

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
February 8, 1995

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the new session, we have new petitions, and I will read the petition to you and just the prayer later on as we present more that will follow:

To the Hon. Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in legislature assembled, the petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly showeth that towns and villages bordering Highway No. 1 are suffering from increased unemployment, reduced population levels, reduced sales, and increased business closures, and that these negative factors can be directly attributed to the loss of tourism and vehicular activity along Highway No. 1; and further that the reduced tourism traffic, coupled with an increase in accident levels, are due to the fact that hundreds of kilometres of Highway No. 1 remain single-laned across the province.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to allocate adequate funding dedicated towards the double-laning of Highway No. 1, and further that the Government of Saskatchewan direct any monies available from the federal infrastructure program towards double-laning Highway No. 1 rather than allocating these funds towards capital construction projects in the province.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These come from the community of Fox Valley, Mendham, and those communities north of Highway No. 1.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Friday next move first reading of a Bill, An Act to Amend The Health Districts Act.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to draw your attention and that of the members to a group of students that are seated in your gallery. This is a group of 22 students from St. Augustine school in the constituency of Regina Victoria. They're accompanied by their teacher Doug Devernichuk and by chaperon Debbie Warren.

I look forward to meeting with them for questions after our question period, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you that based on my appearance in their classroom that this is a very bright group of kids, and they'll have very good questions. And so I'd like the

members to join with me to make them feel very welcome here today.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**Employment Statistics**

**Mr. Roy:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm pleased to announce to the House, as chair of our caucus employment and economy committee, that the revised Statistics Canada figures that show job growth in Saskatchewan is flourishing and growing.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roy:** — Considering the government's commitment to create jobs for Saskatchewan people, this is good news.

Employment in our province averaged 450,000 workers during 1992, climbed to 455 in 1993, and reached 457,000 in 1994. This includes the late year-over-year surge of 11,000 jobs in November and 15,000 in December. Youth employment also is showing increases, Mr. Speaker. Since 1992, when there was an average of 74,000 employed youth, the rate has steadily increased to 76,000 in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, this is not . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I want to make two comments. First of all, I think members should give the member the respect that he deserves when he is standing and speaking in the House.

Secondly, I wish to draw to the members' attention that statements by members are statements that should relate to something pertaining to their constituency and not something that may be a statement made by a minister. And I am just asking members to please keep that in mind.

**Mr. Roy:** — Mr. Speaker, this news today that was released is obviously good news for Saskatchewan businesses, Saskatchewan economy, and for the constituency of Kinistino because it is going to prove that jobs . . .

Mr. Speaker, the key here is that 7,000 new jobs have been created by small and medium-sized businesses and it is good news for the economy and I . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order. Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Northern Development**

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This morning the Associate Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Municipal Government announced the northern development fund that is very good news for my area as well.

The conference took place this morning at La Ronge. I rise this afternoon to commend the government for this initiative which will direct \$4 million into targeted assistance for new and existing business ventures in the North.

The fund includes a business loan program, support to new community-based regional economic development organizations, and assistance for marketing, promotion, and research and development activities.

Other initiatives under the fund include establishment of a northern review board composed primarily of Northerners to give input on the fund's administration and an organizational training and business skills enhancement package and provision of increased technical and business advice.

Mr. Speaker, the *Partnership for Renewal* economic plan refers to the North's ample opportunities related to its rich resources, culture, and heritage.

The northern development fund will provide a new set of economic tools to Northerners to help them build on those opportunities and to create the jobs and businesses that will benefit the entire Saskatchewan economy.

Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### 15 Wing Moose Jaw

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of 15 Wing, Saskatchewan's only military base, located at Moose Jaw.

Known to many as CFB (Canadian Forces Base) Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan is united in our concern for the future of our base as Canada's main training facility for new pilots and home of the Snowbirds.

The federal government is reviewing the future of the country's bases, and we know that 15 Wing is both sound in its infrastructure and efficient in its operation.

We know as well that although Saskatchewan has nearly 4 per cent of the nation's population, we see only a little over 1 per cent of defence spending here in Saskatchewan, and virtually all of that at 15 Wing.

A large group of concerned people have come together, setting aside their territorial and political differences, to form a non-partisan support group called Friends of 15 Wing. And tonight CHAB radio 800 has a call-in show on 15 Wing.

Friends of 15 Wing have distributed postcards that people can use to express their support for 15 Wing to Defence Minister Collenette and Saskatchewan's cabinet minister Ralph Goodale. In fact we've had to print more of those cards.

As a friend of 15 Wing, I want to thank the thousands of Saskatchewan people who have already sent in their expression

of support for Saskatchewan's air base, 15 Wing, as Canada's main training facility for new pilots and home of the Snowbirds.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to comment on the 15 Wing group of friends of which I'm proud to be one. And I'd like to congratulate the member from Moose Jaw Palliser who has been very front and centre in leading the initiatives to deal with 15 Wing.

And I'd like to also add my congratulations to all of the people irregardless of their political stripe or where they happen to be in the provincial economy who have supported our efforts.

I was very pleased today to distribute those postcards that the member just talked about to all of my colleagues so that they in turn can take them to their constituency offices and help with this effort.

And I also would like to congratulate the member, Mr. Speaker, on doing what is supposed to be done in this period of this time that members have . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Saskatchewan Safety Council Annual Seminar

**Mr. Trew:** — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's my pleasure to speak of an organization very near and dear to my heart, and I want to congratulate the Saskatchewan Safety Council for holding its 22nd annual industrial safety seminar which concludes today in Regina.

For the past 22 years, Mr. Speaker, the council's occupational division has organized the industrial safety seminar which focuses on safety related information and training.

The seminar involves health and safety professionals from across Canada and the United States, as well as safety committee members and workers from Saskatchewan. It also includes one of the largest safety equipment displays in Western Canada.

We all know that employees can be injured or killed in the industrial workplace because of accidents, and this kind of education has proven to be invaluable in preventing injuries and fatalities and also in improving the operations of business.

This seminar gives Saskatchewan workers access to the latest tools, techniques, and research necessary for dealing with the safety concerns arising in the workplace. The Saskatchewan Safety Council was formed some 40 years ago in Regina and has been a leader in promoting all aspects of safety throughout the province.

I am proud to be one of over 450 Saskatchewan Safety Council members, who represent all of the major sectors of

Saskatchewan business, government, and industry. Mr. Speaker, it is through the efforts of this council that safety in the workplace is getting the attention it rightly deserves in the Saskatchewan workplace.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### **International Development Week**

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Across Saskatchewan, and in fact across all of Canada this week, International Development Week is being celebrated. And Saskatchewan has an important role to play in the world community. This is a very good opportunity for us to recognize Saskatchewan residents who are working in this regard.

In fact on Saturday the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation will present its 1995 global citizen awards here in Regina. Each year the council recognizes two or more people who have supported global development issues at home and overseas. There are three recipients this year: Sister Thomas Bernhard, Nettie Wiebe, and Wendy Manson.

Sister Thomas has helped to bring public attention to injustices in Africa and Latin America. She has also drawn attention to the concerns of Canada's first nations people and spent three months in Brazil writing about people's struggles in that country.

Wendy Manson and Nettie Wiebe have worked toward meaningful participation of women in developing farm policy and practice. Both have served as elected officials with the National Farmers Union and have been active in organizing programs to promote the exchange of ideas and actions between the NFU (National Farmers Union) and the national union of farmers and ranchers in Nicaragua.

And so today I want to congratulate SCIC (Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation), the recipients of the global citizens awards, and all others who are making a unique Saskatchewan contribution to international development. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## **ORAL QUESTIONS**

### **Labour Standards Amendments**

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are directed at the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker, just before the opening of the legislative session, the former minister of Labour announced the proclamation of the labour standards amendments. Not included in this . . . in the proclamation were seven or eight contentious amendments which would have had a devastating effect on business and job creation in Saskatchewan. These include most available hours, severance provisions, and lay-off notices. After continual lobbying from business groups and opposition from the member from Maple Creek, the former minister of Labour

finally saw the light.

My question is now to the current Minister of Labour. Mr. Minister, while many harmful amendments remain, I'm wondering if you fully support the position and actions of your predecessor, the former minister of Labour?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. And I would want to go on record as saying I fully support the previous minister of Labour in the work that he's done in trying to bring into place a very controversial piece of legislation, which was not assisted by either your party or the Liberal Party in this legislature. Nevertheless, we feel it represents a good balance between working people and employers within this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I'm very pleased to hear that you support the removal of those offending amendments. But unfortunately it appears that the former minister's actions are thin, paper thin, literally. In fact every one of those amendments remains on The Labour Standards Act and are merely marked as amendments not yet to be proclaimed. So these Draconian measures have not been done away with, as most business people would believe. It appears they've just been postponed. And they can be brought forth into law with the stroke of the Premier's pen.

Mr. Minister, very simply, given your support for the removal of these amendments, will you now support legislation repealing those sections of the Act and pledge not to implement them at any time?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Mr. Speaker, first off I'd want to point out to the hon. member that the measures, the legislation, the regulations, are not Draconian because to be Draconian they would have to be held in great secrecy to deceive people in some way.

There was no deception in terms of The Labour Standards Act or other pieces of labour legislation that have come before this Legislative Assembly. There was full, open, public debate in this legislature and the debate that will likely continue. And we want to make sure that the labour legislation in this province neither overly balances towards labour and working people, or overbalances towards the business community. We want to make sure that the rights of working men and women in this province are protected and that businesses can, in fact, feel confidence that they can do their job in the economy of the province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, as the new Minister of Labour I would have hoped that you would have been totally honest with the business community and those

looking for employment in this province. If you agree these laws are detrimental, if you support their exclusion from The Labour Standards Act as you've already admitted, why not support repealing legislation?

We'll be introducing a private members' bill which was originally designed to do away with all of the amendments. But we'd be more than happy to repeal only those items which are now excluded. Put the taxpayers' money, Mr. Minister, where your mouth is. Will you support repealing those amendments?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — It's not my intention to bring any further labour legislation this session concerning labour legislation in Saskatchewan. It's not my intention to do that. My intention is to make sure that the business community and the working men and women of this province can work within the laws and regulations that have already been established.

I would see little benefit to opening up the debate which creates some flamboyance on your part and also the Liberal Party in this House. I think we're better served by the Saskatchewan community as a whole to figure out exactly how we can make this legislation and the regulations work to the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, clearly the only reason you are refusing to repeal those amendments is because you and your ex-NDP (New Democratic Party) Premier want to play politics. Plain and simply.

You'll go to the chamber of commerce breakfast meetings and claim what a good friend to business you are. Then you'll go over to lunch at Tommy Douglas House with your union leaders and say, don't worry, we'll promise to proclaim those amendments if you support us during the next election. It's a system of carrots and clubs that you and the NDP have used very successfully in the past, Mr. Minister.

If you won't act, Mr. Minister, at least be truthful with the people of Saskatchewan. Will you admit that there's a strong likelihood that these amendments will be brought in into law and probably sooner than later?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is as inaccurate in his description of what this party stands for, this government stands for, as he is when he says the ex-premier of the province of Saskatchewan. The man from Riversdale is the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan and I wish you would stop . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — I wish you would stop misconstruing the facts about labour legislation and the business community in this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### **Government Tendering Policy**

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the opposition leader speaks of the political games being played by the Premier with the business and union communities. Political games are what the Premier do the best.

A few days ago we had received a late copy of the government's so-called fair wage policy for government Crown contracts. In actuality this is a union preference policy for government contracts. My question is to the Minister responsible for Crown Investments. Mr. Minister, would you confirm or deny that your government is pursuing a union preference policy based on the documents we released to the public just a short time ago?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is that we are not pursuing the policy which I understand the member to be alleging. We have had a policy in place for some time which attempts to seek a balance between the trades people — and keep them in the province — and management. And we think it's working reasonably well. But the answer is that we have a policy which we think is satisfactory.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, look who stands up — my old friend the former minister of Labour. Looks like we haven't parted company just yet, eh, Mr. Minister. Well, Mr. Minister, the union preference policy you're cooking up would see private companies forced to hire 75 per cent labour force from the union halls and 25 per cent non-union workers would still have to pay union dues. The other 25 still having to pay the dues.

Now, Mr. Minister, that's not fair. That, Mr. Minister, is extortion, plain and simple. Now you have talked about a review. Will you give us the exact date when this so-called review will be completed and when you will be tabling the final version of your union preference policy? Can you give us a time frame, Mr. Minister, of when this is going to happen.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Just first of all let me say I'm somewhat disappointed that he referred to me as his former friend. I've always held the member from Maple Creek in the highest regard, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I'm a little disappointed in the use of that adjective. But nevertheless to your substantive question, let me assure you, the member from Maple Creek, let me assure you that if government policy is formulated, I want to give the member my solemn assurance it will be announced in due course.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Minister, I didn't think you'd have to bail your new colleague out of hot water so quickly. But anyway, to get on with it, Mr. Minister, 260 Saskatchewan companies, both large and small, wrote to the Premier in opposition to a union preference policy of tendering. The ad hoc labour fund committee recently wrote to all rural and urban municipalities, schools, and hospital boards, alerting them to the dire consequences of such a policy. They wrote and I quote:

The intent is to formally replace the current public tendering policy of awarding contracts to lowest qualified bidders with a policy designed to ensure most provincial capital works projects are built using union labour. It is also apparent the policy will ultimately provide for more workers to become unionized and make the general public, the taxpayers, finance the higher construction costs.

Mr. Minister, if your review is indefinite, is this policy not designed to bolster your ties with the union leaders in this province just before an election? Will you confirm that the games behind this policy is to bolster your election team by placing a carrot in front of Barb Byers?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The member opposite is describing some sort of a policy. It's certainly not ours. I'm not sure if it's theirs, but it's certainly not ours.

We have attempted . . . Let me try to explain to my current friend from Maple Creek. We have attempted, as I said, to achieve a degree of balance as between management and labour. And I believe with the major Crown corporations we've really succeeded in doing that.

About half of the work goes to union firms. About half of the work has gone to non-union firms. And that, I understand, is about the mixture that occurs in other provinces as well with these major utilities. So we think we have achieved a reasonable balance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### **Youth Unemployment**

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the summary of a discussion paper we released today that actually provides workable ideas to help remedy the youth employment crisis in Saskatchewan. The government needs alternatives, Mr. Speaker; we will give them alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, according to the most recent Revenue Canada statistics this NDP government lost 4,000 young taxpayers in its first year of office. This is not StatsCan. This is Revenue Canada. What is it about your government's policies, Mr. Premier, that have resulted in 4,000 young people not being

able to contribute to the income tax base in this province? Remember these are Revenue Canada statistics.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, many people around the province of Saskatchewan have been telling me that the Liberal Party simply does not know what it's talking about on many issues, and I want to tell you that this is proven by this very question.

Yesterday the . . . in fact not yesterday, as early as this morning the Leader of the Liberal Party was alleging that the Government of Saskatchewan was responsible for the loss of 9,000 jobs, according to StatsCanada. Now she's changed from StatsCanada to Revenue Canada when the figures are out today, that in fact we have increased by 10,000 jobs of December '94 to December '91. All of a sudden the member gets up and says, well we moved from StatsCanada to Revenue Canada. And after Revenue Canada clarifies it, they'll move to wildlife Canada, and after wildlife Canada, they'll move on to something else.

Look, you people are supposed to be the new wave of politics in Saskatchewan. Why don't you stand up and admit that you've been misleading the people of Saskatchewan, that you were not telling them the truth about the figures, that there have been 10,000 more jobs in three years? Admit you were wrong. And also tell the people of Saskatchewan — confirm it — you simply don't know the first thing about job creation, you don't know your numbers, and you cannot be trusted or relied upon.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — What is evident, Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier doesn't care about the youth of Saskatchewan. The question I ask, Mr. Premier, is what is it about your government's policies that have resulted in 4,000 young people not being able to contribute to the income tax base in this province? These are Revenue Canada statistics of the income tax paid in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the numbers given by the Liberal Party this afternoon on Revenue Canada any more than I accepted the numbers of the Liberal Party when they used StatsCanada for three years. When the Liberal leader for three years got up, and still travels, all over Saskatchewan citing StatsCanada saying that there had been job losses — and by the way, today they moved from StatsCanada to Revenue Canada — I didn't believe it then and I don't believe it today.

And I want to tell you something: the people of Saskatchewan don't believe you either. You simply don't know what you're talking about.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, those statistics that you manipulate will not satisfy the young people of Saskatchewan. Not only has Saskatchewan lost young taxpayers

at a rate 19 times greater than the total population, but 62 per cent more youth are on welfare. That means 11,000 Saskatchewan youth are social service recipients. How did you let this happen?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, it is of course the right of the Liberal Party to decide who asks these questions, but I want everybody in Saskatchewan to note that the Leader of the Liberal Party is not asking these questions today for a very good reason. Because for the last three years she's been using Statistics Canada when she knew or ought to have known that the numbers she was giving were absolutely false.

She was going around as a typical old-line politician, finding doom and gloom when there was none there to have. Doom and gloom. Now she's abandoned StatsCanada, has put out a so-called youth paper which, if I may say so, is virtually a direct steal of programs which have been in place by the Department of Education over the last three years, and now moves from StatsCanada to Revenue Canada.

The Liberal Party does not know StatsCanada from Revenue Canada to wildlife Canada. Admit you don't know what you're talking about.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Premier, you still are not listening to what the youth of Saskatchewan are saying and what trouble they're in. Saskatchewan is well above the national average for youth on welfare. When you came into power, 24 per cent of the social assistance cases were youth; now it's 28 per cent. The national average is 21 per cent. The minister can make whatever excuses he wishes, but the government is responsible for this decay.

Mr. Premier, will you admit that your government has failed our youth and has no plan for full-time, permanent youth employment opportunities.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of being in this House for a number of years and I have to tell you that this is the first time that I have seen — with the greatest of respect to the rookie member, and I say that to be the case — this line of questioning.

By the StatsCanada figures which came out today, on average in 1992 there were 74,000 jobs for young people — 75,000 in '93, and 76,000 in 1994 — an increase of 2,000 more jobs, by StatsCanada. Now you will not accept these figures.

Your leader has been all around the province of Saskatchewan as early or as late as this morning, saying that according to StatsCanada, 9,000 jobs. Will you ask her to stand up and say she made a mistake. Will you get up and say you made a mistake. How can you deny these StatsCanada figures?

I tell you there is a large credibility problem with respect to the Liberal Party in respect to your numbers. And I don't accept the Revenue Canada numbers no more than I accepted your

interpretation of the StatsCanada numbers. And I want to tell you, neither do the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

We need to do more for jobs, for youth, and for everybody. We've got the strategy to do that. We've got a game plan to do that. But I tell you what we don't need: are politicians like the Liberal Party going up and down the province of Saskatchewan in order to maintain their political jobs looking at every dark side when everybody in Saskatchewan sees the prosperous turnaround in 1995. Come on, get with it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, you like to play with figures. Let's cut to the chase. Will you table in this House today a strategy of your government to respond to the desperate situation faced by the youth of Saskatchewan today? Will you table that now?

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on January 18, 1995, the member opposite met with the Department of Education, Training and Employment and we spent some time with that member going over the strategy for Education, Training and Employment for the province of Saskatchewan. And I think she'll acknowledge that.

I find it curious that the Liberal policy for the youth of this province reflects many of the items — most of the items — that were discussed in that meeting. I'm pleased, I'm pleased that the Liberal Party is joining the Government of Saskatchewan in addressing post-secondary education issues in this province and I'm pleased that they have decided to table this document in this House for all to see because their policy reflects what we've been doing for some time now.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, you make it sound like I got my ideas from you. I consulted with 26 stakeholders around the province who provided these ideas because they were not happening from your department.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table today the list of people I've consulted with. This is where the ideas come from. They come from the stakeholders around the province who want to see this happen. The cut-backs of this government in the past three years have resulted in a deficit in student opportunities. I'd like to ask the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order. I would ask the government members to please just calm it down a bit so I can hear the question at least.

**Mrs. Bergman:** — I'd like to ask the minister if she does have a plan. If she does have a plan, when will she table it?

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I am pleased that the member has asked me that question. We have signed a multi-party training agreement with northern Saskatchewan to deliver training and employment, and that was signed some time ago.

We have signed a labour force development agreement with the federal government — our work, much of it contained in this document, signed some time ago. We have announced Future Skills, announced in November. And young people are getting training for real jobs that exist now because we have developed labour shortages in the province. Soon you will hear in the budget, which was referred to in the throne speech, a program called JobStart to assist young people in getting the jobs and the training that they require.

Listen to the budget. You talk about distance education. You talk about career counselling. You talk about credit transfer. All of this information is public knowledge. It was given to the member by the Department of Education, Training and Employment. And you know what happens to students that plagiarize? Students fail.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Future Skills program . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order.

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Madam Minister, your Future Skills program is a 20-week training program. It gives much opportunity to unload those social assistance cases on to the UI (unemployment insurance) rolls.

The JobStart that you have talked about, you have not tabled your plan yet. You talk about summer employment for students. In 1991 you provided almost \$1.9 million to the summer employment program. By 1994 that was \$1 million. You cut it by 43 per cent.

And I expect that what the JobStart program will be is a new summer employment, a make-work job for you, not for the future of Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question. I have a great deal of regard for that member. I'm sorry that you've had to be put up to this because your Statistics Canada stats that you've run across the province with weren't borne out by the facts. I'm sorry about that.

If you pay attention to Future Skills, what we are endeavouring to do, contrary to what Liberals and Tories have done all across this country, is to match training to real jobs, training to real jobs; training that is publicly recognized by post-secondary institutions. It is challenging business and public institutions to work together in delivering skills for jobs that exist; skills that the individual person can take on with them when they go to other jobs. The times of training people for no jobs are over. And Future Skills is about training people for jobs that exist.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, where is the plan? You have not in the last three years implemented any plan. It has resulted in great unemployment

for young people and there are close to 6,000 young women on welfare with their children at risk. Saskatchewan's own Health Council says children of these women are at risk. What are you doing? What will you be doing?

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — You know, I'm really sorry that you have to ask these questions, because the Leader of the Liberal Party can't seem to get up and ask the questions. I'm sorry about that.

Now what I want to say to you . . . I just want to reiterate what I've said to you already.

We've signed a multi-party training agreement with people in northern Saskatchewan and Northerners are being trained for jobs that exist. We've signed a labour force development agreement that gets money back into this province for training for jobs that exist.

We've announced Future Skills, a program to train individuals for jobs that exist. And you will hear shortly what we plan to do with young people in this province when we announce more details about JobStart.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Draper:** — I'd like to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker, sir.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Draper:** — Thank you, sir. Behind the bar over here is Mr. Allen Engel who is the previous member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, 1982 to 1986. And I'd like to point him out to the members of the House and introduce him and thank him for coming tonight.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, I would like to table in the legislature according to section 222, The Election Act, a report respecting election expenses of candidates. I would like to table respecting the election expenses of candidates and their business managers and of registered political parties at the Regina North West by-election held on February 4, 1994.

I would also like to table today, from the Saskatchewan Legislative Library, a report ending for the period March 31, 1992.

#### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

##### Ruling on a Point of Order

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, I would like to make a Speaker's statement.

On February 7 the member for Rosthern raised a point of order concerning the accuracy of a *Hansard* report of the Speech from the Throne. The member correctly identifies certain words from the prepared text of the speech which the Lieutenant Governor did not state orally.

As Speaker, it is my duty to ensure the accuracy of our parliamentary publications, whether it be the *Votes and Proceedings* or the *Hansard* debates. As the member suggests, our *Hansard* is a complete verbatim report of what is said in this Chamber by members. It has been this way since 1983. The same is not true of the *Hansard* report of the Speech from the Throne, as the member from Rosthern has realized. It is not strictly verbatim.

By the traditions of this Assembly, which stem from the traditions of the House of Commons of Canada, the Speaker obtains a copy of the Speech from the Throne which is then laid on the Table with the words:

I beg to inform the Assembly that in order to prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy of the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which I now put on the Table.

Accordingly, in order to avoid mistakes, it is the text of the tabled speech which is published in our *Votes and Proceedings*. It is for the same reason that *Hansard* has continued to edit the verbatim to ensure that repetitions, redundancies and errors are corrected.

I remind members that the Speech from the Throne is a constitutional requirement. This Assembly has not the authority to open a session on its own accord, nor can it conduct any business until the causes of summons are declared.

(1415)

In presenting the Speech from the Throne, the Lieutenant Governor is carrying out a constitutional role and is acting on the advice of his advisers, the president and the members of the Executive Council.

Given the importance of the accuracy of the Speech from the Throne, at the House of Commons the copy of the Governor General's speech obtained by the Speaker is published in both the *Hansard* debates and the *Journals*.

After considering this matter, I have come to the conclusion that to avoid future misunderstanding, *Hansard* should no longer transcribe the Speech from the Throne. Accordingly I have asked the director of *Hansard* to publish the official text of the speech exactly as it is tabled in the Assembly by the Speaker.

I hope this explanation and the action that I have taken today will be of some assistance to the Assembly.

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Ms. Lorje:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I rise on a point of order. During statements by members, you challenged, or commented to, the member for Kinistino on the content of his private member statement. And you said — here I have to roughly paraphrase you — you said the private member statements should relate to their constituency or not be something that a minister could make a statement on.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking for some clarification and some consistency in your guidelines on this and I would ask you to review the various private member statements that have been made in this session of the legislature.

Yesterday for instance, the member from Regina North West made a statement on Langenburg east drainage project. I do not believe that Langenburg is in the constituency of Regina North West.

Today the member for Regina Albert North made a statement about the Saskatchewan Safety Council. I do not believe that the Saskatchewan Safety Council is of concern only or solely to the members of Regina Albert North.

Similarly, the member from Saskatoon Sutherland made a statement on international development.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons allows members to express their opinions on a variety of topics and for that reason, we have decided to expand our orders and rules and procedures in order that our members can do that as well. I would like to draw your attention to the new rules by statements for members that read, section 9.1(3):

Members may make statements about any subject of interest or concern.

Any subject of interest or concern. And 9.1(5):

A Minister of the Crown may not use the time allotted for "Statements by Members" to remark on matters relating to government policy or ministerial action.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Kinistino was commenting on StatsCanada job statistics. That is not something that is under the purview of a minister of this provincial legislature. So I would ask you to review the statements that have been made by private members in this statement and bring back some clarification of your ruling. Thank you.

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I listened in amazement as the member from Saskatoon continued on, challenging your ruling in that fashion. Mr. Speaker, I would remind all members — and particularly those of us that were on the Rules and Procedures Committee that met over the last couple of years in introducing this new procedure of members' statements, Mr. Speaker — the intent, the sole intent of that member's statement, was to give individual back-benchers an opportunity to discuss issues that were significant to them in their constituency. That was the intent, Mr. Speaker; there is no doubt about that.



And as we listen here from day to day, back-benchers getting up and making ministerial statements on behalf of ministers is a total abuse of the privilege which we intended to give to back-benchers. Mr. Speaker, I thoroughly support your stand on this issue and I hope that you will enforce the rules stringently in the future.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I will take under advisement the comments that have been made and bring forward a statement in the very near future.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I wanted to, before orders of the day, proceed to a condolence, which I think has been agreed by the House leaders.

### CONDOLENCES

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to note the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Henry — or as he was known to us who knew him, Hal — Coupland, Henry E. Coupland.

Hal Coupland passed away peacefully on December 26, 1994 at the Meadow Lake Union Hospital. Though Hal Coupland was predeceased by his wife Ina, our hearts go out to his children: Don, Russ, Jean, and Shirley Ann, and other members of his family and his friends.

It was my pleasure to serve in the legislature with Hal Coupland. He represented the constituency of Meadow Lake from 1964 to 1975. I entered the House first in 1967 and served four years in opposition to the party that he was a member of, that of the former premier, the late premier, Ross Thatcher.

I can tell you that Hal Coupland, in my judgement, epitomized in public life, honesty in positions, integrity in the conduct, speaking up for constituents and constituency matters, representing the philosophy and the movement of his political party, supporting his government. And he was the kind of a person who you could meet informally after the hurly-burly, if I may use that cliché expression of this legislature. When the debates subside, Hal Coupland was always present for a friendly word or two, an ability to put aside partisanship and an ability to understand that while we do disagree, we all try to serve higher values and higher goals.

I am sure the residents of that community, Meadow Lake, will join us today in recognizing his dedication to the people of Meadow Lake and the province of Saskatchewan.

He and his wife farmed in the Goodsoil area after their marriage and moved to Hamilton, Ontario, in the late war years. They then moved back to Meadow Lake and began farming in the Dunfield district. After moving into the town of Meadow Lake, Mr. Coupland worked for the Pioneer Grain Company before purchasing a feed mill. He and his wife later purchased a chick hatchery and as well, a real estate agency which they ran until their retirement.

Mr. Coupland's community-mindedness was also demonstrated by his interest in local politics. From 1976, after he left the legislature, he served for four years to 1980 as mayor of Meadow Lake. This indicates his lifelong devotion to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my own personal, heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of the late Hal Coupland. His contribution to Saskatchewan public life is greatly appreciated and he will be missed.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that all members will join in supporting the following motion which I'm going to move, seconded as tradition dictates by the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member from Kindersley.

Mr. Speaker, I move therefore, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Henry Ethelbert Coupland, who died in Meadow Lake on December 26, 1994, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Meadow Lake from 1964 until 1975. Mr. Coupland was born in Yorkton on December 28, 1915 and was educated at schools in Yorkton and Prelate.

In the early 1930s he moved with his family to Golden Ridge where they homesteaded. He married Ina Maxime Campbell on November 12, 1940 and together they farmed near Goodsoil before moving to Hamilton, Ontario in the late war years.

They returned with their family to farm in the Dunfield district and in 1948 moved into Meadow Lake. In town, Mr. Coupland initially worked for the Pioneer Grain Company. Later in 1953, he left the company after purchasing a feed mill. He continued to be self-employed until his retirement, subsequently operating a chick hatchery, and a real estate and insurance company.

Mr. Coupland's adult life was characterized by service to his community and to his church. He served as chairman of the Golden Ridge school board for three years and as a town councillor in Meadow Lake for six years. He was a member of the chamber of commerce.

Service groups also benefited from Mr. Coupland's involvement. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, and was the zone commander of the Royal Canadian Legion.

His continuing interest in farming was demonstrated through his membership in the Meadow Lake

Agriculture Society. As well, he was a board steward with Grace United Church.

Mr. Coupland ran unsuccessfully in the 1960 provincial election, but was elected to the legislature in 1964. He was re-elected for two more terms in 1967 and 1971. After leaving provincial politics, he served as mayor of Meadow Lake from 1976 until 1980.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family. I so move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the member from Kindersley, the Leader of the Opposition.

Thank you.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in my place and second the motion that the Premier has put forward in remembrance of Henry Coupland. Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of having known Mr. Coupland as a personal friend and, as the Premier mentioned, he was not of the same political philosophy that I hold, but our friendship was such that we could visit and joke back and forth with each other and I think that's a pretty good measure of friendship.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Coupland this early fall and had a nice long visit with Mr. Coupland. And it is certainly with sadness that I take part in this condolences today.

As the Premier said, Henry Coupland was a man who gave much to his community. He was a man who cared.

Mr. Coupland was involved with many of the different organizations as mentioned by the Premier: the Masonic Lodge, of which I'm a member; the Eastern Star; and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, of which I'm a life member. So we had a lot of things to visit about when we did get together.

Henry Coupland was also zone commander of the Royal Canadian Legion and a member in the Meadow Lake Agriculture Society. If there was ever a legionnaire or a comrade that needed a spokesman, all he had to do was turn to Hal Coupland. Hal was one of those people who always and ever would find time for someone who needed someone to speak up for them and take their case in hand.

After doing all these things, he still found time to be a participant in sports. He was a great sportsman. Henry played a lot of pretty good baseball up in that country and I'm sure that one of your local members over there will remember them early days up in the North.

And, as well, as the Premier mentioned, he served on the Golden Ridge school board for three years. He was a town councillor in Meadow Lake for six years. And he furthered his political career by being elected an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in 1964 and, as was mentioned before,

he was elected for two more terms, 1976, or '67, I'm sorry, and 1971.

And even after leaving provincial politics, Mr. Coupland served as mayor of Meadow Lake from 1976 to 1980. The Premier covered a few of the things I was going to say so I will not carry on through.

Mr. Coupland demonstrated through example, the kind life all of us strive for: a life filled with integrity and honesty, a life full of working and giving to others.

He certainly will be missed by his family and by many of the people in Meadow Lake and surrounding districts. Mr. Coupland's influence in the legion goes through the whole area. I met him not as a legion member, although I am an associate member, but my brother and Hal were two very dedicated people towards the legion movement. And so I was there and saw the many things that Hal had time to do for many of the legionnaires who needed help. He'll be sorely missed by us as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1430)

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join the Premier and other members as we pay tribute to the former member, Mr. Henry (Hal) Coupland. On behalf of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan and the members of our caucus, I extend to the family of Hal Coupland our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies.

I had the opportunity a few days ago to share reminiscences with Mr. Ian MacDougall. And Ian, of course, was a fellow mate in this legislature, of Hal Coupland's. Ian MacDougall represented the constituency of Estevan, and he shared some stories with me about the seven years when he, Hal Coupland, Frank Radloff, Percy Schmeiser, and John Gardner roomed together in Regina during three legislative sessions.

He told me of the one time in their early rooming years when he was making breakfast. And Frank Radloff thought that he would help out by pushing down the toaster without Ian's knowledge, and then left the room. Hal — or Coup, as he was known to them — entered the room to find the toaster and part of the kitchen wall in flames. Now he calmly decreed, Frank, from now on you're in charge of cleaning the sidewalks, and you must stay out of the kitchen. And then he went on to extinguish the blaze.

Duties were thereafter assigned, with Ian left in charge of the cooking, Hal in charge of the kitchen clean-up, and Percy responsible for the housecleaning and vacuuming. And no, Frank Radloff was never allowed to help out in the kitchen again, but stuck to his sidewalk cleaning duties.

Now Mr. MacDougall told me that Hal Coupland was a very tall, very serious looking man with quite a droll sense of humour. In fact all of these gentlemen room-mates shared several characteristics, height being one of them with the

exception of one individual, Hal Coupland being six and a half feet tall, Mr. Radloff and Mr. Schmeiser being over six feet. And, well, for anyone who knows Ian MacDougall, that's not a characteristic in which they all shared.

Something else of interest is that all of these gentlemen at one time or another served as a town councillor or a mayor for their communities. As the Premier mentioned in the condolence motion, Mr. Coupland served as both councillor and mayor of the town of Meadow Lake.

Everyone in this Chamber can appreciate the kinds of living conditions members often endure in order to serve this Assembly. Spending days and weeks away from one's family requires a sacrifice that few can understand or appreciate. Part of the benefit of our work is making the very, very good relationships such as the one that existed between these friends that roomed together for so many years. I want to thank Ian for sharing his memories about the late Hal Coupland with me and with this House.

Hal Coupland was seen as a very kind man who was a dedicated Liberal member. He worked hard in the legislature and he worked with great diligence for his constituency. He loved little children and often played hours in the corridors of this very building with the children of other MLAs when they came to visit their parents during the sessions. His children and grandchildren were very, very special to Hal and his late wife Ina.

I want to mention today his children who mourn the loss of their father. Don and his wife Leona of Meadow Lake; Russ and his wife Eleanor, also of Meadow Lake; daughter Jean of Meadow Lake; and Shirley Ann Wensley and her husband Ray of Calgary. He also leaves to mourn a sister, Audrey, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and a brother, George, in Port Coquitlam, B.C. His presence in their lives will be sorely missed, and especially by his 12 grandchildren, his six great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

On behalf of our party and our caucus, the people that he represented so well, as well as served in his constituency, I express my gratitude and appreciation to the life and work of this public servant, Mr. Hal Coupland.

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier and other members in extending my condolences to the Coupland family also. On December 26, 1994, Henry Coupland, or Hal as he was known to everyone, passed away peacefully at the Meadow Lake Union Hospital.

In the early 1930s he and his family moved to the Golden Ridge area and took up homesteads there. This is where our families first met. Golden Ridge is located just a few miles south of where I was born and where my parents still reside. Over the years I often heard my father referring to the good old days and playing ball in Golden Ridge with everyone, including the Couplands.

In 1940 he married Ina Campbell, and in 1948 they moved to Meadow Lake where he lived until his recent passing.

Hal was always interested in politics, Mr. Speaker, and in 1964 he was elected as a Liberal MLA from our area into the Ross Thatcher government. Hal must have been well liked because he was re-elected two more times and did not end his career in provincial politics until 1975.

I can remember Hal coming to my parents' place on the farm in Goodsoil to solicit their support. As a child, I can still picture the big cowboy hat that he used to wear. Hal was a tall, lean man. And from my then tiny perspective, he seemed to be at least 20 feet tall with that big hat on top of his head.

I'm sure my father did not succumb to his political arm twisting, but I suspect that there were other family members who over the years probably did. I guess only Hal really knows that now for sure though.

Hal's popularity remained because in 1976 he was elected as mayor of Meadow Lake. He held this position until 1980. He battled some major health problems including an incredibly painful skin disease a number of years ago. He continued having problems with his circulation and had many operations. Eventually he had both legs amputated.

I visited Hal several times in the hospital in Saskatoon on my way here to the legislature. I cannot tell you, Mr. Speaker, how moved I was by this man. In the face of all this adversity and from his hospital bed he kept an amazingly positive attitude. He was always smiling and laughing and talking of what he would do when he got home.

The only time I ever heard him be negative in any way, Mr. Speaker, was when he took the opportunity to take the occasional shot at our government. This was, however, obviously not a common occurrence. The problem was he was usually smiling so much you never really knew for sure whether or not he was criticizing you.

Since I lived in Meadow Lake, I got to know this family even better and became friends with his son Don and wife Leona, his daughter Jean, who looked after Hal after his wife Ina passed away several years ago, and his son Russ and Eleanor. Also left behind was his daughter Shirley Ann and her husband Ray who I did not know.

It became very obvious as I visited with family members over the years that they were intensely proud of their dad, and well they should have been. I had great admiration for Hal, Mr. Speaker, and I want to relate one event that will be etched in my mind for ever.

As I was campaigning in the provincial election in the fall of 1991, one of the places that I was asked to stop at was at Hal's place. It was with some consternation that I walked up to his house and knocked on the door. I anticipated a seasoned politician who would probably attempt to tear our platform to pieces. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have been more wrong. I think he . . . I should say, I think he could tell that I was nervous and a bit tired from campaigning. Instead, he invited me in for coffee and he couldn't have been gentler. He talked of his

campaigning days and how hard it was to get around and visit everyone. He spoke of the sacrifices that his family had made for him in politics. I would like to believe some of his friendliness came from a general acceptance of our platform as well but I will not be presumptuous. Rather, I suspect it because . . . I suspect it was because he was just a good person with a kind and gentle heart.

Hal, you will be missed by all of us. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as well to pay my respect and celebrate the life of Hal Coupland. I not so much speak for the members of the Assembly but for the family, for the children, and especially to Jean, his daughter, who I attended school with.

I first met Hal Coupland back in about 1958 or '59. And he came to our house, where we lived, and I had a niece who was staying with us who lived in a rural area and was attending high school. And the niece that stayed with us, my cousin, and Hal's oldest son, Don, and two other teenagers at high school were causing some problems, as teenagers sometimes do. And I remember Hal coming to talk to my mother about the situation that the kids were creating at school, which was not always a happy one. And he was an imposing man. He stood so tall, especially to a youngster. And I think he was wearing a hat, likely the cowboy hat that the member from Meadow Lake referred to.

And I remember I worked in a grocery store as a clerk during the time of the second election where Hal Coupland was elected, and the vigour of the campaign. And his campaigns weren't so much an individual effort, but they were a family effort where all his children and his family and his wife Ina were always very supportive of the election campaigns and the work that was done as an MLA.

In terms of the family, Ina, who has passed away previously — I don't think I could find a kinder, gentler person, and very supportive of her husband being a member of the Legislative Assembly. Something that's always very supportive to any of us is to have support of spouses in terms of our careers, whether they're a short career or a long career.

Hal, as has been mentioned, represented the Meadow Lake constituency from 1964 until 1975. And I remember I talked to Hal Coupland often as I grew up and became involved in politics — a different political party, but Hal always had time for people. And I remember Allan Blakeney would always refer to the period from when the Liberals came into office until they left office as the long, lean years. And I mentioned this to Hal Coupland one time, and I think he was still smoking the pipe, and he puffed on his pipe and he smiled and he said yes, he said, good years.

The acquaintance I had with Hal Coupland also came not to confrontation but to opposition sometimes. I was the campaign manager for the NDP candidate in Meadow Lake in 1975 when Hal was defeated. And it was a good campaign, it was a close campaign, and sometimes, regardless of the candidates, we all win and lose. Sometimes I think we think of ourselves as

politicians as the most important focal point, but there's much more that goes beyond the individual as to whether you get elected or defeated. And even after the election campaign Hal would bear no ill will to others who had opposed him during election campaigns, and we had many conversations together about politics and about our home community of Meadow Lake and about a number of things that people talk about.

Hal Coupland was always very dedicated also to his political party and he believed in it; he believed from his heart. After the '75 election where Hal was defeated, he actually went and ran as a candidate in the next election in the constituency of Athabasca. And I don't think that he went there with the intention that he was going to win, although we all go into elections with the intention of winning. But I think, more than anything, that he did it to serve his party that he believed in and he wanted to further a cause that he believed in, and he was very dedicated to that.

I'm sure that the residents of the Meadow Lake community and that area join us today in passing on our condolences to the children — to Don and Russell and Jean and Shirley Ann.

I also think of Hal Coupland, when it was mentioned earlier today that he farmed at one point in time in the Dunfield district. My wife has an aunt and uncle at that time who lived in that district as well, Dick and Viola Chuhaniuk. And as far as I know, that family was always New Democrat. And the Couplands though, Hal and Ina, were good friends of theirs and they would visit back and forth. And I remember after the 1980 federal election, when I was elected as a Member of Parliament, one day Mona and I drove into the yard at the Chuhaniuk farm and Viola met us at the door. And she said to us, don't talk politics because Hal and Ina are here. Well Hal and Ina and myself and Mona had talked politics many times in the past but never in a really confrontational way, and so I appreciated what Viola Chuhaniuk was saying to me. She didn't want arguments within her house at the kitchen table over a cup of coffee. And so we got into the house and I sat down and Hal wanted to know how things were going for me as a Member of Parliament and so we got into talking politics in any event and it was a good afternoon and conversation that were had.

I do want to say in closing that Hal Coupland was an altruistic man. I don't think he did things to serve his own benefit. He did things to serve his family, but more important his province and his community. He was an honourable man and he was always calm and collected and a very dedicated man. And I join with the members here today to pass on my condolences, especially to his family. Thank you.

(1445)

**Ms. Simard:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to extend my condolences to the Coupland family today. I grew up in Meadow Lake as well, Mr. Speaker, and the Coupland name was a very well-respected name and a very familiar name in the community.

When the member from Meadow Lake said that he thought that Mr. Coupland was a good person with a kind and gentle heart, he could not have said truer words. My impressions of Mr.

Coupland as a young person in the community at the time, was that he was very kind, he was very approachable, and he was a gentleman. My parents spoke of Mr. Coupland with a great deal of respect in their voice at every time that they discussed Mr. Coupland and his role in the community.

So today on behalf of my family and on behalf of my mother, Antoinette Simard, and on my behalf, I wish to extend the very deepest sympathy to the Coupland family in their loss. And I hope that it will be some consolation for them to know that their father was a very respected man and made a substantial contribution not just to the community of Meadow Lake and area but also to the province. Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I would like to move, seconded by the member from Rosetown-Elrose:

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

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Knezacek.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, hon. colleagues of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, I rise not only to respond to the Speech from the Throne on behalf of the official opposition, but for the first time in provincial history I rise to deliver a clear alternative to the policies of the current administration.

Before I begin, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge and welcome Margaret Woods in her new position as the Clerk Assistant, and would also welcome and congratulate the new group of pages who have been selected for this session.

We have a very proud and rich tradition of parliamentary democracy in Saskatchewan and your participation in all our endeavours is greatly appreciated. I'm sure you'll all enjoy your tenure with the Legislative Assembly. And on behalf of the official opposition, I wish you all the best.

I would also like to welcome and extend our best wishes to the province's new Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Jack Wiebe. This

role is very much more than ceremonial. Indeed we have been blessed with many lieutenant governors who have made a significant contribution to our province, and I'm sure His Honour will carry on that tradition. Again on behalf of the official opposition, I wish the new Lieutenant Governor all the best in the first session.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the past few months have seen a lot of firsts. For the first time in Saskatchewan a political leader has been chosen by universal suffrage, one member one vote. And in the largest vote held by any political party in this province I was honoured to be chosen by the members of my political party, the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The process undertaken by my party was the most open and democratic way to choose a leader. And it was accomplished by using modern computer and telecommunications technology available anywhere. It wasn't the old, tired delegate selection system, Mr. Speaker. It was a fresh innovative . . . it was exciting and it represents the engine of renewal that will drive the new and open way to govern across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we began the new year by releasing our caucus's audited books to the public, something the members opposite have failed to do to this point. And we will be asking and continuing to ask, and I'm sure the media will be asking the government caucus chairperson when they're going to be doing that.

The Liberals gave a look, I guess what you could consider it as sort of a peekaboo look, at their caucus's books. Sort of. It was here it is but you can't have a copy of it. As I understand, that was their way of releasing theirs.

We released it in general form to anyone who wants a copy of it. And we are very proud of the content of it.

We continued by implementing and acting on our party's policy of zero tolerance with respect to wrongdoing on behalf of elected officials. Again something the Premier of this province has failed to act upon as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, the members of our caucus will once again lead the fight for democratic and legislative reform. Last session we introduced five private members' Bills aimed at making Saskatchewan elected officials more open and accountable. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite chose to block these Bills and they didn't see the light of day.

How ironic now, Mr. Speaker, that the government's own polling shows that the vast majority of Saskatchewan people support those very initiatives. And I'm not talking about 60 or 70 per cent, but in most cases 80 to 90 per cent of Saskatchewan people support those initiatives. These results tell me they just don't approve of democratic reform — they're absolutely demanding democratic reform. And as such, Mr. Speaker, we'll be reintroducing all five of these private members' Bills and we'll be pushing to see that they're implemented.

Number one, we'll be proposing an all-party committee to make appointments to government boards and commissions. We think that all parties should have a say in important government positions so that the president of outfits like the SaskPower doesn't have the kind of authority and power that he seems to have to even overrule the previous minister as he did on a number of occasions in the last session, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not surprised that the former minister of SaskPower is happy to be out of that portfolio and having to deal with Mr. Messer. But it should be such that all members have a say in important appointments to government boards and commissions.

Number two, we'll introduce legislation to establish an all-party committee, open to the public and the media, to review proposed utility rates, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that's extremely important. And we congratulate today the Government of Saskatchewan for rolling back the SaskEnergy prices. And it's only a gain I think as a result of the pressure from the opposition as well as the public that was exerted on this government.

**An Hon. Member:** — Had to change the minister to do it.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Had to change the minister, exactly, to get that thing accomplished, Mr. Speaker. But at least they finally listened to the public of Saskatchewan and the rate for SaskEnergy has been reduced by, I understand, 6.5 per cent today, Mr. Speaker, as a result, a direct result, of the opposition that we presented in this legislature and to the public of Saskatchewan.

And we think what should have been done by the minister — and he's here, Mr. Speaker — what should have been done by the minister is create an all-party committee or a commission to set the rates for utilities across this province, to remove it from government control the way it is today, Mr. Speaker, so that you have representatives of business and labour and farm groups and a number of groups across this province to have a say in those utility rates because they're so important in Saskatchewan today, rather than simply a government hoisting them at every opportunity they can, and finally, after tremendous pressure, reducing those rates, even though it isn't by a great deal, Mr. Speaker.

Forty per cent reduction in the well-head price of natural gas in Saskatchewan and we see it being passed on — at least somewhat passed on — to the people of Saskatchewan in a very modest fashion. Alberta reduced it by 10 per cent, incidentally, Mr. Speaker. And we know the importance of this legislation because of the well-head reduction, as I said.

Number three, we'll be moving amendments to The Legislative Assembly Act to follow fixed election dates every four years. Again we think that's extremely important, Mr. Speaker.

Number four, we'll be seeking a legislative reduction in the number of cabinet ministers, specifying that the number be proportionate to the number of MLAs in the legislature. Again, Mr. Speaker, the Premier of this province had opportunity in this last cabinet shuffle to reduce the number of cabinet ministers. It would have saved something in the magnitude of

\$2 million for that move, Mr. Speaker, but again they chose not to do that because of the political necessity that they feel all the time.

Number five, Mr. Speaker, we'll be seeking to convert votes on all pieces of legislation into free votes by stipulating that a government may only be defeated on a specifically designed vote of non-confidence. And that's what the people across Saskatchewan are calling for.

They're demanding that type of democratic reform, where the people of the constituencies have some degree of control over their member, where the member votes the wishes of their constituents, rather than simply the wishes of the Premier of this province. And we'll be bringing again questions of Saskatchewan people to the floor of this Assembly through the Mr. Premier, I want to know . . . initiative, as we brought it forward last session.

Not only could people write a question on the thousands of cards distributed around this province but they can phone or fax and for now, the first time in the history of Saskatchewan, a growing number of people on the information super-highway will have direct access to the opposition caucus through electronic mail.

We can be reached at PC (Progressive Conservative) caucus at microcity.com. The Mr. Premier, I want to know . . . program has been extremely popular in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and I'm proud to announce the official opposition in Nova Scotia has adopted and implemented our model during the last legislative session, with great success.

And there is a very simple reason for that kind of success. It improves accessibility and accountability. It minimizes partisan bickering and political posturing. It's clearly the wave of the future and I'm proud to say our caucus and this legislature is leading the way.

I know the Premier and the cabinet ministers opposite always look forward to answering direct questions from the people of this province. Mr. Speaker, we are proud of these democratic reform initiatives, but clearly the end is not only there as well. We'll be bringing forward much more during this session.

(1500)

The measures I'm about to outline represent the most extensive legislative session package ever brought forward by an opposition party into the Saskatchewan legislature. Our goal is to present a clear alternative to big-government approach of the current administration — an alternative based on smaller government, fiscal restraint, small business as the catalyst of economic growth and job creation, and a greater emphasis on individual rights and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, in bringing these private members' Bills forward we are showing the government opposite what they are doing wrong, and the people of Saskatchewan is right on this issue.

During this session, the official opposition will introduce balanced budget legislation which includes a clause making it illegal to raise taxes without the consent of Saskatchewan voters through referendum. Time and time we have seen this government restrain its citizens' spending through one tax increase after another. We think it's time the people restrain government's spending rather than the other way around.

We think the government should have to ask permission if it wants to run a deficit or raise taxes, and that's exactly what this legislation is designed to do.

I'm anxious to compare our legislation with the one that's being promised by the members opposite because in the end, Mr. Speaker, legislation means nothing to the government opposite. If they don't like it, they just change it retroactively. They've done it to farm families, they've done it to judges, to co-op members, and given the opportunity, they'll do it to every single taxpayer in this province. Our legislation, Mr. Speaker, will have teeth, taxpayers' teeth. It'll take the bite out of the politicians instead of out of working people.

During this session we'll move a motion under The Referendum and Plebiscite Act requiring that a referendum on gambling expansion be held in conjunction with the next provincial election. That is a question that you people should be asking the people of Saskatchewan before you go ahead with any further gambling expansion. Do the people of Saskatchewan support expanded gambling? It's never been asked. We do not know the answer to that question. Before there's any more harm done with gambling in this province, we should ask that fundamental question of the people of this province. Do they want gambling or not?

The motion will include a moratorium on any further gambling expansion until that referendum is held. This is a far more responsible action than those presented by the Liberal leader, who appears to be in a bidding war with the government opposite over who will give away most gambling revenues in order to get elected. Cold, calculating, dishonest, as the Liberal leader's style is, Mr. Speaker — as cold and callous as a casino pit boss's heart.

And we see it again today, Mr. Speaker. First the Liberals plagiarize the Department of Education's discussion papers. Then they claim it for their own, do not bother to cost them out. Their spending promises to date have been calculated at \$350 million; the Liberals' spending promises to date — \$350 million. And that's before, that's before the latest spending promises of today. The so-called, self-proclaimed fiscally conservative Liberal leader is anything but. And going into the next election campaign my guess is, Mr. Speaker, that Liberals will be in a bidding war against the government members opposite, to see who can win the hearts and the pocketbooks of the population of Saskatchewan, the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

As I announced last month, we'll introduce Bills to repeal the NDP's changes to The Trade Union and The Labour Standards Acts. And we asked questions of the minister today about that, Mr. Speaker, and we said to the minister, those provisions are

still within that legislation; they're just simply there, sitting there with a note above them that says not to be proclaimed until a later date. And we believe, Mr. Minister, that those things should . . . those offensive amendments should be taken off, taken out of that piece of legislation. And you would have the full cooperation of the official opposition if you were willing to do that, Mr. Minister.

Even though our economy has been strengthened by improvements in prices for agriculture and oil and gas products, even though Canada has pulled out of the recession and over 300,000 new jobs were created across Canada last year — Saskatchewan continues to limp along with a net loss of 1,000 jobs since 1991. Not a gain — not a gain, as the Premier would try to have us believe. It's truly remarkable that the Premier of Saskatchewan would have the audacity to try and convince the people he serves that he has created 12,000 new jobs since 1994.

Even in your revised Statistics Canada figures today released, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan economy managed to create a paltry 2,000 jobs in 1994 — not 12,000 as the Premier is saying, Mr. Speaker. And when you compare that to other jurisdictions across Canada — like Alberta, for example — there have been 80,000 jobs created in the last two years in Alberta — 2,000 in Saskatchewan; 80,000 in Alberta. And the Premier stands and crows about the job that they're doing, in the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, about how good a job they're doing in job creation — 80,000 in Alberta; 2,000 here. And they stand and somehow and other want to take credit for that kind of record, Mr. Speaker. Incredible.

It's no secret why Saskatchewan has such a dismal performance, Mr. Speaker. Economist Eric Howe of the University of Saskatchewan put the blame squarely on the NDP, saying it was taxes and higher utility rates that weakened job growth in Saskatchewan.

So what is the government's response? Throwing more taxpayers' money at the problem through programs like JobStart and Future Skills. It appears that they have not learned from the mistakes of others. It's the same old big-government reaction to a problem. Governments, Mr. Speaker, do not create jobs. Business does.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boyd:** — And what we need is a government that will get out of the way of business — that will get out of the way of business across this province. Less government, not more government. Yet we see new labour laws that will drive even more jobs out of our province in return for little, if any, apparent benefit. And now we hear of more insanity as it relates to the so-called fair wage tendering policy.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing fair about this policy at all, unless you are a union leader. This program would simply see the government Crown contracts go to the employers who must employ 75 per cent of their workforce through union halls. The remaining 25 per cent don't have to belong to a union but they have to pay union dues. That's not fair, Mr. Speaker; that's

absolute extortion from those people. And guess where a lot of the union dues go, Mr. Speaker? To the New Democratic Party. First of all they extort them from the people who don't want to belong to the union, and then they pay them to the NDP Party of this province, Mr. Speaker, for election purposes. How very convenient. Just in time for another election.

We simply cannot afford to continue losing jobs for political reasons in this province. The labour Bills, Mr. Minister, must be repealed and the union-only contracting must be stopped. It should be a policy of the lowest tender, simply lowest tender, union or non-union — full stop, period.

We'll introduce a number of welfare reform measures aimed at reducing welfare fraud and putting able-bodied welfare recipients back to work. These will include measures I've talked about during the leadership campaign such as cheque pick-up, a 1-800 tip line, enhanced fraud investigation, and work-for-welfare programs for employable individuals.

As a matter of interest, Mr. Speaker, in Manitoba they introduced a 1-800 tip line where people could call in and suggest . . . essentially turn in people who they thought were committing fraud against the welfare system. And Premier Filmon told me that during the first 30 days of operation they saved \$700,000 of taxpayers' money — in 30 days.

And in Saskatchewan we have not one single fraud investigator looking into problems associated with the welfare system in this province any longer — not one. It's simply a case of writing the cheque to anyone who comes in the door.

We'll introduce a motion calling for a pilot project boot camp for young offenders, an idea that has worked well again in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. It's simply a case of having young offenders be rehabilitated in a very strict and regimented form, Mr. Speaker. In fact we find in Manitoba today, Mr. Speaker, that it's so strictly regulated, the young offenders' program, that there are actually young offenders making application to go to maximum security jails because it's less restrictive in a maximum security jail today in Manitoba than it is in one of the young offender boot camps.

We'll introduce stronger laws to deal with child maintenance enforcement. We think there should be tougher penalties for so-called dead-beat parents. And I think all of us as MLAs know the problems associated with single parent families in Saskatchewan. It's one of the things that we are called most frequently, as members, from constituents about. I certainly am, and I'm sure other members can say the same thing about that, members . . . or, pardon me, people in society that aren't paying their way for their children. And we think that should be stopped.

A greater exchange of information between provinces in order to track down those individuals who are trying to avoid financial responsibility for their children. Unfortunately some individuals choose not to live up to their financial responsibilities for their families, and it is the children, Mr. Speaker, who wind up paying the price. These measures will be designed to address that problem.

We'll introduce a motion opposing the national gun registry and calling for a made-in-Saskatchewan gun laws. After all of the chest thumping we heard from some of the members opposite over the useless gun laws about to be enacted by the Liberal government in Ottawa, we saw absolutely nothing about it in the throne speech — absolutely nothing. It was a glaring omission, an omission that we will take the government to task over, Mr. Speaker.

There were other exclusions, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely no mention of the line-ups for surgery, the line-ups to get into a hospital bed, the waiting-lists for our most disabled seniors into nursing homes — no mention of these things because they want to have people try and forget about them and their problems.

No mention about the NDP rip-off that was perpetrated on Saskatchewan farmers through the GRIP (gross revenue insurance program). No mention of the 80,000 people-plus in Saskatchewan that are on welfare — nothing, not even a whisper about the welfare recipients of this province in the throne speech.

These are areas that we will certainly explore, Mr. Speaker. But we feel this agenda will move us beyond the role of traditional opposition and showing the people of Saskatchewan that we are ready to govern. We expect this to be a do-nothing session on behalf of the NDP who are more concerned about meeting their political agenda than dealing with the problems of Saskatchewan with respect to the economy and social problems. The NDP's lack of positive action is going to leave a huge void to fill, and we intend to fill it.

This agenda clearly sets us apart from the big-government approach of the NDP and the approach of the Liberals who have fallen upon the old-style pattern of opposition, simply opposing without alternatives — and when they do put forward alternatives, they've been taken from somewhere else — and trying to be all things to all people. Those days, Mr. Speaker, are gone.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, we offer a new vision for Saskatchewan. We offer a new contract with the people of Saskatchewan which is based upon these fundamentals, Mr. Speaker. We believe in the almost-unlimited capacity of the individual and that government should allow the individual the maximum freedom to create and achieve and prosper.

We believe in individual rights and responsibilities and freedoms. But we also believe that with every right comes an equivalent amount of responsibility and that people must take responsibility for their actions. We believe in law and order. We believe that we should start restraining government instead of restraining the individual.

We believe in small business as a catalyst of our economy and that small-business men and women do not need direct help from government to help build our economy or create jobs. All they need is for government to get out of their way.

We believe in the government's . . . that government's compassion should be measured not by the number of people



receiving government assistance, but the number of people who no longer require government assistance. And we believe the most important social structure in society is not government; it is the family. And most government programs aimed at families, no matter how well intentioned they may be, that government programs do not build stronger family values, but in many cases serve to erode those strong family values. Mr. Speaker, that's what each of our actions will be measured against.

Today I've set forward a general direction, with more detailed announcements to come forward later as each measure is introduced into the House. Mr. Speaker, they are not done for political reasons, they are done because it is the right thing for Saskatchewan. It is the right thing for the people of this province; it is the right thing for the taxpayers of this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1515)

**Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, colleagues, at the end of the day when we have delivered, when we have joined together to do what is the right thing, then every member of this Assembly will be able to stand in their place and take a bow for a job well done. Every member will be able to occupy their seat with pride, honour and respect which once graced the position of Member of the Legislative Assembly. Let's not miss this opportunity. Let's do what is right for the people of this province. Let's do what is right for the taxpayers of this province, Mr. Speaker.

I would submit to the government today that all of the motions and the Bills that we are bringing forward are in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, in the best interests of taxpayers in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your attention and for your consideration.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roy:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to rise here today in response to the Speech from the Throne.

I want to first of all welcome you, Mr. Speaker, back for this session and wish you the very best in your deliberations in this particular session. I also want to welcome all the other members of the legislature.

And I also want to pay special recognition to Ms. Margaret Woods who will be working as Assistant Clerk, I believe. I had the opportunity to work with Margaret on the Select Driving Safety Committee, and she certainly approaches any task with professionalism and a sense of strong commitment.

As well I want to welcome the ushers who are going to be working with us in this particular session.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest and entertainment to the

speech from the Leader of the Opposition. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring the . . . I guess I want to talk today about the renewal process and the revitalization that is taking place in Saskatchewan. A new day of hope and opportunity — Mr. Speaker, and fellow colleagues, that is the title of this year's throne speech. And in that particular phrase I think it says it all about the atmosphere and the attitude of Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan communities right across this province.

Three and a half short years ago, Mr. Speaker, when we took office, we faced an almost insurmountable challenge and task ahead of us. For many, many years there had been, I guess, irresponsible spending on behalf of governments that had culminated in a massive accumulated public debt. And when we were first elected, we faced the reality, the stark reality of just how large that financial challenge and that financial situation was.

We moved immediately, Mr. Speaker, to establish a process in which we would demonstrate to the people and show to the people of Saskatchewan exactly what the financial picture of Saskatchewan was. And what we did, we established an independent commission to review the books of the province of Saskatchewan. I think all members know and the people of Saskatchewan have heard of the Gass Financial Review Commission.

And what this commission did was take a look, an in-depth look, an examination of Saskatchewan's finances. And there was no interference by the government. They were able to exercise their duties without interference, free of any pressure. They were totally independent. And what they brought back to us, the legislators, was the exact situation in Saskatchewan of the finances. And believe you me, they were dark and I guess discouraging. And it was rather a formidable task to reverse that situation.

The commission set out some very clear recommendations as to what government should follow when implementing a fiscal plan. And what did we do? We could have just overlooked the recommendations and went our own way and did what we thought was best. But no. We followed the recommendations of the Gass Financial Review Commission, and I'm proud to say that three and a half years later we're here and we're on the eve of delivering a balanced budget for the people in the province of Saskatchewan.

And that is directly related to the recommendations and to this government following those recommendations and setting out at the beginning of its mandate a balanced budget plan and following it. And I'm proud of that. And I want to commend all of my colleagues for having the courage and the leadership to take on the major decisions, the tough decisions that had to be made.

I also, though, want to commend and want to thank Saskatchewan people for understanding and sticking with the government as we went through this very difficult process. They are the ones that need to be thanked, because they had the vision and the understanding to support us. And certainly that made our job a lot easier.

Now of course with the balanced budget will come — certainly a balanced budget will come — the ability for us to take a look at different areas of government expenditures; to take a look at how we're raising revenues. And definitely in the future you will see that again we will be following a specific fiscal plan. And it's not going to stray away from what we have set in place. We're not going to be balancing for one year; we're going to be balancing on a sustained basis for the future, because that's what Saskatchewan people are saying. And we will be doing that, Mr. Speaker.

In keeping with that, our government is going to be introducing the balanced budget Act. And I think it's very important to note that this Act comes after, as I said, much sacrifice by Saskatchewan people. But it's important that we put in place this kind of Act.

It's important that this Act also have the flexibility, because we realize in a province like Saskatchewan where we're buffeted by all kinds of forces that we may not have control over . . . In a resource-dependent province, we have to be able to have the flexibility to be able to maybe change course if need be. If all of a sudden that there was forces beyond our control, we need to be able to exercise some kind of flexibility. And I think this Act will specifically achieve that end.

We are also, Mr. Speaker, putting in place a more accountable system for MLA salaries and allowances. We've established an independent commission that will review this. And it's going to be again, an opportunity for the public, an opportunity for us in the legislature, to speak about and take a look at this particular system that we have in place and how we can make it simpler and more accountable for the public.

I noted that the Leader of the Opposition made reference to our party, our government caucus expenditures, and that we have not released details of those expenditures up to this point in time and that his caucus has released the details of their particular expenditures. I would just like to clarify for the Leader of the Opposition that we will be releasing the details of those financial expenditures in the near future. However I want them to also note that there is a categorical difference with the way we are going to be releasing, and also making more accountable, the examinations of those particular expenditures in years to come.

The opposition of course released their particular expenditures to the media in the halls of the legislature. What we are going to be doing is taking a look and trying to recommend a more defined, orderly process on how we review and we release these particular financial expenditures. And we will be making a submission to the independent commission as we release our financial expenditures for caucus, and that will be done in the very near future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can say that on the fiscal policy side, our government again has shown leadership, has shown courage, has shown the ability and the difference in reaching a balanced budget compared to other jurisdictions. And the difference is that we have shown and demonstrated that we can balance

budgets in a compassionate, a sensitive, and in keeping with the Saskatchewan principles of caring, sharing, which are very important in this province.

I want to speak about jobs and economic development because that is a major thrust of our throne speech. And as was demonstrated before and as we heard before, Statistics Canada of course have revised their estimates for jobs in Saskatchewan, and I noted with interest that the Leader of the Opposition is still playing fast and loose with job figures.

And of course I note yesterday and I quote that yesterday he said, and I quote, that Saskatchewan has lost nearly 1,000 jobs last year, the only province in Canada to do that. And yet StatsCanada now has revised and said that there was a net job creation of 2,000 jobs in Saskatchewan last year. I think the Leader of the Opposition should be more careful about again playing fast and loose with job figures.

I want to tell you that again in keeping with the planned, orderly approach that we have applied to every area of government, in the economy we have pursued the same kind of strategy. We sat down at the beginning as government, and we sat down with the stakeholders in the economy. And we said, let's get together in the big tent, and let's try to draw some kind of consensus here. Let's try to draw some kind of contract up that we can all live by. And we got that kind of agreement, and we are now seeing the benefits of that kind of cooperation and partnering that took place right at the beginning of our mandate.

The document of course that I'm talking about that has been the catalyst for the kind of optimism and the kind of growth that we're seeing in the economy today is of course the *Partnership for Renewal* economic development strategy that the minister released some time ago.

And again what we did at the beginning was of course to set out the vision, the vision for future economic growth in this province, and bearing in mind of course and keeping in mind what has made Saskatchewan prosper to the level that it has: cooperatives, the private sector, the public sector, all working together. And that's where we went. Those were strengths that we put in place, we kept.

Next I guess we looked at the goals that were needed to maintain to of course achieve some of our objectives. And some of those goals were to create a positive economic . . . a positive environment for economic renewal. And part of that of course was to get some balanced budget . . . work towards a balanced budget. Because if you keep incurring large deficits, it's very difficult to stimulate the economy because of course it's taking more and more tax dollars to pay for these larger expenditures.

So we've achieved part of that environment on the eve of a balanced budget.

Another goal that was very important to the province and to stakeholders was to secure and build on existing strengths, based on sustainable economic development. And this is key for the future of Saskatchewan. We have seen too many times in the past few years, in particular in the 10 years when the

Conservatives were in power, we have seen too many examples of money that was put into projects that were unsustainable.

(1530)

And what happened to these projects? We've seen them fail, and they are a part of the legacy of the debt of this province. Business and stakeholders said that that must not happen any more. We must have sustainable economic growth and sustainable economic development, and that's what we have strove to put in place.

Another goal that we identified was to seek full employment. And I'm proud to say that with the numbers that Statistics Canada has released, we are seeing the growth and the expansion of jobs in Saskatchewan, and we're very hopeful that the target we have set by the year 2000 will be achievable.

As well, in our economic blueprint we set out some very clear objectives on how we would achieve all of our goals. And again, we're keeping to the particular plan and working on each and every one of these objectives to ensure that we meet them and their specific time lines.

I want to talk about one aspect of *Partnership for Renewal* that I firmly believe in and I see it expanding and developing, and that is of course the implementation of regional economic development authorities. And I think we had reference to them in the throne speech, and some of the members have commented on how regional economic development authorities are already creating wealth in their particular regions.

And what regional economic development authorities are in actuality is forms of cooperatives. Regional economic development authorities identify a particular region and the stakeholders, the economic stakeholders, come together in that region. They identify existing strengths. They identify potential opportunities for expansion, economic expansion and job creation. And then the stakeholders come together to work and try to meet the objectives that they have set out. And this is important. You will always have . . . you will see a continuing community and self-determination.

And regional economic development authorities do not take away from that self-determination. On the contrary, you must continue to have that but on a regional basis. The communities, individuals, businesses, stakeholders must come together and again identify the strengths. Identify the financial inventory and other inventories in their region and then work together collectively in a new partnership to expand that region.

And we're seeing already tremendous benefits from these particular authorities. And I'm sure that you're going to see, Mr. Speaker, that in the next few months there will be many, many announcements, and most of them will be due to the hard work and diligence and ingenuity of regional economic development authorities and the benefits that they bring to the Saskatchewan economy.

I want to talk a bit about agriculture and the importance of agriculture to this province and how it is going to contribute to

the economy. It has contributed, it is contributing now, but it's going to play a major, major role in the future development of the Saskatchewan economy in particular as we prepare for the 21st century.

I just want to say that our government has initiated the change of attitude, has been the ones . . . this government has made farmers and made agri-business take a look at itself and say, how are we doing business, and should we be doing business in a different way?

The program changes that we brought about — a change, as the Leader of the Opposition bemoans, about GRIP — the changes to GRIP that we made, in large part have been the catalyst for some of the changes that we see now occurring. The \$948 million of net realized farm income in 1994 are because of the diversification that has taken place on Saskatchewan farms.

And why? Because farmers now are realizing that they have to take the messages and the signals from the market-place. And they're adapting to that. The expansion of pulse crops in this province is something to be admired and encouraged, and hopefully it will continue.

But what it is doing on the pulse side is you are building the critical mass. You're building the critical mass in pulse production, and that is going to bring in the other spin-offs, the value added spin-offs that we've been talking about. Because until you built that critical mass, there wasn't going to be the kind of interest in expanding the value added side.

So we're seeing that. And that's exciting, and that's renewal in agriculture. And that's exactly what this province needs is more emphasis on processing of raw materials right here in the province of Saskatchewan and shipping out processed goods instead of raw materials and exporting jobs to other regions of Canada or North America.

Had we not changed, Mr. Speaker, had we not changed the direction of agriculture, change would have been inflicted on the industry. It would have been inflicted on the industry. And I do not believe, and I know farmers do not believe across this province that they would have been prepared for the change. I think because we have initiated the change, they will be better prepared for the future and are going to be better prepared to compete effectively in this new global economy that we're encountering.

So it was tough to make those choices and it was tough decisions, but again it demonstrated the leadership, the leadership of this government, the foresight and the decisiveness of this government to make those tough choices for the benefit of Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan's . . . the people of Saskatchewan.

Part of our diversification, agricultural diversification initiatives announced in the throne speech will be the agri-food innovation fund Act which will encourage producers, the private sector, co-operatives, and governments to invest in a variety of areas including biotechnology and food processing.

And I want to talk about biotechnology because it's something that I firmly believe in. We have now in Saskatchewan between 35 to 40 per cent of all the ag biotech in Canada, and that is exciting. We hope by the year 2000 that we'll have 70 per cent. And the reason that we are pushing and trying to attract these knowledge-based industries, in particular in the biotech field, ag biotech field, is that again once you've built the critical mass of knowledge — and that's what we are building in Saskatoon, is that critical mass of intelligence and of knowledge — and what will happen, the spin-offs that will occur because of that will be immense and will be profound for the Saskatchewan economy.

And we're already seeing examples of that. Canamino products in Saskatoon, a company that is going to take oats and it's going to process it into cosmetics, is going to create something like 60 to 70 full-time jobs. That was not there if it had not been for ag biotech. So those are the kind of examples that are out there.

We've seen the biomass fermentation announcement recently by the Premier and the federal Minister of Agriculture. Again another spin-off, another alliance that has been brought into the province because of that critical mass which is located in Saskatoon. And it's going to continue, I tell you. And it is going to mean jobs. It is going to mean economic development. It's going to mean creation of wealth for the province and the people of this province. And that is good news. And we should be working harder to ensure that that continues.

Another initiative, of course, is The Agricultural Operations Act, which will help to diversify the livestock sector and protect producers, while sustaining our land and water resources. And again in that particular area, we've identified the livestock sector as a major contributor to the provincial economy.

And we look on the hog side and we're saying we again have to build to the critical mass. At 1 million hogs in Saskatchewan we are not going to be able to attract the investment in the processing side that should be here. If we expand the hog industry — and I know that it will, because we're seeing the signs already, producers saying and taking the initiative to build newer, modern facilities — what will follow will be the capital needed to expand the livestock processing end. So again, because you have the primary production, you will attract the value added processing side which is what we have been striving for for some time.

Mr. Speaker, these are all exciting, exciting news for Saskatchewan people and for Saskatchewan agriculture and the Saskatchewan economy. But it's so unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that there are some of us in this legislature that cannot see the bright, positive aspects of our *Partnership for Renewal* and the strong decisions that this government has made.

And I am speaking of course, Mr. Speaker, of the Leader of the Third Party and the Leader of the Opposition. All we see from them, just as the statistics on job numbers, for months and months now, both of these individuals have been playing fast and loose with figures to paint the most negative, the darkest picture of the Saskatchewan economy that anybody could see. And for what purpose? For what purpose, Mr. Speaker?

Politics, that is what it's all about. It's to try to get elected. It's to try to get some votes out in rural Saskatchewan. But little did they know, little did they know that they are damaging — damaging — the Saskatchewan economy in lots of ways. And they're also damaging themselves, because now we see today what the actual figures are and what StatsCan is saying.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to see that kind of behaviour out of elected officials. I expected, yes, they can give us some constructive critique on our policies. But to go out and purposely, go on and purposely mislead people and try to darken the picture when Saskatchewan people are feeling optimistic and rejuvenated.

And it doesn't matter which region of the province you go to. You talk to small-business people. You talk to the chamber of commerce. These people are saying that there is economic activity and renewal in the economy like they haven't seen for a long time.

So I think that these members would be best advised to say we are going to start to now realize and admit the benefits of what this government has done in the last three and a half years and accept that we have been leaders and we have demonstrated clearly that we can lead and we can make tough decisions. But we can make them based on compassion and understanding and, as I said, the principles of caring and sharing. So, Mr. Speaker, we need to, of course, we need to do more in economy. And more will be done certainly. As I pointed out, there is a lot of activity in the value added side. We're seeing on the manufacturing side an explosion of activity.

(1545)

And in my constituency — close to my constituency — a true success story: Bourgault Industries of St. Brieux. Mr. Bourgault started back in the 1970s and had a vision of building and producing a cultivator that was suited to the type of land, the soil class, that he had and farmers had in the St. Brieux region. He had a vision, and he had a dream, and he pursued that. And he built this cultivator, the first one, and I remember seeing models of it. And he kept working at it, kept improving it. And part of the success was hiring farmers in his plant in St. Brieux, hiring farmers. And the farmers subsequently in the summertime would take out the cultivator and go and try it, go and experiment with this cultivator to see what changes needed to be made.

And that was the success because again it is a tribute to farmers and their ingenuity. And Mr. Bourgault would of course improve on that particular cultivator. And last fall, I was happy and delighted and honoured to be in St. Brieux with the Minister of Economic Development for an announcement of an expansion of Bourgault Industries, an expansion of more than 100 full-time jobs. Bourgault Industries will be going from approximately 450 to 600 full-time jobs and a hope . . . and they're setting their goals for 1,000 permanent jobs in the near future. And their motto, I think, explains what Saskatchewan businesses have to do in the future. Their motto is: pursuing perfection.

And that's what Saskatchewan businesses are doing right across Saskatchewan. They're improving on the technology they have now. They're taking new technology, applying it, and they're pursuing new possibilities and new types of technologies and that's exciting and we're seeing the benefits right across this province. And I tell you again, in the coming months you will see more and more announcements like the Bourgault's and again it demonstrates the manufacturing sector . . . how exciting and just how strong and viable that it is.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also comment briefly on our wellness model, health care reforms. And there's probably not a policy that I have supported more strongly than health care reforms.

I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, in the direction that we've set for the future of health care in Saskatchewan. We have again taken a look at communities, taken a look at regions of the province, and we've said to them, you decide, you decide for yourselves — again, self-determination — what constitutes a district, and they've done that.

And we now have 30-some health districts instead of 400-and-some health boards, that we had previously. And what these health districts have done is identify again in their particular districts what they need as far as health care, what the people of their district and the communities in their districts require as health care.

And they've identified those needs and they've said, now we will move to implement programs that will meet the needs and match the needs of communities and individuals. And again, in April, we're going to see a transfer again of services from Regina to the health districts, which again will help to facilitate the health district boards in meeting those needs of the people in the communities.

And the concept is very simple. The concept is simple, much like economic development. Who knows better than communities and people in the local communities what they need for health care, what they need for economic development and what will work. I don't see how Regina can know that, can know all of it. I suppose we know, we think we know, what communities need. But in this process, they are the ones who tell us what they need and this is a major shift away from how we used to approach health care in the past. And I firmly believe in that concept whether it's health, whether it's economic development. I think it's the way to govern in the future.

Now these health district boards . . . and certainly I've worked very closely with the boards in my particular constituency and I have a lot of respect for their undertakings and the work that they have done in the past number of months. It has not been an easy transition for some of them, but they are moving along. They have made . . . as I said, they've identified their needs and they're moving to address those needs. And I'm happy to see that they are again moving and they're continuing to move towards more community based health care which is again another key component of health care reforms.

We look at putting in place programs that address and are directed by the communities and are community based. And one of those programs I firmly believe in is home care. We see elders that in the past were put in nursing homes when really their health did not require them to be in a nursing home. Now what we are saying and health boards are saying is we are going to re-direct some of the resources to home care so that we can keep individuals in their homes as long as we possibly can. And we're seeing that communities and individuals in communities are responding to that. And that is exciting and that's the way that we should approach this particular service.

So again I just want to say that I firmly support the Minister of Health on the initiatives. I'm proud of health care reforms. And I know that they will go down in history as having been the saviour of medicare in Canada. And other jurisdictions, I am sure, will be following and adapting their particular reforms to more closely reflect the Saskatchewan reforms.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that it has been a pleasure to stand here in response to the throne speech. I look for an exciting session, but I also look for an exciting year and an exciting future for Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan. Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there are some dark clouds on the horizon. But Saskatchewan people have always overcome major hurdles and I'm sure that they're going to do that in the future.

So with that, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciated the opportunity to speak here today. Thanks.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kluz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be back here in the Assembly and it's also a pleasure to see you back in your chair presiding over this Assembly.

Today I'm going to talk on a number of topics. Some of them will be personal and some will be related . . . things related to my constituency.

I first want to mention to this Assembly why I entered politics. And of course one has to discuss things with his family and . . . personal things, before he enters politics. But my love for this life started some time ago. Back in 1967 when I was in grade 5 our class toured this Assembly. And I remember . . . Those being the Thatcher years. And I remember how tough it was out there on the family farm. I can remember all the farmers having a three-bushel quota for their wheat and wheat wasn't worth nothing. It was very, very lean, tough times on the farm.

And I took my first membership with this party in 1971 when I was 15 years old. And I remember that campaign at that time. It was called, the new deal for people. And I became an active worker and committed to this party and to social democracy.

And I think back to the years of . . . from '82 to '91, just to mention some of the things that had happened that really interested me in entering public life. Some of the things I didn't like, were happening, were the disappearance of the Potash Corporation, or highway equipment being sold off, all our gas

wells and Saskoil disappearing. The coalfields being given away. GigaText, Joytec, Supercart, there's so many more but those were the things plus 10 straight deficit budgets. And I sat back and I said, you know, enough of this is enough. I mean the people of this province deserve more. So I decided to run for public office.

Once we were elected, everyone knows we said we would open the books. We had an independent commission called the Gass Commission, and after we opened those books we found the accumulated deficit to be close to \$15 billion. Pretty tough thing when I look back, especially back to '82 and prior, how good things were here in the province.

I can also think back to my first years of public life which was with the RM (rural municipality) of Emerald. I was there for seven years; the last two years I was reeve of that municipality. And I can remember when I first got onto council how tough it was there. Previous council decided to run deficit budgets and the RM was in pretty rough shape.

And I can remember advisers, municipal advisers from Regina, coming out to our council meeting and telling us we had to get our house in order or they were going to run us out of . . . run the municipality out of Regina. Rural Development was going to take over.

And I remember one of my councillors telling an adviser, you mean to tell us you have the nerve when your government in Regina can't get its house in order and you can come and tell us what to do. I really remember that. I remember all those deficit budgets.

None the less, after that adviser left we tackled our financial problem and we brought the debt under control. I know how important it was to do that. I didn't do it alone but I was part of it and quite proud of it.

Once again, although in a different public life here in the legislature instead of RM council, once again I'm going to be part of balancing the budget. It's going to be the first time in 15 years this province is going to see a balanced budget. And I can tell you, the first years of office here were equally as tough or more tougher than back in my municipal days. When this budget comes down on the 16th, I can tell you it's going to be the brightest day Saskatchewan has seen for 15 long years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1600)

**Mr. Kluz:** — We have a very positive future ahead of us

I have a newspaper article here from the *Star-Phoenix* yesterday . . . or today rather. It says, "Balanced budget knife leaves scars." Well there's no doubt about it. All kinds of things had to be done to obtain a balanced budget. There's no politician that wants to cut services and raise taxes. I mean that just blows away your popularity, but it's something that have to be done. But nonetheless we had the political will to do that, and today we are going to see a balanced budget.

Although Alberta, you know, gets all the press, I can tell you that there's a lot of scars in Alberta. And I can say to the press, how would you have done it? Instead of spreading this gloom and doom, why don't you say some of the good things about this balanced budget that's coming up in Saskatchewan?

And I mentioned Alberta a little bit before. I'm going to get into it just a little bit more. Just last summer, my brother and his wife moved back from Calgary. And I can tell you, all people in Alberta aren't pleased with what's going on there.

After they were here for six months . . . and that's an example of some of the young people coming back to this province, and there are more than just my brother and his family. But after they lived here for six months, I told them they could apply for their health services card. They asked me how to go about it, so I gave them the phone number, and before she had phoned, before my sister-in-law had phoned, she asked me how much does this cost. And I said, how much does what cost? And she says, well your health services in this province. And I said, well it costs nothing. It's derived through our tax system, and there is no charge for health care premiums here in Saskatchewan. She couldn't believe it. She told me in Alberta they were paying between 13 and 1400 dollars a year for their family for health care premiums. And they charge nothing here in Saskatchewan.

Then she got into a little personal story about how she had lived in the United States and moved to Alberta when she was quite young. But when they were in the United States, her father's best friend had a heart attack and had major heart surgery. And this year — or pardon me — this past summer the family went back to renew acquaintances in the United States, and the person that had that heart surgery 25 years ago was throwing a party. And I asked her what was that party for. And she had told me that after 25 years he'd finally paid the mortgage off on his heart surgery. Twenty-five years of paying — something we don't have here in Canada, thanks to Saskatchewan.

A while back, probably two months ago, the federal government made a ruling that doctors couldn't double-bill and you couldn't have private clinics. And I remember Ralph Klein on TV that very night saying that he was going to challenge the federal government in a court of law. And I wonder why Alberta would want to do that, you know; it sounds like they wanted to do some double-billing.

And now you're hearing the federal government say that they're going to reduce transfer payments and expand what the provinces have to do in health care and education. They're going to expand the responsibilities. Probably just up Alberta's sleeve, Ralph Klein's sleeve, just something that he wants to do.

And if the Canada Health Act ever changes and there's more responsibility for the provinces, I'm sure you're going to see Ralph Klein privatize some of those hospitals. And that's right next door to us. That's something we've been, as a party, fighting for 50 years — to maintain the principles of medicare. And as long as you have this government here in Saskatchewan, we're going to maintain those principles of medicare.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kluz:** — And speaking to the media again, when you compare Saskatchewan to Alberta, just take some things into consideration. A few that come to mind rather quickly, just think about health care premiums and tuition for kindergarten students. Those are only two, but there's a lot more.

There's a lot of good things happening in the province, although I admitted before the first couple of years of our mandate were very tough on us as legislators and as well as the people. But Saskatchewan people, being resilient, bounced back and things certainly are looking up.

If you look at our specialty crop acres here in Saskatchewan, if you look at the graph, it goes up dramatically; Alberta and Manitoba somewhat stabilized. My colleague, the member from Kinistino, related to that just recently in his speech about why that was so. But none the less, Saskatchewan farmers diversified and the specialty crops, canola and flax acres, went up dramatically. There's other things they are doing as well, and some of the people in my constituency are growing coriander, quinoa, canaryseed, lentils, peas — all kinds of other crops that five short years ago they never dreamed of growing.

Just consider some of the things that's happening in the marketplace. Malt barley for example. By summertime the world is virtually going to be sold out of malt barley. It means one thing. Good prices for that time of year. Flax — Canada is going to be the only net exporter of flax this year. It means good upcoming prices for flax. Canola has increasing needs. Canola prices is going to stay strong. Recently I've heard that peas . . . farmers are going to be to grow all the . . . pardon me, to be able to sell all they can grow and for a good price as well.

And with all these crops, and farmers diversifying, it's going to take the pressure off wheat which mean there's going to be a good price for wheat as well. This is definitely good news because we have reasonable or exceptional prices. And even the better part about it, it is not the government that created this; it was the Saskatchewan farmers that had diversified and took advantage of the situation that was out there and now they're going to realize some good prices. So once again it's something that Saskatchewan farmers are quite capable of doing and prove themselves once again.

There's also other things, Mr. Speaker, that they're diversifying into. There's three new buffalo farms in my constituency and right now they are selling all the buffalo meat they can produce. Their demand has exceeded their product.

Two new emu farms have just started up. They have joined the emu association and they are considering doing some extra development for value added for all the products that relate to emus which is oil and the fine leather, the meat of course, and the feathers. So if we get a few more of these emu farms going, we're certainly going to see more activity from these farmers.

There's a couple new farms that have wild boar. A lot of horticulture, not to mention some of the more traditional farm

animals. We're seeing increased number of sheep and pork and cattle.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, this is the most optimistic I've seen the farmers in Saskatchewan for years. And it is definitely good news for agriculture; it is definitely good news for all of Saskatchewan. And with all of this diversification it means jobs for Saskatchewan people. And for the last couple of days in the Assembly and last couple months on the air waves and the print, I've seen the Tory and the Liberal opposition wailing away about our jobless economy. I can honestly tell you, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have the same determination in creating jobs as we had in getting this deficit under control.

And we want to talk about jobs. News release just this morning, StatsCan restructured and what they're saying is, revised job figures released by StatsCan show that employment in Saskatchewan has risen by 7,000 since 1992. Considerably more than previously estimated. Some more good news for the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get into some specific things in my constituency that happened in the last year. There was the private enterprise — it wasn't government-driven although government sets the tone and private enterprise creates these jobs — and there are a lot of them in my constituency. So really when the opposition was going around and saying there was no jobs out there, people in my riding were saying, I don't know what they're talking about because we sure see a lot of activity out here.

I'm just going to mention a few, but there are certainly more in the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena — Kelvington Super Swine, which is still in developmental stages. But what they're going to do is a community-based hog barn. They're going to have 1,200 sows. It's going to create 12 new jobs for Kelvington and area — community-based.

Valley Packing Systems, they've created a packing system for direct seeding from Fosston, created a number of jobs. One of the defeated cabinet ministers from the last election, Sherwin Petersen, who was the minister of Highways, even recognized the need for value added and diversification. He has taken upon himself to develop the Buffalo Seeding Systems. Last time I talked to him, he invested something like \$140,000 into the seeding system. Even the previous Conservatives realize the need to diversify in this province.

Even North East Terminal in Wadena, which was built before '91, had installed a grain dryer and expanded in other ways, created another couple of jobs. There's a new cooperative insurance outlet in Wadena, two more jobs. NorthHome Comfort Windows in Foam Lake doing a terrific job of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) windows — they're manufacturing them just north of Foam Lake. They're so busy now, they created another couple of jobs.

Mozart's Family Restaurant recently opened up in Foam Lake. There's going to be a number of people working there. There's a new auto-body shop just north of Kelliher on the farm, another couple of jobs. My neighbour set up another seeding system for

direct seeding, manufactured on their farm -- a couple more jobs created. There's all kinds of examples out there.

Another one is Rockytop Seed Cleaning — just started up — running with older equipment but set it up quite nicely. He's cleaning things like quinoa and peas. He's taking wild oats out of oats, making it milling quality. And just for an example to show how busy he is there — he's got a couple of employees working for him — to show how busy he is, in 1983 Wishart, Bankend, West Bend lost their rail line. It was called the Foam Lake, Wishart subdivision. There was five elevators in Wishart that used to handle a million bushels of grain a year. You take that an average of five elevators, that's something like 200,000 bushels a year, which in 1983 figures was a lot of grain handled.

This Rockytop Seed Cleaning — using old equipment but fixed it up — last year from January 24 to December 31 cleaned 262,000 bushels of grain. That's a terrific accomplishment for on-farm diversification. Bankend Co-op — just a little town along Highway 35, there's a little co-op there. The population of that town is only something like 16 people. That co-op last year turned \$2 million. There's two more people working in that co-op now. There's a new auto dealer in the riding, Grassland Auto Sales. So there's lots of things happening in Kelvington-Wadena.

(1615)

Just two miles to the west of my riding is the town of Wynyard. We've done most of our business there for the last number of years. So let me tell you what's happening in Wynyard — lots of good news happening in Wynyard. Just listen to this. A new auction barn, a new plumbing shop equipped with retail sales outlet integrated with a discount store, Big Quill Resources just expanded. There's 16 people working there. What they're doing is they're taking potassium sulphate out of Big Quill Lake and turning it into things like wallboard and dentures — all kinds of thing. They found some niche markets. They say they're going to be there for ever; there's enough product to keep them going. They're going to be starting a new plant, and they've just landed some new contracts in China. So they're going to be creating some new jobs as well.

There's a brand-new credit union under construction in Wynyard. The cost is something like \$1.2 million. The co-op grocery store recently expanded. Major construction in that town. There's also a new bakery. New condominium -- seven-plex condominiums went up this year. There's a new Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet on Highway 16 going up. And the biggest one of all is the Plains Poultry expansion. And after that expansion takes place — it's under construction right now — there's going to be an additional 60 new jobs for that town.

So last year, in Wynyard alone, there was something like 100 new jobs created. It's not bad for a town with a population under 2,400. Some really positive things happening here throughout the province. And like I said before, the opposition going around and saying there's no new jobs created, well the people in my constituency and surrounding area certainly haven't seen that because there's a lot of activity happening.

And is this good enough? Definitely not. We have to do more. We have to create new jobs. And as I said before, it wasn't the government that created these jobs. We set the atmosphere, and it was the private sector. But that's the way things have to happen here in the 1990s.

Like I mentioned before, it was a tough, tough time for us and the people of Saskatchewan, especially these first couple of years of our mandate. But you know, through the people's hard work, Saskatchewan has definitely bounced back. Just think of the positive outlook. We're going to have a balanced budget for the first time in 15 years. All kinds of new jobs out there. There's a positive agriculture atmosphere with good grain prices, and looks like good weather prediction for the upcoming growing season. Lots of good things happening.

And before I close, I just want to touch a little bit on the personal side. As many of you know, or all of you know, through cost-cutting measures by and large helped achieve some of this balanced budget. But all of the little things that helped, and one of the little things that is helping is reducing the number of MLAs from 66 to 58. And as I say before, many of you may know this, that I find myself in a different constituency. I'm a candidate for nomination in the constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood.

But the reason I'm saying this, as well as working for the people of Kelvington-Wadena and driving through that riding and canvassing the people in the new riding, I've been a lot busier than normal — busier then I was for the last three years. But one thing I found out there, there's one thing I found out there, is by and large that people are very positive and they want to see their politicians being positive. They don't want to see no more gloom and doom. They want to see the positive things, like I said — the balanced budget, along with balanced budget legislation, and new jobs, and a good ag atmosphere, and things turning around. People want to feel good about themselves, and so they should. It's been a long time.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kluz:** — Saskatchewan has definitely turned around. And I can think back to our first couple of years of our mandate when Tommy Douglas's wife Irma had wrote the Premier a letter and was basically telling him, you know, hang in there; we know it's tough sledding. But I have faith that things will turn around and that once again the sun is going to shine brightly on Saskatchewan, the greatest province in this dominion. And, Mr. Speaker, I can definitely tell you, that sun is starting to shine. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to you. I'm pleased to be able to rise in this House today to comment on this year's Speech from the Throne. I want to begin by saying how proud I am to be representing the constituency of Meadow Lake. It's located, as you will know, along the Alberta border and extends eastward through the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. This area is quickly becoming



one of the destination spots for people of Saskatchewan; nay, I say, Canada; nay, I say, the world. I stand proudly here today as I enter the debate on the Speech from the Throne delivered on February 6 by His Honour Lieutenant Governor Jack Wiebe.

I want to compliment, Mr. Speaker, the mover of the throne speech, the member from Bengough-Milestone, on the fine job that she did. I had the honour of moving the Speech from the Throne several years ago, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure you will remember it well. It was the first time I ever saw you, Mr. Speaker, sitting on the edge of your chair. And to the seconder of the Speech from the Throne, the member from Saltcoats, what a fine job you did, delivered in fine, fine form from the coach's corner.

And I certainly want to compliment you too, Mr. Speaker. You often face great adversity, and I admire and respect the manner with which you control this Assembly. I have heard that you are a modest man and do not like too much praise. I did not hear this from your office, mind you, but none the less I will wish yourself, Mr. Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker, the best of luck in the coming session. I have every confidence that you will provide both fairness and leadership as we pass new and progressive legislation for the people of Saskatchewan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the two new cabinet ministers — the member from Athabasca, the new Associate Minister of Economic Development; and the member from Regina Lake Centre, the new minister responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation.

I would as well like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Clerk Assistant, Meta Woods, to the Assembly. Fortunately — or unfortunately for her — she got to know several of us quite well through a CPA (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) conference and on the three-week all-party Driving Safety Committee tours that took place prior to this session.

Lastly, I would like to welcome the pages to this session. I know you'll find it a very interesting experience.

I want to speak again, Mr. Speaker, about the constituency of Meadow Lake. I'm sure that there is not a more beautiful place in the world. I've had the good fortune of travelling some in this world and each time I return I believe it is truly more beautiful than when I left.

This speech and the government's priorities for 1995-96 I think mark a turning point in Saskatchewan history. In the last three years, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people and this government have worked very hard and made many sacrifices to deal with what seemed at times to be an almost overwhelming debt problem left by the previous administration.

But the comeback has been incredible. And much of the credit, Mr. Speaker, must go however to the people of Saskatchewan — ordinary people like those of the communities of Meadow Lake, St. Walburg, Paradise Hill, Pierceland, Loon Lake, and Goodsoil. These are the people that deserve the real credit. Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, seem to have the ability to

dig in and do what needs to be done regardless of how large the barrier is.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Working with the government, Saskatchewan people now have successfully wrestled that debt monster to the ground. It has been some time since I've heard the good members in opposition ask, where is the plan? We put our plan in place, and you know what, Mr. Speaker? We're ahead of schedule.

It sure would be nice if the federal and provincial Liberals would start working together on their plan. It seems they have separate plans, none of which apparently include the well-being of this province or this country. They could take some guidance from this government who will bring in a balanced budget on February 16. This will be the first time the budget has been balanced in Saskatchewan since the New Democrats left office in 1982.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — And not only that, Mr. Speaker, we will be introducing the balanced budget Act which will promote long-term financial stability and integrity into the administration of our finances.

I ran for basically two reasons, Mr. Speaker. The first was because I believed that it was important that there was more openness and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan. The second was because I believed that the public was demanding a government that would assume some sense of fiscal responsibility.

Perhaps part of what makes my job so enjoyable is that I believe our government has to a large degree fulfilled those two objectives. My whole background in the credit union required that I be open and accountable to our membership, and of course we had to be fiscally responsible.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, this new job has been a relatively easy transition. I know it has been referred to many times before, but I think it's worth repeating. In chapter 2 of the *Report of the Provincial Auditor* for the year ended March 31, 1992, the Provincial Auditor says, and I quote:

The government moved from providing what the financial review commission viewed as the weakest and least useful financial statements in Canada to providing one of the most useful financial statements issued by a senior government anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, those are powerful words. The people of Saskatchewan can be comforted in knowing that they are getting full disclosure of the province's finances.

We have always promised that once we got the finances back in order, we would be able to focus again on other priorities. Now, as the throne speech suggests, we're beginning to be able to do that again. Mr. Speaker, as a result of this government's sound

fiscal management policies and its focus on economic development at the community level, we're seeing the birth of an economic recovery in Saskatchewan.

Last year more than \$1 billion was invested in Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector. Saskatchewan is now the second largest oil producing province and the third largest gas producing province in Canada. In Saskatchewan there were over 6,000 person-years of direct employment created in 1994. In addition to that, another nearly 7,000 indirect person-years of employment were created in 1994 with respect to the oil and gas industry. Due to oil and gas activity, RMs and land owners are enjoying, through taxes and compensation, \$90 million paid to them in the year 1994.

I want to speak briefly, Mr. Speaker, about some of the activity taking place in my constituency with respect to the oil and gas industry. Primarily this activity has taken place in the Goodsoil, Pierceland, and Joseph Bighead areas. There were 196 oil wells and 222 gas wells drilled in our area last year. The land sale revenues are estimated to be over \$55 million for north-west Saskatchewan alone. There were 1,860 person-years of direct employment created, and indirectly another 2,045 person-years of work created. That means many, many jobs — new jobs, Mr. Speaker — for the people in my constituency.

Retail sales jumped by 10 per cent. Thousands of new jobs were created, and in my home town of Meadow Lake, we again had the highest number of housing starts on a per capita basis of any town in Saskatchewan. We have been fortunate enough to hold that distinction for the last three years consecutive.

(1630)

The spirit of pride and optimism that characterized this province prior to the 1980s is returning, Mr. Speaker. But this doesn't mean that this government is going to sit back and say our work is over. In fact I'm pleased to say that our work is really just beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this government for the focus in this year's speech on job creation. For residents of northern Saskatchewan, the expansion of the Cluff Lake and Rabbit Lake mines and the construction of the McLean and Contact lakes are very good news. These projects, Mr. Speaker, mean 250 construction jobs this year and 400 new, full-time jobs after that. We are setting a target that 60 per cent of all mining jobs created by new and expanded operations be held by Northerners, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — I am pleased that this government is now able to put that money into job creation. The \$10 million being put into the Future Skills program, which assists with job training, will do a lot to help bridge the gap between the unemployed and jobs. The new JobStart program, which will help youth move into the workplace, is also very, very important, Mr. Speaker. We need to assist youth in finding the training and the support that they need in order that they can move into the workforce and make positive contributions to our society.

Over the next year the government will continue to devote itself to the health and well-being of Saskatchewan residents. One unique initiative in this area is the proposal for safe driving changes. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the member from Moose Jaw Palliser is listening because, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that for sure I have been a part of the Select Committee on Driving Safety.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Over the past four months, Mr. Speaker, we have held hearings all across the province and have examined a wide variety of issues related to driving safety. It has been extremely rewarding for me to be a part of this committee, which I am confident will make important contributions to the safety of Saskatchewan drivers. Our recommendations will be tabled in the legislature here later this session.

Environmental protection, Mr. Speaker, is also something that has been emphasized in this year's Speech from the Throne. This is again of particular interest to me. The area of the province I represent, I think, is some of the most beautiful country in the province, as I have alluded to earlier. It has an abundance of natural resources: water, animals, minerals, and trees. It offers a lot to many, many different groups of individuals. Because of its beauty, this area is a tourist destination. Hunters come for the game. Mining companies come for the minerals. Forestry companies come for the trees. Tourists come to enjoy the sights. And many residents in the area make their living off of some of the harvesting of the land.

The needs and the desires, Mr. Speaker, of these many groups sometimes conflict. Because of this the government is proposing the development of a forest management . . . Forest Resource Management Act. This will ensure that a balance is achieved between developing the economic potential of this area while protecting the environment and the natural lifestyles of Northerners.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sonntag:** — This will not in any way restrict or impair harvesting practices, but rather will guarantee that the harvesting practices, whether that be fish, wild animals, or trees, can continue in perpetuity. This Act is all about good common sense, long-term planning, and has nothing to do with the imposition of heavy-handed restrictions as some have suggested.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I live in some of the most beautiful forest area in the province, and I'd say in the country, and the Canadian Forestry Association seems to agree with me. I am therefore very, very pleased that this year Meadow Lake has been recognized by the association and given the designation as the 1995 Forestry Capital of Canada.

There are many events taking place this year including a celebrity auction on August 1 to which many of you, both in government and in opposition, have contributed items. I am sure the forestry committee would want me to thank all of you

for them. You wouldn't by any chance have any spare hats would you, Mr. Speaker?

On May 13 everything will culminate in a gala event. I want to personally invite each and every one of you to Meadow Lake on that day. If you're not there you'll be one of the only ones in Canada who aren't; so show up. It'll be a lot of fun.

I want to again pay special tribute to the work the Meadow Lake Tribal Council has done this past year. The council, along with all the first nations that it includes, have done as much as anything for the economy in our area. They now employ over 200 people directly and many, many more indirectly. They continue to lead virtually all first nations people in Canada in their aggressive, progressive, community-based approach to doing things. I am honoured to be involved with them and congratulate Chief Richard Gladue in his new role as chief of the council.

Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to say in closing that this year's Speech from the Throne sets a new tone of optimism and opportunity for this province. I am very proud to have been a part of a government that has brought this province back from the brink of financial disaster, while preserving our programs and services and protecting the most vulnerable residents of this province.

I now look forward to continue working with the Saskatchewan people to further enhance and develop the many talents, resources, and opportunities we have available to us in this beautiful province.

I will of course be voting in favour of the throne speech and urge all members to do the same. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise in the Assembly today and to speak on behalf of the throne speech here.

First of all, I want to congratulate the member from Bengough-Milestone for a very excellent job in moving the Speech from the Throne, and also to my colleague, the member from Saltcoats, who did a tremendous job on seconding it. And it's going to be a tough job for me to follow the acts that have gone on before me, particularly from my colleagues.

I also at this time, Mr. Speaker, want to congratulate Ms. Woods on joining the Assembly. I'm sure that her contribution here will be muchly appreciated. I also want to congratulate and welcome the pages to this institution, and their services are muchly appreciated by the members.

And to you, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a special congratulations on the job well done in maintaining the decorum of this House over the past sessions. And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that you will enjoy once again the full cooperation from the member from Pelly in maintaining that decorum as the member from Pelly has exhibited in the past, and I'm sure you will appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud to be a part of this government and to be a part of this throne speech — proud because this is the first time in nearly 15 years that we are going to see a balanced budget here in Saskatchewan. That, Mr. Speaker, has to give all of us as members of the government . . . and I think it gives a great deal of relief to all of the people in Saskatchewan.

And as my colleagues before me have mentioned, the optimism that is out there in Saskatchewan, whether it be in rural Saskatchewan or urban Saskatchewan, is very, very noticeable. And I think that optimism comes about, Mr. Speaker . . . it is because finally the people of Saskatchewan feel a degree of comfort and security in the knowledge that there is somebody at the helm of the ship of state in Saskatchewan that knows where we're going.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Harper:** — Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from Kelvington-Wadena mentioned a few minutes ago about the desperate situation that we inherited in Saskatchewan when we became government, we took over a province that was riddled with a \$15 billion debt. But more importantly, Mr. Speaker — and I suppose more sadly — we took over a province that was in a deficit each year by over \$1 billion.

Now as you know, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues here in the House know very well, I'm a farmer, a farmer from Pelly constituency. And as a farmer, Mr. Speaker, I am used to doing financing but not in the magnitude of millions and billions of dollars. So I'll be the first to admit, Mr. Speaker, that being elected for the first time to this legislature in 1991 and looking at a \$15 billion debt as an accounting figure, a \$1.2 billion deficit, I had absolutely no comprehension of what that really meant. I'll be the first to admit, Mr. Speaker, that I have no idea how big a pile 1 million loonies would make. I have no idea if that pile is 2 feet high, 3 feet high, or 4 feet high.

So it happened, Mr. Speaker, by chance that over the Christmas holidays one year when my daughter was home from university we started to talk about this. And I admitted to her that I couldn't visualize what a \$15 billion debt was, or a billion-dollar deficit, or even a pile of a million loonies. So she suggested that perhaps we should acquaint it to something that we can understand or comprehend and that is time. Mr. Speaker, that's one thing I can judge a little bit as how long a second is or how long a minute is or how long an hour is. So she took out her calculator and she figured out for me that one million seconds — one million seconds — is equal to twelve and one-half days. Well I found that quite interesting until she punched out what one billion seconds was. One billion seconds is equal to 32 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a greater degree of understanding of what \$15 billion debt is and what we have to deal with here in Saskatchewan. So, Mr. Speaker, when I can stand in this legislature some three years later and have the opportunity to suggest that we're going to bring in a balanced budget, it gives me a great deal of pride that we have had the fortitude, the wisdom, and the direction to take Saskatchewan from a \$15

billion debt and a \$1 billion-a-year deficit to a balanced budget position in three years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Harper:** — And there's no doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker — and it's just not my opinion; it's the opinion of international bankers and of financial experts across this country — that Saskatchewan has been a trend-setter in addressing its deficit and debt problem and it is an example for the rest of the country to follow. Mr. Speaker, I can't help but be proud of that.

Mr. Speaker, jobs and economic recovery is the underlying message and direction of this government; the theme of this throne speech — a new day of hope and opportunity. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that anyone can argue with, as I've already indicated, the mess that we found Saskatchewan in in 1991. And now in 1995, for the first time Saskatchewan and the people of this great province have some hope and can see the opportunity. They can see that we are rebuilding Saskatchewan and they are joining with us on a day-by-day basis to rebuild this province and make Saskatchewan the province that we all know it can be, and that's a province of opportunity and a province of prosperity.

And as our Premier has already indicated, that the efforts and the energy of this government and the efforts and the energy that this government has shown in addressing the deficit and the debt problem we faced three years ago, that same energy, same effort, and same determination will be put into job creation and renewing the economy.

That has been an ongoing process for us in government for the last three years. We've seen those things happen in such examples as Norquay Alfalfa Processors Ltd. which has just now completed its third year of operation, creating some 70 jobs, all out there in the small community of Norquay.

More recently we have noticed the announcement by Sask-Can Fibre at Canora where they have linked up partnership with Cargill Limited to establish a new pilot project for the processing of flax straw fibre. This pilot project will create four to five jobs directly during the life of the pilot project which is two years, but will lead to more modern technology available for the processing of flax straw fibre which will then create a processing opportunity right in the town of Canora.

(1645)

Just in the past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, a group of farmers in the Preeceville area have been holding meetings and discussing the possibility of establishing an intensive hog operation right in that community. These farmers are recognizing the need to diversify further the agricultural base that represents in my constituency.

But they also are recognizing that agriculture is changing, has changed in the last 10 or 12 years, and likely that change will be speeded up as a result of the federal government's decision to change the Western Grain Transportation Act. And that change, Mr. Speaker, is going to have a dramatic effect upon the

farmers in my constituency and along the parkland area. And if we want to survive as farmers out there, we're going to have to change our traditional methods of farming, look at value added products.

Mr. Speaker, as in the past, we have identified in that particular area of Saskatchewan, the parkland area, that we are working in climatic conditions that are different from many of the agricultural areas in Saskatchewan.

According to Sask Wheat Pool figures that were provided to me a few months ago, on any given year 28 per cent of the feed grains produced in Saskatchewan is produced in the Kamsack-Canora-Preeceville areas. Much of this is due, Mr. Speaker, because of the climatic conditions in which we find our farms in that neck of the woods in Saskatchewan.

The weather station at Pelly over the last 20 years has recorded the highest average rainfall of anywhere in Saskatchewan. And at the same time through the same period of the same 20 years, Mr. Speaker, the same weather station at Pelly has also recorded the least frost-free days of anywhere in Saskatchewan.

So taking those things into consideration, we find ourselves as farmers there in a situation where we cannot on a consistent basis produce quality grain. But what we can do in that area, Mr. Speaker, is produce quantities — not qualities but quantities. Very conducive to the production of feed grains that would work hand in hand with an intensive livestock operation such as a hog operation or a backgrounding operation in the beef cattle business.

And to that end farmers there are recognizing the need to diversify their operations and more and more are moving into livestock and particularly into cattle. As a result of that, Mr. Speaker, a group of farmers, with the assistance of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Department of Agriculture, in Norquay this fall formed a livestock or cattle breeder and feeder co-op; it's called the Buffalo Hump Feeder Co-op. And as a result of the formation of that particular cooperative — it has some 43 members to it right now and more joining as time goes on here — there has been the purchase of an additional 300 cows, bred cows, into that area — in some cases, farmers expanding their cattle operation; in other cases, farmers starting a new cattle operation. And some of the younger farmers that are starting out in the livestock operation have also gone into the feeder side of the program, resulting in some place between 100 and 150 feeders being purchased for the purpose of backgrounding and then being sold into the fat market system.

Those are just some of the initiatives that farmers in our area are taking on on their own because they recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the world is changing and we live in a changing world, agriculture perhaps more so now than ever before. The global impact on agriculture is at hand. And it has been, I guess you would say, speeded up as a result of the federal governments of the past negotiating free trade agreements between Canada and the United States, and Canada, the United States and Mexico.

And I find this quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, that when the former federal Conservative government was negotiating the

Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico, the then opposition federal Liberals made such lavish promises to the public of Canada that if they were elected to the government of Canada they would tear up the Free Trade Agreement.

And then in the normal Liberal way, Mr. Speaker, during the campaign they suggested that they would renegotiate it. And then, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, only days after being elected as the Government of Canada, in the typical Liberal fashion, they capitulated, and they signed it.

And that, Mr. Speaker, has been one of the things that I have really learned, I guess you would say, over the last three years here in this great institution and also as an MLA in Saskatchewan: that the history of this province, the political history of this province, has shown us that in Saskatchewan really there's only two political parties. In Saskatchewan, it's the NDP and the other guys.

And for a while, Mr. Speaker, the other guys will wear the blue jackets of the Tories, and they'll wear them for eight or ten years until that jacket gets shoddy and torn and worn. Then they'll throw it away, and put it in the garbage where it belongs. And they'll put on the red jackets of the Liberals. And then they'll wear that, Mr. Speaker, for eight or ten years until it's shoddy and torn and worn, and then they'll throw it in the garbage where it belongs, and then they'll put on the jackets of the Tories.

But the bottom line of this thing is, Mr. Speaker, that they're the same other guys: the same difference, the same people, the same ideas, the same intentions and — what's scary, Mr. Speaker — the same hidden agenda. There is no difference, Mr. Speaker. There is no difference between the two. We've seen that federally, and we've seen that provincially. There is only two political parties: the NDP and the other guys.

Mr. Speaker, if one looks at the history of Saskatchewan and looks at what there was here until the 1982 election and what there is here today as a result of nine and a half years of mismanagement, nine and a half years of the other guys doing their thing, it's truly saddening. But in some ways, Mr. Speaker, it almost makes one angry.

It makes one angry that we as taxpayers and the taxpayers of all of Saskatchewan have to rebuild this province. But that is exactly what we're going to do. As my colleagues before me have indicated, that the Saskatchewan people are tough and rebound and that they have done here in this province; that I'm proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that they are working for a new day. They are uniting behind the government of this province to build a better province, to make that opportunities, not only for themselves but to make opportunities for their children and for their grandchildren.

And we are, Mr. Speaker, as government proud to be able to assist in that through such programs as JobStart. Through such programs as JobStart that will provide the opportunity for training for our young people, for as we know our future lays in

our youth. And for we know that the leaders of tomorrow are the youth of today.

And as we have already indicated, Mr. Speaker, that we are living in a changing world and times are changing and we have to educate our young children to be prepared to handle those changes and to meet the challenges of the future, and that is part of what this government is doing for the last three years and will continue to do in the future.

It's human nature, Mr. Speaker, to resist change. I think it's natural for all of us to feel comfortable and secure in the knowledge of the present and of the past because we know what's happened. And we always have a tendency to fear the change and fear the future. But the future is at hand and the future is changing on a regular basis, particularly through technology and particularly through changes to communications. Change is happening very rapidly.

And I can't help but think of a neighbour and good friend of mine, Mr. Speaker, a gentleman by the name of Nick Chupik from Danbury. Nick is, I believe, 68 years of age, and a while back had the opportunity of having . . . spending some time with him and having a cup of coffee with him in town. And during our conversation, he related to me that he was proud of the fact that he had spent 58 years on the same quarter of land north of Danbury. He had moved there with his parents. And when his parents passed on, he took over the family farm. And he has farmed there for 58 years and raised a family there and done a very good job of it.

So in our conversation, I suggested to Nick that during that 58 years there on that same quarter of land, he must have seen a lot of changes. Well, Mr. Speaker, his response was very surprising to me. He said yes, Ron, he said, I've seen a lot of changes, and I was against all of them. He said when the municipality wanted to build me a road, I said I was against that because they were going to take an acre of my land. He said that when SaskPower wanted to bring me power, he said I was against that because there was going to be poles in my field. He said then when SaskTel wanted to bring me a telephone, he said I was against that because I'd lived for 25 or 30 years without one, why did I need one now. But he said, today, today I couldn't get along without any of those changes.

And that's human nature, Mr. Speaker. It's human nature to resist change. But change is about us and change is what we're about. We change to meet the challenges of the future and that is what Saskatchewan people are adept at, and Saskatchewan people will always lead the way in meeting those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, somebody once said — and I can't remember who it was now — but somebody once said that with the breakthroughs in communications and technology, that the amount of change that we have seen in our lifetime, the amount of change that we have seen in the last 100 years, we will see that much change again in the next 10.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you stop to think about it just a little bit, that comment's liable to be absolutely correct. Because I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that if 30 years ago someone would have told you

that you would be able to sit home in the comfort of your living-room and in your favourite chair in front of the television set, and watch a sporting event or the world Olympics taking place halfway around the world, and be able to watch them happen live to the second of the event, you would have likely asked him, Mr. Speaker, what have you been smoking or perhaps indulging in?

But yet, Mr. Speaker, that is a reality of the times, it's a reality of today. It's commonplace and we almost take it for granted that we can watch a hockey game taking place in Moscow or the Olympics taking place in Japan or any of those sporting events halfway around the world; we watch the action instantaneously. That, Mr. Speaker, has happened in less than 30 years.

Today, Mr. Speaker, through the technical changes, technological advances that we are seeing happening in our society and in our world, changes about us in such a rapid manner that . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. It now being . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order. It now being 5 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.

Readers of Hansard will note the changes in the production of the verbatim that coincide with the new session of the legislature.

Hansard is now being produced in an eight and a half by eleven format, consistent with common practice in most offices and with most legislative jurisdictions across Canada. The new size will both save on paper, and make the document easier to read.

In addition, the front cover bears a new picture of the Legislative Building. This new picture is intended both to give a better view of our beautiful building and more appropriately fit the proportions of the larger sized document.

Production methods in Hansard have also changed. Camera ready copy is no longer produced using a photo typesetter, but through desk-top publishing with Microsoft Word 6.0 and a Hewlett Packard LaserJet 400 SI printer. This new production technology, together with the size change, will prepare Hansard for future developments in electronic distribution.