

December 10, 1986

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Trew: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour today to welcome the principal and vice-principal of St. Gregory Elementary School, a school that is in the constituency of Regina North, right here in Regina. This is a grade 8 class that has come today, and there are 35 students here.

The principal's name is Mr. Ted Zurowski, and the vice-principal is Mr. George Smadu.

They have also with them a special guest from China, a visiting professor from – and please forgive me if I pronounce this wrong – Ning Xia Province, Mr. Zhang, Shuxiang. Please welcome our guests.

Hon. Members: -- Hear, hear!

Mr. McLaren: -- Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the Assembly, 47 grade 12 students from my home, the city of Yorkton, and the Yorkton Regional High School – the law class that is on there at this term. And I would like to also welcome their teacher, Mr. Ed Magis.

And I'd like to compliment Mr. Magis for consistently bringing his grade 12 class to observe the goings-on in our Assembly and to show our young people and our youth how the democratic process works – the future leaders of our society.

And I would like to invite them to room 218 following question period – approximately 3:00 – for pictures and some refreshments. And I would ask all members to please welcome these people from Yorkton in the usual manner.

Hon. Members: -- Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Deficiency Payment to Farmers

Mr. Upshall: -- Mr. Speaker, at the risk of getting another recorded announcement . . . I'd like to ask the Premier if – and this deals with the announcement from Ottawa yesterday – that the grain price deficiency payment will be equivalent to about 50 cents a bushel or less, I think, when the farmers of this province need \$3 a bushel. Can the Premier tell us whether yesterday's announcement represents a deficiency payment for this crop year or for the last crop year?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, the deficiency payment is based on the 1986 crop which will be marketed, some in 1986, mostly, I suppose, in 1987. But the export subsidy that took place in the United States is applying in 1986 production and so it applies here, if we are going to defend against it, on our 1986 crop. So it's 1986 production and then the crop insurance yields to average it out over the best of the last five years, and that's the formula that is applied to the '86 production. So not to belabour it, it's about 48 cents a bushel for wheat, 28 cents a bushel for barley, 50 cents a bushel for flax and so on.

Mr. Upshall: -- Just so I can get this straight, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, the people of this province were asking for a deficiency for the 1985-86 crop year. Are you telling me now -- because the '86 production starts after the 1985-86 crop year ends, the '86 production starts after that point of August 31 -- are you telling me that there'll be no deficiency payment for last year and that this payment that we're getting is actually going to go up to August 31, 1987?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, the '86-87 crop year starts on August 1st and goes to July 31st. As I understand the announcement by the Prime Minister yesterday, the payments will start as early as December for western Canadian producers who will receive some money, about 33 per cent of it now, and 66 per cent in April during seeding. And that's in the '86-87 crop year. If you would want it on the '85-86, you would have to have the payment last June or last July. So we said that we would like to have the payment made associated with the export subsidy in the United States, which is obviously on the '86 crop.

Mr. Upshall: -- About one-third of this payment is to be in the hands of the farmers by January, and can the Premier tell us whether the remainder of the money is likely to be sent out prior to seeding, or just when is this money . . . the final payment going to be out? It is imperative that it comes out before seeding. Can the Premier assure us this?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, Mr. Speaker, I have an example before me if . . . It would just take about a minute, maybe two minutes. If you take an average farmer at Rosetown who had 400 acres of wheat and 200 acres of barley and 80 acres of flax seed in 1986 production, the wheat, taking in the crop insurance and so forth, would yield about 32 bushels. The payment would be about 48 cents, for \$6,140; barley, 200 acres at 45 bushels to the acres times 28 cents is \$2,520; flax seed is 80 acres, 17 bushels at 50 cents is \$680; for a total of \$9,340. Approximately one-third of that would be paid between now and, say, January, or some time early in the new year, or now. And about two-thirds of it, Mr. Speaker, would be paid April 1987, in the new year. So about one-third in the very near future and about two-thirds either prior to seeding or during seeding.

Appointment of President of SPC

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. It deals with the appointment of the former Progressive Conservative Party president, Mr. George Hill, as the president and chief executive officer of Saskatchewan's largest Crown corporation. A few days ago, Mr. Speaker, the Premier took notice of questions respecting Mr. Hill, and I'll direct them now to the minister. Can the minister now tell us when Mr. Hill assumes his duties, and what will be his salary and other remuneration in his role as president of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Mr. Speaker, you're right, the Premier did take notice of a question, in my absence, from the member for Lakeview, I believe, and I will answer all of those questions at this time if it's the will of the House to hear the answers at this time.

The first question is: when will Mr. Hill assume the duties as president and CEO of Sask Power? The answer to that question is January 5, 1987. There is some overlap in the duties of Mr. Hill and Mr. Campbell to facilitate the transition, and that is roughly December of this year through to January 5th when the transition will take place.

As to the name of the executive search organization that recruited Mr. Hill,, it is B and R Associates of Toronto. They received 146 resumes. They interviewed 21 of the most promising resumes, from which they selected Mr. Hill.

How much money? Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the long-standing tradition of this legislature, and I say long-standing meaning significantly more than four or five years, we will be happy to provide the aggregate of the management team during Crown corporations committee, or if the hon. member would like to put the question on the order paper in the form of a return, we can deal with it at that time in the aggregate way of the management team.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and I'll refrain from dealing with the B and R Associates from Toronto and their selection and whether they arrived by reindeer and whatever other myth you want us to believe.

I want to ask whether, in view of the fact that Mr. Hill is assuming his duties on January 4, 1987, whether you thought it appropriate that Mr. Hill should fire a long-time professional public servant from a senior executive position with the corporation, Mr. Don Moroz. Can you indicate whether you felt that was appropriate and what the reasons were for the dismissal?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member should ask Mr. Moroz. The arrangement that exists between Mr. Moroz and the Sask Power Corporation obviously was arrived at in a mutual fashion and Mr. Moroz has, in fact, tendered his resignation. He is no longer in the employ of Sask Power, and if Mr. Moroz is willing to tell you, that's fine with me. I don't intend to.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Minister. I take it you don't deny that Mr. Hill asked Mr. Moroz for his resignation. Will you give the reasons why Mr. Hill asked Mr. Moroz for his resignation? I'm not asking for Mr. Moroz's reasons -- Mr. Hill's reasons.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- No, Mr. Speaker, I haven't conceded that Mr. Hill asked Mr. Moroz for his resignation. I haven't conceded that I have any knowledge of that. All I'm saying is that obviously they have arrived at an arrangement, and Mr. Moroz is no longer in the employ of Sask Power.

An Hon. Member: -- SPC.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- I mean SPC, right.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Are you denying that Mr. Hill asked Mr. Moroz for his resignation? And if you are not, are you saying you don't know?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is that the arrangement arrived at between Mr. Moroz and the management of Sask Power is an arrangement that they arrived at and agreed to mutually, and that's it, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Do you acknowledge that the reason why an arrangement came to be in place was that Mr. Hill first asked Mr. Moroz for his resignation. Do you deny that?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Mr. Speaker, I do not deny it, nor do I confirm it, because I have no firsthand knowledge of it. Mr. Hill and the management team at Sask Power were put there to manage and operate Sask Power in the most efficient and effective way possible, and there are certain things that happened at the behest of the management team and so on. One of those things apparently was an arrangement arrived at between Mr. Moroz and the management team. Mr. Moroz is no longer at Sask Power.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Are you suggesting that the president of Sask Power had anything to do with this, or do you acknowledge that the president was not involved and that only Mr. Hill was involved when he was not president?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Well you know, Mr. Speaker, the short answer is that I don't know. If I can extend that just a couple of words, Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is possible that I could find out. But I just invite the member to raise it in crown corporations . . .

An Hon. Member: -- Why?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Well I may know then; that's why.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is quite simple. Mr. Moroz and Sask Power came mutually to an arrangement, and the rest is history.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Can the minister assure SPC customers and other senior management of SPC that the dismissal of Mr. Moroz will not be followed by a string of dismissals designed to replace professional managers with political managers?

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. All managers at Sask power are considered to be professional in every way. I concede that the incoming president, Mr. Hill, may have been tainted with a blue brush at one time, but that doesn't detract from his professional credentials.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: -- Supplementary. Who considers Mr. Hill a professional manager and not a political manager?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: -- Almost anyone who knows him, Mr. Speaker, and all fair-minded people.

Implementation of Accessibility Regulations for Physically Handicapped

Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Speaker, as members of the House will know and you'll know, today is International Human Rights Day and I have a question that I wish to direct, I believe it's to the Minister of Labour, who's the minister in charge of accessibility. On January 1, 1984, the government passed legislation which endeavoured, amongst other things, to guarantee accessibility to people with physical handicaps, but key portions of that legislation, as you know, Mr. Speaker, have not yet been proclaimed because the government has been saying ever since that time that it's working on regulations.

My question is a very simple and straightforward one to the minister and that is this: can he advise the House when it is that we can expect to have the regulations proclaimed so that the standards and the code can become fully operative for all people, including the physically handicapped, surely a basic right for all Saskatchewan people.

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: -- I can answer some of that question because I'm only partially responsible and the reason for that is that the Minister . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: -- The Minister of the Environment is taking over that portion of my responsibilities and we are in a transition stage. He may be able to give you the exact details. But it seems to me that you can't believe everything you hear, I say to the hon. member opposite, nor can you believe everything you read because when I was finished with my campaigning and the election I had time to read the news-letter of the Human Rights Commission and they quoted me as saying that the regulations wouldn't be available until the fall of '87, and at no time did I ever say that.

It had been my objective to have them ready much sooner. I've indicated publicly that we were trying to have them ready for this coming spring. I don't personally draft these regulations and we have officials who are doing that, and you asked me what I should do with those officials if they can't get them ready any faster. I will follow your suggestions, but they are doing their best, and when they are ready they will be implemented, and as to the exact day, I will give the new minister responsible the opportunity to pick and fix that day.

Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Chairman, a supplementary. I'll direct this to the Minister of Labour, but if he wishes to direct it to the new minister in charge, fair enough. All that the House wants is an answer. And may I say by way of supplementary that I could certainly agree with the minister in his answer, that you can't believe everything that you read because I have here in front of me a 1982 Progressive Conservative policy manual saying that there is a better way, and on page 14, it says the following:

The Progressive Conservative government will ensure that all facilities are available to the handicapped, i.e., have easy access to public buildings.

So judging by the fact that this is 1982, the promise made, and we're now 1986, I agree with the minister that you can't believe everything that you read.

My question is to you, sir, or to any other minister who cares to answer this on the front treasury benches. Will you tell the House and the physically handicapped and disabled people whether or not we can get those regulations by December 31, 1986, this year, and if not, why not, especially since you've made the promise ever since 1982? Tell us that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Swan :-- Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed very much the question put by the hon. member. The member may recall that some 11 years while he was on the government benches this same topic was raised, and when I was in opposition I raised it with him; I raised it with a number of others. And up until this point in time we haven't had any response from him through his 11 years . . . I guess through the first four we were not able to fully comply with the promise that was made.

I do see, Mr. Speaker, that in the very near future those regulations will be brought forward. I won't guarantee that they will be here by the end of December but I would expect during the spring session that likely those resolutions can be brought through. We've been looking at it, but it's not prepared, and I'm not ready at this time to okay what they have been preparing. But we are looking at it very closely, and in the near future we will bring forth the regulations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Deficiency Payment for Farmers

Mr. Goodale: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier, and if I could go back to the subject of the deficiency payment announced yesterday.

In analysing the various responses from farm organizations, some of them, in approving the deficiency payment is so far as it went, made the comment that they had the impression that this would not be just a one-shot effort on the part of the federal government, but might in fact be repeated in an ongoing way for a number of years. And I wonder if the Premier has any specific information that would lead to that conclusion that this is not just a one-shot payment, but in fact has some life beyond 1986 and '87 to it carrying on into the future, for as long as the trade war continues?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, Mr. Chairman, it might. I responded to a newspaper today saying that at a minimum we now have a mechanism that the provinces agreed to, and the federal government, and most of the producer organizations. So that if we did need it in subsequent years as we address the international trade problems, we have a mechanism that to a very large extent will be in place.

So we will be obviously monitoring and working together across the provinces and with the federal government in trying to resolve the international subsidy problem. If it takes some time, and it obviously will, then we can look to this or other mechanisms to provide some support for farmers as we see fit. I mean, obviously I can't speak for the federal cabinet, but this has been a very large payment, if you will, in '86-87, and we'll have to take it from this point on.

Mr. Goodale: -- Mr. Speaker, one supplementary. Bearing in mind the uncertainty of the future, I wonder if any specific initiatives are being pursued or if the Premier is pressing for them to be pursued by the federal government, in relation to the negotiation now of a new international grains agreement, especially since we seem to be in a window of opportunity between U.S. elections when some of the political fever in that country might be reduced just a little bit, and bearing in mind the expense of the kind of a program announced yesterday, even though it is not adequate to totally solve the problem. What new efforts would be undertaken by the Government of Saskatchewan to encourage the federal government to proceed now in the next 12 to 15 months, while that window of opportunity might exist, to try to get a new International Grains Agreement on the books that might make further deficiency payments in the future unnecessary?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, Mr. Speaker, what is taking place now, and I'm sure well in the new year and through '87 and '88, are international negotiations that our Minister of Trade has been involved in, I have been involved in, and the federal government and others, to get agriculture in the discussions at the multilateral trade negotiations.

I'm not so sure that we can . . . Perhaps we could get lucky and have a new grains agreement that would just fix it. I'm not so sure that that necessarily can happen. I would like to think it could, but I believe to get GATT or to get the GATT negotiations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to consider agriculture, which includes grain and some of these other things, would be extremely important.

It wasn't in the negotiations in the past; it was traded under the table. We now have the United States and a good deal of Europe agreeing with Canadians that we should have agriculture on the table as we discuss this. And I believe that's the long-run solution that may lead to some changes with respect to an international grains agreement.

So we're involved with the federal government, with provincial governments. As chairman of the Canadian premiers meeting with United States governors, we will be discussing that and other things, perhaps here in February and March, with an international meeting. I'll be involved in some other international meetings which will be dealing specifically with this.

So I could concur with the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that this is not the solution just to keep providing subsidy internationally, either in Canada or the U.S. or other places. And if we can rearrange this internationally, and collectively back away from it, then it means a more national market-place, and in fact the prices would rise and we would all be much better off.

Political Freedom of Public Servants

Mr. Shillington: -- My question is to the minister response for the Public Service Commission. I believe he's absent, therefore I guess it falls to the Premier. On International Human Rights Day I ask the Premier

if your government will, in the coming months, guarantee a fundamental freedom for thousands of Saskatchewan residents. I am speaking of the political freedom of Saskatchewan public servants.

Your government's intimidation tactics in recent years have run roughshod over those public servants' rights and would have embarrassed any government except yours. Will the government table a clear, unequivocal statement in this Assembly, setting out the basic rights and freedoms to all Saskatchewan public servants, something you promised about four years ago? And will you call off the political henchmen who have threatened public servants for expressing their political beliefs?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, that question, in all seriousness, really doesn't deserve a response because the hon. member knows me well enough, let alone how the public service operates. I mean, under the same rules that applied then apply now in the sense of providing professionalism. I mean, I, as a former professor and other people who are in the academic area or in the private sector, can come in and out of the public service. We did before, and we do now. And for the hon. member to stand there and make implications and innuendoes about an unfair public service, that is somehow unfair . . .

An Hon. Member: -- Unfairly treated.

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, it's a partisan question, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the public service in Saskatchewan, raised by a member that used to be a cabinet minister. Mr. Speaker, I will say that the Public Service Commission in the province of Saskatchewan is professional, and everybody in Saskatchewan has access to it, and that's the way it will stay.

Mr. Shillington: -- Supplementary. New question. Mr. Premier, you may recall about four years ago the current member from Regina Victoria coming to the attention of this Assembly. You may recall him being banished to your idea of Siberia, and that was Prince Albert. And you may now take an opportunity, I assume, to welcome him back into this Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shillington: -- On that occasion, Mr. Premier, you promised this Assembly a statement of what the rights of public servants would be in this area, and it has never been received. So it may be a partisan question, but you've made it a partisan issue. I ask you, Mr. Premier, four years later, have you any thoughts at all on what the rights of public servants should be?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I mean, I will debate about the member that was just elected for Regina Victoria and the kind of professionalism that I expect, and indeed, when the hon. member was a minister, expected from me as a professional. And he did. And he expected me to have integrity. I didn't go around when I was working for him, for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs . . . I did, Mr. Speaker. And he expected professional . . .

Mr. Speaker: -- Order, please. Order! Order, order. Please allow the Premier to finish answering the question.

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- You want to get into the topic. You expected professional behaviour from me. You expected professional behaviour from me, and you received it.

When the hon. member was working for the government during the day, designing marketing policies that we had to take to the public, and then at night going downtown and kicking the pants off the government at the same time, it's a little difficult. And you can understand that.

So all we ask for, and you know and I know, all anybody asks for is professionalism in public service. And if you will provide professionalism in public service, which you can get in the province of Saskatchewan, you're treated as a professional.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the 38th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was passed in the wake of World War II as a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, this internationally recognized statement of the fundamental principles necessary for the protection of individual freedoms.

Since the universal declaration was passed, the people of Saskatchewan and of Canada have extended human rights through such vehicles as human rights commissions and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We continue to be concerned about the preservation and the protection of fundamental rights in all countries, not just ours, Mr. Speaker.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that today, December 10th, has been declared in Saskatchewan, Human Rights Day.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Simard: -- Mr. Speaker, I join in with the minister in commemorating this day, and I'd like to also point out that I will be seeking leave under rule 39 to pass a motion with respect to this anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1 – An Act to amend The Farm Land Security Act

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I move first reading on a Bill to amend The Farm Land Security Act.

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

Bill No. 2 – An Act to amend The Farmers' Counselling and Assistance Act

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Farmers' Counselling and Assistance Act.

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

Bill No. 3 – An Act to establish a Mortgage Protection Plan

Hon. Mr. Lane: -- Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill to establish a Mortgage Protection Plan.

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

Bill No. 4 – An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act

Hon. Mr. Lane: -- I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act.

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

MOTIONS

Commemoration of Human Rights Day

Ms. Simard: -- Before orders of the day, I rise pursuant to rule 39 of this Assembly and seek leave to move a motion commemorating Human Rights Day. I seek leave of the Assembly to move an appropriate and non-partisan motion.

Mr. Speaker: -- Would the member please read her motion so that members may know what they're giving leave to.

Ms. Simard: -- The motion is:

That this Assembly commemorate Human Rights Day by reaffirming its endorsement of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights by reaffirming its determination to protect and extend the fundamental human rights of Saskatchewan people, and by affirming its solidarity with oppressed men and women across the world whose basis human rights are being violated.

Leave granted.

Ms. Simard: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of great significance. It is the 38th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration was passed as a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations 38 years ago. This declaration is a statement of fundamental principles necessary for world peace and for the protection of individual freedoms.

The human rights declaration recognizes, Mr. Speaker, that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. It states that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. Everyone is entitled to equal protection against discrimination. It talks of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to hold opinions without interference. These are only a few of the many rights contained in the text of the declaration.

It is with great pleasure that I stand before this Assembly today to commemorate this anniversary. It is fitting that once a year we take time to reflect on the meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and review and assess our own record over the last year as a country, a province, and as individuals. And when we make this review and assessment, let us keep in mind the words of F.R. Scott: "No citizen's right can be greater than that of the least-protected group."

The guarantee of freedoms around the world and in Canada is a tenacious and fragile thing indeed. And we must establish stronger and more effective safeguards to protect our minorities. Because when we protect minorities, we are not only doing the right and just thing to do in a civilized society, but we are also protecting all citizens from future infringement of their rights and freedoms.

Fundamental rights and freedoms are under constant threat in many countries. People in many countries around the world are denied the right of freedom of expression and the right of freedom of association and the right to choose the political party of their choice without fear of reprisals or condemnation. Indeed, many people are imprisoned, terrorized, and tortured today for believing that countrymen should be free.

That's why we in Canada have much to be thankful for. But just because we live in a country free of many of these problems and practices does not mean that we can take our civil and human rights for granted. They must be protected. They must be advanced in every situation that calls for it.

Saskatchewan people recognized this, Mr. Speaker, many, many years ago. Saskatchewan was the first province to pass a Bill of Rights. Then in 1972 a new Human Rights commission was established, and later on in the 1970s a new Saskatchewan Human Rights Code was made law by the Government of Saskatchewan. This code recognized and recognizes fundamental civil liberties and basic human rights. It gave the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission the job of enforcing those laws and protecting us as citizens.

This code was an example to the rest of Canada and was applauded in the United States. I know this because at the time I was deputy chair of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and it was talked about at a conference in the United States on human rights. The code was said to be fair, progressive, and enlightened.

So today I ask myself why. Prior to October 20, 1986, the Progressive Conservative MLAs unanimously told the Saskatchewan human rights association that in order to bring the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code in line with our new Charter of Rights and Freedoms they would prefer to bring in a new Act rather than simply amending the present code.

I hope this opportunity is used by the members opposite to strengthen human rights in Saskatchewan, and I hope that the PC government does not turn back the clock on human rights in Saskatchewan by dismantling the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission or by diminishing the powers and investigative functions of the commission.

These concerns are not figments of my imagination, Mr. Speaker, because events of the last year tell us that already the doors of one branch office of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission have closed – those of the Prince Albert office. The closure of the P.A. office means that the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission will have no visible presence in northern Saskatchewan, and it substantially diminishes the enforcement capacity of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

The events of the last year tell us that an already overburdened and tightly budgeted Human Rights Commission in Saskatchewan was asked to cut back on its budget last year by one staff position and \$30,000, despite a 40 per cent increase in work-load since 1981, without any budget or staff increase. As a result it has become more difficult, if not impossible, for the commission to adequately perform its function of protecting our fundamental rights.

These events have caused concern for those of us who want to preserve our basic freedoms and who want to promote the dignity and inalienable rights of all citizens. In fact, so much concern has been generated the Saskatchewan Association of Human Rights felt compelled to pass a resolution at their convention in April 1986 which condemned the PC government's deplorable and unacceptable record and reckless disregard for human rights in this province.

These are harsh words, Mr. Speaker, and it is with deep regret that I feel compelled to bring these words forward today, but I do it in the sincere hope that this government will take note and halt any further deterioration of our system, because it's a good system and it does protect all our fundamental freedoms and human rights.

I would like to see this government step forward and once again show that Saskatchewan can be a leader in this area and do what has to be done to strengthen and improve our fundamental freedoms and rights in

Saskatchewan. It's only through the protection of these rights that all Saskatchewan citizens can fully participate in our great Saskatchewan society, and surely this is what we all want, on both sides of this House. Surely this is the only road we travel. Let us set an example then, not just in Canada but around the world, and as Thomas R. Berger has said:

Our own successes and failures, our own attempts to accommodate minorities are important, not only to ourselves; if people of different races, religions, cultures, languages can live together harmoniously within a great federal state, perhaps they may learn to live together harmoniously in the wider world.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move the motion that I read earlier, seconded by my colleague, the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Mitchell: -- I second this motion that's before the House with a good deal of pride. I won't take much of the members' time, but I do think a number of things deserve to be said on this occasion.

The first is that we must never be complacent in this province or anywhere in Canada or indeed anywhere in the world about our rights and our freedoms. We can never think that the protection or enforcement of these rights deserves less than our full attention.

A violation of the rights of any person in our society is a threat to the rights of all of us. If an Indian is discriminated against by a landlord who refuses to rent an apartment, that is an affront to all of us. If a black is denied a job because he or she is black, that is an affront to all of us, and if a woman is denied promotion in a work place because she is a woman, that is an affront to all of us. These are simply examples of affronts that cannot be tolerated in this province or anywhere in this country, and our laws quite properly make such conduct illegal and we have strong mechanisms by which to enforce that law. Nothing less than full vigilance is required with respect to the enforcement of these rights.

(1445)

I can do no better, Mr. Speaker, than to quote from a German by the name of Martin Niemoeller who wrote the following words:

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.

And it was of course in the aftermath of the holocaust that the instruments passed by the United Nations came into existence and international human rights were sought to be guaranteed by the documents that were referred to by my friend, by my colleague, the minister from Lakeview.

These mechanisms of the enforcement of human rights need continuous monitoring and upgrading to ensure that we are putting forward a full effort in enforcing human rights laws.

I finally want to just remind members of the work of Amnesty International, a world-wide voluntary organization monitoring certain kinds of human rights violations across the world. The work of this organization is indeed impressive, and I know that members on both sides of this House have, in the past, had occasion to support their work. They are concerned particularly with the imprisonment of people for their political beliefs, and for their treatment while they are incarcerated, including, of course, the use of torture. As I said in my opening remarks, Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I second this motion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Atkinson: -- Mr. Speaker, I too would like to commemorate this day, a day which governments and institutions world-wide reaffirm their commitment to the universal declaration of human rights. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that we have this motion before us today because we too can share with the people of Saskatchewan our united declaration of these fundamental rights and freedoms.

Keeping this in mind, Mr. Speaker, I know that members opposite will support political rights and freedoms for Saskatchewan citizens, particularly Saskatchewan civil servants when they introduced changes to the Saskatchewan human rights code, changes that they talked about in the past election. Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, are concerned about human rights and human justice. They were very pleased, however, when the government took up their proposal to remove South African wines and spirits from the Saskatchewan Liquor Board store. Mr. Speaker, they would like a similar action with respect to products the Saskatchewan government continues to market from oppressive regimes such as the Chilean dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come for members opposite to introduce affirmative action legislation that would provide equal access for native people, women and people with disabilities. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the women of Saskatchewan are anxious to see pay equity legislation introduced that would ensure equality of wages.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, when we think about human rights, we tend to think about civil and constitutional rights. Let us not forget that we should be striving for a world where every child is able to grow up in a world free from ignorance, free from fear, fear from hate and want. Thus, I am pleased to rise in support of the motion, and I hope that all members of the Assembly will join me in supporting it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: -- Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise on this motion, and whereas I haven't had the opportunity to speak in this session, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker, and I am certain that you will do an excellent job to uphold the dignity of this Assembly, and I know very well that you have the confidence of all of the members of the Assembly.

With respect to the motion before us today, on behalf of the government it is truly a pleasure for us to endorse the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights. We clearly think that it should be reaffirmed, and we also think that it should be followed, not only in Saskatchewan, not only in Canada, not only in democratic countries, but also in socialist countries throughout the world.

We believe that the rights of individuals are fundamental – truly fundamental regardless of the colour and religion, the nationality, or any other visible distinction among people of the world. All people in this province agree on those principles. We, on behalf of the government, as the Government of Saskatchewan, intend to follow and live up to those principles.

I'm pleased to join in to this non-partisan debate and I hope to keep it non-partisan as much as possible.

With respect to some of the initiatives of this government, we have heard earlier today in question period that after many years this government has introduced accessibility legislation, and we await the regulations. And we may quibble about the day on which they are implemented, but I can tell you that even without the regulations, the new Act is being followed.

There is a major improvement in the plight of the handicapped in this province. And I have seen in rural Saskatchewan, which I represent, that people do not have to be legislated into helping the handicapped, in particular in this area; that churches, that communities with public halls and skating rinks are voluntarily putting in accessibility standards without being required to do so by law.

And therefore that suggest to me that the citizens of this province have a basic feeling of fairness and that it is not necessary to hold the long arm of the law over our citizens to require that they be fair by law.

However, the accessibility standards law is important; the regulations are important. As we've indicated earlier today, this area will be covered by the government as soon as the regulations can be drafted in an appropriate manner.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I am the minister responsible for the proposed new department, the department of human resources, labour, and employment, which will have in it at least five divisions. One of them will be the seniors' division, which will pull together all of the services to seniors. And I met with their council this morning. They're very enthused about improvement of the life of senior citizens.

There's also a division, the women's division, which will continue working toward economic equality for women. This government strongly believes, as does the Government of Canada, as was recently confirmed at the first ministers' conference in Vancouver, in the economic equality of women. And therefore you will see measures in the next four years that will work towards this principle.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, my new department is responsible for Indian and Métis affairs. I use the term "Indian" because I have consulted with the chiefs and they do not wish to be called natives. They indicate they wish to be called Indians, and the Métis wish to be called Métis. So the division is known as the Indian and Métis division of the Department of Human Resources.

With respect to other elements of the department, labour is also a crucial element. This government will ensure that workers in this province are treated in a fair manner and are entitled to practice their democratic rights in a free society.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this new department has a division of youth and employment which is in its formative stage and will address the problem of unemployment among our young people. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is a long-standing problem, it will be difficult to address, that the unemployment rate among people under the age of 24 is approximately 15 per cent. It was approximately 13 per cent in a period when we were considered to have full employment in the glorious days of high commodity prices in the mid and late 1970s.

So while there is a change in unemployment across the sphere of society, it has not changed very much from good economic times to difficult economic times. It has changed very, very little among young people, and we have to address new initiatives to have young people get into the work force.

Therefore, I am very enthused that the new department for which I will be responsible will be helping with the human rights of Saskatchewan citizens, trying to grant equality to all and more opportunity to those people who are having a difficult time competing in a competitive society.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I voted in favour of leave for this motion on the basis that it would be a non-partisan debate. And when I heard the member from Lakeview, I began to wonder about the question of agreeing to a non-partisan debate and then dealing with this matter in a very partisan way.

And part of the problem with human rights throughout the world is that every country, or almost every country, has agreed to the United Nations' principles and that some countries in the world have the best-written constitutions and constitution that have the greatest guarantee of human rights.

But unfortunately they are not followed in practice. In addition, today I see that the member from Lakeview, who has asked for a non-partisan debate, has not followed that same topic and practice and has got into the question of the Human Rights Commission, and has indicated that at one time she was a deputy chairperson of the Human Rights Commission. I would certainly hope that that was not a patronage position.

In any event, I deplore the fact that certain members of the opposition would try to use human rights for their own political purposes to suggest that only they stand for human rights, to subvert an issue as important as human rights to petty politics. Mr. Speaker, when someone calls for a non-partisan debate, it should be non-partisan.

Therefore, on behalf of the government, I reaffirm the government's position to do everything possible to improve and continue protecting the human rights of our citizens.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1500)

Mr. Martens: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to rise today, and together with the other members discuss some of the aspects of what I believe to be important as it relates to the human rights and the people of Saskatchewan, and also to the people who I represent and who have in a sense come away from those kinds of oppressed parts of the world.

I just want to indicate that my family is a Mennonite family, and through various ways and means the people of my family moved from the Soviet Union; moved out of there – some in haste; some had to leave in various ways. I just want to point out a couple of things that I see as reasons why we need to support the United Nations and every facet of human rights that we possibly can. And things like religious freedom are very important to me and to my family. Political freedom is a very important part of that freedom that we have.

The other thing that so often strikes me is the freedom of opportunity that we so often neglect to think about in relation to the kinds of things that give us an opportunity, for example, to assemble here, to do it freely, to have the opportunity to discuss various aspects as it relates to politics, but also the freedom that we have to take on a different political stance.

The other thing that I think is important, and one of the reasons of the two that the people of my family came to this country, the first was the religious freedom – that was fairly obvious. The second was the right to own property or the freedom to own property. And that, for my family, was extremely important. Over in the Soviet Union they were allowed to own property. They did it. They were an agrarian type people and they did it, and they did it with a great deal of pride.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, they were asked by the Soviet Union, the tzars of the Soviet Union, to move from Germany into Russia to deal with the marshes in the southern part of Russia. They were asked to move in there and they felt that that was a part of their contribution that they could make to the kinds of things that were happening there and not happening there; and they had the right to own that property. And in the years from the 1860s to the 1920s, that right to own that property was eroded and that became a very

important feature of why the people of my background decided to come to this country. They didn't only come here; they came to the United States, and this offered a great deal of opportunity for them.

The second thing that I want to say – and I'm going to be brief – the second thing that I want to say is that as I travelled to Africa some two years ago in relation to the grain that the Saskatchewan government sent over to the people over there to deal with some of the problems in starvation, I saw evidence of some of the real needs of the people of the world who are in a situation where they cannot help themselves.

And the reason why they cannot help themselves is because they do not have some of the basic human rights that we believe in. They don't have the basic human right of being able to decide which political side of the fence they want to be on. For example, I visited the Sudan. There were political refugees there from Ethiopia, from Chad, from Libya, from Uganda, all the countries around that part of the African country.

And they lacked that political freedom that we often consider as a part of our natural heritage. And I believe we must be in a position where we are prepared to defend it, where we are prepared to live by the kinds of things that we have grown accustomed to. But learn how to defend them.

And in my opinion, I would like to support this motion and I would like to have the Government of Saskatchewan continue its role as the kind of government that would give solid support to the United Nations in its role in the human rights and the development of human rights in this country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Saxinger: -- Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak in favour of this motion in a non-partisan way. I believe I have some authority to speak about it, and I have the accent to prove it, because everybody seems to be talking about their parents coming from Germany or Europe, and I, as most of you know, I came to this country 32 years ago, just for three years, just to explore the country. It only took me three months to make up my mind to make my living here and stay here.

As most of you know, I was raised through the Hitler regime, a dictatorship. I am only 20 miles from the Czechoslovakian border where they have socialism, and I really did appreciate what we have in Saskatchewan. As I said, after three months I made up my mind and six months later I started my own business. That's opportunity no other country has. We seem to take so much for granted in Saskatchewan which other people in other countries in the world just dream of. Small things like fishing and hunting – most of the people in other parts can only dream of.

We heard so much about how bad we have it in Saskatchewan; no doubt there is some improvement in human rights, but in my opinion Saskatchewan is the best province to live in. We have the highest standard of living of anybody in the world. Every time I go travelling and come home, I am really appreciative, and I come back to this Saskatchewan and I think it is just the greatest place to live in in the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)

Hon. Mr. McLeod: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that Motions for Returns (Not Debatable), items 1 through 177, be converted to Motions for Returns (Debatable).

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Martineau and the amendment thereto moved by the Hon. Mr. Blakeney.

Mr. Anguish: -- Mr. Speaker, when the debate adjourned yesterday, I had a few remarks that I wanted to conclude in my first speech to the legislature on the throne speech debate, and at the point of adjournment I was talking about some of the things that I was especially keen on that were contained within the throne speech, and I had just wrapped up talking about tourism and hospitality institute which has been promised by the government through the throne speech.

Another thing that I am very interested in seeing coming about in the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the government is going to establish a Saskatchewan entrepreneurial institute. And I think that small-business people, owner-operated businesses within the province have looked forward to something like this for a long period of time, because quite often they aren't able to acquire the training that they need, and since they are the backbone of our economy, we certainly wouldn't operate in the style that we do now if we did not have small business and the many entrepreneurs throughout the country that make our system a very vibrant system for the most part, and certainly give it stability over the long term. And I'm sure that many small businesses will look forward with some interest, as I will look forward with interest, about what actually comes down with the Saskatchewan entrepreneurial institute.

I now would like to refer to something that the hon. member for Melville in his address today was talking about. He was referring to himself, if I understood it correctly, already as the new minister for the department of human resources which I didn't know was in the works yet. I understood that he was the minister for almost everything, but I did not understand that he was already the new minister of human resources.

And that brings me to an area of some grave concern, is when this government starts talking about major realignments and major reshuffling of government departments. We're very hesitant to give much support to that until we see what's actually coming down from the government in terms of the realignment. The Department of Health and the Department of Social Services, and I believe that the Department of Supply and Services are in for some very, very difficult and trying times over the coming months and over the coming years of this legislature.

In the throne speech it's been alluded to about a review to meet the changing requirements of our health services within the province. And they talked within the same paragraph in the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, about reviewing the costs of administration of the province's health care system. And that tells me that we'll be having maybe some upgrading of the technology, but also very heavily centralizing our health care systems more than they are now, and not hiring the adequate number of health care professionals that we need within the province of Saskatchewan.

In terms of income support and the Department of Social Services, there's a review here, and they're talking about a change of the delivery system. And certainly, if I was an employee of the Department of Social Services, I would be very inquisitive to my supervisors as to what that means to my job. And it seems to me that there is a lot of talk from the government side about putting the control of income support programs back into the hands of municipal governments as it did operate under a number of years ago. And I would caution that this could well be a mistake on the part of the government and would be a nightmare

for municipalities. And I don't think that they would be very anxious to take over the income support programs within this province, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the Department of Supply and Services, it gives me another area of concern over this government consolidation, streamlining. It's referred to in some places as efficiency, effectiveness, and reorganization. The federal government often rephrases it a little differently – talk about efficiency, effectiveness, and economy, which basically means the same thing. And I don't want to see this government put all of the problems for the province of Saskatchewan on the backs of public employees.

And where I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, with the Department of Supply and Services is that everything there seems to be changing over to this new property management corporation. And of course the property management corporation can mortgage assets as a Crown corporation, whereas the Government of Saskatchewan cannot mortgage those assets. And I'm very fearful as we get into difficult economic times in the province of Saskatchewan, if that Crown corporation can't pay their bills, then a financial institution can actually seize the assets that are actually belonging to the people of the province of Saskatchewan, and that causes me a great deal of concern, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of employees who will be under the new property management corporation, I'm deeply concerned because in the throne speech they're starting to talk about where savings are apparent, and I quote:

. . . individuals and firms will be invited to compete for the delivery of specific government services. Impediments which preclude the effective delivery of services to the public will be identified and addressed.

And that tells me, Mr. Speaker, that people that have given long and good service as public employees to this province are in danger of losing their jobs. If someone has worked as a janitor for a number of years, if a janitorial firm all of a sudden wants to bid a dollar an hour cheaper than that person has been doing it and built up their seniority over a number of years, that person could lose their job because they're being contracted out to the private sector. And although I want to see the private sector be buoyant within Saskatchewan, I don't want to see it being done on the backs of public employees.

And this whole consolidation, the new government department, and the changing of the departments that are there, caused a great deal of fear, certainly at least on this side of the House, and I think should cause a great deal of fear in terms of provincial government employees in the province of Saskatchewan.

I don't want to go on too unduly long, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to say that I think we're in for some challenging times in the province of Saskatchewan. I know that just during my lifetime we've seen more technological change than all of mankind, all of the human race, I suppose I should say, Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of time. It has displaced a lot of people, but people still like the benefits of technology, but sometimes that technology moves very, very fast and it seems that governments, whether provincial or federal or even municipal, have a hard time in keeping pace with that technology in the view that it displaces an awful lot of people in our society, and we have to give some rethinking to that.

(1515)

I also think that on my first address to this Legislative Assembly I would like to mention briefly that the world is often a tinder-box situation. I think that we all have a responsibility, even though some members would say that the nuclear arms issue is something that's outside the purview of this legislature, it's certainly something that should be of concern to all of us, because we do want to be guardians of this great planet of ours and hopefully pass it on to the next generation in a better state than what we've come into it. And these changing times all present great challenges for members of the Legislative Assembly, Mr.

Speaker, and I think that we have to look very carefully at alternates in the future. We have to look at building a future for the future generations.

And I would like to acknowledge, as a member from Fairview did last night, my family and the support that they've given me in the term that I have been in a political career and now a member of the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to also acknowledge a few individuals, former members of the Legislative Assembly that have served The Battlefords constituency since I have been born, at least, and that is Mr. James Maher, who formerly represented The Battlefords as a Liberal, and Eiling Kramer, who represented The Battlefords constituency between 1952 and 1981 when he resigned his seat in the legislature. And I would also like to acknowledge David Miner, who spent a short term from the by-election when Eiling Kramer had resigned to cause that by-election to come about, until the great onslaught of the Conservatives in 1982 when many of our members of the New Democrats were not elected or re-elected in the province of Saskatchewan.

I would like to say in closing that it's, I think, a day for all of us to reflect on International Human Rights Day. I think that people have some basic rights that governments must assure, but as the member from Melville, I believe it is, was referring in his remarks on the special motion that we had here this afternoon, that anything that is written on paper is only as good as the political will of the people who are there to enforce that and carry it out. And there are some very good charters of rights around the world in many countries where peoples' rights are not preserved, and they do not have the freedoms that we enjoy in Canada and that we enjoy in Saskatchewan.

So the political will and the way that we deal with people will always be very important, and I think that people in Saskatchewan should always have a right to income, they should have a right to food, they should have a right to shelter and clothing, and they should have a right to freedom from persecution because of whatever they might do or what they might say that is within the legal limits, that others should not put down what they have. The great philosopher, Voltaire, once said that he may disagree with what one has to say, but he would defend to the death their right to say it. And I think that you have a great role to play in that in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, as we have as members of the legislature, to preserve that for the people of Saskatchewan.

And I look forward certainly through my term in this 21st session of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan to serve my constituents well and to serve the province of Saskatchewan, and I look forward to a lot of consultation and constructive work with members, not only in my own caucus, but also on the government side. I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mrs. Smith: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a privilege to rise in this Assembly today to participate in the throne speech debate of Saskatchewan's 21st Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I like my colleagues before me, take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Saskatchewan's 18th Speaker of this Assembly.

Having worked with you for a year and a half to two years in the ministry of Education, I can attest to your capabilities and your ability to get the job done. You have a very unique ability to listen. Your honesty and a sense of fair play will serve this Assembly and its members well, with some co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the mover and the seconder of the throne speech on their presentations. I was impressed as new members as they stood in this House with a great deal of confidence. I also want to congratulate the members on their success in the recent election and particularly, Mr. Speaker, the new members.

As competitions go, Mr. Speaker, which elections are, there's always winners and losers. And while we congratulate the winners, I believe that congratulations also go the losers in a democratic process to ensure that that process indeed stays healthy and that people, in fact, have a choice.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to express congratulations and appreciation to the newly-elected women of the NDP caucus. Progress for women in politics often seems slow at the best of times. Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see women in the opposition as they are on the government side of the House. It is with appreciation that I say this for they have accepted the challenge of political involvement and with that a degree of risk.

Mr. Speaker, each new and old member of this Assembly provides very important ideas and viewpoints and preconceived opinions and ideas when they come into this House. Some of them don't last long; however, some of them stay around for a long time. They also come in with some values, and each new member brings to this House, and as a consequence to this province, new talents and abilities. They bring strengths and weaknesses and yes, Mr. Speaker, we bring our own biases too.

But essentially, Mr. Speaker, we come with a willingness to listen and to learn, and that must be maintained if we are indeed to be servants of the people as we are duly elected to be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity also to thank the people of Swift Current, my constituency. They have placed in me a degree of trust and confidence and they have worked hard in seeing the democratic process through its time on October 20, and for that I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Swift Current, which I am honoured and proud to represent, is in the heart of what we call the great South-west. The member from Morse, the member from Shaunavon, and the member from Maple Creek will readily identify with that. We are the major trading centre for one-tenth of this province's population. Like most urban centres in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we are largely dependant on agriculture as our economic base. But we are aware of the ever increasing need to develop and diversify our economy.

While our base is agriculture, Mr. Speaker, we have been fortunate in that area of the province to build a major secondary industry and that is in the oil and gas area. I say that with some caution, Mr. Speaker, given the plight of the oil and gas industries and the world commodity markets today.

New industry and the continued growth of our small business sector are very essential to Swift Current for its growth and its prosperity and its people. Since 1982 our Progressive Conservative government has laid out a path, Mr. Speaker, and it is a broadening path for the development of Saskatchewan through our resources, our people, and our small businesses.

It has also included a commitment to provide opportunity for people to improve the quality of their life through government incentives and initiatives, and of course, Mr. Speaker, the encouragement of the private sector.

A few examples, Mr. Speaker, of these commitments at work in my constituency are perhaps best described as the pharmaceutical plant – a \$12.5 million plant. This plant will create 100 new jobs. And interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at the spin-offs, they add up to something more than impressive.

City council not too long ago had looked at it, and with that type of a project they estimated that Swift Current would see 245 more people; 60 more families; 75 more school children; \$1.75 million more in personal income on an annual basis; \$1 million more, Mr. Speaker, in bank depositions on an annual basis; \$750,000 more in retail sales per year; two more retail establishments; and \$250,000 more in municipal property taxes yearly.

While it's an estimate, Mr. Speaker, it's also a good indication of the spin-offs that come from growth in this province. Further development in my constituency include such projects, Mr. Speaker, as a new \$3 million senior complex, about to be built. Construction has started on a new \$1 million building to house the new SaskTel switching station. And, Mr. Speaker, 23 new jobs and related benefits will also be felt with the establishment of the agriculture credit corporation in our fair city.

Mr. Speaker, like many other communities in Saskatchewan, Swift Current residents have benefited from many of our government programs over the last while. And I think of some examples such as the Saskatchewan home program, which has provided some new jobs and also improved the security element for our home owners. I also think of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan which allows not only home makers, Mr. Speaker, but part-time employees. It gives farmers and small-business people and employees of those businesses an opportunity to participate in a pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne continues the direction that has been developed and fine tuned to a degree, since this government was first elected in 1982. It is a direction that recognizes the realities of the world and the structural changes that have been taking place.

Our major priorities through the throne speech continue to focus on agriculture, job creation, education, health, economic development, and increased government efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, the government is building this province on its two main strengths – people and our resources – thus, the vital need for continued protection for our people and increased opportunities through economic development and an emphasis on education.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to protect the farming community against things like drought, grasshoppers, low commodity prices, those things caused by the measures of other countries that are taking place. We have a record of protection in agriculture that indeed establishes precedents for other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, the money that is destined for our farmers, as announced by the federal government yesterday, is coming to Saskatchewan because of the commitment of our Premier to agriculture. Mr. Speaker, through the leadership of our Premier, agriculture for the first time ever is on the national agenda. While our track record in agriculture is good, Mr. Speaker, we will continue an emphasis on it.

We also have a fairly good track record, Mr. Speaker, in areas like education, health care, and job creation. Mr. Speaker, the development funds that were created in each of the latter three areas are unmatched by any other jurisdiction right across Canada, and it further demonstrates a commitment to protecting and providing opportunities for people, young and old.

Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest the emphasis on education in the throne speech. As a former minister of Education and spending three and one-half years there plus 10 full years with the school board, it was gratifying to see a government put an emphasis on the education system. In the education system, Mr. Speaker, we embarked three, four years ago upon a process of renewal and development in the primary and secondary schools and universities. We did the post-secondary first and then turned our emphasis on the primary.

With that, Mr. Speaker, increased education funding was up since 1982 by 52 per cent. We committed \$400 million over five years to both the education development fund and the university renewal fund. At the same time we offered a lowering to 6 per cent for student loans. I would also add, Mr. Speaker, for the first time on those students loans, as announced from the hon. member from Meadow Lake at that time, was

extra moneys for single parents to recognize the added costs that they may have in continuing their education.

(1530)

Mr. Speaker, in the recent throne speech we have identified the importance and the need for excellence in education. We also identified the need to revise the subjects taught in our schools. There has been a major review in the past. It is now time to look at those subjects and make a decision. Mr. Speaker, we are required to put into order an assurance that our children will obtain the skills that they will need to compete in a very increasingly complex world.

This government, Mr. Speaker, also recognizes the key role of education in our province's future economic and social development. We understand the need to provide quality education more efficiently and effectively. I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, that the quality of our education system must never, ever be measured by simply the amount of resources flowing into it, but rather by the educational achievements of the students that are coming out of our system.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to deal briefly with my new responsibilities, the portfolio of Energy and Mines. Since 1982 our government has advanced these resources as a basis, simply a basis for growth and diversification for this province through changing the tax and regulations in order to transform the oil and gas industry into a new strength for this province's economy.

Mr. Speaker, we've already begun to develop our massive heavy oil deposits through the NewGrade heavy oil upgrader in Regina. An agreement with Alberta and the federal government for a second upgrader in the Lloydminster area will further develop this province and further develop opportunities for our people.

We have stimulated the demand for natural gas production with in Saskatchewan through the development of the rural natural gas distribution program, reducing costs for rural and small urban users, and no longer, Mr. Speaker, must we rely on Alberta for our gas.

Mr. Speaker, the oil price collapse of early 1986 has drastically reduced the drilling activity and the job opportunities that created record revenues for Saskatchewan. Those revenues, Mr. Speaker, a short while ago provided as much as 25 per cent of our total revenues.

The oil field employment program that was created earlier this year was put into place to offset the uncertainties surrounding the world oil prices and was extended to October 31st of this year. However, Mr. Speaker, we must develop a long-term plan to take over when temporary programs end. And we are working towards that end.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I will continue the consultation process and co-operation that has been established by previous ministers to me in this portfolio. We will consult with individuals and the industry officials in search for long-term solutions. Mr. Speaker, this is a commitment we must ensure in order to sustain the livelihoods of the many families that are involved in this industry.

Mr. Speaker, there are some very positive aspects regarding my portfolio despite the low prices on the world markets. Despite the lower prices and surpluses in potash, Mr. Speaker, our aggressive marketing strategy in potash has led to recent sales in China and elsewhere around the world. The development of our gold mines and our resources through increased exploration and development will provide new revenues. But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, it provides new jobs and new opportunities for our young people.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to point out the outstanding leadership provided to Saskatchewan by our Premier, the hon. member from the constituency of Estevan. No government in the

recent history of this province, and no leader, Mr. Speaker, has been forced to deal with some of the problems and the situations that this government has faced over the last four and a half years.

We've had good times, and we've certainly seen some bad – crises such as drought, the market falling out on oil, potash. But through all that, his belief of the strength and wisdom of this province and its people never wavered. His tenacity, his will, and his vision for what this province can become will continue to move our province forward.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to support the throne speech.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to participate in this throne speech debate. And with many of the other members who have already done so, I would congratulate you on your election to the Speaker's chair. And I, too, look forward to working with you. And as a rookie MLA, I look forward to learning from you of the procedures and operations of this legislature.

And, Mr. Speaker, if it was through your good offices that the Regina Bell Ringers were present here in the rotunda the day of the opening of the legislature, then I would wish to thank you, and through you to thank them, for the outstanding performance we all enjoyed that day.

I've had some experience with bell choirs and bell ringers, and I know what a difficult performing art it is. And their outstanding performance that day, I'm sure, was appreciated by all members. Just in fact, Mr. Speaker, as I look back on it now, I think perhaps I enjoyed more of what I heard in the rotunda than what I heard here in this Chamber that same afternoon.

I would also wish to congratulate all members on their re-election or election to this House, and I suppose particularly all those who, like myself, are here for the very first time. But, Mr. Speaker, whether we are veteran members or rookie members, I'm sure we all again have a sense of the responsibility that has been given us.

Mr. Speaker, we are not particularly gifted individuals; we're not particularly gifted men and women. There's nothing really all that special about us, and yet the people of Saskatchewan have chosen us to represent them. A million people have chosen us to represent their interests and their hope and their dreams and their concerns, and they expect us to govern for the good of the many –not for the good of the privileged few, but for the good of the many.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- And that is, Mr. Speaker, an awesome responsibility. We in opposition have a particular responsibility, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, a particular task. It is our responsibility to ensure and to be vigilant in ensuring that this province is governed fairly and competently and, in the tradition of Saskatchewan, compassionately.

And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we are ready on this side of the House, ready and willing, and I might say able, to undertake that responsibility.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- If the members opposite do not know that already, they soon will. This is a different House, Mr. Speaker, and because it is a different House, it will be a different Saskatchewan and a better Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in the time that I have today to participate in this throne speech debate, I would like to relate it particularly to the constituency I am privileged to represent, the constituency of Moose Jaw South.

And I might say that in the early days of this century, my grandmother and grandfather immigrated to this country and they immigrated to the constituency of Moose Jaw South. My father was born and lived and laboured and died in the constituency. I was born there, grew up there, and I am pleased to make a home for my family there. And it's a particular honour to represent one's home and to represent people whom one has known over a lifetime. I would want to sincerely thank the people of Moose Jaw South who offered me their support, and I want to pledge myself to the working for all of the people of Moose Jaw South, be they political friend or foe, in my term of office.

And might I say to members present that had it not been for a quirk of history, I might well in this speech be welcoming you all to the constituency of Moose Jaw South. With all deference to my Regina colleagues, the natural capital for the territory is 40 miles west of here. We already had a river; we didn't need to build one. Had it not been for some little arrangement between somebody named Dewdney and the CPR railroad, this building might very well have been in the constituency of Moose Jaw South.

An Hon. Member: -- Or Saskatoon South.

Mr. Calvert: -- Or Saskatoon.

Well I suggest that there are some folks wiser than Mr. Dewdney, about 35,000 people who choose to make their home in Moose Jaw, and I'm privileged to represent about half of them.

As you will know, Mr. Speaker, and other members will likely know, of all the communities in this province, Moose Jaw is home to a higher percentage of senior citizens than any other, and my constituency is home to a good many of them. The constituency of Moose Jaw South, four out of the five large senior citizens' housing developments are located there. We are home to two major nursing homes.

We often speak of the contribution that seniors have made out our past and to our history, and well we should, but let us also recognize the contribution that seniors are making to our present. In Moose Jaw, organizations of and for seniors are active; they're flourishing. Seniors have significant financial impact on our community. Seniors are fully involved in volunteer organizations and churches, in culture and recreation. They are a dynamic part of my constituency, Mr. Speaker. And in many cases these seniors have chosen Moose Jaw for the quality of retirement life that is offered in our community.

And, Mr. Speaker, the seniors of my constituency have concerns, and concerns they have asked me to bring to this House. They were concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the silence of this government when the Mulroney government threatened to de-index their pensions. And they were concerned, Mr. Speaker, when they heard the throne speech, listened to the throne speech, and heard nothing in that speech about the Mulroney government's plans to inhibit the generic drug industry in this country. And some of them were frankly appalled when they heard the Premier say that his government now supports that direction being taken in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, the seniors of my constituency know that this legislation will mean higher drug prices for them. They know that and no one argues it. They have good company in their belief. Last night it was reported in the *Star-Phoenix* that Dr. Harry Eastman, chairman-elect of the proposed patent drug prices review board, has made it quite clear, "Prices will be higher than they would have been had the legislation not been changed."

Mr. Speaker, the seniors of Moose Jaw cannot understand this government's position on the drug patent legislation. It's only natural, Mr. Speaker, that seniors do have a concern for the whole area of health care, and in my constituency seniors are asking why it is that in this throne speech mention is made of increasing technology for health care, when in the city of Moose Jaw we have a hospital with an entire floor that goes unused, simply due to lack of funding, lack of staffing.

Seniors in my constituency want to see their hospital fully utilized and fully staffed, and I might say they don't want to see it done by lotteries.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- It's also natural, Mr. Speaker, that the seniors of Moose Jaw South are concerned about nursing home care and nursing home beds. And we in Moose Jaw were very pleased when this government announced the rebuilding of St. Anthony's Home, an existing nursing home facility in Moose Jaw that at one point offered 180 nursing home beds. It's a facility that's in desperate need of rebuilding. We welcomed the announcement.

But then, Mr. Speaker, half-way through the planning, the government changed the rules, changed the rules on the funding, so that the Sisters of Providence who are responsible for the administration of St. Anthony's Home, these sisters were then forced to go out and raise another million dollars in addition to the million dollars they're already contributing to the rebuilding. I'm pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that through the generosity of Moose Jaw people, that million dollars is almost completely raised now.

(1545)

But, Mr. Speaker, when the rebuilding is complete, the new facility we will have in Moose Jaw will have 20 fewer beds than previously offered at St. Anthony's Home --20 fewer beds. The government is building a small nursing home than the one that was in existence. As we look around at an ageing population and an ever-growing demand for these beds in Moose Jaw, it simply makes no sense to me, Mr. Speaker, and so I would call upon the Minister of Health to authorize now, before construction begins, another 40 beds.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- Mr. Speaker, like my grandparents and my parents, the vast majority of my constituents are working people. They work on the railways; they work in packing plants; they work in industries related to agriculture; they work in retail and service. Some time ago I might have said they work for Highways, but they were freed up.

Mr. Speaker, the working people of my constituency are people who take pride in their work. They are people who ask only for a decent return and reward for their labour. They only ask for some security in their jobs, some security in their retirement, some safety and equality in their work place. Mr. Speaker, the working people of Moose Jaw South are not all that interested in Jacuzzis and hot tubs. They only want a decent life for themselves and their children.

In the past four years, four and a half years, Mr. Speaker, the working people of my constituency have been hurt. Many of them have seen their jobs disappear entirely, and they have learned the cycle of unemployment and then social assistance. Many of them have seen job cut-backs. They have learned the cycle of part-time and temporary and no benefits.

The people of my constituency have watched many of their protections in legislation being eroded. They feel unprotected, unprotected against technological change. They feel their pension benefits are unprotected. Mr. Speaker, the working people of Moose Jaw South feel betrayed by this government, and

they feel betrayed by an economic system that treats them as pawns. They feel betrayed by an economic system that seems to provide more and more to the few, and less and less for the many.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker, of how working people in Moose Jaw South have felt betrayed and unsupported by this government. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that the CPR and the CNR railroads are proposing and seeking to remove the cabooses from the freight trains that cross this province – trains that carry a good deal of dangerous and hazardous commodities. The railroads wish to replace the cabooses and its conductor with a little black box which is called the end of train unit, the ETU, or the end of train information system, the ETIS. It's a little black box that's supposed to replace a human being. If the railways are successful in their bid, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me there will be three results. The first will be an immediate threat to the safety of every community on a rail line in Saskatchewan, and the environment.

The second result – and this is not even hardly debated by the railways any more – it will mean that freight train crews will be reduced from a three-member crew to a two-member crew. In the city of Moose Jaw that could mean the loss of up to 90 jobs. That's 90 family incomes.

And the third result, of course, Mr. Speaker, will be an increase in the profits of the railways. As you well know, very recently a hearing was held in Moose Jaw of the Canadian Transport Commission for the case of the railways was to be tested. Mr. Speaker, intervenor after intervenor at that hearing opposed the removal of the cabooses – opposed the removal of the manned cabooses.

I noted, Mr. Speaker, that the federal MP, Bill Gottselig, who represents Moose Jaw, came to the hearing and made a strong presentation in favour of keeping the cabooses. I noted, Mr. Speaker, that the member from Melville was present at the hearing, and my constituents would thank him for being there and bringing a case in support of saving the cabooses. I was there to bring that same case. Intervenor after intervenor brought the case.

But, Mr. Speaker, when the member from Melville was present, he made it very clear that he was not there in his capacity of Minister of Labour; he was not there to represent his cabinet; he was not there to represent his government. Now I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Highways and Transportation was scheduled to appear at the hearing and bring forward, I would assume, the government's position. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Highways did not show up.

And so we therefore, in Moose Jaw, do not know the position of the government on this crucial issue, an issue that affects the safety of people across the province, that directly affects the safety of my constituents and their economic livelihood. It's one example, Mr. Speaker, of why working people in my constituency do not feel supported, but rather feel betrayed, by their government.

Working people in Moose Jaw South – perhaps I should add, people who are looking for work – were anticipating this throne speech. They were looking for something in it that they could applaud. They were looking for something in it that would tell them that their concerns, which they so loudly expressed in the election, looking for something that would tell them their concerns had been heard.

Mr. Speaker, they were looking for a winter works program, and they heard nothing. They were looking for a comprehensive job strategy, and they heard nothing. They were looking for some tax relief – property tax relief, income tax relief. They heard nothing. And what they did hear, Mr. Speaker, was that the department charged with representing their interests in government, the Department of Labour, they were shocked to find it's been dumped into a vast conglomeration of departments, and they feel betrayed.

And if it's only for the interests of the working people in the constituency of Moose Jaw South and those who desire to work, I could not support this throne speech.

Mr. Speaker, there is in my constituency a small but a very significant facility. It is named the Angus Campbell Centre, and it's primarily a detox facility for those who are trapped in alcohol and drug abuse. Mr. Speaker, a very valuable work is happening in the Angus Campbell Centre in Moose Jaw, and I want to very publicly support their endeavours to obtain a new facility. And, Mr. Speaker, I am ready to support the government on many of the current initiatives that have been taken through the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission – through SADAC – even if it took an election to bring them forward, I'm glad it's happening.

As one who has been involved in family counselling and working with young people over these past seven years, I can assure members present that the problem is real and very destructive. But, Mr. Speaker, as good as they are, and as good as they can be, all of our efforts in rehabilitation are simply not enough.

I liken them to a Humpty-Dumpty approach. You know Humpty-Dumpty gets pushed off the wall and then we try and put the pieces together again. And sometimes all the king's horses and all the king's men can't put Humpty-Dumpty together again. And as good as they are, Mr. Speaker – as good as they are – our efforts in rehabilitation cannot exist alone. We need to be looking at what put Humpty on the wall in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, many of the young people that I have worked with over the course of the past few years – those young people have known family disintegration. And much of that has happened due to economics – job loss, unemployment, both parents forced into the work place. Those are not issues unrelated to this legislature. I've observed among young people that they have lost their hope – lost the hope of finding a job for themselves – finding a long and lasting and secure career. And they live in a world that they, very accurately, perceive as being threatened. There're all sorts of pressure upon them, Mr. Speaker. It puts them on that wall and only takes but a push to push them over. The easiest form of escape, Mr. Speaker, for our young people is in the bottle of beer that's right before them, or that pill.

And so it seems to me an issue that is closely-related to this discussion. It's in regard to the beer and wine ads on television. The minister's advisory committee received dozens and dozens of submissions from teachers, from parents, from churches, from family counselling agencies calling for these ads to be pulled. Now I know that members opposite will say that these ads have no influence on consumption, and only a few days ago we were told that, in fact, consumption levels in the province have declined. So clearly, the ads are not increasing consumption. Well there's some little contradiction here, Mr. Speaker, some little contradiction because in the throne speech the Premier said to us: "My ministers have viewed with growing concern the increasing abuse, particularly by young people, of alcohol and drugs," and he goes on to describe that as a growing tide of abuse. Well for once I agree here with the Premier. Overall consumption may be declining, but it's not declining among the young, not declining among those who are most influenced by television.

Now if it's argued that alcohol ads have no affect on consumption, then how can it, at the same time, be argued that ads promoting the reasonable use of alcohol will have an effect? If members opposite do, in fact, believe that these beer ads have no effect on young people, then I invite them to read the comment of the 17-year-old high school student, the high school football player, as it appeared in this supplement to the *Regina Leader-Post* on November 22 of this year. He said, and I quote: "I wish my life was a beer commercial". I invite members opposite to read the entire text of his remarks. I invite them to listen to the teachers, parents, to the churches that are calling for the removal of these ads. I'm not suggesting that they are the root of the problem, but they may be just that little push that's needed to get Humpty-Dumpty off the wall. And if we're really sincere . . . if we're really sincere in our efforts to stem the tide of drug and alcohol abuse, we will take every option available to us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- Mr. Speaker, let me begin to move to some conclusion in this by turning once more to the constituency that I represent and lay before the government a few of the very many specific ways that they may act to serve the people of Moose Jaw.

Yesterday afternoon the member from Moose Jaw North, very eloquently described the exciting downtown redevelopment program that is being undertaken in Moose Jaw. It's perhaps the most exciting downtown redevelopment that this province has ever seen, and I'm confident, Mr. Speaker, that this government will want to be a partner in that redevelopment.

Members will also be aware, perhaps, of the Wakamow Valley Authority, an authority-formed under the former New Democratic government and charged with the task of reclaiming the Moose Jaw river valley for its natural habitat and for recreation. Mr. Speaker, in its first term of office this government changed the funding formula for the Wakamow Valley, substantially reducing the province's contribution. I will be pressing this government, Mr. Speaker, to at least restore the former level of funding; restore to at least a matching situation with the city of Moose Jaw; restore the funding so it's at least fair in light of the other like authorities across the province.

(1600)

Closely related here, Mr. Speaker, is a current . . . a very recently completed task force report on the entire Moose Jaw River. It, too, will invite the provincial government's assistance in reclaiming this very valuable economic and environmental resource. And I'm sure I will be joining with the member from Thunder Creek in the not too distant future in calling upon the government to lend their assistance.

There are other opportunities in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, for this government to show its good faith and its interest in our community. Opportunities at the Western Development Museum, opportunities on our exhibition grounds, and perhaps in the not too distant future, opportunities to share with us in developing a geothermal project which could be one of the most exciting projects, not only for Moose Jaw, but for this province.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me if I may – I am preacher by trade – so let me if I may, end with just a little bit of a sermon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- I would like to simply share with members present, and all members present, a little reflection on our role as members of this Assembly. There is an ancient Indian poem, Mr. Speaker, that when translated reads:

I fell asleep and dreamed that life was happiness,
I awoke and found that life was service,
I served and found that service was happiness.

Mr. Speaker, we're here for one purpose, and it's one purpose alone, and that's to serve – to serve the constituents who elected us; to serve the people of this province; and in so doing to serve our nation and to serve the hurting world of which we are a part.

And, Mr. Speaker, when our days are done in this place, whether we've been a back-bencher, a member of the front bench, a member of government, or a member of opposition – when our days in this place are done we'll be judged, not on the accolades or the honours that we've taken for ourselves; we'll be judged not on the slickness of the image we're presented to the press; we will be judged not on how eloquent or

uneloquent we were in this House, we will be judged on how we have served, and judged on not how well we have served the privileged, but on how well we have served the very least among us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: -- And that is why, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the amendment before us, for I do not believe that this Speech from the Throne well serves the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a proud day for me to be able to rise in this House to address yourself and this august body. Mr. Deputy Speaker, like my fellow members of this legislature who have spoken before me, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Speaker on his election as Speaker of this legislature. As a member of this House, sir, I have every reason to believe he will conduct the proceedings of this Assembly in keeping with our parliamentary traditions. Please extend my best wishes to him in his new role as Speaker of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to congratulate the member from Saskatoon Eastview and the member from Pelly, the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne. And at this time I'd like to join with the previous Progressive conservative members in expressing confidence in the leadership of our Premier. The member of Estevan has distinguished himself in the office of Premier as a contemporary, dynamic, versatile leader. Our Premier exemplifies the meaning of leadership. He is the man for the times.

As the Progressive member for Regina Wascana, I'm honoured to be part of the government caucus in support of the Premier. Saskatchewan's first minister is a man who has made all of us who know him proud to be part of his team. I want to thank the constituents of Regina Wascana for allowing me this privilege. As members before me on both sides of the House have stated, we're all proud to be part of this democratic process that has become so fragile around the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Regina Wascana is a large constituency. It has within it Wascana Park, the largest urban park in the world—a beautiful park used by thousands throughout the year. Regina Wascana has a growing, vibrant university and technical school within its boundaries that has old established neighbourhoods like Douglas Park and Hillsdale, and it has new and growing neighbourhoods like University Park and Gardiner Park. It is a residential neighbourhood, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that houses government employees, shopkeepers, small-business owners, workers in the service industry – an interesting constituency with a mix of ethnic groups.,

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are three senior citizens' homes in Regina Wascana constituency. Many of the residents of these homes have expressed their support to me of the policies of the provincial government.

Mr. Speaker, as a youngster, I grew up in this area close by the Legislative Building, and spent many hours with my friends watching the proceedings of the Saskatchewan legislature. As we sat in the gallery and watched those stimulating debates of yesteryear on issues of health and education, of economic development and agriculture, little did I realize that some day I would be sitting on the floor of this House involved directly in the discussions of the public good. And recently, Mr. Speaker, I had the great pleasure of being able to watch our Premier, the member from Estevan, continue to lead that tradition of earnest debate.

These remain interesting times, Mr. Speaker, times when young people can still watch the democratic process in which we all participate. I consider it an honour myself to be part of this process.

I'm proud also, as is my family, because election day, October 20, 1986, was the 70th anniversary of the election of my uncle as premier of this province. That was the first session of the Fourth Legislature which sat from 1917 to 1921. I am proud to follow in his footsteps and it is my fondest hope that some day another member of our family will care enough about democracy to seek public office themselves and serve the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Regina has prospered because of the programs of the Progressive Conservative government. Since 1982, home ownership and new home construction has increased dramatically in Regina, and part of the reason of this is the mortgage interest reduction program protecting home owners. Another reason was the \$3,000 first-time home owners grants. These programs have created more jobs than any winter works program ever designed.

Now in the Speech from the Throne there is 9 and three-quarter per cent mortgage at 10 years on the principal resident. Many Regina home owners will benefit from this as indeed will thousands of others throughout the province. Protection, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We see it in so many ways – protecting home owners, protecting the elderly, protecting the handicapped, and protecting the rights of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I can cite countless examples of Regina home owners who've taken advantage of the \$1,500 home improvement matching grant from this province and an equal number of Regina home owners who have improved their home with a 6 per cent, \$10,000 loan. Roofing, insulation, an extra room for a growing family, Mr. Deputy Speaker, jobs, jobs as promised and jobs as delivered.

Building a better Regina has been a commitment to this city unequalled by any other provincial government. It has meant a commitment for the Regina heavy oil upgrader. It meant a new carbon filtration plant for Regina. It meant nearly \$41 million in new school construction in this city and over \$95 million in health care projects for Regina. Because of the job creation record of the PC government, Regina has one of the best job creation records of any city in western Canada. Young people with new ideas, Mr. Speaker, among others.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, small business in Regina has grown because of this government and many of them owned by women now having an opportunity build their own future and add to the economic strength of this province. Under the PC policies, women have responded to the challenge of small business. As a consequence, Mr. Speaker, women play a major role in Saskatchewan's economy and the future growth of this province. It is interesting to note, but not surprising, that the success rate for women in new business is three to one for men. As a father of four daughters I understand, respect, and support their determination.

There's been a dramatic increase in housing for seniors in Regina because of this government. Just the other day, Mr. Speaker, I attended a ground-breaking ceremony for a new senior citizens' home as part of the St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic complex in the city, jointly funded by the province, the city, and the church. Another example of this government's concern and commitment to the elderly, the pioneers and the builders of this province.

There has been increased funding to the University of Regina through the university renewal and development funds since this government came into office. The total package in Saskatchewan is \$125 million over five years. In addition, the educational development fund for kindergarten to grade 12 totals \$275 million for the five-year package. Funding in Saskatchewan since 1982 has increased as we heard earlier, by 52 per cent. Government construction in the city has included a new campus at the Wascana Institute on Winnipeg Street North. Four new SGI centres have been built throughout the city. And, Mr. Speaker, the construction on the new Regina fieldhouse for the 1987 Western Canada Summer Games is well under way, and what a boon that will be to the sports and recreation for southern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, since 1982 the Progressive Conservative government has worked to help the city of Regina in so many positive ways. And in the next four years this government will keep up its record of building Regina. As MLA for Regina Wascana, I want to make it clear to this legislature that I shall work for programs, buildings, and policies that will help the city of Regina and the people of Regina.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: -- But, Mr. Speaker, we must always remember that the people of Regina, for the most part, have rural roots. One of the most unusual outcomes of this recent election was the artificial division of town and country made apparent by the present seating arrangements in the House. As an urban Progressive Conservative member of this legislature, Mr. Speaker, I intend over the next four years to make every effort to bring to the attention of this government the needs of citizens of the Saskatchewan cities in relation to the development in rural areas.

A healing process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is needed between the city and the rural towns of this province and between those towns and the surrounding districts and I, Mr. Speaker, will champion their cause.

Mr. Speaker, one of the themes outlined in the Speech from the Throne was quality of life. A simple phrase really – quality of life – but a phrase with considerable meaning. It brings to thought, education to recreation to time together with our families.

I was fortunate as a youngster to spend time walking the hills of the Qu'Appelle Valley, discovering the first flowers of spring, watching the migrating water-fowl returning to the spring nesting sites. Important times to me, Mr. Speaker. This had a lasting influence on me and an influence that Louise and I have carried on with our four children, our four daughters. We have shared good times together. It's been an important part of our life and will continue to be. In recent years the members of our family have canoed the magnificent Churchill River, the historic Churchill, which carried the canoes of early fur traders like Alexander Mackenzie, Peter Pond, Simon Fraser, and others.

Mr. Speaker, these moments of life quality with our family have presented opportunities to talk of many things with our children – to talk of the future; to talk of the province; to talk of our lives. And what of that future, Mr. Speaker? How will our families get along in this changing world economy? What opportunities will be available to them since economic influences have shifted from the provincial and national scenes to the world scene? Will they be forced to leave this province as many of my friends were in the '50s and the '60s because opportunities were not available? Well, certainly not if I and my colleagues of this government can prevent this from happening.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1615)

Mr. Martin: -- Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne spoke of economic diversification, a prospect I find both exciting and necessary. And it has been happening. New industries are now operating and businesses are hiring Saskatchewan people. And as we set our course over the next four years and on to the 1990s, the prospect of even greater diversification of the provincial economy is exciting indeed. We must change with the times. We must react to the changing world economy.

The protection of jobs and the possibility of opportunity through economic diversification is what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker, and we will deliver.

Mr. Speaker, the province must be adaptable. And education also will play a key role in this respect. As we said in the Speech from the Throne, our educational system must be more than just acceptable; we must

strive for excellence. Direction from the Departments of Education and Advanced Education will be a part in development of our people. But equally important, advice and input will be needed from our educators, our parents, and equally important, our students. We must continue to listen to our young people. They too must have a say in their future. They do and want to have something to say. All we have to do is listen.

In my previous occupation as a sports commentator for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, I had numerous opportunities to travel to many parts of the world and to watch and report on the performances of the world's finest athletes, including many athletes from Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it was a thrill for me to have this experience. How proud I felt when our Saskatchewan athletes did so well against the world's best. With the assistance now available to them from the Department of Culture and Recreation and the better coaching available to them through the Saskatchewan First program, I know we will see even more of our young athletes make their mark on the international scene.

But let us not limit our assistance just to athletes, and of course we haven't. The arts too must be and have been supported and indeed highlighted. Many Saskatchewan artists have international reputations. World-renowned tenor Jon Vickers from Prince Albert; saxophonist Paul Brodie from Regina; jazz guitarist Red Shea from Prince Albert, the lead man for Gordon Lightfoot for many years; and Shea's brother, Les Pouliet, now with Johnny Cash; and more recently, Mr. Speaker, jazz pianist John Ballantyne from Saskatoon; and classical pianist Audry Andrist from Estevan; Boyd McDonald, and the list goes on. Sculptors like Joe Fafard and John Nugent. Artists like Allan Sapp, Dorothy Knowles, Art McKay. Mr. Speaker, exceptional people in Saskatchewan are out there by the hundreds. We must continue to provide an opportunity for artists, for actors, for athletes, and we will.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Saskatchewan. This is where I grew up. This is where I want to be. I want to be part of shaping its future. We, the people of Saskatchewan, have so much potential. There is so much more we can be – so much more. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion, the Speech from the Throne, and thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: -- Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to congratulate you on your position as the Speaker. A lot of people do not know that in regards to your input into the education of Indian and Métis people. A lot of people knew of the Tusa report in regards to the importance of involving people of small minorities. Your name is quoted already in the academic field. So, Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate you.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the people who in one short week I've found to have the greatest composure in this House, and that's the pages and the clerical staff.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: -- I also would like to extend my congratulations to the hard-working staff on both sides of the House. I also would like to congratulate all the elected members of this province on the 21st Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honoured to be elected representative of Cumberland constituency. I will start out, Mr. Speaker, by expressing myself in the language that I know best. I would like to express myself in the first ways that I have learned how to recognize friendship and recognize debate and recognize the importance of politics.

I will therefore, Mr. Speaker, deal with the issues of the throne speech and also of the North and also of aboriginal people, in my own language. I will provide the translation for it, right after.

(1630)

(The hon. member spoke in his native language.)

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to say it is an honour for me to be standing in this legislature. I would like to say that as a young rookie MLA I had a lot to learn, first of all from the people of my constituency. As I travelled around, I gained some knowledge and greater insight into the issues that affected the daily lives of the people. And they showed me the importance of the belief in the system, that no matter how tough the situation was, that you still had to give your voice in this province.

When I examined the record, Mr. Speaker, 14 per cent more people voted in Cumberland constituency this year. And that was the message that they gave me. There was a sense of perseverance. With the record-high unemployment rates of 80, 90 per cent in certain communities, there has to be a tremendous amount of perseverance.

(1645)

The other thing that I have learned was the importance of standing up for your rights. You could not back down on your rights. You had to stand up for them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: -- Mr. Speaker, this type of knowledge that I gained has provided me with a strength and the conviction of standing up for rights, especially in this important day of the United Nation as declaration.

I will now turn my remarks to the throne speech. In the throne speech it states:

My government is firmly committed to the protection of its citizens from forces beyond their control and intends to continue to back them in difficult economic circumstances.

It also states:

My government will continue to improve the protection available to individuals . . .

Note that it says to individuals. It doesn't say to all individuals of this province.

When I examined the throne speech in regards to the North, there was nothing specifically mentioned for the North, so I could not share the optimism of the House.

When I look back on the record of the past four years, there was very little that was done in northern Saskatchewan. When I examined one of the best public records, the Saskatchewan road map of 1983, I recognized that the government policy and practice at that time . . . and I was amazed at that time. I thought it was an error; I thought it was a mistake. It said:

The northern half (and I quote) is rugged, wild, beautiful, populated with lakes, not people.

Mr. Speaker, when I looked at that statement, as I said before, I was amazed. But now, as I look four years later, and I look at the increased unemployment rates and the increased social and cultural problems, I recognized it was not a mistake.

A lot of the throne speech does not specifically relate to the issues of northern Saskatchewan, so I will proceed now to deal with some of the important issues that are of direct concern to the people.

Number one concern, of course, is jobs and economic development, specifically in the area of mining. We had made some successes in the '70s and the very early '80s in regards to the employment of people in the North. We had up to 50, 60 per cent of the people employed, for example, in Key Lake mine. As I looked at the record in the past four years, this figure dropped in the 20 per cent realm.

A lot of people wondered why. And a lot of people did not know that the monitoring committee which was supposed to look after the mine in regards, not only to the employment of people but also to workers' health and safety, also to environment and benefits to small business in the North, these were automatically done away with and withheld from the public. And what I saw was the return of an old system at the time when I was a child. There were very few people that got hired, maybe 5 per cent at the most. There was a return to this system. There was no commitment; there was no concrete way of getting at an issue. When I looked at concrete measures, in a short period of time you can get over a thousand pages of very specific documentation in regards to a big corporation. When it comes down to a monitoring committee which is supposed to look after jobs in northern Saskatchewan, it's hidden; it disappears.

When I see the members opposite talking about optimism, Mr. Speaker, make sure that you realize that I am a very optimistic person, otherwise I would not be in this room.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: -- I saw the optimism, the openness to big corporations such as Weyerhaeuser. But the openness and optimism for ordinary people in northern Saskatchewan was not there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: -- Much of the same occurred in the forestry area. As I looked into the specific area of fishing, again I saw the same process occurring. The process was this: greater regulations and restrictions on people who wanted to make a decent living out of fishing in the North. This fall, in August, in La Ronge, there was helicopters flying around picking up nets from fishermen. There was even VCR's checking on fishermen. When I talked to the fishermen, they said, it seems that there is a great effort to clamp down on us and nothing, not too much, on other people who are making a living in the North.

They felt that in regards to the tourist industry, which a lot of them wanted to get involved in, that there was too much of a conflict situation being created between tourist outfitters and commercial fishermen, and the balance was swinging highly in favour of tourist outfitters. And it needs to be re-created to a greater balance.

In regards to trapping, I would like to talk about the issue of compensation. For many years the trappers have been saying our areas have been clear-cut. I talked to a specific individual just a little while ago and said, as I went home to my family, I come back to my trap line and all the area was cleared out. He asked me to bring the message, which is a message for a lot of trappers.

We would like to get compensated for our loss of livelihood in some of the most finely and ecologically balanced locations and areas in the North where we trap – that we want compensation. Pioneer Trust will get compensation like that, but the trapper will not. When it comes again to big corporations or people who are a great deal more wealthy than most of ordinary citizens, government is quick to act. When it comes to trappers and people of the North, they become very vague and general.

I would like also to present the issue of housing. A lot of elders and seniors have approached me in the past while and felt the stress of life in not being able to get housing. I looked also at the youth and the young families, and very few were getting houses. Some of them were now forced to live three families in one house. And when I looked at that, that wasn't enough. They were pressured by the system to pay up or leave, and there was this threat and pressure and great stress upon them. And because . . . It's now getting to five, I beg leave to adjourn.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.