

March 10/89

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Hepworth: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the legislature, four scholars visiting here from China, visiting in our province and at the University of Regina, and I would ask them to stand as I call out their names.

The first is Mr. Fu, who is really the counterpart to an education minister in this province. He's the Chief Secretary, Foreign Affairs Office of the Education Commission of Hunan Province, as well as Senior Program Officer, China Education International Exchange Association, Hunan branch. As well, we have Mr. Yang, who is a visiting scholar from China, a teaching research fellow, Department of Shandong Province, and as well a senior teacher in a middle school there. As well, Mr. Song, a visiting scholar from China as well, and vice-principal of the No. 1 Middle School of Linqing City, a senior English teacher in that school. And as well, Mr. Huang, who is from Beijing, the North China Institute of Computing Technology, Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

I have met with them this morning. We've looked at having them have a broader look at our education system here. It was a very good meeting.

I hope you enjoy your studies and your stay here yet in Regina and in Saskatchewan. We look forward to even more co-operation in the future. And I'd ask all members of the legislature to welcome these guests to our legislature, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Employment Situation in Saskatchewan

Mr. Hagel: -- Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier of Saskatchewan. Mr. Premier, many would argue that one of the most important responsibilities of government is to create an environment, a healthy environment of employment for the people of our province. When I take a look at the statistics released today, the employment statistics released today, I find the trends, to say the least, disturbing.

Since November of last year the province of Saskatchewan has consistently had a higher rate of unemployment than the rate in Canada -- consistently -- for the first time since statistics have been kept in this province -- for the first time. Over the past 12 months, over the past year, Mr. Premier, the labour force in Saskatchewan has dropped by 10,000, the number of people working in this province has dropped by 12,000, and the only reason that the unemployment rate is limited to 9.1 per cent, one out of 11 in this province, is because people are leaving this province.

In light of the facts, Mr. Premier, in light of the facts, I ask you: why the stony silence about jobs in your Speech from the Throne? Your record is sad, your approach has clearly not been working, and I ask you: why no new plans for jobs for the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member's question, let me point out that Saskatchewan has the fourth level of unemployment in Canada. Ontario is first, and we were second for most of 1988, and now the other two prairie provinces are a little bit better than we are.

Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that the drought in western Canada was most severe in Saskatchewan. And if you look at the fact that we have 10,000 less people working in agriculture than we did a year ago, you can see the consequences of the drought. There is less grain to haul, elevators are closed, custom truckers, custom operators, grain cleaning -- all those things that would be going on in agriculture, Mr. Speaker, are not going on. Why? Because there isn't the grain to haul. And when the grain is hauled, you see all kinds of economic activity associated in agriculture in rural Saskatchewan.

So I point out, I point out to the hon. member, the unemployment in the province of Saskatchewan is largely due to the result of 10,000 less people working in agriculture linked to the drought. Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, let me add, in terms of a policy, unlike the members opposite we are not anti-business, and we're not anti-trade, and we're not anti-American, and we're not anti-economic development, Mr. Speaker. You're going to see more and more economic diversification, as we heard yesterday, with a brand-new expansion in jobs in Prince Albert.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Unlike the opposition, Mr. Speaker, we are not anti-business, we are not anti-Weyerhaeuser, Mr. Speaker. We encourage business and diversification in the province of Saskatchewan because that's where the real jobs come from.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hagel: -- Mr. Premier, the fog in Regina doesn't just exist outside this building today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hagel: -- There was a time in the province of Saskatchewan when we proudly led the nation in our record of employment. Mr. Premier, the facts I bring to the Legislative Assembly today are just that. They're facts which paint the picture of the record of your government -- 10,000 fewer people in our labour force, 12,000 fewer people working in Saskatchewan. That's been your record over the past year.

I ask you once again, will you please assume responsibility for the number one issue for the people of Saskatchewan today. And I ask you, why no new legislative agenda to deal with this pressing problem? -- not just more of the same old stuff that's not working; obviously it's not working. Why is it that your economic policy is simply to sell off and get rid of the assets of this province? When are you going to start putting the people of Saskatchewan first on the agenda of the Government of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asks me about our policy. Well let me say again, our government is not anti-business, and it's not anti-trade, and it's not anti-Weyerhaeuser, and it's not anti-American. Even as late, Mr. Speaker, as just a few nights ago, just a few nights ago we heard the anti-Americanism come up again by the NDP. And it's embarrassing.

People in this country believe in business; they believe in trade; they believe in doing good business with our neighbours like the United States; the Pacific Rim, like the Chinese. We are not anti-Chinese; we're not anti-American; we're not anti-business, and we're not anti-Weyerhaeuser, and we're not anti-public participation.

We have now over a million people in the province of Saskatchewan for the first time, Mr. Speaker. And you're

going to see the forecasts now are for the best growth rate in all of Canada being in Saskatchewan in 1989 because of trade and because of business, because of Weyerhaeuser and because of public participation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- So I ask, what is your policy? Where is your agriculture policy? Where is your business policy? Where is your diversification policy? You don't have one, you haven't had one in the past, and I don't see one for the future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, this sounds like 1982 again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: -- You're going to bring the kids home. You've been driving them away every year since 1982.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: -- Despite your rhetoric, Mr. Premier, you're anti-family, you're anti-youth, and you're anti-jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: -- Let's deal with the facts, Mr. Premier. Saskatchewan's labour force fell by 6,000 people -- 6,000 people -- from January of this year to February, and the number of people with jobs fell by 7,000 in one month, Mr. Premier -- fell by 7,000. This is a new record, even for your government.

This is a deplorable situation and our youth continue to bear the brunt of your failed economic policies. They want security that you keep talking about. They want job opportunities and they want hope for the future. Mr. Premier, why is it that the only way that your throne speech dealt with the future was to talk about a self-indulging, \$9 million birthday party?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: -- Order, order. Before the Premier begins his response, I'd like to ask members to please allow him to answer. I know it's Friday morning; however, if we just co-operate, we'll get through this question period in a reasonable manner.

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we did in 1982, and we continue to do, and we certainly did in 1986 that the previous administration would not do to help jobs, is to protect people against high interest rates. Mr. Speaker, we looked at 20 per cent interest rates in 1982 and we said, we won't put up with that, and we came in with thirteen and a quarter and 8 per cent for farmers. That helped create jobs, Mr. Speaker, and protect jobs. Now we're the only place in Canada that locks in mortgages at nine and three-quarters no matter what the interest rate is on the first 50,000. We did that; the opposition didn't do it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- If you want to talk protecting jobs, what we're saying is that we will take on the banks; we will take on the international interest rates; we will protect people. We don't contract with the financial institutions, like some members opposite, to foreclose on people. We protect them against high interest rates.

We are for more businesses opening here. We can look at a new paper mill. We looked at the Meadow Lake pulp mill. We can look at upgraders in Regina; we can look at a new upgrader in Lloydminster. We can look at new packing plant capacity, Mr. Speaker. You will see the best growth rate in Canada in 1989 in the province of Saskatchewan just because of our policies, and particularly because of our interest rate and pro-business attitude, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: -- Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, is that the best you can do is go back to the interest rate thing in 1982? You answer that way to every question. The fact is, Mr. Premier, this is 1988.

An Hon. Member: -- '89.

Mr. Pringle: -- Thank you.

The Speaker: -- Order, order. Order. Order.

Mr. Pringle: -- It's 1988 for you, Mr. Premier. Correction. Mr. Premier, seriously, I wish you would start taking this issue of unemployment seriously. It's beyond a joke, and I'm quite concerned that the government is not taking the issue seriously.

Mr. Premier, if you look at the figures you will see that the total loss of 12,000 persons from the job market in the past year fell within the age range of 15 to 24 years. Those are our province's life-blood, our future, our young families that you like to talk about supporting. Yet you're content to drive them away from Saskatchewan in record numbers. Even your own former cabinet minister, Rick Folk, has given up on you and moved away.

Mr. Premier, when are you going to develop a workable economic plan and a legislative program designed for giving young people new jobs and opportunities, rather than casting them into the well of despair? Please answer the question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, let me add three points to the hon. member. The hon. member is from the city of Saskatoon. Saskatoon's unemployment rate has dropped 2.9 per cent since last year, and it's one of the fastest growing cities any place in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the second point I want to make and remind the hon. member, that the unemployment rate has increased by 10,000 people in rural Saskatchewan in the last year as the result of drought. You can look at the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool closing elevators; you can look at the fact that there's no grain being hauled any place, Mr. Speaker. That has a tremendous impact. If you look at rural Alberta, look at rural Manitoba where they had more rain, you don't see those kinds of problems.

Third, Mr. Speaker, let me point out to the hon. member that the plans for diversification and processing and manufacturing and public participation that we have and we've outlined in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, are the very same plans that the NDP planned to do in 1982. And the member from Regina North East was there and he signed on the line and he said, let the public invest in Crown corporations, and we can diversify and protect ourselves against high interest rates.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are going to implement those plans because in fact they do diversify the economy, and we will lead the nation in growth in 1989 -- not in '88 -- 1989.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, Mr. Speaker, the Premier will give, has given, every excuse in the book about our high unemployment. The Premier can, and I suppose will, do more cheer-leading about how we're all going to improve things. But the fact remains that investor confidence in Saskatchewan economy is at an all-time low -- it's at an all-time low. No one has any confidence in the future of Saskatchewan. That's why we have high unemployment.

Now all rhetoric aside, just what are you going to do to improve things, all rhetoric aside?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. members that I've just returned from the Pacific Rim, and investor confidence has never been higher in the province of Saskatchewan than it is today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Now, Mr. Speaker, when I talk about investor confidence, the opposition comes out and says, well, they're against the Japanese and they're against Americans, they're against Europeans, they're against other people investing, and he stands up and says, well what about investor confidence? Well I can tell you, Canadians have confidence in Saskatchewan, offshore people have confidence in Saskatchewan, and I say to the hon. member, you just watch Saskatchewan in 1989 and 1990 and through the next decade, Mr. Speaker, because you'll see more confidence than you've seen in the history of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

High Interest Rates

Mr. Shillington: -- One would expect you, Mr. Premier, to claim that investor confidence is high in Asia, in Saskatchewan. We note you make no such claim about the people in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Premier, my question has to do with one of the reasons for that; it's the unacceptably high interest rate of the Bank of Canada pegged yesterday at 12.12 per cent. Mr. Premier, one of the pearls of wisdom which you were kind enough to share with us a month ago was that these high interest rates are caused by provincial governments who run unacceptably high deficits. It would be tempting to agree with you, Mr. Premier, were it not so irresponsible.

I wonder, Mr. Premier, if you'll admit the nonsensical nature of that comment, and if you'll admit that these high interest rates have everything to do with a federal government which is obsessed with the needs of central Canada and is ignoring the rest of Canada. Will you admit, Mr. Premier, that your responsibility and the responsibility of your government is to draw to the attention of Mr. Mulroney that there is more to Canada than Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, two points. One, with respect to Saskatchewan investor confidence, I think you probably know that we've just received \$105 million in TeleBonds. And if you look at the Power bonds, TeleBonds and shares, it's close to a billion dollars in investment that has taken place in the last few years as a result of the change in policy which you outlined, Mr. Speaker, and they put forward as the plan in 1982.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Secondly, with respect to interest rates, let me just point out that the deficits west of Ontario are very, very small compared to the deficits in Ontario and Quebec. B.C. has a balanced budget. Alberta has a balanced budget. We'll be very close to a balanced budget, and Manitoba will be very close, 4 or \$500 million in total, Mr. Speaker, west of Ontario. You go into Ontario, where the boom is, and they have a deficit of \$1.5

billion -- 1.5 billion.

I have said to the Premier there and I said to the federal Finance minister, maybe you could start to lean on Ontario and Quebec and Central Canada to balance the books, not on the western provinces, because we're the provinces that have the balanced budgets and we're the provinces that have growth.

Mr. Speaker, I will say to the hon. member in final now: we protect people against high interest rates no matter who's in power in Ottawa. We did it in '82 and '86, and you'll see it in 1989 as well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: -- I will just once more remind the members that it's difficult to hear answers and it's difficult to hear questions. And I'm sure that the guests here this morning would also like to hear what the hon. members are saying, and I just ask the members for their co-operation. I think it's a reasonable request.

Mr. Shillington: -- Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, your per capita deficits since you've been office have been a good deal higher than Ontario's during the same period of time, Mr. Premier, but I want to turn to another one of the brilliant achievements in your economic record.

In November, Mr. Premier, you went to Ontario, to Ottawa, to lend your assistance to Governor Crow with respect to interest rates. You met with him and you said as you left: he appeared positive. Well, he may have appeared that way, Mr. Premier, but the interest rates have risen one and a half per cent since you met with him.

Mr. Premier, we ask for your assistance that you will never again seek to advise Governor Crow on interest rates. Do we have that assurance?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Well, Mr. Speaker, I will continue to raise the very legitimate concerns about high interest rates in Saskatchewan and across Canada and at first ministers' meetings, and any opportunity that I get to talk to the Finance minister or to the governor of the Bank of Canada.

We stand, and our record is very clear, low interest rates are the right way to go. We have put our treasury right there to make sure we protect home owners, farmers, and businesses and others. And there's not a better record in Canada, Mr. Speaker. I will argue time and time again for lower interest rates for Saskatchewan and for Canada, and particularly when we don't have inflation across the country -- it's a spike in the middle, Toronto, or within 100 miles of Toronto.

Let Toronto go. Let it have inflation. Let houses go for a million dollars. It'll resolve itself. The law of diminishing marginal returns can take place in Toronto. Keep interest rates low for the rest of the country, and we can help grow out of the problem, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shillington: -- I suspect, Mr. Premier, that your record in managing this province's economic affairs has something to do with your lack of credibility in advising the federal government of how they should manage theirs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shillington: -- But, Mr. Premier, the interest rates aren't the end of the punishment which your federal namesakes have in store for us. We learned yesterday that Michael Wilson . . . he spoke of an intention to

introduce a tax on mortgages and consumer loans that would have the effect of increasing, by a fair amount, the real interest rate which Saskatchewan farmers and business people and consumers pay. It's with great trepidation that I ask you this, after your success in meeting with Governor Crow, but have you met with Michael Wilson and . . . or have you discussed with him the effect that this would have on Saskatchewan business men and farmers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the Minister of Finance for Saskatchewan, and the other ministers of Finance, are meeting with and have met with Mike Wilson yesterday, and I believe they're still in Ottawa going over those very points.

I will say that the credibility of the opposition with respect to interest rates and business, Mr. Speaker, is among the lowest in the country because they haven't done a thing when they were in power to protect us against 20 per cent interest rates, and they've been anti-business, anti-trade, anti-economic development diversification for as long as they've ever had a party, Mr. Speaker.

Wait for Surgery

Ms. Simard: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, and it concerns a very serious case which has been brought to my attention, and which I understand has been brought to his government's attention.

On October 5 of last year, Mr. Bill Batten, a Prince Albert man who was otherwise in good health, was informed that he needed open-heart surgery to repair a faulty heart valve. In that month he was told he was considered an urgent case, and in November he was informed that, in all likelihood, he would have his surgery before Christmas.

On February 2 Mr. Batten died of a heart failure while he was waiting for a bed in Saskatoon -- for a hospital bed, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Premier how he explains this case?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health, I'll take notice on the question.

Ms. Simard: -- New question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, the Minister of Health, as far as I'm aware, has been advised of this. He knows of the case. I would like to quote to you from a telex that was sent to me by Leslie Tomporowski, the daughter of Mr. Batten, in which she says: "I feel that these unnecessary deaths are your responsibility -- she's talking about the government there, Mr. Premier -- as tax-paying citizens, we rely on your judgements." Mr. Minister, you indicate that health care is your number one priority, and you say that you care for people. What do you have to say about this family's grief and feelings of betrayal?

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Health was in the legislature yesterday when the hon. member could have addressed these questions to him, and I believe the hon. member was in the House yesterday, and the minister was prepared with a full detailed response because I understand that he has been in contact with the family. Now if the hon. member was sincerely concerned about this, and the minister was here and she was here, at least you could have the opportunity and take advantage of the opportunity to ask the Minister of Health. But you wait until he's not here. Now if the matter was urgent, it was just as urgent yesterday as it was today. I say, with greatest respect to the hon. member, I understand the minister's been in touch with the family. And I understand that he has more to say about it because he is the Minister of Health and he would be quite prepared to respond, but he's not in the House today.

Ms. Simard: -- Mr. Premier, it's your government and you're responsible for your government's policy order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Simard: -- Mr. Premier, in your throne speech, you spoke glowingly about the need to improve our preventive health care services, and in early October, Mr. Batten's doctors were telling him that surgery was preventive in nature. Now are you aware, Mr. Premier, that preventive medicine means preventing diseases and not preventing people from getting the services they need?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, as I believe the Speech from the Throne pointed out, that we have more surgeries per day and more surgeries per month and more surgeries than in the history of the province of Saskatchewan, that's why we made health care a priority. We're spending more and more money. We're building new hospitals, with complete co-operation, Mr. Speaker, of the medical profession, of the College of Physician and Surgeons, so that in fact that we can continue to have, and continue to improve health care, Mr. Speaker.

I just raised with the hon. member again, that if this was a sincere, legitimate concern on her part, that at least she could have brought it up when the Minister of Health was in here. And it's not the first time this has happened, Mr. Speaker, and I draw this to your attention.

Green Feed Program

Mr. Upshall: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, during the Assiniboia-Gravelbourg by-election you told farmers and participants in the green feed program would not be short-changed by the drought program. And I'll just read from your press release of November 14:

All types of green feed program participants will be examined carefully to assure that everyone is treated fairly. Green feed program participants can be assured that they will not be short-changed by the drought program.

Mr. Premier, is that still your opinion?

Hon. Mr. Hardy: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the member's question in regards to the green feed program, the green feed program, Mr. Speaker, was set up to assist those who needed to have feed for the winter. It was set up on a \$15 per acre basis, and it was set up to assist particularly those in the south who would have a shortage of feed, who had cut their feed. It was over five bushels per acre. Take it off, put it up, and it would keep the cost of feed down for the next year.

There was, Mr. Speaker, about 11,000 applicants that got over 20 millions of dollars in the green feed program, and I believe it brought on almost a million tonnes of extra feed. So it was really a successful program. It was designed to assist those farmers who needed feed or those who could supply the other ones with feed. And it was really a successful program, well received by all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Sale of the Saskatchewan Government Printing Company

Hon. Mr. Taylor: -- Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce to my legislative colleagues and the people of Saskatchewan that an agreement has been reached to sell the Saskatchewan Government Printing Company to its employees.

A major part of the government public participation initiative promotes employee buy-ins. Mr. Speaker, we're

committed to giving provincial government employees the opportunity to become entrepreneurs. When I announced cabinet's decision to negotiate the sale of the company last December, the employees were enthused and optimistic. Today I am pleased to report that every employee has converted their excitement into a share in the new company.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: -- Mr. Speaker, that's 100 per cent employee ownership, and it's 100 per cent public participation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: -- Mr. Speaker, this agreement is good for employees, it's good for the government, and it's good for the people of Saskatchewan. The employees now have an opportunity to share in the company ownership and in its profits. The government received fair market value for its assets, and Saskatchewan taxpayers' dollars can now be redirected towards more essential areas of government than the operation of a printing company.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: -- Mr. Speaker, when we last met in this legislature, I spoke of exciting things to come. Today I'm speaking of exciting things we've done. Public participation in action is building a stronger Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the minister's reannouncement of something that was announced months ago, and I wonder why the House allows things to be announced underneath ministerial statements that have been announced in the press and everywhere for months and months, but I will be talking to you about that later, Mr. Speaker, because I would question whether or not as it is in fact a ministerial statement.

I guess it's interesting today that we would be dealing in fact with privatization, talking about how employment is being created using privatization as the tool and the driving force, when the basic principle of question period today and the main theme in question period was the fact that we have 10,000 fewer people working in the province today than we had one year ago, which includes the privatization that has taken place.

What we're seeing here, Mr. Speaker, in this province is a madness to attempt to get rid of people who work in government industries and drive the economy of this province on one engine, namely big business. That's what we're talking about.

What we're seeing here, Mr. Speaker, is a government that will go to the Pacific Rim, the oriental express, as it's known by many people in the province, the Premier of this province going to China, Japan, and India, and offering the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan -- which is owned by the people through their Crown -- to the government of communist China. This is the Premier of the province's attempt to sell off the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Now in the throne speech we see equity financing which will allow foreign money to come in to the equity financing program and buy up the farm land. Not only are we intent on selling off the resources of this province to the people in Taiwan, Japan, but now we're seeing an attempt to sell off the farm land to people from outside of the province. I say it's not going to work.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- I'll tell you, your economic strategy has failed, Mr. Premier, it's failed miserably. Every indicator of economic growth in this province is a miserable, miserable failure. What you're trying to do now is hide behind the skirts of Maggie Thatcher with some convoluted argument of privatization to try to hide the economic record of this province.

We have a deficit here that is now \$12 billion -- \$12 billion in debt in this province. Twelve billion dollars that this Premier, the majority, over 75 per cent, he has run up in seven years. We have unemployment rates higher than they have been . . .

The Speaker: -- Order. Order. The hon. member is using the occasion to enter debate and introducing a wide range of topics, and I think that he realizes that's not the intent of replying to a ministerial statement.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- The minister did talk about jobs and creating jobs and I'm trying to talk about the failure of the government to create jobs. I will listen to your ruling, but I don't agree with it because the minister, I think, was way out of line in his speech which was . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. Order. I just once more ask the hon. member to reply to the statement, reply to the statement. I don't intend to enter into a debate with him. This is my ruling, and I ask him once more to reply to the statement and not use it as an occasion to enter a wide range of debate.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to complete my remarks by saying this: that what the minister of privatization has said today is total nonsense -- total and absolute nonsense.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- The minister of privatization . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order, order. I think the member has the right to complete his remarks without interruptions as well, and I'd ask for your co-operation.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- I just want to conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by saying that this government's economic attempt to privatize everything in this province has been a failure. The unemployment numbers prove that, the out-migration prove that, everything in terms of economic standards prove that the economic development of this province is in shambles, and no longer can they hide behind the skirts of Maggie Thatcher trying to copy what has happened in a foreign country, in the province of Saskatchewan. It simply isn't working. All the indicators prove that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: -- Before orders of the day, on June 29, 1988, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario adopted the report of the Select Committee on Constitutional Reform on the constitution amendment 1987, and also adopted a number of resolutions relating to the issue, which, at the request of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, I hereby convey to this House by tabling of them at this time.

I also have a further document to table. I now take this opportunity to table the final report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, 1988.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to move a motion of condolence that, as I understand, will be seconded by the member from Regina North East. In fact, a couple of motions. The first one, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly unites in paying tribute in the memory of
His Honour Cameron Irwin McIntosh, who died September 24, 1988.

Mr. McIntosh was born in North Battleford on July 1, 1926. After graduating from North Battleford Collegiate he attended the University of Saskatchewan where he studied history and political science. He returned to North Battleford and began a career in journalism at his father's newspaper, the North Battleford News-Optimist.

As well as becoming the paper's editor, Irwin McIntosh held the post of president and publisher of McIntosh Publishing Company. He was a past president of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and a prominent member of the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association.

Mr. McIntosh was very involved in community affairs. He served the North Battleford school board for 11 years as a trustee, including two years as chairman. He was a past president of the North Battleford chamber of commerce. He supported many organizations including the Jaycees, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, the Saskatchewan Ski Association, the Saskatchewan Motor Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, Outdoor Writers of Canada, just to name a few.

As Saskatchewan's 15th Lieutenant Governor, Mr. McIntosh took a special interest in rural Saskatchewan, education, and the province's cultural groups. He also will be remembered for his commitment to national unity and to the monarchy.

His Honour's commitment, energy, and style in fulfilling his duties as the Queen's representative have endeared him to the people of every corner of this province.

Recording its deep sympathy in loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Perhaps if I could just add some of my own. I suppose that we all in our own way as members of this legislature perhaps came to know Irwin McIntosh. I think that he was certainly full of life, certainly had the interest of this province at heart, and certainly was a very dedicated Canadian; strongly supported the function of his office, and strongly supported the unity within Canada.

It is therefore, with leave, that I move this motion, seconded by the member from Regina North East.

Leave granted.

Mr. Tchorzewski: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm honoured to second this condolence motion on behalf of the official opposition. Irwin McIntosh was someone who I knew well, as did many members of this House, and for whom all of us had a great deal of respect.

As the member opposite has indicated, Irwin McIntosh served Saskatchewan and Canada in a very exemplary fashion throughout all of his life, and he will be missed dearly by his friends and his family, as well as many people throughout Saskatchewan who came to know him.

He served as Lieutenant Governor from 1978 to 1983, and his term coincided, it is well-known, with a very difficult period in Canadian history. During this period, the Quebec referendum brought into question the very existence of Canada as we know it. Mr. McIntosh was committed to Canadian unity and spoke with common

sense and eloquence about this need for a strong and united Canada. He travelled this province and outside this province, and spoke very compassionately about those issues.

Irwin McIntosh also had an enduring commitment to rural Saskatchewan. He believed rural communities to be the corner-stone of our province's way of life. His lifelong commitment to the McIntosh Publishing Company in North Battleford was an example of that belief.

And in addition to his important role in Saskatchewan's newspaper and publishing industry, Irwin McIntosh will be remembered as a dedicated leader of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, an active patron of many cultural groups, a trustee of the North Battleford school board, and a committed member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Throughout all of his life, Irwin McIntosh could be counted on for his commitment to his community, his province, and his country, and he will be missed by all of those who knew him well.

He made an important contribution to Saskatchewan and to Canada. We on this side of the House join with all members in extending our sympathy to the family and friends of the Hon. Cameron Irwin McIntosh.

I said earlier that I knew him well because of many occasions in which I had to travel with him to attend at functions and ceremonies. And one incident that stands out in my mind was when I . . . one of the first opportunities in which I had to spend some time with Mr. McIntosh was the enthusiasm and the excitement and the pride when he took us around, myself and some other people, on a tour of Table Mountain ski facility near North Battleford, which he was very instrumental in developing.

So I have that personal memory. And on behalf of members opposite, I join with members . . . on behalf of members on this side of the House, I join with members opposite in extending again our sympathies to the family and friends of Irwin McIntosh.

(1045)

Mr. Anguish: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to offer a few words. I served as Irwin McIntosh's member of parliament and also as his member of the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to add my words to the condolences in honour of Irwin McIntosh here today.

Certainly Irwin McIntosh served many organizations that were concerned with conservation and history and freedoms. He often promoted these community causes that he held dear through the News-Optimist, a paper that was owned by the McIntosh family through McIntosh Publishing Company. And Irwin McIntosh always held a keen interest in politics. He never did hesitate to express his political views to other people.

Irwin McIntosh was a proud man. He was proud of his family, his community, and his province, and also proud of his country.

I know that Irwin McIntosh held his father in very high regard. I never had the honour of knowing Irwin McIntosh's father, but Irwin McIntosh's father served as a Liberal member of parliament. Irwin, I know, was proud of the fact that the community of Dorintosh in north-western Saskatchewan in part was named after his father. The name Dorintosh was derived from Mr. McIntosh as a member of parliament, well-known, and one of his political opponents, a lady by the name of Doris Nielsen. And therefore came about the name of Dorintosh.

I would also invite people in the future to look at Irwin McIntosh's portrait hanging in the gallery here in this Legislative Assembly. Irwin McIntosh has the only portrait that has in fact two portraits within the portrait. He has his own portrait, and over his shoulder is a picture of his father as a young man.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that Irwin McIntosh was dedicated and loyal to the many groups that he

honoured by his association. And today, Mr. Speaker, I know that the emotions of sorrow at such a loss cannot be denied, but the life of Irwin McIntosh should be celebrated for his greatness.

And today I would like to join in the official condolences to the McIntosh family -- to his wife Barbara Lee, to his son Bill, and to his daughters Jean Anne and Becky. Thank you.

Mr. Hopfner: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with my colleagues of this Assembly in passing on condolences to the McIntosh family.

I do not pretend to have known Irwin McIntosh all my life. I basically came to know him when I first became elected to this legislature. Irwin was a neighbour to my constituency in The Battlefords, Mr. Speaker. And as I came to know him, I always looked at Irwin as kind of a fairly prestigious type of person; that I can remember as a rookie member, that I felt, should I approach this man or should I not approach this man. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to indicate to you that Irwin made that particular decision fairly easy for me.

As I said, I regarded him as a very prestigious individual. But although he had that prestigious outline about him, Irwin liked to consider himself as a very ordinary individual. He could stop and talk to anyone, carry on a conversation about just about anything because of his involvement at the very local level and the very grass root in the community in which he served, actually throughout Saskatchewan and Canada.

It's always regrettable to lose people such as Irwin, and it's regrettable to this fact, that he was never a person to sit down and take anything lightly. He enjoyed people, he enjoyed working, and he enjoyed serving the public.

I guess probably if there's any success that any one man or any one individual can have, it's that respect of his friends and the public that he served. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that Irwin McIntosh, as he may be listening to us speak, I'm sure he's got that smile on his face because I know in my heart that everyone that he's ever touched on this face of the earth has had a total dedicated respect towards this individual.

I, Mr. Speaker, would like to pass my condolences on to the family and indicate to them that we will miss him. All the people of this country will miss him. Thank you.

Mr. Brockelbank: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to take a few moments to contribute some words of recollection on behalf of Irwin McIntosh. Irwin McIntosh's term as the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan overlapped in great part with my term as a speaker of this Legislative Assembly. And therefore during that time when I was a speaker, he was the Lieutenant Governor. We met on many occasions in a formal way, and it was always a pleasant experience to meet with Irwin McIntosh.

Someone else has previously mentioned that he enjoyed skiing and in fact was one of the proponents of Table Mountain skiing area. And I can recall on many occasions skiing with Irwin McIntosh and Barbara Lee at Table Mountain. It happened that we coincidentally arrived there and we met on the slopes and skied. And I know that Irwin McIntosh enjoyed the Table Mountain facility. He had a part in its creation and flowering, and it was always a pleasant experience to meet with Irwin McIntosh on an informal basis as well.

The life of a Lieutenant Governor and a speaker of any Assembly would have some parallels. Each occupant of the position must strive, as much as it is possible within their being, to reach a degree of impartiality which will be acknowledged by the people they serve. That's not an easy task but I know that Irwin McIntosh accomplished that in his service as a Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Irwin McIntosh was a person who enjoyed a good story, and if I was able to communicate, if I am able to communicate a story to Irwin McIntosh, I would say to him -- Irwin, every time you visited this Chamber, I got up and gave you my chair.

Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly I move, seconded by the member from Regina North East:

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

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Yes, Mr. Speaker, again with leave of the Assembly, I move, seconded by the member from Regina North East, and in this motion will be a condolence order, or motion, involving four previous members that sat in this Chamber. And I will go through those in order and then we will deal with each, and each member can speak to the entire motion or to various individuals.

This is the manner by which this motion has been prepared, and I just wanted to advance that to the House before I moved it that way. Perhaps if there's any comments . . . As I understand it the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I understand this is the proper motion. I've simply been handed this motion to deliver.

What I would do is one motion. We will deal with each individual as we go, but still in the same motion.

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of four former members of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contributions they made to their community, their constituencies, and the province.

Mr. Isidore Charles Nollet, who died in Kelowna, British Columbia, on April 29, 1988, was a member of this Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Cut Knife from 1944 to 1967. Better known as Toby, Mr. Nollet was born in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota, on November 18, 1898.

He was educated at St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minnesota. During the First War, he enlisted in the American army and served overseas as a non-commissioned officer. After the war, Mr. Nollet and his father immigrated to Canada, first to British Columbia, and then in 1921 to Saskatchewan. Mr. Nollet established a ranch at Freemont. In 1933, he married Peggy Chicilo of Glenwood City, Wisconsin.

Mr. Nollet belonged to the wheat pool, various co-operative associations, and the Royal Canadian Legion. He began his public life as a reeve of Hillsdale, being elected three times. In 1941 he ran unsuccessfully as a candidate for the federal seat of The Battlefords. In 1944 he was elected to this Assembly and named as deputy speaker. In 1946 he was appointed minister of Agriculture, a post he held continuously for the next 18 and one-half years. When he retired from politics in 1967, he moved to Kelowna.

This is the first part of a four-part motion, and I would propose that I would stop at this point in time and allow members of the Assembly that wish to speak to this part of the motion, to speak to the motion now. And perhaps in so doing the transcript, as it would be presented, will be in a common body.

Mr. Upshall: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I wanted to be speaking to this motion. All members of the Assembly on this side join with you in offering our condolences to the family and friends of the late Mr. Nollet, a man of co-operative ideals, his life's work aimed at achieving these ends.

Mr. Nollet was actively involved in the United Farmers of Canada and organizing the Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited. Mr. Nollet was a founding member of the farm labour party, and when the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) was founded, became an active member. He was first elected to represent the Cut Knife constituency in 1944, and served as its representative until 1967.

During his lengthy term as an MLA for Cut Knife, Toby Nollet was a true friend of the farming community. For many years he held the post of agricultural minister. His contributions to the farming industry were innovative and have helped to shape the industry into its present-day form.

The list is lengthy and aptly reflects the lasting difference Mr. Nollet made to this province's farming community. They include crop insurance, extension of water and sewage system to farms, water conservation and development, forage and pasture development, and the South Saskatchewan River dam, as well as many, many other important and lasting contributions.

Always an innovator, and always a man that stood for the co-operative ideals that built this province and made it into the place so many of us are proud of to call home.

We join with the Premier and the members opposite in extending our sympathy to family and friends.

(1100)

Mr. Hopfner: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join again with all members of this Assembly in passing the condolence on to the Toby Nollet family.

Mr. Speaker, I will admit that I have never met the man, Toby Nollet, and in representing the Cut Knife-Lloydminster constituency in which it is now, I do know this much: Mr. Speaker, as member of Cut Knife and area, I know that when I ran as a member of this Legislative Assembly, that Toby Nollet's name came up on several occasions. I know, Mr. Speaker, that when Toby was mentioned to me in conversation, he was a person's person is what was related to me.

Toby was an individual, from my understanding from the people that have met him and the people he represented, that again, whenever he himself was in his riding away from the legislature here, he would take the time of day to stop and speak to anyone and everyone about anything. He had time for people, and he enjoyed that particular part of his public life.

He served the people well. In fact, when I talk to people of various persuasions in politics and party affiliations, individuals have always and often told me that they weren't quite sure of Toby's politics because of the fact that he could understand and would chat with anyone about any concern, regardless of their political affiliation. He was, as I said, a person's person, in that it didn't matter what kind of a problem an individual would have had, he would have taken the time to try and help that individual.

Toby was very sincere. He had brought about in that particular area a great love towards this Assembly, because he was a very professional individual. He brought the respect of his government at that particular time to that area.

Toby and his family have made many sacrifices. Those sacrifices were long hours of Toby being away from his home, and through that, you know, when you talk about the serving, the family themselves made a great sacrifice. And now with Toby and his reputation in the particular constituency of Cut Knife, it's fairly difficult to keep up with that type of a reputation. And I know that the people out in that particular district are going to miss the fact of a man that has served that area well, and miss the fact that they will no longer have him in their midst.

I know that with the respect that he has brought about to himself, Mr. Speaker, is that I would like to salute Toby

Nollet and pass on to his family the condolence on behalf of the residents in the Cut Knife constituency.

Mr. Brockelbank: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to rise and say a few words on behalf of myself and probably all members of the House, with regard to Toby Nollet.

I knew Toby Nollet reasonably well, and as a matter of fact he was a contemporary of mine. He was also a contemporary of my father's. The last three years of Mr. Nollet's life as a member of the legislature and the last three years of my father's life as a member of the legislature coincided with the first three years of my life in this Legislative Assembly. Therefore, I met Toby Nollet on a number of occasions informally, formally here in the Chamber, and politically, and learned to appreciate the qualities of Toby Nollet.

I think it can be safely said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Toby Nollet was a landmark in Saskatchewan politics. He served 23 unbroken years in this Legislative Assembly. He was the minister of Agriculture for about 18 years. I doubt if there are many former ministers of Agriculture that have served that long and held the confidence of the people of Saskatchewan that long, and held the confidence of the premier of the province that long as a minister of Agriculture. I would be surprised if there are any that would exceed that record of confidence.

And that's what people had in Toby Nollet. They had confidence in him, whether it was the people in his constituency or the Government of Saskatchewan. They recognized the sterling qualities of a person like Toby Nollet.

I felt that I must say that about Mr. Nollet. I know that he was a participant in his community. He served in various capacities, volunteering his abilities to the people of his area of Saskatchewan. And that, I'm sure, contributed to making him a success as he moved, as we would say, up the ladder to a member of the Legislative Assembly and to cabinet minister in the province of Saskatchewan.

I want to join with all other members in extending sincere condolences to the members of the Nollet family. I appreciated the opportunity to serve with Toby Nollet.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Mr. Speaker, the next former member I would like to refer to is one:

Mr. John Harrop, who died in Creston, British Columbia on September 22, 1988, as a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Athabasca, from 1956 to 1960.

He was born in Alameda in 1910, married Myrtle Salter in 1938. Mr. Harrop was an accountant who began his career with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 1927. After losing his job during the Depression, he joined the CCF Research Bureau. In the late 1930s he was an accountant and treasurer for the Regina Co-operative Association. He served five years with the RCAF during the war and returned to his accounting practice in 1946.

After moving to Uranium City in 1953 to manage a hotel, Mr. Harrop entered politics and was elected in 1956. In 1960 he did not seek re-election and moved to Ontario. Soon after, he returned to Saskatchewan to work for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation where he remained employed until his retirement in 1975.

Mr. Harrop was an avid golfer and curler who belonged to many sports organizations.

Mr. Thompson: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to join with other members of this Assembly in recognizing the contributions that John J. Harrop made to this Assembly and to his constituents.

I did not know Mr. Harrop personally. I do represent a large part of the old Athabasca constituency, a constituency that covered one-third of the province of Saskatchewan, from the Alberta border to the Manitoba border, from the Northwest Territories border to south of La Ronge. As John Harrop said, and I quote, "I would

venture to guess that it contains over one-third of the total wealth of the province." And he was right in that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

John Harrop, in his quiet and sincere way, worked very hard for his constituents and this province. Having a large northern constituency, John Harrop found out that getting his message to the southern politicians was not always an easy job. As he confided in two close friends and constituents, Lawrence and Murray Milburn of Beauval, and I quote, "Sometimes I feel like a voice crying in the wilderness."

However, that never stopped John Harrop from fighting for what he believed in, and that was a fair and just society for all. I join with all members in extending my condolences to the Harrop family.

Mr. Trew: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to join my colleagues in honouring John Harrop today. John Harrop was a family man. He was a brother, father, grandfather, and a great grandfather, who was also for a period of time a constituent of mine. Mr. Harrop and his family were honoured and proud that John Harrop had been called to serve the people of Saskatchewan as the MLA for Athabasca.

John Harrop was an MLA in the heady days when medicare was about to become a reality in Saskatchewan. In response to the throne speech in 1957, Mr. Harrop spoke with a great vision of the need for northern development that included people and funding for northern Saskatchewan. He was advocating job creation and other development of mining for the benefit of northern residents. He advocated, at the time, roads through northern Saskatchewan so that fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, fresh meat, and other supplies and necessities could be more economically supplied to the northern people, his constituents. As well, those roads would be used for opening up mining.

It was very clear from the things I was able to glean from his speeches that he understood his constituency very well, and he cared and he spoke out for the people that he was elected to represent.

I'm honoured today to join my legislative colleagues in remembering John Harrop. I wish for his family and friends the ability to keep the many good memories of John Harrop alive for many years.

Mr. Solomon: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleagues, the member from Athabasca and the member from Regina North, in remembering John Harrop. I first met John in 1979 during the North West by-election nomination race. John was a constituent of mine from that point forward after I was elected.

Prior to the by-election in 1979, I spent an hour or two with John and reminisced with him about some of the challenges that he had faced when he was an elected member in this Assembly in the 1950s. John was a very keen person. He was very interested in politics and in current affairs and ended up coming to the nomination convention in 1979. He didn't indicate at that time who he was going to be supporting, but I found out later on from his wife Myrt that he and Myrt both supported me for the nomination, simply because of one statement that I had made during the course of my remarks in the nomination speeches, and that was a reference to the CCF. His roots were so deep into the community of Saskatchewan and so deep in the party that he felt that anyone who remembered and promoted the principles of the CCF was worthy of his support. His wife Myrt, who predeceased John, was also a very strong supporter of the party. She, in fact, worked for the New Democratic Party provincial office for about 10 years in the '60s and early '70s.

And I would like at this point to convey my personal condolences to the Harrop family and express my deepest sympathies to them.

Mr. Brockelbank: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say a few words on behalf of John Harrop. I knew Johnny Harrop. He was a contemporary of my father, and I suppose that's primarily how I had met him. I'd met him on a number of occasions and got to know him well enough to understand that he was a sincere and dedicated person to his ideals, which happened to coincide with mine, and I know that he put faithful and

dedicated service into the job of being a member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

(1115)

I, the same as the previous speaker, knew his wife Myrt, as well, and appreciated both of them. They were very nice people, and I felt that I could commend them to anyone.

It's with a feeling of regret that we arrive at this point when we must acknowledge that he has passed from among us; however, his memory will live on with many of us for a long time into the future. I appreciated the opportunity to know and visit with Johnny Harrop over the years that we knew each other.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would deal with:

Mr. Arthur T. Stone, who died December 31, 1988, was a member of this Legislative Assembly, representing the constituency of Saskatoon City from 1944 to 1964. He was born October 18, 1897, in Croydon, England, where he graduated from Selhurst Grammar School. In 1913 he immigrated with his parents to Saskatoon.

He worked for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway before moving to Winnipeg to apprentice as a machinist. In 1921 he married Kathleen Walkling and returned to Saskatoon to work with the Canadian National Railway. He was active with the railroad machinists' union and was elected vice-president of the Saskatchewan Trades and Labour Council.

Beginning in 1944, he won the Saskatoon City seat in this Assembly and held that seat in five consecutive elections.

In his youth, Mr. Stone was a noted soccer player, he was an avid golfer, and he enjoyed gardening. After his retirement in 1964, Mr. Stone did much community work.

Ms. Atkinson: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to join with the government in recognizing the contributions of Arthur Stone to this legislature and to our province, and join with the government in extending our condolences to his family and to his friends.

Mr. Stone was a member of this legislature for 20 years. Art Stone was first elected along with Tommy Douglas in 1944 and represented the city of Saskatoon until 1964.

His contributions to the city of Saskatoon and to this province were many. Those contributions were recognized by the provincial government when they named the Sturdy Stone Building in Saskatoon after Arthur Stone. He helped to shape and direct our province.

One of his most lasting achievements was the fight to implement medicare here in Saskatchewan. Early on, he served as president of the State Hospital and Medical League. As such, he laid the groundwork for the implementation of medicare in Saskatchewan, a momentous contribution -- the first publicly funded health care system in all of North America -- quite an accomplishment, and Mr. Stone was one of the key individuals responsible.

The plight of the average person was always Mr. Stone's motivation, and the implementation of medicare was not his only contribution. He was a much loved MLA and was always accessible to his constituents. His home on Maple Street was always open to all, and he was the kind of person that had the common touch.

He was a member of the labour movement. A member of the International Association of Machinists, he served as one of the strongest advocates in the legislature for improved conditions for working people in this province. His role in the creation of the best labour legislation in all of North America will never be forgotten. Art Stone

was a man of integrity who fought throughout his lifetime to achieve the ideals he held close to his heart.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a personal note, when I first sought the nomination of my party in the constituency that I represent in 1982, Art Stone was one of my nominators. And the competition for the nomination was heated; there was a lot of activity. And on the evening of the nomination, we were all assembled at Victoria School on 12th Street in Saskatoon with over 700 people in attendance, and you could actually cut the air with a knife because the situation was so tense. And Art Stone, being a commiserate politician, knew how to lighten things up and he, in introducing me and nominating me, he said that it was important that we send ladies to Winnipeg, and everybody started to laugh, and on reflection he said, I mean to Regina.

Art Stone was a man who I think was quite ahead of his time. He was supportive of women being involved in politics. He was supportive of trade unionists being involved in politics, and he was somewhat suspect of people who'd been trained at the ivory tower, as we called it, the University of Saskatchewan, and I happen to be one of those people. But after a great deal of discussion and getting to know me, Art Stone decided that perhaps he would be one of my nominators and support me in my nomination.

I think in conclusion, I can say that Art Stone was a man of conviction and principle. He made this province a better place for working people. I feel privileged to have known him, and I feel honoured to now represent the people of his former constituency, and I join with the members opposite in extending our condolences to his family and friends.

Thank you very much.

Ms. Smart: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As an MLA from the city of Saskatoon, I'd like to add my condolences to those of my colleagues on the passing of the former MLA, Art Stone.

His reputation as a hard working and dedicated legislator was very strong. He was devoted to Saskatoon city and to all his constituents. He was a working person with a deep commitment to those whose labour built this province. He was a man of principle to whom the goals of an egalitarian society meant a great deal.

He was so well respected that the Sturdy Stone Building in Saskatoon Centre constituency was named in his honour as a well deserved memorial. And it is sad now, and I know it's sad for his family members, to see that the name of the area has been changed to "the Mall on third Avenue." In spite of this change, the Sturdy Stone Building is there, and people know it as the Sturdy Stone Building, in memory of Art Stone. And he will always be a part of the history of Saskatoon, a fine person whose life has set us all an example to follow.

I am honoured to be a part of the movement that included people like Art Stone, and includes them today. And I join in sending my deepest sympathy and my affection to his family members, whom I am proud to consider and to count as my personal friends. Thank you.

Mr. Brockelbank: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to contribute a few words about the passing of Arthur Stone.

I knew Art Stone reasonably well. Art Stone was my MLA; I knew Arthur, his family as well. Arthur was a person who was fully involved in the community of his fellow workers, and that is how he was able to command their respect and votes and being continuously a member of this Assembly for 20 years.

Art Stone was an avid golfer and enjoyed the sport very much. His daughter followed in his footsteps -- Barbara. Members of the Assembly will recognize the name, Barbara Turnbull, as being a champion golfer in this province. And now Barb Danaher continues to be a champion golfer in the province of Saskatchewan. And on speaking to her about her father's love for golf, she suggested to me that up until just a few years ago Art golfed a pretty good game.

The termination of Art Stone's career as a member of the legislature marked the beginning of my career as a member of the legislature, and therefore I had ample opportunity to interface with Art Stone as the previous MLA for Saskatoon City. My term began as a member of the legislature for Saskatoon City before the city was divided up into individual constituencies.

The kind of service that Art Stone offered to the people of Saskatchewan is rare indeed when you consider that the political life of a person in the province of Saskatchewan would probably average out at about maybe five or six years. When you consider that Art Stone served the people of Saskatoon in a relatively strong growth period with a great influx of people to the city of Saskatoon continuously for 20 years, is an achievement of some sorts in the history of this province.

And I join with other members of the Assembly in issuing my sincere condolences to his son Ken, daughter Barbara, and other members of the family. It was a pleasure to have served, following the term of Art Stone in the legislature of Saskatchewan. He set a good example. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Prebble: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my privilege to say a few words about Art Stone, who was a friend and a neighbour to me, and a man who I held in very high regard. Art's service to the people of Saskatchewan was based on his deep religious conviction and his commitment to the principles of democratic socialism. He was a highly principled MLA who urged his colleagues to stand by the high ideals of the CCF and the New Democratic Party, even when the going was tough.

Art had a remarkable record of service in the legislature, as my colleague, the member for Westmount, has indicated. He was elected in 1944 and he served for 20 years, winning five consecutive elections. And knowing Art personally, it's no surprise at all to me that the people of Saskatoon expressed their affection and appreciation for him by consistently returning him to the legislature.

Art was an excellent constituency worker. He would travel throughout the city of Saskatoon, often by bus, calling on constituents who needed his help. And he served them tirelessly and humbly.

Art's record of service in the community and in the legislature will be remembered for a long time to come.

As my colleague from Nutana mentioned, he made a major contribution to the development of medicare in this province, and he also made a major contribution to the development of labour legislation that made life easier for the average working person in Saskatchewan.

Art Stone has set an example to all of us of what can be done in taking an important step towards the building of the New Jerusalem, an ideal that he held firmly to. And I want to join with all other members of the Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in expressing our sympathies to all members of Art Stone's family. Thank you very much.

Mr. Rolfes: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to join with others in this Assembly, both on the government side and my colleagues on this side, in expressing our condolences to the Stone family on the death of Arthur Stone.

Art Stone was a member of my constituency, the old constituency of Nutana South, when I was first elected in 1971, and Art sat on my executive for some time. I appreciated having Art on my executive because he was so committed to the ideals of democratic socialism and to the old CCF policies and programs, and also to the working people of this province. And he often reminded me that when I strayed from that philosophy that I was not keeping in mind the commitments that those people had made to this province.

I want to join with others in congratulating Art on the work that he did in the areas of hospitalization and medicare, and maybe even more particularly in labour legislation, as my seat mate has indicated. Arthur Stone was very much committed to the welfare of the working people of this province.

And there was a number of occasions when I visited with Art in his house, in renewing his membership and asking for financial contributions. Arthur never hesitated. But I knew I would be always in for a half an hour or an hour of reminiscing of the past and making sure . . . Arthur always made sure to remind me of why I was in the legislature, and that was to represent the ordinary people in the province of Saskatchewan. I appreciated that very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to join with others here in passing on our condolences to the family of Arthur Stone, but in particular to Barbara and to Ken. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Pringle: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to join my colleagues in the Assembly in acknowledging the contribution and the passing of Mr. Arthur Stone. I did not personally know Mr. Stone, but I certainly am well aware of his work and have worked in the building, worked for many years in the building in Saskatoon that is named after Mr. Stone. I am aware of his long and dedicated contributions in this Chamber, in his community, and in the province as a whole. Mr. Stone's son, Ken, and family live in my riding of Saskatoon Eastview, and they're good friends of mine.

Again to them, I join with all colleagues in the House in sending my condolences to the entire Stone family and friends. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. J. Herbert Staveley, who died in Victoria, British Columbia, January 6, 1989, was a member of this legislature for the constituency of Weyburn from 1961 to 1964. Mr. Staveley was born 1909. He received his education in Weyburn where he won the Governor General's Gold Medal for academic excellence. After graduation he took a position with the Staveley family business.

Mr. Staveley was a member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and the Agricultural Institute of Canada. He was a Mason and a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church in Weyburn. As well, he was a very active executive member of a variety of community organizations. Mr. Staveley served as chairman of the Weyburn hospital board. He was an alderman before being elected as mayor. He was involved with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. Mr. Staveley was elected to this legislature in a by-election in 1961. After retiring, Mr. Staveley moved to Calgary in 1972, where he resided at the time of his passing.

Hon. Mr. Hepworth: -- Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to spend a few moments in tribute to Mr. Staveley.

He, as has been pointed out, served as member of the Legislative Assembly for Weyburn constituency. It wasn't during a time that I lived in Weyburn or Weyburn and area, so I can't say that I knew him personally, but certainly one didn't have to know him personally to know that he was a highly regarded man in Weyburn and area. I moved to Weyburn in 1973, and very soon thereafter I was well aware of how highly regarded this man was, what he meant to the business life of Weyburn, what he meant to the community and cultural life of Weyburn, and what he had done in public service. In fact, I think one could say genuinely that Mr. Staveley was a legend in his time in the city of Weyburn.

His business roots and that of the family were widespread and deep, entailed a number of areas, but certainly farm land was part of that. His public service, as well, obviously had been an MLA, but prior to that time had served on the hospital board, had been active in community associations, had served as an alderman, and ultimately served as mayor of the city of Weyburn as well.

So I think you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the man, because he was highly regarded, was looked to for this kind of public service and willingly took it on, even though he was a busy individual.

So I would just join with other members of the legislature in extending our condolences to his family and the friends of Mr. Staveley.

Mr. Shillington: -- Thank you very much. It's a sign of the passing years in here that I think this is one member that no member of our opposition has actually served with.

I had met Mr. Staveley. It's also a sign, I guess, of how times change, that when he was elected he was then elected in what was hostile country for the Liberals -- Weyburn. Weyburn had been represented by Premier Douglas, and on Mr. Staveley's leaving, it was then represented by Auburn Pepper. He served an interlude, and in a very difficult period in Saskatchewan politics, during the medicare crisis, so while his term of office was not as long as some, he served during one of the most traumatic, perhaps is the word, period in Saskatchewan history.

He had a record of community service that was enviable, had served not only on the city council in Weyburn, had served in the hospitals and served in his community, and was well regarded by the community in which he lived. Those in which he lived said of him, a fine man and a fine person. And so he was.

He served in here and served for a few years; did not serve during a period of time when the Liberals were in office. They were in opposition then, so he did not experience the frustrations that sometimes go with government, and the limitations that are sometimes placed on electors when they actually get to hold the reins of power.

I want to extend, on behalf of the official opposition, our deep condolences to the Staveley family, and to express our appreciation for his years of service to his community and in this legislature.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Brockelbank: -- Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had met Mr. June Staveley two or three times, and that would be largely because he was a contemporary of my father in this Legislative Chamber. Other than that, I did not have any more personal knowledge of Mr. Staveley than that. That makes no less sincere my message of condolence to the Staveley family on his passing.

He was a person that would be recognized, by and large, by his community effort in the community of Weyburn, rather than his short stay in the Legislative Assembly. That is being recognized today, that he did serve here, and all people who put in service in this Assembly and have a long record of community service deserved to be acknowledged for the contribution they've made here. Had his term been longer, I'm sure it would have reflected the kind of participation and involvement he had in his own community, and therefore I would extend my condolences to the Staveley family.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly, I would move, seconded by the member from Regina North East:

That the resolution just passed, together with the transcript of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, earlier today a document was tabled in the Assembly, namely, the report from the boundary commission. Members of the opposition have not got copies of that report. And I would ask you now whether or not this is, as we assume, a very unusual procedure, where a document is tabled in the Assembly before there are reports and copies made available to members of the opposition.

I'd ask you for a ruling on that right now, because there could be a suspicion that this is being tabled late in the day on the last day of the week to avoid scrutiny by the members of the opposition and members of the press because of some of the things, in a negative sense, that we would want to comment on before the weekend.

I'm not saying that is the reason they aren't here; there may be other technical reasons. But it's very, very unusual that a report that is going to become a basis of a major Bill in this Assembly in this session would be tabled late on a Friday, shortly before adjournment, with no copies being made available to the members of the opposition. And I would like, one, that you would rule on that note; but as well, that copies be made available before we adjourn the Assembly today.

Hon. Mr. Andrew: -- On to the point of order raised by the member from Regina Elphinstone, I understand . . . It's my understanding that the copies are in fact in the process of being couriered over, and will be tabled and delivered very shortly. Nothing ulterior about it . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, we'll hold back on adjournment if you want, until that time.

Mr. Tchorzewski: -- On the point of order, I want to, for the record, make this comment, and we look forward to your ruling. But it is highly unusual that the Chief Electoral Officer would provide to the Speaker of the House, one copy of the report for tabling, and not provide adequate copies at the same time for distribution to members of the legislature.

If that is what has transpired, and my understanding is that that is what has happened, then there should not have been the tabling of that report until copies were also provided for the purposes of distributing to the members of the House. Otherwise the role of the Chief Electoral Officer who, it is well-known, is politically appointed and also is a member of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, is in some very serious question here.

The Deputy Speaker: -- On the point of order, it is the courtesy to the House that copies are available when the document is tabled. However, there is no rule or legal requirement that . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And I am informed now that they are being couriered and are on their way over.

(1145)

MOTIONS

Substitution of Names on Committees of the Assembly

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make some changes to committees of the Assembly that would affect our caucus, and I would ask to do that now.

The first motion that I would move is:

That the names of Mr. Lautermilch and Mr. Lyons be substituted for those of Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Tchorzewski on the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

I would move that, seconded by the member from Regina Centre.

Oh, I guess I need to have leave to proceed on this.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the name of Ms. Atkinson be substituted for that of Ms. Smart in the Standing Committee on Education.

I move that, seconded by the member for Regina North East.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move:

That the names of Mr. Kowalsky and Mr. Solomon be substituted for those of Ms. Simard and Mr. Tchorzewski on the Standing Committee on Municipal Law.

Seconded by the member for Saskatoon South.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martin: -- Point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You mentioned member from Elphinstone and the member from Regina South. Did you mean, member from Saskatoon South?

The Deputy Speaker: -- If the Chair made a mistake, I will review it tomorrow.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I would move:

That the name of Mr. Pringle be substituted for that of Mr. Rolfes on the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills.

Seconded by the member for Regina Centre.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move:

That the name of Mr. Lingenfelter be substituted for that of Mr. Koskie on the Special Nominating Committee.

Seconded by the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move:

That the names of Mr. Lingenfelter and Ms. Smart be substituted for those of Mr. Van Mulligen and Mr. Koskie on the Standing Committee on Communication.

Seconded by the member for Moose Jaw South.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I would move:

That the names of Mr. Lyons and Mr. Rolfes be substituted for those of Mr. Prebble and Mr. Lingenfelter on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Seconded by the member for Regina North.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I would move:

That the names of Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Lingenfelter be substituted for those of Mr. Koskie and Ms. Simard on the Continuing Select Committee.

Seconded by the member for Prince Albert.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move:

That the name of Mr. Lingenfelter be substituted for that of Mr. Koskie on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Seconded by the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I move, with leave, and finally:

That the name of Mr. Lyons be substituted for that of Mr. Prebble on the Standing Committee on Non-controversial Bills.

And it's seconded by the member for Regina Centre.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 11:53 a.m.