing him I came to have a great deal of respect and admiration for the very basic concern he had for the welfare of people generally, and also for his great interest in community life.

In the Kerrobert area, where he was best known, he was also probably the most highly regarded. His involvement in the community had already been well established by reference to the fact that he served the town of Kerrobert as mayor and as councillor, and he served the area as chairman of the school and hospital boards. His service to people more generally can be noted, not only from the elected positions which he held, but also from his activities in the various lodges and as a member of the board of his home church.

In these various positions, Mr. Hanbidge was never the silent listener. He was a man who participated fully in the life of these various organizations. He was admired by those who knew him; for his innate sense of fairness and for his common-sense approach.

Dinny Hanbidge's concern for people beyond his own area is probably best demonstrated by looking at some of his speeches when he was a Member of this House and of the House of Commons. When he was first elected to the House of Commons, in his maiden address, he expressed his concern over the movement of grain and the need to ensure the sale of wheat. He also spoke of his concern for senior citizens and the need for higher old age pensions. He took this opportunity of commending the Government for extending the period of payments under The Unemployment Insurance Act, and then he turned and called on the Government, as a suggestion, to extend this coverage to farm labour.

Mr. Speaker, Dinny Hanbidge will not quickly be forgotten by those who came in contact with him. We have all, in some ways, been affected by his wit and friendship. We shall all, of course, have our own memories to remember. I know in my case, and the Member for Rosthern will not appreciate this, but in my case I could never escape from Dinny without an extra cigar in my pocket. It was one of the first things handed out as one walked in and one of the last things thrust upon me as I left.

Above all else, I think the friendship he extended to all is what will be most remembered. One of his own quotes from 1958 most demonstrates this fact. At that time he said in a speech in the House of Commons:

I should like to say, Sir, that in the four political campaigns in which I have been a candidate my opponents were friends of mine. We were friends when the campaign started and we were still friends when the campaign ended. We managed to conduct all four campaigns without bitterness and better still without any mud-slinging.

Dinny Hanbidge was not only a friendly man, he was indeed a friend which says much more.

In closing may I say that the people of Kerrobert-Kindersley join with the Members of this House and the citizens of this province in expressing our regret at the loss of such a man, and we extend our sympathy to his daughters and their families. His friendship and his work will long be valued.

MR. G.B. GRANT: (Regina Whitmore Park) Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of knowing Dinny Hanbidge before I was a Member of this House and I certainly want to join with others on this occasion to say a few words in memory of Mr. Hanbidge.

I think as most of us go through life we accumulate friends or accumulate enemies depending on our natures and personalities I found that Dinny Hanbidge was one of those fortunate individuals who seemed to have what was required to not only make friends but keep them. He had friends of all ages and in all walks of life.

As has been indicated here today I certainly found Dinny to be a most friendly man, a most happy man and an optimistic individual. He certainly wasn't one to look on the bad side of things.

One thing that impressed me was his sincere interest in the careers and the accomplishments of young people particularly. He showed a genuine interest and was a good listener, which is a pretty important asset. I think that these traits did much to project Mr. Hanbidge into public life where he made such a sizeable contribution.

He will certainly be not only missed by all those who knew him, but probably of more importance, will be remembered for all the good things that he did in his life.

I should like, Mr. Speaker, to join with the others of this House in expressing our sympathy to his daughters and their families.

MR. J.A. PEPPER: (Weyburn) Mr. Speaker, may I join with the previous Members in expressing my words of condolence to the relatives of the three deceased gentlemen, but most particularly relating to the Hon. R.L. Hanbidge, former Lieutenant-Governor of our province.

In looking back to my first year in 1964, Mr. Speaker, when I became a Member of this Assembly, there were many things that happened which to a new Member were very significant. One that I shall never forget was the opening ceremony of the Legislature. The most outstanding to me was the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. R.L. Hanbidge. The impressive manner in which he walked across this floor of this Chamber with that smile on his face, creating an atmosphere of warmth and gratitude, which gave me the assurance, Mr. Speaker, that I, even a new Member was welcome and that he, as the representative of the Queen, was human and we had nothing to fear.

So, Mr. Speaker, while it is with regret that one must accept the passing of such a notable person in this history of our province, I can safely say that his contribution to Saskatchewan, in whatever capacity he served, will be remembered throughout the years and when history is written the late Hon. R.L. Hanbidge will be given his rightful place as one of the most humble and yet statesmanlike public servants Saskatchewan has ever known.

I should like, Mr. Speaker, through you to express these words of sympathy to the Hanbidge family at this time.

HON. G. SNYDER: (Minister of Labour) Mr. Speaker, I didn't personally know Mr. Sinclair Alexander Whittaker, the man who was a Member of this House as the Member for Moose Jaw County, however, he was well known in the Moose Jaw community and in the surrounding area as a fine and honest Christian gentleman.

Mr. Whittaker was one of the founders and the central figure in the Briercrest Bible Institute. He contributed in a very generous way financially and in a moral way to the operation of that institute.

I had the opportunity to substitute for the Minister of

Education on October 20th last, when the Library at the Briercrest Bible Institute was dedicated and it was obvious from talking to those people who were close to the Institute and close to Mr. Whittaker that he had left a permanent impression of generosity and sacrifice for those causes in which he believed so sincerely.

The Premier indicated that the new dormitory at the Institute bears his name and I suggest that it will be a constant reminder of this man's dedication to Christian ideals. I should like to join with those who are paying tribute to him today and express my sincere regret at his passing. The qualities which he possessed are a rare commodity today and his family can be justifiably proud of this distinguished Saskatchewan citizen.

HON. E.I. WOOD: (Minister of Municipal Affairs) Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words along the lines of those that have spoken concerning the Hon. R.L. Hanbidge.

Hon. R.L. Hanbidge, I think was one of the truly great men of Saskatchewan whom we have had to deal with.

Hack in time when he was elected in 1958 and before Mr. Hanbidge became the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, he and I represented some of the same people. He, in Ottawa, and I here in Regina. A part of the Swift Current constituency was in the Kindersley federal constituency so we had the honour of representing some of the same people.

But back in those early days, I am sorry to say, I had never met Mr. Hanbidge. My paths were from Swift Current to Regina and I was dealing, more or less, with the CCF circles and government circles in that way: Mr. Hanbidge, his movements were between Kindersley and Ottawa and he was dealing with a different set of people than what I was and somehow we never met. The place where we did meet was over in London, England. It was at the time of the Parliamentary Conference in London in 1961. I, Sir, then held the position that you hold now and I was the representative for Saskatchewan at that Conference. It was really strange, both of us thought, that we had to go over to London in order to meet when we really represented the same people here in Canada. I think that some of the people from other parts of the Commonwealth thought it was rather strange that we had to go over there to meet. But we did.

I want to tell you people here today that Dinny Hanbidge with his big white stetson hat was the lion of the whole Conference. Everybody at that Conference knew Dinny Hanbidge and they knew him well. He really stole the hearts of everyone at that Conference.

I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was also very happy to be invited to the dinner of which the Premier speaks. I was pretty proud at that time to be counted as one of the Lieutenant-Governors friends. I am still very proud and very pleased indeed to have the privilege of being one of Mr. Hanbidge's friends.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that it surely was not an exclusive privilege. I am sure that Mr. Hanbidge's friends numbered very well up into the hundreds and thousands, that he

was one of the best liked and better known people of Saskatchewan.

I should also, Mr. Speaker, like to say a few remarks about the Hon. J.G. Taggart, who represented the Swift Current constituency and was my predecessor as the representative of that Constituency in the Legislature for some 10 years between 1934 and 1944.

I am sorry I have to say in this regard that I was never personally acquainted with Mr. Taggart. I guess I was rather small fry and I wasn't travelling too much in political circles in those days and I don't think that I ever exchanged a word with him. We just never met in that way.

My first recollection of him, Mr. Speaker, was just a little better than 50 years ago this year, when he addressed what we called an "Open Lit" in the Swift Current Collegiate back in 1924. I am afraid I can't tell you what he spoke about that day. At that time he was the superintendent of what was then the Swift Current Experimental Farm. It is now the Research Station, but in those days it was the Experimental Farm where Mr. Taggart was the superintendent. He came to speak to the high school students on that day. As I say I can't recall what he said but I recall that I felt it was a good talk and I was much impressed by his bearing, athletic figure and good looks. He really made an impression on the kids that day.

He came to Swift Current from Vermilion. I believe he had been in the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He remained superintendent of the Experimental Farm until he ran in the 1934 election campaign.

This was one of the harder fought election campaigns that you will ever see around the country. I am quite sure it was one of the hardest fought that was ever fought in our constituency. It was between Mr. Taggart and the Hon. W.W. Smith, the Minister without portfolio in the Anderson Government, who represented Swift Current constituency at the time, and Allan MacCallum who later became the Deputy Minister of Education in Saskatchewan for many years. When the votes were counted I think there were two votes between Allan MacCallum and Mr. Smith and Mr. Taggart had a majority over Mr. MacCallum of just over one hundred votes. It was a pretty close election.

I can well recall the debate that Mr. Taggart and Allan MacCallum had in the Metropolitan Church in Swift Current. I think it was just the night before the election. The debate in the packed church was a very, very interesting one I can assure you. It was very well carried on by both the debaters and it was one that went down in history in that constituency.

Mr. Speaker, it is a terrible thing to say, but they tell me that confession is very good for the soul and maybe this is the right time to say it, but I voted for Mr. Taggart in that election. That was 40 years ago and it was the first, last and only time in my life that I voted Liberal. But Mr. Taggart went on and as I say he won that election and was in the Saskatchewan Cabinet at the time and became the Minister of Agriculture, which position I believe he held until 1944. I think he held that position with great distinction. When he was defeated in the 1944 election, he went back to working for the Federal Department of Agriculture and before too long became the Deputy

Minister of Agriculture for Canada.

I must concur with the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Steuart) that I believe that the Hon. J.G. Taggart, did contribute a great deal to the agriculture and the people of not only his own constituency but to the province and to all of Canada during his years of service to the country.

I should like at this time to express my sincere sympathy to the bereaved family of both the Hon. R.L. Hanbidge and the Hon. J.G. Taggart.

MR. A.W. ENGEL: (Notice-Willow Bunch) Mr. Speaker, I, too, should like to say a few words today and pay tribute to a man who, as mentioned by others here today, left his mark on our province.

Sinclair Whittaker was born in Ontario. He was orphaned when he was just a very young boy. He was raised by a God-fearing grandmother. During his boyhood years he worked in a store for a Mr. Charlie Brown. He enjoyed telling about this. He reminisced about a room he had upstairs in that store, how he had spent time counting pelts because the store did a large trade with the local Indians.

He headed West at the age of 20 to the village of Briercrest equipped with some education in commerce, some experience in working in a store and a whole lot of enthusiasm. He put these assets to work and in less than one decade he acquired a chain of six stores throughout southern Saskatchewan. He turned his attention to the field of politics and was elected as a Conservative Member from Moose Jaw county, as has already been mentioned, in 1929. In the election of 1934 he ran as an Independent and was defeated.

During the years that Mr. Whittaker served as a Member, his wife Isabel, to satisfy a deep spiritual hunger, enrolled in a correspondence course from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Her interest was contagious and before too long a study group in the Briercrest area decided to hire a young minister by the name of Mr. Henry Hildebrandt. The early services of this group were held in a large room above the Whittaker store.

Mrs. Whittaker, the correspondence school student, along with Mr. Hildebrandt and a Mrs. Helton, became the first teachers of the newly formed Bible Institute. Mr. Whittaker had a new avenue for his enthusiasm and it wasn't long until this new school moved from a shack next to the pool hall to the Briercrest Hotel. The school was officially organized and chartered in 1935 with Mr. Whittaker as the first president and chairman of the board, a position he held until 1950.

During those years the Whittakers placed all they had behind the school. The store became the school's supply depot. One will never know just how much he invested but under God their financial support was a key factor in enabling the Briercrest Bible institute to continue to function during those early depression years. As his commitment grew, and it has been talked about by others today, in the importance of teaching the Bible to young people his vision also was broadened including some other Christian organizations as are mentioned in the main motion. The Canadian Sunday School Mission, the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, the Soldiers' and Airmen's

Christian Association and the Wycliffe Bible Translators, just to name a few.

He personally encouraged another young student, John Parshower to engage in Bible School ministry as well. This led to the establishment of two other schools, the New Brunswick Bible Institute and one in Bracke, Germany.

The greatest single contribution that Mr. Whittaker made to the Briercrest Bible Institute was in the purchase of the Caron Air Force Base in 1946. While a high school student there from 1947 to 1950, I became closely involved with this great man. I remember one instance when we were sitting at the table before meal time and over the loudspeaker system somebody asked him to say grace and he stood up and said, "Whittaker speaking," and this tells a little bit of the kind he person he was. It was a thrill for me and an excuse to get out of school to drive his 1940 Chevy for him as he went out on speaking engagements to raise funds and support for the Bible School.

His personal encouragement led me to seek a nomination alter a setback in 1967. Mr. Speaker, it is not an accident that this area is known as the "Bible Belt." It is the direct result of men with a vision and a commitment to God. Men like Sinclair Whittaker.

MR. D.F. MacDONALD: (Moose Jaw North) Mr. Speaker, I am thankful also for this opportunity to express a few words in tribute to the late Mr. Sinclair Whittaker. I had met Mr. Whittaker but I really did not know him on a personal basis. However, I do know of many of the activities in his community and I do, of course, know of the high esteem in which he was hero by his friends and neighbours. It was just recently, in fact it was yesterday, that I discovered that my late grandfather, Flory MacDonald, and Mr. Whittaker were very close personal friends. I think that possibly they had known each other in Ontario before coming out here. But this friendship was undoubtedly fostered by their mutual interest in the Conservative political party.

As has been noted Mr. Whittaker was a successful businessman. He had a small chain of general stores and I believe that some of these stores were in Bayard, Hearne and Tilney, which are all very close to Moose Jaw, and of course his home base was at Briercrest. It has been suggested he was a founder of the Briercrest Institute and chairman or the board for a number of years. This Institute, of course, started at Briercrest and moved to Caronport alter the war where the facilities were much more adequate.

I think that the Briercrest Bible Institute is in itself a very fine tribute to Hr. Whittaker. It has become one of the finest learning institutes in Saskatchewan, both academically and religiously. This institution has adopted, or possibly I could say it reflects the very character and personality of Mr. Whittaker. I think that it is because for this reason that it has become as successful as it has. "The BBI as it is called has always operated on the principle of self help. The board and the staff and the students and their parents have always worked co-operatively to achieve what was necessary at that Institution. It is this aspect of the Briercrest Bible Institute that is so refreshing to me and I

give Mr. Whittaker full credit for the part that he played.

I have taken the time to examine the record of Mr. Whittaker when he served in this Legislature from 1929 to 1934. I must say that I am very impressed with the actions he took at that time. Of course, it is very evident from the time that he spent from 1929 to 1934 that it was a difficult period in Saskatchewan's history to serve in this Legislature. From reading the record it is very evident that he brought to this House his strong moral convictions. It is very evident that first of all he was a humanitarian. He was a member of the Anderson Government during the depression and at that time he made a plea for the co-operation of all groups in this Legislature. In fact, on March 9, 1932, he suggested and indicated that he would be willing to go along with a coalition government if that is what it would take to run Saskatchewan in the best interests of its people. He did not always support his government's party. Records indicate to me that he was certainly his own man. He was never a party man at the expense of his convictions. The good of his province and the welfare of his people always came first.

During the early depression he was one of the strongest advocates of the policies of retrenchment. Mr. Whittaker was very critical of the theory of spending one's way to prosperity. He also felt that elected Members should show the way and he was the first to advocate a cut in MLAs' indemnities and also in civil servant salaries in very difficult economic times in Saskatchewan. He felt very strongly that the Government must lead the way. As a matter of fact he was so sincere in his quest for economy in Government spending that it was his suggestion that the City of Moose Jaw could perhaps do with one representative instead of two and this might be a way to cut down expenses. It should be known that Moose Jaw at that time was represented by two people of his own party. He certainly pulled out all the stops to lead the way in economy in Government spending.

After searching and reading through the Legislative records on Mr. Whittaker I can say that his service and his conduct in this House could be an inspiration to any political person. May I join with others in this Legislative Assembly in expressing condolences to the family of Mr. Whittaker.

MR. BLAKENEY: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Steuart)

That the Resolution just passed together with the transcripts of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased Members be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:45 o'clock p.m.