

August 4, 1987

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

ORAL QUESTIONS

Legal Aid Commission Fees

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was for the Minister of Social Services who is responsible for the legal Aid Commission. In his absence, I will direct the question to whichever minister is the acting minister responsible.

Today is the day when the poor people of Saskatchewan have imposed on them a fee for legal services at the legal aid clinics in Saskatchewan, a fee which we can only call a deterrent fee. The ministers will know that a legal action is planned by a group of lawyers called the Lawyers for Equal Justice who claim that the plan is illegal because it is contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and further, the Legal Aid Commission simply doesn't have the authority to impose these kinds of fees. They must be imposed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under the Act.

I wonder, in view of the substantial objections to the plan, will the minister who is responsible for speaking for the Legal Aid Commission in this House undertake to contact the commission and ask them to suspend the implementation of this ridiculous program until after that legal question can be determined?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Well, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the second question by the hon. member, I think that if we were to follow his advice and suspend any action by government of any way, shape, or form because someone indicated that they might or would be taking legal action, would simply, and could simply, stop the functioning of the democratic process. So if these people believe they have a valid and legitimate case under the charter of rights, and we're not sure exactly what the charter of rights obviously means, and I suppose they have the legitimate right to go to the courts and pursue it in that way.

I think the other point the hon. member attempts to make is somehow that people on welfare will be denied services from legal aid. And as I understand the situation, is anybody that is on welfare does, in fact, qualify for legal aid and is not required to pay any kind of fees whatsoever.

Mr. Mitchell: I was not referring to people on welfare. I refer to the poor people of Saskatchewan. And while the Minister of Justice is speaking on this subject, I wonder if he would advise the legislature whether his department has been asked for its opinion on the question, first of all, of whether this ridiculous plan is contrary to the charter, and secondly, whether it is outside the jurisdiction of the Legal Aid Commission to implement such fees. And I have in mind here section 40 of The Legal Aid Act which seems to put that into the . . . as a power that must be exercised by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Was such an opinion requested, and if so, was it responded to?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Well the hon. member knows full well, as being a former deputy minister in the Government of Saskatchewan, that there are various opinions asked for by various departments of the Department of Justice. I'm not aware of what each of those opinions are asked for, but it's in the course of running government. And I assume and anticipate your next question: will you, in fact, table the opinion of the Department of Justice? And that has never been done, and I don't believe the hon. member, in fairness, would suggest that that be done.

Mr. Mitchell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm not asking the minister to table an opinion which he doesn't know whether it's been rendered or not. I would ask him this question: if an opinion has not been requested, will his department undertake to look into these two very substantial objections to this ridiculous plan for recovering fees from poor people to determine whether or not they are legal?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: The hon. member in his first question indicated that a group of lawyers were going to challenge this particular case under the heading of the Canadian charter of rights. And if that in fact is being done, then I would make the assumption with not knowing that in fact the Department of Justice has been requested to look into this. I will undertake to find out whether the Department of Justice has been asked to review the file and report that particular point to you at next day.

Mr. Mitchell: A new question, Mr. Speaker, again to the acting minister. The problem, Mister, is that . . . was caused here by a reduction in funding to the Legal Aid Commission of some \$500,000, which forced the Legal Aid Commission to come up with a variety of measures, among which was included this ridiculous plan. And it was subsequently approved by the treasury board of this province.

What I'd like the minister to undertake to this House is, either he or the minister responsible, take this matter back to cabinet and find a way of restoring the funding of the Legal Aid Commission so the poor people of Saskatchewan don't have to pay these fees. And while he's taking . . . What I ask him . . . May I ask him, when he's taking that submission to cabinet, will he take with him the suggestion that such a relatively small amount of money could be made up by cutting the amounts paid to the political staff of ministers of this government by a mere 5 per cent?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Mr. Speaker, I've been advised that the cuts in this fiscal year to staff of various ministers is larger than 20 per cent. And I think that's probably larger than the cut to the legal aid situation.

I think the hon. member must also bear in mind and recall that there are certain ways that the Legal Aid Commission and the legal aid service operates. And for the hon. member to somehow suggest that no changes should be looked at or no efficiencies looked at . . . I think the hon. member from . . . The Minister of Social Services raised the other day the fact that the legal aid commission of Regina, as I understand, acting for a number of prostitutes in the city of Regina, are taking their particular case to the Supreme Court of Canada. Now that is an expensive undertaking, as you full well know.

Now are those types of things . . . should they be paid for totally by the people of Saskatchewan, or should the client pay for at least a small part of it? That seems to me to be a legitimate question. Now if you exclude welfare people, if you have a gauge that . . . or a set of billing procedures I don't think are

hard and firm, and perhaps we should see how the process works before we sort of cry that somehow the system is coming apart and all poor people will not have legal services.

Mr. Hagel: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A question to the same minister. Mr. Minister, it is obvious to everyone that the imposition of these deterrent fees that were imposed today will hardest hit the working poor of Saskatchewan. The Minister of Social Services previously said that those who are receiving social assistance will not pay the fees.

But for those who are struggling to stay off the social assistance rolls, Mr. Minister, they're left with two choices: either to try and get on welfare in order to be able to afford their legal aid fees, or secondly, to go unrepresented in court because they cannot afford the deterrent fee imposed through your government's actions.

My question to you, Mr. Minister, is: will you not agree that this is the only choice that you are giving the working poor in the province of Saskatchewan, the people who do not qualify for welfare and cannot afford a lawyer?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Well I would suggest to the hon. member, you have a fine line between where welfare cuts in and where legal aid would cut out. Now the services that I see them providing here, for example, homicide trial - \$400, in a given type of situation. Now if that person just above the legal aid line was to attend to the member from Saskatoon Fairview or the member from Saskatoon Riversdale to have them defend that particular murder trial, it would cost that person - maybe making \$15,000 or \$20,000 - perhaps 10, \$12,000 for defence of that particular charge. Now where do you stop that line and where does it end?

So that the costs that you have to pay to legal aid versus the cost that you would pay to the lawyer practising in the province today is significantly lower, and I think that should be borne in mind, plus the people on welfare pay no legal aid whatsoever.

Mr. Hagel: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, if there is a fine line between the point at which welfare cuts in and legal aid cuts out, will you not do the sensible and obvious thing and get rid of the deterrent fees to give access to representation in court to all of Saskatchewan's poor people? Will you not do that?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Well I think the Minister of Social Services has indicated several times that the Legal Aid Commission decided with the cuts that they had to take along with various other groups, that they would opt - instead of cutting back on any staff - that they would opt to bring in these particular fees. And that's the approach that they have taken. It applies to people above welfare. And the question becomes should they have a right . . . or should they be required to pay a small fee for the use of a lawyer that a person that makes perhaps \$3,000 more would have to pay because he doesn't even get to go to legal aid, and he has to go to the private bar, who will charge perhaps 10 times more than you see in these particular fees.

Mr. Hagel: Mr. Minister, in light of the widespread opposition to this unfair plan imposed through your government's actions, opposition that has been voiced by many groups including the Canadian Rights and Liberties Federation, The Canadian Bar Association, employees of the Saskatchewan Legal Aid

Commission, the Saskatchewan association of human rights, the Saskatchewan Action Committee Status of Women, Lawyers for Equal Justice, Canadian Native Law Studies Association, and on and on.

Mr. Minister, in light of the widespread opposition by caring people and caring organizations in Saskatchewan, will you please reconsider this unfair plan and take off those deterrent fees that you're charging to the poor, and will you look for fairer ways to cut the deficit in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: I was . . . on Friday heard an open-line show in Saskatoon, and perhaps you can't gauge by an open-line show, but the bulk of the people phoning in on that open-line show were of the view that these people should be required to pay, that it shouldn't be the taxpayers' responsibility to cover the legal fees of everybody even those above welfare.

Now in every given situation perhaps the Legal Aid Commission will have to have enough flexibility in their system to cover given situations, but I think the people of Saskatchewan believe that those people who are working, that are above welfare, making more money than people on welfare are making - and our rates are reasonably high relative to the rest of the country - people making more money of that should contribute some of the cost towards their legal defence or their legal fees for whatever that might be.

Mr. Speaker: Excuse me. Before I take the next question, I would once again like to remind hon. members that in directing their remarks to another member, they should always preface their remarks by referring to the Chair.

Fraser Institute Conference

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Deputy Premier. And my question is this: can you, sir, confirm that your government sent 10 or a dozen senior officials, Crown corporation executives, a cabinet minister, to Vancouver last week or the week before to attend a Fraser Institute conference on how to sell off public assets?

Mr. Minister, you will be aware of the Fraser Institute, that radical right-wing research group which supports the sale of all public assets, including schools and hospitals.

And since, Mr. Minister, you talk about saying that every dollar counts, and so do your other ministers, my question to you is simply this: can you tell us why you had to send 10 or a dozen people to this one conference in Vancouver to find out how to sell of the things we already own?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if we had any there. I hope, Mr. Speaker, we had some there. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we had some there. And I will take notice of the question and bring the answer back to the hon. member.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, when taking notice, will you please check to see whether there was in attendance the minister responsible for SGI; her chief of staff; the SGI's vice-president of finance; the chairman of the potash corporation, one Paul Schoenhals; the head

of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation; the two top executives from Crown Management Board, including Graham Walker; a number of people from the Premier's office, including the Premier's principal secretary, and would you inquire whether Mr. Tim Embury, who was there, was there directly or indirectly at public expense?

And can you find out, can you report why we needed that number of people there to tell us how to sell off assets we now own, and at what approximate expense?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

: Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order. Order, please. We're having a little difficulty hearing the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: I'm having a little difficulty too, Mr. Speaker, and I'm not quite sure where the member gets his information. I happen to know for a fact that the minister that he mentioned was not there.

I have a bit of a curiosity, Mr. Speaker, as to where they get their information because I haven't seen anyone of their particular political stripe that would have the courage to show up at such a forum, so I don't know how they get their information. But I have said, Mr. Speaker, that I would undertake to find out how many attended and report back to the House.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the minister, when taking notice, would you, sir, particularly note to see whether the minister responsible for SGI was there?

And would you confirm that the conference fees were \$600 per person, that the hotel rooms ran to well over \$100 a day, and that therefore the expenses would probably amount to \$15,000 or more for the people who were there on behalf of Saskatchewan people - allegedly on behalf of Saskatchewan people - to assist them to know how the assets, which we now own, should be sold to somebody else - presumably people from the Fraser Institute, such as their board of trustees member, Peter Pocklington?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, I did say, I think now three times, that I would take notice of the question, and I will do that, and I will report back to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Sit down then if you're finished.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: And he says, sit down then if you're finished, Mr. Speaker - the member from Quill Lakes. He shows so much respect for this place that he just sits there muttering from his seat.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that I took notice of the first question, and somehow or other we got in two additional supplementaries.

Policy on Sale of Crown Corporations

Mr. Romanow: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a new question to the Deputy Premier in the absence of the Premier. It may be, as the Premier says, that he does not know about the

Fraser Institute-sponsored conference, doesn't know who is there, doesn't know anything about the expenses. This seems to be a characteristic of the government, Mr. Speaker.

But I would like the Deputy Premier to answer this question: can he advise whether or not the chairman of the Crown Management Board, Mr. Graham Walker, states government policy accurately when he states, as he has reportedly said to this Fraser Institute conference, that every Saskatchewan Crown corporation, including SGI, is a candidate for a sell-off or a give-away to somebody outside the province of Saskatchewan. Is that an accurate statement of government policy, sir?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: The accurate statement of government policy, Mr. Speaker, was set out in the throne speech of a few months ago, where it said that in those areas that we believe that there is an opportunity for privatization or public participation, that that particular service can be delivered more efficiently or more effectively by going to the private sector, with the exception of those utilities that we all know are sacred in this province, then that opportunity will be pursued to see if it can be made to happen.

That's been our policy, Mr. Speaker, since I've been here. It hasn't changed. And as it relates to what you have attributed to the chairman of the Crown Management Board, I don't know if he said that; I don't know if you know that he said that; I don't know if it was even said. I have just told you, Mr. Speaker, what the policy is as set out in this House in the last throne speech.

Funding for AMNSIS

Mr. Goulet: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment I will direct my question to the acting minister - the Deputy Premier there? The Deputy Premier.

It deals with the government's blatant attempts to punish and silence one of its critics, the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan.

For about 20 years, AMNSIS (Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians) has been receiving funding regularly from the province, and the banks have even forwarded loans this year in high recognition of that practice. But in June of this year, Mr. Speaker, the funds, without warning, were struck right out. This unexpected decision, which was announced two-and-a-half months after the start of the budget year, has created a financial crisis for AMNSIS in regards to its staff and everybody else.

Since this crisis was created, in part, by your government's late decision and lack of prior notice, will you agree to provide a wind-down grant to AMNSIS so that it can honour its commitments to its staff and suppliers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, obviously . . .

An Hon. Member: I'll take notice.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Very perceptive. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member doesn't expect me to commit the minister who is responsible for that particular department in his absence, and I therefore will undertake to have that discussion with the minister and report back to this House.

Mr. Goulet: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. More information you could take to the minister. I have a letter from the minister to AMNSIS, informing them that the government has decided to withdraw funding for the 1987-88 budget year which began April 1. This letter is dated June 18, a full two-and-a-half months after the start of the fiscal year. Most other third party organizations have been informed of their funding levels weeks earlier. Why the late notification in this case? Was this just another piece of your strategy to beat up and pick on AMNSIS?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, the same answer applies. I'll take it up with the Minister and I'll report back to the House.

Mr. Goulet: Another supplementary, Mr. Speaker. AMNSIS says that throughout the spring of this year government officials gave them no reason to believe that their grant would be eliminated. In fact, they were told that even if third-party organizations like AMNSIS had their funding cut, the provincial government would provide them with three months of wind-down funding to help them to get their financial affairs in order.

In light of these statements, why have you refused to provide wind-down funding for AMNSIS so that it can meet its commitments it undertook in good faith between April 1 and June 18?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, I think that question was exactly the same as the first one, and so you can take the answer as being exactly the same as the first one.

Mr. Goulet: Supplementary again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr. Goulet: At the first ministers' conference in Ottawa last March, the Premier was soundly criticized by the head of AMNSIS, Mr. Sinclair. This decision to cut funding to AMNSIS is simply the Premier's petty, rather cowardly, attempt to get revenge for that criticism.

Isn't that the reason for this unexpected decision to eliminate financial support for AMNSIS and to refuse wind-down funds which had been offered to other third-party organizations? Is the Premier trying to get revenge for having been humiliated in Ottawa? Isn't this what this is all about?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, I can say unequivocally that that is not the reason and in no way, shape, or form was part of that decision. I will . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: I will say, Mr. Speaker, that I thought the statement by Mr. Sinclair displayed something of a lack of class. I do not blame Mr. Sinclair for that; I blame his counsel, the hon. member for Riversdale for that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 26 - An Act to amend The Notaries Public Act

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Notaries Public Act.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Resolution No. 13 - Attacking the Problems of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Mr. Toth: Mr. Speaker, I rise today bringing forward a motion that deals with a very complex and serious problem that face the youth; and not only the youth, but many members of our society today.

The problem, Mr. Speaker - and I'm sure all members in this Assembly will agree with me that drug and alcohol abuse is a problem that creates a lot of controversy in our society as well as in our homes.

The motion I am reading reads as follows:

That this Assembly urge all organizations which deal with youth to join with the government in combating drug and alcohol abuse.

Drug and alcohol abuse is taking a very serious toll on our society, especially amongst our youth.

Mr. Speaker, recent surveys indicate that one in four teenagers have used marijuana. They also indicate that two out of three persons convicted in drug-related offences are between the ages of 20 and 29. It is estimated that alcohol abuse in Saskatchewan tends to cost our province about \$1 billion a day. That estimate includes costs to employers, social costs, and property damage.

I'm sure that the figure of \$1 million a day is a figure that is deplorable to all of us, that cost. In Saskatchewan it is estimated over 50,000 have a serious alcohol problem, and many young people are afflicted by alcohol-related problems.

Mr. Speaker, these are serious and startling realities that the government and this society must address in a constructive way. In the summer of 1985 Saskatchewan's Minister of Health appointed an advisory committee on alcohol, drugs and youth. The purpose of this committee was to examine drug and alcohol abuse by Saskatchewan youth and, more importantly, to identify gaps in current programs and to set new directions in dealing with these social problems.

During the deliberation, the Health minister's advisory committee on alcohol, drugs and youth met with over 160 individuals from all over Saskatchewan on drug and alcohol education, prevention, intervention and treatment issues. At the same time, this committee met with more than 300 adolescents at 30 schools and youth centres across Saskatchewan.

The committee, through its report to the Minister of Health in May of 1986, made recommendations with respect to addressing drug and alcohol problems among youth. The report of the Health minister's advisory committee on alcohol and drugs and youth set the tone for future policy and program initiatives by this government.

Mr. Speaker, in September of 1986, the member for Estevan, the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, announced a five-phase attack on drug and alcohol abuse.

The Premier's initiatives included the establishment of one of Canada's first specialized youth drug treatment centres at the former Canadian Forces base - Whitespruce - just outside of Yorkton.

Other phases in the Premier's campaign on drug and alcohol abuse included the following: a major public awareness campaign including the establishment of a toll-free number to provide information and advice to young people and parents; the development of resource materials for schools in co-operation with teachers, school officials, and the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; a co-ordinated justice program involving police, courts, education, and other government agencies; a community preventive program involving local organizations and local educational authorities. And, Mr. Speaker, this government increased financing for drug and alcohol counselling and treatment.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Premier for his leadership in recognizing the impact of this complex problem on society. I commend the Premier for having the vision and courage to establish a comprehensive program to address drug and alcohol abuse. We are all aware that drug and alcohol abuse are a threat to the stability and harmony of Saskatchewan families, and abuse of any sorts that contributes to a wide range of social problems and takes a serious toll on all people.

Recently public concern about adolescent alcohol and drug abuse has increased, and this government has recognized that a comprehensive approach was necessary to deal with these problems. Take for example, Mr. Speaker, the 1.5 billion Whitespruce Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre. This will be the first specialized adolescent treatment facility of its kind in all of Canada - here in Saskatchewan. This is a good example of the government's commitment to protect Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, we believe such a treatment centre shows that we do care about young people who have encountered problems with alcohol and drugs.

Let me take a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to address a question of the role of the school system and drug and alcohol education. The school system is showing real leadership in educating young people about the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse.

Firstly, the health curriculum is giving increasing attention to the subject of alcohol and drug abuse. Second, students are encouraged to have alcohol-free celebrations, such as SafeGrad. And on this project alone . . . I commend the parents and the students and the members of the communities for the SafeGrad approach.

But I would also suggest, as one of my constituents said, that in reality we are not fighting the problem, we are just keeping our teenagers off the roads after they've been at a grad party.

The reality is that we, as parents, are there, and this . . . Personally speaking as a parent, we are there, and what are we doing? We are not encouraging our children to say no. We are, instead, handing them the alcohol. To me, that proves . . . shows us that we as parents have not accepted our responsibility of teaching and educating our children, even though governments and schools and school boards are doing all within their power to provide Safe Grad graduation exercises.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, many boards and schools are developing policies to deal with today's complex alcohol and drug issues. In all cases, the provincial Department of Education has and continues to work with all groups to provide educational resources for Saskatchewan young people. Mr. Speaker, this government believes drug and alcohol abuse among youth can be prevented. We have to provide young people with effective ways to say no to drugs and alcohol.

Even though this government, Mr. Speaker, has increased spending on addressing drug and alcohol abuse by 90 per cent, it also spends over \$60 million per year on alcohol and drug abuse services. This figure represents the total spent across all departments, and includes the costs of alcohol and drug-related services.

At this time I would like to recognize the work being done by the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission or SADAC. SADAC carries out a broad range of services for the province-wide delivery of drug and alcohol abuse preventive programs. Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission conducts research on alcohol and drug abuse with an aim to improving prevention and treatment services. SADAC provides education programs on alcohol and drugs for youths. And this agency, Mr. Speaker, has been responsible for implementing the comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse initiatives announced by the Premier last fall. I commend the professional staff of the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission for their work with young people in combating the abuse of drug and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, the increase in funding for alcohol and drug abuse programs is part of the Progressive Conservative commitment to building a better health care system. We recognize that these new initiatives in health care continue our commitment to protecting Saskatchewan families. It is our goal to protect Saskatchewan families and young people from the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse.

Society's attitude, Mr. Speaker, towards alcohol and drug problems is that we must address them as social concerns that must be treated and prevented. In 1951 the World Health Organization formally recognized alcoholism as a disease, and in later years the Canadian Medical Association did the same. And like any disease, this disease should be treated in the most effective ways possible.

Addictions such as drugs and alcohol are complex and serious. Education, prevention, and treatment are all part of the efforts to address these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the fact that our Premier and the Progressive Conservative government have taken the initiative and leadership in dealing with the problem of drug and alcohol abuse. Allow me to quote what our Premier had to say on the subject. The Premier said, and I quote:

It is impossible for government alone to solve this serious problem. It requires the effort of everyone. We must examine our own attitudes. We must do whatever we can to help young people, and we must all recognize illicit use is wrong.

The Premier went on to say:

We can deal effectively and compassionately with this serious problem by working together.

Mr. Speaker, as I view that quote of our Premier and his concerns for the youth of this province, I have to agree with him as well that the problem we are facing is not totally a problem that government alone can combat, but it's a problem that we all have to work together on.

Personally, I believe it's a problem that is related right back to the home - the leadership within the home. I would go so far as to suggest that every member of this society needs, as well, to provide leadership. I would suggest as Solomon of old said:

(That) we are to train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he'll not depart from it.

If we as parents, before we even contemplated the aspect of becoming parents, decided how we were going to educate and train our children, if we were concerned about the youth around us, concerned about the problems they face with the alcohol and with drugs, provided the teaching in their home, provided direction - we're the examples - I believe, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of the problems we are trying to address today would be very insignificant, that that problem wouldn't be as large, and wouldn't loom as large as we are seeing it today.

In fact, it bothers me to a degree when individuals - and I've been in homes where people have complained about drugs and about alcohol and about what's happening to our young people; been in homes where parents have been sitting in front of the TV, Mr. Speaker, and whatever they're watching, whether it's a sports program or a movie - sitting there drinking a bottle of beer with their young family running around and just observing their actions, and then they will curse the problems with youth, and they'll downgrade their youth, they'll curse the problems of alcohol, and in the very next breath, Mr. Speaker, order their young child, their son or daughter, to go and bring another bottle of beer out of the fridge.

In my opinion that is not setting the example. That is not showing the leadership that we need, and I would encourage all the members of this House, of this Assembly, to take the initiative and become examples for our young people and the people of this province to follow.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the leadership of the Premier of Saskatchewan that our government is taking the initiative to deal with the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. The Government of Saskatchewan is determined to work towards positive solutions to these problems. Your members have listened to public concerns of those matters, and we are not providing protection for families and individuals - especially for our young people.

As the Premier pointed out, Mr. Speaker, government alone cannot provide all the answers. We need to recognize the value of volunteer groups, professionals, and community-minded people in dealing with these addiction problems - groups such as Students Against Drunk Driving, Parent Resources Institute

for Drug Education, or PRIDE, Alcoholics Anonymous, AL-ANON, Narcotics Anonymous. These community organizations will help society combat the problems of drug and alcohol addictions.

(1445)

I'm especially gratified when I see young people themselves reaching out, trying to help their peers and help the youth of their age. And I suggest as more young people become involved, and as the alternative is no, such as we are seeing in the tobacco industry where people are butting out, we may indeed find a lesser use of the greater drug addiction, and that is alcohol.

We also see the clergy, church leaders, school teachers, and social workers are also showing leadership in working with young people to help them recognize the seriousness of drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the motion I have introduced in the Assembly today urges all organizations who are working with young people to join with the government in combating drugs and alcohol abuse. When the Premier announced the program of action and initiatives in the campaign against drug and alcohol abuse, I recall that the theme of the campaign was, "Facing the problems together to find the solutions."

We are facing a very serious problem with a comprehensive, preventative, and treatment program. Saskatchewan has a strong tradition of communities working together to overcome problems. With new approaches, and building on what has helped in the past, this government believes today's problems can be reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again emphasize the leadership of our Premier, the leadership he has shown in putting forward the new initiatives to combat drug and alcohol abuse. Your Premier has shown a high degree of responsibility and foresight in doing what is needed to deal with the abuse of drugs and alcohol in our society. And, Mr. Speaker, all the initiatives are part of the Progressive Conservative government's commitment to protecting the people of Saskatchewan. They are part of the Progressive Conservative commitment to build and expand upon our health care system. The 90 per cent increase in funding to alcohol and drug abuse programs spells out how serious that commitment is.

Let there be no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier, the Minister of Health, and the Progressive Conservative government recognize the importance of addressing the complex problem of drug and alcohol abuse. We value the young people of this province and their potential for the future.

In fact, I believe all members of this Assembly, along with the government, will make every effort to protect young people and Saskatchewan families through an increased public awareness and education programs on addictions. This government will provide the resources to encourage young people to say no to drugs and alcohol. We are committed to social responsibility when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we as a government seek to help and co-operate with all people in this province in dealing with these abuses of drugs and alcohol. That is what the motion before the Assembly is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative government will continue to meet the challenging health care needs of our province. We must adapt our health system to meet and address such serious questions as those related to drugs and alcohol. Protecting the community, building a better health care system, and protecting our children's future is what our initiatives in facing alcohol and drug abuse are all about.

I therefore ask this Assembly to support the motion. I urge all organizations and members which deal with youth to join with the government in combating this very serious problem. Working together, facing these problems, we as a province can find the solution.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring forward a motion, seconded by the member from Yorkton:

That this Assembly urge all organizations which deal with youth to join with the government in combating drug and alcohol abuse.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. McLaren: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate in support of my colleague's motion, from Moosomin, and the introduction of his motion. And the motion before us calls on this legislature, Mr. Speaker, to seek the support of all organizations who work with young people to join with the government in combating alcohol and drug abuse.

All over North America the abuse of drugs and alcohol are causing serious social problems in society. All over North America there are families who have been hurt by the tragedy of drugs and alcohol abuse. Lives have been ruined, families broken up, and people hurt by the ravages of drugs and alcohol.. That is why I believe government must show moral leadership, Mr. Speaker, in combating these social ills.

As I listened to the member from Moosomin speak to this House, I could not help but agree with him on all his points. The member from Moosomin is quite right in his observation that government must show leadership in combating this drug and alcohol abuse problem. I agree with my colleague that the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Grant Devine has shown leadership in the attack on drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, this government is very concerned about this abuse amongst our youth. Research suggests that about one in five teenagers experience problems because of drinking or drug abuse. It has been estimated that one in 50 teenagers have used alcohol or tried drugs - and these are very, very alarming statistics, Mr. Speaker. That is why the Minister of Health appointed an advisory committee on alcohol and for drugs and youth - it is because this government wants to protect Saskatchewan young people.

As part of the commitment to protection, this government saw a need to help young people and their families deal with the issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse. The Premier, personally, announced a five-phase attack on drug and alcohol abuse in 1986. The Progressive Conservative government increased funding to combat drug and alcohol abuse to a record 90 per cent increase this year, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier's program to attack drug and alcohol problems includes the establishment of one of Canada's first specialized youth drug treatment centres at Whitespruce.

Drugs pose a clear and present danger to society, Mr. Speaker. Those who deal in illegal and illicit drugs are a menace to society. They are hoodlums and gangsters who would inflict dangerous drugs on our young people. I praise the Premier of this province for declaring war on those who profit from the illegal

drug trade; and the Premier has called these drug dealers the leeches of society, and the Premier is right, Mr. Speaker.

The vast majority of Saskatchewan families, and indeed the vast majority of Saskatchewan people, are decent people who believe in high moral standards. They support the Premier and this government in the belief that there must be a harsher approach with those who profit from illegal drug sales. I congratulate the Premier and the government for having the courage and the leadership to stand up for morality in the battle against drugs.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan declared war on illegal drugs in the United States. Other world leaders have done the same. And we in Saskatchewan can be proud our Premier and government who have said we will not tolerate drug dealers.

For the record, I would like to point out that the federal New Democratic Party has in past come out in favour of making the drug marijuana legal in Canada. Marijuana is an illegal and an illicit drug that has harmed many, many young people. It has caused them many emotional and health problems. So I find it amazing that the NDP members of this legislature to . . . or I challenge them to denounce the policy of their federal party. I would urge the NDP members in this legislature to clearly state that you, too, are opposed to illicit use of drugs, and by doing so you will show a good example to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative government has put in place a five-phase campaign against the abuse of drugs and alcohol. They are the Premier's initiatives. I should like to take a few minutes to discuss them.

Mr. Speaker, new directions in dealing with drug and alcohol abuse include the expansion of alcohol and drug treatment services throughout Saskatchewan. The education of young people with respect to drugs and alcohol is very important. New initiatives in Saskatchewan's education system have been introduced to educate our young people, and these education programs will help young people deal with the pressures of drug and alcohol issues. This government will work with community organizations to increase public awareness and to address the questions of drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I do not exaggerate when I say that the extent of the problem is serious. I believe it is important that this government has made a commitment to combat these social ills by increased funding.

Mr. Speaker, encouraging a healthy life-style is part of preventive health care. A healthy life-style means saying no to personal abuse of drugs and alcohol. That is why I commend the government and the Minister of Health for increasing the health funding for the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and the programs to combat drug and alcohol abuse. You could call it part of our efforts in preventive health care. After all, we know the serious health tolls of addictions. As a government we believe that protection of the public is very, very important.

And, Mr. Speaker, many of our tragic accidents on our highways are the result of drinking and driving. Drunk driving is the number one killer of young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Nothing could be as sad and as tragic as a teenager as a teenager killed in a car wreck because of liquor.

The Progressive Conservative government has shown leadership through public awareness on the question of drinking and driving. We as a government have campaigned against the use of alcohol while driving a vehicle. This government has worked with such organizations as Safe Grad and Students

Against Drunk Driving to stop teenagers from drinking and driving. And I'm sure every member of this legislature would agree with me that it is important for government to continue promoting public awareness against drinking and driving.

Mr. Speaker, society is becoming more enlightened in dealing with alcohol and drug addictions. There was a time when alcohol and drug abuse were deep and dark secrets that people did not openly discuss. Today, governments and community organizations in our province, in our country, and in fact around the world, are starting to work together to help people with these problems.

Betty Ford, the wife of the former American president, Gerald Ford, has written a book on her drug and alcohol problems and how she overcame them. She opened a treatment centre in California, and from time to time we read in the newspapers of some celebrity who has gone there for treatment. These public accounts of people with the courage to deal with drug and alcohol problems go a long way in educating the public of the importance of dealing with these addictions, Mr. Speaker.

Here in Saskatchewan the Progressive Conservative government is establishing a new drug treatment centre for teenagers that will be the first of its kind in all of Canada. It shows that we are keeping with the times in establishing such a treatment centre. It shows we want to offer quality health care and protection for our young people and, Mr. Speaker, today we in Saskatchewan are meeting the challenges of combating drug and alcohol abuse. In doing so, we recognize the need to work closely with the various organizations in the community

(1500)

The Rev. Billy Graham, a man I have great respect for, has said that church leaders must become more active in working and counselling with people facing such social problems as alcoholism. The clergy of this province have always been at the forefront of helping people, and indeed many churches have established family health programs that help families deal with the modern problems of alcohol and drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, special recognition must be given to the efforts of Alcoholics Anonymous in helping young people deal with stopping drug and alcohol abuse. I am told that countless young men and women have been helped by this self-help organization that exists in nearly every community in Saskatchewan. And during the course of the speeches in the House today, it will be obvious that a close working relationship exists between government and organizations in this province to combat this major problem.

I cite the example shown by the Minister of Health in increasing funding for programs to combat the drug and alcohol abuse problems, and I point out the Health minister's advisory committee on alcohol, drugs, and youth, and most importantly, I point to the Premier's five-phase program to combat drug and alcohol abuse, which has led to a 90 per cent increase in funding for such programs.

Let me say that special recognition must be given to the Premier for his leadership in making the battle against drugs and alcohol abuse a priority with this government, and I am sure no member of this legislature would disagree with me that increased funding to combat this problem is not important to the Province of Saskatchewan - or that it is important to the province of Saskatchewan.

And I'd like to take a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to talk about the associations in my own constituency that are very, very active in following up on the five-phase program that our government has come with. And I would like to mention the PRIDE (Parent Resources Institute for Drug Education Inc.) association

of Yorkton, where they have held countless meetings, seminars, workshops And people in the hundreds have been coming to these meetings, Mr. Speaker, to learn more about this major problem in our society. And I want to congratulate a number of people in my constituency who became involved with the Yorkton assessment committee to find a use for the radar base that was being closed down in Yorkton. I was a member of that committee, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this group of people spent hours and hours to find a use for the base, and eventually came up with the idea of turning it into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for our young people.

And many people of . . . or my colleagues here in the legislature worked with us in obtaining that facility. And I'm pleased to say that work is going along very well indeed to renovate the base and get it set up for the first clients to be registered in that facility later on this year and early winter.

What pleases me, Mr. Speaker, that we had the foresight to look at this facility and build it up to be the centre for rehabilitation for this problem, and not to be using that kind of money going around the province building Liquor Board stores by the hundreds, which was done by the former government.

I was very pleased indeed also, Mr. Speaker, for young people that came forward at some of these meetings and offered their names to go on the advisory committee of this government to help in the planning and the programs that would be set up to bring these young people that are . . . have got involved with the drug problems, and bring them back into society where they belong.

The motion introduced by the member from Moosomin is one worthy of support of this Assembly, as I've mentioned, Mr. Speaker. And I am pleased to have had the opportunity to draw the attention to the leadership of this government in combating drug and alcohol abuse. And it's my pleasure to second the motion of the member from Moosomin. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some observers of the social scene, Mr. Speaker, would suggest that alienation is at the root of many of the problems that our young people face - alienation or a smell of hypocrisy about our society, alienation that leads to drug abuse, alienation that leads to a number of behaviours that we would not necessarily condone or accept for ourselves, but which young people espouse, and which young people cling to as a means of indicating and showing their sense of disgust and their sense of betrayal by society.

Young people see people that claim moral leadership, but they also see these people prevaricate and cheat in order to hand on to their tenuous footholds of power. Young people see leaders that claim to seek peace but wage war instead, and again, prevaricate and cheat in order to maintain their footholds in power.

They see adults that drink, smoke, and otherwise abuse themselves, and at the same time admonish young people about not abusing drugs and alcohol, and encourage young people to desist . . . lecture young people to desist from those very same things. They see a society that promotes consumer acquisition, but yet denies them meaningful opportunities to acquire employment and the opportunity to participate fully in the society that's thrust upon them.

And I find it sad, Mr. Speaker, that today, that the words of the government members perpetuate the hypocrisy that our young people see, and perpetuate the alienation that they must feel about our society. We heard wonderful words from the government members about what the government was doing, about

all the wonderful things that the government is supposedly doing. But when we look at the record, and when we look at the action, something . . . a different picture comes out, Mr. Speaker.

And I agree with the member of Moosomin. And I don't think that there's any need to go over again the serious problems that are posed for our society by drug and alcohol abuse. I think the statistics are there and one would not quibble with them. Whether it's a loss of \$1 million a day now, as opposed to 50 per cent or 60 per cent of that in 1979-1980, one would not quibble with that.

I think that it can be readily accepted that, given the widespread integration, especially of alcohol in our society, that there is bound to be abuse, and abuse is a real problem, and that this represents a significant health and social problem for our society.

But again, the major problem that young people will see with the address on this motion by government members is that it purports to illustrate a government that's doing wonderful things, but they know that the record is something else.

And let me just begin, Mr. Speaker, by talking about the single greatest act that that government has performed in recent years which has encouraged alcohol consumption and alcohol abuse in this province.

Mr. Speaker, last night on television there was a program called *Live It Up*, and this program runs during prime time. I believe it was between 7 and 7:30, and that's prime time for young people. Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that during the course of that program, that six advertisements were aired, all of them, all of them, encouraging people to consume alcohol?

And that's the single greatest act that this government has performed that has encouraged alcohol consumption, that has encouraged alcohol abuse - namely, the allowing of alcohol advertising on or in the media in Saskatchewan. And this was done notwithstanding the protests of many people in Saskatchewan, notwithstanding the protest and the opposition of many learned people and people of authority in the area, that we should not have advertising because of the harmful effects it would have.

People such as Dr. Saul Cohen, the chairman of the alcoholism commission of Saskatchewan, or what was then the alcoholism commission, stated in the *Leader-Post* in 1983, and I quote Dr. Cohen:

We in the Commission feel that advertising has to increase sales and lead to increased consumption and therefore an increase in social and health problems. Our greatest fear is the effect it will have on teen-agers.

And Dr. Cohen is not the only one - not the only individual or the only organization - that warned the government and that tried to discourage to government from participating in alcohol advertising, or allowing alcohol advertising in the media in Saskatchewan.

A researcher from Michigan State University in 1981 indicated - this is Atkin and Block, and I quote:

Advertising accounts for a 10-30 per cent increase in total consumption.

The greatest effect is on young people.

Those exposed to ads are more apt to drive after drinking.

The *British Medical Journal*, Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Lancet*, in 1980, and I quote:

A total advertising ban would achieve a reduction of consumption of approximately 13 per cent.

The likely reduction of consumption by heavy drinkers has been reckoned as high as 25 per cent, so a ban on advertising might save the nation much illness and misery.

The ban on alcohol advertising is, of course, supported by the Alcohol - or was supported by the Alcoholism Commission on Saskatchewan, Canadian Medical Association, The Royal College of Physicians of Britain, and the World Health Organization.

Mr. Speaker, what I've tried to point out here is that although the government says that it's doing great things to discourage alcohol and drug abuse, what it has done - what it has done - is to permit alcohol advertising in Saskatchewan's media. Yet many experts point out that this has grave consequences - that advertising will encourage, will increase alcohol consumption. And if you increase alcohol consumption, you will at the same time increase the potential for abuse.

And so I say to the government members opposite that it is one thing to spout words about the wonderful things that you're doing, but it would be far more meaningful for you to put pressure on the Executive Council, to put pressure on the cabinet, and to withdraw the permission of Saskatchewan media outlets to allow the advertising of alcohol. I think that would be a meaningful act. That is one way in which we can all participate as members in joining with the Government of Saskatchewan to discourage drug and alcohol abuse. That, I think, would be action, Mr. Speaker, rather than mere words.

And I don't . . . the members may shrug, and the members may say that's water under the bridge, and the members may shake their heads, but it's a real concern, and we should not take lightly the words of experts in the field. Again, Dr. Cohen indicates:

The ban on media advertising stems from the negative consequences, such as advertising is likely to promote, especially among young people. Furthermore media advertising of alcoholic beverages fosters the integration of alcohol as part of everyday life-styles, and this results in an increased use and abuse of the substance.

And:

There is evidence that youth are the most influenced by alcohol advertising.

Youth are at a very impressionable age and are especially susceptible to the relentless push of advertising in today's media, Mr. Speaker. And it's just not Dr. Cohen and other authorities. The Government of Canada itself - and here I refer to a report to the Special Senate Committee on Youth, Mr. Speaker, which was published in February of 1986. And that special Senate committee concluded: that the advertising of alcohol and cigarettes, in which products are invariably linked with sexuality and the good life, appears to have a powerful influence on young people, and we recommend that the advertising of alcohol beverages be banned from television.

(1515)

So there is all kinds of evidence that alcohol advertising leads to increased consumption, has a powerful impact on youth, will likely encourage and increase the consumption of alcohol by young people, and as a consequence of increasing the use, it increases the potential for abuse by young people.

And for the members to talk about, well, we've put money into a treatment centre - and I agree that treatment is needed and that we should do whatever we can to help young people with problems through a treatment centre - but to talk about the treatment centres and to not talk about the things that cause the problems in the first place for which treatment is required, is again an indication of the hypocrisy that young people see all around them, the hypocrisy that young people want to end.

And for once I wish that the government members would come clean, and would be honest and recognize that it's the alcohol advertising that is partly to blame for the increase in alcohol consumption and for the abuse in our society, and that we would be providing real leadership, rather than echoing words written by someone's researchers in the caucus office, that we would provide real leadership if we were to bring pressure to bear on the government to withdraw alcohol advertising in Saskatchewan's media.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's just not advertising that again provides a different picture than has been painted by government members about alcohol in this province. The government itself, through its own Liquor Board, promotes the use of alcohol, and I refer, Mr. Speaker, to a memo dated July 26, 1982, and it's from A.R. Wareham, the director of retail operations to all liquor board store managers, and it's regarding an update on customer service programs. And one of the recommendations that this director of retail operations makes, Mr. Speaker, is concerning shelf lay-out. And he says:

We have been experimenting in a number of stores around the province with changing the lay-out of product on the shelves to put more emphasis on merchandising.

And he goes on to say that:

Since rye is by far the most popular selling product in this province, we have moved rye to the back of our stores and put slow-selling items up at the side shelving.

And he goes on to say that there are a number of reasons for this:

It is much easier to find these products as opposed to having them scattered all over the place and thirdly, and most importantly, in the stores that we have tried this, there has been a marked increase in purchases by consumers. Where there was a regular customer picking up a 25 ounce bottle, they have now moved to a 40 ounce; and where there were customers coming in and buying a 40 ounce, they are now buying a 40 ounce and a mickey.

And this is the direction that the government is taking. And this is a concrete example of what the government is doing. The government, through allowing alcohol advertising, the government, through its merchandising philosophy in the Saskatchewan Liquor Board stores, is encouraging alcohol use, is encouraging the increase of alcohol use in Saskatchewan, like a pusher. And again, that leads to the potential for abuse of alcohol. And that is the thing that we're concerned about, and that is the motion that we're addressing today.

And it's sad. It's sad to see the government members beat their breasts and proclaim all the wonderful things that the government has done, and at the same time pushing alcohol, whether it's through the media outlets or whether it's in their own stores. And it's a sad thing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Moosomin who moved the motion said at one point, and he quoted the Premier about how the Premier recognized that alcohol is more than a matter for government to deal with and that it "requires the efforts of everyone." And I think I quoted him accurately where he says "requires the efforts of everyone" to combat the problems of abuse in our society.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if that's the case, if we really need the efforts of everyone to combat drug abuse, alcohol abuse in Saskatchewan, and notwithstanding their complicity, their complicity in increasing the use of alcohol, what about other groups, and especially non-governmental organizations that deal with families and that deal with individuals? What about them? What about the level of support that government normally has provided them as opposed to what they're providing them today?

Mr. Speaker, you will know that there are many agencies in Saskatchewan that deal with families, that deal with them - marital problems, life-style problems, various kinds of problems, and they seek help from these agencies and it's not surprising - and I think the member from Moosomin recognizes this - it's not surprising that many of these problems that they seek help for are problems that involve the abuse of alcohol or the abuse of drugs.

So one would think that if we're going to get a concerted effort from all of Saskatchewan people, and especially those organizations that deal to a very great extent with those that have the problem, that we would want to find ways to encourage those agencies to do that through meaningful support. But yet, again, what we find is something else again. What we find is the contrary. What we see here are the words of the Premier inviting everyone to join in to fight drug abuse, to fight alcohol abuse, but at the same time his Minister of Finance slashes budget for those organizations, won't let them do the job that they were supposed to be doing to help combat drug abuse, to help combat alcohol abuse in this province.

And the list is a long one: The Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit, cut; the closure of the Sun-Star home, a home to assist troubled teen-age girls in Saskatoon. And the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. The John Howard Society, a core operating fund lost; the Opportunities '87 student summer employment program, cut; the Contemporary Women's Program, cut; Mobile Crisis Services in Regina, cut; Saskatoon Crisis Intervention, cut; Regina Women's Community Centre, cut; Regina Transition Women's Society, cut; the Welfare Rights Centre; and the list goes on.

It's just a long, long list - a number of native friendship centres, many of them who provide counselling help for native people who are experiencing drug and alcohol problems, but yet we find that their funding has been cut.

And especially the main service agencies in Saskatoon and Regina such as the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina, the Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, the Regina Family Service Bureau, all agencies that deal with families experiencing problems, and again in large part due to drug and alcohol abuse, they find their budgets have been cut.

And they wonder how are we to join with the government, as the member from Moosomin is suggesting - how are we to join with the government in a meaningful way to combat these problems of drug abuse and alcohol abuse when the government says, on the other hand, we want you to join but we're not going

to provide you the help that we have in the past to do that. And surely this is contradictory messages for the helping agencies in Saskatchewan. And again, it's a message of hypocrisy, hypocrisy for the young people, and increases their sense of alienation about our society.

Mr. Speaker, there is one particular problem that I wish the members had addressed and had dealt with that I think is very fundamental, very key. And I guess it's not surprising that they don't. This government has a record of ignoring root causes of problems and skimming the surface and providing hype and gloss and smoke and mirrors to try to indicate that some action has been carried out, to try to indicate that something is being done.

But again they fail to deal with one of the more significant problems in Saskatchewan's society that is at the root of the problems that we are talking about. And I refer to youth unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, young people are being pushed relentlessly through the media, through a simple looking at our society, to consume and to acquire products and to be consumers in a major way.

In order to participate fully in society they need the means to do that. They need meaningful employment. They need the opportunity to have jobs. They need to have meaningful jobs. They need to have jobs that are decently paid so that they can plan for a future. But what we find, Mr. Speaker, is an increase in youth unemployment. What we find is that there are less young people finding jobs or able to find jobs, well-paying jobs in Saskatchewan.

There seems to be an increase in part-time work, but there seems to be a decrease in the opportunities for full-time, meaningful employment - the kind of employment, Mr. Speaker, that enables young people to begin to plan for a future; that enables them to begin to think about buying a home, getting married, raising families.

But they are increasingly denied those opportunities because of the economic mess that we have in this province, a mess which has been created by the PC government, and especially denied these opportunities because the government opposite has taken the view that they are well advised to cut back on youth employment programs as a means of trying to balance the budget, as opposed to taking the point of view that we are better advised to provide as many opportunities as we can for young people so that they can contribute meaningfully to our society, and so that young people more, rather than less, will have some sense of hope for our future in this province.

Yet that's the thing that the government members opposite have failed to talk about. They don't talk about that. They talk at great length about how the government has done this wonderful thing to set up a treatment centre. And again, I agree, I think all people in Saskatchewan agree, that it's a good thing that we provide treatment centres. But I think Saskatchewan people agree that it's even more important to try and discourage the kind of abuse that is taking place; to try and discourage drug abuse; to try and discourage alcohol abuse. Many people in Saskatchewan, many people in Saskatchewan, even if the government doesn't, believe in that simple saying: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

But that seems to be lost on the government. Their record in youth unemployment and youth employment is a sad one, Mr. Speaker. They cut out, as I indicated earlier, the youth employment program that was in effect, and those jobs that have been maintained are primarily to private businesses which are ill-equipped to handle the requests from young people for seasonal employment opportunities. They've denied urban municipalities, as an example, the opportunity to participate in the summer employment programs.

And I know that the Minister of Urban Affairs shrugs his shoulders and says, well what can you do? But, Mr. Speaker, that's one opportunity that has been denied to Saskatchewan young people, because their record is a sad one, and employment opportunities for young people are something that's desperately needed.

We look in 1982, we had 112,000 people, between the ages of 15 and 24, employed in Saskatchewan; in 1987 that number had fallen to 98,000. Unemployment, the number of in 1982, there were 13,000 young people, between the ages of 15 and 24, reportedly unemployed; in 1987 . . . in '87 that number had increased to 16,000 - an increase of 3,000 or 23 per cent in five short years, or long years of PC government in this province.

(1530)

And there are psychological and social costs of unemployment. And I hope, if my remarks do nothing else, that it might get through the thick skulls of the government members opposite, that there are these costs, and that these costs needs to be recognized, and that we cannot talk about alcohol abuse, and we cannot talk about drug abuse and solving those kinds of problems, unless we begin to deal with the root causes.

One of the submissions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the senate committee - the special senate committee on youth - came from a professor of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina in May of 1985, and this professor, a Dr. George Maslany, states, and I quote:

If we do not address the matter of youth unemployment, which we currently foresee as very much of an individual problem, of individual hardship and of individuals not achieving their potential could very well become a collective problem and not one that is inwardly directed but outwardly directed and that could, in the long run, prove to be a very real difficulty in terms of civil unrest on a large-scale.

I wouldn't go so far as Dr. Maslany to say that we're on the brink of civil unrest, but I would go to say that as long as you fail to address the problems of youth employment in Saskatchewan, as long as you fail to recognize that that is one of the root causes of the problems that young people face, you will continue to see an increase in drug abuse; you will continue to see an increase in alcohol abuse; you will continue to have to deal with treatment and problems in the tail end of the whole cycle as opposed to having a society that can take that in check and deal with it in a meaningful way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: Mr. Speaker, I just want to turn to one further quote, and this is from a David Brazil, who's the member of the Newfoundland and Labrador youth advisory council, and he provided this . . . these are part of his remarks to the special Senate committee on youth in June, 1985, and he states:

The unique nature of youth unemployment showed that in terms of a cause and effect relationship, unemployment may lead to certain problems or stem from others . . . People who had experienced unemployment, or that of a close relative, generally experienced lower self-esteem, lower satisfaction with life and feelings of social alienation and they were incapable of controlling their own lives. Through these psychological factors and their link with

unemployment, it is very easy to see how early experiences with joblessness can lead to social problems such as alcohol and drug abuse or crime.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I hope that is one message that the government members will listen to, and that if they really want to see action in terms of combating drug abuse, in terms of combating alcohol abuse in this province, that they will do a number of things. One is that they will begin to pressure that insensitive cabinet about doing away with alcohol advertising in Saskatchewan media.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: Secondly, they will encourage the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor Board to encourage his managers to come to their senses and to quit pushing this stuff. That's one.

Second . . . or thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the government recognizes that if they truly want, if they truly want all of Saskatchewan's people, and especially those who are historically, traditionally involved in dealings with problems of drug abuse and alcohol abuse, I hope that they will recognize that adequate funding is required, especially for those agencies that historically and traditionally provide counselling in those areas, and that unless that adequate funding is there, they cannot do an adequate job; they cannot join with you as you ask, to join with the government in combating these kinds of problems. And I hope that's something that you recognize.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I hope, I really hope that you do something with the problems of youth unemployment in this province so that young people have some sense of hope; that they have a real hope for their future, a real hope that's based on some real vision as to where we're going; some vision that allows them to plan; some vision that allows them to participate meaningfully in our society, as opposed to the dashed hopes that we see all around us and that encourages alienation, that it leads to the kind of alcohol and drug abuse that we see around us. If the government members opposite, in their own way, in their own way, would begin to put pressure on cabinet, would begin to put pressure on their colleagues to address these types of concerns and problems, then I think we may begin to see some turn around and some resolve of the problem that we have.

And, Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to say that, although I can agree with parts of the motion, that I feel that it's necessary to add a brief amendment that more adequately expresses our concerns and our feelings on this side of the House about this very significant problem of drug abuse and alcohol abuse, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move, and seconded by the member for Cumberland:

That all the words after the word "Assembly" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

regrets that the lack of meaningful job opportunities, inadequate funding to social services, cut-backs in education and training, increased social and economic stress on Saskatchewan families, and increased alcohol advertising are causing an increase in alcohol and drug abuse among young people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak in favour of the amendment. I would like to deal with it in the general topic of comprehensive approach on dealing with the issue of alcohol and drugs. And my

contention, Mr. Speaker, is that the so-called comprehensive approach that is adopted by this government is, as usual, a continuation of their narrow approach to resolving issues in this province. I would state that a comprehensive approach not only requires support for institutionalized strategies in alcohol and drugs, but also has to deal with the issue of youth unemployment.

People have mentioned - United States sources - in regards to some of their . . . in regards to their two initial speeches . . . it's as if, Mr. Speaker, that we already have a free trade agreement. It seems that we are talking about Betty Ford and more Cadillac approaches to resolving the issue, rather than talking about the real people that exist in this province. The members have said that they have declared war on alcohol and drugs, but I think they also have declared war on youth because of the high unemployment situation that they have failed to resolve in this province.

I will start out by relating a story in regards to some of the many experiences that I have had in northern Saskatchewan. And this relates to, of course, a particular community in the North which I will not name. Since the PC's have come in, of course the unemployment rate has risen, especially for youth in northern Saskatchewan. This has caused untold stress on not only the individuals but also on the families of the youth.

As I was teaching in the northern teacher education program in the mid '70s and the latter '70s, many of the people always related to me the top issues of the North, and of course the top issue was unemployment. But the other two issues that always come up either second, third, or fourth, was the issue of youth, the issue of youth unemployment, and the issue of alcohol and drugs.

What the parents related to me was this. There was . . . because of the high unemployment rate, they were having . . . it created a lot of relationship problems between the present youth and the parents and grandparents of the youth.

For many years people had gotten jobs in the mining and forestry sectors, but also in the traditional resources that had in fact been improving in the '70s. And it became more important when people recognized that the housing crisis which came about in '81-82 brought the problem on a more acute level.

Many of the people recognized that they had to deal with the problem on a comprehensive level. By comprehensive, they meant we have to find jobs for these people at the same time as we provide them with support services in dealing with the alcohol and drug problems. And that was a key basic premise and statement that people in northern Saskatchewan have stated for many times. They said, unless we deal with it on that comprehensive scale, we will be restricting ourselves only dealing with the symptoms of the problems. We want to get at the underlying root causes. We want to get at the solution, which is productive activity. They said, if we do not have the jobs when we come out of the rehab alcohol and drug centre, what alternative do we have?

(1545)

The government does not provide a sufficient amount of money for recreation programming that the parents at the community level talk about. The key point that people have said time and time again: our young people cannot find the work; it creates friction for us. It creates friction, they say, between ourselves, as parents, and the youths.

Sometimes, as parents, we tend to say that the youth may be too lazy in the heat of an angry debate, and we tend to blame the youth for the situation that they're in. But the youth did not create the high unemployment, people have said. We want to make sure that this aspect becomes an integral part of a comprehensive strategy.

As a lot of people said, we have tried very hard. Mr. Speaker, they said, we have tried extremely hard. As I talked to one parent whose child had committed suicide in their youth, he said: I tried the regular strategies that a loving parent would give to their children; I tried to improve my relationship with my child. But he said it didn't seem to work because they didn't have anything to look forward to in the future. They said, what do we do? Most parents aid, we tried. Those parents said, we tried hard to keep them in school, but there was no future - no future to look forward to. They said . . . This person said, I even tried a strategy where I would be more strict, in the hopes that my authority - you know, as a parent - would prevail. And that, in fact, if they wouldn't listen to me in the regular, rational conversation that, in fact, they may listen to authority. And the parent said, I tried hard as a parent, then, to provide the greatest authority figure to my child. But he said that didn't work. I still found him hanging in the closet a few months down the road.

And that story has been told by many of the parents in the North. As I look back at that particular community, there were 13 young people that had taken their lives in a three-year period. And that's just one community. That amounted to about 1 per cent of the population of that community. In figures - in comparative figures to Regina - it would mean that 2,000 people - 2,000 youth - would've committed suicide in Regina. That's the comparative figure in this community in that three-year period.

A lot of the people have said, we have tried hard as parents. We have tried to get the alcohol rehab program controlled at the community level, but we don't seem to find the funding for it. We cannot get the dollars. Most of our people are working under volunteer arrangement. We have the buildings and the people committed, but we don't have the money to provide for a locally-evolved and -controlled situation on alcohol and drugs.

The people have said, we are the most concerned about the problem. We want to be able to deal with it at our community level. It's our children that we are talking about. It's nobody else's children but our own. We want to be able to work with them because many times that we've tried other approaches, where we send our children away - away from their community - they come back, in many situations, worse than they have left. We were told in the past, they said, that things would improve when these children were sent away, but such has not been the case. Many of the children who have come back to regain their roots at the community level have done that with a lot of struggle. A lot of struggle has taken place in regards to developing a relationship. It's very hard, Mr. Speaker.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

What people are saying is this. It's extremely important to develop a sound relationship between the youth who have come back, especially with drug and alcohol problems, and coming back to the community. Not only is there a problem with alienation of the individual to the parents, but there's also an alienation factor from the social and cultural wrongs. Many times, as a youth is trying to express in broken English to their grandparents and their parents about the problems, many of them cannot relate back into the language of the community that they were raised in on a very early age, that they later had to leave - that in fact the cultural bonding that is an essential aspect of part of any comprehensive strategy and approach to rehabilitation and development of an individual is no longer there; that in fact has been taken away from them.

The other thing that a lot of people mention is this. The youth in many cases are brought into the urban environment for treatment, and so on, in the past. And they said while that has been the stop-gap measure in the past, many times it is also a social problem in terms of building social relationships when the youth come back. Many times the youth will come back and talk about a new experience that they've had, but their parents are unable to relate to that because of their experience at the local level. So there is a problem and a barrier at the social level as well.

Many cases a lot of the urbanite psychology, the social psychology that is developed - the social psychology of urbanization becomes the social psychology of an individual when they move back to the community level.

And I must say that the social psychology is an important aspect of a comprehensive strategy, that in fact we regard not only the urban experience as an important aspect for people living in the urban centre in terms of rehabilitation, but we also look at the aspect of the rural situation and an urban situation. But I must add that you must also include the cultural aspect.

As I talked with people in northern Saskatchewan in the past 15 years in regards to dealing with the issues of a comprehensive strategy and solution to issues that affect the youth, they have always looked at productive activity and jobs, the social environment and the cultural environment, which has to be part of the comprehensive approach to the issue of youth.

As I look at the government strategy - this government strategy in the past five years - the government has been, I would suppose, dealing with the area of symptoms rather than on the idea of a comprehensive approach which includes productive activities. The symptoms approach to the resolution of the alcohol and drug problem for youth is too narrow of an approach. It's way too narrow.

When we talk about the immorality of drugs and alcohol, I would also add that there is an immorality to unemployment. A strategy becomes immoral, especially when it calls itself comprehensive and it is, indeed, only very narrow. To me that is also immoral.

I do not disagree with dealing with the symptoms of a problem, but they have to be dealt with, as I mentioned, not only on a narrow textbook approach to development, but a large scale and broad approach to the issue.

I would state that it's also immoral today to continue advertising liquor for increased consumption, because that's the end goal of any advertisement, is to increase the consumption. Although people will give you all kinds of statistics in terms of lower consumption rates, and so on, in regards to that, again it's taking a very narrow approach to statistics. The fact still remains is that no business in the world advertises because they want to decrease the consumption of what they are advertising. Any business in the world will advertise because they want to increase the consumption of their advertisement. So I would say that it is immoral indeed to preach for control, to preach for rehabilitation, but at the same time you permit the increased advertising of alcohol.

(1600)

And it is indeed a lot more immoral, Mr. Speaker, when you consider that subsidization for liquor still occurs in northern Saskatchewan. The place where the greatest and most comprehensive strategy is required is the place where we still have liquor advertisement.

At the same time, when you look at the strategy of this PC government, the strategy is such where, in regards to subsidies, they have knocked off the full subsidy system that we had before; but also they have introduced and knocked off the transportation subsidy for fishing in northern Saskatchewan, where it means resolving part of a comprehensive approach, which is productive activity, having fish to eat and having fish to sell and getting the youth involved.

What we have this government doing is this. They decrease the subsidies - 100 per cent subsidy knock-off in regards to fishing for pickerel and for sturgeon, and those are the most productive fish in northern Saskatchewan. And these are the very fish that they knock off the subsidy on. People who fish have a tough time making a living, especially with the regulations on fishing where sometimes they're only allowed to use five inch mesh nets. It makes it extremely hard for them to catch their limit. But on top of it all, they have to pay more now for transportation with this new government policy of this year.

When you talk about youth, and training youth for the future, I find in the traditional areas that there was proposals this year from this government wherein a lot of parents were saying, if we can't find . . . and this government won't push for jobs in the mines, and this government won't push for jobs in the forestry sector for our youth; we will at least train our youth to be in the traditional resource area; we will at least teach them how to trap, fish, and also do guiding. But what they found out this year was you couldn't even do that. The government is introducing a policy where the youth cannot be trained . . . to go with the parents and act as guides, you know, where it would be an apprenticeship-type system of training.

So what the people have found out is that the subsidies continue to be pushed by this government. The government members from across, the two members who spoke, say, we got to attack the pushers. But this government is a pusher of unemployment; this government is a pusher of a narrow strategy; this government is, indeed, a pusher in its own right.

As I look to the question . . . I've talked a lot about the question of unemployment as part of the comprehensive strategy . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . so I will talk about youth unemployment because, as a member from across asked: what are we debating?

An Hon. Member: He should pay attention.

Mr. Goulet: He has not paid attention to the fact that a comprehensive strategy requires employment, requires social and cultural development. It hasn't sunk into his head, Mr. Speaker, after I've been talking for the past hour. We've had an amendment which includes more of a comprehensive strategy, but also to do away with the advertising.

When I talk about the unemployment figures for youth, in 1982 it was 10.4 per cent; in 1987 it has risen to 14 per cent. This is a rise of 34.6 per cent unemployment for youth in this province. I would say to the members across that they are, indeed, pushing unemployment on the youth.

As we look at the numbers . . . We have to look at the numbers. In '82 it was 13,000. In 1987 it has risen to 16,000. Here we have a rise in 3,000 unemployed youth in this province - 23 per cent rise. When I talked about the importance of unemployment, you needed the factual evidence in the argumentation, so I produced to you the factual evidence.

I must add, Mr. Speaker, that the unemployment situation for youth in northern Saskatchewan is a lot higher than what the official statistics show. The parents say that, because of the many years of unemployment, a lot of the youth have given up looking for jobs. So you will not find them in the registry at CEIC (Canada Employment and Immigration Centre) offices. You will not find them in any other registries because, in many cases, they have given up after being denied, you know, jobs for a period of many years.

I must say too that, as I spoke about the crisis in more comprehensive terms, I also mentioned the fact of the suicide rates - you know, that 1 per cent suicide rate in that particular community in the North. That is also backed by factual research in the past 60 years of research in unemployment in this country.

One has to look, for example, at the 1982 report entitled "Unemployment: Its Body and Soul," written by Sharon Kirsch and published by the Canadian Mental Health Association. She mentioned that in quoting the different researchers in the past 60 years, that unemployment increases suicide rates, wherein a 1 per cent increase in the rise of unemployment will create a 4 per cent increase in suicides.

That becomes even a more crucial problem where unemployment rates in northern Saskatchewan communities hit 60 to 80 per cent. It becomes to be a critical problem for many of the communities.

The only thing that'll save a lot of the communities for the stats to become higher has been a lot of the parents' own attempts at individual counselling. The parents have tried hard in trying to resolve the issue. I have seen parents in northern Saskatchewan in the past 20 years, organizing AA centres, AA groups that has never been seen to that rate in Saskatchewan.

I have seen people organize on the issue of dealing with suicides, and suicide counselling, and trying to deal at that level. And what they have said in many cases was that while there is a great type of programs in the South, we never get them in the North. We will get maybe a small centre here, and we'll wait another 10 years, and we'll get another small centre there. But there is never a comprehensive strategy to build a network of a community-based resource approach to alcohol and drug rehabilitation right in northern Saskatchewan.

I must add, but as I read the reports on the alcohol and drug abuse to youth with regards to treaty Indians in this province, and also having spoken to people in the drug and alcohol program in the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, I find that . . . and what I have noticed in the North where there was a higher and greater rate of the problem, that was also the case in Indian and Métis communities throughout the province.

And a lot of the people, again on both groups, have recognized that a comprehensive approach requires not only the development of institutionalized centres here and there throughout the province, but more community-based centers that involve the parents of the youth who are having the problems in alcohol and drugs. That, in fact, they also add the same things that I heard the parents of northern Saskatchewan talk about, that you required productive activity alongside the institutional approach. You also require, in the institutional approaches, social and cultural development alongside them, because without that comprehensive overview, any approach becomes only a partial strategy.

So, in summary, I would state what I hear people from northern Saskatchewan state - what I hear the Indian-Métis community state - is this: we want the Government of Saskatchewan to change its policies and practices. We want them to make sure that all those subsidies to big business, all those subsidies to alcohol, all those subsidies to an indirect form of advertising - that they stop, that they in fact channel

them more in the comprehensive, economic, social and cultural development program in conjunction with an institutionalized program on alcohol and drugs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: They say we want our subsidies on fishing and on food to be brought back to us. We want subsidies for the economic development programs that we have had. The Indian community says, we fight hard for jobs; we try and get jobs, but now you cut us from \$3 million to \$1 million. What can we do with \$1 million? When there's over 70 communities - over 100 Indian and Métis communities in this province, what can you do with \$1 million?

(1615)

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment:

That all the words after the word "Assembly" be deleted, and the following be substituted therefor:

regrets that the lack of meaningful job opportunities, inadequate funding for social services, cut-backs in education and training, increased social and economic stress on Saskatchewan families, and increased alcohol advertisements are causing an increase in alcohol and drug abuse among people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Petersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will attempt to make my comments brief, succinct, to the point, and I'll try to stick to the facts, unlike some of the previous members who have spoken.

When you're talking about the problems at hand, everyone recognizes that it's a serious issue. But just by talking about it, you recognize that you've got it out of the cellar, you've got it out where people can look at it, debate it, and see what can be done. And that's an excellent step, an excellent first step.

Unfortunately, we've heard members of the NDP decry the attempts at trying to overcome the problems and calling the Tory government down for bringing it out into the open. Well, substance abuse has been around for a long time. It's been here since time immemorial. And I'm sure the member from North Battleford could tell us about the '60s and substance abuse. The idea of the '60s was "turn on and tune out".

Mr. Anguish: The inference made by the member from Kelvington-Wadena . . . and maybe he could expand on what he's trying to say. Are you making an accusation against me as a member of this House, or what is the thrust? I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to ask him to withdraw those comments from the record.

Mr. Speaker: The member from Kelvington-Wadena, does he wish to speak to the point of order? The member from North Battleford has raised a point of order and the intent of the member's remarks from Kelvington-Wadena are rather unclear, so I can't ask him to withdraw a remark that is unclear. So the debate will continue.

Mr. Petersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to the remarks that the member took exception to, anyone who was around in the '60s, and I presume the member from North Battleford was, saw drug abuse rampant on the streets. The era and the age of "turn on and tune out" was at hand. Marijuana, LSD, promiscuous living was the order of the day. Well, Mr. Speaker, although we saw very little of that out here in the prairies, we were touched by it. And I'm quite surprised that the member would think that I would be singling him out as the only person who saw or ever heard about any of those activities.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, it's part of the sanctimonious attitude that we've seen by the NDP opposition today. Many of the comments that they've made have strayed a little off the truth. We're talking about drug and alcohol treatment centres, and they got into the area of liquor stores. They did not talk to any great extent about drug abuse or substance abuse, but rather about liquor stores, advertising, and alcohol . . . and the advertising of alcohol, I should say.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you drive down the streets of any town in my constituency, there is big bold letters for all the world to see is a sign that says, "Liquor Store," in big flashing letters in many cases. And who built those liquor stores with the big flashing neon signs? Well it wasn't the Tory government. It was that NDP opposition when they were in power that built them. And what could be more attractive, what could be more eye-catching than main street advertising of liquor stores, in many cases built right on the edge of a major highway.

And the NDP opposition that built them says, oh no, we're good guys; it's the Tories that advertise alcohol; it's the Tories that advertise alcohol.

Well let's take a look at another jurisdiction. Let's look at Manitoba for example - NDP Manitoba, as a matter of fact. When you're too drunk to get down to your local liquor store, they'll deliver it for you. They have home delivery in NDP Manitoba. Talk about pushing alcohol. Talk about pushing alcohol.

The member for Regina Victoria conveniently, conveniently neglected to talk about that particular aspect of alcohol advertising, and I understand he lived in Manitoba for some time when he worked for the NDP government there. He should know.

An Hon. Member: He was behind the whole scheme.

Mr. Petersen: I don't think he was behind the whole scheme, although he may have had something to do with it.

And we talk about morals, Mr. Speaker. Morals is what we were talking about. I listened to members from the opposition talk about morals. Well let's talk about morals then for a while. Let's talk about entrenching gay rights. Let's talk about laws concerning that. Let's talk about legalization of drugs - marijuana.

Members of the NDP party have gone on record as saying, yes sir, we should make marijuana legal - soft drugs, I believe, is the term they used. Well what is a soft drug? What is a soft drug?

They want to legalize prostitution as well, Mr. Speaker. Now I don't know, when we're talking about morals, what could be more immoral than many of those things. And yet the opposition stood up today and condemned the government, the PC government, for being immoral. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a case of the pot calling the kettle black, if you would.

Let's talk about the ads. Let's talk about alcohol advertising. If the members who spoke had been watching carefully, they would have seen that the ads were directed towards a particular brand of either, or any, of all the spirits available.

Beer sales are down; wine sales are level, and hard liquor sales are down in the province as well, Mr. Speaker. However, if you go brand by brand, there are some brands that are selling better than they did in the past, and some brands that are selling at much lower levels.

And when you talk about prevaricating upon the truth, as the member for Regina Victoria was fond of saying. I think he mentioned the word three times - that's his word for the day, prevarication. He neglected to point out that a number of the ads, a large percentage of the ads on alcohol, have to be awareness ads and have to point out some of the problems involved with alcohol abuse. The member chose to ignore that part. That's most interesting when you talk about prevarications.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the most interesting comments was made by the member who spoke just previous to me. He spoke of a comprehensive approach - a comprehensive approach, especially in the North. He talked about community involvement, which I agree with. And then he talked about the problems of unemployment and how meaningful employment was necessary. And I tend to agree with him. I tend to agree with him.

However, he neglected to tell me how that meaningful unemployment was to come about. He kept asking for subsidies on this and subsidies on that, but didn't talk about jobs that would sustain themselves, Mr. Speaker. He wants employment in the North. Why are the members of his party against uranium development, Mr. Speaker? Why do they want to sell the uranium mines? Mr. Speaker, that would provide thousands of jobs for Northerners.

He neglected to talk about some of the initiatives of this government in the area of agriculture in the North - agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture. He doesn't know anything of those, Mr. Speaker, or else he chose to ignore them.

Wild rice development - and I've spoken in this House before about wild rice because I happen to believe it has the possibilities to be the Cinderella crop of the North, just as canola was the Cinderella crop for the South. And many of the members opposite chuckle a bit, but they should take a look at some of the production that's going on. They should look at the million dollars that was provided by the provincial and federal government to the northern wild rice council for the development of that important agricultural crop, which would lead directly to the comprehensive approach the member spoke of. But he chose to ignore that, Mr. Speaker. I can't imagine why.

If the member took time to go around his constituency, he may take a look at some of the development in the gold industry. Mining - it's there. The Star Lake mine is open. The development in the mining industry in the North is taking off, Mr. Speaker, but the member neglected to talk about that.

Surveying the North - he neglected to talk about that, Mr. Speaker. The member should go back home and do a little homework and then come back to the House and speak.

Mr. Speaker, when you increase the budget to \$13.2 million for the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, I think that's significant - a 63 per cent increase. The previous member who was fond of quoting percentages and numbers - well that's a 63 per cent increase.

The Whitespruce centre at Yorkton is one of a kind, Mr. Speaker - the first of its kind in Canada. I think it's a response to a problem, a very significant response to a problem that's among the most important health concerns we have today.

And for us in this Assembly to get down to petty politics, as members of the opposition resorted to, when you're talking about the lives of countless young people in this province, I think that's terrible, Mr. Speaker. They talked about quantifying the value, quantifying the damage done - the damage done in this province.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I contend that you cannot put a price-tag on it. It may be \$1 million a day. It may be \$2 million a day. But, Mr. Speaker, what's more important are the people, the people themselves. And the Whitespruce centre is an attempt to try to help people who have a problem with drug and alcohol abuse. And I think rather than condemning this government, opposition members should be standing up and applauding it for the effort that has been made.

That, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to conclude by saying I will not be supporting the amendment, I will be supporting the main motion. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that there is nothing so sad as to see a young person whose mind and whose life has been messed up by the abuse of a mind-altering substance. The most common mind-altering substance are alcohol and drugs, and they're correctly identified by the resolution.

But it is a baffling and a frustrating problem to try to understand how we in this legislature, or any of the agencies that we create or fund, can reach past the surface that we create or fund, can reach past the surface of that problem and actually reach the minds of the young people concerned, and have them understand the nature of the problem and the perils that lie behind the alcohol or the drug that they're partaking in. And that is the challenge that I wish to address in my few short remarks this afternoon.

I was very, very interested in the program announced by the government with respect to drug and alcohol abuse. And I was particularly interested in the treatment centre that has been set up at Yorkton and which was referred to by a number of speakers opposite including the member from that city. And I personally support the notion of a treatment centre for those cases that have reached the point where treatment has become necessary. I caution all members of the House though, that that centre, while it is important, is not by itself a major part of a solution to the problem of drug and alcohol addiction.

(1630)

It takes young people at a certain point in their addiction and sets them on their feet, in a sense. But their stance is shaky and their stance is precarious and they're vulnerable, and they leave the treatment centre at some point and return to the community, and then we had better have the other programs in place that will help those young people continue their recovery which can take many, many years.

So you have a lot of space on both sides of the treatment program, Mr. Speaker. You have, of course, all of the months and years of alcohol and drug abuse that precedes them being admitted into the centre, and then the follow-up from that after they're released from the treatment centre itself. It is to those areas that we ought also to concern ourselves and to apply the resources that we have.

And I wish particularly to deal with the programs that were included as part of the government program in dealing with this problem outside of the treatment centre. It is important, as speakers have said, that we consider this a matter of education. Actually I think it more correct to say that we must consider it as a matter of communication with young people. It's not enough to simply put the subject of alcohol and drug abuse on the health curriculum as a unit, and have a health teacher walk into a class-room and spend one or two or three weeks lecturing the students on the subject of alcohol and drug abuse. I mean, I know it's better than nothing, but it is a far distance short of actually reaching the minds of those young people and impressing on them the perils that lie before them if the use of alcohol and drugs becomes a habit with them.

So it is more than simply a matter of education, although, I repeat, that is important. It is a question of actually getting to their consciousness, of reaching through and grasping them.

Now an hon. member said that parents are important in this process, and of course they are. But that is not a simple answer. That is not a simple panacea. It is a responsibility of parents, and I acknowledge it and agree with it.

But it is a larger question than that. I think that the challenge that faces us as legislators, as parents, as concerned people, is to find ways to reach the minds of the children so that they'll understand it - the minds of the young people. I can assure everyone, if assurance is needed, that it is a difficult process and it's not happening. For all of the things that we've done, for all of the well-meaning lectures that are given at our high schools, for all of the material that is available, it is simply not getting through to the kids. They're taking their drinks, and they're smoking their substances, and they're eating their substances, and they're shooting it into their arms with a clear understanding of just how terribly dangerous it is.

Now that, of course, is a generalization, and obviously in the case of some substances they know that they're on a very slippery slope. But the young man or the young woman who is drinking to excess, or trying marijuana, just doesn't have a clear understanding in his or her mind of just how perilous that situation is.

I don't know what the answer is to that, but I do know that it is not simply a matter of putting it on the health curriculum. It's not simply a matter of asking the health teachers to give that as part of the health course. Nor is it enough to distribute pamphlets, or hand them out to the kids, or have them available in the school. Something more is required. I hope that the government, in designing its programs, will try and find new and imaginative ways to actually penetrate into the consciousness of the young people.

Perhaps it's through the use of videos, or television, or some kind of new informational technology that we haven't yet tried, but perhaps it's also by using, to a larger extent than we have before, some of the people who have been there - some of the AA people, for example, who understand addiction and abuse better than anyone who merely sees it on a theoretical level, ever can.

These are the people who have experienced it firsthand and who know and who are able to describe their experiences in terms that other people can understand, and that is true no matter what the age level. And I think that it would be an important part of this program to encourage Alcoholics Anonymous veterans - some of them not so old, Mr. Speaker, some of them quite young - to be available as a resource to the schools, to go in and actually share their experiences with students and tell them on the basis of that experience, just what can happen if alcohol and drugs are continued to be used in an abusive way.

Another element of the government program is counselling, and I don't know what flesh the government has placed upon the bones of this promise. I can say one thing, Mr. Speaker, and that is, counselling as part of the duties of a school counsellor who is there primarily as a career and personal counsellor, will meet with mixed success. It is an extremely tricky and dangerous prospect to counsel an abuser of alcohol and drugs. It requires extraordinary sensitivity and an extraordinary amount of knowledge of the subject, and it's not going to work if all we're doing is taking the counsellors in our high schools and adding that duty on top of all their others and hope that they'll be able to do it.

Now we've seen in my city a number of examples of counselling situations that simply haven't worked; in fact, Mr. Speaker, counselling situations which have probably done more harm than good.

And again, I don't purport to be able to stand here and give the answer except to say that I think it's necessary for the schools to reach outside of their own staff, outside of their own boards, reach into the community to get the assistance of some of the people who've been there, some of the people who can counsel on the basis of a personal, direct knowledge of the kind of problems that those kids are going through. And again, I have no better suggestion to make than the very excellent people at Alcoholics Anonymous, who would be pleased, I know, to be able to help in this way.

One of the outstanding characteristics of a serious Alcoholics Anonymous member is to be prepared to go out at any time, at any hour of the day or night to assist a person who is having an alcohol problem. So there are two situations, in the education field and in the counselling field, where I suggest the use be made of resources which are in the community and are available on a volunteer basis in order to reach past the resistance that young people have to suggestions from older people and to reach into their minds and communicate with them with respect to this very important problem.

Now we've been talking again and again about liquor advertising in this Assembly this afternoon, and we've been talking about it in many different terms. I can stand here, Mr. Speaker, and say that . . . I know I speak for many members in this House not only on this side but on the other side of the Chamber, in expressing my concern about the advertising that's taking place on our television in Saskatchewan today.

This is not, I think, what the government intended when it made liquor advertising legal in Saskatchewan. My recollection of the original proposals being put forward by the government was that liquor advertising would only take place at times of the day where young impressionable children were not likely to be watching television. My impression was that this was to take place after they went to bed at night. And that's not happening.

The people on this side of the House who referred to a popular young people's program, *Live It Up*, last night, were not kidding. I mean, it actually aired, Mr. Speaker, with beer advertising as the sponsor.

An Hon. Member: Six times.

Mr. Mitchell: And we're told that during the duration of that program six different commercials were played. Well that was not the intention of the government, as I understood it, when that program was announced.

The second part of that original program that has not worked is the counterbalancing advertising that was to take place. It is not counterbalancing, Mr. Speaker. I haven't logged it but it seems to me, on the basis

of my watching of television, which I admit is not extensive, that liquor advertising wins by a large margin over the anti-advertising. In other words, the products are pushed through advertising a great deal more than people are cautioned about the use of alcohol.

And the other point is that the advertising is not balanced in terms of quality. The quality ads of the beer companies are winning that battle hands down also, Mr. Speaker. Those ads are good ads, are good in the sense of selling a product. I mean, they really make a person thirsty. And the anti-ads, the ads that are intended to caution against alcohol use, are losing. They're not up to the same standard, and they're not as persuasive.

So in those two important aspects, I think that the government's original intentions with respect to liquor advertising have not been lived up to. And at least the government should ensure that those original policies are being observed.

Now I think, and a lot of members on this side of the House think, that the experiment in liquor advertising in Saskatchewan was a failure and it ought to be reduced, and I know I speak for some members on that side of the House when I say that. But at the very least, the cabinet, or whoever it is that's continuing the policy of liquor advertising, should insure that the original policy is adhered to so that kids aren't watching what a great idea it is to have a certain kind of beer after you've moved a piano; or a great kind of beer after you've had a hockey game; or a great kind of a beer if you want to socialize with a lot of pretty women and nice-looking young men. These are surely not the way in which the government saw liquor advertising when it announced the policy.

And the member for Kelvington is quite wrong, Mr. Speaker - quite wrong if he thinks that what's at stake here is a question of brand. This is not a battle between one company and another for beer customers. I mean it is in a sense, but in the sense I'm concerned with, is that it's teaching our young people that it's okay to have a beer; that's it's a good thing to have a beer; it's the kind of thing you do after you have a good game of hockey; or the kind of a thing that you do after you've helped a buddy move some furniture; or if you want to have a good time with a bunch of good-looking girls or good-looking boys, that's the thing to do - to have a beer. Well, surely this is not the message that we want to imprint on the minds of our young people.

If it's a matter of brand selection, run it at 10:30 at night. Aim it hard at the beer-drinking audience, and that's bad enough, Mr. Speaker, but at least it's better than this prime time viewing at 7 o'clock in the evening with heaven only knows how many young, young people watching it and growing up with the impression that this kind of life-style is okay. That's not what we want to do.

(1645)

Now, I would have preferred, and I've tried myself, not to debate this matter on a political basis because I don't think it's a political question, and I don't think the mover of this motion considered it to be a political question. We regard it to be a question of common concern to all people in Saskatchewan, and that's the base on which I choose to put it. There are elements of the government's program that I think are constructive and worthy of support - any step in the direction of helping people with alcohol and drug problems is a good step, and I will support it. It goes beyond politics, and the criticism that I make, I try to make in a constructive, positive sort of way.

This is a grievous social ill, one of the worst, Mr. Speaker, because it affects not only the mature elements of our society, but it affects our youth and affects it in drastic ways. It blights careers. It blights

the prospects of people who otherwise would have gotten a good education, a good, sound accumulation of life skills, and have gone on to have a happy and successful life. And alcohol and drugs has the ability to nip that development in the bud and leave a person permanently incapacitated with respect to both their educational qualifications and their ability to cope with the life that they're going to be facing over years and years and years.

We must do all we can. My theory that I've tried to describe in this House is that it is a problem of communication. It can't be addressed in the normal, rather bureaucratic classroom setting. It's not sufficient to put it on the curriculum of the school. It's not sufficient to give counsellors and teachers a half-day or one-day seminar in alcohol and expect them to go out there and be able to deal realistically with these problem. It's going to be necessary to reach into the community and draw on other volunteer resources in the community to come in and actually reach the minds of those kids and be able to persuade them, to make them understand the perils that exist. In that way, I think real progress can be made.

I'll be supporting the amendment, Mr. speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martin: Mr. Speaker, I commend the member from Fairview, Saskatoon Fairview, for his attempt to be impartial, and his intelligent remarks regarding some of the issues that related to drug and alcohol abuse. And I compliment him for that. However, the previous two speakers, I would like to make some comment on regarding the remarks that they made.

For instance, it's a known fact in advertising, gentlemen and ladies, that the reason for advertising liquor and alcohol, or cigarettes, or whatever, is strictly for brand identification. You do not sell more beer by advertising beer. Beer drinks switch from brand to brand. The whole purpose, and whether you're buying a Buick - when you see a Buick advertising on television, we're trying to get the people driving Chryslers to switch over to Buick - that's the whole purpose of brand; it's brand identification.

So the liquor advertising is not in any respect responsible for the increase in alcohol in some parts of the country. However, I'd like to point out that in Saskatchewan there has been a decrease in the consumption of alcohol in this province. The peak periods of alcohol consumption in the province were 1976, 1977 during the heyday of the previous government.

And when I'm speaking of the former government, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out in 1972, I believe it was, the Faris report - my date may not be correct, but it was the Faris report on alcohol - and he stated at that time that the only way to control alcohol abuse was to raise prices. That's the conclusion that he came to.

And, Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that not too many years ago, not too long ago, the former member from Shaunavon was a member of the government of the opposite side until this last election, advertised for one of his family outings that children should come along with their parents, and alcohol and beer would be available at that particular function.

And I am amazed at the sanctimonious attitude of the members opposite when related to drug and alcohol abuse. The member from Fairview was fair in his comments and made some sense.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of advertising - liquor advertising - is on American television. And during the time when this . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. It seems that there is more than one speech going on at this time. Let's listen to the member from Regina Wascana.

Mr. Martin: Another brief historical fact, Mr. Speaker, related to the previous government. Back in 1972 they reduced the drinking age to 18, which shows their concern for the youth of the day.

Mr. Speaker, when alcohol advertising was allowed on television in this province, certain regulations were set down. These regulations have been respected and used in other provinces across the country.

For instance, the ads were not to be aired during young people's prime viewing time. And although that is not a stipulation for many television stations, it is a policy that they have. They show liquor advertising, for the most part, during sporting events on a Saturday afternoon. They run some between the hours of 5:30 and 7 o'clock, which is news time, for the most part, all across North America, and not that many children of the age that we're trying to think about would be watching television at that time. No liquor advertising is used during children's hours. The ads are not associated with life-style messages, celebrities, minors, or activities which are illegal.

In relation to the use of celebrities, Mr. Speaker, the member mentioned that there is a shortage of counter-type ads on television. Well I think the rule is something like 15 per cent. But you can't tell me, and no one can tell me, that the use of Reuben Mayes as a celebrity, as a role model for the young people of this province, can have anything but a positive effect on young people of this province. And that's been on now for over a year, and it's a very effective campaign.

The number and length of ads is controlled during any hour period. No more than two 30-second ads may be used during any particular time, and there are a number of regulations, Mr. Speaker.

Let's talk about educational initiatives by this government, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan education system plays a major role in providing opportunities for students, for teachers, administrators, and trustees to participate in the prevention of adolescent alcohol and drug abuse.

The Department of Education will provide assistance to schools and communities in the following areas: consultation and co-ordination of efforts on alcohol and drug-related issues through conferences and advisory committees; students in community involvement and developing and carrying out projects that promote healthy life-styles, including student resource materials; increased opportunities for teacher in-service training in alcohol and drug education, including promoting the use of resources such as the Lion's Quest program; the development of policy guide-lines in consultation with key educational organizations and other agencies to address today's problems of drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, we talked a great deal about the responsibility or the failure of governments to do certain things. I'd like to talk for a moment about something that I feel very strongly about, and that is the role of the parent in regards to their own children's behaviour. We have a family of four daughters. They have gone through that age when I'm sure they experimented with the various drugs and alcohol that were available. Fortunately for us, they've all come through it in good form and have a very strong feeling about drug and alcohol abuse.

Members of my family, on various sides of the family, have been involved in the AA program, a program that I subscribe to very strongly. And I again commend the member from Saskatoon for his mention of AA. And there is a follow-up program, by the way; it's a program called Alateen. So I would assume that when our young adolescents are returned from the Whitespruce program in Yorkton that they will be encouraged, and indeed helped, to join such programs as Alateen, which is a program originated by Alcoholics Anonymous, directly designed for the young people, and it's an excellent program.

In addition, the spouses of alcoholics have an opportunity to go to Al-Anon, which is for men and women whose spouses have alcoholic problems. And they're very successful programs, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to talk for a minute about the treatment initiatives put on by this government. An in-patient adolescent alcohol and drug treatment facility will be located at Whitespruce. We hope it will open this fall - October 1 is the date. And that will be, Mr. Speaker, the first adolescent drug and alcohol abuse centre for adolescents in the country.

Up until now most of our young people have been going down to Heartview down in Mandan, Montana, at great expense to the province, but a very successful program. I know a number of youngsters who have gone down there, and it's worked out very well. And we would hope that our adolescent program will attract youngsters - other governments around the country to send their young people to this province to the Yorkton Whitespruce adolescent treatment centre. It's a first of it's kind. It's designed to address the needs of youth with chemical and dependency problems; provides assessment services, individual and family counselling, recreational and occupational therapy, and comprehensive consultation services.

I speak with some authority when I speak of young people who have gone through an adolescent treatment centre. Fortunately, none of our daughters have gone through that exercise, but I've seen a number of youngsters who have been in that program. It's an excellent program. The program will last anywhere from 28 days to 40 days, depending on how serious the program is. Many of these youngsters are then brought out into the community, as the member from Saskatoon mentioned. Then they go to Alateen, as I mentioned, just for young people.

It's a program that's working extremely well. And the program that we're going to develop in Whitespruce, in Yorkton, is developed after the program that's worked so well in the Heartview, in the Mandan area, at the Heartview treatment centre. Many of the counsellors who were coming from . . . who will be working in Yorkton, have been trained through the Heartview centre. And it's recognized around the world, and certainly in North America, as one of the finest treatment centres from which we can acquire qualified people - it's very important to have qualified people. And so that's . . . The Whitespruce program, we think, will be very successful.

I had an opportunity some months ago to meet the chairman of the Alberta drug and alcohol committee. He spoke very strongly and very positively about the need for the alcohol and drug treatment centre in Yorkton, and how important it will be to young people throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and perhaps even British Columbia.

I say again though, Mr. Speaker, that I think that the parents of our province have, themselves, a large responsibility in teaching the youngsters the pitfalls and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, by themselves demonstrating to the children some control over their use of alcohol and drugs.

Strong programs, of course, exist throughout the schools. We certainly cannot expect, nor I would think any of the members across the way would expect us, the government, to accept all the responsibilities for teaching everyone the pitfalls of drug and alcohol abuse. Nor should we expect our school system to accept that responsibility totally; they have a big enough role to play as it is.

So I think that the parents of this province must realize that they have at their . . . a large, large responsibility in taking control of their children's lives, and through their own use of alcohol and drugs and whatever it may be, show some restraint in . . . so the children can get a good idea of how to handle their own lives.

So I say again that the people of this province have that responsibility, and the province of Saskatchewan, the government, can only respond to the needs of those people. And we will be doing so, Mr. Speaker, by the development of the Whitespruce centre in Yorkton, and of course through the initiatives that we will continue to place in the school system, and of course by those ads that we see on television all the time, the Reuben Mayes type ads that are so effective in teaching our young people that the role models of the world should be those who are achieving something, whether it be educational, whether it be musical, or whether it be in the sports field.

Mr. Speaker, I've spoken a great deal on the Whitespruce issue. I would like to mention again that it's a four-point plan that this government has designed: the educational, that is through the teaching the public at large; the preventative, the school system that I've spoke about, and other community services that are available from this government through the Social Services department; the treatment centre in Yorkton, which will soon become the famous Whitespruce Centre throughout Canada; and post-treatment. And as the member from Saskatoon mentioned, such programs as Alcoholics Anonymous, Alateen, and again, Al-Anon - all very strong programs.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal more to say on this subject; however, I would like, at this time, beg leave to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.