

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**June 22, 1982**

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Special Committee to Prepare Lists of Members**

**ASSISTANT CLERK (PROCEDURAL):** — Mr. Martens, from the special committee appointed to prepare lists of members to compose the standing committees of the Assembly, presented the second report of the said committee which is as follows:

Your committee recommends that the members whose names will appear on the appended list to the *Votes* this evening compose the standing committees of the Assembly under rule 86.

**MR. MARTENS:** — It has been moved by Harold Martens, Morse constituency, seconded by the member for Prince Albert-Duck Lake:

That the second report of the special committee appointed to prepare lists of members to compose the standing committees of the Assembly be now concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**HON. MR. LANE:** — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 24, 1982, I shall move first reading of a bill, An Act to amend the Statute Law.

Mr. Speaker, I further give notice that I shall, on Thursday next, move first reading of a bill, An Act to amend The Legal Profession Act.

These are primarily housekeeping bills that were left from the last session.

I give notice that I shall, on Thursday next, move first reading of a bill, An Act to amend The Provincial Court Act.

I give notice that I shall, on Thursday next, move first reading of a bill, An Act to amend The Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act.

Finally, I give notice that I shall, on Thursday next, move first reading of a bill, An Act to amend The Regulations Act.

**WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

**MR. DOMOTOR:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of fellow members to a group from the Humboldt constituency, from Bruno. This is a

grade 7 class accompanied by teachers Marianne Gerwing and Bernadette White. They have been touring the hall of fame and the Museum of Natural History this morning, plus the Legislative Building. This afternoon they will be meeting with me at 2:30 p.m. and they will be going to the RCMP museum. Again, I would like to welcome them to this Assembly.

**HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**HON. MR. LANE:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague it is my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly 26 students from the W.C. How School in the constituency of the Hon. Paul Rousseau, Minister of Industry and Commerce. Mr. Rousseau is not here today; he is in Ottawa and I guess is having some success convincing the Minister of Finance to bring in a new budget.

They are accompanied by their teach, Carol Hart. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to the Assembly, I hope their day is interesting and informative and ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to the Assembly.

**HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

## QUESTIONS

### Closure of GWG Ltd.

**HON. MR. BLAKENEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Commerce, but in his absence I will direct it to the Deputy Premier. It concerns a report in today's *Leader-Post* indicating that GWG Ltd. Of Saskatoon had announced that its plant will close, and I gather from the announcement, permanently, resulting in the termination of about 150 employees and that this closure will come about promptly. I wonder if the Deputy Premier or one of his colleagues can indicate what steps have been taken to assist the company to stay in business and retain these 150 jobs.

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that there were no inquiries made to this government by that particular company. However, I am prepared to take notice of the question on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Commerce and bring back to this House information as to whether in fact there were inquiries made and requests for assistance. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the consumer price index just published recorded no change in Saskatoon, and a marginal 0.1 per cent increase in Regina; it showed a level of 9.3 per cent over the year in Saskatchewan as opposed to 11.8 per cent across Canada. I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that in fact since the 26th of last month, when we brought in a significant tax cut in the form of elimination of road tax, there has been quite a bit done for the people of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**HON. MR. BLAKENEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I fail to follow the logic of the member for Souris-Cannington in relating that particular answer to the question of the 150 employees of GWG. I am sure they will be very comforted when they go on unemployment insurance to know that their gasoline will cost them less. I am sure that will be a comfort to them, as it will be to the Ipsco employees who are on unemployment insurance, and to all the other employees who are on unemployment insurance . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . They are being strict now, I suppose, Mr. Speaker. I will ask a supplementary then.

When the hon. member takes the issue I raised to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and asks him for a report, would he also indicate whether or not the government is prepared to offer any assistance and to get in touch with GWG to see whether any steps by this government might save those 150 jobs?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — While I am taking notice of the first question, I will also take notice of this question, and the answer is yes, the Minister of Industry and Commerce will bring the information back to this House.

### **Summer Employment for Students**

**MR. HAMMERSMITH:** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs. Given the fact that fewer than one-third of students registering at study employment offices across Saskatchewan are being placed, and in view of the fact that a great majority of the registrants applying for jobs live in urban centres and are seeking employment there, would the minister outline to the House any program he has in place in the Department of Urban Affairs to assist urban municipalities to employ students for the summer months?

**HON. MR. SCHOENHALS:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member obviously raises a very difficult question as far as the economic situation in the province is concerned. There is no question that students are having a great deal of difficulty finding jobs. However, I would like to suggest to the hon. Member that that is only one of the many areas which has been left to us to clean up. It will take some time. We are working very hard on that, and when we have the programs ready we will certainly bring them to this House and inform him of the answer.

**MR. HAMMERSMITH:** — The summer is rapidly going to come to a close. As far as students are concerned, there is not a great deal of time left, and they are seeking employment now. High school students will soon be joining university and institute students in seeking employment. Would the minister indicate whether he has any plans to meet with SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities' Association), or some other form of municipal governments to deal with at least this area of increasing unemployment in Saskatchewan?

**HON. MR. SCHOENHALS:** — Mr. Speaker, as was indicated by the interjections, summer started yesterday. I don't believe it's that near to an end. However, in answer to the question, we are meeting with SUMA on a regular basis. I would assume that at least once a week I have had meetings with their executive, or attended their regional meetings, or portions of them. The topic has arisen; we are dealing with it on an ongoing basis. We are in the process of formulating some plans and, as I indicated, we will bring them to the House in due course.

**MR. HAMMERSMITH:** — A supplementary to the minister. Can the minister indicate to this House and to the students in Saskatchewan when he will be bringing forward specific plans?

**HON. MR. SCHOENHALS:** — As I'm sure the Hon. Member is aware, there are many considerations in dealing with this question. One of them that obviously has arisen today is the fact that a new federal budget will be coming down on Monday. This is an example of the type of thing that we want to take into consideration, and we will bring this program on stream and do what we can for these people, and we will announce it

when it is in place.

**MR. HAMMERSMITH:** — Mr. Speaker, we had a speech in this House yesterday indicating that this was not a government that would wait on Ottawa, and this was not a government that would blame its problems and its difficulties on Ottawa. Would the minister indicate what steps the Government of Saskatchewan is prepared to take to act in this matter?

**HON. MR. SCHOENHALS:** — Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that I have had one question and three supplementaries that are all identical, I will repeat an identical answer. We are working on that situation. We realize it is grave, and we will bring it in in due course when it is ready.

### **Small Business Loans**

**MR. KOSKIE:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, but in his absence to the Deputy Premier. During the election campaign your party pledged to provide loans to small businesses at the rate of 9.625 per cent interest. I want to say also that if you look closely at the ad, there is a picture of the Tory candidate for Quill Lakes with a very worried look on his face because he knew he couldn't defeat me.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, a promise has been made to the business community that loans would be brought in at 9.625 per cent. I have a clipping here headlined "Small Business Loans Plan Studies." It says that:

Paul Rousseau, the minister responsible for the crown investments corporation, says the plan is not top priority for the new government and will take some time to implement.

In view of the difficulty that small businesses are encountering, will the Deputy Premier indicate why he has placed this program as not a high priority?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Of course, Mr. Speaker, they are all very high priority. It's a matter of degree, but they're all lumped very close together at the top of the list. Mr. Speaker, I would just point out to the hon. Member that we have, in fact, acted very quickly on the gas tax removal which, to a large extent, affects small business. We have acted very quickly, as you will see later today, on the mortgage interest reduction program. We have been in power one month and two weeks and I think that if the member is just a little patient he will see that all of our campaign promises will be, in fact, fulfilled in due course.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. KOSKIE:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the basic indecision of this government to provide assistance to the small businessmen as promised, will the Deputy Premier assure this House that the loans which we have proposed through Sedco (Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation) — up to \$25,000 at subsidized interest rates — be made available to the small business community?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — I just want to point out to the House, Mr. Speaker, that this economic crisis didn't begin on the 26th of last month. It's been through 11 years of

dastardly planning by the members opposite, along with their cohorts in Ottawa. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that we are under no obligation to honor the commitments of the previous government. Some may be honored; some may not. Relative to that I'll take notice of the question and pass it on to the minister responsible.

**MR. KOSKIE:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, in view of the indecision of this government to assist and keep its pledges to the small business community, I would like to ask the Deputy Premier: can he assure the House and the business community that the interest abatement program and the increases which we proposed will, in fact, be put into place to assist a business community demanding assistance?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, in fact, Saskatchewan is open for business.

It's funny — when I was walking around downtown this morning, I caught just about every businessman on the street smiling. They're just thrilled to death that we're here. And, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the question, I'll give the member no assurance about anything, but I will take notice and take it up with the minister.

### **Student Employment**

**MR. LUSNEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Highways. In light of the large number of students who are now seeking employment, could the minister tell this House how many contracts he has awarded recently which would assist these students in finding some employment?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Mr. Speaker, contracts awarded by this administration as of April 26 total \$3,459,103. We hear the administration from the previous government stating that this government is under review. The only people who are under review in this province of Saskatchewan are the NDPers with their incompetence and thoughtlessness as to what they would do for the people of Saskatchewan in 1982. The decision was brought down then, and that is the answer . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, I hear the hon. Member's offer.

Regarding student employment, Conservacheck has been implemented by this government, and we have hired students to fill those positions.

**MR. LUSNEY:** — Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Highways. He hardly answered any part of the question I asked him. I did ask the minister how many contracts he had awarded recently. The answer I wanted is not \$3 million, which could amount to one small highway somewhere. I wanted to know how many contracts on the various highways in the province he has awarded which would assist these students in getting jobs, and how many students he anticipates these contracts would provide work for.

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Six contracts have been awarded since April 26, and I don't tell the contractors whom to hire for their employees.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. LUSNEY:** — A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. At least the minister did say that he awarded six contracts, which I can't say is too many contracts, nor can I agree with him that this is a sufficient number of contracts for this time of year. It is true that the contractors do decide on how many students are hired, but the more contracts that are

out there, the more possibility there is for these students to get hired.

Since he says six contracts have been awarded, could he tell me just how many contracts or tenders, at this time, have been awarded by the department or have been let by this department for further contracts? How many tenders have been called on other construction projects in this province, and how many projects has he cancelled at this time?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — well, it's a little hard to understand the question the member has put. I think the information the member is looking for is this. Under tenders currently being advertised, we have six for a total cost in excess of \$5 million. Tenders that will be advertised between June 21 and July 14 come to another \$6 million, for a grand total, under this administration, of contracts either being awarded or tendered or to be tendered of \$14.5 million – work for the contractors in the province of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. LUSNEY:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The minister is telling us that they have awarded about one-tenth of what the previous administration's budget usually was in highways. That I don't consider to be a great undertaking by the Department of Highways at this time. Highway 37 south of Shaunavon has been cancelled at this time. Could the minister tell me how many other highways on the project array have been cancelled?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member's question, the one contract down there has been cancelled. To my knowledge, to date that is the only one cancelled. The reason for it is that this government is putting its priorities on traffic flow instead of playing politics with the roads of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

### **Improvement of Highway 13**

**MR. ENGEL:** — I have a question for the Minister of Highways. I am not sure that the people along Highway 13 picked a suitable name for that association to improve Highway 13 – the length between Winnipeg and Lethbridge. They called it the Redcoat Trail. Maybe they should have called it a blue jacket trail or something like that. When is the minister prepared to do the surfacing from Lafleche west that was tendered, that was let early in April? You say there was only one cancelled. Was that contract cancelled or wasn't it?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Mr. Speaker, the whole project array is under review by this administration. The reason it is under review, as I have stated previously, is that the previous administration had been playing politics with the roads instead of constructing roads where roads needed to be built.

**MR. ENGEL:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister consider a link across southern Saskatchewan a political road. Is the Redcoat Trail a political road?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — No, I don't consider that trail, the Redcoat Trail, or the Trans-Canada, a political road. It has to do with priorities. Where are the roads needed? I will enlighten the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, and I have referred to this before. It is out west of Webb, on Highway No. 1. The previous administration was not concerned

about the 22 people who were killed in an accident out there. They were coming up to within one mile of where that very dangerous accident took place. This new administration had the foresight to see the problem out there and talked with the people out there. They were concerned. The new administration has now announced (and I announced it previously) that we are going one more mile on the Trans-Canada to hopefully prevent a serious accident like that from taking place again.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. ENGEL:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to question the Minister of Highways. Does he not agree that building up the Redcoat Trail, an east-west route across southern Saskatchewan, will take pressure off No. 1 Highways and divert traffic around it? Are you building a trail to get a person from Regina out of Saskatchewan in 4.5 or 5 hours or do you intend to have a route available where people can see southern Saskatchewan, and where they can visit parks like Cypress Hills, which are tourist attractions? Would the minister reconsider and put emphasis on the Redcoat Trail and go ahead with surfacing of the section, which is very bad, west of Lafleche?

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Mr. Speaker, for the member's information the Trans-Canada is a two-way road. One way is for the people to come back from Alberta to the province of Saskatchewan to live and work. The other way is for the defeated NDP MLAs to leave the province of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**HON. MR. GARNER:** — Further additional information for the member opposite: the Redcoat Trail is not the only artery we have from border to border in the province of Saskatchewan. We also have the Yellowhead Route, which is a very important route with a very high traffic flow. It is one of the priorities of this government.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

### **Hospital Construction**

**MR. LINGENFELTER:** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Deputy Premier in the absence of the Minister of Health. I have received rumours and complaints about the fact that several projects in the area of hospital construction are not going ahead at the present time. Would he inform the Assembly whether the project at Lloydminster and the project at Maidstone, which had had letters of approval given to them, are going ahead?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health, I will take notice of the question and he will answer it the next sitting day.

**MR. LINGENFELTER:** — In light of the fact that the many hospital projects which were to be built this year are not going ahead, and because of the lack of jobs being created, will the array of projects be announced this week or next week? When will the total array be announced and when will the review be finished? When will the on-the-job training end and when will we get down to doing some work in constructing nursing homes and hospitals?

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — If we were to build all the nursing homes that this former government promised during the election campaign we would have to build about

260,000 beds, and I don't think any public purse can afford that kind of cost. Naturally we are going to review the promises made by the former administration. As it relates to the array of hospitals promised by the former administration, the Minister of Health will be making that announcement in due course. The hon. Member opposite is making a lot of assumptions. He has absolutely no knowledge of what might be going on in the ingenious minds on this side of the House and I would point out to the hon. Member that he would be well-advised to check his sources before speculating on what he called "rumours floating about."

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### **Bill No. 1 – An Act to establish a Mortgage Reduction Plan**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a bill to establish a mortgage interest reduction plan, Bill No. 1.

Motion agreed to and the bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

### **Bill No. 2 – The Income Tax Amendment Act**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a bill to amend The Income Tax Act by eliminating the mortgage interest tax credit as a consequence of the establishment of the mortgage interest reduction plan.

Motion agreed to and the bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Member's Birthday**

**MR. KLEIN:** — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wonder if I might point out that we are celebrating a special day today. An elder member on our side of this House but seated opposite, fortunately to our right, truly representative of our maturing government members, is celebrating his 35th birthday today, and as he graduates into middle age I feel that this House should extend a happy birthday to the member for Regina Rosemont, Mr. Dirks.

**MR. DIRKS:** — It will be the first of many birthdays that I shall celebrate in this House.

## **MOTIONS**

### **Congratulations to Royal Family on Royal Birth**

**HON. MR. LANE:** — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to put the following motion:

That a humble message of congratulations be sent to Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales in the following words:

To Their Royal highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, in session assembled, acknowledging the birth of a son to Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, congratulate Their Royal Highnesses and the



members of the royal family on this birth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Premier and members of the government, I suggest that this motion only partially expresses the sentiments which this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan feel on this momentous occasion. We in Saskatchewan have always felt a special warmth toward the royal family. This warmth has been amply displayed on numerous occasions, particularly in 1978 which Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, visited Saskatchewan and in 1980 when Princess Margaret was here. It will be displayed again this summer when Princess Anne will join us in celebrating the centennials of Saskatoon and Regina. The royal family is obviously important to Saskatchewanians. The Queen of Canada is a link with our history and with our heritage.

Here in Saskatchewan we are many peoples from many different lands, but we're also one people bound together by the monarchy, undivided in our loyalty to, and respect for, the monarchy. Thus we are most pleased to welcome into this world a new baby, a new heir. We wish the child every happiness. We wish his parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, every joy in their new lives as parents. Of course, we wish Her Majesty, the Queen, Prince Philip and the Queen Mother every happiness on this joyous occasion. I know I speak for this House and for all of Saskatchewan when I congratulate the royal family on this birth. Mr. Speaker, I therefore move the above motion, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Blakeney, the member for Regina Elphinstone.

**HON. MR. BLAKENEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a word in support of the motion. What the Attorney General has said, I think, will be agreed with by all members of this House. I think the monarchy has a special place in our form of government. Our form of government is one wherein those who are our leaders are political leaders and, accordingly, controversial. There may be people who feel that Prime Minister Trudeau ought not to be Prime Minister of Canada. There may even be people who feel that Premier Devine ought not to be Premier of Saskatchewan. The political head of our country and our province will always be a controversial figure and always must be, but there are many things about government about which we all agree.

As a symbol of those things which unite us, in support of the system of democratic responsible government which we have, we have the monarchy, represented in our province by the Lieutenant-Governor, and in our country by the Governor General, and across the whole Commonwealth by the monarch.

The Commonwealth itself is an interesting institution uniting many, many dozens of countries in a form of union because of an affiliation with the crown. I think this is valuable in our world. I think the symbol of the monarchy is valuable in our country. It by no means indicates that we have a special connection with Great Britain. We do in a sense, but the monarchy is much more than that. It is something that all Canadians share whether or not their origins are in the United Kingdom.

We here in Saskatchewan have developed a particular association with the royal family as the member for Qu'Appelle, the Attorney General, has mentioned. The Queen and Prince Philip were here in 1978 for the 100th anniversary of the RCMP. Prince Philip was here in 1977 in his capacity as the president of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, and attended Agribition. In 1978, there was a royal visit by the Queen and the Prince, and in 1980, Princess Margaret visited. Through all of these visits (and we will have another one this year), a warm and relatively informal association developed between many Saskatchewan people and members of the royal

family.

I think, on that account, we feel some special affection for the Queen and Prince Philip and for their new grandchild. I would join with all others in extending our warmest best wishes to the undoubtedly proud parents and other members of the family, who, I am sure, are enjoying the same sort of pleasure as we enjoy when a new arrival arrives in our families.

I join with the others in endorsing the motion moved by the Attorney General.

Motion agreed to.

**HON. MR. LANE:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I have the formal motion of transmittal of the message. I am asking for leave of the Assembly to put the following motion:

That the message contained in the humble message to the Prince and Princess of Wales passed this day by this House be transmitted to their Royal Highnesses by the Speaker in an appropriate manner.

Motion agreed to.

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of day, as a result of the concurrence in the report of the select standing committee on committees, or whatever that was that happened earlier today, there are a few routine motions that should be put, and leave will be required.

### **Retention and Disposal Schedules**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — I move, seconded by the Attorney General, by leave of the Assembly:

That the retention and disposal schedules approved by the public documents committee, and tabled as sessional paper no. 90 of 1981-82, be referred to the standing committee on communication.

Motion agreed to.

### **Report of Legislative Librarian**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, by leave of the Assembly:

That the report of the Legislative Librarian, tabled as sessional paper no. 3 of 1981-82, be referred to the standing committee on communication.

Motion agreed to.

### **Report of Provincial Auditor**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Highways, by leave of the Assembly:

That the report of the provincial auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31,

1981, tabled as sessional paper no. 91 of 1981-82, be referred to the standing committee on public accounts.

**HON. MR. BLAKENEY:** — I wonder if any member on the other side can give us any indication of whether it is thought that any of the committees referred to, but more particularly the public accounts committee, would be convened in the immediate future at what I am calling the short session, or is it assumed that these committees to which the matters are being referred will be convened when we next come together, my assumption being in October, November, or later.

**HON. MR. ANDREW:** — In response to the Leader of the Opposition, I think the formal mechanism of convening the public accounts committee is to convene it through the chairman and the chairman is an opposition member. From there the committee determines when they will sit and how they will sit.

Motion agreed to.

### **Public Accounts**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, by leave of the Assembly:

That the *Public Accounts* of the province of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1981, tabled as sessional paper no. 9 of 1981-82, be referred to the standing committee on public accounts.

Motion agreed to.

### **Crown Corporation Statements**

**HON. MR. BERNTSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, by leave of the Assembly:

That the annual reports and financial statements of the various crown corporations and related agencies, as were tabled at the fourth session of the 19th legislature, plus the annual reports and financial statements as tabled in the present session, be referred to the standing committee on crown corporations.

Motion agreed to.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

#### **SPECIAL ORDER**

#### **ADJOURNED DEBATE**

#### **Address in Reply**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Hodgins.

**HON. MR. SANDBERG:** — Mr. Speaker, and hon. members, it is with great pride that I

address this Assembly for the first time. I am in awe of the historic decisions that have been made in this Chamber over the years. The responsibility placed on me and all MLAs of this province hangs heavy as we get this session under way. Every decision we make must be made in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan. I will represent the best interests of all people of this province in this House and particularly the people of the Saskatoon Centre constituency.

Saskatoon Centre constituency is diverse in that its people cover the whole spectrum – young and old, professionals, trades people, labourers and business people. I intend to hear them all and represent them all in this House.

The many senior citizens have specific concerns regarding rents and Medicare, housing facilities, etc. I assure them that I will represent their concerns.

The many persons in rental accommodations can be assured that their rights will be protected under rent control legislation.

The result of the April 26 election was a team victory in Saskatoon Centre. I sincerely thank all those who worked so hard for what they felt was a badly needed change, and I thank all of those who supported me at the polls. We will continue to work as a team. My door will always be open.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Saskatonian. It is a great city, a good place to live and work and raise your children. I am also proud that this is the Century Saskatchewan year, celebrating its 100th birthday. Many organizations are taking part with celebrations throughout the year in the city. It is noted that the colony trek took off from Moose Jaw in their wagon trains on Monday morning. I say good luck to them in their historic venture as they continue on their way to Saskatoon this week and next.

Mr. Speaker, I have great confidence in our Premier and this government. We are responding to the needs of the people of this province by removal of the burdensome gasoline road tax. That is evidenced by the announcement of the consumer price index this morning, indicating that the cost of living did not rise one iota in May in Saskatoon.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**HON. MR. SANDBERG:** — The mortgage interest reduction plan will make home ownership available to many people in this province and allow present mortgage holders to pay at a more reasonable 13.25 per cent. We will exercise fiscal responsibility in this province. Every dollar will be accounted for. There will be no more waste.

Mr. Speaker, our present liquor licensing legislation will come under review at some time in the future. If changes are deemed necessary by the majority of the people, they will be made.

I would like now to make some remarks on the role and direction of the Saskatchewan Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, in my capacity as minister of that department. The Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs is a relatively new department and it is, in fact, a combination of various government services. The department combines services previously offered separately by the former department of consumer affairs, the provincial mediation board, the office of the rentalsman, the

rent appeal commission and the securities commission. In addition, the department assumed the corporations branch and insurance and real estate branch functions of the Department of the Provincial Secretary, and the film classification board, which was formerly with the Department of Culture and Youth.

The services of my department to consumers are varied and they include complaint investigation and resolution, product information, education and awareness resources and programs, landlord-tenant relations and money management services. Activities in the commercial area include incorporation of profit and non-profit organizations, licensing in the retail sector and registration of businesses and homes. The department's general mandate is to promote fairness and integrity in Saskatchewan's market place. Essentially this means encouraging and promoting co-operation between businesses and consumers, and creating an environment where goods and services can be confidently exchanged.

Our objectives are to promote consumer and business awareness: knowledge of their own rights and responsibilities, and knowledge of and respect for the rights and responsibilities of others. Our goal is to promote and develop consumer competency in the exchange of goods and services and to ensure basic standards of conduct in the market place.

These objectives are achieved through a number of different means. My department administers 42 diverse pieces of legislation, ranging from laws governing the sale of goods and services, credit and corporations, to landlord-tenant relations. There is no clear or obvious distinction to be made between consumer protection laws and laws which regulate business. That is a basic reason for combining consumer and business services in one government department.

The experience in other jurisdictions where consumer and corporate responsibilities are combined, such as Ontario and Alberta, is positive. The Saskatchewan department has already seen improved access for both consumers and business people, and better communication between consumers (inaudible). It is my feeling that this combination of services also lends itself to a more balanced, informed and consistent view of the market place by government.

We are presently reviewing and assessing the legislation, how it is administered and the services that stem from it, to ensure that it appropriately reflect the realities of the Saskatchewan market place in 1982. If changes are required in these laws or in their administration, they will be made.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, we are living in difficult economic times. Many Saskatchewan residents are facing serious financial problems not of their own making. The federal government's economic policies are contributing to a situation characterized by high interest rates, the erosion of personal income by inflationary pressure and the decline of the Canadian dollar. All of us, consumers and businesses alike, are being hurt by this situation. It is my view that in the next decade my department will have an expanded role to play in the face of these difficult and uncertain economic times.

This is true, particularly, in the area of consumer education. A chief function of the Saskatchewan Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs must be to help people make the best use of their financial resources and to help people to help themselves. Both buyers and sellers need to be informed to be able to exercise the basic right to choose intelligently and responsibly. We spend many years teaching our

children how to earn a living, but we spend comparatively little time teaching people basic market place survival skills from either the buyer's or the seller's perspective. I look to increased awareness and improved understanding as the best means of ensuring competency and fairness in the market place.

I would like to emphasize, in conclusion, that my department, consumer and commercial affairs, will continue to work to fulfil the needs of business and consumers and ensure that the realities of the market place in the '80s are reflected in our programs and legislation.

I would like now to make a few remarks about my other area of responsibility, the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development. I am very pleased to have been appointed to this portfolio, as I have spent a few years working in the co-op system. I am pleased to be able to continue this relationship.

Co-operatives, of course, play a very major role in the Saskatchewan economy. Our 230 credit unions handle almost 50 per cent of the financial transactions in this province. They employ 2,600 people, with a yearly pay roll of over \$32 million, and their membership is 600,000-plus. The 200 retail co-ops here in Saskatchewan handle about 15 per cent of the retail market. Total sales for 1980 were almost \$544 million. Thirty-three per cent of the population are members of retail co-ops. Some 4,300 people, with a pay roll of \$37 million, are employed by the retail system.

These figures only cover two of the major groups of co-ops in Saskatchewan, namely, credit unions and retail co-ops. In addition to these, there are many smaller co-ops that people have formed to build houses, to start day care centres or play schools, to provide transportation or recreational facilities to their communities, to market goods they have produced, or to share expensive farm equipment with their neighbours. These smaller groups also contribute to our economy.

Almost everyone in Saskatchewan has head of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Federated Co-operatives Limited, the Co-op Refinery, or the Dairy Producers' Co-op. Each of these large co-ops play a major role in our economy, both as employers and in their business sales. As we know, co-ops are a significant part of the economy and of the lives of Saskatchewan people. My government is committed to keeping the co-op sector a strong and vibrant part of our province. One of the ways we see to accomplish this is by having a department that is responsive to the needs of the co-op sector. The department has good potential in this area, but we still see room for improvement. Steps have already been taken to strengthen the relationship with the co-op sector and more will be done.

I have already met with the leadership of the central co-ops and, during the next few weeks, my deputy minister and some of the department's branch directors will be meeting with a variety of co-op people to hear their views on how the department can best assist them in working out solutions to their difficulties.

For example, some co-ops require assistance in organizing the financial management of their co-ops. This kind of advice and assistance is provided by both the development services branch and by the examination services branch. For others it may mean being able to convey their concerns through the department to the government and to the cabinet. Through the co-operative relations branch, the department is joined with some of the major co-op organizations to promote a better understanding of co-ops.

We will also be completing a review of the legislation affecting co-ops and a new co-operatives act will be introduced within the next year. These projects are in addition to the regular functions of the department and include assistance to groups wishing to form a co-op in all stages of development and incorporation.

It includes a central registry; advisory and examination services for co-ops and credit unions; provision of information about department policies, programs, and services, provision of co-operative education material and training in the co-operative learning model; research and development on department policies and programs to better meet the needs of the co-op system; and provision of a management consulting program for co-ops. These functions are handled by the various branches of the department. A thorough review will be made of the structure of the department in the near future to ensure the most efficient arrangement of duties possible. These are just some of the initiatives this government will be taking to ensure that the co-op sector in this province stays strong and viable.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that a majority of the people in the co-operative sector opted for a change in government on April 26. It is with pride that I stand as minister of this department and I assure the co-op people of this province that I will work with them for their continued growth.

Last, but not least, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment. I know you will do a fine job and do it with dignity.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. PETERSEN:** — Mr. Speaker, and fellow members, in rising to speak for the first time in this Chamber as a member for the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena, my mind is flooded with memories of the first time I was in this Legislative Building. That was over 23 years ago, when on a school tour from a little country school called Pipestone Creek, I was allowed to go along. I was in grade 1, I remember being very much in awe of remember going up to the very top of this building and looking out across the city and being very impressed. I feel that these early impressions have had a great effect upon me and my consequent involvement in politics.

I am very proud of my constituency and wish, at this time, to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the trust put in me and the work that was done to lift the oppressive burden of 11 years of Saskatchewan-typed socialism, the definition of which is said to be as follows: all shortages to be shared equally among the peasants.

I would like to congratulate the members on both sides of the House on winning their respective seats. On this occasion, I extend my best wishes to all members. Now that the election is over and most of the dust has settled, I would like to state for the record that it is my intention to represent everyone in my constituency to the very best of my ability.

In the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena, agriculture is king. From Rose Valley in the north, where I live, to Kelliher, which is 90 miles in the south, the one thing common to all is agriculture. Most of the areas are of the mixed farming style. The small farmer on three or four quarters of land, with a few cows, a few hogs, a few chickens, is still the most common. We have a few specialized farming operations, though to a lesser degree. These include such things as straight grain farmers, dairies, beef operations,

hog barns, and poultry producers. We have no other industry. Everything revolves around agriculture. Everything depends upon agriculture. As the farm economy goes, so goes that of the grocery stores, the clothing stores, and the machinery dealers.

I feel that because I am actively involved in agriculture, I can understand the needs of my constituency, and can handle the job of representing my constituents in this House properly. Many people ask me why I would consider getting into public life at this time. Despite my bald head, I am a young farmer who has enjoyed some degree of success. I have a young family, and my father who farms with me is planning to retire in the not too distant future. I told them it was quite simple. I had to get involved. I saw farmland that my grandparents and my neighbours' grandparents had sweated over and fought to hold onto all their lives being bought up by a government hell-bent on owning everything and everyone in this province.

I saw the erosion of a way that our forefathers had come to this country to establish. They left the old country to come here because of the promise that in this country they had the right to own land. They had the right to be free men. They did not have to take off their hats to government officials. They would not have to be sharecroppers. I'm a free man and I'm proud of it. I saw my friends going elsewhere for jobs. They left this province by the thousands. They didn't want to be spoon-fed for the rest of their lives. They wanted to work. They wanted to make it on their own, but they couldn't find employment. No new companies would establish businesses in Saskatchewan. They left. Everywhere I looked people were afraid of the helping hand of the former administration, reaching out to tax them to death or expropriate them all in the name of what was good for the state. I saw regulation after regulation interfere in my daily life. I saw bureaucracy run amuck in a sea of red tape and regulation. I saw real families getting less and less for their tax dollars. I saw an administration that insisted on buying up what was already here for us to use by mortgaging our children's future. I had no other alternative but to stand up for what I believe.

When I'm asked to describe myself I usually say that I am a mechanic by trade, a farmer by choice, and a politician by necessity. This, Mr. Speaker, is why I'm very pleased with the measures put forth in the throne speech. As I have stressed on a number of occasions, agriculture is the backbone of my constituency and, indeed, of this province. The preservation of the family farm, owned and operated by the family, can now expect the recognition it has so long been denied. The Saskatchewan Family Farm Purchase Program will have a definite, positive effect toward this end. The changing of the petroleum fuel tax act is another measure that is also of significant benefit to my constituents and all the people of Saskatchewan. I am especially pleased to see this tax removed as it was an insidious form of indirect taxation imposed on the people of this province by the former administration. The mortgage interest reduction plan announced today, and promised during the election, will be welcomed by all, I'm sure. It will do much to stimulate the housing industry which, in turn, will have a spin-off effect on related industries and labour. It will produce many new jobs and encourage the growth of our business community.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I should like to state for the record that I am here to do a job, and I fully intend to do it. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the throne speech.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. RYBCHUK:** — Mr. Speaker, fellow members of the Legislative Assembly, it is with a



real sense of honor that I rise to participate in this historic debate on the Speech from the Throne. This is my first opportunity to speak as the new member for Regina Victoria, and I am very pleased and proud to be part of the new Progressive Conservative administration. April 26 was a milestone in the history of this great province we call Saskatchewan. On that day the voting men and women trekked to the polls and put an end to 11 long years of socialist experiment. The people were in a house cleaning mood, Mr. Speaker, and they saw a leader with vision, a leader with integrity, and a leader which we all can be proud of in our new Premier, Grant Devine.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. RYBCHUK:** — Mr. Speaker, our Premier symbolizes a new generation of leadership. Premier Devine is in the great tradition of prairie populism and it is an honor to be part of this caucus. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all members would agree with me that Premier Devine will make Saskatchewan a truly great province.

I would like to offer you my most heartfelt congratulations on your election as Mr. Speaker of this Assembly. You are indeed a most worthy and respected person to reside in this House and I, for one, assure you that you will be held in high regard and esteem.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne heralds a new beginning for Saskatchewan. It offers new horizons and opportunities for all. Later on in my remarks, sir, I would like to discuss some of the new directions of the Progressive Conservative government.

At this time I would like to say how thankful I am to the people of Regina Victoria constituency for the trust they have put in me. I want to put on record my appreciation to all the people who worked so hard so that I might be here today. As long as I live I shall never forget the hard work and dedication of all those who worked for me in Regina Victoria. On the night of April 26, after all the votes had been counted, I fully realized the trust the voters of Regina Victoria had bestowed on me. It is a sacred one and one which I shall never forget.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate my fellow rookies. We have a great task ahead of us – to build a new Saskatchewan – and I would like to extend my best wishes as together we embark on our new adventures.

The constituency of Regina Victoria has a long tradition of being represented by a professional politician. In 1982, they decided they wanted a younger, local citizen and businessman to speak for them in this House. I must be quite frank and tell this house that politics is a new arena for me. But I felt that our leader, the Premier, and the Progressive Conservative Party offered a fresh, new alternative for Saskatchewan and that is why I decided on public life.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency of Regina Victoria consists of parts of the business community, as well as the older part of the Queen City. The people in my constituency are hard-working people and see government as a servant and not as a master. The people of Regina Victoria are concerned and rightfully so, about the cost of living, water quality and housing, and they found that the NDP government was no longer listening to them. For years water quality was an issue in Regina. The NDP did nothing. Suddenly, in 1982, in the middle of an election, they pulled out a promise to improve the quality of Regina's drinking water. For the past two years, housing costs have skyrocketed. The NDP government did nothing. The new Progressive Conservative

government will make home ownership a realistic goal in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP kept on blaming Ottawa for high taxes, yet they put a 20 per cent sliding tax on gasoline. Our Premier, I am proud to say, removed it within moments after taking oath of office. That is what I call positive commitment to the people of Saskatchewan.

I could cite a whole list of sins of the NDP, but I contend that the very fact that there are only nine of them in the House is clear proof that the people of Saskatchewan wanted a new, fresh start. Regina Victoria will grow and prosper because of the Progressive Conservative government. We will tackle in a positive manner the urban problems of our capital city. Mr. Speaker, our government will be one that listens and cares. In the field of health care, I am proud of our leader, who said in Regina at one of the largest political rallies in the city's history, that we would have Medicare without premiums. That is something I really believe in.

In the area of combating inflation our government has removed the outrageous 20 per cent sliding gas tax, and there will be many other practical economic measures to protect Saskatchewan from the bizarre economic policies of Pierre Trudeau in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, home ownership is apart of our heritage in Saskatchewan. Over the past two years the NDP allowed a housing crisis to develop in this province. I am indeed proud to support the mortgage interest reduction plan. It is a commitment which we have made to Saskatchewan people. this is a real help for our families. Our commitment is a genuine one.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative Party is a party of the common man. John Diefenbaker used to describe himself as "an average Canadian." On this foundation we believe in equality and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, the PC government is committed to working with people. We believe that Saskatchewan's future is a bright one. We trust that the people of this province will use their talent, energy and resources to ensure their future welfare and that of their children.

Mr. Speaker, it makes me feel good to belong to the PC caucus. Our party believes in a fair and lasting prosperity for all.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. RYBCHUK:** — These are not just words which I felt I should say, that is the way I feel.

Regina Victoria will have a full-time constituency office, which I have opened at 222 Victoria Avenue East. I want every person who lives in Regina Victoria to always feel free, to call on me when they have a problem, concern or comment dealing with our government.

Their MLA, Mr. Speaker, is a man who believes in keeping very close touch with the ones who elected him. Today marks my first speech in the Legislative Assembly. I stand here and I am very excited about the future of Saskatchewan. I am fully aware of the great days ahead. There will be setbacks and sacrifices, but the positive march has begun.

Our Premier has surrounded himself with cabinet ministers of high calibre and integrity, men who will govern wisely. Mr. Speaker, I know Regina Victoria constituency will benefit because of this government.

There will be other opportunities for me to speak, but for today I want to tell you that the hundreds of people whom I met in going door-to-door in Regina Victoria told me they were yearning for a change. And what a change it was – the greatest political victory in the province's history.

Mr. Speaker, today, on behalf of my constituents, I want you to know that I am a team player, part of the PC team to work for our province. We have the raw materials, the resources and, most importantly, the people. In the words of our Premier, "There is so much more we can be."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I will be supporting the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne. I look forward to representing Regina Victoria in many more debates.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. LUSNEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to take part in this debate. First of all, I would like to thank the people of Pelly for sending me back to the legislature as their representative. I really appreciate what they did for me, and I will continue to work for the people of Pelly constituency as I have in the past. It may be a little more difficult in opposition, but that will not deter me from my job.

I would also like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the throne speech. I wish them well in their term of office in the legislature . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The members say, "terms of office." I think I will let the public decide that. At this time I know they will be here for one term so I will congratulate them and wish them well for that one term at least.

I have to say that I am very proud to have been part of the previous administration, the administration which brought many accomplishments to this province. It brought in many programs which benefited the people, programs which led to a high level of prosperity in this province – a level of prosperity that had never been reached before. People had never had such a level of prosperity before, I am very pleased to have been part of that administration.

It was an administration which took measures to diversify and develop our economy, and it succeeded in achieving many, many of the things it set out to do, and many of the things the people wanted it to do. I think that is a very impressive record and a very awesome legacy which this government inherits.

Saskatchewan people will now be waiting and watching. They will be waiting and watching to see what the new government will do. They will be waiting to see how many of the promises this government intends to fulfil.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — All of them.

**MR. LUSNEY:** — The members opposite say, "All of them." One thing which I intend to do in the next four years is to keep reminding them of the many promises they have made, and every promise that is going to be of benefit to the public, I intend to work on

and pressure them to implement.

I have to say that I was somewhat disappointed in the throne speech last week. I was disappointed because generally you see a throne speech which gives direction and lets the people know what the government intends to do and which way it is heading. This throne speech did none of that. It mentioned nothing about the economy. It mentioned nothing about what this government is going to do throughout the year of 1982. It mentioned only a couple of the programs which it intends to implement. That would indicate to the people that it will be doing very little in this session or the remainder of 1982.

It appears to be a throne speech of a government which is heading in the direction of no action – no action on many of the projects that are out there. The Nipawin hydro-electric project – there is no action on that one. There is no action on awarding highway projects. There is no action on the proposed ethanol plant for Canora, something that I would think the member for Canora would pressure the government for. But there is no action on that.

The members keep bringing up the Kamsack issue and the fact that they will be paying (they said) some \$52,000 to the town of Kamsack. If we went back we would remember that they said they would pay the total cost of the Kamsack inquiry. “There is no way that the people of Kamsack should be responsible for any costs for that inquiry.” That has been stated by their Premier and it has been said by the current Attorney General. It has been said time and time again by the Deputy Premier. What are they saying today? They are saying that they are going to pay part of it. The government now is going to pay part of it. They are going to pay \$52,000.

Now that is no different from what the previous government said it would do – not through the Attorney General’s office, but through the Department of Urban Affairs. So the town of Kamsack really didn’t benefit in any way by this government’s coming in now.

I say that if this government were serious in what it was saying, and if it were committed to what it was saying, it should be covering (either through the Attorney General’s office or through the Department of Urban Affairs) the total cost of that inquiry and should not burden the people with any amount of that inquiry.

The members are saying that I do not want that money. No, I want \$72,000 for the town of Kamsack, not \$52,000. I want \$72,000 and I would like to make that very clear to the members and to the government. But they are saying no, they are only going to pay a portion of it. They are not going to pay it all, but that, I suppose, is not something that you wouldn’t expect from the government. They make a lot of promises but they keep very few of them.

We would have to say that the present government is not taking any action on the things it should be. They sit there and they review and they study and they defer and everybody in this province is sitting and waiting to see when this economy will improve. It is true that Saskatchewan may be affected somewhat by the national and international recession, but I think this government could protect people. They could protect Saskatchewan people from that recession. They could assist them by providing jobs. They could assist them by going ahead with some of the projects that were ready to go before. If they did that, that would improve the economic activity of this province.

Mr. Speaker, because of studying, reviewing, dilly-dallying, and I suppose just about anything else you can put on that. I think the inaction of the government opposite has brought our economic situation from bad to worse. It appears that it's going to continue to go that way because there is nothing in the throne speech, there is nothing in what they have said, that makes it appear that things are going to improve. It appears that everything is going to get worse.

After weeks of delay, this government has finally come out with the levels of the property improvement grant and senior citizens' school tax rebate that it is going to provide. It took them two months to decide what it was going to do with that during this delay, many of the people were waiting to see what was going to happen. The towns were suffering because the taxes were not being paid; people were holding back. They were holding back because they didn't know what the program was going to give them. There were no forms in the town offices.

While the government was sitting around and dilly-dallying, it was costing every community in this province a lot of money in interest. Finally, it has come down with the levels that they are going to be paying . . . (inaudible interjections) . . . I think the opposition is in a little bit of trouble. They're starting to heckle from the other side . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

I will have to start that one over again. I would have to say that the government is in trouble. It seems a little odd that we are on this side, but I think in time we'll get used to that idea. We won't continue to refer to that government as an opposition although maybe that's what it should be. But it isn't, so we'll have to keep referring to it as the government.

The deputy whip from across the House was saying that the senior citizens in my area don't want school tax rebates or the home-owners don't want this property improvement grant. I am saying to them that the previous government had indicated that they would be increasing the property improvement grant and the school tax rebate. And I think that's what the people are expecting out there. But what they got is something a little less than what they were expecting. I guess many of us were quite certain that that was going to happen. I think the municipalities, especially the rural ones, at this point are wondering what is going to happen to that rural development fund – the \$12 million that was promised to them in the rural development fund. The previous government said that it would provide the rural municipalities with a rural development fund to assist them to improve the rural community. I am not aware of this government indicating whether that program is going to be going ahead or whether that is going to be one of the programs to be cut, because they are going to have to find money somewhere.

I think they are also concerned about revenue sharing, as was mentioned by some of the members. The government did say that this year it is going to maintain the same level of revenue sharing as was promised by the previous administration. I say that the municipalities have reason to be concerned about what is going to happen in the future, since there was that much delay in this government's deciding whether they were going to go ahead with the same level, whether they were going to drop it or increase it. Since they didn't increase it, it would only suggest that what they are looking at is a decrease, rather than an increase.

Since the fuel tax (as somebody across there mentioned) is a component of revenue

sharing. I am wondering how the government is going to calculate the amount of revenue sharing for next year. I think that is probably the same concern the rural municipalities have. I think they are wondering if that will be one of the cutbacks or one of the candidates for cutting back of the present government.

I have mentioned that this government is promising a lot of programs which we don't know whether they are going to keep or not. I think I would like to bring up one (it's too bad the Minister of Highways is not in at this time), and that is the four-laning of the Trans-Canada and the Yellowhead. I want to make it very clear that I am not against the four-laning of the Trans-Canada or the Yellowhead, but I do question the minister putting a top priority on the four-laning of these two highways. A top priority means he feels that somehow the Trans-Canada and the Yellowhead are more important than the numerous other highways in this province are; he feels somehow that some accidents occurring on the Trans-Canada and the Yellowhead are more important or worthy of more consideration than accidents which may occur on some of the other highways in the province.

As far as I am concerned, it doesn't matter if there is a bad highway in eastern, western or northern Saskatchewan. If there is the possibility of someone having an accident because of the poor condition of these roads, then the lives of the people out there are just as important and worthy of as much consideration as the lives of people on the Yellowhead and Trans-Canada highways.

They talk about four-laning the Trans-Canada and the Yellowhead – and I would agree with them. If they would go to the federal government and say, “These are interprovincial highways,” and if they would get some assurance that the federal government would provide a certain amount of funding to do that four-laning, then I think something like that could be considered. But it appears that there is no assurance that the federal government is going to assist in that. In fact, all indications are that the federal government refuses to provide any funding for four-laning the Yellowhead or the Trans-Canada. So that would mean that the people of Saskatchewan have to four-lane a highway that is interprovincial, and more of the people using that highway are probably from out of the province than within the province. And this government is saying that the top priority should be four-laning those two highways at the expense of the Saskatchewan people.

They are proposing this kind of project, Mr. Speaker, after they have given up about \$140 million of revenue in the gasoline road tax. They are going to build these same roads with the revenue that is no longer there. So, Mr. Speaker, that would only indicate that somehow that money is going to have to come from other programs. It is going to have to come from programs that I think the people are expecting to have. But I'm sure that is something that we'll find out in the near future.

There was one other promise that the Conservative Party made during the election, and that was to provide free telephones for senior citizens. What I'd like to say is that the people of my constituency, all the senior citizens in my constituency, would like to see this government make the move to provide those free telephones for them. And that is one other promise that I intend to continue to make the opposition keep. I have been in total agreement with it since they promised they would do it, although I would have to agree that it's going to have some impact on the revenue of Sask Tel. And because it's going to have an impact on the revenue of Sask Tel, I can only say that that will more than likely mean that telephone rates will go up.

They talk about putting in a public utilities review commission – a commission that somehow is supposed to look at rates and keep them down.

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any public utility review commission that has been able to keep rates down in this country.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — California is an example.

**MR. LUSNEY:** — Somebody has mentioned California as an example. It seems we even have some separatists on the government benches. I would say that commission is going to be nothing more than a bureaucratic nightmare, Mr. Speaker. That commission will be a costly program. That commission is likely to increase costs before it brings them down. It will increase them. It will not bring the rates down. We will not see that commission bring down the rates of our utilities as this government has predicted.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — How can you be so sure?

**MR. LUSNEY:** — The member says, “How can you be so sure?” I think in time we will find out just what will happen, just how many of the power, telephone or insurance rates through SGI will go down. All that commission will do is provide work for lawyers and accountants. It will provide work for the people who don’t really need it, because they have plenty of that right now. It will be a very expensive study for this government. It will cost the people of this province a lot of money to have a commission to tell the people of this province that what they have to do is pay a little more for their utilities.

I think I am hitting a bit of a sore sport on the other side of the House, especially for the member for Moosomin, who for some reason or other isn’t a member of the cabinet. I really can’t understand why. I think he is one of the longest-sitting members on that side of the House. But it appears that somehow the Premier didn’t feel he should be a member of the cabinet, or Speaker of the House or even Deputy Speaker of the House. But I guess that is a decision of the Premier. He makes a very good speech from his seat; I have to agree that much.

I expect, Mr. Speaker, that in the future we will continue to see the same kind of increases in the rates as has been predicted by the minister in charge of Saskatchewan Government Insurance. He said that if insurance rates go up by 6 per cent, somehow the people should feel that that is a decrease, even though they will pay 6 per cent more. I say that will probably happen in all the other utilities. They will say, “We will provide about a 6 per cent increase,” and what we will be paying is more and more. The big decrease they are talking about will never come about no matter how many public review commissions they have.

I think the same individual who calculated the rate of the fuel tax and the savings that the people were going to have said that the public was going to get a 40-cents-per gallon decrease in gasoline. They got 30 cents per gallons, or 29 cents per gallons, and the government is saying, “Well, we gave you a decrease. It may not have been 40 cents, but what’s the difference? We tried to get as close as we could. Our promises don’t really mean that much. We never did intend to keep them.” They are saying the same thing about utility rates. That is the kind of Tory logic we see on that side of the House.

I can only say that the people of this province are waiting and they’re watching, and it

appears that they are going to have to continue to wait to see what is really going to happen and where all the benefits that have been predicted are going to come from and how many of them they are going to get. Mr. Speaker, I can say that I will be waiting and watching also, and I will be waiting and watching to see how many of those promises the government puts in, because we on the opposition side are going to remind them of those promises and we will ask them to implement every promise that will benefit the people of this province.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that it has been a real pleasure to have the opportunity to address this house today. I think it is quite clear that I will not be supporting the motion.

### **WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

**MS. ZAZELENCHUK:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all members of the Assembly I would like to welcome about 23 visitors from Boughton School in Saskatoon. I'll be meeting with them later and would like everyone to wish them a pleasant and informative visit.

### **ADDRESS IN REPLY (continued)**

**MR. MAXWELL:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise with great pleasure to take part in the throne speech debate.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — Did you say you were standing?

**MR. MAXWELL:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't like to heckle one of my own party. I would like to assure him I certainly am standing and the only height worth measuring is the height from here to here, and based on that criterion I would suggest that the hon. Member and this group here are midgets. And next time I won't let him off quite so easily, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I've been described as the only member in the House who speaks neither of the official languages. I wasn't born in this country, Mr. Speaker, but like my colleagues on both sides of the House, my heart is in Saskatchewan. I arrived in Saskatchewan in 1966. The years since then have been very good to me. My earnest wish is that I may contribute to the province, and repay in some way the bounties I have reaped.

I realize that in Canada, when people hear the Scottish accent, they immediately associate it with the trade union movement. Well, I have to confess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that my father was the national president of his union for two years and is now the immediate past president, and I'm very proud of that. Through him, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and through my own job experiences, I have respect for the unions.

I would like to give my warmest congratulations to Mr. Speaker, who isn't in the Chair just now, on his election to the distinguished office he holds. His well-known reputation for scrupulous fairness has resulted in the richly deserved honor accorded to him.

I'm proud to be a Progressive Conservative, and I'm thrilled to have been given the privilege of representing the people of the Turtleford constituency in the Legislative Assembly. I thank my constituents for their support, and I repeat the pledge I gave to them during the election campaign. No longer will they be virtually unrepresented in this Assembly, and I intend to give the people of the Turtleford constituency a strong voice in this legislature.



Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Turtleford constituency is part of the great Northwest – a Conservative Northwest. I may add. I am happy to say that the neighbouring constituencies of Redberry, The Battlefords, Meadow Lake, Cut Knife-Lloydminster, and Shellbrook-Torch River displayed the same sound judgment in electing Conservative members and condemning the NDP to the wilderness of a miniscule opposition.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MAXWELL:** — We are a real agrarian constituency composed mainly of that element of our society which forms the backbone of Saskatchewan – farmers. The rest of our economic foundation lies with activity related to our abundant natural resources – timber, trapping, fishing and the concomitant service industries. Mr. Speaker, blessed as we are with natural resources and minerals, we cannot forget that much of our mineral wealth is finite, whereas the land, if treated with respect, will always provide our economic base.

The economic hardships of our times are felt no more keenly than by our farmers, and Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government will not choose to ignore the problems of rural Saskatchewan as our predecessors chose to do. This government will listen to the people of Saskatchewan. The member for Melville, in a fine address last night, mentioned that he did not want to cast the first stone, although he felt a certain amount of security and protection in the distance between himself and the opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not enjoy the same degree of safety of distance, but I do believe in retaliating before someone does something to me. I would like to paraphrase an old saying: hell hath no fury like the NDP scorned.

I came today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, wearing this particular pocket handkerchief to show I felt no prejudice, and no animosity toward my colleagues who are sitting to my immediate right. However, I must say I am losing my objectivity.

We saw on April 26, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the people of this province thought of a government that did not listen, one that had become complacent and arrogant. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we see the tattered remnants of that government sitting to your immediate left – a shattered party, antediluvian in thinking, personified by the creation of DNS, which was a blot on the history of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MAXWELL:** — DNS, which had economic and social ramifications for my constituency under the previous administration, was the epitome of inefficiency. This government will address the inherited problems of DNS and restore sanity and common sense to government.

Mr. Speaker, the good people of the Turtleford constituency look forward with optimism to the next four years, despite the problems we have inherited due to the previous government's mismanagement. The people of Saskatchewan cannot help but be impressed by the leadership shown by our new Premier, Grant Devine, who moved so quickly to deliver on the two main promises made in the election campaign – the elimination of the petroleum fuel tax and the mortgage reduction program. Mr. Speaker, they can look ahead to receiving the benefits of the other programs outlined in

the throne speech.

Mr. Speaker, in casting back to the election of 1978, which I'm sure the members to my right would prefer to forget all about right now, we find in that particular session they couldn't even call the legislature back, despite an election in October, until the following March. And they have the audacity to accuse us of dallying and dithering and delaying. Mr. Speaker, they couldn't even get back to work.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MAXWELL:** — In this House last night, the member for Regina Centre accused the Conservatives of being self-congratulatory. Well, I would just like to remind the members in opposition, we won; you lost. And Mr. Speaker, I just have to make mention for the opposition's penchant for indulging in self-pity during this session – self-pity brought on by the embarrassment and the humiliation heaped upon them by the voters of this very province in the last election.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MAXWELL:** — Now, I can see that some of my remarks are just a little profound for the members sitting to my right. We noticed that exemplified by their inability to raise questions in question period, instead coming up with asinine questions. However, the exception to this is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who, unfortunately, isn't here this afternoon. He has my sympathy as he faces along, lonely, four-year journey through political oblivion, shadowed by eight anachronisms.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly feel for the Hon. Leader of the Opposition because he leads an opposition for whom mediocrity is going to be the pinnacle of achievement.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MAXWELL:** — Mr. Speaker, his A team, the big team – the former members for Saskatoon Riversdale, Regina North East, Regina Lakeview, Saskatoon South – aren't here. The A team went down to defeat in the election. Now, Mr. Speaker, he is stuck with the B team of have-beens and would-be's. Mr. Speaker, I have to confess, I took this seat that I currently occupy with some apprehension at being placed adjacent to the members on my right and being placed beside the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, not because of his deservedly formidable reputation, but because, Mr. Speaker, I would be absolutely devastated, totally crushed, to have visitors in these galleries associate or confuse me with the rag-tag and bobtail outfit to my right.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed thoroughly the opportunity to participate in this debate. I am with great pride and delight that I support the motion. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. FOLK:** — Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this House, and to congratulate the member for Shellbrook-Torch River on his election as Deputy Speaker of the legislature. I would also like to congratulate the various hon. Members on their appointments to cabinet positions. To all the newly elected and re-elected members on both sides of this house, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and say that it is an honor for me to be a member of the legislature. I am eagerly looking

forward to doing the best job we can for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to represent our province in numerous national sporting events. On each of these occasions, I was very proud to wear our provincial colours and always endeavoured to represent Saskatchewan to the best of my ability. I would like to promise, on this occasion, that I will represent the Saskatoon University constituency as effectively as I am able as their MLA.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. FOLK:** — I would like to thank the people of Saskatoon University for their support and confidence in electing me as the first ever MLA for their constituency. To the volunteer supporters who donated so much time and energy in the recent campaign I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. I offer my services to all of the residents of Saskatoon University, recognizing that people may need assistance in many areas of government work.

As I mentioned earlier, Saskatoon University is a brand-new constituency. It also has a very unique flavour. Within our boundaries we have the University of Saskatchewan, with the student residences, high-rises and apartments. We have a senior citizens' home with well over 200 residents. The residential district itself can be described as mature, ranging from some of the original homes built in Saskatoon to areas that are approximately 10 years old. As I travelled through the constituency, knocking on almost every door, I had numerous in-depth conversations as well as brief comments. The key word at almost every door seemed to be "change". Our province, our country, and indeed the whole world is undergoing changes. Adverse economic conditions are affecting all Saskatchewan residents and they are asking for help.

On April 26, a tremendous vote of confidence was given to the Progressive Conservative Party to change government direction in Saskatchewan. Two of our major election promises, the elimination of the provincial road tax on gasoline and the mortgage interest reduction plan, are measures instituted to ease the burden of everyday inflationary pressures. By assisting Saskatchewan residents in these direct ways we are passing to them some return from our province's wealth, helping the families that count most.

I hope to observe that measures such as these will restore faith in government and that the result of this faith will be inroads to a new economic climate where the people will view the role of government as that of a referee and not a player.

Mr. Speaker, small business in Saskatchewan is another area which is suffering because of our inflationary times. Help for small business is not increasing the E&H tax (education and health tax) commission from 5 per cent to 7 per cent on the first \$300 collected — \$6 does not help our retailers.

In this day and age when high interest rates are more or less dictating lower inventory levels and increased emphasis on cash-flow management, the need is present for management experience and expertise. In this regard, if management counsellors were made available directly to firms requesting advice — either for initiating a new venture or continuing an existing one — to pass on their knowledge and practical applications, benefits could be reaped. These counsellors, I would suggest, would consist of retired businessmen, as well as those presently active and successful, who would be willing to

contribute their knowledge to those in need.

As I mentioned earlier, the University of Saskatchewan is an integral part of my constituency. As I spoke with numerous students they expressed a desire to remain in the province where they were raised and educated. I don't believe this feeling just came about in the last couple of months. Was the previous administration's view that we educated these people only to export them? Let's keep our people here in Saskatchewan by changing the economic climate so that new businesses and industries will be encouraged to open up in our province. Let us discontinue the closed-door approach and try to eliminate the fear of government takeover and dominance in the market place which has been prevalent in the past. Then graduates will have the opportunity to pursue their careers here and help build a new Saskatchewan. Also, let us not be afraid or unwilling to listen to their ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, we sit here today, as the government, because we listened to the needs and the concerns of people. Our election promises were formulated by communication with the people of Saskatchewan. We will deliver on these promises, as is already evident, despite the fact that the province's financial situation is not what it was reported to be. We will continue to govern our province with our ears open and our policies sensitive to the needs of Saskatchewan. We are not here to build up a government empire in Saskatchewan; we are here to represent the constituencies which elected us and provide for them legislation for their benefit and on their behalf.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. FOLK:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank, once again, the constituents of Saskatoon University for their confidence in electing me as their MLA. I will represent them to the best of my ability.

And to Premier Devine: congratulations. You're the people's choice to lead a new Saskatchewan. I've been involved with curling for a number of years, and my team mates have made a lot of fun of the way I sweep. But I think I can offer my bending of the broom, as well as that of 54 others, to help Premier Devine and the Saskatchewan government in the next four years. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. TUSA:** — Mr. Speaker, before I begin my address this afternoon, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood for giving me this opportunity to serve them for the next four years. I would like also to assure them, Mr. Speaker, that, having given me this responsibility, I will be listening to their concerns, staying in touch with their needs and working with my colleagues to provide good government. Indeed, as a new member, I feel it is a real privilege to stand here before this Assembly and given what is commonly referred to as my maiden speech.

I should like also to congratulate all new members on their election. I'm certain that the people who elected them did so because they had great faith in their abilities.

And you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate in a special way for being elected as the Speaker of this house. I know that your sense of justice and fair play will be evident in all the deliberations which take place.

Let me say again, Mr. Speaker, how pleased I am to be given the opportunity to represent the constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood, for this constituency, as much as any other, was a microcosm of the desperation exhibited by the former government. Here the campaigning of the NDP-appointed political hacks was clearly and openly evident.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood are very, very tolerant people, and they had become accustomed in the last three provincial elections to having political hacks working throughout the elections. But unfortunately this time their tolerance was stretched to the breaking point, for from the outset of the election legions of hacks were present, working desperately to achieve an NDP victory and, by so doing, save their political jobs. And when that didn't seem to be working, Mr. Speaker, a sudden influx of Manitoba canvassers appeared and they, too, worked valiantly to bail out the sinking NDP ship. However, the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood were not amused by these nefarious and unscrupulous tactics. They made their feelings abundantly clear on April 26.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. TUSA:** — that should not be surprising, Mr. Speaker, since the constituency which I represent has had a long association with Progressive Conservative ideals, indeed, the greatest Canadian of our times, John Diefenbaker, was first elected in Lake Centre, and Lake Centre encompassed part of Last Mountain-Touchwood. Now, John Diefenbaker was well-known for his sense of fairness. It was this sense of fairness which moved the people in my constituency to reject the NDP tactics.

Last Mountain-Touchwood, Mr. Speaker, is an all-rural constituency. It is not surprising then that the major industry is agriculture. The type of farming varies, but it is mainly mixed farming and grain farming. I am proud to be an active farmer myself, so I too, feel the burden of high production costs and low prices for the products.

There are also many small businessmen in the towns and villages of my constituency. Unfortunately, their outlook until April 26 was bleak. It was indeed disheartening to campaigning in these centres and see so many small businesses closed or closing with nobody to take their place. However, our government will take all possible measures to alleviate the plight of these people and help make rural Saskatchewan vibrant, alive and the land of opportunity.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. TUSA:** — In short then, Last Mountain-Touchwood is truly representative of a cross section of rural Saskatchewan. It was with this vital part of our province that the former government, because of its arrogance and single-minded dedication to socialist principles, lost touch. This lack of understanding of the real needs of people was clearly evident in its misguided agricultural policies.

For example, they introduced a beef stabilization program which ignored 85 per cent of the beef producers, a plan which seemed to benefit about 15 per cent of the producers, but which left more than 85 per cent out in the cold. While this was serious enough in itself, their major colossal blunder was one which ignored the reason for the existence of Saskatchewan as we know it. They forgot that the people who settled in rural Saskatchewan were people who arrived here seeking opportunity and the right to own their own land.

The NDP paid no attention to our historic roots and traditions. Instead, it clung fast to the beliefs of the Fabian socialists. It was the Fabian socialists, Mr. Speaker, who applauded the collectivisation of the peasants in the U.S.S.R. it was the Fabian socialists who believed in the state ownership of land. It is the NDP that believes in the Fabian socialists.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, the NDP, under the pretence of helping to pass land from generation to generation, in 1972 introduced the infamous land bank legislation. It did not take long for the people of this province to realize the real intent of the land bank. As the state purchases more and more land and sold very little, the people became more and more aware that the NDP's real intent was to own the land.

The people did not applaud the unfolding of this event. Indeed, the very people that the land bank purported to help, the lessees, did not applaud. That is why, on April 26, the people massively rejected the concept of the state ownership of land. That is a lesson, Mr. Speaker, which I trust the hon. members opposite will not soon forget.

The wishes of the people will be responded to by this government. That is why our government will introduce the farm purchases program – legislation which will provide a lower interest rate for farmers so that they, and not the state, will be the owners of the land. This will enable us to maintain our heritage of independence, hope, dignity and pride of ownership.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move on to a comment on the shabby way in which the NDP has treated the senior citizens in this province. We are well aware of how they have made a great pretence of their concern for them. They made a big issue for years about how they were the sole believers in Medicare and how everybody else would destroy it. So they made a special effort to fill the hearts of our senior citizens with fear and anxiety in order to try to get their votes. As this scene unfolded over the years, it was interesting to note how the NDPers beat their breasts and took all the credit for introducing Medicare to this province. Never once would they acknowledge the essential role played by John Diefenbaker when he was the prime minister. They also carefully avoided admitting that under the NDP rule Saskatchewan had slipped to eighth in Canada in per capita expenditures on health care.

Before I move on, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention a gentleman who was a key person in the introduction of Medicare, not only in Saskatchewan, but anywhere in North America. That man, the late Mathew Anderson, resided in my constituency. His two sons still live there, one in Bulyea and one in Strasbourg. I am hopeful that in due course this man will receive the recognition which he so richly deserves.

Home-owners were another crucial group of people which the former government neglected. Here, too, the former government showed their lack of understanding for the hardships being faced by this group. Interest rates of 18 to 22 per cent were of no concern to them. What did concern them was building golden tower builders, buying uranium mines, peat moss plans, shopping centres and so on. They were also more interested in trying to convince people of all the money they had in the heritage fund than in using some of it to shield our citizens from the ravaging effects of inflation and ruinously high interest rates.

The rest of the NDP errors and omissions, Mr. Speaker, are legion. However, I will not

belabour the point, for the former government had to pay the price. But there was one party – the Progressive Conservative Party – which was listening to and feeling the needs of the people. The people of Saskatchewan were indeed fortunate that the leader of that party understood Saskatchewan and its people. That leader took time to visit every corner of the province, and most importantly, when the leader came to a community he came to listen, not to tell. That is why on April 26 the people of Saskatchewan displayed their unprecedented and unparalleled wisdom when they elected a Progressive Conservative government. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that they won't be disappointed.

Before I close, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one or two comments. In preparation for this speech I took it upon myself to read the addresses of some of the former members in 1971. Yesterday afternoon the member for Regina Centre alluded to the fact that he thought members on this side of this House were gloating over their victory. Well, Mr. Speaker, if he had taken the time to read the speeches made by members of his party in 1971 he might have gotten the same impression.

But let's say that we on this side of the House are just overly enthusiastic at being the government. And no doubt that's the way they felt in 1971. They took great delight, in those speeches in '71, in lecturing the House on how they had relegated the previous government to oblivion. Indeed, the former member for Last Mountain-Touchwood even gave the score of the election in 1971. He said the score was 45 to 10. And now, Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the tradition established by the former member for my constituency, may I take this opportunity to update the score. The latest score, established in the election of April 26, 1982, Mr. Speaker, is 55 to 0. The winners and the losers are obvious.

With that, Mr. Speaker, may I thank you for the privilege of speaking in the House this afternoon, and may I thank all the hon. members for their courtesy and attention. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that I will be supporting the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. PARKER:** — Mr. Speaker, as I rise to speak in this debate, I am deeply honored and gratified to stand as a new member on the government side of this House. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people of Moose Jaw North who assisted me in the election. By entrusting me to be their representative voice in this Legislative Assembly they have afforded me an opportunity of a lifetime, and one which I will never forget. I would like to assure all of the citizens of Moose Jaw that both of their MLAs are prepared to work on their behalf regardless of the political affiliation of those respective people.

Mr. Speaker, just as the government must never forget from where they came, and those they were elected to represent, I too would like to reflect with sincere gratitude upon those individuals and groups who may my term in this 20th legislature of the province of Saskatchewan possible.

Our leader showed during the campaign that he has the qualities that people look for when choosing a Premier. His tireless efforts and encouragement assisted members from all parts of the province and proved to be a significant factor in the history-making outcome on April 26.

As in any election campaign, a consistent and effective platform must be established, implemented and then adhered to. To this end, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members from the former government who gave us so many areas to choose from. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of Saskatchewan for selecting the ones they felt were most important to them during these troubled times. No clearer example can be given of a government willing to listen to the people and then respond in a responsible manner. The results of this type of co-operation can be most rewarding to everyone concerned. To ignore the people can, at the same time, be very costly.

It is this attitude of honesty and openness which makes me look forward with enthusiasm to the challenges that lie ahead. Given the problems that were inherited combined with national economic conditions and international conditions, and with the anticipated skeletons which pop out of the closet from time to time after having been forgotten or simply put aside. I'm confident that the people of Saskatchewan will respond to this fresh new approach by an open government and will participate in setting the course for a new direction – a direction based on co-operation and hard work, realistic approaches to problem areas, and a direction filled with hope for all segments of our Saskatchewan economy.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that having been born and raised in the city of Moose Jaw, and now being fortunate enough to carry the voice of the many friends and neighbours I grew up with. I speak for every citizen, every businessman and every councillor when I say that, contrary to the belief of the former government, Moose Jaw is not opposed to growth. The city offers an excellent complement of facilities and looks forward to working with the province in whatever capacity it can to assist in the overall development of Saskatchewan.

Moose Jaw has shown its capabilities in terms of hosting national as well as international events, such as the recent world junior curling championships. Our housing facilities and room for business development are second to none. We offer an excellent geographic location with a population base of approximately 35,000, and ample room to expand. The city has a very good long-term water supply from Lake Diefenbaker via Buffalo Pound Lake. We are situated on the Trans-Canada Highway and we are situated on the CPR main line, about 40 miles west of Regina as the crow flies.

One will find, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Moose Jaw are not only deep in tradition and pride but they are also very enthusiastic and most co-operative with respect to welcoming new residents and businesses to the city. Never was this enthusiasm more evident than on the morning of April 27. I speak for all residents of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, when I thank the Premier and his well-chosen cabinet for acting so promptly on such an important issue of direct benefit to so many people. I speak, of course, of the removal of the gasoline tax.

This responsible gesture has shown the people, not only from my constituency but indeed from throughout the entire province, that they finally have a government that is prepared not only to make promises but to act diligently toward their implementation. The grateful reaction of people to the swiftness with which this government is acting to fulfil its policies will once again be evident with the mortgage assistance program for home-owners.

Citizens of this province are not accustomed to receiving major campaign commitments so early in the first year of a new term of office, particularly ones which are of



benefit to the people. Had this policy been adopted by the former government in the early '70s we may well have a complete comprehensive dental plan in effect right now in the province of Saskatchewan.

I would like to touch on another issue, Mr. Speaker, concerning the word 'commitment' and the previous NDP government, and just what it stood for in the eyes of the people of Moose Jaw North and how they related to it.

Just prior to the 1978 election an announcement was made by the former NDP MLA for Moose jaw North of a substantial addition which was approved for the Saskatchewan Technical Institute, which is located in Moose Jaw North. This wasn't under review. This was a commitment that was made and it was greeted with enthusiasm. There were going to be new jobs created through the construction phase. There were going to be permanent jobs created as a result of the additional fixture. There was going to be an influx of new students from throughout the province, which was welcomed with enthusiasm by the business community in Moose Jaw.

After the election, the NDP was re-elected. The member for Moose Jaw North was once again elected with a slim majority. How did this NDP government respond to the people of Moose Jaw North concerning this commitment they made just prior to the election? They did absolutely nothing. They did absolutely nothing for at least three years. Then there was a token offering: a visit by the then premier. This prompted a ridiculous expenditure of \$20,000 for carpeting, painting and fact-lifting the area of the building that he was to tour. Well, by now everyone at the school had an idea of what was going on, and, of course, they realized that another election was coming this past spring, because just prior to the formal announcement a construction crew showed up at the school.

Mr. Speaker, in rising today for the first time in this house, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I congratulate you in your new position as Speaker of this House. As a new member, I will do my utmost to oblige your decisions.

I would like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne, I would also take this opportunity to congratulate all other newly elected members to this legislature, as well as those who are returning after having sat in previous years.

I sincerely congratulate the various cabinet ministers, Mr. Speaker, for their dedicated efforts deemed necessary in preparing us for the early proceedings of this 20th legislature. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the members opposite who were elected in their various constituencies. I would like to thank the clerks of the Assembly for their assistance and indulgence toward this large number of new members.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituency of Moose Jaw North, I not only congratulate but gratefully thank our very capable Premier, Mr. Grant Devine, for showing us all that there really is some much more we can be.

I stand to support the motion as read.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. GERICH:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your election to this

legislature and also congratulate the member for Shellbrook-Torch River on his election as Deputy Speaker of this Assembly. I would like to extend congratulations to all the members elected to the legislature and say that I look forward to working with all of you over the next four years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of the Redberry constituency who worked so hard to help get me elected. The tireless work of the Progressive Conservative members of our party is quite evident in this 20th legislature. For those people. I am pleased to be here today, and would like to offer my services to the people in my constituency, regardless of their political affiliations.

My constituency of Redberry is in the northwest part of Saskatchewan. It lies immediately north of the south boundary of the North Saskatchewan River and stretches on the east side along the river to Shellbrook, along the west side to Vawn, excluding the city of North Battleford. The 49th township line is the northern boundary from Shellbrook over to Vawn.

This constituency is largely an agricultural area, dealing with grain and livestock. It is one of the major areas in Saskatchewan for the production of rapeseed, a commodity which helped in the past few years to stabilize the farming industry. Over 10 million bushels of assorted grains are produced each year in the Redberry farming districts. These crops range from wheat, oats and barley to the specialty crops of canary seed, lentils, rapeseed and peas.

The farmers of the Redberry constituency are known for their efficiency and productivity. Mr. Speaker, although efficiency and productivity are high, the cost of input is exceeding the profit return in this industry. Farmers will be suffering financially until the markets and economy turn around and start showing an upsurge. The livestock industry is quite predominant in the northern part of the riding, making good use of marginal land located there. But the cow herds, calves and feeder animals have dropped in numbers on farms, due to poor marketing conditions. Many of the surviving livestock producers are hanging on, with the idea that someday the market will go up. Mr. Speaker, the producers, marketing agencies and the newly-elected government will have to work together generating new ideas to ensure that our food industry survives.

The population of my constituency is evenly spread throughout the countryside. The towns of Hafford and Blaine Lake are the two largest, with Leask running a third. The areas are served by Highways 12, 16, 40 and 378, with numerous provincial parks and excellent fishing lakes. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the members two major concerns in Redberry constituency, the first being the Borden Bridge. We feel it is a necessity. A new bridge would eliminate the narrow, low-level, dangerous problem existing at present. A new and wider bridge would mean a smoother flow of traffic, safer driving conditions and making the movement of wide machinery, new pre-built homes and oil rigs across the North Saskatchewan River much easier and much safer. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of my constituency, I will work with the Minister of Highways in planning a bridge at Borden.

My second concern is the farmland being transferred from father to son. The purchase plan will enable young farmers to purchase their fathers' farmland at a low rate of interest. The farm would be theirs, giving them pride of ownership, something to work for and something to cherish. I will assist the Minister of Agriculture in developing such a plan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we talk about Saskatchewan and how rich we are in resources. Our richest resource is the Saskatchewan people. Saskatchewan people are known for their independence, fighting instincts and their courage to tackle problems. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks I have realized that the population of Saskatchewan can be broken down into three groups or categories. The first group is people who are inventive, intelligent and hard-working. They roll with the punches and are sure-footed, side-stepping pitfalls, working toward the betterment of themselves and mankind. These are people who make things happen. The second group is complacent. They will go along with the system and take life easy, careful not to rock the board. Their attitude is, to let the government look after them. These people watch things happen.

Mr. Speaker, it was noted that the member for Regina Centre was appalled at the termination of some civil servants. He brought to the attention of the House, the human rights act. I would like to bring to his attention that maybe the electorate of Saskatchewan should be notified of the human rights ramifications. Why? Because they, the electorate, laid off a number of NDP MLAs on April 26. These members fall under the third group. These are people who wondered what happened.

Mr. Speaker, people and ideas will emerge, putting their dreams and ambitions to work, creating new businesses and new jobs, and strengthening Saskatchewan. They will put character into Saskatchewan. Through good government, people involvement and grass-roots politics, Saskatchewan will become one of the most outstanding provinces in Canada. I support the motion. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. DOMOTOR:** — Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored and gratified to speak in this Assembly. It is an honor for me to present the constituency of Humboldt. At this time, I would like to congratulate the Premier on his election in Estevan and on his choice of members of cabinet. I think he has made an excellent choice, I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker on the positions which you hold in this office.

I would like to thank all the supporters who helped me in my campaign in the Humboldt constituency. They did a lot of work and it was only through their assistance that we were able to succeed, and I would like to especially thank them.

I would also like to mention some very hon. members who have served the Humboldt area which I represent. I refer to Otto Lang who represented the Humboldt constituency, and to Reynold Rapp who used to represent Humboldt-Melfort (a Progressive Conservative by the way). Other members who have come from that area are: Judge Mary Batten, Mat Breker from Humboldt, and Percy Schmeiser, who was an MLA for Bruno. So I am blessed with some advice and some help which I can get from these previous MLAs. Even though they may not be from the PC Party, they are of the free enterprise ideal.

I would like to refer to a couple of the comments from members opposite. They were saying they would be watching us fulfil the promises which we made in our campaign. They must be very concerned because we have already carried out some of our promises. That is what I think bothers the members opposite so much. They see that this government is living up to its promises, and that it is going to reaffirm the electorate's confidence in the electoral process.

I noted that the Leader of the Opposition referred to farmers and to the Canadian Wheat Board. You would almost think it was the NDP which instigated the wheat board. I would remind them that that was done during the '30s and under a Conservative administration, and it was continued under a Liberal administration.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. DOMOTOR:** — The Humboldt constituency is an area consisting of a very diversified agricultural and industrial base. This area was settled by pioneers who were able and willing to sacrifice their time in hard work in order to give their children and ourselves the benefits so dear today. These pioneers came from various parts of Europe and Asia and show a mosaic of different cultures and nationalities. They left their homelands for freedom and in the last few years they have seen some of these freedoms being taken away.

In various communities these pioneers have senior citizen housing and halls where they are able to meet and have some entertainment. They deserve this leisure time after all the hard work they contributed to this province. They left their homelands for the freedom to strive and work and to be rewarded for their efforts. During the last 10 years we have seen this freedom being quickly eroded by the previous administration through the steady purchase of farmland, industries, and through interference in our lives from every government and department level.

Today we have an agricultural base consisting of grain farming and mixed farming. We have many young farmers attempting to purchase farms. They want to purchase farms, not rent land from the land bank. I noticed in the throne speech that something will be brought forward in respect to the land bank as time proceeds, and also with respect to the farm purchase program.

The other day I noticed that the figure of 1,500 was used to describe the number of farmers lost during the past few years. I remind the members opposite that it was during their administration that these farmers were lost.

Not only is agriculture important to the consumers who depend on farmers for their food supply, but the towns in the area still depend heavily on the farmer trade. The farmers' purchases in the stores in the communities in which they live greatly benefit businesses, large or small. All the agricultural implement dealers in the area feel it when farmers are not purchasing. This is why it is imperative that the agricultural industry be given top priority, as our government intends to do. By having a viable and health agricultural economy our province will be seconded to none in its growth. During the last while we saw farmers hesitate. Why? Because of socialism.

Auction marts also play an important role for farmers in the disposal of their livestock. Lately, in the last while, we saw assembly yards being gathered – big government getting into the business of having assembly yards, where they picked up hogs and delivered them to their own stockyards. The purpose had changed to a central selling agency, and the result was a total reduction in other meat packing plants because they were afraid to come in and compete in the market. They might be taken over. With this reduction the result is that smaller towns have lost trade because people who used to come to market their animals at auction marts would end up having to take it to the assembly yard. The result is that small retail stores ended up noticing the effect. It is

refreshing to see that since the election there is a new optimism of freedom and enterprise being kindled in these small towns.

Agriculture is the base of the communities in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, but there are also potash mines in the area. These mines are important, for they, Mr. Speaker, provide not only Saskatchewan with additional revenue but Canada with a better balance of trade, thereby strengthening the value of the dollar as well as contributing to the aspirations of working individuals by providing them with opportunities for jobs. This can be seen in towns such as Watrous, Young, Colonsay, Plunkett, Guernsey, Humboldt, and Viscount. These people can live in their own districts and commute just a few miles to work and still enjoy small town life. Any problems that the mines now face have been partly due to the previous administration's purchases of these mines without regard for the free enterprise market place.

In my constituency, there are also recreational facilities for those who need them at Waldsea Lake Regional Park, Stony Lake, and Manitou beach at Watrous. Many people come to Manitou Beach, for this resort at Watrous not only has recreational facilities but also provides medicinal opportunities because of its mineral water. This Manitou Beach resort is also the location of Camp Easter Seal, which is sponsored by the Saskatchewan council for Crippled Children and Adults. The people in these districts should be given credit for their efforts in working at these facilities. It is only this kind of effort than can provide opportunities for people, young and old, in the recreation area. More needs to be done. As an example, the beach at Manitou needs a permanent fresh-water supply, which could provide facilities for a health spa and could bring in more tourist trade, thereby helping the economy – not only the businesses in the immediate area but it could also provide added revenue to the province.

At this point, I would like to mention again that the members opposite have castigated us about our promises. Well, let me remind them that in the previous two elections promises were made about a permanent water system, but they weren't carried out.

The town of Humboldt, which is the largest town in Saskatchewan, has modern facilities and has shown excellent foresight in working to develop the uniplex, which is a modern facility that houses a new curling rink, two halls, and a new ice rink. These facilities will be used winter and summer. Not only are these available for recreation, but there are also golf courses located at Humboldt, Bruno, and Watrous. Many facilities, too numerous to mention here, exist in other communities.

The towns in the area which have machinery dealers serve a large area. These dealers serve an important function not only in providing farmers with implements but also in providing employment for the people in the area. Service is an important aspect of any business, and these people are able to provide help in this area. There is too much taxation. This would be reduced. Obviously, we noticed that a lot of the businesses were going out because of the increase in taxes, and that was being brought about by the previous administration.

I believe a word of appreciation should be in order for these people who have the pioneer spirit in taking the risk of being able to take the cyclical curves that are so apparent in any business venture, even though the government at previous times liked to interfere with them, especially by giving them too much paperwork.

Mr. Speaker, there are also manufacturing firms located in such towns as Humboldt, Watrous, Vonda and Colonsay. They manufacture anything from truck boxes to rock

pickers, cabinets for housing to pens for hog producers. As you can see, there's a good variety of manufacturing also being done. These firms are directly related to the agricultural industry and provide a service directly in the constituency. The potash corporations and Rock-O-Matic Industries all see their products to other provinces and also trade with the United States.

We have flour mills – the Viscount and Humboldt flour mills. We see flour within Saskatchewan. I might also add that the Humboldt flour mill deals in international trade with respect to mustard contracts that also help our trade balance.

Now, the a new government with fresh ideas, I would note that there will be new enterprises developing, because the people have a new initiative and a new sense of freedom. Mr. Speaker, this is the type of action we need, because along with new industries it means more employment, more jobs, and an opportunity for our young people to remain in rural Saskatchewan and work near home. This can only be a benefit, because having more people in the industry near home will provide opportunities for other businesses.

Service industries can develop, which should affect the revitalization of small-town Saskatchewan. These service industries can vary from manufacturing and welding materials needed for potash mines to additional retail stores in the communities. This is important, Mr. Speaker, because over the years we saw small towns losing their populations. With a new and revitalized economy these small towns will grow to become prosperous centres of trade.

Mr. Speaker, I have referred to the diversified agricultural industry and to the small business sectors of our economy. Reference has also been made to recreation and senior citizens. Along with these, Mr. Speaker, we cannot forget health care. Our concern has been with improving health care. It is of utmost urgency that some action be taken to prevent the erosion of our Medicare system. The previous administration almost prided itself, and tried to credit itself, with how it implemented Medicare against all odds.

We know the concept of Medicare is a good concept and, in its initiation, some achievements were made. However, over the years these medical achievements having disappeared and now we have long waiting lists. Surely when a cataract operation that one of my constituents required had to be delayed for seven months because of a lack of bed space, we cannot be well in the Medicare system. I'm glad to see that one of the government's concerns is to improve health care and make it, again, first in Canada. This credits the government with imagination and foresight in its objectives.

Preventive medicine, of course, is also important. During the last years we also saw a reduction of service in local hospitals. This resulted in a concentration of operations in the major cities. This can be alleviated, Mr. Speaker, with the show of leadership that we know will be forthcoming from this administration.

Labour relations have been allowed to deteriorate over the years. The previous government had portrayed itself as a leader in this field. It portrayed itself as a labour party, concerned about the average individual's earnings and income. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have inherited some of the problems of the previous administration's short-sightedness. It is sheer folly to conclude that the majority of the labour people supported the previous government. They saw what was happening; they saw their freedoms being eroded. They saw that as the previous government had intended to

allow raises on the one hand, they were quick to take them away on the other hand.

How is this accomplished? Very simple. It was quickly accomplished by increasing power and telephone rates, income tax, gas tax, government insurance tax and any other tax that it might decide to come up with. Might I add that this government quickly carried out its promises in eliminating the provincial gas tax, putting a freeze on utility rates and introducing legislation on house mortgage rates. This is placing money back in the hands of the working people and senior citizens, where it belongs. Now I ask: who is on the side of labour?

It is not only large increases in salary that cause inflation and, in the long run, reduce the value of the dollar. It is the amount of net return, in dollars left in the individual's pocket, that has purchasing power that counts. The only gainer is government, when inflation abounds, but the loser is the average person. As we noted today, the inflation rate is already dropping. We can see the loss to the average person and increased inflation on the federal level, where they have forgotten what thrift and hard work are. Why? Because we have a playboy in charge of the federal government whose main concerns and his personal conquests, overriding the problems that are facing the economy and the common individual.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. DOMOTOR:** — Now, I would like to refer to the educational system in our province. It had one of the best recognized standards in comparison to other provinces. Teachers have been a dedicated group working to provide a good educational system which I am sure we can all appreciate. Funding by the previous government had been reduced, with the result that the tax burden shifted to the rural and urban municipalities which, in turn, had to increase the mill rate to the individuals who are already well taxed. The result: a reduction in programs.

Relating to education in my constituency, we have the Carlton Trail Community College with its head office in Humboldt and another office in Watrous. Emphasis in this education has been turning toward providing more technical training with respect to welding courses for training people in industry and providing course in hydraulics, welding and bookkeeping for farmers. This, I might add, is a step in the right direction.

Research has always been an important aspect of improving quality in various areas. In Humboldt, we have the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute which provides updates on the comparisons of different machinery manufacturers' equipment. A farmer can thus make the comparisons and decided which piece of equipment is most suitable to his operation. With research and development at this level and at the university level, many changes for the better can be initiated. Initiative and creativity can be created if imagination is used, provided government withholds interference. Some of the accomplishments we have seen develop in Saskatchewan took place despite discouragement of the free enterprise approach by our predecessors.

Now I would like to share with you, my enthusiasm for a new Saskatchewan, a reawakened Saskatchewan, a revitalized Saskatchewan. Let's compare it to a sleeping giant. With the new anticipation and the fact that Saskatchewan is now open for business, a new climate has developed. Or future lies with bold new initiatives. The calibre and quality of my fellow colleagues sow that we're definitely in a new era; a fresh approach with new ideas. It means not being afraid to tackle problems but proceeding ahead with confidence, not arrogance; with vision, not hindsight; with

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frankness, not slyness. We'll make this province first and foremost in the fields of agriculture, resource development, health care, research and many more too numerous to mention. The future is ours and we now have the capability, technology and the freedom to do it.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also support the motion before the House and thank you for allowing me to give you this address today.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.