

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

ORAL QUESTIONS

Federal Funding for Agriculture

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again want to congratulate you on your new position and just say congratulations to all members of the legislature on both sides of the House.

I want to ask the question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier, and it has to do about agriculture and the rural crisis. I notice, Mr. Speaker, that we have an awful lot of rural members and new rural members in the legislature and I'm sure that they're as concerned and aware of the rural crisis as anybody in Saskatchewan.

As a result of the recent pilgrimage to Ottawa, I would like the Premier to advise the Assembly what kind of support and financial assistance he expects the Saskatchewan farmer and farm families and rural people can get before Christmas. I would like to know if he would table his correspondence and his negotiations with the federal government as to what kind of co-operation this government, the provincial government, is prepared to get into with the federal government. And can he provide any assurances that there will be cash -- actual money -- in the hands of people in the province of Saskatchewan as a result of the efforts of the provincial government?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I share, as I may say at the outset, the words that the Leader of the Opposition, former premier, as directed toward you, sir, and the members of the House.

Very briefly I would answer the premier, the assurances that we have are contained, if these are assurances, in the words by the Prime Minister after my meeting with him and then subsequently 24 hours later in question period in the House of Commons where the Prime Minister indicated that: when the Minister of Finance (referring to his Minister of Finance) returned I would meet with him and the Minister of Agriculture to see if perhaps some programs could not be structured in a way that would be of greater benefit to the farmers. I'm reading a portion of the *Hansard*, the Prime Minister's response in the Commons to a question directed to him.

This is considerable change from the position before going to Ottawa where the door was firmly shut. It is now open and we are now waiting for the Prime Minister to meet with the Minister of Finance and the appropriate people to give us an answer. And of course as the former premier knows, it's been indicated already by the federal people that that amount of money which they have announced, at least a portion of it will be in the mail by way of applications and in the hands of the farmers before the end of the year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary question to the Premier. With great respect, Mr. Speaker, the \$800 million that was offered to the Saskatchewan farmer was there before the new Premier of Saskatchewan made his trek.

What I asked the hon. member was, could he table any correspondence of co-operation and negotiation to provide cash before Christmas. In other words if I could rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker, is what if the average farm family doesn't receive cash? What is the plan and the strategy of the provincial government to put cash into the farmers' hands?

And I will refer, Mr. Speaker, if I may . . . is that, would the hon. member consider co-operating with the federal government in getting the rest of the \$800 million into the hands of farm families prior to Christmas? His MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly) are going to be going home and they'll want to know the answer to this. What about cash? What if there's nothing there. Is he prepared to co-operate and would he table any sort of negotiations that would say that he is, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Speaker, I might add with respect to the correspondence first, this was not an easily arranged meeting. Mind you, we were only in office for 30 days, only 32 days now, and the correspondence really was an attempt to arrange the appropriate meetings with the appropriate officials.

But the question of correspondence with respect to co-operation is, if I may say so with respect to the premier, slightly off the mark. Even the federal people are not urging that from us at all. They're not asking co-operation from the provincial government. They are assuring the farmers and us that a portion of that \$700 million is going to be paid by the end of the year. They don't ask for co-operation from us.

What we're asking from them is what I think you and everybody else should be joining us in asking of them -- more cash paid more immediately.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, a new question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. We acknowledge and the Speech from the Throne acknowledged and I'm sure the hon. member acknowledges and all the new members here in the legislature acknowledge, there is a farm crisis on in Saskatchewan. People are losing their farms and losing their homes; they're worried about their families; they've got financial institutions on them.

My question to the minister again, Mr. Speaker, is: he is now the Premier of a government that has to co-operate. In fact in the Speech from the Throne it says, Mr. Speaker, this government will co-operate with other governments and agriculture organizations to help farmers in a crisis. And if they receive no cash at all the Premier has stood in his place and said, well it's a federal government responsibility. When is he going to pick up the

responsibility?

Will he table any correspondence with the federal Minister of Agriculture requesting meetings saying, I will co-operate; here's what we would do; here's what I will do. Would he table, Mr. Speaker, what . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: -- Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May I say before I answer the question again, with the greatest of respect to the former premier, I find it somewhat strange that he should be urging and, if I may say so, lecturing us about the need to co-operate when I asked him specifically to co-operate with us to go to Ottawa to get the cash and he refused to do so.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Unlike the Leader of the Liberal Party and unlike the leaders of all the other parties across western Canada, with the exception of the Premier of Alberta, they all co-operated. It's a little bit too late about the co-operation.

I say to the premier and I say to the people of this province and the members of this Legislative Assembly: the question of getting more farm cash requires the concerted support of all of us. We have the Prime Minister's assurance that he is going to look at the question of all the programs, I presume within the next several days, in order to provide us with an answer thereto.

I take the Prime Minister at his word. They say the application forms are in the mail. A portion of the 700 million that the farmers had will be forthcoming. Let's now make sure that that's delivered. They've never asked us for co-operation. We asked for more money. And I repeat again to all the members of the House, let's keep the eye on the ball. It's Ottawa's responsibility. Let's get the money to us as quickly as possible.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new question to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned to the hon. member -- and I'd just call to his attention -- he responded about co-operation. Mr. Speaker, we have and I think history will record, with co-operation and effort, generated something like \$13 billion for farmers from the federal government. My trip, Mr. Speaker, resulted in \$800 million.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask the hon. member -- his trip has resulted in nothing so far -- what if Saskatchewan farmers don't receive any money? What's his response? What will all the members of this legislature's response if the provincial government, and through the organization and trips, Mr. Speaker, of the Premier, result in nothing? No cash. What's his plan? Could he dictate or table to the people of Saskatchewan in this legislature what kind of hope that he would provide for farm families that are broke, that are facing bankers, that are running out of cash. What does he offer them . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again the Speech from the Throne identifies some other programs pertaining to agriculture, which we'll debate in the course of the Speech from the Throne.

I would say to the former premier one more time that the question is predicated on the assumption that farmers will not get anything when, as he acknowledges by his first question, there'll be at least the Saskatchewan portion of the \$700 million coming to the farmers, according to Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Mazankowski, by the end of the year.

So it's not correct to say that they'll be not getting anything; they'll be getting something if they're good to their word. And they'll be getting the 700 million sooner or later. We think that's insufficient, so the strategy is to keep the pressure up on getting more than the \$700 million.

But I do want to say to the former premier, if I can before I sit down, the Prime Minister of this country has a very simple choice. He either has to deal with this crisis in western Canada now or he has to deal with the crisis later, but deal with the crisis he will, Mr. Speaker, and we're determined to bring it to his attention continually.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary to the Premier. I notice in today's paper, Mr. Premier, that the head of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has already given up on the provincial government and he says he expects no help from the province.

I make that point, Mr. Speaker, because the Hon. Premier, minister responsible for the entire delegation to Ottawa, has said they need all of the money in Saskatchewan before Christmas, and they need more than that, Mr. Speaker. That's what the hon. member said. They need all of the money and they need another \$500 million. And he just got finished saying, with great respect, Mr. Speaker, that, well, half of what I got will tide them over until after the new year and sometime into the spring. Is that what all the members of the legislature expected, Mr. Speaker? I ask . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. Could we have the question? These questions and answers are getting too long. This is the first question period and I will have to be much firmer with the members. Could I ask the Leader of the Opposition to please put his question.

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Premier is: does he have any additional hope for the farm families across rural Saskatchewan, so when they go to the Christmas tree and they go to the Christmas concerts and they have their Christmas together, is there anything else the province of Saskatchewan can do to give them some hope before the end of the year, like he promised in the last three or four months, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition was sitting on the treasury benches and made the midnight flight 10 days before the election to Ottawa in search of federal money, it must be reminded to him and to the people of this legislature, he did not offer any provincial money in doing so. He went to Ottawa in pursuit of Ottawa money because he knew at that time, as he knows now, the responsibility of this is Ottawa's because of the international trade wars. It's a constitutional and moral and economic responsibility, and he didn't offer one penny when he went to Ottawa or even after that, in pursuit of that \$800 million.

We think that part of the policy was okay. We simply think that the premier came back with insufficient funds. And when you ask what hope do we have, I take the Prime Minister at his words. He told me, he told the leaders of the other political parties and the farm leaders, including the president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, that he'll sit down with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture as soon as possible to look at the request of the farm lobby, which was to get more cash available immediately. Let's see what he comes up with.

We're optimistic. He is the Prime Minister of this country. Let's see whether or not he can deliver.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Premier. I'm sure the hon. member understands the pain and the suffering across rural Saskatchewan; he's been across rural Saskatchewan. All these newly elected people from rural ridings know the pain and suffering, Mr. Speaker.

My supplementary question to the hon. member is: he knows as I do, with the offer that we made to the federal government, that for 2, 3, or \$4 million you could co-operate with the federal government and put an additional 2 or \$300 million into the hands of farmers before Christmas, and that is something that you could do. The Finance minister sitting beside you . . .

The Speaker: -- Order. Order. Does the member have a supplementary question? If the member has a supplementary question, then I ask him to please put the supplementary question.

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Premier is simply this: couldn't he talk to his Finance minister and to his colleagues and to the rural caucus under this crisis that got him elected in good part? Couldn't he, Mr. Speaker, couldn't he come up with 2 or 3 or \$4 million to help deliver 2 or 3 or \$400 million into the hands of Saskatchewan farm families, rather than just throw up his hands and say there's nothing else that I can do? Couldn't he do that for Saskatchewan farm families?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would remind the former premier and Leader

of the Opposition that it wasn't us who threw up our hands. We went to Ottawa and tried. It was you, sir, who threw up your hands and refused to come, not us. We tried.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- And I also want to remind the former premier that it wasn't us who prorogued the House and from June until now over 735 farmers went to the Farm Debt Review Board. You could have done something by keeping the legislature in session to helping. You threw up your hands, sir, not us, on that issue.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- I will say to you, the former premier, the Leader of the Opposition, your idea that you've advanced is nowhere documented in any of the Finance department records or even your own department formerly, the Department of Agriculture, not administratively, not budgetarily, not in terms of negotiations, and not as far as Ottawa is concerned either. This was a concocted . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order, order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Crop Insurance Adjustment

Mr. Martens: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to compliment you on your role as a Speaker and I know that all of us are in agreement that it's a difficult job, and we want to assist you as much as we can. Therefore, I'm going to ask and be brief with the questions that I have.

I have for the minister responsible for Crop Insurance a number of questions. The first one being, I'd like to have you give the Assembly here some numbers as to the volume of adjusters that you had on hand on the day that you took over your responsibility in Crop Insurance.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, when I took over Crop Insurance, the Crop Insurance Corporation was in the process of doing the rather arduous and almost impossible task of measuring every bin in the province of Saskatchewan. And they had on not only their crop adjusters, but they had an extra, temporary, part-time crew of 271 part-time temporary people on staff at that time measuring those bins.

This was a very expensive program. It was costing at least \$5 million in budget, was going to run at least a million and a half dollars over budget. It was very ill-conceived and very expensive.

The farmers were telling us, we don't need these bin police out there checking our bins.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: -- Order, order.

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, that's only half an answer to

the question that I gave you. I asked originally how many you had on hand altogether. You gave me the number of the part-time ones; I'd like to know additionally how many you had on hand.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I believe there were approximately 230, 240 of adjusters who normally do the bin measuring, the crop insurance adjusting that's necessary on piece-time work . . .

An Hon. Member: -- If it's necessary, why did you fire them?

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Those are not fired, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- How many farmers have you still got to measure the bins on?

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I believe there are approximately 20 per cent or around 13,000 farmers who have not been measured. They are telling us: we don't want to be measured; you can trust us. We will give you a declaration.

And if you're . . . if, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite are saying that we should not trust the farmers, that we should continue with this expensive program and waste the money, I have no arguments . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- How many of these, of these adjusters, are adjusting today, that you still have on hand?

The Speaker: -- Order. Before we continue with this questioning, these questions really are on the borderline for question period. They are much more in tune with *Estimates* rather than asking these detailed questions of the minister in question period. That has never been allowed before. I will allow this question, but if another one of that nature detail is being asked, I'll rule it out of order.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I don't think any of them are probably measuring today, considering the weather outside.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, one of the details of the plan of crop insurance when we initiated the discussions with the federal government, was that we could not put forward a detailed plan of how an early GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) payment should be made without a post-harvest audit.

Now the federal government have insisted that that be a part of the agreement. I want you to tell the people of Saskatchewan how you intend to audit those granaries and bins of the rest of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, the

federal-provincial agreement called for full measurement within three years, not full measurement this year. And Manitoba has not measured any bins. And Crop Insurance has negotiated with the federal government to use an audit and declaration system for the remaining bins that we have.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- In detailing this, and I'd just like to provide some information for you, in that one of the things that came about as a result of discussions . . . I just want to make one point to you. If you have one bushel overpayment by the taxpayer or by Crop Insurance, can you give me an idea of what that would cost to the people of Saskatchewan? I'll tell you.

The Speaker: -- That question obviously is not . . . doesn't lend itself to question period. It's a question for *Estimates* or a question that we put on the order paper, but we cannot expect the minister to know those answers in detail and I'll rule the question out of order.

Next question.

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is \$75 million. That's what it would cost to the taxpayers of . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. One of the rules that we have in our rule book is that you may not put forward answers . . . questions to which you already know the answer and then give the answer. That is strictly out of order.

Next question.

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, the reason I raise the question -- I want the answer, but I want to explain to the Assembly the reason for my question, and the question is this: what is the auditor going to do when you have an overpayment of \$75 million in your Crop Insurance *Estimates*? Is that going to cost . . . what's that going to cost the people of Saskatchewan in terms of the volume of dollars that they're going to have put out in order to have that problem solved?

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, to begin with we can save money by going to an audit system. There's no guarantee that measuring is completely accurate. There is no completely guaranteed accurate way to get an estimate from Crop Insurance. Well, regardless of where it comes from, Mr. Speaker, an error is an error and this system we believe will be more accurate and very much cheaper to implement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- My observation and my question to you: don't you think that laying off or removing these people from work has more to do with partisan politics on your part than anything else and that, Mr. Speaker, is a representative of the observations that have been made to me by people who are laid off and are being laid off, because some of them voted for you, some of them voted for me, and some of them voted for the people that are

sitting to the left of me, because they told me.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's the problem and that's why I'm asking the question: is it a partisan responsibility or a partisan reaction to the things that you've been doing till now?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I don't know the politics of these people involved, Mr. Speaker. There was no politics involved. All 271 part-time employees were laid off. If there was politics involved, it certainly was not on our part and I reiterate again, the farmers are telling us, save the money. If you don't trust the farmers . . . No more bin police, is what the farmers are telling me and that's the reason for action.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: -- Before orders of the day, pursuant to section 222(1) of The Election Act, I hereby table a report prepared by the Chief Electoral Officer respecting annual fiscal returns of registered political parties for the fiscal year 1990.

PRIORITY OF DEBATE

Agricultural Crisis in Saskatchewan

Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I rise pursuant to rule 17 of the **Rules and Procedures** of the Assembly to seek leave that a matter of urgent public importance now be given priority of debate. In accordance with rules I provided written notice of my intention to the Clerk this morning, and I took the additional step of providing you, Mr. Speaker, a letter explaining the urgency of the farm crisis, as well as a copy of the actual motion I would be making.

Pursuant to the rules, I will briefly state the issue, Mr. Speaker. There is not a soul in this legislature or in western Canada who does not understand and accept the agriculture situation in Saskatchewan as nothing short of a crisis. Indeed there are possible consequences of tragic proportions. And even as we meet here, families during this Christmas season are wondering if they will lose their homes and their land.

If this House does nothing else, Mr. Speaker, during this session, then it must consider solutions to the emergency facing the province and provide answers to the children who are now even in anxiety because their moms, their dads, are worried that they will be off the farm before Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I would present the motion and then ask leave to have this pressing matter a priority of debate. I will move, seconded by the member from Morse:

That this House, in concurring with the Premier's public statements characterizing the agricultural situation in Saskatchewan as a crisis and in supporting the efforts of thousands of farm families

to have this emergency dealt with:

1. Urges the government to pay to Saskatchewan farmers and their families their portion of the recently announced \$800 million federal aid package before Christmas -- the cost of which is minimal compared to the huge human cost of not acting and allowing increased farm and business bankruptcies, continual rural population loss, and staggering decreases to farm income over the winter months; and

2. Further insist that the government accept its own responsibilities and act as other provinces have . . . as the province has in this past, (and) to immediately supplement the \$800 million federal aid package by working in co-operation with other levels of government and farm groups to bolster or extend other provincial farm aid packages such as topping up NISA contributions, more interest rate relief, payment of some portion of GRIP premiums; and

3. Commends the many farm groups and small businesses who worked co-operatively to dramatically raise the profile of the agricultural and rural crisis in Canada and urges them to continue to ensure all Canadians and their respective governments recognize the urgent need for ongoing assistance to farmers, their families, and the communities rural and urban, where they are struggling for economic survival.

I therefore ask the leave of the House to give this pressing matter priority of debate, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: -- I thank the hon. member for giving me prior notice, as is required by rule 17 and I wish to make the following statement:

Pursuant to rule 17(6), I have reviewed the hon. member's notice and I find the request to be in order and of urgent public importance. There being no ordinary opportunity in the very near future for the House to express a decision on this matter, I ask the House therefore, shall the member have leave to proceed?

Leave not granted.

The Speaker: -- I hear some objection to this motion. Therefore I must ask all those who support the motion under rule 17(7) to rise.

Since fewer than 15 members have risen, I must rule under 17(8) . . . I must now under 17(8) put the following question to a vote. Does the member have leave to move for priority of debate? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

The division bells rang from 2:35 p.m. until 3:07 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas

Devine	Martens
Muirhead	Britton

Neudorf	Toth	
Swenson	Goohsen	
Boyd	D'Autremont	-- 10

Nays

Romanow	Hamilton	
Van Mulligen	Johnson	
Thompson	Trew	
Simard	Draper	
Tchorzewski	Serby	
Lingenfelter	Whitmore	
Teichrob	Sonntag	
Koskie	Flavel	
Anguish	Roy	
Goulet	Cline	
Solomon	Scott	
Atkinson	McPherson	
Kowalsky	Wormsbecker	
Mitchell	Kujawa	
MacKinnon	Crofford	
Upshall	Stanger	
Hagel	Knezacek	
Bradley	Harper	
Koenker	Keeping	
Lorje	Kluz	
Lyons	Carlson	
Pringle	Renaud	
Lautermilch	Langford	
Calvert	Jess	
Murray	Haverstock	

-- 50

(1445)

ORDERS OF THE DAY**MOTIONS****Continuing Select Committee**

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That members Tchorzewski, Hagel, Koskie, Lingenfelter, Lorje, Renaud, Serby, Britton, and Martens be constituted a continuing select committee with powers to call for persons, papers, records, and to examine witnesses under oath, and whose duty it shall be to establish from time to time select committees with powers to call for persons, papers, records, and to examine witnesses under oath, and with power to travel to hear testimony away from the seat of government; and that the continuing select committee will have the power to set the terms of reference for each select committee; and each select committee shall report directly to the Legislative Assembly from time to time.

Motion agreed to.

Referral of Recommendations to the Standing Committee on Communication

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- By leave, I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon River Heights:

That the recommendation of the public documents committee under The Archives Act respecting the disposal of certain public documents contained in sessional paper no. 120 tabled during the fourth session of the twenty-first Legislative Assembly and any such recommendations tabled this session be referred to the Standing Committee on Communication.

The Speaker: -- It is my understanding that we can't move the other motions because the committee has not reported, therefore we will move to special order.

SPECIAL ORDER**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Ms. Murray: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for the constituency of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, it is an honour to have this opportunity to move the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne. I would like to thank the Premier for affording me this privilege of being the first New Democratic private member to speak from this side of the House since March 1982.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- There are traditions to be respected in this Chamber, and before I acknowledge my debt to the people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, first, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- I am sure that all members of this House recognize not only what an important role the Speaker has but also what a challenging position it can very frequently be. I wish you much success in your new office and I have complete confidence that your talents will ensure that this House will run effectively, fairly, and with the decorum the people of Saskatchewan expect and deserve.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1515)

Ms. Murray: -- I also wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden for the support and trust that they have placed in me to be their representative. It is my constituents who have made it possible for me to participate in this important and historic procedure today. Their trust is something that I take very seriously and I hope to provide them with a strong and a fair voice in this legislature.

In many ways the constituency of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden is just like the province itself. Our proportion of town dwellers to country dwellers is close to that of Saskatchewan. We have many aboriginal people in our constituency. We also have people of Ukrainian, German, Romanian, Scandinavian, and many other ethnic origins, including the British, the Irish, and the Dutch. Since the constituency surrounds Regina, we have

people who work at virtually every occupation -- farmers, ranchers, teachers, civil servants, business people, union members, health care professionals, and tradespeople of all kinds.

Culturally, we are as rich as is Saskatchewan -- graphic artists, sculptors, film-makers, singers, musicians, writers, and weavers. We have very many talented people in our constituency, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- In my visiting I have got to know many of these people. They are good Saskatchewan people and they have told me much. If there was one thing I learned from the people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden throughout the long months leading up to October 21, it was that they wanted a change of government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- When I was canvassing I didn't need to say much because clearly what people wanted was someone who listened. I listened and I heard plenty. And as long as I represent those people in this legislature, I am going to continue to listen to them very carefully.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- They are good and decent and hard-working, not overly political, but they know what is right. They deplored the huge addition, over \$800 million, to the accumulated deficit that occurred during the previous election. They deplored the denials made at the time to the charges that the public spending that year was virtually out of control. They deplored the cutting of the public school dental program -- a program that was so beneficial to the children of this province and in the greater scheme of things gave wonderful value for its relatively small cost.

They deplored the Weyerhaeuser deal made just when the pulp and paper market was beginning to pick up, yet from which the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, have yet to get a red cent in payment. And this deal gave Weyerhaeuser total control over 13 million acres of forest land -- 13 million acres, Mr. Speaker -- with the government agreeing to build forestry roads at taxpayers' expense.

Talking of sweetheart deals, they deplored the PC (Progressive Conservative) government bankrolling the American-owned company Cargill to build Saferco. If this was such a good deal, why should a company like Cargill not pay its own way? They deplore giving politicians with minimal business experience plum appointments with high salaries and fancy fringe benefits to promote Saskatchewan trade.

In the last few months before the election, this was one recurring issue -- patronage. They have deplored the fact that while many people in this province have seen their quality of life deteriorate because of increased taxes and massive cuts in social services, a few people have benefitted a great deal.

The people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden have deplored the cuts in social services. We in Saskatchewan pride ourselves with some justice on our compassion for those in need. Our climate and often unforgiving environment have always demanded that we show care and concern for the disadvantaged.

For the last nine years we have had a government that has put the bottom line -- or claims to, and been quite unsuccessful even at that -- over people's needs. So many worthy agencies in our communities have had their budgets slashed while food banks have proliferated.

To sum up, they deplore the fact that the quality of life for so many in this province has deteriorated so much that so many of our younger people at the most productive time of their lives have had to leave Saskatchewan to find work when they would far sooner stay at home.

Most of all, my constituents have deplored the huge increases in taxes that the previous government made in the last nine and a half years.

Sure, cuts were made to gasoline tax and ceilings put on mortgage rates in 1982, but with those cuts came the deficit. New taxes like the flat tax and the used car tax were introduced, yet the deficits mounted. Taxpayers' assets in the Crown corporations were sold, and yet the deficits mounted.

This year came the harmonization of the PST (provincial sales tax) with the GST (goods and services tax). And this, I heard from the good people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, was the last straw. All of us I think manage our household budgets better than the province's finances were managed for the last nine years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- And most of us were doing this on incomes not keeping up with inflation and incomes burdened by ever increasing tax loads.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, no one in this House -- not us on this side or those on the other -- need these reminders of what the people saw as the major shortcomings of the previous administration.

For on October 21, the people of Saskatchewan spoke out, and they spoke out loud and clear. What they told us, what they told us all, was that governments that do not listen to the people, that think that people can be bought or duped, such governments do not get re-elected.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- The people of Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, the people of Saskatchewan, demanded and demand to be included in decisions that affect their lives. They wanted and they want to feel involved and part of the process of government. The people must be listened to. They must. The people must be treated with respect. For over nine years Saskatchewan people have been denied this basic right.

Mr. Speaker, on October 21, significant changes came to

the people of Saskatchewan. At midnight on that day the extended PST was lifted from clothes, from books, and from restaurant meals. And already business people report that sales in all three areas are up, and up by quite a bit.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- Restaurant owners in particular found the PST to be crippling to their business and now they see, along with so many others, that there is hope.

Part of the honour in being able to move the motion before us today, Mr. Speaker, is due to the hope for Saskatchewan that is represented in this new government and its new Premier.

Many people have been telling me that this province has been under siege for the last nine and a half years, that the province had changed from the decent, co-operative, and happy place that it once was, that the directions taken by the previous government were out of touch and foreign to the Saskatchewan way of honesty, co-operation, and compassion.

When the people of Saskatchewan elected a new government on October 21, they voted to eliminate the expanded PST. But in so doing they also elected to cancel the further expansion of the PST which would have taken place in January 1992.

By stopping this unfair tax now, there has been a precedent set that this government will keep its word and will be sensitive to the needs of the people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- The financial news has been all bad lately, but I am encouraged that the promise to open the books is being undertaken so expediently. The people in Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, along with others around the province, have the right to know where all their money has gone.

Perhaps after the books are examined in depth, we will be able to understand how it is possible that we are so close to financial disaster even when the people have been so overtaxed.

Obviously many wrong and inappropriate decisions have been made. Now at last -- and the throne speech indicates this -- I can go out into Qu'Appelle-Lumsden and tell all my constituents that we have a government that is going to put an end to the waste and the mismanagement and the patronage.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- It is clear that this government is taking its responsibility very seriously. This government will be -- as all good governments should be -- conscientious stewards of the public trust. The big pay-outs to friends will stop. Government work will be fairly tendered and jobs will be based on merit.

Saskatchewan people and certainly the people in my

communities are not looking for special favours or preferential treatment, but they do expect and they deserve fair and just treatment.

This government, Mr. Speaker, is already providing a positive change from the past. The throne speech indicates that we have a fair and reasonable government that is prepared to represent all people in this province, not just a select few.

The financial situation of this province is gloomy, that is true, but the overall attitude has changed since October 21. There is a sense of optimism that things have already started to improve. As expenditures are made, they will be reasonable and based on needs and priorities. No one, I believe, wants the present debt situation to continue. In response, this government has made getting our finances under control a first priority. Action in this area will contribute to stabilizing our economy, and with that we will be able to plan for the future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- Another area of governmental activity where a completely new direction is needed, Mr. Speaker, is the environment. The previous administration held the attitude that cutting ribbons and making announcements and simply pouring concrete had to take priority over any environmental consequences. Huge feed lots were committed to be built, in one case just a kilometre from the South Saskatchewan River. Large fertilizer and pesticide plants have been allowed to develop or expand in populated areas. A pulp mill was licensed. And all of it was done without full and complete environmental assessment hearings. In the case of the Rafferty and Alameda dams project, this province set new records for ignoring the law and refusing to abide by court decisions.

The leader of our party announced during the campaign the creation of a new provincial agency to police, and if necessary halt, any developments that have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment. I think not just conservationists and environmentalists but the vast majority of Saskatchewan people will see this as the superior policy it is, Mr. Speaker.

It is clear that environmental concerns must be dealt with as they arise. Postponement only compounds the problem. Our party showed its commitment to the environment by proposals announced during the election campaign. I know that this government will continue to develop policies and directions that will ensure a healthy, safe, and respected environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- As I speak with the people in Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, I know that they appreciate that this government is willing to take a leadership role in protecting that environment.

The recent receipt of the Billinton Report is an important first step in developing a long-term energy strategy. At present the majority of our energy sources are damaging, or have the potential for damaging, the environment at an

alarming rate. Oil spills, coal combustion, construction of hydro dams, and accidents, wastes, and increased radiation associated with nuclear power -- all of these energy sources have been taking their toll on our world.

It is critical that we begin honest, open, and realistic discussions about how to proceed in developing a supply of energy that will not degrade and abuse our environment. We only have one world.

(1530)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- The first and best way to protect our world, however, is to conserve energy. In my constituency, not to mention Saskatchewan, we have some of the most innovative thinkers on energy conservation around. In much the same way that we pioneered medicare, through imaginative conservation we could set standards for the rest of Canada, thereby saving energy, saving money, and saving the environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- Mr. Speaker, before I close I want to say a few words about national unity and the constitution. When the fathers of Confederation met 124 years ago, their hopes were high. And as it turned out, their accomplishments were considerable. The fathers of Confederation included great leaders from lower Canada like George-Étienne Cartier and Hector Langevin.

Cartier and Langevin and their followers and supporters ignored all the excuses to be distrustful or hostile toward the English-speaking majority. And on the English side, John A. Macdonald and George Brown put aside their fundamental philosophical differences. They joined with Charles Tupper, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Alexander Galt, and others from Upper Canada and the Maritimes, in negotiating the required compromises that made Confederation possible.

Mr. Speaker, their great work is something we must resolve not to squander. Since the rejection of the Meech Lake accord, the federal government has formulated a new set of proposals in the hope of preserving our political union. The federal government has indicated a willingness to be somewhat flexible in working out a constitutional arrangement with the provinces and other interested parties.

We in this province should not ignore this call by our national government. We must participate fully in seeking a new constitutional agreement satisfactory to Canadians in every region and province. In that great undertaking, I am encouraged and optimistic about the role our province might play. Our delegation will be led by an extremely able and experienced constitutional expert in the person of our Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- We wish all those directly involved in the constitutional dialogue great wisdom, tolerance, and

patience. I firmly believe that this great country is worth preserving. And the people of Saskatchewan should be assured that this government will do everything possible to maintain Canada as we know it and love it.

Saskatchewan is once again a fair place to live. Once again we will have an atmosphere of tolerance and co-operation. A marvellous example of co-operative effort was the on-to-Ottawa farm trek a week ago. It was a masterpiece of organization and effective lobbying of a federal government not sufficiently aware of the extent and the depth of the farm crisis.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- Yes, it is going to take hard work to rebuild this province and to get our communities back on their feet. But Saskatchewan people are not afraid of hard work. I know I am speaking for all my colleagues in saying we look forward to the coming challenges of this legislature. We are ready to work hard for all the people of Saskatchewan. I am confident that their trust in this government is well placed.

Saskatchewan has undergone a profound change since October 21. Confidence has returned; hope has returned; compassion has returned. We now have a government committed to use whatever resources we have to putting people back to work, to making sure that all people have the opportunities they deserve and, most of all, to helping those who need our help. Open, accountable, consultative, honest, and responsive government is our commitment to all Saskatchewan people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- Mr. Speaker, I am proud to move the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: -- I move, seconded by the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In rising to second the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I must at the outset say thank you to the Premier, to the Government House Leader, and to my colleagues in

caucus for honouring me with the responsibility of seconding this important motion before the Assembly. I want you to know I consider it a great honour to deliver my maiden speech in this legislature on such an occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your election to the Speaker's chair. As you well know, my constituency has elected members to this legislature who have served as Speaker. Your immediate predecessor, Mr. Tusa, was from Last Mountain-Touchwood, as was a much-admired CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) politician, Tom Johnston, who served in the chair during the T.C. Douglas first three terms in government. As those predecessors of mine did, I know you, Mr. Speaker, will preside fairly and impartially and command the respect and the confidence of hon. members on both sides of the Chamber.

I also want to congratulate all newly elected and newly re-elected members of the Legislative Assembly. The considerable time and effort and significant sacrifices required to gain a chair in this Assembly are still fresh in all of our minds.

But we know too that the work is worthwhile. It ensures the preservation of our democratic system and it determines who will win the right to manage the public affairs of the people of Saskatchewan. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a very important work indeed. And I urge all of you to treat with the greatest of respect the vital business our constituents have sent us here to do.

I also want to congratulate those members of the new cabinet on their selection to Executive Council. The new cabinet has the obvious energy and talent which will be needed in the days, weeks, months, and the years ahead, and we wish them all the best.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- And last but not least, Mr. Speaker, congratulations are certainly due to the new Premier who campaigned with integrity and honesty along with the theory of putting people before politics. And the people made their decision. Our victory, Mr. Speaker, was their choice, their victory -- a victory that we respect and now we are ready to serve for the benefit of all the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I must thank the electors of my constituency, Last Mountain-Touchwood, for the trust that they have placed in me to represent them. The constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood stretches east from Last Mountain Lake and north from the Qu'Appelle Valley to include communities like Strasbourg, Southey, Nokomis, Raymore, Govan, Punnichy, and Semans, and also includes five Indian reserves, which are the Standing Buffalo, Kawacatoose, Day Star, Gordon's, and Muskowekwan.

Mr. Speaker, Last Mountain-Touchwood is a constituency that every year hosts the largest country and western jamboree in Saskatchewan, in fact in North America.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- The riding is close to average in voter population but there is certainly nothing average about the voters. Last Mountain-Touchwood is one of the most politicized areas of the province. The New Democratic Party membership stands at 1,400, and I'm told the Tory followers showed close to that figure.

Politics is a serious exercise in my home constituency as it is all across Saskatchewan. The voters of Last Mountain-Touchwood are well-informed about the issues and the platforms of the parties. And those knowledgeable, well-informed people went to the polls last October 21 and voted for a New Democratic government as did the people all across this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Last Mountain-Touchwood has sent some formidable people here to this Chamber in the past, Mr. Speaker, including Jake Benson, Tom Johnston, Frank Meakes and Gordon MacMurchy. All of them worked hard and gained the respect of their constituents and it will be my aim to do the same, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, a throne speech is a really a blueprint of programs and legislation the government intends to undertake in the future. If there is one thing that this throne speech does, it brings to the people of Saskatchewan hope -- hope that there will be no more deficit budgeting, unnecessary deficit budgeting, and hope that the people of Saskatchewan will no longer have to suffer with bad government.

Mr. Speaker, in my remarks today I intend to talk about the desperate need that exists to move away from the climate of fear, frustration, and failure we have had to endure for the past nine and a half years. I will explain why we must turn away from the rampant patronage and unrestrained personal greed that characterized the previous administration. And I will argue that the philosophy of looking after only your own individual interests and those of your political friends has got to end.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity now to change the direction away from what it has been. We must establish new goals that stress equity, fairness, and sharing. Our objective must be wealth creation that is widely distributed as possible. We must reverse the obvious mismanagement of government departments and Crown corporations and return efficient, effective public administration.

We have to break the previous government's practice of involving itself in the economy only to assist the likes of Peter Pocklington, Mark Silver, or the Cargill Grain Company, and direct our efforts towards helping those in the unemployment lines or on welfare get back on their feet and become productive members of society. We have to get away from the approach of megabucks for megaprojects that create a few jobs for the construction

period.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to rely on Bay Street to create jobs, but rather on Main Street, Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, there is an immense amount of work to be done and the previous government left us very little to work with. But I say this now with great confidence and on behalf of all the New Democrats elected on October 21 to form this new government: we stand ready and willing to go to work with the people of Saskatchewan to build a better, more decent society for all the people of this great province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1545)

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, one of the areas where a new direction is desperately needed is agriculture. The former premier liked to talk about being a friend of rural Saskatchewan. Well I don't think that we should shy away from debating that point with him, because his record is not as good as he would like us to believe.

As an example, Mr. Speaker, in the 1981 census there were 67,318 farms in Saskatchewan. There are now an estimated 58,000. The number of family farms dropped by 1,000 per year every year the previous government was in office. Farm debt in this province totals \$5.1 billion, up from 3.2 billion when the Conservatives took over in 1982. And the PC government of Saskatchewan had no policy or program to deal with farm debt.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Tory approach was to add to farm indebtedness, and when the payments could not be made, to foreclose or seize assets, putting the farm family out of business. According to figures released from the Farm Land Security Board, 1,121 foreclosure notices were filed by lenders against Saskatchewan farm families between January 1 and September 30 of this year. Since the Farm Land Security Board was established in January of 1985, it has recorded 8,159 foreclosures filed against Saskatchewan farms.

Mr. Speaker, because of this say-one-thing-do-another approach to farm foreclosures, lending institutions now own 1.2 million acres of Saskatchewan farm land -- a tenfold increase over the early 1980s. And, Mr. Speaker, 1.2 million acres is more land than the land bank ever held title to.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, of that 1.2 million acres of land repossessed by lenders, 700,000 acres has been foreclosed on or seized by Farm Credit Corporation or the Agricultural Credit Corporation, two Crown corporations wholly owned by the federal and the Saskatchewan government.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, the FCC (Farm Credit Corporation) under the control of Brian Mulroney and the ACS (Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan)

under the complete control of the former PC government of Saskatchewan, have foreclosed on more Saskatchewan farm families than all the banks, the credit unions, and the trust companies combined.

Quite a record is it not, Mr. Speaker. And I should remind members that it is on this record that the people of Saskatchewan made their choice on October 21.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, the province cannot afford this kind of a record. We need people dealt with with compassion and caring and we have to work together in a co-operation to do whatever we have to to keep the farmers on the land.

Mr. Speaker, the breakdown of repossessed farm land is from figures out of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board and the federal Farm Debt Review Board. In years to come we should ask Tories all across the province why, when they form governments in Regina and Ottawa, 60 per cent of farm foreclosures were done by Tory government lending agencies.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- I must tell you as well, Mr. Speaker, that ACS has not limited its efforts to land. In the last two years, Ag Credit Corporation has dragged more farmers into court over arrears on loans than any other lending institution. In most cases, it is the production loan program money that has caused the lawsuit; and yet it is the production loan program that is one of the accomplishments that PC's say they are the proudest of.

Mr. Speaker, the Implement Dealers Association of Western Canada has released figures showing that half the farm machinery sales and service outlets in Saskatchewan have disappeared in the last 10 years. In 1980 we had close to 400 implement dealers. At present time there are under 200, according to the association.

Mr. Speaker, as a friend of the farmer, the Tory government did not object when the federal Tories ended the two-price wheat system which was worth 270 million a year to the western grain growers. The former provincial government raised no strong objections when their federal PC cousins tried to take away the interest-free cash advance on stored grain, and did take it away for a few months.

And I remind you that the Saskatchewan PC administration supported the decision by Ottawa to scrap the branch line rehabilitation program which had rebuilt 3,700 kilometres of rail line in Saskatchewan since 1977 and kept several lines from being abandoned.

The provincial Tories also supported removing the marketing of oats from the Canadian Wheat Board, even though a sizeable majority of producers opposed the move.

Mr. Speaker, when the federal budget of April 1989 shifted 25 per cent of the cost of crop insurance from the federal treasury onto the backs of taxpayers in the prairie

provinces, and when variable freight rates were introduced, and when a moratorium on FCC foreclosures was removed, the provincial PC government said and did nothing in defence of the Saskatchewan farmer.

Since the previous government did away with the first land bank, then their own farm purchase program, we have no land transfer program in this province. For almost five years now we have had no program to assist the intergenerational land transfer of farms. Is it no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that big farmers are getting bigger, and the sons and daughters of small farmers are prevented from carrying on the tradition that they grew up with.

Not content to misuse and abuse the adult population of the province, the Conservative government of Saskatchewan even cut provincial funding to 4-H's from \$327,000 to \$271,000. What an appalling record, Mr. Speaker, and I think the members would agree with me.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- All of this, Mr. Speaker, is a record to be ashamed of. They continue to tell the farmers that it wasn't their fault. It was because of grasshoppers, of drought, of international trade wars and \$2 wheat. And they kept saying there was nothing they could do because there was no money. There is no money because they gave everything away that made money and mismanaged what was left.

And because of that this province is in a financial mess and the people of Saskatchewan have suffered because of it. But things can be done, Mr. Speaker. The government of Tommy Douglas in 1944 cancelled debts some farm families had been unable to pay off since the Great Depression a decade earlier. The Douglas government also passed a law forbidding lenders to foreclose on the home quarter.

The New Democratic Party government in 1971 passed the family farm protection Acts which stopped foreclosures on farm land and seizure of machinery and other assets and extended protection against having to make payments if the farm family could not afford to, until better commodity prices returned.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was then Attorney General Roy Romanow who drafted the family farm protection Act and piloted it through this legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has produced a number of politicians who are better friends of agriculture than the present Leader of the Conservative Party, and I give my predecessor Gordon MacMurchy as an example.

And I could go on but I think I've made my point. The New Democratic Party is offering a good, comprehensive range of solutions to the agriculture problems it faces. The Premier and the Minister of Agriculture have mounted an unprecedented lobbying effort to obtain a deficiency payment of an adequate size. The 300 million announced so far for Saskatchewan is simply inefficient.

I think it is important to note that unlike the previous leadership, our Premier and minister are attempting to get a payment for the farmers after an election, not immediately before one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Which I believe shows, Mr. Speaker, that we do in fact put people before politics.

We are also committed to pushing for substantial alterations to the GRIP and NISA. GRIP should be based on the actual costs of production as was the Saskatchewan Beef Stabilization Plan that was started by the Blakeney government at the beginning of the 1980s.

Because of the 15-year pricing average provision in GRIP now, that will reduce pay-outs to zero in two to three years, leaving farmers with nothing but a high premium to pay.

The per capita cost of the program is also a problem, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan taxpayers are paying many times the amount coming from residents of certain other provinces.

The New Democrats are also committed to a debt restructuring program which will encourage financial institutions like the banks, Farm Credit Corporation, Ag Credit Corporation, to restructure a portion of Saskatchewan's \$5.1 billion farm debt. The new government will also be addressing the sizeable problems of farm foreclosures and the seizures of farm assets.

This is the start of our plan, Mr. Speaker, and I think it will be effective in treating the problems and will be well received by the farmers in this province.

Mr. Speaker, just as the two old line parties have neglected the best interests of rural people, they have ignored the citizens of northern Saskatchewan, particularly the Indians and Metis populations. There are members in this Assembly, two in particular, who can and I am sure will speak with much more ability than I about the desperate needs for renewed emphasis on jobs, on housing, on education, and on health care in northern Saskatchewan.

But none of us in southern Saskatchewan can ignore the facts. The facts that less than 10 per cent of Indian young people complete high school. Four out of five adult native people are unemployed. Infant mortality and tuberculosis are very high among northern people because the cancellation of the northern food subsidy has made it impossible for low income northern parents to provide proper nutrition to their families.

Mr. Speaker, history sets out a clear record of government involvement in northern problems. Prior to 1944 the North was a forgotten place, but with the election of the CCF, social services, health care, and economic development were stepped up. The Thatcher Liberal government both ignored and exploited Northerners in the 1960s.

In the 1970s the Blakeney government set up the Department of Northern Saskatchewan and really, for the first time, brought our northern citizens some of the good things we in the South enjoy, like the opportunity to find a job, adequate shelter, affordable food, and the ability to run their own affairs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- But for almost the last decade the North has again been pushed back into second class status and third-world conditions. Northern people knew all of this, Mr. Speaker, and on October 21st registered their overwhelming strong support for the New Democratic Party. It is now up to this new provincial government to show our sisters and brothers in the North that we do care. The decade of neglect is over and we are once again willing to help.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, another area in which a new direction is required is in the handling of the public's business, particularly public assets. The whole issue of privatization, from philosophical concept to the reality of the sell-offs, deeply disturbed many Saskatchewan people, and I believe the public had good reason to be upset.

And I want to go on again on the sale of the Prince Albert pulp mill because it is an important one. I know the previous speaker spoke of it. The associated forest industry operation also, a Saskatchewan chemical plant, and the Big River saw mill, the sale of those to the Weyerhaeuser corporation were typical of the previous government's privatization initiatives.

The Tories waited until there was significant downturn in the pulp market, and it is known to be a cyclical market with regular dips in that market. When the pulp prices and sales were at their worst in years the PC government decided to sell, and the sale price of the assets I have listed was 236 million, well below what should have been obtained.

Weyerhaeuser corporation of Tacoma, Washington, also got as part of the sweetheart deal . . . and, Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to ask the farmers in this Assembly who are watching if they got as good a deal out of the former Tory government -- for \$236 million Weyerhaeuser had to put no money down, 30 years to pay, eight and a half per cent interest, and no payments were required in years when profits are less than 12 per cent. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and the farmers of Saskatchewan, did you get that good of a deal out of the former government?

Along with that the province had to build 20 miles of forestry road for the company each year. The province also gave Weyerhaeuser an \$8.3 million loan guarantee to add a paper machine. And, Mr. Speaker, as the former speaker from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden has said, between the sale in 1986 and today, what amount has been paid off on that \$236 million principal? Well the answer is not one red cent, Mr. Speaker, not a cent of the principal that's owing.

In fact the Weyerhaeuser corporation can delay making any payments until the year 2016 at which time payment can be made in company shares.

(1600)

Mr. Speaker, what the P.A. Pulp mill privatization amounts to is this. A Saskatchewan-owned company that had been profitable under the NDP (New Democratic Party) and whose profits were used for health care and education, and that company was sold to a foreign corporation for a song and the government even financed the purchase. That, Mr. Speaker, is how the PC privatization works.

As another example, in April of 1988 Saskatchewan Power under its Tory management sold off its district office building in Moose Jaw for \$267,000. Then SPC (Saskatchewan Power Corporation) entered into a 10-year leaseback of half the building for \$37,000 a year plus half the operating costs. At the end of the 10-year lease SPC will have paid well over \$370,000 in rent and utilities and SPC will no longer own the building.

It was for advice such as that to which the Conservatives paid tens of thousands of dollars to offshore private experts . . .

An Hon. Member: -- Oliver Letwin.

Mr. Flavel: -- Oliver Letwin is correct. Also in May 1984, Mr. Speaker, more than 400 pieces of Department of Highways equipment were privatized in a huge auction sale. The replacement value was \$40 million and the province received \$6 million. What an incredible record, Mr. Speaker, a record of sweetheart deals for their own supporters and an outrageous abuse of the people of Saskatchewan who are rightful owners of those public assets.

Mr. Speaker, there will be new direction here as well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, my party leader has for the last three or four years been promoting the policy of a strong economy based on a healthy private, public, and co-operative sectors of that economy. And that will be the direction of our new government.

As I said earlier, we are not going to spend millions and millions of dollars and rely on Bay Street, Toronto to create activity in the economy. We are going to rely on the men and the women on Main Street, Saskatchewan who are dedicated to the growth and the development of this province to help us turn this economy around.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, economic activity in rural areas must and will move forward under solid planning. This government will build using the mixed economy, and do it with honest and responsible conduct. We will be developing a strong made-in-Saskatchewan economic policy -- you might say home-grown policy -- a policy

for the people and the province of Saskatchewan developed by the people and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words now about the highways, that essential network of arteries that keeps our province alive both economically and socially. This past summer the Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association of Saskatchewan put out a report on the state of highways called Our Vital Links.

Now the road builders association, Mr. Speaker, are business people and citizens of Saskatchewan with admittedly an interest in the highway work, but they also care about the highway system in Saskatchewan. On page 4 of that report the road builders association says this, and I quote:

The reduced expenditure on reconstruction and restoration is leading to deterioration, which is accelerating at an alarming rate.

And later on page 8 the report says:

Our highways are desperately in need of major restorative work instead of patches on patches.

And in case anyone thinks it is only the local industry people and those who are left who are concerned about our major roads, I would refer you to a study done by the Canadian Construction Association in November of 1990. In the executive summary of that national study it says this, and I quote:

Saskatchewan's highways continue to deteriorate at a faster rate than they can be repaired because the provincial government has, in the past two years, devoted just 56.9 per cent of the required funding to their rehabilitation.

The highway situation we inherit, Mr. Speaker, is not an enviable one. But my party has some experience to draw on. When the CCF came to power in 1944, there were 4,000 miles of gravel surface and 120 miles of pavement in our provincial highway system. The rest was dirt road. When the CCF left office in 1964, there were 57,000 miles of paved and gravel surface in the provincial highway system -- an amazing accomplishment for a party that took over a debt-ridden and almost bankrupt province.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today we also take over a debt-ridden and almost bankrupt province, which will make it very difficult. But the task facing this new government is not greatly different. We must bring our highway system back up to the high standard Saskatchewan travellers have a right to expect. But, Mr. Speaker, I repeat, because of the mess that the government finances are in, it will take time.

In a province of 651 square kilometres with fewer than a million people spread across most of it in some 130 towns, 360 villages, and a dozen cities, a properly maintained highway system is essential. It's essential, Mr. Speaker, to keep rural and urban Saskatchewan linked

together and it is also essential to keep Saskatchewan linked with the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just say a little about the financial situation that this province was left in and how bad the authorities ran our provincial government finances.

It is no question that after 10 straight deficit budgets, the lack of fiscal restraint, we are in serious financial difficulty. The main thing during the election campaign that people were telling me, their main concern or one of their main concerns was the size of the debt in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the former government introduced 10 budgets into the House. And much to their surprise, the 10th one was never passed in this House. But the entire speech for those 10 could have consisted of two lines, Mr. Speaker. The first line could have been that the province of Saskatchewan will take in \$4.8 billion this year; and the second line could have been, due to our own patronage, waste, and mismanagement we will spend considerably more than we take in. That could have been the entire budget speech, Mr. Speaker.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, in 1944 when a CCF member named Warden Burgess from a riding called Qu'Appelle-Wolseley moved the address in reply to the throne speech, and again in 1971 when Bev Dyck performed the same task, they were the first elected members to speak in this Chamber after a milestone election. And in both cases they spoke of the great need for change and a new direction by government to accomplish it.

And there were new directions with the elections of 1944 and 1971. The Douglas government moved a near bankrupt province with only rudimentary services into a modern era with the best health, the best social services and education programs, and the best labour legislation protecting workers in all of North America.

Again with the election of the Blakeney government, there was a new direction and impressive change. There were numerous new programs developed to expand medicare. Seniors, poor people, the North, low income working families were a priority of that administration and all benefitted from the progressive policies of the Blakeney government.

So, Mr. Speaker, what my predecessors did -- Mr. Burgess, 47 years ago, and Mr. Dyck, 20 years ago -- I am here to do today. I am honoured to be one of the first speakers of my party to call for support from elected members for a new direction in the 1990s and to forecast positive change that will last well into the next century.

Some of that new direction has already taken place, Mr. Speaker, with the non-political trek to Ottawa where the needs of the farmers instead of political needs were highlighted, once again stressing people before politics.

We have brought honesty and openness to government by opening the book and appointing a commission to examine the fiscal state of the province, and by telling the people exactly where we stand.

Thirdly, we removed the expanded PST, which will save the people of Saskatchewan millions of dollars. This has already stimulated the economy and created jobs, Mr. Speaker.

That, Mr. Speaker, is an impressive record when you consider it was achieved by a premier and a cabinet that has only been sworn into power for 32 days.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- An impressive record indeed, Mr. Speaker. The efforts of this new government will once again establish Saskatchewan as an innovator, breaking new ground with effective programs and services for people, delivered efficiently. I predict it will not be long before the fiscal health of this province is restored and public administration is again viewed as an occupation of responsible, ethical people.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is populated by good people, the best I know of anywhere, and good people deserve good government. And in the years to come with this New Democratic Party government, that is exactly what the people of Saskatchewan will be getting.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to end my address by introducing a member from Last Mountain-Touchwood who has just joined us. Mr. Gordon MacMurchy is with us today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: -- With that, Mr. Speaker, I second the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the debate on the Speech from the Throne. And first let me say that I will be speaking for a few minutes and then asking leave to adjourn the debate as a result of the condolence motion that is before the House. So I will be speaking for a few minutes and then will seek to adjourn the debate.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking you and particularly Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her exceptional skills. I know that she makes all of us proud, and I'm frankly a great admirer of her dignity, her personal character, and the strength of her commitment to the people of Saskatchewan and indeed to the people of Canada.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the people of the Estevan constituency for continued trust in me and their continued vision for the future. And, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am very, very proud of those people and very proud to represent them.

At this time I would also reiterate our congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, again for your success in the past and your courage to take on the position of Speaker of the Saskatchewan legislature, which has a history of being

very exciting and challenging to say the least.

I am also very proud, Mr. Speaker, to say that I have had the opportunity to lead the Progressive Conservative Party since 1979 and I am very proud of the men and the women in the Progressive Conservative Party across Saskatchewan and indeed across the country.

It's a party that has made major contributions to this province and will continue to do so, from John Diefenbaker, the first Prime Minister of Canada from Saskatchewan proposing a national medicare system in 1938, to the first Saskatchewan Pension Plan that we just introduced and the network of community bond corporations springing up all across Saskatchewan, frankly like new spring wheat.

The PC Party has sown many a bountiful harvest for our people. We've led the nation in diversification even in a recession, Mr. Speaker. And as you know, we've had the lowest unemployment in Canada in the last few years despite a recession in all parts of Canada and particularly here.

I want to thank them for their tireless efforts in the face of challenges. And the members of this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, are not afraid of challenges and we will continue to push this administration and ourselves to make sure that we deliver as much as possible to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that a Speech from the Throne should lay out a plan for the people of Saskatchewan. And my observation in looking at the Speech from the Throne is that I would have very much like to have seen, and I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan would have liked to have seen a strategy for agriculture, a strategy for jobs in agriculture, a strategy for cash for cash-strapped families.

Christmas as you know, Mr. Speaker, is the time that can be of tremendous revival and goodwill and a blessing. But it can be also a time of loneliness. And it can be one of the most trying times, Mr. Speaker, if you're under a great deal of pain and pressure.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, a Speech from the Throne at this time in the province of Saskatchewan with a brand-new administration would really put forward a plan for the people that are in dire straits, people who are really hurting -- the agricultural people, towns and villages, people in the inner city, people in northern Saskatchewan, people across this province who need some attention now.

And, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan would be very disappointed to find out that there's still no plan. I look in the newspaper last couple of days and the campaign manager for the NDP said, we're very proud of the fact that we won the election on people of Saskatchewan without a plan. We didn't present to them what we're going to do, how we're going to do it. We talked about the past and we continue to talk about the past. And, Mr. Speaker, we didn't have to talk about the future.

Now we saw that, Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the

Throne. What is their plan for the future? What are they going to do between now and Christmas? What are they going to do in the new year? What are they going to do to help people diversify, to build, to balance the budget, to be creative?

(1615)

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne . . . and the media all admitted it was hollow. It was empty. They could hardly highlight it for the television and for the newspapers. What was in it?

Just a few minutes ago in this very legislature, Mr. Speaker, we said, could we just take the time as a result of the hollowness in the Speech from the Throne to ask the government opposite to talk about agriculture? Will you just talk about the crisis and we can share solutions. Let's talk about solutions.

And due to your good office, Mr. Speaker, you allowed us to bring that debate forward. That motion, Mr. Speaker, was there because there's nothing in the Speech from the Throne. All these new elected members, they want to see help for farmers, saw nothing in the Speech from the Throne -- no diversification, no community development bonds, no diversification, no new jobs, no new hope. At least hope at Christmas time. Where's the hope for the families?

Mr. Speaker, I have to say again as I said briefly in question period, in 1982 we heard the same thing, exactly the same thing -- a Speech from the Throne, interest rates were 22 per cent, people were hurting, farmers were in a lot of trouble. And at that time the attorney general and today the Premier said, well it's out of my hands; I don't know what to do; there's nothing we can do; we should phone Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I'll say we heard the same thing all over again. Nothing that the new NDP administration can do. I heard the last two speakers with respect to moving the motion on the Speech from the Throne, the first and the second. And a good part of it, with respect, was well, the past. Remember what it was like in '44 or 1953 or something like that, Mr. Speaker.

What about the future? Where's the vision for the future in Saskatchewan in the Speech from the Throne? Where's the plan that will say, here's how we'll fix agriculture; here's what we'll do for cash-starved farmers; here's how we'll lay it out; here's what we've tabled in negotiations with other prairie provinces, what we've done for the federal government. Nothing, Mr. Speaker.

And the people of Saskatchewan expect from the Speech from the Throne something laid out that is a vision, a vision. And they said no, no vision yet. This is just to start it out and we're going to go through some exercise here which is a half a Speech from the Throne, a part of a speech. Nothing really in it, but we'll kind of get into the House and we'll blame the federal government.

And in good part what we've heard today is we'll blame everybody else. But the brand-new administration has the opportunity to make its mark and not a red cent, not a

dime. Nothing.

Did all these new members expect to come into the legislature, Mr. Speaker, and see their Premier stand up and say, well there's nothing here and we'll wait on Ottawa, and if there's nothing shows up, there's nothing else that we can do. Is that why you got elected? Are you going to let the old boys' club tell you what to do? Are you going to just say the same things over and over and over again, Mr. Speaker? Is that what it is?

Mr. Speaker, I think a brand-new administration . . . this will go down in history as the weakest Speech from the Throne in the history of Saskatchewan. This is the most pathetic Speech from the Throne we've ever seen in the history of Saskatchewan. And you can go back a long ways, well before '44, and you won't see anything like this. There is no plan, no diversification, no ideas, no money. I don't even think there's a budget, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Hey, Mr. Speaker, I got their attention, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: -- Order. Let the Hon. Leader of the Opposition make his speech. We all will have our turns in here.

Mr. Devine: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate that. The hon. members did respond, Mr. Speaker, when I mentioned the fact that they wouldn't come up with anything to help farmers and yet they were full of promises prior to writing the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, full of promises.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to touch on this and I'm sure we'll get into it. And if there is a budget debate of any kind of budget . . . I haven't seen if there's a budget.

But, Mr. Speaker, they said it was difficult. They were going to help. They were going to balance the budget and help farmers get more, get faster, deliver more, diversify the economy of the lowest unemployment and do all of that, Mr. Speaker, all at the same time. And we expected in the Speech from the Throne to see that message and how they would do it. And it included all kinds of things. And there are two or three lists that I don't have time to read, Mr. Speaker, and I will take the opportunity in the very near future when I'm given another chance, Mr. Speaker.

Just let me say we will put forward our suggestions for a speech from the throne. You're going to see a plan that we build on diversification, on economic activity, on working with other provincial governments -- the federal government, municipal governments. Not just picking on the past but looking at what you do today and for the 1990s and the 21st century; not just living in the past. And we expect this government, with great respect, duly elected by the people, to live up to its promises. And it said that it could do all of that and it would help.

Mr. Speaker, the province needs leadership now not just politics. The election is over. What you need now is what will you do in uranium, in economic development, in energy, in taxes, with your credit rating, with development, with farmers who need money? What will you do? Other than just talk about politics, where's the

plan so the people can take it and dissect it and look at it?

And we need, Mr. Speaker, with great respect, to be careful with agriculture because farmers want to know they're treated fairly. The minister responsible for Crop Insurance today had a pretty easy ride today and he feels pretty good because he . . . I'm not so sure that farmers want that kind of attention.

I'll just say, Mr. Speaker, when you're dealing at \$75 million a crack, farmers want to know that it's right. They want to know Crop Insurance is run well. They want to know that everything will be done and audited accordingly.

And if you can be flippant about \$75 million, Mr. Speaker, then at least you might think about 3 or \$4 million that could put \$300 million into the hands of farmers and ranchers right now, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to hold this government accountable to that.

Mr. Speaker, I have much more to say and I'll look forward to that opportunity. I beg leave to adjourn this debate as a result of the condolence motion.

Debate adjourned.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Speaker, by leave of this Assembly I'd like to move, I think, at the end of my remarks, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, a couple of condolence motions. And this first one pertains to the late Mr. Sandy . . .

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Speaker, thank you to the members. The motion that I'll move at the end of my remarks with respect to Mr. Sandy Nicholson reads as follows:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Alexander (Sandy) Malcolm Nicholson, A. M. Nicholson, who died in Toronto, Ontario on October 12, 1991, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Saskatoon City from 1960 to 1964.

Mr. Nicholson was born November 25, 1900 at Kinloss Township, Bruce County, Ontario. After graduating from high school at Luchnow, Ontario, Mr. Nicholson left his home in 1920 to take a job near Moose Jaw as a farm labourer. Later that year he accepted a teaching position at Maple Valley School, near Davidson, Saskatchewan. In 1921 Sandy Nicholson enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan where he intended to study theology. His family preferred that he return to Ontario to study at the University of Toronto, which he did for a year before coming back to

Saskatoon in 1922. He enrolled at St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan, which granted him degrees in Arts and Theology. At St. Andrew's, Mr. Nicholson became involved in the Student Christian Movement and won recognition as one of the university's finest athletes. He went on to further his education at the University of Edinburgh to become a United Church minister.

In 1928 Mr. Nicholson married Marian Massey of Wadena. During 1930 he moved to Hudson Bay Junction to become the village's first United Church minister. He also became interested in politics and became very actively involved with the Farmer-Labour party. In 1940, he successfully contested the federal seat of Mackenzie which he would hold until 1949 and then again return and to hold from 1953 to 1958.

In 1959, Mr. Nicholson moved to Saskatoon to take a position with the John Howard Society. He did not keep the job long because in 1960, he ran in the provincial general election and was elected to represent one of the three Saskatoon city seats.

I might add that this was the first time that I began to know Sandy Nicholson on a personal basis. Hard to believe I know, a relatively young person like myself, that I would know about Mr. Nicholson back in 1960, but it's true. I got interested in politics at that time myself primarily as the forthcoming provincial election was looming on the horizon, and clearly as the debate about medicare was beginning to surface as the major issue in 1960.

At that time also, being on campus I was very much attracted about the arguments pertaining to nuclear weapons and whether or not Saskatchewan, and particularly Canada, should be a repository of nuclear weapons which the American administration wanted the government of the day to accept.

I might say that I was in good company in expressing my opposition to nuclear warheads on Canadian soil because the late former prime minister John Diefenbaker also opposed that initiative which was supported, ironically I suppose in some ways -- politics and life is full of irony -- by the then prime minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson.

None the less, because of those two known main motivation factors, I became interested in the CCF and got to know A. M. Sandy Nicholson. And at that point I want to just deviate from my written notes to say that I instantly came to know and in a way to love Sandy Nicholson.

Based on his life interests and his relationships with people, you could see this was a person who truly loved men and women in the best and proper sense of that word love.

His training in theology, of course, gave him an added dimension of religion, a Christian religion perspective. His commitment to peace, his commitment to improving the general lot of people in our society, was evident. And for a young student as myself in those days, this was the stuff of what politics was all about -- high ideals, high

causes, the medicare battle which was soon to loom and to follow as it did in 1962. All of these A.M. Sandy Nicholson was a very active participant in shaping Saskatchewan politics and I would argue a bit of Canadian history.

And if I might, as a small, one final reminiscence, tell you that in those days in the 1960 provincial election campaign, the CCF, contrary to popular thought, was not a well-oiled political machine. And television was just becoming to be a force in politics. And the way that we trained our candidates, if I may put it that way -- it's rather funny coming from me, training candidates, at any time but for sure in 1960 -- was to pretend that one of us was a television camera. And my job was to sort of pretend that I was the television camera and I'd be dollying forward and back as A. M. Sandy Nicholson was practising his lines and looking, trying hard to pretend that my facial features were somewhat akin to a television camera. And I could realize shortly why he was not able to carry out his answers with a straight face. But that's exactly what we tried to do in training our candidates in that election campaign.

And so in 1960 I rolled up my sleeves and threw in my hat, as it were, into the political arena with the CCF and basically with A.M. Sandy Nicholson, all the others as well. He ran in that provincial election campaign and he was elected to represent one of the Saskatoon city seats. And given his ability and his formal education and training, it was no surprise therefore that Tommy Douglas appointed him to cabinet and he served as the minister of social welfare and rehabilitation, as it was then called, holding the post from 1960 until 1964 when the government was defeated at the polls, largely and rather ironically as a result of that great medicare debate.

I won't get into the history of that but to keep our doctors' committee and all of the acrimony that surrounded that particular period, I argue, contributed a lot to the defeat of the government and to the defeat of Sandy Nicholson, and I would argue, perhaps biasedly, but I think now looking back at it historically, objectively, we were all the losers for it. We were all the losers for the loss of people like Sandy Nicholson who brought that integrity and that idealism which is so needed in public life and in politicians.

In 1967 Sandy did not give up. He ran again, but this time unsuccessfully in the constituency of Saskatoon City Park-University and then he retired from active politics in the sense of active elected politics. In his retirement though, Sandy Nicholson never did retire. He became involved with the Saskatchewan association for retarded children as a fund raiser. He was also instrumental in the creation of Cheshire Homes project for the disabled.

During the early 1970s A.M. Sandy Nicholson was also active as an organizer and fund raiser for the Canadian University Services Overseas, CUSO.

(1630)

This was indeed a very wide ranging career. It was a man with a great horizon, the big picture and the big interests -- not only that life should be okay and better for all of us

in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan and in the rural parts, but he had the picture on the globe. And even then issues pertaining to CUSO and to the concerns of the hungry and the needy were very much on A.M. Sandy Nicholson's plate.

Well as can be seen from that motion which I'll introduce in just a few moments, social welfare was the very basis, as I see it, for most of the things that Sandy Nicholson stood for and represented -- social welfare. He was a true humanitarian who fought for better living conditions always on behalf of the poor and the disadvantaged. He knew that those who were well off could speak for themselves and looked after themselves, thank you very much, but somebody had to be a voice for the poor and the disadvantaged.

And he fought for the implementation of social welfare legislation, much of which was very controversial, as very often social welfare legislation is, especially if you're helping those who are poor and less better off. But he was tireless and he persisted in this right to his dying days.

And he was also a strong advocate of women's rights. And he sought more recognition for them in politics. I remember that as well as a very important feature and facet of Sandy's personality.

We had in that election of 1960 and in subsequent elections a number of very able women candidates who were in the legislature. I won't mention all of them for fear of forgetting one. Marjorie Cooper Hunt. Having said I wouldn't, I'll just mention the name of Marjorie Cooper. She was one of a strong team of candidates.

Sally Merchant in 1967 came along representing the Liberal Party, is another very strong and outspoken, able spokesperson for not only women's issues but the issues of Saskatchewan and Canada.

And Sandy Nicholson, who both supported within the party and also was in a sense at the receiving end of a loss with respect to elections in this regard, never failed in his advocacy of women's rights. This was a very strong determination and a commitment for him. And I guess the one regret that he would have, as I know he's expressed to me, not lately, but when I did speak to him about it, is that we've been so slow as a society, as a political society, to make sure that women take more of a prominent place in political life and we have so much work yet to do with respect to the equality provisions, with respect to women in society at large. He believed in and promoted therefore a society and a Saskatchewan that was equal, fair, and tolerant.

Sandy Nicholson was very much a community person as well, not only in politics but as we know by virtue of his strong commitment and work for and with the United Church. He was active in church work at all levels, being a theological student and graduate.

Well after Sandy retired from political life he continued this humanitarian work as I've described in a number of areas and he was active almost to the day that he died at the age of 90 in Toronto, where he lived with his daughter. He died rather -- I shouldn't say unexpectedly

because at age 90 that we all should be blessed -- but he died relatively unexpectedly inasmuch as his health was basically satisfactory at the time.

And I think the quotation of his daughter, Mary Anna Higgins with whom he lived in this latter period, was a very good one. She said, according to the newspaper reports, referring to Sandy: he was very idealistic, not what a lot of people think of now when they think of politicians.

And that's true, both the happiness side of the remark and the somewhat unhappy side of the remark. He was a very idealistic politician. I do think, however, that the memory of Sandy Nicholson, his presence in this Chamber on this side of the House, his presence in the House of Commons, his presence with us as ordinary men and women, will instil in many of us, remain with many of us, this notion of idealism, in the hope that all of us will have a little bit of that spark carrying on in us in our deliberations, regardless on what side of the political fence we might be.

He will be remembered as a compassionate, caring person who put the good of others above all else. He was a good man.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

And by leave of the Assembly, I would move, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

I'll not repeat the balance of the motion, Mr. Speaker, with the consent of you and the House, because I've covered them off in the main thrust of my remarks.

I so move, seconded by the member from Estevan. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on this occasion to make remarks of a very personal nature in connection with Sandy Nicholson.

It was my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to have known Sandy Nicholson for all of my life. My family lived in his constituency of Mackenzie which he was proud to represent, as my leader has recounted, from 1945 to 1949, and again from 1953 to 1958. My father was involved in every one of Sandy's campaigns for the Mackenzie constituency as his business manager, we would now call him, Mr. Speaker. And I recall Sandy coming in and out of our lives on many, many occasions.

I have said in this House previously, Mr. Speaker, that I grew up on the Sturgis co-op farm. Sandy Nicholson was a founding member of that farm, and lived as a neighbour of mine through all of the years in which he was able to farm. The co-op farm started about the same time that

Sandy was elected -- the election was shortly after the formation of the farm -- so he was on a leave of absence in the first years of the co-op. But from 1949 until 1953 he was an active farmer. And my youth was filled with Sandy Nicholson's influence and I believe that I'm a better person as a result of it.

Sandy was a remarkable human being. At that time in the CCF, Mr. Speaker, we had as a motto: humanity first -- humanity first. And for Sandy that was a creed by which he lived every day of his life. This was, Mr. Speaker, the least selfish human being that I have ever met. This man would do anything for anybody who needed help. Sandy was always there, and his many acts of kindness and generosity to his neighbours, to his friends, and to people whom he didn't know at all, are legendary in the Sturgis-Preeceville-Canora area of Saskatchewan, and indeed in Hudson Bay where he began his career as a minister. He had a social conscience that was . . . it just totally consumed his being. The best example of a person with a social conscience that it has been my pleasure to know.

He had a deep aversion to war. I remember him speaking in the early days in the House of Commons, by reading *Hansard* of the House of Commons, and one of Sandy's pet themes was the enormous cost of maintaining a military in Canada after the threat of war in Europe had been settled by the end of the Second World War. And I remember reading about him saying in the House that the cost of training a pilot for an aircraft was, I think it was then \$46,000 or something which would maybe buy the uniform and the paraphernalia that a pilot wears when he gets in a plane now, but at that time it was a lot of money.

Sandy made the point, the obvious point that how many hungry kids could you feed with \$46,000; how much good could you do to the needy people in this country with that amount of money. And that of course is a familiar theme for anyone who is concerned about social issues, and one that Sandy struck with real conviction in the period in which he was in parliament from 1945 to 1949.

This was a man of enormous kindness and enormous generosity, enormous commitment to his fellow human beings, and a person that I will remember all of my life.

He died, as has been noted by my leader, on October 12 during the election campaign. And I was devastated by the news. I was unable to go to Toronto for the memorial service, but I grieved with the family and I continue to grieve on this occasion, having heard my leader describe the life of this man, and having thought about him in the terms that I have just used in making my remarks to this House.

I want to convey, on behalf of myself and my mother and my wife, my sincere condolences to the family, to Marian, to Ruth, Mary Anna, and Alexander. And I want them to know how much I admired and how much I will miss their husband and father, Sandy Nicholson.

Mr. Koenker: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to share a few brief remarks and express my condolences. Although I never knew Sandy Nicholson personally, in

some of the reading that I've done and some of the people in my constituency that I've talked to, I feel as if I almost know the man, both because of his experience as a clergyman who is a legislator and because of some of the stories that I've been told.

I've been told that Sandy was a prince of a man, a paragon of virtue and of goodness, as we've heard earlier, always concentrating on those who are less fortunate in society.

One constituent told me that there was never any question as to whose side Sandy Nicholson was on. He was always and consistently on the side of people without power, people who were destitute and disadvantaged, and that's who Sandy Nicholson cared about.

He was for ever fighting for the underdog, one constituent told me. And it's really not so surprising that that should be the case when one considers the guiding principle behind Sandy's life both as a United Church clergyman and as a member of the legislature.

Indeed it was a constituent who had sat through some of the church services that Sandy conducted at Blighty School in the Carragana district that told me there was always in his messages, whether it was a sermon or a political speech, the theme of love for one's neighbour; of the necessity, the moral imperative of helping other people, and the message that we are our brother and our sister's keepers.

And so it's no accident then, it seems to me, that when Mr. Nicholson was elected to this legislature provincially he was made minister of Social Services because of this faith commitment that he carried through life.

I was told by a constituent that he and his wife Marian were literally the kinds of people who give the shirt off their backs to people in need. The truth of this is made apparent in the biography of Sandy's life written by Betty Dyck about three years ago. The biography is called, **Running to Beat Hell**. And I'd just like to quote if I may, Mr. Speaker, a very brief passage from his book that I think characterizes the man's life. And I quote:

Sandy was not merely a man of many words, but also one who acted on his convictions. Mrs. Hawke, wife of the lumberyard owner, wrote: "Sandy Nicholson, as our first United church parson with his young wife . . . to better appreciate the position of those unfortunate people during the dreadful depression days . . . voluntarily lived on a relief allowance for one month. Their diet ran heavily to porridge and potatoes. To remedy these conditions, he sought a larger sphere of influence and entered politics. The daughter of Bill Morgan, the ferry operator at the Red Deer River in the 1930s, remembered stories about Sandy returning home from visits to outlying areas in his stocking feet, more than once. He had encountered a homesteader who needed boots, and he left his (to give his) for the man. The social gospel, towards which Sandy gravitated, required a concrete response to human needs.

(1645)

And there are stories over and over again in this book of Sandy's response and concern for human need -- the clothing he brought to people, of the cow he brought to a destitute family, of the fact that he would call on his parishioners in those days not at meal times because he was convinced that he would be taking food from their table when they couldn't afford it, so he himself would go hungry. Throughout the day he'd leave the house in the morning and apparently go hungry until the evening when he'd get back home, simply because he knew that most families had no food to spare themselves. He wrote: I usually carried a few chocolate bars in order to pass up noon meals. I would make a lot of calls in the morning but walked between 10 and 1 p.m. By the time I showed up, people assumed I had eaten. End quote.

And Sandy was content to have people make that assumption. And I say, what a model for us who are in this legislature here today, to be concerned about the needs of others and not serving ourselves; to be ministering, whether it's out of faith conviction or whether it's out of a conviction for public service.

I'm told by a constituent that Sandy . . . two different constituents actually, who remembered Sandy's defence of people who are on welfare. At a time when there was a lot of concern in public about people abusing welfare, Sandy, as minister of social welfare and rehabilitation, got up and gave a stirring defence of people in need. And this kind of defence of the most defenceless in society, of the poor and of the needy, this kind of advocacy is clearly what characterized the life of Sandy Nicholson and what we as legislators today owe the people of Saskatchewan.

And so it's entirely appropriate that today we publicly express, as this motion does, our appreciation for the contribution that Sandy Nicholson made to his church and his community and this province and the country. And that we ourselves renew our efforts to care for those who are least fortunate among us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Neudorf: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition I would like to make a few remarks for Alexander Nicholson at this time. Although as the previous speaker I have not known the gentleman personally, I feel that after listening to the previous three speakers I have acquired a lot of insight into the man and certainly he must have been a great individual.

And at times like this, Mr. Speaker, it is always with sadness that we mark the occasion of the passing of former members of this legislature. But we do take time to pass what are referred to as condolence motions because of the valuable contributions that these individuals have made in giving part of their life to the service of the people and performance of our democratic responsibilities.

And by all accounts as we have heard so far, Alexander -- or if I may be permitted to call him Sandy as others have done -- Nicholson served his community and his province well both in and out of the Assembly and in and out of government. And that is something to be remembered, and that is something I'm sure that all the

citizens of Saskatchewan are grateful for.

We on the opposition side want to join all hon. members of this Assembly in expressing our condolences to the family.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, the one thought that I want to add perhaps to the discussion this afternoon is that often one thing gets overlooked in this rush of public life, and that is of the families of the members, that the families often have made as great a sacrifice as perhaps the member himself, his or herself. So many times mom and dad are not home, and I think all the members in the legislature can attest to that at this moment.

Here we are again. We're not home because we're out working in Regina, or we're not home because we're working out in the constituency. And certainly the sacrifice of families, I think at this time, should also be recognized. So, so often the needs of the spouse and the kids have come in second to the needs of the Assembly, the government, the party, and hopefully the people themselves.

So in expressing our gratitude for the life and the work of Sandy Nicholson, let me also thank his family for the sacrifices that they most surely must have made in order that his public work could go on. Thank you for this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of Sandy Nicholson, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to add just a very brief word of condolences. I of course did not know Sandy Nicholson, but part of my constituency, which my present constituency encompasses part of Sandy's old Mackenzie constituency . . . I've heard many stories of Sandy Nicholson campaigning by horse and by foot, widely respected. There was never any doubt, I think, about his motive as to reason for being in public life and for staying there. It was totally unselfish, and that is well understood in the constituency, and he is widely and truly respected. I would like to add my word of condolences.

Hon. Mrs. Teichrob: -- Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to add my tribute to the memory of Sandy Nicholson and to acknowledge his positive influence on my life with gratitude.

We lived at the end of what was fondly known as a road in those days, and Sandy Nicholson, as the member for Mackenzie at the same time as the late John Brockelbank was the member for Kelsey, used to come on foot to visit us. And we always talked about the occasion when Sandy and Brock would come.

And it was the end of the road so they would often stay overnight and stay up talking with my father until the coal oil lamp burned dry, about what some possible solutions to social problems might be. We didn't have access to a library, and on many occasions Sandy Nicholson used to bring a cloth bag of books and leave them for us to read.

I also remember occasions when he used to come to what was then the CCYM (Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement) camp at Crystal Lake. He always had time for

young people.

I just would want his family to know that there are many people in Saskatchewan who remember Sandy Nicholson with the same kind of love and respect that he had for all his fellow travellers of all ages.

Mr. Renaud: -- A few brief words, Mr. Speaker. Many of the constituents of Kelsey-Tisdale knew Mr. Nicholson very well from his time at Hudson Bay Junction. This is where his career as minister began and this is where many of his good deeds took place.

On behalf of the constituents of Kelsey-Tisdale I would like to offer their sincere condolences to the Nicholson family.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- I require leave of the Assembly to introduce another motion of condolence.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will again move the motion at the conclusion of my remarks. This pertains to the passing of a former member, Dan Daniels. And the motion will read:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

Daniel Zederayko Daniels, Dan Daniels, who died in Canora on November 11, 1991, was a member of this legislature representing the constituency of Pelly from 1944 to 1948.

Dan Daniels was born November 8, 1907, near Gorlitz where he attended the Ukraina School before going on to Canora to receive his primary education. He then received his high school diploma from Yorkton Collegiate and then attended what was then called the Normal School in Regina.

His career as a teacher began in 1929 and lasted until 1937, the year that he married Kathleen or Kay Franko of Buchanan, Saskatchewan. Throughout his career as a teacher Dan Daniels remained and taught in rural Saskatchewan teaching at Annak, Vionne, Byblo, and Black Poplar Schools.

Dan Daniels was a devoted Christian with a special interest -- and we've heard of this in our earlier condolences with respect to Sandy Nicholson -- with a special interest in the social gospel movement. And later he became an elder in the Canora United Church.

During the 1930s, Mr. Daniels became involved with the CCF and in 1944 successfully contested the Pelly constituency and became the MLA for

Pelly. As a member he took an active interest in all constituency matters but in particular on matters pertaining to health.

In the 1948 general election Dan Daniels lost the Pelly seat but did not lose his interest in politics. He was active in the CCF and the NDP. He was active in politics at another level, serving as the mayor of Canora between 1952 and 1958.

Dan Daniels had many community interests. As well as running a store in Canora, being a small-business person, he was involved with a local credit union, the Kiwanis club, and also served as president of the Canora Union Hospital. In his later years, he served as vice-president of the Saskatchewan seniors' association.

Now as I've said, Mr. Speaker, Dan Daniels died suddenly in the early hours of November 11 at the age of 84 at the Canora Union Hospital, the institution at which he served so ably as president for such a long period of time.

He is survived by his wife Kay and three children, Jean, Luba, and Doug, and his sister Mary Yuzik of Gorlitz, plus five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Now much has been said about the social gospel movement being able to translate to the beliefs of Christianity to the temporal real world. And Dan was a pioneer in the Saskatchewan context of the social gospel since his early days staying at the Hartley House while at Normal School at Yorkton, a teacher at several schools.

As I say, he campaigned vigorously for the CCF using his bilingual skills in both English and Ukrainian in many elections.

I might add that in my early associations with Dan Daniels -- again it's hard to believe, I know, given my relatively few years in politics -- but I actually do remember Dan when he was so eloquent in his campaigning.

(1700)

Dan and the former minister of some prominence in Canadian-Saskatchewan history, Alex Kuziak, were the type of speakers who could start off speaking in English and then in mid-sentence seize a Ukrainian word and complete the sentence in Ukrainian and go for three or four sentences before coming back to English and seemingly not missing a beat as to the point of a thought or even the grammar. And not only was this effective but it was extremely entertaining -- and to use these skills working tirelessly on behalf of the principles of the CCF and this idea of the social gospel.

Dan and Kay's home was a drop-in centre for friends like Myron Feeley; A.M. Sandy Nicholson, the person we've just honoured; Jim Wright; and of course T.C. (Tommy) Douglas. And this group, amongst others, the Feeleys, and Steve Cardinal, really were the backbone, both in terms of organization and in terms of the intellectual thought which gave rise to the power and the political

strength of the CCF in the Canora-Pelly area. Some refer to it affectionately as red square.

It was these people who travelled it all the way from Hudson Bay down to this community with their connections of church and community, their intellectualism, their devotion to social gospel, and the ideals who promoted young people, even people as young as my colleague, the Minister of Justice back of me, to get involved -- and the member who is now the Minister of Education -- into political life. Their influence was omnipresent. It was everywhere.

And the discussions, although clearly I was not there, but having been told of them by people like Sandy and Dan Daniels and Tommy Douglas, the discussions of those groups were -- how should I describe it -- invigorating, to put it mildly; certainly very heated and very lengthy as they debated issues of health and social justice and fiscal responsibility and what the social gospel really meant to Saskatchewan and to Canada.

He served with a health commission to reform the overcrowded mental hospitals inherited in 1944 and dealing with the TB (tuberculosis) sanatorium. As I've said, in the 1950s he served as mayor of Canora, elder of the United Church for over 50 years, and a Sunday school superintendent for 17 years.

Dan and his wife Kay were very active, ever active in civic affairs, the church, music, Parkland community college, senior citizens' organizations -- in fact Dan was president of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association.

Now whenever time permitted, I would make a special effort of visiting Dan, especially in his latter months and years, as he was in the seniors' home suffering from a debilitating illness -- an illness which made it difficult for him to get around but, I can tell you, never impaired his lucid thoughts and his blunt conversation. I remember a particular visit in his apartment at the home prior to the election which, being very blunt about it and without sounding too maudlin, gave me encouragement to continue on, something which I needed on that particular date.

Dan was very active in politics right up to the date of this last election. He died at the age of 84, but he was a scrutineer in the lodge's electoral poll, notwithstanding his considerable physical disabilities, in the recent provincial election. And I know that -- and quite understandably -- he was most pleased to see the revival, as I would describe it, and the defence of so many of the things that he and his wife and family worked so hard and what made his life such a full and productive one.

As I say, he was lucid . . . and one last reminiscence, if I might before I take my place, Mr. Speaker. As has been pointed out by my colleague, the Minister of Justice -- no, I think it perhaps was the Minister of Education -- with respect to A.M. Sandy Nicholson, the CCF and now the NDP has a tradition of every summer having a youth camp of young men and women carry on a weekend of debating the big issues and some of the small issues at Crystal Lake.

And that area, which is in the Canora, Pelly constituency area, has been built up by the people like Dan Daniels and A.M. Sandy Nicholson. There's a hall for the youth, there's some property which is cottage property and there they are. The youth meet every summer and they debate these big issues.

One of the things that I . . . Nicholson Hall in fact is the place that my colleague from Fairview reminds me. One of the things that I didn't know of -- I should have -- is the tradition of the Leader of the CCF, NDP to go to this youth seminar every summer. You have to do it. I thought that was okay. What you have to do is take part in a bit of a discussion and then take part in a question and answer seminar period.

That all went very fine at Crystal Lake which is a beautiful lake by the way, until unexpectedly and for me totally unexpectedly, you are swept up by -- in my case -- many young students, lifted up, clothed fully and thrown into this Crystal Lake, shoes and all. This was the practice which goes all the back . . . I don't know how far back. I can hardly imagine them doing this to Tommy Douglas, but I'm told that T.C. Douglas did it as well.

I commend it to the Leader of the Liberal Party as an invigorating experience when you get involved dealing with the young Liberals. It is a chance to challenge your ideas intellectually and keep them relevant, and also a chance to maintain a sort of a youthful spirit and approach to these very important issues which we are talking about.

Dan, as I say, was lucid and active right to the end of his life. He gave the opening address at the Canora multicultural festival colours this summer and his wife and he acted as the official host and hostess for this important event.

Well in my judgement, Dan Daniels was like Sandy Nicholson, a man of vision -- one of those rare individuals who works so tirelessly to better his community and our community called Saskatchewan. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to him and the men and women who served with him in the legislature, most notably because of their vision of publicly funded, quality health care which was a particular passion of Dan's, but also because that vision of neighbour helping neighbour was reflected in all that they did, all that they spoke about, and all that they did.

And though he only served for a relatively short period in this legislature -- four years -- his contribution far outlasts and outweighs the short four years that he had here in this Chamber.

He was a Ukrainian Canadian. He was a person who was an advocate of the social gospel. He was a humanitarian. He was a person who proves again to me and to all of us that one person can indeed make a profound and lasting difference to improving the quality of life for all of us.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family of Dan Daniels, especially Kay, wife and children.

And I'd like to move, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, the member from Rosthern, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

And with a leave of you, sir, Mr. Speaker, and the members of the House, not repeat the balance of the motion. I so move.

Mr. Toth: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too want to join with the Premier and other members of the House and express some condolences to the Daniels family. Even though I did not know Mr. Daniels personally, I can appreciate his contributions to Saskatchewan. Certainly sitting here this afternoon and hearing other members reminisce, it's like sitting down and receiving a history lesson.

We had a tea in our community for a lady who's worked over the years in politics, just the other day, and there again 90 years old. It's interesting sometimes to sit down and just hear from other members as they espouse or just to let us know what members have done over the years, especially when individuals give of their time to get involved in community life and in politics.

Everyone in this Assembly, those who have been elected for the first time, will realize that to become involved in public life is very demanding, and at times certainly you do give up a lot that, as the Premier has reiterated, there are some enjoyable moments too, even if it means being dunked in Crystal Lake.

Not knowing a person doesn't necessarily mean that we can't express our condolences and show our appreciation.

The Daniels family has, through Daniel, made the sacrifices of time and spirit that are necessary when one chooses to serve one's community and one's province. And I understand that Mr. Daniels led a varied and a rich life. I know that he experienced much of that life in this province, experienced what this province is all about, from running a small business to serving in this Assembly. And those are things that mark a life as worthwhile and commendable.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition, I recognize the loss of the people in the province in the passing of Dan Daniels, and I express our condolences to his family at this time. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to express condolences on behalf of the opposition to the members of the Daniels family.

Hon. Mr. Cunningham: -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my condolences to the family and friends of Dan Daniels. As the Premier has pointed out, Mr. Daniels worked in my campaign. I think it's indicative of his life and his dedication that at 84 years old and in poor physical health he was still active and concerned about

the community around him and life in the province of Saskatchewan. He did what he could.

His wife Kay worked very hard in the campaign. And when I said, "is Dan feeling neglected because you're not home?" she said "no, Dan understands and he's totally behind me and wants to contribute what he can to this campaign." And I think that's indicative of a commitment to public life and a total unselfishness that is seldom seen. And I would like to add my condolences.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again because again as in the case of Mr. Nicholson, I have known the Daniels family and Dan Daniels all of my life. They were themselves close friends, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Daniels. And in the wonderful hothouse of Canora politics during the '50s and '60s and on into the '70s, Dan Daniels was very much right in the centre and remained so actually until his death.

My leader mentioned the occasion of being dunked in Crystal Lake. And Dan Daniels had heard that my leader would be there that day and he and his wife had drove out and sat there and Dan couldn't get out of the car because of ill health, but he rolled down the windows and he heard the exchange between my leader and the students who were there.

That probably marked about the 10,000th time that Dan Daniels had been to the old CCF grounds at Crystal Lake. My memories of that place and my memories of Dan Daniels are inextricably linked and I will remember him all of my life as well as Mr. Nicholson. I want to pass on my personal condolences to his wife, Kay, and to his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Harper: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Daniels, but I have taken the liberty of talking to some of my constituents who were also his constituents from 1944 to 1948.

Their fond memories of him as a man who served, who was a devoted Christian and throughout his life always concerned about his fellow man. As an MLA for Pelly he was known for his hard work and dedication to serving the people of his constituency.

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Pelly, I would like to offer my condolences to his wife, Kathleen, and their family.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: -- Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, the member from Rosthern, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:16 p.m.