

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Muirhead: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following questions:

Regarding the contract with the College of Dental Surgeons to supply dental services to the children of Saskatchewan: (1) When does this contract expire? (2) Has the government held discussions or corresponded with the College of Dental Surgeons or the dental therapists in this regard? If so, what were the contents of the discussion or correspondence? (3) Is a review under way or planned? Who is conducting the review, and what is the mandate of this review?

I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Carol Bryant: (1) Who did this individual replace upon being appointed the secretary to the SaskPower board of directors? (2) Details of employment including compensation and job description; (3) details of employment including compensation and job description of individual Ms. Bryant has replaced. (4) Is this the same Carol Bryant previously employed by the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan? (5) To whom does she report? (6) Under what authority was she hired?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Don Ching: (1) Details of employment including compensation and job description. (2) To whom does he report? (3) Under what authority was he hired?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Toth: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding David Bucsis: (1) Was he fired? If so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of David Bucsis's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for his replacement?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Claire Watson: (1) Was she fired? If so,

was she fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position she held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Claire Watson's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for her replacement?

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I give notice I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Doug Deegan: (1) Was he fired? And if so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement and if so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Doug Deegan's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for his replacement?

Mr. Britton: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Jim Martyn: (1) Was he fired? If so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Mr. Jim Martyn's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of the employment including compensation and job description of his replacement?

Mr. Goohsen: -- Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Gloria-Faye Ronahan: (1) Was she fired? If so, was she fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position she held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Gloria-Faye Ronahan's employment or what were they, including compensation and job description. And what are the details of employment including compensation and a job description for her replacement?

Mr. D'Autremont: -- Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Mark Weigers: (1) Was he fired? If so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Mark Weigers's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for his replacement?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask

the government the following question:

Regarding George Young: (1) Was he fired? If so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of George Young's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for his replacement?

Mr. Boyd: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Rod Hiltz: (1) Was he fired? If so, was he fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position he held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Rod Hiltz's employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for his replacement?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Monday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding Brenda Barootes: (1) Was she fired? If so, was she fired with cause or without cause? (2) Was the position she held filled by a replacement? If so, name the replacement. (3) What were the details of Brenda Barootes' employment including compensation and job description, and what are the details of employment including compensation and job description for her replacement?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Lyons: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and to all members of the Assembly through you, a group of eight teenagers who are attending school at Dales House in the constituency of Regina Rosemont. They're sitting in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. I'll be meeting with them at 2:30 on the stairs for pictures, and afterwards for refreshments. They're accompanied by their teachers Pam Metz and Roshnie Thaver.

And I would like all members of the Assembly to welcome these fine people here this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Implications of the Milgaard Case

Mr. Martens: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today to the Minister of Justice. Yesterday you indicated to us here in the legislature that your view was not that of the member from Regina South regarding the Milgaard case. Now I want to ask you a question regarding the Milgaard and the Fisher case: have you

taken the time to review these files to this point?

The Speaker: -- Before the minister answers, we don't have a member from Regina South. There's a member from Regina Albert South. I want just to remind all members.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question, yes, I have informed myself of what I think are the relevant aspects of both files.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to apologize for that. I haven't tuned myself into all the new names yet.

Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Minister, considering that the Fisher files have been said to either have been lost or not available, and given that the member from Regina . . . the new seat from Albert was involved in both the Fisher and the Milgaard case, and given that the attorney general at the time was the member from Riversdale and now the Premier, and given that the Justice department must always be an independent arbiter -- would you consider an independent legal review of these files?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Yes, I have not considered that. I want to say that we have looked at both files, and I'm satisfied on the basis of the information that I have obtained that there was nothing untoward about it. They were both handled in an appropriate way to the conclusion.

The Milgaard matter had been through the trial and through appeal prior to my leader becoming the attorney general. And in the case of Fisher, that was of course a Manitoba proceeding initially, and he pleaded guilty to four offences in Saskatchewan in December of 1971. But on the basis of what I know about the files, I can't think of any reason why we would want to review them.

Mr. Martens: -- Another question regarding the Fisher files. Is it true then that the files were not destroyed or are not available?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Mr. Speaker, our files from the Department of Justice on both those cases are complete, and they are there. We have made them available, for example, to the federal authorities if they want to look at them in connection with the Milgaard case. And we're prepared to continue to do that. We have nothing to hide on those files at all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- Mr. Speaker, a new question. We have a situation I believe that is very serious and it's serious for our judicial system. We have the prospect of the Supreme Court of Canada looking at this and deciding whether or not in fact the trial was correct, and the aspect of the guidance from both the member from Alberta . . . Albert South and the minister from Riversdale -- it's easy for you to say.

We do know that the answer to the . . . we do not know the answer to that question yet. However, because of these

gentlemen's involvement and because of their involvement in the government and in order to protect both them and the Legislative Assembly, would you consider that? You said no before, but I really want to say again: would you reiterate that you don't think a legal counsel is necessary because of this to protect both them and this Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Mr. Speaker, the matter is of course before the Supreme Court of justice in connection with the review of the Milgaard case, in the terms stated by the federal Justice minister with which the member is familiar. Our files are open and available to that process, to the lawyers involved in that appeal, or that review, by the Supreme Court. I'm not at all certain what it is that we would be looking for if we had somebody come in and look at our files again. I'm not rejecting it out of hand. Perhaps the member and I can chat about it informally to see just exactly what it is he has in mind.

I reiterate on both the Milgaard and the Fisher matters, we have nothing to hide. All of our files will be available to the Supreme Court and the people involved in that hearing. And as we see it, we just let that process take its course, play whatever role is considered appropriate for us to play in that, and let justice handle it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question to the Minister of Justice. I have a reference here about the responsibility to the court and to the Department of Justice by a definition of a prosecutorial responsibility, and a general nature of the position by a Mr. Beck or whoever that is, quoting from criminal law of Canada. And he says this:

that the position of prosecuting counsel in a criminal case is not that of an ordinary counsel of civil law or a civil case, but that he is acting in a quasi judicial capacity, and ought to regard himself as a part of the Court; that while he was there to conduct this case, he has to do it at his discretion, but with a feeling of responsibility, not as if trying to obtain a verdict, but to **assist the Judge in fairly putting the case before the jury and nothing more.**

And I wonder if that in fact was done in this case by the member from Albert South and the member from Riversdale?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member, I think that he has found a good reference so far as the duties of a prosecuting lawyer are concerned. I agree that those are in fact the elements of a good prosecutor and I certainly agree with that statement.

So far as the way in which the Milgaard case was conducted is concerned, that matter has already been to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal and to the Supreme Court of Canada following the original trial, and it is a question that has to be before the Supreme Court on this review. The question is whether or not David Milgaard received a fair trial, whether there isn't any new evidence that pertains to it so that . . . The member from Regina

Albert South is one of the most respected prosecutors that this province has ever seen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- In the unlikely event that there was anything remiss in his handling of that trial, no doubt the Supreme Court will take that into account in reviewing the Milgaard case.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were the files in Saskatoon that are not there, that are held by the police and are gone, are those files in the Department of Justice or are they not in the Department of Justice?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: -- Those Saskatoon files are not and were not in the Department of Justice. They were in Saskatoon. I think I take no different view of this whole situation than did my predecessors in my office, Mr. Lane and . . . (inaudible) . . . You know as far as what happened in Saskatoon to those files, I can't speak for that. We know what we have read in the newspapers, and I can't stand in this Assembly and answer for the city police department in Saskatoon. But I can say that so far as we're concerned, our files are intact and are available to the process that's going on in the Supreme Court.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Works Program

Mr. Neudorf: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question, Mr. Speaker, to the new Minister of Social Services, and I think it's obvious the line of questioning that I will be pursuing, following media reports, in particular the *Leader-Post* this morning, that I was reading about some concern that she has with the previous administration's welfare reform package, and particularly singling out . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- I expected no other response than that from members opposite, Mr. Speaker, but in particular the Sask Works program where she did make the comment that it did not have enough counselling, that it did not have enough training component, that it did not have enough educational component, and then effectively scuttling the program, Mr. Speaker.

And I would like to ask the minister now: why would you choose to eliminate and terminate a program such as Sask Works which is an integral part of the entire welfare package that we have been . . . reform package that we have instituted?

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Mr. Speaker, could I correct the hon. member first? We have frozen the program because the program has run out of money and we can't continue to spend money which we don't have.

I would also correct the member opposite in saying that we have not cancelled any program. What we have said is we want that program reviewed, and we want it

reviewed for one simple reason. What we have seen from that program is that it is a cycle. People go from social assistance to short-term jobs to unemployment, back to social assistance. The approach of this government is to have long-term solutions to poverty.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- We want to see these people move from social assistance, out of poverty, into long-term jobs. But what I have said, and I have said consistently, is that we are reviewing it so that there will be an opportunity for the people who deliver the program, the recipients, and for the community to participate. And I invite the member opposite, if he has strong views, to participate in our review.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- Mr. Speaker, we'll come to the answer about the termination of the program and I will be pursuing that line of questioning in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

But first of all, a direct question to the minister: and that is that are there any civil servants that have served both the NDP (New Democratic Party) administration, the PC (Progressive Conservative) administration, such as Dr. Allan Hansen, who was summarily dismissed without cause? And we'll take up that issue in a little while. But other than that, are there any civil servants that have been fired without cause in your administration in Social Services or related agencies?

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- No.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- I refer to a gentleman by the name of Dave Bucsis that was fired summarily last week, the man who was in charge of employment services, director of Sask Works, who is no longer now with the Department of Social Services. And I'm surprised, Madam Minister, that you would not be aware of his summary dismissal.

And I'm wondering, Madam Minister, at the same time, with his dismissal and your comment, I found kind of intriguing when you said that there was no money thanks to us in the Sask Works program. My understanding, Madam Minister, is that there . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. The member was asked one question, which one does he want to ask?

Mr. Neudorf: -- The question I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sorry for carrying on, is: what has happened to the \$300,000 that was left in the program as of last week?

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Mr. Speaker, I was informed by the deputy minister that the program has . . . the budget for the program has been expended. His recommendation to me was that we should not go beyond the allotted money. That is, we should not be overspending. So that was his recommendation. I accepted his recommendation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- Further supplement to that question, Mr. Minister. Three hundred thousand dollars in the budget left over. My information, Madam Minister - and I would suggest that you check this out very, very carefully -- is that that money is no longer with the Sask Works program but rather has been transferred to income security. And, Madam Minister, income security is that which pays out social welfare cheques.

Is this what you're interested in more is paying out social welfare cheques than giving individuals the opportunity to have training and jobs? Is that your intent, Madam Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Mr. Speaker, what we are interested in, in terms of people who are on social assistance, is to work with them to get them off social assistance and to provide them with long-term employment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- That's what we are interested in. In order to do that, what they require is a variety of things. Often it's counselling. Often it's job training. Often it's educational upgrading. But if you want, as our government does, a long-term solution to poverty, you have to have those elements involved.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- Madam Minister, I am just shocked at the idea that you are . . .

The Speaker: -- . . . is this a new question? And will you address the Speaker . . .

Mr. Neudorf: -- This is a brand new question, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, I address the question to Madam Minister.

And the statement I would like to precede that with is: I am shocked to hear that you are now more intent on putting people and keeping people on social welfare than in pursuing the legitimate purpose for which Sask Works was created -- to give training, to give counselling, and to give these people the opportunity to become productive members of the work-force instead of relying upon that safety net that you people like to trap people into and keep them there. Rather than that, Madam Minister . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. Does the member have a question? Does the member have a question?

Mr. Neudorf: -- Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister was -- and I thought I put it rather quite directly -- what is your direction? Your direction seems to me to be to put people on the social welfare form, keep your thumb on them, keep them under social welfare, instead of giving them the opportunity to become productive members of society. Is that not your intent, Madam Minister?

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Mr. Speaker, the members

opposite were in power for nine years. What we saw in this province was a dramatic and a disgraceful increase in poverty rates.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- We saw more and more people going on to social assistance. The members opposite believe in a bottom line. In terms of a bottom line in that account, you've failed miserably. We are trying to remedy the damage that you have done to this province. We are trying to take people who live in poverty and develop long-term programs to get them out of poverty. We have announced a review of the major programs. If you want to participate with us in using the benefit of your past knowledge and experience, we welcome that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- A new question, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. Madam Minister, a further quote in the article from the *Leader-Post* and you are quoted, Madam Minister, as saying:

If the program were to be revived, (which obviously means that it's been cancelled) MacKinnon said (that) the department would not threaten to cut people off welfare if they refused to work.

Now, Madam Minister, could you tell this Assembly and could you tell the people of Saskatchewan what you mean by that? Are you saying -- and I'll just paraphrase this and you can react to this as the question -- are you saying that if there's an able-bodied man who is capable of working, and a job presents itself for that individual to accept and he refuses, that you are now prepared to say to the people of Saskatchewan that you are not going to cut him off or hold him accountable for himself, but rather hold the taxpayer of Saskatchewan responsible for a person who refuses to work if he can and if a job is available? Answer that, Madam Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Mr. Speaker, I will gladly clarify that point. We have programs in this province in which people on social assistance work and do various public works. They are fine with me because they are voluntary. One of the things the members opposite did in their nine years to the poor in this province, was they not only deprived them of the means to make ends meet, they also deprived them of their dignity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: -- Because the members opposite have left the cupboard so bare, there is no money left. We may be able to do very little for these people in terms of helping them make ends meet. But I'll tell you one thing this government will do, we will restore to these people as much as we can their sense of dignity and self respect.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: -- Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate you on your election as Speaker, and through you I would like to ask the minister of economic development and trade . . . Mr. Speaker, my question is, as everyone in the House knows, the Ukraine has recently proclaimed independence and countries around the world are recognizing that independence with whole-hearted support. As the minister will know, the previous government initiated a special advisor to the Ukraine, Dr. Peter Woroby, who was a nominee of the Ukrainian community. Will the minister today tell the House what his government plans to do with this special advisor?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that the Premier of the province has congratulated the Ukraine in its new-found position in the world and we wish them the very best.

In regards to the position in the government that you refer to, we'll obviously be looking at keeping that position and expanding it. I've met with the ambassador from Czechoslovakia recently and intend to meet with him again soon in Ottawa, because I think eastern Europe has opened up a whole new area of market and technology that we can be sharing with those people and in turn creating jobs in Saskatchewan, and we'll be looking at that very closely.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: -- A new question, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the minister of economic development and trade, and it involves a response to the cries for help and co-operation by the people of the Ukraine and by Ukrainians here in this province. Will the minister consider establishing a professional managerial exchange program with the Ukraine that would answer to some extent the calls for help in establishing modern, up-to-date management training, technical training and professional techniques in a country desperate to succeed in the global economy.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that the new Premier of the province has been involved in many ways in the process of helping with the opening up of eastern Europe. We look at all areas, not only Ukraine but many other areas. I know that, and I believe that people from SaskTel International for example, are meeting with people in Czechoslovakia right now in terms of exporting some of our technology in SaskTel.

I also know that there are ongoing discussions at the embassy level. For example, with Czechoslovakia dealing with dry land farming, that we might be able to share and possibly look at creating employment in terms of exchange between eastern Europe and Saskatchewan. I think the idea warrants merit. We're working on that.

I want to say as well that any opportunity for economic development that comes from the opposition, either the Conservative or Liberal caucus, is very much appreciated.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Provincial Policy on Agriculture

Mr. Muirhead: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. I've known you since 1978 when I was first elected to this House, and I'm sure you'll do a good job.

And, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture and I'd like to ask him . . . or just congratulate him on his appointment as Minister of Agriculture.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Muirhead: -- I'm sure that he'll do a good job as Minister of Agriculture because he comes from . . . especially when he knows that in the province of Saskatchewan that we have a critical situation with the farmers. He knows that; he comes from the grain belt -- the main grain belt of Saskatchewan. He's also in an area where the farm debt is at an all time high since 1939. I'm sure he's well aware of that. And especially I'm sure he must understand, Mr. Speaker, that there's 60,000 farmers in Saskatchewan and there's 15,000-plus at the board level in serious trouble.

In light of all this, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say to the minister . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . There's lots of time, Mr. Speaker. In light of all this, Mr. Speaker, at election time and prior to election time, you and the NDP went throughout this province saying that there will be a plan for farmers, to save all the farmers in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Minister, my question to you is this: can you tell us and this House and all the farmers in Saskatchewan what is that plan and is it in place in its entirety?

Hon. Mr. Wiens: -- Thank you for . . . I thank the member opposite for his remarks and I want to assure him that we do completely understand the financial situation in agriculture, one that each of us who is part of the farming sector feel very strongly and have made a point of communicating to Ottawa in a very strong way along with the farm groups that have expressed their concern.

The situation in agriculture is not simple and the member opposite is clearly aware of that. We have international situations that have created a particular crisis right now and we support the national initiatives in terms of resolution of the problems there. We are involved in the continuing programs, which we have expressed our concerns about, but which were established in the terms that the members opposite were in power, that have major weaknesses which we have recently established a committee to review.

We have taken the initiative that we promised in terms of beginning discussions with lending institutions about a co-operative approach to debt restructuring, and it's certainly our intent to exercise our responsibilities of the provincial government to encourage others responsible and to challenge ourselves to deal with the questions of income and debt and the continuing development of the agricultural enterprise in Saskatchewan in an integrated

way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Swenson: -- Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 6 of this Assembly, it is my duty to rise today on a point of privilege both in my capacity as member of this Assembly and that as chairman of the *Public Accounts* Committee. Pursuant to the rules, I provided Mr. Speaker notice this morning that I would be raising this point.

Mr. Speaker, the point is a complex one and goes to the heart of the legislature's privilege, so I ask the indulgence of the Assembly for me to outline the research that I have undertaken, Mr. Speaker, so that this case may be made.

Mr. Speaker, it is my contention that the privileges of the Assembly, the privileges of the *Public Accounts* Committee as a delegated authority of this Assembly, and the privileges of individual members of this legislature have been breached by the following: (1) an order in council that seeks to establish a body that usurps the rightful, traditional, and constitutional responsibilities of the legislature for oversight and accountability functions; (2) an order in council by the executive government that seeks to inappropriately attach the Provincial Auditor to a creature of executive government; (3) Mr. Speaker, arising from both of these orders in council, an attempt by the executive government to impair the ability of the *Public Accounts* Committee to conduct its mandated business and particularly to interfere with the ability of this Assembly's chairman of *Public Accounts* to successfully execute his duties.

Mr. Speaker, without going through the usual remarks reasserting what constitutes privilege, let me just say that the impairment of a member, a committee, or an officer of this Assembly are all *prima facie* cases of privilege, as is an attempt to derogate the powers of the legislature without its consent.

Mr. Speaker, the first order in council under question is that which purports to use the authority of The Public Inquiries Act to establish a body of executive government designated by the order as a financial management review commission.

Schedule A of that order sets out the terms of reference of this body which, for convenience, I will refer to as the Gass tribunal, given that the appointed chairman is one Donald Gass; the terms of reference, Mr. Speaker, set out in items 3 through 5, with particular emphasis on item 5, a process to hold the executive government itself accountable. In effect, Mr. Speaker, the executive government has tried by order to replace the accountability functions of this legislature.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me review the history of parliament's unquestioned right and indeed need to be the sole agent of accountability for the executive government, and indeed, with the exception of the judiciary, the sole unit properly able to exercise oversight over the activities of government.

In his book, *The History of the English Constitution*, Dr. Rudolph Gneist writes about how the Magna Carta came into being as a result of the desire of the people to have control over the funds collected and expanded by the government, and to hold the government accountable for its actions. He describes the growing move toward outright warfare and then says:

In this crisis negotiations for peace are made upon the meadows of Runnymede in which the King, with his small retinue upon one side, and the rebellious barons in full martial array upon the other, treat together, the Earl of Pembroke acting as mediator. The barons had originally drawn up in a formal article the grievances of the country, articles which, revised and completed, were recognized by the King by affixing his great seal, and being then formally issued, were raised to a royal charter.

There are many other quotes, Mr. Speaker, of the same vein all the way through English parliamentary history which confirm Magna Carta in the duties of king, the duties of Executive Council, and the duties of the legislature very clearly. If Mr. Speaker wishes, I can go through them, but I think for the Assembly and expediency, I will not.

Mr. Speaker, in a very real way, the very first test of this session is for a confirmation of what was laid down in Magna Carta. For the executive, the cabinet, to presume to take on the role of holding itself accountable, no matter how admirable the move, motives of the day might be, it is a profoundly dangerous thing to do. This action, this attempt to combine the powers of the legislature with the powers of the executive have received much imminent comment in hundreds of years, as I have said.

People need to understand, Mr. Speaker, that this tribunal has been given the power by the Premier to force any person, including members of this Assembly, to appear before and testify against their will, or any business to deliver to it their business records or any other information it in its wisdom decide it should have. These are judicial powers to be wielded by partisan appointees of the executive government in the pursuit of a mandate. At least as stated, Mr. Speaker, these are things that are reserved by this Assembly to the *Public Accounts Committee*.

(1445)

One eminent person by the name of Montesquieu says this about the issue, Mr. Speaker:

Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and the executive . . . Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with violence and oppression.

The Speaker: -- Order, order. I have listened very carefully to the member in making his point of privilege, and I want him to summarize very quickly now the arguments that he wishes to make. I've listened to you for six minutes and I'll give you a few more moments to make

your point.

Mr. Swenson: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I will do my very best to reiterate the points that I've made.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, and give a recommendation to this House on the points that I've already raised. My recommendation would be today that to accomplish the tasks set out by Executive Council, then I think it is appropriate for this Assembly to appoint one person to take charge of such a review and use his judgement and authority derived from this legislature to decide who else needs to assist him. My nominee, Mr. Speaker, for that job would of course be the Provincial Auditor himself.

Mr. Speaker, I sent a letter to the Premier on this particular subject and was not answered in substance by him.

We cannot have accountability from . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. I've asked the member to make his point of privilege. I have now listened seven minutes. I want the member to make his point immediately.

Mr. Swenson: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly. The Premier by his order in council is attempting to derogate the Assembly's ability to hold the Executive Council accountable. The Premier by his order in council is attempting to prejudice, indeed poison the independence of the Provincial Auditor in the exclusive relationship of that office with the Assembly. And the Premier through his order in council is attempting to gut the responsibilities of the *Public Accounts Committee* and prejudice the relationship between the chairman of that committee and the Provincial Auditor.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding my point, which I think you will see I have studied with great care if I had been able to talk about all of it, and not treated frivolously, Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize the basic construction of our system of democracy in this province.

It is the dual process where the government asks for money and the House assents to those requests on the most vital condition that the House shall have the power to hold the government accountable; that in no instance shall the government construe itself to be its own examiner. And whether the motives of the Premier are in fact partisan or not . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order, order. Order. I have listened for eight minutes or nine minutes to the member to make his point of privilege. I believe I've heard sufficient. I thank the member for giving me notice of this question of privilege which was received in my office around 12 noon today pursuant to rule 6, for which I thank the hon. member. The notice while sufficient under rule 6 did not however contain the information to make the member's case, and therefore I will be deferring my ruling on this question today.

But before doing that I wish to hear the views of other hon. members on this matter. If there are any other views, I will listen to them now . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Other views. I have heard sufficiently from the member from

Thunder Creek. I want to hear the views now of other members in this House.

An Hon. Member: -- Point of order.

The Speaker: -- What's your point of order?

Mr. Swenson: -- I would be pleased to table my presentation to the House if it so wishes.

The Speaker: -- I think that's in order.

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to respond to the motion of privilege and to the remarks that the member made opposite in addressing that motion, I might add, at some length. And I want to say the following.

First of all, it is not a motion of privilege, although you will decide that, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, what has happened with the appointment of the independent Financial Management Review Commission is not new in Saskatchewan or in this legislature.

I want to remind the members opposite that the members opposite in 1982 did precisely the same thing with the establishment of the Wolfgang Wolff commission which exercised this kind of process as well, Mr. Speaker. I ask the members opposite, where was he . . . or where his colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, when he sat over here on this side of the House when that kind of an inquiry was established.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the other point I want to make is this. The Financial Management Review Commission has the sanction and approval and the support of the Provincial Auditor.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: -- The Provincial Auditor was involved in the drawing up of the terms of reference of this commission. The Provincial Auditor has agreed and by order in council has been appointed to act as a special advisor to the Financial Management Review Commission.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the *Public Accounts* Committee will function as it always has. It will probably function better now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: -- It will function even better now, Mr. Speaker, because it will have presented before it all of the information that the Provincial Auditor and the committee has a right to know, far different from what was the case under the former administration who used to not provide information to the auditor . . .

The Speaker: -- Order, order. The comments are not to be argumentative or debatable. I wish you to make your points of privilege.

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: -- Let me conclude by making reference to my last point again, and that is that the rights

of the *Public Accounts* Committee are not being infringed on. In fact the work that is being carried on will enhance the work of the *Public Accounts* Committee because it will have available the information that is provided through the work of the Financial Management Review Commission.

We said that it's important for the government of this province to be open. That means the books need to be opened. That means the public has a right to know where their tax dollars are being spent and whether public policy has been administered on their behalf in an appropriate way.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a point of privilege; this in fact enhances the accountability of government, and that is the right thing to do and that's why the government is doing it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: -- Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I had not anticipated getting involved in this discussion, but we do believe very sincerely on this side of the House that the question of privilege that is before this House is of paramount importance. And to do that, I want to summarize some of the major salient points that we feel that we have to make.

One of them is in addressing the Wolfgang report that we have in our submission to and our response to that. There is no resemblance to the Wolfgang report in relationship to what is happening here. That report did not deal with holding the executive accountable, but how the executive should actually organize itself. And more importantly, even if the Wolff report did do so, what is being attempted here, it would not make it right and it would make it no less a breach of privilege for this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, what I am really concerned about is that the Executive Council now is going to be taking the role of the Provincial Auditor -- a creature of this Assembly, if I may use that term -- because what they're doing is turning the Provincial Auditor into a creature of the Executive Council. That is wrong. The Provincial Auditor must be a servant of this Assembly. He cannot sit on the Gass Commission, make recommendations about the accountability process, and then later on sit in *Public Accounts* and advise the members on *Public Accounts* as to whether the reporting procedure of the Gass Commission was relevant. This is compromising the role of the Provincial Auditor, and it sets an extremely dangerous, dangerous precedent, Mr. Speaker. It cannot be allowed to happen. Thank you for your indulgence.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a couple of moments and no longer, to outline why I think the privilege motion is not in order and should be rejected. First of all, in Beauchesne's on page 25, in dealing with the raising of a question of privilege, I want to quote in the area of how privilege should be raised in the Assembly, under section 82:

A question of privilege must be brought to the attention of the House at the first possible opportunity. Even a gap of a few days may invalidate the claim for precedence in the House.

I believe this is our fourth day of sitting here in the Assembly. Obviously on the first day, the throne speech being read, we probably could argue that that wasn't an opportune time for privilege. But I think the time lapse, what has happened here is caucus research people are scrambling to keep the opposition with something to do, have come up with this brilliant idea of privilege. I think it should be treated with that amount of consideration.

Having said that, I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that I remember very well back in 1982 when Mr. Wolfgang Wolff was doing his review of the state of the economy and found out that the books were balanced. And there was a statement signed by Mr. Andrew that there was \$39 million . . . \$139 million. After the review was done it was found that there was a surplus of \$139 million.

Now I want to say to the leader opposite that we know why these people don't want the books opened. We know very well why they don't want the books opened.

The Speaker: -- Order. Has the member got a point to raise in fact, or is he being argumentative?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Yes I do have a point to make and it's first of all, Mr. Speaker, the time lapse, as I indicate, I think is a relevant consideration that you should consider; but secondly, the auditor who has indicated that his involvement in the opening of the books is an important part of the process. He has made the argument, and auditors in the past few years have made the argument that they get about 50 per cent of the information from the Conservative government at that time, led by the member from Estevan, and that's why he is involved in opening the books.

And I say that this process . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- I say one other thing, Mr. Speaker, that this issue was raised before the public of Saskatchewan during the last election and leading up to the election.

We indicated we're going to open the books. We held an election on the basis of opening the books. We are now opening the books. The only people opposed to the opening of the books are the 10 . . .

The Speaker: -- Order. Order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: -- Order, order. I thank all hon. members for their comments, and I will reserve my decision and of course have a look at all those comments and bring back a decision on a later day. Thank you very much.

Are there any other items on orders of the day?

(1500)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: -- Mr. Speaker, as relates to questions put by members, item no. 1, I would ask that this question be converted to order for return.

Mr. Speaker, in the event that there was some confusion, I want it as an order for return debatable.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the question put by members, item no. 2, I would ask that this question be converted to a motion for return debatable.

Mr. Speaker, the answer put by members, item 3, I would wish to table that at this time.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to questions put by members, item 4, I would ask that this question be converted to order for return debatable.

The Speaker: -- Before the member makes a statement on question 5, I have a statement to make. Question number 5, I want to refer all hon. members to rule 38(1) *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* which states that:

Written questions may be placed on the Order Paper (only so long as they seek) . . . information . . . relating to public affairs.

Similarly, Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, 6th Edition, paragraph 428 states as follows:

"A question . . . must not:

(dd) deal with matters not officially connected with Government or Parliament, or which are of a private nature.

The political contributions and political activities of individual citizens is not a matter of administrative responsibility of any minister in this Assembly.

If such matters have a relation to public affairs, then that is a subject for debate and not appropriate in the form of a written question. Members cannot ask ministers to report on matters for which they have no official responsibility. For this reason, I rule the question out of order.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Murray, seconded by Mr. Flavel.

Ms. Hamilton: -- Mr. Speaker, my first words in this House are to you. As the New Democrat member from

Regina Wascana Plains, I wish to congratulate you on your successful election to the revered chair of Speaker of the House.

I will do my best to abide by the rules of this Assembly, and I'm confident that you will rule with fairness for all members and you will serve to maintain this Chamber as a respected home of constructive debate.

As we all know, the office of Speaker is an extremely vital one, an office of critical importance to our legislative system. Being the Speaker is not an easy job. I wish you well in the discharging of your duties.

At this time I would also like to offer my sincerest congratulations to the mover of the throne speech, the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, and the seconder, the hon. NDP MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Both members did an exemplary job. They have demonstrated the high calibre of individuals who bring their expertise to our government. We know we have a lot to accomplish but we are all more than willing and able to tackle the task.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- I wish to extend my best wishes to all the new members of this Assembly as well. Being an MLA is an honourable pursuit. We must demonstrate to the public we serve that being a politician is a very high calling.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- Being an MLA in these times brings with it some unique challenges -- challenges we as a government, as a unified New Democrat team, will work to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank the first speaker of the opposition who demonstrated yesterday so clearly why the people in Wascana Plains worked hard for positive change in government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- For me this is a personal privilege and a very special honour to be chosen by the people of south-east Regina. I sincerely thank them for their trust. I am proud to represent their views and their desire for fair, open, and accountable government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- My constituency is located in the south-east corner of Regina. It is bordered by Victoria Avenue on the north and Park Street on the west, the city limits on the south and the east. My riding contains the Plains Hospital, the Victoria Square Mall, the Wascana Centre, and the SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) Parkway Campus.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you, I would like to say that Wascana Plains has been home to me for most of my life.

In actual fact I'm now living six blocks away from my childhood home. I grew up in my constituency and have been witness to the many changes it has undergone over the years.

Regina Wascana Plains is a leading edge constituency, a reflection of all of society, a cross-section of the mixed cultural and social fabric that makes our province great.

The neighbourhood that I grew up in is home to many single parent families and to the working poor. The working poor are nuclear families with the same values as you and I, the same desires and dreams for their children. To realize these dreams however, often both parents must work to meet their family's demands. The sad thing is their combined incomes only barely address the essentials. Although both parents work, many of these couples struggle to live on incomes well below the poverty line. For them it is difficult, if not impossible, to find accessible, licensed, and reasonably priced child care.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency brings new meaning to the term neighbourhood. Their spirit and mutual caring is what my family and I have experienced first hand -- extraordinary compassion and caring, people making time for others despite the busy routine of all our lives. The people of my neighbourhood constantly remind me of a quote from J.S. Wordsworth:

Every unjustly treated man, every defenceless woman, every neglected child has a neighbour somewhere. Someone is responsible!

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, my neighbours know we are all responsible, and the next decade will prove that our commitment is to the community spirit that personifies each and every one of my constituents in Wascana Plains.

I bring to this Assembly many years of experience in local government. As a past member of the Wascana Centre Authority, I acknowledge with pride the Authority and the Legislative Buildings that are a product of past government vision and long-range planning.

I know I am now part of a government that cares enough to continue this vision and will return to long-range planning, that won't be side-tracked by immediate short-term greed and gain of the past government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- As a former member of Regina City Council, I supported and encouraged Regina's economic development strategy as a model that has brought together business, labour, civic and provincial governments, to formulate a community-based plan of action for sustainable development that can easily translate into a provincial strategy.

I bring to this Assembly personal experience dealing with women's issues. I chaired the first municipal task force on women's issues for Canada. Saskatchewan's women have a proud history of outstanding contribution to their families, their communities, and the development of our province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- The NDP government recognizes their accomplishments and understands their concerns. Understands that the issues facing them are not just women's issues but issues affecting all of us -- issues that need to be addressed to achieve economic and social equality; issues that pertain to women and family violence, safe and affordable housing, vital public transportation; issues that affect the very fabric of our communities.

Tomorrow we will remember the women who are victims of violence and fear. We will remember our women who are not in transition houses or second-stage housing, and we will remember women and children who live the fear of violence every day.

The people of Wascana Plains and myself have witnessed a province that had been dismantling the vital programs and services over the past nine years. With that in mind, I have been committed to the second phase of health care, the preventative wellness model of health care.

And therefore I'm committed to our government who will work with communities to establish local, community-controlled health centres which will include health care services and programs for those with special needs. I am committed to this positive new vision for Saskatchewan health care in the 1990s.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- Mr. Speaker, we're proud of our seniors, our pioneers. Their hard work and gritty determination built our communities, built this province. They have earned the right to a retirement with dignity and security, not a retirement that under the former government meant decisions between much-needed medication and food; not a retirement of neglect and unregulated and unlicensed care homes.

It is with a heavy heart that I bring to this Assembly experience with the mayor's task force on hunger. I witnessed first hand the devastating effects poverty and hunger have on our children, indeed have on our future. We want and we need strong direction to overcome this disturbing phenomenon, a phenomenon created by the economic strategies of the provincial and federal Conservative regimes.

We will strive to achieve the goal of full employment for working people in the province, strive to eliminate the need for food banks, strive to provide adequate funding for lunch programs in schools and child care centres which identify the needs of hungry children.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- It perhaps sounds like we have a long way to go after the cruelty of the past administration, but we already know what needs to be done. We have a clear understanding of the issues, with thanks in part to people, people who helped prepare a working paper under the guidance of Peter Prebble. Knowing the issues, knowing

the long-term solutions, as our minister presented today, is half the battle, a battle that we fully intend to win.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- At the civic level and on behalf of every citizen, I fought for public involvement in government. And I'm now truly excited to be a part of a government that is working for public involvement, working to be more responsive to the people that we serve, and working toward democratic reform.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- We must always strive to make our provincial government sensitive and in touch with people and their needs. Only by doing this will we be able to become effective and efficient in delivering people programs. These are exciting times, Mr. Speaker, spiced with challenge for the future, something I personally am looking forward to.

It is for me, however, also a time of sadness as I think of my father, a strong CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) New Democrat supporter, a man with a special sense of pride, who worked to see his daughter continue the traditions of Tommy Douglas, Beatrice Janet Trew, and Majorie Cooper-Hunt. A week before the election I lost my father to a tragic accident. But I know in his heart that his spirit of hard work, his sense of determination and community, of neighbour helping neighbour, lives on with me today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- These thoughts of my family also remind me of my heritage, of my Ukrainian mother, a daughter herself of pioneer farmers, mother of four, and sister of Fred who lost his life during a farm strike a number of years ago -- a humble background, Mr. Speaker, that makes me determined to work for a society that will provide a good quality of life for all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- Mr. Speaker, the middle income earners of Regina Wascana Plains are deeply concerned with the ever-increasing tax burden they bear. In response to those concerns, while I was a member of city council we achieved the unprecedented accomplishment of an increase of less than 2 per cent over the last five years -- no small feat with the former government stripping the cities of much-needed dollars for jobs, for infrastructure repairs and maintenance, for transit, for inner-city revitalization; no small feat some years in the face of \$9.2 million in one year withdrawal of funds, and not in a timely budget process that should come before the legislature, but halfway through a year when cities are least able to determine and to deal with such a withdrawal.

Local government knows about the need for tax reform, reform that does not further push major increases onto the property taxpayer; knowing that it's the least fair way to collect taxes because it does not reflect anyone's ability to pay.

Council members fought for and succeeded in establishing a comprehensive audit purview and process under an independent city auditor. They succeeded in obtaining a double A plus credit rating for the Queen City, and they did this at a time when we all know what the former administration was up to here to discredit the provincial independent audit process and the auditor.

(1515)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- We all know what the mess of the previous government is now doing to our provincial credit rating.

Mr. Speaker, I felt it was time to translate some of the hands-on experience into something concrete at the provincial level. Tax reform and deficit reduction are critical for the future of this province. I am proud to be chosen and to serve as a chairperson for the Municipal Law standing committee for this legislature.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, my constituency lies in the south-east edge of Regina and although recent housing starts have dropped to the lowest levels since CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) began keeping statistics, it's a growing area. Wascana View, Varsity Park, Gardiner Park, and other subdivisions in the neighbourhoods boast some of the largest homes in the Queen City. The people who live there are professionals: doctors, lawyers, teachers, and public servants; tradespeople, artisans, and union members. The area is also home for small- and medium-size business owners and operators. Some are farmers who have retired from the land and families who are still on the land, and some are injured workers who have been denied recourse to benefits, medical care, and retraining that they should receive. We are partners in our very diversity.

Taxation, economic growth and development, access to post-secondary education, the agricultural crisis, are vitally important to every person in our riding, and indeed to each and every person in this province. My constituents have responded to adversity and hardship in creative and innovative ways. They are people driven by the desire to ensure their children have a viable future here at home. They were deeply hurt by programs like the now defunct Fair Share Saskatchewan, shocked and bewildered that a government paying lip service to families under a Family Foundation could be serious about such forced relocation of people and such disruption in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is an intrinsic part of all of Saskatchewan to look to its capital with pride and with hope. I will continue to hold that bright new vision for the future for tourism, for trade, for telecommunications, to maintain what our forbears carved out of the prairie under similar circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, people in Wascana Plains also knew and support our move to remove the harmonized PST (provincial sales tax). It was the final tax straw that broke all of our backs. They pulled together to support me,

support our government, in a process of change, to set the wheels in motion for a new vision in the '90s. I will continue to demonstrate that our government has vision, a strong, bright vision and a plan -- a plan for the future of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: -- It's a vision and a plan that draws all people together and eliminates the divisive nature of pitting rural people against urban people, pitting labour people against business people, pitting one group against another group.

We will continue to build a lasting partnership where we will demonstrate our strength in our diversity, the ability to come together. We will again become a true reflection of our multi-cultural mosaic. We will again go down in history as a government that turned things around, turned a province around from a province where wealth and privilege once accorded to a relatively few will become a secure, bright future for us all.

I know my constituency well. Its people have a strong sense of community and of neighbour as Wordsworth once stated. They know we are all responsible to make Saskatchewan the best place to live, to work, and to play.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to take my place in this Assembly and in so doing I look forward to faithfully representing my constituency and my government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour for me to rise before the Assembly and speak in response to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor's Speech from the Throne. I would also add my congratulations to you for your election to the Speaker's Chair.

It is a great privilege for me to represent the people of Kindersley constituency in this Assembly. The people of that constituency have placed their confidence in me and that is why I am here today. The people of the Kindersley riding elected me and I am committed to them. As member for this legislature, I'll be looking out for the best interests of my constituency throughout my tenure in opposition. In four years time when our party again forms government, I will be proud to represent them on the government side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: -- I would like to take this opportunity to talk about my constituency, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of new members on both sides of the House. I would like to share with those present here today some of the information about the good people of the Kindersley constituency.

My riding is located in the west-central part of the province. We are blessed with a strong oil, industrial, and agricultural sector. My constituency relies heavily on the agriculture and energy sectors. They are truly key in

ensuring our economic future. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I'll be watching this government's handling of those two areas with keen interest.

We in the Kindersley riding are also blessed with dynamic and hard-working citizens located in a number of progressive towns and villages throughout the constituency. We are proud of our communities. We are not only proud of how hard our citizens work, we are also proud of how our communities' recreational participation.

My home town of Eston is always ready to boast of our provincial and national champions. We have been successful in a number of areas, the most recent in wrestling. Baseball is also a popular sport. Members may recall when Kindersley constituency hosted the world youth baseball tournament, the Pacific cup of baseball. Kindersley, in managing and securing this event, proved its ability to compete with centres much larger than itself. The entire constituency has a reputation for interest and involvement in sporting and recreational events. I look forward to working with my constituents on all levels, whether it be a recreational, an education, or in a personal capacity as their MLA.

This is my first opportunity to participate in a Speech from the Throne. I must say that I am disappointed with the contents of the NDP's first throne speech. This speech offers the people of our province nothing. It contains no vision, no future goals, no plans for Saskatchewan. The only solid commitments we have heard from the government side of the House are those that have been announced through press conferences before this House was reconvened. The public knows the NDP government will not make good on any election promises.

One of the things they have managed to achieve, though, is bloating the provincial debt. How did they accomplish this move? They managed to get our province's credit rating lowered to a triple B. Good work.

What else have they managed to achieve? Well they are on their way to breaking the energy agreement as well with AECL (Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.). What did this accomplish? Well the people of Saskatchewan now have to cough up somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$2 million for breaking this agreement. We have to pay AECL not to study energy options. Our province must pay because the NDP does not want to learn. Despite what the NDP would have the general public believe, the energy agreement did not require our province to build a reactor. This simply is not true.

This agreement was in place to study and research all energy options, thus the name of the agreement. Among others, the environmentally friendly use of coal, wind, solar, biomass, and nuclear energy would have all been analysed. But because of the NDP's most recent convention, they are burying their heads in the sand and giving up \$50 million in research and knowledge.

I repeat, we must pay millions not to learn. This is a shame, Mr. Speaker, a shame. I'm embarrassed for the members opposite. Knowledge is a wonderful thing, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that they are depriving our province of

what could have been so valuable. Not only are they throwing away money, the government is throwing away jobs for our young people. Highly professional and technological jobs are lost because of its decision.

Shame on this government, Mr. Speaker, shame. After claiming they'd create jobs, Mr. Speaker -- I quote the NDP: we will create real jobs -- they're dismissing a golden opportunity for this province. Kindersley would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what will they do to create real jobs for rural Saskatchewan.

The town of Kindersley was fortunate to be chosen a while back as the location of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, Mr. Speaker. As the people of Kindersley . . . pardon me, ask the people of Kindersley if those jobs were gladly accepted. Those jobs were and they are real. Ask if those jobs had an economic impact on the community, Mr. Speaker. Ask the people of Kindersley whether they want to lose this government department, Mr. Speaker. I doubt if you will find one resident of Kindersley who doesn't appreciate that recent addition to their community.

Ask them if they would like this decentralization initiative reviewed. I say with confidence as their MLA that they do not want to lose their fair share. They know, as I know, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP will not review anything. The NDP promised to review each and every Fair Share announcement on a case-by-case basis. This resulted in a general quashing of the entire process.

What do we see today, Mr. Speaker? Well the NDP is on the road to centralizing all previously decentralized departments. We on this side of the House take decentralization seriously. The members opposite have been quoted as saying they are not opposed to decentralization. As a matter of fact it runs from the top of the heap on down. The member from Riversdale was quoted as saying that he felt decentralization was a good thing. The member from Humboldt was also quoted in this regard. If the NDP government was sincere in its belief in decentralization why isn't it responsible for the government's side of the House? We have no cabinet minister responsible for this important issue. We on this side of the House are committed to it.

(1530)

I have been appointed as an opposition critic and one of my responsibilities includes decentralization. I have also been appointed for the critic for the New Careers Corporation. Therefore I have a particularly vested interest in what is happening in Kamsack. How do you think that community feels about the government's thoughts on forcing this department back to Regina?

I would like to know where the member from Pelly stands on this issue. I would like him to stand in this House and explain to his constituents, particularly those of Kamsack, where he stands on this issue. The constituents of Pelly are used to strong and honest representation that they have enjoyed for the last four years.

What do they have now, Mr. Speaker? They now have the member from Pelly. Where was the member when this proposed move was being perpetrated? Was he allowed . . .

or even informed of the discussions? I, unlike the member from Pelly, would like some details on this proposed move. Is the government going to pay for all relocation costs? Is the NDP government breaking lease agreements in Kamsack? Is the move to take place immediately? How will the children of the employees' families cope with the school process, the break in the school process?

A number of employees in that department were born and raised in Kamsack. Do they want to be torn from their homes and moved to Regina? Does this community approve of this decision? Ask the mayors of Kindersley, Melville, Swift Current how they feel about this recent decision. I would suggest that at very least they are frightened, frightened at losing populations, jobs, and economic stability for their towns.

Well the NDP talk a good line about creating real jobs. What they are actually doing is attempting to steal solid jobs from small town Saskatchewan. This is despicable, Mr. Speaker. It's a hypocrisy at the highest level, the level of government.

They owe it to small town Saskatchewan to explain what real jobs will replace Fair Share. What will they institute in Eston, in Humboldt, in Blaine Lake? We're all waiting for the announcements, Mr. Speaker.

What we have is an arrogant government. They expect the towns to lie low until the NDP government is ready. These towns need assistance now, Mr. Speaker. This government is taking away instead of giving to the people of our province. I have lost count of how many individuals, previous board members, that this government has fired -- crop insurance people just as an example.

Arrogance, Mr. Speaker. No debate. No debate on the emergency resolution on agriculture. How did the Minister of Agriculture vote? How did the Minister of Rural Development vote? How did the Liberal leader vote? I'll tell you how she voted. She voted against debating this important motion. In fact she stated . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: -- In fact she stated that it would be irresponsible to debate this important motion on farm aid. She felt it would be more important to debate the throne speech -- this empty throne speech, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Liberal Party felt the vague throne speech was more important than our farm families.

Further to this, the president of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan, one Sylvia Kish, stated last night that the farm families didn't need any more money. As a matter of fact that statement was repeated on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) this morning.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the farm families of Saskatchewan feel the agriculture crisis is important. I believe the people of Rosetown-Elrose, Canora, and all farmers would like to know how their members voted on the first chance to debate agriculture. How did each and every rural NDP member vote on their first chance ever to debate on

agriculture? They debated . . . they voted against debating on farm aid. This is indeed government arrogance.

This government has dismissed private citizens of Saskatchewan and replaced them with politicians. What we have now is a minister of everything, the minister from Regina Elphinstone heading up the whole operation. He's taken on a lot of roles. That member from Elphinstone has even determined how long this House will sit, Mr. Speaker. He has decided it will last two weeks. I say this House will sit as long as it is necessary for this side of the House to drag an economic plan out of the NDP government. I am prepared to sit here as long as it takes, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP cabinet essentially consists of three members: the members from Regina Elphinstone, Regina Dewdney, and Saskatoon Riversdale -- a dictatorship of three, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps that title is more timely, Mr. Speaker, would be the three wise men. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, these three people believe that they are the source of all wisdom in this province. Perhaps a more appropriate designation would be the three wise guys.

As critic for Community Services I take particular interest in what the member from Melfort has to say. I have been disappointed. I had hoped she would say some . . . she would be fighting diligently, be an effective advocate for the people of Saskatchewan. After all, while mayor of Melfort she came out strong; while mayor of Melfort she made repeated demands for money.

I must say she has certainly become more frugal in her short time as Minister of Community Services. Now we hear her state there is no money. This was an overnight occurrence, Mr. Speaker. I have heard that excuse from the members opposite, were shocked that there were not exorbitant funds available to them when they formed government.

I feel our previous government made this point exceedingly clear. Of course, we mustn't forget that when the Minister of Community Services was the mayor of Melfort, she actually had some power and influence over what she said and did. She must now pay homage to the . . . and bow to the troika.

It must be quite an adjustment for the individual as a member from Melfort. The troika has effectively gained control and gagged not only the members of their cabinet, but also the majority of the province's public utility boards. It's interesting that Saskatchewan's public utilities are now run by a board of politicians rather than a board of directors. The members on this side of the House and the public will watch that situation unfold with some interest, Mr. Speaker.

The minister of everything certainly has an over-abundance of administrative responsibilities. My colleagues and I agree that the NDP government has no plan for this province. We are just starting, I think, maybe to see what their plans are. I believe there is a plan from the member from Regina Elphinstone to oversee all aspects of this NDP government. This certainly takes responsibility away from the Deputy Premier, the member from Regina Dewdney. His schedule will now

be free for him to fly to New York whenever he feels necessary to explain the bloated deficit projection to our creditors whenever he desires. Talk about waste and mismanagement, Mr. Speaker; we now have him flying to New York on a whim.

We have the Gass tribunal headed by one Donald Gass. His annualized salary totals 120,000, Mr. Speaker. He has been hired at a cost of \$31,000 to the Saskatchewan people for three months work. What are his duties? What are his duties? To find dirt on the previous administration, and the members opposite cannot deny it.

What are the terms of reference for the Gass tribunal? They are to examine specifically PC government's years in government. The NDP government is spending a total of \$300,000 on the witch-hunt. The Gass tribunal will be holding secret meetings, closed to all, Mr. Speaker. Even the Joseph McCarthy hearings were open. The media was not allowed to sit on the secret Gass tribunal meetings. No one is. It will be closed, Mr. Speaker. The meetings will be closed to everyone. This is shocking.

The NDP say they want open government -- open it all up then. Let's not have private meetings, particularly when the right of the public is to know what is happening. After all, Saskatchewan taxpayers' money was used to commission the Gass chambers.

Continuing on this line, why is the NDP government wasting more money hiring a private consulting firm to pretend to find a president for SaskPower? How much are they spending on this farce? How much . . . would the NDP allow Mr. Messer to be replaced? Or are they a bigger and better job waiting for him to accept?

The NDP promise to do away with political patronage has not been fulfilled. I would like to know how much one Marg Benson is being paid. Who the heck is Marg Benson anyway? As far as I can tell she is a special advisor to Mr. Gary Aldridge. And who is Gary Aldridge? He's special advisor to the member from Riversdale. Since when does a special advisor need a special advisor? Open the books. What are we paying people like Ms. Benson? I'm sure the public is interested in knowing what they are doing with their money.

I think the member from Regina Dewdney added these patronage appointments to the projected deficit figures; I hope he did. Then perhaps the numbers might add up.

Another empty promise of the NDP was revealed last week. It was announced that the three trade offices would be closed. Throughout the election campaign I heard the NDP speak out in support of small business in Saskatchewan. They were going to assist small business in every way possible. By closing the trade offices the NDP have openly attacked small business in this province. They've successfully squashed any potential in existing trade links this province had for small business. Growth into the United States, Asia, Europe -- all these markets have been abolished.

Saskatchewan's exports of non-traditional goods in January to September of 1990 was 1.1 billion, Mr. Speaker. This amount was the level for all of 1989. Don't

tell me that our trade offices which were closed down don't have a hand in stimulating that tremendous amount of money for our small-business sector.

I suppose the NDP may make good on their promise to re-establish these trade offices and staff them with marketing professionals. I'd be more comfortable with this concept if someone from that side of the House would explain what a marketing professional is. Or are we perhaps referring to someone like Jack Messer and his potash experience?

I recall a certain Jack Messer flying to India, to the United States, to China, Mr. Speaker, all in an attempt to sell Manitoba's potash; putting, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's industry . . . potash industry out of business. Is that what the NDP government would call a marketing professional? I would hope not. I would say not.

Tell the Saskatchewan taxpayers what your plans are. The NDP's evasion tactic that was so useful as an election platform won't wash any more. People are tiring quickly of this duck-the-issue government. The ducks of the Minister of Agriculture, the ducks of the Minister of Rural Development. Ducking their first opportunity to debate agriculture. Maybe they were told to leave the Assembly; advised by the troika. The government cannot be run effectively by three members who rule the roost.

I assure my constituents and the rest of this province that we'll be on . . . on this side of the House we'll get some answers. The NDP troika cannot win the people's trust by thrashing the previous administration. The taxpayers of Saskatchewan want a plan and they want it soon.

In my capacity as MLA for Kindersley I promise to work for the people of the province of Saskatchewan. I promise to work hard in devising new policy and alternative policy that will assist in stimulating our province's economy. I will look forward to the next four years. It will be both a delight and a challenge to keep the NDP government on the straight and narrow.

It was truly an honour to participate in the throne speech debate. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1545)

Mr. Kujawa: -- Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And may I start by adding my congratulations to you for the very important, very, very important post which you so properly occupy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- I was particularly pleased to hear your comments on the opening day of how it is your objective to raise the decorum, the behaviour, in this House. I find that it was part of the throne speech as well. That's one of the reasons that I am here and I will try to help do both of those.

While I am congratulating you, I'd like to congratulate all of the people here who have received the vote of their

constituents and the trust, and who bring with them the responsibility for being here and trying to provide some leadership, some government.

I want to thank the people in Regina Albert South for their support, their vote. Regina Albert South is my constituency. And the reason I repeat it is to show to even the very slow learners that one can master the term.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- Thank you, people of Regina Albert South. And besides the votes I want to thank the people from that constituency for their advice, for their ideas. And one of the ideas that I heard a great deal is, I wonder if there are any politicians we can trust? What makes you different? How should I believe that you're not like those other guys? And that does make one think, because these are intelligent, capable people.

And it's partly because of that and partly because I, as a rookie, feel that I should reminisce about my many, many, many decades on earth and give you some of the ideas because you'll not likely ever hear an older rookie in your life.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- I don't wish to stress this age bit, but let me assure you that being old is an extremely desirable state when you consider the alternative.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- The people in my constituency who said: how can we rely on you; how do we know we can trust you; what's going on; it seems everything's getting worse and worse, caused me to do a lot of reflecting. And it was interesting reflecting because I think that I have lived in the most interesting half a century or more since history of the human race has been recorded on this earth.

I started at four miles an hour, that's how fast I walked my four miles to school, that's how fast my horses pulled the plough. From that to jets, to flying out to the planets, to going down seven miles into the ocean to find a little piece of metal as evidence for a case. That is a magical happening on this earth that, so far as we know, has never happened before. And I think that this had a major impact on all of us, on our very civilization.

And I have some views on this which are so far beyond me that I don't want to push them on anybody, but I do sincerely ask you to consider them with me. I will not continue to repeat, I'm not sure but I think, because in this area I'm certainly not sure. But I do think along these lines.

It seems to me that when we went into the physical sciences and created absolute magic on this earth, everybody had to look at why. And I think everybody quickly concluded that we'd found a different way of approaching things -- the scientific method, the cause and effect. That transformed the planet and that was immediately brought into the area of social science, of humans. And we're going to apply the same thing to us as

we did to our machines, and we're going to absolutely transform the world and improve it that much.

Have we? I think this study has discovered an awful lot of good, has created a lot of wisdom. But when I went to the university, there were about three social science classes of philosophy, psychology, political science 107, and about one other. Now since this trend, if you go to the same university and you can list the social science classes, they'll give you at least a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts). That's where our learning has taken us.

And yet I suggest to you that all of this has been created without any new understanding into humanity -- no law of gravitation, no E equals MC squared, nothing on which to base it. And yet the graduates of this sort of thing, the scientific method, cause and effect -- we make no value judgements -- the graduates of this have replaced the customs of our times, the elders, the preachers, the churches, and replaced it with what? The law of reason. Now I suggest to you that man does not live by reason. We live by faith, love, trust, and the helping of each other. You cannot live by reason alone.

For a person who thinks, as I do, along these lines, it's kind of interesting when a few years ago I ran into a quotation. It immediately caught my eye. I wrote it out on the back of one of my best envelopes, and I think I've memorized it. I'm going to try and quote it to you for your consideration.

It says: purely logical thinking cannot yield us any knowledge of the empirical world. All knowledge of reality starts with experience and ends in it. Propositions arrived at by purely logical means are entirely empty of reality.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- This last part especially: propositions arrived at by purely logical means are entirely empty of reality. It sounds like it's written by a guy who fell behind the class and is rationalizing, is making excuses. The guy who wrote that is Albert Einstein who, in my opinion, was reasonably good at pure scientific thinking.

I think that should be considered. And yet we follow the great trend of the United States of America, and whatever they do we bring in here -- whether it is in music or in games or in justice system or anything else. We're going to bring it into Canada -- we always have -- unless we watch.

Now I don't want to be unfair to the United States of America. One of my first heroes in America was a guy . . . well, he was a very good pool player. He was a professional baseball player. He married a movie star. Why wouldn't he be my hero? But what's the most famous thing that Leo Durocher left for us? The saying: nice guys finish last.

Now he was replaced by a greater hero. And I talk about sports because I think sports is . . . no part of society's severable from any other part. And it's simple and it illustrates what's going on.

The next hero was a greater hero -- Vince Lombardi. After all he won three national football championships in a row. You can't be a bigger hero than that. And what's the greatest thing he left us? The saying: winning's not the important thing; winning is everything.

All right. So you say, well this is the United States. And what's this kook -- this rookie, I'm sorry -- what's he saying about . . . that doesn't apply to us. All right. Next time there's a hockey game turn on your TV and you'll find our greatest hero in Canada today financed largely by taxpayers' dollars. And Don Cherry will come on and during the intermission will tell you how you can break the rules without being caught. He will go on to explain how you can injure your opponent without being penalized.

And once when I happened to be listening and they asked him about the Pat Quinn contract and was it honest, Don Cherry said, well what are you asking me about honesty for; this is a million and a half dollars we're talking about, a million and a half dollars . . . (inaudible) . . . Now that's one and a half million, not 1.3 million.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kujawa: -- And besides this, Don Cherry is the most racist person on television and speaks the worst English and yet he is one of our heroes. Don't tell me that this is something that we should not consider when we ask ourselves are we really progressing, are we really educated.

I suggest for your consideration that probably the best test for civilization is to assess how considerate are these people one to another. And for a fellow who walks around a great deal, because I don't have a car, I am curious. Here is one example. Last spring -- the weather was good and people were into the better clothes; I've still got my parka on, etc. -- there was a great snowfall, a whole lot of nastiness, coldness, and there's a little path on the sidewalk. I walk out at noon and people go by. I stand on the side, let them pass me. And I did this for about 15, 20 minutes; there were a lot of people around, and I was doing an experiment. Any time anyone came along I stood out into the deep snow and let them go by. And I didn't count them, but a great many people went by. And exactly two looked at me and said thanks as they walked by. The others -- just as if you weren't there. I think we should consider how considerate we are, therefore how civilized we are.

Now I will end after just one more story. I tell this story because it's true. It illustrates a point, I hope. I was once surrounded by a whole lot of these social scientists in a conference in Toronto, and that night we were having a banquet and a great speaker from the United States of America. And I figured, my God, I have to tolerate all of this just to get some free booze and have a real good meal. And the answer is, yes I'll tolerate it!

I went in and I listened to a guy by the name of John Graecen address us. At the end of the address, I walked up to him and told him I thought it was a great performance. He was a great deal of help to me. I talked with him a bit and I asked him, didn't you know that talking to this sort of

an audience, what you had to say would be reasonably unpopular. And this guy says, yes I knew that. And I said, well doesn't that bother you? He says, it used to bother me a great deal but not so much any more because I have slowly learned that it is not my job to change the world. My job is to try . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this Assembly. I know that you will do an excellent job in maintaining the traditions of this legislature and in conducting the House with decorum and fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden for moving the Speech from the Throne and the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood for seconding.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1600)

Ms. Stanger: -- Both members had important things to say to this Assembly. I would like to congratulate all the newly elected members of the legislature and I'd like to congratulate the people that were re-elected.

It is my honour and privilege to stand in this Assembly and represent the fine people of Cut Knife-Lloydminster. I appreciate the confidence and trust that the people have placed in me. I'm proud to come from an area of Saskatchewan that is rich in history, diverse, unique, and whose people are extremely adaptable.

We are known to have some of the most progressive cattle ranchers in Canada. We are leaders in the heavy-oil industry. Our grain farmers are industrious and innovative. Our business people are tenacious and ambitious, and Heaven only knows they've had to be the last nine years. And our wage earners and professionals are dedicated and hard-working.

Included in our constituency are three Indian bands: Little Pine, Poundmaker, and Sweetgrass, who add to the history and uniqueness of our area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my parents, Helen and Andrew Owchar, formerly from the Canora constituency. These people helped to elect people like Alex Kuziak, the first Ukrainian to be appointed a minister of the Crown and the first bilingual minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- They also worked to elect people like Myron Feeley from Preeceville, Dan Daniels from Canora, and Sandy Nicholson from the Mackenzie constituency. My parents never faltered in their support of the CCF and the NDP. Tommy Douglas was a frequent visitor in our area and I grew up surrounded by people who really believed that they were their sisters' and brothers' keepers.

It was these values of co-operation, the willingness to share and care for others that built this great province. To return to these values will make us leaders once again in the areas of health, education, native issues, women's issues, and the economy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- I look forward to the next four years, where urban and rural, young and old, farmer and wage earners, business people and co-operatives, and native people will work together to make this province great again. Diverse as we are, we are all citizens of Saskatchewan, and so we must strive to reach the same goals.

Mr. Speaker, our agricultural sector is in need of immediate help. We know the frustrations, the despair, the human tragedies that farmers are going through. We have a crisis now, worse than in any of our province's history: bankruptcy, incomes well below the poverty level, all kinds of social and economic problems, rural depopulation, and school depopulation.

My constituency of Cut Knife-Lloydminster had 1,000 fewer voters in 1991 than in 1996. Our Premier has been working non-stop with the help of the member from Rosetown, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and with farmers from across western Canada to tackle many of these issues. This government is fully committed to maintaining the family farm and supporting rural Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- Mr. Speaker, our government has tried to ease the heavy yoke of taxation from the people of Saskatchewan. I love that -- the heavy yoke of the taxation of the people of Saskatchewan. I'm Ukrainian, and I can just see those oxen with the yoke around them. And that's how I think the people felt the last five or six years, like they had a yoke around them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- The removal of the expanded PST will eliminate one of the biggest tax grabs that the people of Saskatchewan have endured. The former government under the direction from the member of Estevan did not understand the Saskatchewan way.

I have been listening carefully the last few days. I at least thought that maybe I could hear some philosophical background from the members opposite so that I could understand which direction they were going. I find that impossible. I see that my first assumption was right. They tried to impose an American philosophy on the people of Saskatchewan. What's mine is mine; what's yours, I'll get tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- They encourage unbridled competition instead of co-operation, privatization instead of a mixed economy, waste and mismanagement instead of prudent management, patronage instead of fair tendering and fair

hiring practices.

The former government fell into the Donald Trump trap of overspending, overborrowing, and overconsuming -- junk hand dealing from junk government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- Now we must tighten our belts and adhere to sound financial management to get this province back on track again.

Mr. Speaker, another concern that the people of my riding share is over the quality of education. From elementary to secondary to post-secondary, parents and students alike are keen to maintain and enhance education. People realize that education is the key to the future if people are going to survive and adapt to our global village. Our high school drop-out rate really concerns me, and there is much work in education to be done in this area.

Mr. Speaker, from my prospective, the people of Cut Knife-Lloydminster and the citizens of Saskatchewan are looking to this government for leadership in a number of key areas. I have mentioned agriculture, sound financial management, and education.

Another area I would like to discuss is health. Cut Knife-Lloydminster is fortunate to have many talented and progressive people in the health field. It is my hope that we can work with these folks to develop plans for comprehensive, effective, efficient, and innovative delivery of health services.

Mr. Speaker, many women's issues are dear to my heart. Actually these issues are people issues. Services are not adequate in rural Saskatchewan where victims of violence often face intense physical as well as emotional isolation. Most of our shelters are underfunded and have to turn people away. Many of the crisis centres that operate in rural Saskatchewan are grossly underfunded and depend almost exclusively on volunteer labour.

Child care in Saskatchewan is too costly for many rural families. One in every four children live in poverty in Saskatchewan. The families and children of Saskatchewan are our hope for the future. These people must be supported and encouraged to reach their potential.

Key in the rebuilding of this province is to include and consider all the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- Our native people have felt isolated and on the fringe of our society. We must come together, understand each other's culture, respect one another, and build together for the future.

In fact this is a focal point of the government's mandate -- listening to people, working with people, and making decisions that will benefit the majority of the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- I want to assure the people of Cut Knife-Lloydminster that I will continue to listen to your concerns, as will all members of our government. I follow some hon. members that represented Cut Knife-Lloydminster: Toby Nollet, a former minister of Agriculture; Miro Kwasnica, MLA; and Bob Long, a former minister of Highways. I plan to give all my energy and to maintain this high standard of representation given to Cut Knife-Lloydminster in the past.

Arising from this issue of diligent representation is the issue of democratic reform. My constituents hold democratic reform as an urgent need in today's process. I was pleased to see that our government moved quickly to assure that by-elections are held within six months of vacancy -- quite a change from the former administration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: -- Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke to a constituent who shared some wisdom with me. He assured me that people realize what the financial state of the province is. He assured me that people are willing to put their shoulder to the wheel. He assured me that people are willing to find new ways to grapple with our problems.

He assured me that people are excited because they feel we are going to listen and we represent a government that is going to put their plans into action; a government that will put people before self interest; a government that will lead us in new directions.

This optimism, trust, and hope gives me courage to work with my colleagues to build the kind of society that includes all people. This is our vision and this is our dream.

As the elected member from the Cut Knife-Lloydminster constituency I fully support the new directions in the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- I want to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on being elected as Speaker of the Assembly. The fact that it was uncontested is I think a tribute to you. I have confidence that you will maintain impartiality and order in this new position of yours.

I would also like to congratulate all elected members. I'm not sure if the constituency of Meadow Lake holds a record this election or not, but he elected five members who were born and/or raised in our constituency. They are members from Regina Albert South, Regina Hillsdale, The Battlefords, the member opposite from Wilkie, and myself.

I would like to talk briefly today, Mr. Speaker, about some of the priorities I think are important to the fine people of the constituency of Meadow Lake. I was fortunate enough to be elected as a representative from one of the nicest parts of the province.

The economy and composition of our constituency is

very divergent. It varies from grain to cattle ranching to forestry to tourism to small business. Our cultural mosaic is equally varied. Nearly one-third of the constituency's population is aboriginal. There are many Ukrainian, Polish, French, and German people who emigrated to our part of the province. Of those, quite a number are still first generation.

(1615)

I would like to pay special tribute today, Mr. Speaker, to my parents, John and Dorothy Sonntag. I grew up on a small family farm just out of Goodsoil, Saskatchewan, with six other siblings. Also living with us was our grandfather who, in every sense of the word, was of conservative persuasion. Of seven children, with just over seven years separating the oldest from the youngest, there were two sets of twins, myself being one of them. So you'd better check to make sure it's me here all the time, Mr. Speaker.

Picture if you will, 10 of us around each and every meal table and not all of the same philosophical belief. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, the debates were raucous at times, to say the least. What I do want to say is that my parents instilled in me an expectation to always be open and honest, and to work hard to help our neighbours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- It is so basic, Mr. Speaker, but in many ways this ideal of openness and honesty and neighbour helping neighbour is all most constituents ask for in their elected representatives.

At that time, our family would have been considered to be very ordinary. Mr. Speaker, the definition of ordinary family used to mean the husband out working while the wife stayed at home to look after the 1.75 children.

Let me provide for you a very few brief statistics. In 1960, 70 per cent of North Americans belonged to this definition of the ordinary family. In 1991, it is estimated that only 7 per cent can still subscribe to this ordinary family definition. In Saskatchewan, with the economy as tough as it is and with many couples being forced to work out of the home, I suggest the percentages are probably not a whole lot different. This is a fact of life and a fact that we as governments cannot ignore.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, somewhat humorously but factual none the less, in Canada an interesting statistic shows that most Canadians have more parents than they do have children. It was those very values, Mr. Speaker, of openness and honesty that were the convincing factor in my decision to put forth my name as a candidate for the New Democratic Party. Ordinary people are so cynical of politicians and the political process. It has always been my belief, Mr. Speaker, that either you try to change and improve things or you quit complaining.

I stand before you today hoping to be a part of that process of change. The good people of Meadow Lake have honoured me with that responsibility. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, one of the accomplishments I am most proud of was winning the poll of Goodsoil, my home town.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- After speaking with Mr. Bob Wooff, a well respected and former MLA from our constituency, he tells me that in his recall no New Democrat or CCF before him has ever won that poll. Mr. Wooff came within three votes. So to the people of Goodsoil I say thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- We have heard much in the last few years of the woes of agriculture, of the number of young people leaving our province, of businesses closing, and it goes on and on. How does one begin to resolve these problems, Mr. Speaker? How does one undertake such a huge task you may ask?

Well I say the task is far too large for any one of us. The last number of years have been geared to individualism, to secrecy, to hidden agendas, to the me-first doctrine. It's time for change. We need a team effort, and we must have the best team possible -- a team of hard workers, a team of co-operators, a team of people-first people. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is what the people of Saskatchewan asked for and I submit that is what they got.

I humbly stand here in this great Assembly and pledge to the people of Meadow Lake, Goodsoil, Pierceland, Loon Lake, St. Walburg, Paradise Hill, and the six reserves in my constituency that I will indeed do my very best to remain a people-first person.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- While I'm talking about it, Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the young people of my constituency. In the years I have been in politics I have never seen young people more interested and involved in campaigns as they were in the most recent one. They certainly crossed partisan lines and I think this is tremendous. It is a sure sign that we can be optimistic.

Somebody once said that if we elected children and old people to run the government for a while, there would be much more harmony. I'm not sure I'm ready to give up my seat quite this early in my career, Mr. Speaker, but I do believe there is much to be learned from that suggestion. We get so caught up in the day-to-day activities that we tend to lose sight of what are very often simple solutions to what we perceived to be massive and complex problems.

I say to the fine people of Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker, and indeed to the people of Saskatchewan that our commitment during the campaign was not to make a lot of extravagant promises, but rather to be fiscally responsible. And I want to remind the people now that we intend to live up to that, that there will be realigning of spending priorities. Gone are the days of the give-aways to the large corporate sector, gone are the days when we put profits before people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- Our government, Mr. Speaker, is a government committed to open dialogue with the Indian people of Onion Lake, Waterhen, Ministikwin, Makwa Sahgaiehcan, Joseph Big Head, Flying Dust, and all the bands of Saskatchewan. Our government is a government that is equally committed to open dialogue with the Metis people of Saskatchewan for surely there have been injustices there as well.

We need to start focusing our spending and energies on the ordinary people of Saskatchewan. And I do not say that in a derogatory way at all, Mr. Speaker, because it is my parents, grandparents, my aboriginal friends and their elders, ordinary people of Saskatchewan who work so hard to make it what it is. And for whatever I can contribute I will do what I can to preserve my community and Saskatchewan as I want to see it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- Mr. Speaker, someone once said that the odds of restoring Saskatchewan's economy back to the vibrancy it used to enjoy makes a Las Vegas crap game look like a guaranteed annual income. Well I don't think it's quite that bad, but truly I'm not understating the case when I tell you that the survival of this province as we know it is at stake.

The issue of Saskatchewan rises again in something we've all been hearing and talking a lot about lately -- the environment. Mr. Speaker, this issue is of particular importance to me having been raised on the banks of the beautiful Waterhen River.

I see two of our environment's main elements being critically threatened, the soil and the water. There are many environmental issues that we can talk about today because sadly, in this day and age, everything is at a critical stage and we all know that if we ignore our environment it will be at our own peril.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- But let me say that as farmers, aboriginal people, and all people living in our province, we do care. I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that the general populace is far ahead of governments when it comes to wanting to restore us to a healthier environment.

Decision makers and decision making, that is who we are, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we are honoured to be in this Assembly. We have been given the mandate to help direct and speak for our constituencies and province. We are all a part of this process. Democracy, when translated, means the popular government. Democracy must have participation to give it integrity. And I say that is why we have elections and why we are here.

At no other time in history has so much happened in such a short time. Africa, Russia, the Germanys, and Central America, everywhere people are demanding and rightfully receiving what in many cases was theirs to begin with. They are demanding to be governed by authorities of their own choosing. And now in Saskatchewan we, as legislators, must recognize and remember that this is a privilege given to us by the people

of our fine constituencies. The people of our constituencies are the ones with the real power. We are merely spokespersons for them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: -- I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan people have entrepreneurship. They have enthusiasm. They have integrity and they have real leadership on their side. Saskatchewan has always been at its best when team-work and co-operation were required. And if it was ever required, now surely is the time.

I want to close today, Mr. Speaker, with a very brief verse that I think reminds all of us where our roots are and what we should be about. And it goes like this: Walk tall as the trees. Live strong as the mountains. Be gentle as the spring winds. Keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart, and the Great Spirit will always be with you.

If we could all live by these words, Mr. Speaker, I think our province will be a much better place in which to live. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your election as Speaker. I've known you for many years, and I've always been impressed with your fair and impartial manner. I congratulate you and wife and partner, Myrna.

Mr. Speaker, it's almost 20 years since I returned to this country after having lived in Europe for some time. Once of the first things my husband and I saw as we left the plane in Edmonton was an emaciated old man rummaging in a garbage can for food. I said to myself then that this sort of thing shouldn't happen in Canada. I had just spent three years living in Holland. It had a social democratic government.

In all my time there, Mr. Speaker, I did not witness such desperation as I saw on the face of that old man. Rather, I saw people with a sense of purpose, a sense of commitment, a sense of dedication to the rebuilding of their country after the devastation of war. As a result of that experience, I was moved to do two things which have a direct bearing on why I stand before you now in this august Chamber.

First, I returned to university in Saskatoon and then I obtained a job as a clinical psychologist -- a clinical psychologist determined to work to empower people to help them realize that poverty is not an individualistic, self-blaming thing. Poverty is a symptom of a system gone wrong, gone dreadfully wrong.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- And so I've worked over the past several years with many people, people with low self-esteem, induced in no small part by the sorts of abuse -- mental, physical, sexual, and economic -- that they've had to suffer at the hands of other more powerful people.

The second thing I did, Mr. Speaker, was to become politically

active and aware. I look to people like Tommy Douglas, Pauline Jewett, and Allan Blakeney as role models. Their decency, fair play, and respect for the contributions and concerns of all people, regardless of race, religion, or sex, has been inspirational to me.

These have been important lessons to me, Mr. Speaker. They're lessons that I feel are particularly compelling right now. For today in 1991 I see a province that's in desperate need of renewal, in desperate need of hope, in desperate need of new and creative solutions. We must resolve the economic and social problems that have been visited upon us by the actions of the former government.

For too long the politics of greed and the entitlement of a privileged few, the blue few, has meant that the voices and potential contributions of too many Saskatchewan people have been ignored.

Mr. Speaker, other government members have alluded to the fact that CCF and NDP governments have always had to come in and fix up the messes left by Conservative and Liberal regimes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1630)

Ms. Lorje: -- I don't need to repeat that here; it's well known, well documented, as is our party's proud record of thoughtful, careful, social, and economic plans.

Suffice it to say I am proud to be part of a government whose key goals are social justice, fairness, and equity for all. I'm proud to be part of a government that recognizes and respects the value of all citizens, one that is willing to embark on new directions and new creative ventures to renew and rebuild this province.

The reason I'm able to be part of this government is the hard work and dedication and support of many people. I want to thank them and acknowledge them today, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank our new Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale. I've had the privilege of serving on his constituency executive association as president. I have received his advice and guidance, and I'm proud to be part of his New Democratic team. Our goals are to restore confidence and hope and dignity to the people of Saskatchewan.

There are a few other special people I want to acknowledge. Peter Prebble is a kind and gentle man with an abiding love of this planet. He works tirelessly to end child hunger and poverty. He is an inspiration to all of us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- I've also learned and grown tremendously from the many strong and dedicated women that I have known. In particular, Nayyar Javed, Saskatchewan's representative to the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, is a role model for political action and dedication. She and many, many others are committed as I am to strengthening women's contribution to society. Our contributions, our choices, and indeed our right to

choose must be respected and valued.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- As I look around and see so many other women MLAs here in this House I'm confident that our voices will be heard. I'm equally confident that our voices will be strong and clear. We will address the issues of pay equity, child care, pensions, violence against women and children, poverty, and the special concerns of immigrant and aboriginal women.

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention two other very special people in my life. I learned many valuable lessons from my mother. She raised her children with pride and love despite being widowed and forced to rely on public assistance.

My husband, Ted, was a strong and dedicated social democrat. He consistently and lovingly supported me in my work on Saskatoon City Council. My only regret, Mr. Speaker, is that my husband died of cancer and is not able to share this moment with me.

But the support he gave me is now complemented by my many friends in municipal government, in mental health work, in my election campaign, in my work in race relations, and the arts. Many people have helped me, and to them I say thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- Since the election of October 21 I've been fortunate to work with some very, very fine people. I'm referring of course to the members of the New Democrat caucus. The spirit of collegiality and team-work is tremendously supportive. I thank all of them for the trust and confidence they've shown in me by electing me as caucus co-chair.

Together with my colleague from Moose Jaw Palliser I have been privileged over the past month to work on some very real structural and functional reforms for the committees of this legislature. We are developing proposals for making committee work more meaningful and immediate, for ensuring that there is a clear and straightforward mechanism for hearing briefs from the public and special interest groups, and for ensuring involvement of all members of this House.

I thank all my caucus colleagues for the support and encouragement that you've shown me as we work together to bring operational reform to our committee processes.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank the wonderful people of Saskatoon Wildwood, a constituency both unique yet similar to others in Saskatchewan. Saskatoon Wildwood is a new constituency, new in many ways. The houses there are all between 1 and 12 or 13 years old, about the same age as many of the inhabitants. Saskatoon Wildwood is home to mostly young families, families where both mother and father work outside the home to provide the necessities for their young children. They know firsthand the impact of the changing role of the family. They know firsthand the impact of runaway

taxation and high mortgages. Some of the people in Saskatoon Wildwood enjoy above average earnings and incomes. Some don't.

All of them though have friends and former neighbours who've been forced to leave this province in the past few years. The recent out-migration in this province has been nothing short of scandalous. Last year alone over 36,000 talented people left. They took their talents and their skills with them. They were forced to become economic refugees in their own country. Many have stayed, but at a tremendous cost.

In the past 10 years, personal bankruptcies in Saskatchewan have increased fivefold. Business bankruptcies have quadrupled. Fifty thousand Saskatchewan children live in poverty.

It is shocking, Mr. Speaker, to go door to door in a constituency like Saskatoon Wildwood, one that looks extremely affluent, and to see how many homes behind those large doors have only the minimum of furniture. It is shocking to see the struggle necessary to maintain a family when both parents work and there's a lack of adequate, affordable child care.

Mr. Speaker, it was with sadness that I heard countless people in Saskatoon Wildwood tell me that they would have felt compelled to leave this province if there had not been a change in government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- They were sick to death with unfair taxes like the expanded PST. They were fed up with patronage, waste, and mismanagement. They were disgusted with the arrogance of a government that refused to pass a budget, that ignored calls for by-elections, and that listened only to the siren songs of rich, out-of-province hustlers.

But, Mr. Speaker, with relief and joy, with a renewed sense of commitment to this province, the people of Saskatoon Wildwood now have a special sense of mission and hope.

The people of Saskatoon Wildwood are fair and decent people like most people in this province. They care. They have a strong sense of neighbourliness. They have a strong sense of contribution and duty to their community. They have a great many gifts and talents to use in the rebuilding of this province. They have said, as I have, that Saskatchewan, our province, is too precious, too important, to give up on. They want to work, to give new direction and guidance, to develop creative solutions to the problems that beset us.

Things have changed dramatically in Saskatoon in the last nine and a half years. Our city is no longer as prosperous. Our growth rate, once the fastest in all of Canada, has slowed dramatically. Right now the only thing growing is the line-ups at the food bank. People of Saskatoon Wildwood do not like that. They do not want to see old men and old women and poverty-stricken young children rummaging in garbage cans. They want to work to stop that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- But first, Mr. Speaker, they had to find their voice. And so they spoke out loudly and clearly on October 21. As we debate the Speech from the Throne, our task will be to continue listening to those voices and to all the others, to the people who felt disenfranchised and ignored.

All people have important and valuable contributions to make to the task of rebuilding Saskatchewan -- rebuilding its spirit and its economy. We must not forget that. I learned it through the last 12 years of my public service on Saskatoon City Council. As we rebuild this province, innovation, ideas, and insight can come from everyone. Our greatest resource is our people. We need to involve people in a meaningful way. We must consult them to find solutions to the very, very serious problems that we now face.

Past governments threw money at problems. Now there's not so much money. We have to find new ways of involving people in solutions. Our government is committed to bringing people together to find solutions that will benefit us all. Our government has already taken steps to involve people in a meaningful way. I'm talking about our intentions to introduce measures of democratic reform. I'm proud to be part of a government that's addressing the need for responsive, responsible government.

As someone who has served on the city council of the largest city in this province, I'm well aware of the dilemma the at-large system of civic elections has created for voters. In the municipal election, just two days after the provincial one, there were over 50 candidates for city council. This is a real problem for people who want to make informed decisions about their choices. I'm very happy to see that this problem will be resolved with the reintroduction of the ward system for cities with more than 100,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, this democratic reform, the first in what I know will be many, will go a long way to restoring confidence and respect for government. Our government will restore a sense of professionalism and eliminate the blatant patronage in the civil service.

These are important measures. They will restore a sense of decency and hope to this province. They're not fancy, sexy, give-away programs that will add to mountainous debt created by the former government. They are programs that listen to the desire of people to be treated with respect and with fairness.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- Mr. Speaker, we're facing an unprecedented economic crisis in this province. Everyone wants to become part of the solution, not part of the problem. People in Saskatoon Wildwood, like people all across this province, are ready to go to the stores now, now that the expanded PST on clothing has been removed, and buy work shirts, shirts with the sleeves already rolled up.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- People are ready to work and work we must. There are new economic realities in this country, and our government is ready to work in co-operation and consultation with all people to find made-in-Saskatchewan solutions to this crisis created by the former government.

We have already made a large step in this venture. We dropped the expanded PST. We listened to the consumers and the small businesses. We listened to the restaurants whose trade dropped by over 30 per cent. We listened to the bookstores who watched with alarm at the tax on books at a time when illiteracy rates at 25 per cent of Saskatchewan citizens are already the scandal of this country.

Mr. Speaker, in closing let me repeat that this government is a government committed to finding innovative and inexpensive solutions to the problems created by the previous administration. We will change the notion of what is valuable in this society. We will look to new and creative sources for solutions. We will look, for instance, to a previously ignored economic sector, the art sector.

The arts in Saskatchewan play a major, but unheralded role in our lives and in the creation of jobs and of economic stimulation. The arts and culture industries employ over 10,000 people, twice as many as the combined industries of uranium mining and potash. More to the point, they enrich our lives tremendously. They stimulate us to new ways of thinking, new ways of working for social change, new ways of involving people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1645)

Ms. Lorje: -- We can and we must involve these people and all people as we struggle to repair the damage. Indeed we must do more than merely repair the damage. We must move beyond that -- move to a society where tolerance, understanding, respect, and dignity, are important.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- We must recognize the incredible mosaic of cultural riches available in Saskatchewan. We are immeasurably enriched by aboriginal people, by new citizens and immigrants, by people with different points of view and orientations. We must value and respect their contributions and work actively to hear their solutions.

I mentioned earlier that I had served on Saskatoon City Council. I developed a reputation there for being someone who spoke out clearly and strongly on the issues of importance to the people of Saskatoon. People would often say that they didn't always agree with me but at least they knew where I stood and they knew that I would listen to all points of view and work hard to get results.

It was a no-nonsense, clear, and straightforward approach. The poll results for the last 12 years

demonstrated that it's an approach the people want. It's an approach the people have the right to expect and indeed to demand from their elected representatives. We cannot, we must not, treat people to a diet of baffle-gab and simply hope that their problems will go away.

I intend to adopt the same sort of strong, clear approach in this legislature. I will be working hard and pressing for change in certain key areas where I feel social justice has been denied for too long. For instance, I believe we need to settle aboriginal land claims.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- We must work with Indian and Metis organizations on the transfer of jurisdiction where appropriate. I believe we need to get serious about the environmental degradation of this planet. We need strong, conservation-oriented programs. In health care, I want to see effective preventive programs in the area of mental health and teen pregnancies. I also believe we must have a realistic, preventive, and palliative program for AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Further, I believe it is now time to update the Human Rights Code. We need to strengthen provisions for physically and mentally disabled people, and stop discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- I also believe we need to be much more active in our support of the arts in this province.

And finally, I am determined to push for economic and social measures to eliminate poverty and to close, for once and for all, the food banks of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: -- These are but a few examples of the areas where I will be pressing our government to move forward quickly and clearly. I don't expect that all people will agree with all the issues I've listed, but I do expect that these issues will at least be placed on the public agenda and we can begin dialogue and action on them.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is rich, not rich in dollars but rich in people, their diversity and their dignity. As we work to restore economic balance to this province, as we work to contribute to the process of constitutional renovation, as we work to meaningfully involve all people from all walks of life, we must never forget our richness in our diversity and our strength in our resolve. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wormsbecker: -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to extend my congratulations, Mr. Speaker, on your election as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly. I pledge my co-operation in the orderly dispatch of the business brought before this Assembly. It further pleases me that my colleagues who have spoken prior to me, have also given a similar commitment. This should make your job as Speaker much less difficult.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a certain amount of trepidation that I stand to give my first address to this Assembly as the elected member of the constituency of Weyburn. It is noted, Mr. Speaker, that I use the word trepidation in the context of the uncertainties this rookie encounters in his new endeavour as a member of this Assembly.

The good people of the Weyburn constituency have bestowed upon me the privilege of representing them over the next four years. For this I am truly thankful, and it is a privilege that I shall cherish dearly. I shall do my utmost to represent my constituents in a manner that is worthy of the trust and confidence that my constituents have reposed in me.

I'm also mindful, Mr. Speaker, of the long tradition the Weyburn constituency has had of representation in this Assembly by honourable and competent members.

As far as my memory permits me, I recall T.C. Douglas who served this province with great distinction as premier from 1944 to 1962. Following Mr. Douglas, June Staveley, former Weyburn mayor, was elected as a Liberal candidate and served for one term. The late Auburn Pepper served his constituents for 18 years under the leadership of former premiers Woodrow Lloyd and Allan Blakeney. And for the past nine years, the former Finance minister, Lorne Hepworth, served his constituents very ably.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of the partisan politics these former Weyburn MLAs engaged in, each of them served their whole constituent body with dignity, honour, and integrity. It is this tradition and fine example that I have as my yardstick and bench-mark in the execution of my elected responsibilities.

I fondly recollect, as a very young lad, my first introduction to Mr. Douglas via the radio. My father would listen to the radio speeches and debates. And, Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Douglas was on the air waves, it was bad news for me if I was disruptive. It took a few years maturity on my part to understand why dad tuned me out while he tuned Mr. Douglas in on the air waves.

Mr. Speaker, there is standing in Weyburn Heritage Park a building which has the appearance of a church on the outside but on the inside it has been restored as a theatre. This is the former Calvary Baptist Church, the only church that Mr. Douglas pastored as a minister of the word of God. This former church was relocated from Second Street, Weyburn, to Weyburn Heritage Park and dedicated to the memory of T.C. Douglas.

In the dedication address of October 19 of this year, Ross McMurty, former United Church minister and long-time friend of Tommy and Irma Douglas, spoke the following words:

In dedicating this centre today, it is with affection and thanksgiving we salute Tommy Douglas -- a man of the people and for the people; a man of wit but also wisdom; a man of compassion but also courage; a man of whom it will be said: no one just like him will ever walk our way again.

In the name of all that was wrong with the past; in the name of all that is right with the present; and in the name of all that is yet possible . . . we dedicate the T.C. Douglas Calvary Centre for the Performing Arts to the memory of Thomas Clement Douglas.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wormsbecker: -- Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent the same constituency that T.C. Douglas represented for so many years. I was also honoured with the presence of Irma Douglas and her granddaughter, Rachel Sutherland, on election night when the constituency of Weyburn elected an NDP member to the Legislative Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wormsbecker: -- Over the past decade in particular, the public has directed much cynicism towards politicians. All members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, have an obligation to restore trust and confidence in the legislative process. All too frequently I've heard members of the public compare us to boisterous school children during their recess break when the Assembly members engage in persistent heckling and shouting on the floor of this Assembly. When I hear this comparison being made, I caution the person making the comparison that perhaps they're being unduly harsh to the school children.

I was pleased to hear you state, Mr. Speaker, during your comments following your election, that you shall make every reasonable effort to maintain a dignified decorum in this Assembly, reflective of the importance of this institution to the democratic process.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wormsbecker: -- This is not to say that we are to don the robes of a stoic when we enter the Assembly. There is room for laughter, cajoling, and polite heckling which all must be kept in its proper perspective considering that the Assembly through the medium of television is always under the watchful eye of the public.

Our primary focus as elected members is to attend to the business of this Assembly through the introduction of legislation followed by critical scrutiny and debate. Saskatchewan has had and continues to have a reputation for taking its politics seriously. This is demonstrated by the relatively high percentage of voter turn-out on election day.

Mr. Speaker, over the years the elected members by far have served the interest of their constituents very well, but occasionally some go astray and serve their self interest. The Bible comments upon service to our brothers, Mark 9:35:

Jesus sat down, called the 12 disciples and said to them: "whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all".

Every one of us must be vigilant constantly and stay the

course of public service and not private gain. This dichotomy of public service versus private gain has always been in the public's eye and has been the subject matter of much debate for generations.

The Speaker: -- Order. It now being 5 o'clock I leave this chair until 7 o'clock this evening.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.