

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
April 3, 1995

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy today to present petitions on behalf of the people of southern Saskatchewan, mostly from the Swift Current area but also from Eastend, Cadillac, Abbey, and the areas along No. 1 Highway.

I'll read the prayer:

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 a federal infrastructure program towards double-laning Highway No. 1, rather than allocating these funds towards capital construction projections in the province.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I'm happy to table these on behalf of the constituents of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My petition prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to support Bill 31 — An Act to amend the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code (Property Rights) which will benefit all property owners in Saskatchewan, and specifically firearms owners, in order to halt the federal Liberal government from infringing upon the rights of Saskatchewan people.

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

This petition, Mr. Speaker, comes from the Allan, Langham, Dundurn, and Saskatoon areas of the province, Mr. Speaker. I so table.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 11(7) they are hereby read and received.

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to urge the government to make necessary changes to the New Careers program to allow the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan recipients who have started the bridging program for women to complete their program.

And of citizens petitioning the Assembly to allocate

adequate funding dedicated toward the double-laning of Highway No. 1.

And of citizens petitioning the Assembly to oppose changes to federal legislation regarding firearm ownership.

MOTIONS

Tribute to United Nations Peacekeepers

The Speaker: — Before we proceed to the introduction of guests, I would like to outline today's special program for Saskatchewan Peacekeepers Recognition Week.

After my opening remarks, I shall invite the Premier, the representative of the official opposition, and the Leader of the Third Party, to pay tribute to the peacemakers seated in the galleries.

I shall then ask the Deputy Premier to introduce them by groups. Following this introduction, 18 members of the Assembly will again introduce peacekeepers according to the United Nations' missions on which they have served.

Before I call upon the Premier, it is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly some special guests who are with us this afternoon. I would ask them to rise when I introduce them.

Seated behind the bar, directly ahead of me, is the Hon. David Collenette, Minister of National Defence of Canada.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Hon. Allan Blakeney, former premier of Saskatchewan, Honorary Co-Chair of the Saskatchewan Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Dr. Michael Hayden, Saskatchewan representative on the Canadian Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Dr. Hayden was not able to be with us this afternoon, but I did want to introduce him to the Assembly.

Major-General Clive Addy, commander of the Land Force Western Area in Edmonton, who commands the Canadian Army in western Canada.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Major-General Tom deFaye, from National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Brigadier-General Cliff Walker, of Regina, deputy commander of Land Force Western Area.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Captain John Dalzell, from Saskatoon, representing the Canadian Navy.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Assistant Commissioner Larry Proke, commanding F Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Chief Superintendent André Gauthier, officer in charge of the Training Academy, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And the first Saskatchewan winner of the Honorary Canadian Peacekeeper of the Year Award, Mr. Jim Wagman of Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I would like to introduce some groups; would they also please rise when I introduce them. Seated behind the bar, I believe on the west side, members of the Saskatchewan Canada Remembers Committee and of the United Nations 50th Anniversary Committee. Would they please rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Seated behind the bar on the east side, members of the Family Support Group for Saskatchewan Peacekeepers serving overseas. Would they please rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Seated on the east side of the Chamber floor, cadets from the Navy, Army and Air Force cadets.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Also on the Chamber floor we have a group of students from Briercrest School, Moose Jaw. Would they please rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And the students from St. Theresa School, Regina. Could we have them rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I would also like to acknowledge representatives of veterans organizations and non-governmental organizations who are seated on the floor of the Chamber. Could all of those people rise please.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — On behalf of all of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to welcome you here to the Assembly today on this very special occasion for peacekeepers. I would now like to call upon the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, let me join with you, sir, in welcoming so many of our distinguished members and guests to the Assembly today.

I of course shall not go over the list that you have recited but simply to note again with pleasure the attendance of the national Minister of Defence, Mr. Collette; our former premier, Mr. Blakeney, in his capacity as the Co-Chair of the 50th celebration of the United Nations; the many senior officers of the Canadian Armed Forces; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for this very, very special occasion and very special event.

And particularly to once again warmly congratulate Mr. Jim Wagman, who's seated there, on receiving the award as Honorary Canadian Peacekeeper of the Year in Saskatchewan, a tremendous accomplishment to a person who clearly is very, very deserving of it.

I'm pleased to join with all members of this Assembly to pay tribute to the Saskatchewan members of the Canadian forces and the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) who have served with such great distinction in United Nations operations overseas.

As has been said earlier, especially in the proceedings in the rotunda, this celebration is part of our Canada Remembers program, the national program commemorating several many events: the end of the Second World War, the ongoing contribution of the Canadian forces to national security and world peace, and of course the birth of the United Nations.

I want to welcome all 18 missions who are here today — they represent well over half of the 33 missions involving the Canadian forces over the last 50 years — and a special welcome to the veterans of the Korean War who are also here this afternoon with us.

Mr. Speaker, to me the impressive number of Saskatchewan men and women in peacekeeping service is a tribute to this country's, this province's caring, cooperative, and compassionate nature and society. Clearly the tribute that we have today for this group of people proves one thing: that a small province like ours can make a very big difference, and a big difference for the better.

We're all impressed by the calibre of those who serve today in the army, navy, air force, and RCMP. They carry on the proud tradition of previous generations. I also want to make a special note of our Saskatchewan reservists and their important role as a vital link for the various dangerous and difficult missions overseas.

And also, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan, as we all know, is the

proud and enduring home and has a very proud and enduring relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Regina is the home, we say, of the RCMP — certainly of the national training academy which, as has been pointed out, has recently been training recruits from the new police force in Haiti and doing a wonderful job in very difficult and challenging circumstances.

The RCM Police have sent police officers to Namibia, Yugoslavia, and Haiti. In fact the assistant commissioner of F Division in Saskatchewan, whom we introduced, Assistant Commissioner Larry Proke, commanded the force in Namibia. This too is a distinguished record for our national and provincial police force, of whom we are all very proud.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons and others, the government has proclaimed April 2 to April 8 as Saskatchewan Peacekeepers Recognition Week. I am pleased to be able to provide a certificate of recognition to each of our peacekeepers, which will be sent out shortly, to commemorate this occasion.

Also, as has been pointed out by Mr. Collenette, during the course of the week many of our peacekeepers are visiting schools — and it's great to see the young children here — to talk about their experiences. And as we know, a peacekeeping display has been set up in the main rotunda. It should be seen by as many people as possible.

Mr. Speaker, and members of the House, let me conclude by expressing on behalf of the government and the people of the province of Saskatchewan our gratitude towards our peacekeepers. We thank each and every one of them for their courage, their determination, their willingness to give up the comforts and safety of home for perilous missions in far away and war-torn countries overseas.

In doing so, they have brought a glimmer of hope to many thousands of people who lack the basic freedoms and opportunities which sometimes Canadians often take too much for granted.

They have opened our eyes to the needs of the world. I'm sure I speak for all when I say that we are very, very, very proud of them all.

Mr. Speaker, it therefore gives me a great deal of pleasure and pride to move, seconded by the Acting Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member from Morse, by leave of the Assembly, the following resolution:

That we, the members of the Legislative Assembly, join with the people of Saskatchewan to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Saskatchewan peacekeepers for their superb accomplishments and sacrifices made in pursuit of international peace.

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Leave granted.

Mr. Martens: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, Hon. Mr. Collenette, Canadian forces, and the RCMP, I am proud to stand today in recognition of some of the bravest men and women that have ever lived — truly courageous and outstanding individuals.

These individuals have made and continue to make sacrifice in the name of worldwide peace. Thousands of Canadians have participated in 34 peace-restoring, peacekeeping, truce-supervisory and observer missions since 1947.

Peacekeepers in the days of the Second World War made a tremendous difference. They made a difference in a time of all-out conflict when failure would have meant subordination of democracy to unspeakable tyranny. That may have been almost 50 years ago, Mr. Speaker, yet war and bloodshed is as much a reality today as it was then and peacekeepers are in the midst of it.

Canadian peacekeepers have been active in the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, former Yugoslavia, and many other countries in the world where unrest is part of a daily life. Former U.S. (United States) president, Harry Truman, said: for it is all too obvious that if we do not abolish war on this earth, then surely one day war will abolish us from the earth. That, Mr. Speaker, was correct. He was right.

We should all be proud of our peacekeepers today and the fact that we are the only nation that has been involved in every United Nations' peacekeeping mission since the very first mission almost 50 years ago. We are indebted to their services, their sacrifice, and most importantly to the hundreds who have lost their lives attempting to make life better for all of us here.

We must all remember and teach our children the significance of those who have worn and those who still honourably wear the Queen's uniform and to share pride in them.

I am proud that Saskatchewan has proclaimed April 2 to 8 as Saskatchewan Peacekeepers Recognition Week and that we are the only province to do so. And it may not be the politically correct thing to do these days but it is certainly the right thing to do. After all, Mr. Speaker, it is better to keep the peace than to have to make peace.

On behalf of the official opposition and of the citizens of Saskatchewan, I'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of the peacekeepers who have helped secure the freedoms we take for granted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am so very pleased and proud to join with other members in this House this afternoon as we recognize and pay tribute to the courageous peacekeepers of our country.

On behalf of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan and the members of our caucus, I welcome all of our guests here today

for this most worthy ceremony. I'm particularly pleased to welcome this afternoon the federal Minister of Defence, the Hon. David Collenette, to this Chamber of our province's role . . . for our province's role in marking National Peacekeepers Week, and of course, acknowledge the special recognition bestowed upon Mr. Jim Wagman earlier today.

As Canadians, we do not know firsthand the experience of building our nation through bloodshed and sorrow, but we have been very, very fortunate to have our nation develop through peaceful solutions to disputes.

While our country may not know the kind of war that pits neighbour against neighbour, veterans and peacekeepers most certainly do. Over the past 48 years that Canadians have served as peacekeepers, they have developed for themselves and for us as a people, a reputation — a reputation of being level-headed, fairness, and impartiality in trying to resolve disputes and keep the peace for other peoples on our globe.

While the end of the cold war has drawn to a close, the focus on the east-west conflict has dissipated. And what has emerged in its place is the prominence of middle powers such as our country of Canada to play a greater role in helping to resolve serious disagreements. This shift in the world stage and our role within it has necessitated a change in our defence policy that emphasizes peacekeeping as a priority, not the preparation for warfare, as was the case in the past.

Another result of a lessened threat of war has been the conversion or closure of several military bases, and we are indeed fortunate in our province of Saskatchewan to have our 15 Wing base in Moose Jaw preserved. And I want to thank all people present, and those who are not, for their role in that decision.

Today we acknowledge close to 3,000 Canadian Forces members who are currently serving among 16 peacekeeping operations.

Historically, Canada has surpassed all other nations in our record of participating in every UN (United Nations) peacekeeping mission since 1947. While tens of thousands of Canadians have participated in the peacekeeping and peace-restoring missions between 1947 and 1995, few lives have been lost, but those few are too many, and they are mourned by us all.

To lose one's life in the interest of keeping peace in another land for the benefit of people we do not know is a truly selfless and noble act. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, and I quote: arms alone are not enough to keep the peace; it must be kept by people.

To you, the men and women who form the peacekeeping strength of our nation and who have brought so much recognition and pride, we commend you for your sacrifice, your dedication, and your service to your fellow citizens of the world who rely on you for help in giving them peace and giving them hope for a future that we in a nation such as ours of Canada, often take for granted.

Thank you very much, all of you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to members of this Legislative Assembly, some very distinguished Canadians sitting in the galleries of this Chamber, our peacekeepers.

As the Premier and the member from Morse and the Leader of the Third Party have already said, we in this Assembly are proud of the courage and the dedication of the men and women from Saskatchewan who have served in the United Nations operations around the world.

I am proud to be able to say that I know some of them personally. And we know how they have given up the comforts of home to risk life and limb in war-torn parts of the world.

The Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have given Canada a worldwide reputation for compassion and generosity, and we salute them all today.

I will now introduce them to you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask them to rise when they have been introduced.

The first group that I want to introduce has a very special place in the hearts and minds of us all. They fought in the bitter, stubborn, costly war, the first action under United Nations' auspices — and I refer to the Korean War, 1950 to 1953. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery are members of the Korean War Veterans Association. And I ask them now to rise and to be acknowledged.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, I now want to proceed by units of the Canadian Forces, and I will ask them also to rise after I have named their unit.

The Saskatchewan Dragoons from Moose Jaw.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — 10th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, from Regina and Yorkton.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — The North Saskatchewan Regiment from Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — The Royal Regina Rifles.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — The 10th Service Battalion from

Regina and Saskatoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — 16th Medical Company, also from Regina and Saskatoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — The Militia Training Detachment, Dundurn.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Saskatchewan District Headquarters, from Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — 15 Wing Air Command, from Canadian Forces Base, Moose Jaw.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — 734 Communication Squadron, from Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — 737 Communication Squadron, from Saskatoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre, from Saskatoon and Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Finally, Mr. Speaker, but certainly not least, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from F Division across the province, and Training Academy in Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that now members of the Assembly will introduce our guests according to the United Nations missions.

Ms. Bradley: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and the members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations truce supervision in Palestine during the years 1948 to present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members assembled here today to join me in welcoming these individuals who have served internationally as peacekeepers, and I ask that they now rise and be acknowledged.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flavel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and to the House, personnel from our province who have served on the United Nations military observation group in India and Pakistan, 1958 to 1979. I would ask these people to please rise and be acknowledged by the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Draper: — Mr. Speaker, sir, I rise today to introduce to you and to the members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Congo during the years 1960 to 1964. My family and I were caught up in the turmoil in Nigeria almost 30 years ago, so I think I have some understanding of what they endured in that climate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members assembled here today to join with me in welcoming these men and women who have served internationally as peacekeepers.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to introduce to you and all hon. members, personnel from Saskatchewan who served in the UN force in Cyprus during the mission which lasted from 1965 to 1993.

Canada's 29-year commitment to Cyprus has been our country's most extensive contribution to peacekeeping, with a single maximum rotation of 576 Canadians. During the mission, 27 comrades were lost. We have 100 Saskatchewan personnel who served in Cyprus with us here today, and I ask that they now rise and be acknowledged by all members of the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Bergman: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and to the House, personnel from our province who have served on the following United Nations mission. It is the UN emergency force Middle East, 1973-1979. The UN emergency force 2 was created in October 1973 in response to the increased unrest in the Middle East. The UN emergency force no. 2 was one of Canada's most extensive peacekeeping commitments, with 1,145 Canadians having participated by the cessation of action in July 1979.

I would ask these 20 people to rise and be acknowledged.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the UN disengagement observation force in the Golan Heights. Peacekeepers have served there since 1974 and are present there today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members assembled here today

to join with me in welcoming these individuals who have served internationally as peacekeepers. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koenker: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and to the House, an individual from our province who has served with the United Nations interim task force in Lebanon. This force was created in 1978 to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, and Canadians served there from 1978 until January 31 of this year. I would ask this peacekeeper to rise and be acknowledged.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and to the House, personnel from our province who have served in the following U.S. mission: the UN Angola verification mission, Mr. Speaker. This mission included verification of elections in September of 1992 and included 15 officers serving in that capacity.

I would like to ask the peacekeeper here present to rise and be acknowledged, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kowalsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and to the members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 1988 to 1990.

And I ask that you and all members assembled here today join me in welcoming these individuals who have served internationally as peacekeepers.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Iran and Iraq during the years 1989 to 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members of the Assembly here today to join with me in welcoming these men and women who served in the international peacekeeping. I ask that all these members please rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Britton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many compliments have been expressed here today for Canadian peacekeepers and their efforts over the years, and I'd like to add my many thanks as well.

Many of you, Mr. Speaker, probably don't think that I can remember back to 1947, but I can assure you I do very well. And I would like to pay homage to the peacekeepers, both past

and present, for your tireless dedication.

I am especially happy to recognize the United Nations transition group who served in Namibia from 1989 to 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask them to rise and be recognized.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roy: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure and a honour for me to introduce to you and the members of the Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the UN observer group in Central America in 1989 to 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all the members of the Assembly to welcome these individuals warmly, and also to thank them for their contribution, their sacrifice, and their dedication to their country. I would now ask these individuals to stand up and be acknowledged, please. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am privileged and I am very proud today to join with my colleagues in recognizing thousands of Canadians who have given of themselves in order to improve the lives of many. Canadian peacekeepers have made, and continue to make, sacrifices for the sake of worldwide peace.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore my pleasure today to introduce those peacekeepers representing the protection force in Yugoslavia from 1991 to the present. Would you please stand to be recognized.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Teichrob: — Mr. Speaker, as the daughter of a soldier, I recall very clearly, as a child during the Second World War, watching daily as the couriers from the railway telegraph services rode the streets of Saskatoon on their bicycles, delivering messages to our neighbours and to our home — notices of family members wounded, killed, and missing in action.

Every day I thank God and the veterans and peacekeepers of this province and this country, that the children and grandchildren of my generation have been spared the experience of growing up in that atmosphere of fear and tension.

It is my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and to the House, personnel from our province who have served on the United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia from 1992 to the present. I would ask that these persons rise and be acknowledged. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Carlson: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and to the rest of the members of the Assembly, a group of Saskatchewan residents who served in the United Nations

peacekeeping mission in Somalia during the years 1992 to 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members assembled here today to join with me in welcoming these men and women who served internationally as peacekeepers. Would they please rise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and the House, a Saskatchewan resident who has served in the United Nations operations in Mozambique from 1992 to the present. This operation was created to monitor the cease-fire in the separation and concentration of forces. Members also provided security for UN and non-government organization activities.

I would ask this peacekeeper to rise and be acknowledged.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: — It is my privilege to introduce to you and members of the Assembly, personnel from our province who have served on the UN mission in Haiti since 1992. Many will be aware that right here in Regina recently a number of Haitians were trained to be RCMP peacekeepers in their own country.

And so, Mr. Speaker, representing the Haitian mission today, we have approximately 10 RCMP personnel. I would ask those individuals to please rise and be recognized here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, personnel from our province who have served on the United Nations assistance mission for Rwanda that was created in 1993 and is active today.

The mandate of the force is to contribute to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees, and civilians at risk in Rwanda, and to provide security and support for the distribution of relief supplies and humanitarian relief operations. For this we thank you.

I would ask these Saskatchewan persons who have served in this capacity to rise and be acknowledged and welcomed this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion moved by the Premier, seconded by the member from Morse, by leave of the Assembly:

That we, the members of the Legislative Assembly, join with the people of Saskatchewan to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Saskatchewan peacekeepers for their superb accomplishments and sacrifices made in pursuit of international peace.

Motion agreed to.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Tribute to United Nations Peacekeepers

Mr. Keeping: — Mr. Speaker, I join today with my colleagues in welcoming the Canadian Forces, the RCMP members, and all honoured guests here. It is a personal pleasure for me to be here today because I have a son who served in part of the naval blockade in the Adriatic, just off the shore of the former Yugoslavia.

His mother and I are very proud of his contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in that troubled part of the world. But as parents, sometimes we worry because of the things they have to see and the dangers they have to experience.

Our son was injured in an accident over there and flown back to Canada for an operation. And after he was healed up, after several months, he went back to that part of the world.

When he was back in Canada, he told me that one of the most difficult things that he had to deal with was when he saw the lack of appreciation that Canadians have for our country and the things we take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of a country which devotes its energies and priorities to peace and to making peace, with war only as a last resort. And I find it entirely appropriate today that we set aside a week to honour those Canadians who have served and are serving not only our country of Canada, but everyone in the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Update on Status of Rafferty, Alameda, and Boundary Dam Projects

Mr. Devine: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last session I gave the member for Elphinstone a snorkel and a mask and fins to aid him in crossing Rafferty, and for his domestic pleasure. This was because a year earlier he said, and I quote: you could have walked across Rafferty dam probably without even standing on your tiptoes and not got your chin wet.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today I'm more than happy to update the member and others in the Assembly on the status of Rafferty, Alameda, and Boundary dam projects. Heavy snow and rainfall recently, coupled with melting temperatures, has resulted in a high run-off in the lower Souris and Moose Mountain basins.

According to Mr. Tony Moser from Sask Water, the water level in the Alameda dam reservoir has risen 8 metres in the past couple of weeks and is presently about one-third full, with 25 feet of water at the base. As well, the Boundary dam reservoir has risen a metre in the past week and it stands at almost 95 per cent capacity. He also added, in *The Estevan Mercury*, that Alameda will be used as a reservoir to provide flood protection.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud of these international water projects because they protect Canadians and Americans from flood, they cool power plants, and facilitate recreation, wildlife, and agriculture resources.

Mr. Speaker, I mention these today because they provide another good example, among many, of the positive projects undertaken by the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

SaskTel Construction Tender

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the minister responsible for SaskTel. Mr. Minister, on Friday I asked about a SaskTel tender which was opened last week, and the Minister of Justice responded that you would review the matter. He also accused me of citing inaccurate figures.

Mr. Minister, if you have in fact reviewed this tender, you would know that our figures were indeed deadily accurate, and that your union preference policy has already cost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan \$30,000 on the very first project.

Mr. Minister, will you admit that your policy is driving up the costs, and will you save Saskatchewan taxpayers \$30,000 by awarding this contract to the low bidder?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to respond to the member opposite to his question and reiterate what I have been saying all along, that this policy and this agreement — that has been agreed to by the Crown Investments Corporation and the construction industry, CLR (Construction Labour Relations Association), and by the unions representing the employees — is not breaking new ground.

It is a policy that has existed from time to time in Saskatchewan on various projects. It exists across Canada. It exists in other provinces. And it is a policy that is intended to get the best value for money because the policy is based on lowest qualified bidder.

It is a policy to allow for equal competition between all construction firms, and it is a policy to ensure that small contractors can compete for work in their own community and that workers who work on these projects are paid fairly. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that makes it a good policy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Crown Construction Tendering Agreement

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prior to the SaskTel tender last week, the Saskatchewan Construction

Association asked SaskTel to clarify a number of issues regarding the union-preference tendering policy. Some of the answers they received were pretty inadequate, so I was wondering if the minister could provide us with some better answers today.

And here's one of the SCA's (Saskatchewan Construction Association) questions. Is the union allowed to fill a requisition for workers from out-of-province locals at the expense of existing employees or other Saskatchewan non-residents? SaskTel's answer: the issue will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. In other words, yes, in some cases out-of-province union members will be hired ahead of non-union Saskatchewan workers.

Mr. Minister, why should non-union Saskatchewan workers lose jobs to unionized workers from other provinces. How is this fair to Saskatchewan workers, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, the policy is very clear, if the member would consider the rest of the information that is available.

One of the advantages of this agreement is that it will maximize the number of Saskatchewan tradespeople who are working on construction projects which, I might say, was not the case during the former administration when they were in government here. And it was only too often that we saw on construction sites more licence plates from places like Alberta — and this is no disrespect to workers from Alberta — than there were licence plates from the province of Saskatchewan.

Now from time to time, Mr. Speaker, the member should know that there may be special cases where some of the technical people that are necessary to do a project, particularly in the information technology field, where sometimes workers may have to come in from outside the province. But the basic premisses of the policy, Mr. Speaker, is to assure that the maximum number of Saskatchewan workers are working on job sites, on construction projects sponsored by the Crown corporations which are included in this agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Minister, the only technical thing is a union card.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday we have already seen an example of how this policy is limiting competition. Now the Regina Construction Association is encouraging its members not to bid on Crown construction jobs, according to its recent newsletter. Last week there were also meetings of the construction association in Saskatoon and in Moose Jaw, and members came to a similar conclusion.

Mr. Minister, it is already clear this policy is a failure. It is limiting competition and driving up costs. It is also grossly unfair to non-union workers and to contractors.

Mr. Minister, will you admit that you have made a mistake, get rid of this destructive policy, and help out small businesses by removing these union hiring quotas?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Well obviously, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite just refuses to accept what the facts are, choosing instead, Mr. Speaker, to spend more time on the politics, and that's fair enough in the context of this place, which is the Legislative Assembly.

But I want to repeat again that the policy that exists in the agreement which has been signed will be of benefit both to Saskatchewan contractors and to Saskatchewan employees because it will maximize the number of Saskatchewan employees working there.

And I want to remember the member opposite because I'm not sure what it is that he's fully talking about, that the tender that he speaks of has not yet officially been awarded, and therefore some of the arguments that he is using, Mr. Speaker, surely cannot be used because there is no evidence to support some of the things that he is saying.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Firearms Legislation

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Minister, I recently received information that will have a serious impact on Saskatchewan's economy. The League of Kentucky Sportsman have established a boycott of Saskatchewan's hunting, fishing, and outfitting industries. In a letter sent to members of parliament, the league announced, and I quote:

Because of the proposed national firearms registration legislation currently being considered, we are notifying each of our 75,000 members and supporters here in Kentucky and asking them not to hunt or fish in Canada in 1995.

Mr. Minister, this is becoming a critical situation in Saskatchewan. We need to act, and we need to act now. We need a government that will protect Saskatchewan's interests against the Liberal gun laws. Mr. Minister, other than talking, what are you planning on doing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all parties in the Assembly, led by the government, have expressed their opposition to this legislation for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the cost of registering guns is all out of proportion to any value. We have indeed, Mr. Speaker, we have passed a resolution in the Assembly asking the federal government to reconsider the matter, and we have passed the resolution setting up an all-party

committee to approach the federal government.

We've also asked the federal government to have the Standing Committee on Justice meet here in Saskatchewan where we can present our views directly. We hope the federal government is prepared to listen to the public and to come to Saskatchewan, and will be acting in that fashion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it's quite evident, Mr. Minister, from your talk that you're as ineffective as the previous minister of Justice was in trying to fight these Liberal gun laws. You talk, but you do absolutely nothing.

Mr. Minister, as we speak all major hunting and fishing organizations are being contacted throughout the U.S. to enact a similar boycott. Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Justice is not prepared to do anything, my question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development.

Mr. Minister, American hunters and anglers spend over half a billion dollars in Canada, and Saskatchewan gets a not insignificant share. As the minister responsible for Saskatchewan's economic development, would you step forward and provide protection for our tourism industry? Will you support the Bills that we have brought forward which would protect property rights and provide Saskatchewan with the power to deal with this situation? Will you do this today before we end up with a devastating American boycott because of the Liberal gun laws?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — I want to say in passing, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps not in passing . . . I want to say that we have had a record number of inquiries, I am told, by American tourists and by prospective American hunters. There's no evidence yet that the boycott is having much of a bite.

Nevertheless we are concerned about the legislation. We have asked the federal government to change it and we continue to do so. And we will continue to do so in conjunction with all members of this legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Minister, I don't doubt that it's not having an impact yet; it's not hunting season yet. But it will be this fall, and that's when it will have a very, very serious impact.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we suspected, no one on that side of the House is prepared to be truly committed in fighting the Liberal gun laws. It's all lip service. It's all political manipulation. Our Bills will indeed help, Mr. Speaker, and they are supported by many third-party organizations.

They have received support from Saskatchewan Reform MP (Member of Parliament) Garry Breitreuz, who says the regulations of firearms is a provincial responsibility. And in a recent news release he said, and I quote:

It's the provinces that have the constitutional right to administer justice, regulate private property, issue licences, and assess user fees.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the chief constitutional lawyer in this province, our very own Premier. Mr. Premier, it's time you acted to protect Saskatchewan from the Liberal gun laws. Will you see to it that this legislature passes laws which bypass this insanity and avoid the American boycott?

Saskatchewan could wind up benefiting, Mr. Premier, if the other provinces do not follow suit. It's time to act now, Mr. Premier. Stand up for the firearms owners and Saskatchewan businesses. Prove this is not just political gamesmanship, and support out legislation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Speaker, while perhaps the goal of the legislation was laudable, the approach is flawed. All constitutional experts who have spoken on the matter agree that the Bills are going to be ineffective.

I've said before in the House, there's a relatively simple and well-established principle: where federal and provincial constitutional areas overlap and legislation conflicts, the federal legislation prevails. It's well-established. It's fairly elementary, and it means that your Bills would not be very effective.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Crown Construction Tendering Agreement

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday of last week the Merit Contractors Association filed a complaint with the Labour Relations Board of Saskatchewan. The complaint is based on indications that this government's Crown construction tendering agreement breaches provisions of provincial legislation a total of eight times, Mr. Speaker — this government's own legislation, I underline. The complaint that I table today calls for an immediate injunction that would suspend the tendering agreement until the list of complaints are reviewed.

My question is to the Minister of Labour this afternoon: Will you, Mr. Minister, agree to suspend your union preference agreement until it is determined whether or not the policy breaches existing legislation?

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, let me be very direct with the member for Greystone, the Leader of the Liberal Party, that no, the answer is there will be no suspension of the agreement because the agreement was signed duly by the Construction Labour Relations Association which is a representative of the construction industry. It was signed by the trade unions who are involved in this. It has support, by and large, to the construction industry, Mr. Speaker. And if this has been submitted to different sources for deliberation, then that's where it should lie until a disposition of that submission is handled.

But we think, Mr. Speaker, this is a fair agreement. It is in the interests of both the construction industry, the interests of the workers who work on the construction sites, on Crown corporation construction sites, and most importantly, it is also in the best interests of the Saskatchewan taxpayer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are many people throughout the province, especially business people, who do not concur with the Deputy Premier this afternoon. Apart from being very unfair to Saskatchewan workers — non-unionized workers, I might add — this policy is very unfair to Saskatchewan businesses.

I table a letter from the Saskatchewan Construction Association which points out that any contractor on a project will have to pay dues on behalf of non-union employees, Mr. Speaker. The unions stand to make millions of dollars on this. And to take an example, on a job that requires 75 electricians and 75 plumbers, it will cost the contractor almost \$5,000 on union dues alone if they are using non-union workers.

My question to the Deputy Premier: can you explain . . . sir, will you in fact inform the people of the province what benefits the contractor or the non-union workers will receive from paying these dues when they don't belong to a union?

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, I find it of some particular interest that the Leader of the Liberal Party would refer to this contract and this arrangement as if it was something that was foreign and not very productive when in fact at the federal government level there are these kinds of agreements . . . have been for many, many years and have proved to be beneficial as this one is going to be.

Now one of the places in which dues are contributed is the Construction Opportunities Development Council, which we have spoken about in this House before. It was established in 1944. It has had so much merit that even the federal government has contributed a hundred thousand dollars towards it. It is to provide a better construction industry: more efficient, more effective, and more cost-productive.

Now, Mr. Speaker, surely no one should object to contributing to making sure that the work site in which they work and that the industry itself is the best it can be and can provide the best product for the Saskatchewan taxpayer. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the member opposite should stand up and applaud such an arrangement because it is so obvious the benefits in which it can accrue to the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will not only cost the taxpayers more to complete projects, but it's going to also cost more to administer those projects and this policy.

The monitoring of all the areas of the new union preference

policy is going to do one thing that this government is particularly talented at. It's done it in health care. It's done in across the piece, Mr. Speaker. It's going to add new layers yet again to an already overwhelming bureaucracy created by the NDP. And instead of decreasing the size of government and getting out of the market-place, this government continues to meddle in people's affairs, and it gets bigger and bigger and bigger.

My question to the Deputy Premier: Mr. Deputy Premier, surely you've analysed the added costs of enforcing these policies. Will you share with this Assembly the projected cost increase that will be paid for by the taxpayers of Saskatchewan and how many more people you'll have to add to employ to do this. Or will the unions simply use this extra windfall to police the agreement themselves?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have had many occasions in this session, to the point where it stands out and really blazes at you, where the member from Greystone has stood in this House and been absolutely incorrect with the information she has presented and as a result has had to flip-flop several times on the issues.

I want to tell her that some of the provisions in this agreement will in fact reduce the cost of construction, a provision which provides a no-strike and a no-lockout situation agreed to both by the employees and by the construction industry.

In the agreement, there is a reduction in overtime from double time to time and a half. There is an elimination of the cost of daily cost of living allowances which used to have to be provided by the construction industry, for example, for a construction that took place in Estevan. Those are major cost savings in these particular projects.

And finally, on the question of good management of programs, Mr. Speaker, I just want to quote DBRS (Dominion Bond Rating Service) rating agency which said recently:

The program has demonstrated good program expenditure controls and has made a commitment to maintain a balanced budget track.

That, Mr. Speaker, tells the people of Saskatchewan that this government has good project management. And that, Mr. Speaker, stands in the face of what the member opposite is saying, which is absolutely and totally incorrect.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The truth of the matter happens to be that every single time small-business people turn around in this province, their bottom line has been changed and it's been changed by the government, which is not under their control.

Mr. Speaker, this policy not only discriminates against small-business people; it discriminates against workers — those

workers who choose under their own free will not to join a union. And this letter that I tabled this afternoon states the tendering policy may break the law. And I quote:

The Crown CTA (Construction Tendering Agreement) supersedes the rights of employees and employers as provided in The Trade Union Act, Construction Industry Labour Relations Act, and the Canadian charter of rights.

My question to the Deputy Premier: how can your government implement a policy that blatantly instils an advantage to one group over another in our province?

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, first of all I think just because a letter that the member from Greystone gets says something, does not necessarily make it correct. And we have seen these examples before. And I want to say again to the member from Greystone, if she would stop speaking in her seat while an answer is being given, that in fact the letter and the premiss of what it said is incorrect. It does not apply to this particular agreement.

But if she is so concerned, if she is so concerned about this particular issue, will she stand up in the House and say that the federal government, where these kind of agreements and provisions exist, will also demand that the federal government — her friends in Ottawa — will also change this agreement which they have? Will she stand up and say that? Will she say that Cameco, which has a private sector agreement of this, has no right to be able to have that? There's nothing new here, Mr. Speaker. It is simply carrying on policies that have existed here before.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, for a member to get up in this House without stating all of the facts, I think once again shows the flaws of the Liberal Party in the House. She forgets that this government has reduced the small business corporate income tax in Canada by 20 per cent since it was elected, the second lowest in Canada, a great asset and a great benefit to the small-business sector in the province of Saskatchewan; which I might also add is growing dramatically because of the election of this government in 1991.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Business Fee Increases

Mr. Martens: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a very subdued question period today, Mr. Speaker, and it's obvious that the peacekeepers have an influence even here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Minister, your government has been making a number of announcements trying to give the impression you are helping small business. Today's order in councils contain a number of announcements you forgot to make.

A number of significant business fee increases came into effect on April Fool's Day, an appropriate day for anyone who has been fooled into thinking your government is good for small business. There is significant fees under The Business Corporations Act, increases; The Non-Profit Corporations Act, increases in taxes; The Co-operatives Act; The Credit Union Act; The Business Names Registration Act; and The Names of Homes Act all have had increases, Mr. Minister. Some business fees were more than doubled under the new regulations.

Mr. Minister, why do you need to impose more fee increases on Saskatchewan business? And why didn't you announce these fee hikes today?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, obviously the fact that the member has received this information through public record, because we released it, should come as no surprise that we do release information like this on a very regular basis to the public. And so I say to you that in fact we did release it, and in the way we release almost everything we do in this Assembly.

But for you to say that small business are upset with this government, totally flies in the face that literally thousands of jobs are being created by small business in this province; that many companies see Saskatchewan as a very, very good place to do business.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce recently announced their new call centre — 500 new jobs in the province of Saskatchewan. Cargill has announced that they are building a 2,000-tonne-a-day crushing plant near Saskatoon. You know that the Canadian Cancer Society has chosen Regina for their nationwide English call centre. Pelorus is doing their navigational production centre here in Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

And for you to try to preach gloom and doom about the economy of Saskatchewan at this time flies in the face of what the reality of Saskatchewan is all about, that is, government, business, along with the cooperative and labour movement, working together in partnership to create a stronger economy and many thousands of jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: — Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Minister, those weren't the only orders in council released today; in fact the stack was a half a foot thick. In addition to hiking business fees, you also turned around and gave out a whole bunch of grants to certain businesses, just before the end of the fiscal year — \$311,000 in business grants, Mr. Minister. Obviously you had some money to blow before the end of the year, so that's exactly what you did.

Mr. Minister, first you raise fees to all business and then you turn around and give out grants to a select few. Why don't you cut back on both and lower business fees and eliminate the business grants? Why don't you do that, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the reason that I smile is because the members opposite who ran the debt of this

province up to \$15 billion — this 300,000 that you talk about for all small business in the province, that's about one minute's interest . . . no, about 2 seconds' interest on that massive debt that you built up for all the businesses in the province.

And when I think back to the hundreds of millions and billions of dollars that you used as so-called incentives to attract out-of-province businesses, for you to be critical of a few hundred thousand dollars for all the businesses in the province, I think is almost . . . comes close to being laughable.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: — Here's an example of one of those grants. You gave a grant of \$30,454 to DMZ Direct Marketing Ltd., to develop a Grey Cup merchandising catalogue. DMZ is owned by Lowell Monkhouse, former assistant to Mr. Allan Blakeney. Lowell Monkhouse's other company — Insight Public Relations — also got a \$20,000 contract from Executive Council last year.

This raises all kinds of questions. First, I thought the Premier said there would be no taxpayers' money going to the Grey Cup. Second, if the Grey Cup merchandising is selling well, which it is, why does the company need a grant to have an individual develop a catalogue, and third, how was Lowell Monkhouse selected for this grant?

Mr. Minister, why should taxpayers be giving Lowell Monkhouse \$30,000 to develop a Grey Cup catalogue?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, now the members opposite have gone from being critical of CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) moving their 500 people and the call centre; they criticized Cargill's opening of a major plant; now they're opposed to the Grey Cup.

I ask myself, where will it end? Where will it end? As to the politics of Mr. Monkhouse, I think I'll let others speak to the issue of politics of Mr. Lowell Monkhouse because I'm not sure where he's at these days.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, order. May I . . . as the Speaker of the legislature, I certainly thank the peacekeepers for being here today — you made my job very easy during question period.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Future Skills Partnership Announced

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the commitment and cooperation demonstrated between education and industry in addressing training needs of Saskatchewan citizens. This morning I was pleased to witness the outcome of such a partnership.

Brandt Industries Ltd. of Regina, and Wascana Institute, SIAST

(Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology), have reached a training agreement to train new employees for openings in the Brandt agricultural products division. As a result of the tremendous economic growth across the province and within Brandt, businesses are expanding and employment opportunities in our province are opening up.

But industry representatives such as Brandt are finding that workers with the skills they need are not available to fill these new positions. At the same time, we have unemployed people who need new skills to find employment. It is in response to this that the training initiative called Future Skills was introduced.

Mr. Speaker, Future Skills is a program offered in partnership with individuals, industry, communities, and education institutions. Future Skills ensures that training is tied to real, long-term jobs. Employers benefit by gaining the skilled workforce they need to actively participate in the current economic recovery, and individuals gain job skills and training recognized by public training institutes that will apply to other jobs or go on to further training.

As of March 30, there were 29 approved proposals for training, supporting 209 new, long-term, real jobs. A further 66 proposals are in various stages of development at this time.

Mr. Speaker, Brandt Industries is the beneficiary of 12 permanent, skilled employees, and we're extremely pleased with the partnership that we've developed between SIAST and our industry in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the minister for sending over a copy of her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it's very important that our youth and others receive training to participate in the economy of Saskatchewan, that they be allowed to contribute in a meaningful way to Canadian society. And I say Canadian society, Mr. Speaker, because I'm not sure how they'll be able to contribute to Saskatchewan's society under our new union preference or union-only policy, Mr. Speaker, unless they're prepared to join a union.

People need the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to receive education and training. Unfortunately, many can no longer afford to attend our universities because of all the fee increases.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the new employees at Brandt will be very valuable and will contribute significantly to the well-being of that company.

(1445)

Mrs. Bergman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the government on developing a partnership with one of Regina's and Saskatchewan's most progressive industries and businesses. Brandt Industries has repeatedly won many ABEX (Awards for Business Excellence) awards and demonstrated innovations

such as sprayers, lightweight locomotives, and a wide range of new products.

What industries like Brandt find, that they are unable to find enough trained workers graduating from existing training programs in the province. They have now translated their innovative ideas into employment and training opportunities that will keep youth in Saskatchewan.

Brandt Industries has become an influential partner in the government's programs despite other government policies, particularly its Crown tendering regulations which are threatening the very presence of industries like Brandt in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTIONS

Recess of the Assembly

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Churchill Downs:

That by leave of the Assembly, that this Assembly do now recess to greet our distinguished peacekeepers and reconvene at the call of the Speaker.

I so move.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that if this motion is agreed to, that we would stand adjourned for about one hour, and that the bells would ring five minutes in advance to the reconvening.

The Speaker: — That is correct.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly recessed for a period of time.

The Speaker: — I call the House to order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 40

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Crofford that **Bill No. 40 — An Act to amend The Land Surveys Act** be now read a second time.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say a few words today, Mr. Speaker, about Bill No. 40, An Act to amend The Land Surveys Act. Apparently the Act, as I have been

instructed, Mr. Speaker, changes some of the definitions with respect to surveying, such as the definition of iron posts.

And I'd have to say that I kind of wonder when I see something like that needing to be changed, where we have to have somebody figure out what an iron post really means. And I guess when my first impression of a Bill is set with a necessity to rewrite legislation in order to start off by changing definitions like what an iron post really is, tells me two things: first of all it tells me the government is really desperate to have some legislation to deal with; and the other thing it tells me is that we must be going into an election if that's the best we're going to do — to try to argue over what the definition of an iron post is.

So in reality, we may want to study this a little bit further in order to find out just exactly if there is anything really important in here. But I guess it allows for further changes to definitions, descriptions, and practices to be made through the regulations rather than through legislation. Now given both the pace of technology and technological changes in this area and the technical nature of these matters, this may be appropriate to do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I guess what we're saying here is that in some cases being able to deal with legislation through a regulatory process has some merit and some benefit, although it would seem odd to me, having gone through the regulations that have existed in some of the other laws passed by this administration, namely, I guess, the labour legislation, The Trade Union Act. The Workers' Compensation Act does a lot of regulations. The Labour Standards Act has quite a lot of regulations in as well. Those areas, we have found the use of regulations to be almost a nightmare and carried to the extreme and to the exaggeration where society no longer knows exactly what the laws are when you do this to too great of an extent.

So I guess my thoughts here, Mr. Speaker, is that we should always try to be open-minded to the point that we allow some flexibility so that things can change as necessity warrants that. But we must not allow ourselves, in the democratic process, to open the door so far that we're never, ever able to get control of the situation again.

If we have too many of our rules and regulations in life set down by regulation where they can't be debated and nobody has any input, then in fact we have life going on where the rules change day by day, and no citizen in society can ever obey all of the laws that we have because nobody ever knows what they really are. And I think that that kind of a confusion is not necessary in our democratic society.

And so if this is one of the intents, as it appears to be in this Bill, my suggestion here is of course that there be a great deal of caution and a great deal of discretion in the amount of changes that would be allowed through regulatory changes after the fact.

The housekeeping changes switches the administration of the manual of instructions from surveyors from the Highways department to the Saskatchewan Property Management

Corporation. We're not quite sure exactly why that would need to be done. It just seems to me that there must be some explanation, I guess, and we're going to be asking those kind of questions in committee. Why you would want to take this process out of the network of Highways, where most surveying and that sort of thing probably is already done at the present time, and now put it into Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation for accountability, really is beyond me to figure out why that is without asking a lot of questions.

So we're going to be asking those kind of questions in committee and wanting to know from the minister in charge just exactly what's going on here and what the intent is and what valuable purpose there could be to doing this.

Now it also implies here that we are allowing surveyors greater flexibility to use satellite surveying in establishing boundaries. And of course I guess we are in the 21st century and we do have these satellites all floating around the world, and we have these big, powerful telescopic cameras and that sort of thing that can take pictures of everything.

So I think that, in fairness, seems like a realistic approach to be allowing some of that to be done. Again, we would caution some discretion in the use of these things because obviously there where equipment is used of this nature, there is always a chance for some error, some equipment to fail. And we mustn't put ourselves in a position where we absolutely 100 per cent depend on these kind of techniques without any recourse for the general public where things might in fact turn out to be wrong or to be misrepresented or something goes haywire, in just simple terms.

So we're going to caution the government again in that area to be sure that there is some backup systems, to make sure that we don't allow a system to get out of hand where machinery and telescopes and satellites and computers just take over our lives and eliminate all of the jobs in our society, eliminate all of the discretionary approaches to how we run our society.

So we're going to ask the government some questions about accountability in this area, how we will check the credentials of the people that are feeding the information into these computers, because as my colleague from Souris-Cannington has pointed out, computers will only work as well as the information that they receive from the people that put that information into the machines. So we have to be very careful that we check the credentials of those people and that we have a backup system basically to audit the works to make sure that in fact it is done properly and fairly for everyone in our society.

For the most part, the changes we feel are positive changes that are allowing surveyors more flexibility to keep up with the technology while maintaining their independence and responsibilities. So we are not going to object at first blush to this Bill and to things that it represents, although as I've pointed out, Mr. Speaker, we are definitely going to want to ask a lot of questions of the minister to be absolutely certain that we are doing our job to be responsible and to make sure that we don't set up a Bill that will come back to haunt us later by having some mistakes because we sort of got a comfortable feeling and

let it go passing through too quickly, or anything like that.

So we will be examining it. We'll be asking a lot of questions. And the government has consulted with the surveyors association, we understand, and we have been informed, Mr. Speaker, that they are generally in support of this Bill. So we will be offering this information about the Bill being a fact of life, a reality that is about to come into existence. We will be offering that information to the general public in case there are other organizations and other peoples involved in our society that will want to have an input into this process.

For example, I can think of the surface rights people who might want to take a look at such a Bill. Because obviously in the petroleum industry a lot of surveying is done to establish where the petroleum industry will locate their facilities and do their work. That has a great deal of impact on our farmers and ranchers and property owners in the province as well as to the Crown where these works are done on Crown properties. It's extremely important that those folks know what's going on, to allow them an opportunity to be able to examine this document and what its implications are for the people at large, and especially to those people represented in their special interest groups.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will be passing that information out to them, hoping that they will take the time to check this out to make sure that it in fact does all of the good things that it's supposed to and doesn't have a hidden agenda, or anything sinister like that.

Now we have a few questions for the Committee of the Whole but no particular reason to hold up the passage of the second reading of this Bill at this point. So we will hope that there will not be a great rush into the Committee of the Whole with this Bill, so that we will have a little time to talk to the other folks. But having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to allow this Bill to pass on to the next stage.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

Bill No. 41

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Crofford that **Bill No. 41 — An Act respecting Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors** be now read a second time.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are asked today to take a look at Bill No. 41, Mr. Speaker, An Act respecting Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors.

Now we have been told, Mr. Speaker, that the Bill extensively updates the by-laws of the surveyors' association for the first time in 30 years. And obviously if a Bill is 30 years old and hasn't been looked at, there is probably some good reason to expect that either it's working right and has been perfect, or else technological changes in our society would have dictated a need to take a look at it. So I guess that's why we're here taking a look at it today.

Now most of the changes relate to membership standards, education upgrading requirements, discipline provisions, and other matters of concern only to the members of the association. However we shouldn't take that too lightly, Mr. Speaker, because when we talk about upgrading requirements and educational standards, and membership standards and that sort of thing, it affects not only the members of the association but anyone who is trying to get into the association — in other words our young people, for the most part, who would probably be studying these kinds of things at university and wanting to get jobs in this job description area.

So we have to use some discretion when we make laws in terms of how we handcuff our young people from being able to get into professions, and how we treat them in terms of how much of their life they have to spend getting credentials without actually going to work at the simplicity of doing a job.

I know from experience with my own family members who are graduating on a yearly or bi-yearly basis from universities, and trying to get into the job market and trying to integrate themselves into society, that they are finding, as I have found in my own experience in lifetime, that many times the requirements in order to get into the profession are very onerous and very demanding and very useless when it comes time to actually do and perform the job at hand that has to be done when they get the job. An awful lot of the work that they have to do to prove their ability has been in fact just a waste of time.

And one of my daughters explained to me, Mr. Speaker, one day, that basically what you've done in some cases is you've bought and paid for a degree. And while it's nice to be able to have children that can achieve the marks necessary to go along with that, it has some onerous responsibility laid on our doorstep as parliamentarians to examine what our motives really are. Are we really trying to see to it that young people are good at what they have to do in their new jobs. Or are we simply trying to stall them off for years and years at a time in order to keep them occupied and busy so that they don't put pressure on the job market and start to displace those people who are trying to covet a job position for themselves with a monopoly pay scale, or perhaps just trying to keep limited numbers of people working in a certain area.

So we have to watch what the motivations are here, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to have to be asking a lot of questions of the minister to determine very completely what it is that they are trying to accomplish here and to make sure that we are not, in fact, hurting our young people trying to get into the professions.

(1600)

I'm not really that sure if the standards we are alluding to here are an improvement of standards or if they're actually wanting to reduce them. So we have to find that out for sure. If we're increasing the standards necessary, then I worry quite openly about the motivations, and we have to examine that to find out if in fact we are making a law that would help young people or hinder them.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

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It also allows apparently for representation of the association's council of the public and disciplines related to surveying. Now, here, Mr. Speaker, the association's council is apparently something that is within the membership, and they obviously are looking to make some changes in that area. Those of us who are not involved with the surveying business and the industry directly would have to ask some questions to make sure that we understand exactly what is being requested, and what is going to be done, and what the outcome will be in that area.

We have in the area of concerns . . . the Bill was drafted by the surveyors' association itself we understand, and refers almost entirely, I guess, to their professional association's own constitution, which is probably in order; and no question in my mind that they've done a lot of good homework on this and most likely have put it together properly.

However as a responsible opposition, it is our duty and responsibility to check that out and to make sure of it. And of course we will do that through the process of asking questions of the minister in committee. So we will be working long and hard in the committee process to make certain that the constitution that is alluded to is fair and equitable to everyone concerned and that the results taken from that constitution, in terms of asking for this legislation, will be balanced and will serve society to the best possible ability that we, as parliamentarians, can do.

Now we will want to go through a few checks and balances in the Committee of the Whole, just to make sure that all of the bases are covered with respect to wording. But there's no reason to delay passage of the reading in order to accomplish that, Mr. Speaker.

So having said those few things about the Bill, I have to admit that I'm not totally versed with everything that's going to happen here, and I guess because we have to be a little more certain of that, we would ask the minister's cooperation in preparing for a lot of questions on this Bill when we get into committee. We won't be holding this Bill up any further though; we will suggest that we go on to committee.

And as I said in the last Bill, there may be some outside third-party interests. I can think of the university people, for example, as a prime area where folks might want to be taking a look at this. People who are taking these kind of courses that would allow them to go into this profession ought to, at the university level, be taking a look at what this legislation will do to their futures and their ability to have a future in this area.

So again we're going to suggest that we contact folks and let them know what's going on, let them have an idea of how this is going to affect their lives, so they can deliver any of their opinions, and we of course will pass them on to the minister.

Having said that, we will not hold this process up any longer, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

The Chair: — I would ask the Minister of Education, Employment and Training to please introduce the officials who have joined us here this afternoon.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Yes, to my right is Merran Proctor, who is the CEO (chief executive officer) and president of New Careers Corporation; and to my left is Tony Antonini, who is the executive director of finance and administration for New Careers.

Item 1

Mr. Martens: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question or two and you can get to me later with the information, Madam Minister, if you wish.

The New Careers has a number of facilities that have been used for housing and for facilities for doing work in various locations in the province, and I was just wondering if the corporation has any idea about selling any of them.

And if you wouldn't mind giving me an answer sometime, I'd be pleased to accept it. We don't have to do it in the House here today but I wouldn't mind knowing if there were some. And if there are, the locations and when they're expected to be put on the block, if they are.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I will make a commitment to get the member that information.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, welcome today. I'd like to welcome your officials also.

Madam Minister, as I look through the budget dealing with New Careers Corporation, I see that you have managed to gather in a small increase this year. I believe it's about \$122,000. Well, Madam Minister, is this not almost the same amount of money that was dropped from your budget last year? I believe there's about a thousand dollars difference in what was taken out last year and put back in again this year.

So, Madam Minister, I'm just wondering why you're playing the shell game with the money, taking it out last year and sliding it back in again this year. Just what's going on with the money here?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The \$120,000 or so increase is for two reasons basically. One, the corporation has never had a communications officer, and consequently it has not always been possible to communicate all of the various aspects of New Careers and what could be available to communities and individual businesses. So there is some provisions in this budget to hire a communications officer. And secondly, the cost

of accommodation for trainees has gone up, and this increase is to assist with accommodation increases.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. I wonder if you could please outline the duties of this communications officer, who it is, and what they'll be paid.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We don't have her precise job description here. We can get you a copy of her job description. But most job descriptions for communications personnel that work inside government are they're involved in preparing communications documents for the public. They're involved in preparing press releases for the corporation. They're involved in preparing advertisements for the corporation. They'd be involved in any kind of statements that staff might be making to chamber of commerces or regional economic development authorities.

I mean the corporation is changing somewhat, so this person is involved in the communications strategy. I don't have her precise salary here, but it's less than \$36,000 a year, I'm advised by my officials.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. Hopefully you will provide us with that salary scale. And you failed to mention who was filling that position.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The person's name is Allie Irvine. She's on a six-month secondment from SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) and she got the job through a competition.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Minister. This would be an internal competition. Would it be within SPMC or the Public Service, or was it tendered in the public? What kind of competition are we talking about?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — It was posted and it was a Public Service Crown corporation posting.

Mr. D'Autremont: — When you're providing the job description and the salary, would you also please provide the qualifications?

I can hear the minister's head shaking over there.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I understand the woman has a journalism degree from Carleton University, but we'll get you that information.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Minister. Who was previously performing these kind of duties for the New Careers Corporation? I've seen a number of pamphlets that have dealt with New Careers. Their advertising has been in various publications over the years. So how was the communications being handled previous to having a communications officer hired, Madam Minister?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I understand that there was a deputy CEO and this person did a lot of that work. As well, some of the work was contracted out to various communications places

to do the annual report, the pamphlets, that kind of thing. And now we're moving more of that work in-house.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well okay, Madam Minister. This deputy CEO, is that position still there? Is it still being filled? Has that position changed?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The position was abolished.

(1615)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay. Thank you, Madam Minister. Well perhaps I should ask. Previous to this position being abolished, how many executive positions were there, where you had at least one deputy CEO? So are there . . . was there one deputy CEO at the time? Was there five? How many were there? And what is in position now?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Before, we had a CEO and a deputy CEO; now we just have a CEO.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So throughout the entire corporate structure of New Careers, the executive structure, you now have one less person working in there as an executive, and in turn you have hired a communications officer. Is that correct?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — What we have done is moved the dollars that were allocated for that deputy position out into the field. So instead of having a huge head office structure, or a larger head office structure, the dollars for that deputy position have been moved out into the regional structures across the province.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well, Madam Minister, as I look through your 1993-94 annual report, I see a corporate structure laid out here on page no. 4. It does not list a deputy CEO any place. It does list a person reporting to the president as being manager, policy program development communications unit. Is that the position where this deputy CEO would have fit in?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I understand you're looking at page 4. We have a president. We no longer have a vice-president. So you're looking at the 1993-94 report; we don't have that position any more in the management structure.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Madam Minister, as we go down the management structure, having eliminated the vice-president, we still had a unit over here though called communications unit. So is the president still in charge of that? Is the new communications officer? This vice-president that has been eliminated — was that the deputy CEO who was looking after communications? I wonder if you'd mind explaining your corporate structure.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We do have a policy program development position. That position is vacant and it's being advertised. In addition we have a communications officer.

As you may know, the federal government is undergoing some major reforms in terms of transfers to the province. New Careers Corporation is a training and employment agency for

persons receiving income assistance.

Because of the changes that we know will be coming from the federal government, we're going to have to spend some time and effort as a corporation, on policy development in terms of the future direction of the corporation depending on what happens from the federal perspective.

In addition to that, New Careers Corporation is involved in some of the JobStart initiatives for young persons between the ages of 17 and 24. We have a communications person who is earning less than \$36,000 a year involved in that endeavour. From a policy perspective the position is vacant, and we're going to be hiring someone shortly, as the position is advertised.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay, thank you, Madam Minister. Okay, the position is vacant now. When did it become vacant? Was that when this deputy CEO left? Or was that the vice-president who was filling this position? I'm still not quite clear as to who was actually performing the functions, and whether you're going to end up with more people or less people.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I understand that this is a position that the corporation has, but up until now it has not been filled.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay, thank you, Madam Minister. So now we're going to have a new person in the area of policy program development and communication; we're going to have another person hired to look after communications for the corporation; the vice-president's position has been eliminated, but the dollars have been transferred down through the chain of command, and this would be to the regional managers.

Now this money that has gone to the regional managers, Madam Minister, has that been used for programing in that area? Has it been used to top up the salaries of the regional managers? Has it been used to perhaps hire someone new in those areas to assist the regional managers? Or have you made a whole new area that these monies have gone to?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — What I can tell you is that we have a new corporate structure in the corporation. We have an executive director of policy and development; we have a CEO; we have an executive director of finance and administration. As well, we have eliminated the vice-president and the manager of work experience programs and we've integrated this. And we now have five regional directors — we have a regional director in the North, a regional director in the Saskatoon area, a regional director in Regina and area, a regional director in the south-west, and a regional director in the south-east.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay, thank you, Madam Minister. You had 10 positions before. You now have five regional managers plus the director for finance who . . . I believe that was not a changed position, that was originally there? At least it's off to the side in your '93-94 corporate charts.

So, Madam Minister, with the eliminations then of those positions, has there been any change in the number of employees within the corporation? I don't see anything in the

estimates dealing with employees that are hired by the corporation, so has your employee base increased or decreased with these changes in the structures that you have made?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We have one additional employee in the corporation.

Mr. D'Autremont: — How many employees does the corporation have, Madam Minister?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We have money for 85 positions; we have funding for 85 positions. Last year we had funding for 84 positions.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Madam Minister, other than the position of manager, policy — which you are attempting to fill, I believe — are there are other positions that are vacant at the present time?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We're advertising the five regional directors' positions that I talked about. They are presently in the process of being advertised.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So those are the only other vacant positions within the 85 positions that you have funding for, is the five regional managers plus the policy manager?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — There are only three other vacant positions that are in the field, and they'll be advertised as well.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay, thank you, Madam Minister. What kind of advertising are you planning on doing for these? Will it be an in-house type of thing through PSC (Public Service Commission) or the Crown corporations, or will it be open tendering to the public? What kind of advertising are you proposing to do for these positions?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — All of these positions are advertised, and the field positions are advertised within the Public Service Commission, I understand.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Minister. I'd like to go back to the communications officer that you are bringing onto the stream. Now you talk about less than \$36,000 for a salary. But what other kind of start-up costs are associated with this employee? Are there moving costs? Are there office costs for setting up an office some place — supplies, equipment? What all kinds of costs are associated with the bringing in of a communications officer?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We can give you all of that information. We don't have, you know, what photocopier she might have access to or what computer. We'll get you that information.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Minister. You had the person who was dealing with communications as deputy CEO before. How effective of a job were they doing in that position as a communications person? Was New Careers getting their message out to the public, because I mentioned that I've

seen pamphlets from New Careers, I've seen the advertising that goes on in the various papers, their annual reports, etc. So how would you characterize the job performance for that communications person prior to this new one coming on stream?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I think what we've made the policy decision to do is to do a better communications job with the private sector. And consequently, the communications person is working with the employees inside of New Careers to work with the various regional economic development authorities and various chambers of commerce, as well as business organizations, because we're moving to sustainable jobs.

New Careers Corporation is a training and employment corporation. We want to make sure that the jobs that our people are receiving are in fact going to be jobs that lead to long-term, sustainable jobs. We want to make sure that the people in those jobs are being properly trained, so that they will have the skills to keep the job that they are being trained for or move on to other endeavours.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I'm sure those are all very laudable goals, Madam Minister, but it doesn't answer how effective a job the previous incumbent in the communications level was doing. I wonder if you could answer that, please.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I'm informed that in the past, New Careers Corporation was a very low-key corporation. We didn't really advertise it. You might see a New Careers Corporation sign on some marina or some golf course. That's not our intentions now. We're moving away from short work contracts to longer-term, sustainable jobs. And we've done a great deal of work, working with the business community the last couple of months, to ensure that our clients are getting some of the jobs that are becoming available in this province.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well, Madam Minister, perhaps you're changing the focus, the entire focus, of New Careers then. Are you moving away from what New Careers was originally intended and what the budget estimate talks about:

Supports community projects and provides people receiving social assistance with opportunities for employment and training by providing funding to community organizations and businesses . . .

Now that's what your statement in *Estimates* deals with. So if your clientele are basically not changing, it must be the business side then that's changing.

Previously the New Careers was directing to those things that you have mentioned, is works at parks and marinas and small construction-type jobs and training to improve people's knowledge to go back out into the workforce to get those kind of jobs.

So, Madam Minister, are your clientele for New Careers changing? Are you changing the focus on that?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I think what we're trying to do is to get our clients into sustainable, long-term jobs. I think the other

thing you should know, it's not unusual for an organization like New Careers Corporation to have a communications officer whose sole function is to communicate not only inside the corporation but outside of the corporation. This is not unusual.

And if the member has a point to make, I wish he'd make it. And I'm sure there's many other things he'd like to talk about.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well, Madam Minister, while you may consider it not to be unusual, up until this point New Careers has not had a person dedicated to communications. They performed other duties which included policy, which included program development, as well as communications. And you say that position was never filled; it was being dealt with by the deputy CEO.

So, Madam Minister, I fail to understand the need to all of a sudden hire a communications officer, particularly in the light of the fact that we're soon going into an election. It seems that this communications officers are a perfect opportunity to hire political appointees into places to do work. Now I have no idea who Allie Irvine is, whether she's political or not I have no idea, but it still seems to be an opportunity to promote certain aspects of a corporation.

(1630)

If there was a need for a communications officer, why was that need not there last year when you chopped \$120,000 out of the budget? This year, going into an election year, you decide we need a communications officer and you plunk \$122,000 back into the budget which is basically what you had pulled out last year. I don't understand the reason or the need for a communications officer this year when it wasn't there last year or the year before that or down the road.

So, Madam Minister, you talked about some of these things were being contracted out previously; how much money was spent on this contracting out and who did the work?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We'll get that information. I'd just like to make this point, that New Careers Corporation is moving towards the notion of long-term, sustainable jobs, not short, 20-week employment opportunities. So in fact, many community organizations are aware of New Careers Corporation, but business is not. Business is not aware that New Careers Corporation has a role or a partnership role that New Careers can play with the various businesses across the province.

So we need someone to involve themselves in a communication strategy with business. Because what we're trying to do is move out of people going into New Careers Corporation, working for five months or 20 weeks, and then not having a job at the end of that process. So we're working with business to ensure that that person has the appropriate training to keep that job when the 20-week program is over.

The other thing I should tell you is that when we take a look at the clientele in this province, who is and who is not on income assistance, a large number of single parent women are on social

assistance. Now if you look at some of the work that New Careers has been involved in in the past, it has tended to be a construction company. And there have been many wonderful projects done in the province as a result of the labour provided by New Careers trainees.

But the fact is that it is women and their children who are the long-term beneficiaries of income assistance. So what we're trying to do is to ensure that when we're training women, we're training them for positions that are sustainable and will in fact support them and their children.

Women have not historically been involved in the construction industry. Those tend to be non-traditional industries for women, and so we're trying to move the corporation into areas of endeavour that in fact would be appropriate for women in the province of Saskatchewan who are receivers of income assistance.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. Well how much are you planning on spending in the upcoming year for contracting out of your communications?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We'll provide that information. We don't have that kind of detail here.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. You were talking about long-term employment rather than a 20-week employment. How long are you anticipating your new focus for New Careers in keeping people on your programs?

Is this another type of thing like Social Services, where once you're caught in the net, you're in there for ever? Are you planning on providing permanent, long-term positions for people? Or is it a training program where people learn a skill and then go on to further employment in the private sector or in the government sector?

That's what New Careers was originally designed to do, in my belief — was to provide a training vehicle to allow people to progress on to some other form of employment that they have been trained for, but not simply staying within the framework of New Careers; that they would go on to be a carpenter some place in the private trade or for the government, but not to stay within the New Careers Corporation.

So is that your new focus, Madam Minister, that once you get these people into New Careers, you've got them for ever?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I don't think the corporation ever focused on that, not even when your administration set up New Careers Corporation. That was never the focus, to keep people down on social assistance.

Now here's my observation. I became the minister responsible for New Careers in the fall of 1992 and what I noticed — because we were in a transition — nothing had changed. When New Careers Corporation came into existence, they didn't have apprenticeship programs. They didn't have people getting credentials, publicly recognized skills. They would go and work on a construction site. They'd do that for 20 weeks or whatever,

and then they'd move on. But they didn't have credentials that they could take with them.

Now what we are now doing is we're indenturing people so that when they leave New Careers Corporation they have some time towards an apprenticeship program, and that's important for men in the trades. But in addition to that what we're trying to do is to link with business to provide work-based training for individuals who are on income assistance, but that work-based training can also be credentialled.

What I find so incredible about training programs in this country, is that government's have tended to give business money to train people but the training wasn't publicly recognized. It wasn't training that they could take with them on to other work sites; it wasn't training that was recognized that would allow them to show the employer that they had a skill that was transferable.

Now what we're trying to do in the Department of Education, Training and Employment, and New Careers Corporation, is to make sure that the people we train have a real skill, real training that's publicly recognized and will allow them to career ladder into other opportunities or will allow them to go on to further training.

Now is this an easy thing to do? No it's not, because we are moving away from the traditional model of just giving business money or just giving public institutions money to train people. We're challenging business and institutions to work together in partnership to ensure that business gets what it needs, and that is highly skilled people. And that the individual — the employee — gets what he or she needs, and that is a credential. A publicly recognized credential that they can transfer onto other opportunities, meaning other employment opportunities or other post-secondary opportunities. That is the direction that this government's going in.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Minister. When you use the term indentured, it really frightens me. I think back to indentured servants where you gave away your life for five or ten years to get a trade. Is that what you're advocating here, that you will lock these people in for a fixed period of time at a very low salary simply to get this certificate that you're talking about?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Let me tell you . . . (inaudible) . . . Those people who are apprentice carpenters, you're indentured. Okay? You're indentured with the apprenticeship board. It's a term that they use in the trades. You're indentured as a welder, you're indentured as a plumber, a pipefitter, a carpenter, an electrician. That's what it means. It means that you're involved in an apprenticeship program that will lead you to your journeyperson's status.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. This certificate or credentials that you're talking about, what weight do they carry within the educational system? You say they will lead you to be able to progress onwards to secondary education perhaps. Well I think back to all of those people who have attended universities and have their sheepskin hanging on the

wall and no job.

Is there going to be any real jobs, Madam Minister, when these people have completed these courses? And you've never said how long a term you're talking about. The previous programs were 20 weeks. You've never stated whether this is 20 weeks, 21 weeks, 52 weeks, or for ever.

So, Madam Minister, what real benefits at the end of the day are going to be available to your client who does receive this credential? And what length of term are you talking about to achieve that?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — What we're endeavouring to do is design a training program that will lead to a real, permanent job. If you look at how we have trained people in this country, it's the old adage: training for what?

And this is the beauty of this government's training initiatives. What we are doing is we're linking people who don't have the required skills with business that needs the skilled personnel and training institutions that can provide the accreditation or the credentials.

We don't think we have to deal with the notion of training for what. We know that business is experiencing skilled labour shortages. I was at Brandt Industries this morning. They advertised all across the province for machinists and a certain type of welder. They couldn't find them. They couldn't find the skilled labour force that they required.

We know that there are people who are unemployed, who maybe spent 10 or 15 years in a particular industry, and they're looking to be retrained or to be trained. And so what we've done at Brandt Industries, which we're doing in New Careers Corporation — which we're doing in JobStart, Future Skills, and New Careers — is linking unemployed people with business which has a requirement for skilled labour and a public training institution or industrially recognized training so that the individual who is trained, receives the training, can continue on in that job because the employer has trained a person and they'll need that person to ensure that they can expand and grow.

So I think it's quite a logical thing to do, where we think we've dealt with the question of training for what. We can no longer afford to train people for jobs that don't exist. We know that there are jobs that do exist, but employers are having a difficult time finding skilled labour to fill those jobs.

So what we've done is we've matched New Careers Corporation with those businesses. We've matched SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) and public training institutions with those businesses. And in the mix are people who are looking for work so that they can fill those positions and get adequately trained.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So in the example, Madam Minister, of Brandt Industries, how long will New Careers provide employment subsidies for those clients.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well New Careers, just to be clear, New Careers isn't involved. That's under Future Skills, but New Careers could be involved in a project like that, and New Careers will provide the training and the employees. So what New Careers is doing now is screening people properly so that we're finding out which people have skills, which people don't have skills, and then matching them to the businesses that are looking for skilled labour. If we don't have the skilled people, then we'll train them.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well, Madam, is New Careers becoming an employment pool, or is it still a training system?

An Hon. Member: — Both.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well if it's both, then you're running competition. You're duplicating the services of Employment Canada. And why are you doing that?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Employment Canada, you're on unemployment insurance. People who come to New Careers Corporation tend to be on social assistance or income assistance. We are a training and employment agency. We train people for jobs that we hope will exist after we've trained them.

So I guess the point I want to make is that we know that there are people on social assistance that lack skills, we know that there are businesses that are looking for skilled workers, and what we're doing is we're matching those businesses who are requiring skilled labour with people who are looking for work, and we're ensuring that they're adequately trained to take on those positions.

(1645)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well, Madam Minister, perhaps I used the wrong term when I said Canada Employment, I should have said Canada Manpower who does provide that screening and provide lists of jobs to be available to their clientele. And that sounds to me like what you're talking about providing. Madam Minister, you still have not said how long you will keep a person on the training program.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We will provide training up to 20 weeks. But if we need more flexibility it could be less, or it could be more. It depends on the individual circumstance.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. That doesn't sound a whole lot different than what Sask Works was which was 20 weeks is what they would provide up to. So you're still providing the same thing, although it took us probably 20 minutes to reach that point. So, Madam Minister, what was wrong with the Sask Works programs that isn't or is not being carried forward into your new program, or what have you changed? What was wrong with the Sask Works program?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — What we're doing now is that you might receive 3 weeks' training, 4 weeks' training, 6 weeks' training, or you may receive 12 weeks' training. You may receive 15 weeks' training, 20 weeks' training, or more. Under the Sask Works you received 20 weeks' training.

The other point I want to make is that we're looking at the quality of the training now. We want to make sure that people are in fact trained and that that training is recognized, so that the person who gets that training has something that they can take with them. So often in the past we simply trained people but that training wasn't necessarily publicly recognized and it may not have been appropriate training.

The other thing that we want to make sure is that we're not training people for jobs where there are tons of people who are trained in that area. So it's a matter of identifying where those skilled labour shortages are and making sure that we're training people for jobs that exist, not training people for jobs that don't exist.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. It sounds to me like your New Careers Corporation is going to do what's called, determine the winners and losers. That you're going to say, this particular type of employment is going to be a winner and that particular type of employment is going to be a loser because there is either no call for them or the market is flooded.

I can remember when I went to university, everybody said, you've got to become an engineer because everybody needs engineers. Well five years down the road, after I started university, there was too many engineers and nobody wanted them.

So it's easy today to pick a winner because you're looking at today's market but not looking at the market down the road. It's very difficult, Madam Minister, to foresee the future, as to what is going to happen in the employment areas. And certainly when you're looking at a 20-week training course, it's a lot easier to pick a winner 20 weeks down the road than it is four or five years down the road.

And I see the Minister of Justice is signalling that he surrenders, but I'm not sure that he knows what he's surrendering from.

But, Madam Minister, you've never explained to me what was wrong with Sask Works program. I'm sure that had you wanted to, you could have put in some form of certification, tied it into one of the institutions, to provide the person at the end of the day with something that said, I learned how to become a carpenter or a plumber for 20 weeks, or whatever it might be, or a typist, or fixing air-conditioners.

If that's all your new program focus is doing, Madam Minister, is giving them a piece of paper at the end of the day, I'm not exactly sure why you needed to change the whole program. So could you explain to me, Madam Minister, why Sask Works is no longer there?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I think Sask Works basically was training for the sake of training. We have all of these people who are on income assistance and they need some skills, so let's just train them, with no indication of what in fact would lead to an employment opportunity.

It's the whole issue of training for what. It's fine to train people, but then what do they do at the end of it, end of that training? I meet far too many young people who say, I have training in this particular area but there's an over-abundance of people in those areas.

On the other hand, I am meeting with employers all the time who are having difficulty finding skilled labour — people who have skills in a particular area.

I think what is important about this program is that we're not just training people for the sake of training them. We're training people for jobs that exist so that the public isn't wasting its money on training people and then they have the skills but no one will hire them. The public is training people for jobs that exist, and what this training allows them to do is to get a credential which will then allow them to go on to other endeavours.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Madam Minister. The way you've described the program is that you seem to have to have a position open within an industry someplace before you will put a client in there to do some training. What if you don't have any positions available at the immediate time? Are no clients then going to be trained, because you'll say well, we haven't got a position for them to go for a long term. We will not train anyone.

And who comes forward seeking these positions, not the clientele, the businesses that are providing the opportunities? Are you simply funnelling government money into employment opportunities that would be there if no provincial money was available? You know if Brandt Industries is interested in expanding their business, it's in their interest to see to it that they have the employees and that those employees are trained. Now were they going to provide the jobs? If they were going to expand they were going to have to provide the jobs. So I'm wondering as to the importance of the provincial money going into there; has it meant more jobs? Have you increased that employment by whatever funds you are putting into the program, or were those jobs going to be there and Brandt was going to pick up the full cost themselves?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well we can discuss Brandt when we get to the Department of Education, Training and Employment. We're on New Careers Corporation.

I think in terms of New Careers Corporation, we know that there are businesses that are looking for skilled people. And we know that those businesses are having a difficult time finding people in this province with those skills. So you know, we can let businesses not expand because they can't find skilled labour, or we can have people come from across the country to work in Saskatchewan. But I think we're of the view that we want to ensure that Saskatchewan people with a little bit of training can get Saskatchewan jobs.

So the notion is to link up empty positions that require some skilled people with people who are unemployed and train them. And I think that's a pretty reasonable thing to do.

And I have to tell you that the public thinks it's a reasonable thing to do as well. So many times we meet, you know, parents of young people that don't know what to do, don't know which direction to go in. But we now have skilled labour shortages in the province, which is, in a sense . . . I mean it really tells us something about our economy — it's booming.

What our challenge now is, to ensure we have Saskatchewan people taking those positions. And if with a little bit of training we can ensure that Saskatchewan young people, Saskatchewan citizens, Saskatchewan people who are unemployed or underemployed get those jobs, I think that this province will be better off for it. Because people will be engaged in meaningful, productive work and employers will be able to expand the economy.

I don't understand why the Conservative Party would have any difficulty with that notion.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.