

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have petitions regarding the Plains Health Centre in Regina. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I look through the list of petitioners; I see they're from all over southern Saskatchewan; Kelvington, Moose Jaw — in your own riding, Mr. Speaker. Several from the ridings of some of the constituencies of the members opposite, in Regina Albert South and Regina Elphinstone. I'm sure their constituents would appreciate seeing petitions from them also.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

And the people that have signed the petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from Esterhazy; they're from Whitewood; they're from Melville; from Grayson; they're from Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan; they're from Broadview; Cowessess; Grayson Lake; they're from all throughout Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions of names throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The people that have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, are mainly from Regina and numerous communities in the South. Thank you.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The people that have signed the petitions, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from North Battleford, but also include people from Regina; places like Lloydminster.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions from areas of Saskatchewan regarding the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to: (1) rescind the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement and especially its mandatory union hiring hall formula; (2) prohibit the expansion of this Crown Construction Tendering Agreement or other like agreements to other Saskatchewan Crown corporations or other government departments and construction projects; and (3) prohibit the expansion of this agreement or other like agreements to other government-funded construction projects with local health districts, school boards, municipal councils, or other joint venture partners with the Saskatchewan government.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed primarily from people in the Lake Alma area. And I'd like to submit it.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider the closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Regina, and from Moose Jaw, from Montmartre, from all over southern Saskatchewan.

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding an important health institution in the province, the Plains Health Centre. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by people from Moose Jaw, Briercrest, Buffalo Pound, Chaplin, and Regina Beach, and some from Regina as well.

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The people that have signed the petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from Mortlach, Central Butte, Regina, but predominantly from Moose Jaw. Thank you.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of

many concerned citizens from this great province of ours who have a grave concern about the closure of the Plains Health Centre. It reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The names are from my home constituency of Melville, Moose Jaw, Saltcoats, Radville, Redvers, Kennedy, Broadview, Yorkton, and virtually throughout all of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present petitions today on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. The petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reverse the decision to raise SaskPower rates and freeze any further utility rates until a three-party utility review committee is in place in order to debate, review, and revise any utility rate increases in the future in order to restore fairness to the utility rate process in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

These petitions come from the Manor, Carlyle, Estevan, Carievale, Gainsborough areas of my constituency, along with Star City, Saskatoon, Tisdale, areas in the north-east, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present them today.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions from the community of Eatonia, and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to reverse the decision to raise SaskPower rates and freeze any further utility rates until a three-party utility review committee is in place in order to debate, review, and revise any utility rate increases in the future in order to restore fairness to the utility rate process in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Thank you.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy today to present petitions on behalf of people who are concerned about the condition of Highway No. 1, and 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 federal infrastructure programs towards double-laning Highway No. 1, rather than allocating these funds towards capital construction projections in the province.

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

And I present these on behalf of people from my constituency in the south-west corner of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 12(7) they are hereby read and received.

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to reverse the decision to raise SaskPower rates;

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to immediately repeal the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement; and

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Belanger: — Yes, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 16 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Indian and Metis Affairs: (1) what percentage of the department's past budgets have been spent on administration and staff; (2) how many grant allocations are being awarded to Indian organizations and what are the grant amounts; (3) how many grant allocations are being awarded to Metis organizations and what are the grant amounts; (4) of the grant amounts allocated, how many are awarded north of the 54th parallel to Indian organizations as well as south of the 54th parallel; (5) of the grant amounts allocated, how many are awarded north of the 54th parallel to Metis organizations as well as south of the 54th parallel?

Thank you.

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

Is a reduction in the provincial sales tax being considered; if so, when will it be implemented; will the proposed reduction be brought in the next budget; by how much will the PST be reduced; will a reduction be instituted equally throughout the province or will provisions be made for special competitive situations on border communities?

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Thursday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the Crown Investments Corporation: (1) the names of all corporation or corporations under CIC's direct or indirect control on which Mr. Don Ching serves as a director; (2) the amounts of remuneration he receives as a result of these directorships; and (3) the dates on which the appointment or appointments were made.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the members, a group of 11 adults that are seated in your gallery. These are students who are enrolled in the English as a second language program at SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) in the city of Regina. They're accompanied here today by their teacher, Ron Mang.

In what is I think the universal language of welcome, I would ask the members to join me in a hearty round of applause to recognize their presence here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the legislature some councillors from the RM of 108, Bone Creek, in my own RM in the south-west corner. And I see my sisters up there as well. And I'd like everyone to welcome them here today. They're in town for the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) convention and trying to convince the government not to amalgamate.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I will remind members that it is out of order to engage in any form of debate when introducing guests and I'll ask that everyone cooperate with us. So I'll recognize the hon. member for Wascana Plains.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, 35 grade 12 students that are seated in our east gallery this afternoon. They're students from Greenall School in Balgonie, Saskatchewan, and they're accompanied by teachers Richard Boxall and Carol Mayes. It's been my privilege to be able to speak to them and to have them ask questions of me during recent meetings at the school. And I'm looking forward to meeting with them in room 218 and to be able to visit and ask questions following a tour.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming the group from Greenall School, Balgonie, Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Manley McLachlan. Mr. McLachlan is the executive director of the Saskatchewan Construction Association and I'd like to welcome him here and ask members to join me.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to introduce a group of students from my riding — 19 grade 8 students from the Herchmer School who are in attendance in your gallery, if they just want to stand up and be recognized. They're here today with their teacher, Aaron Anderson, and teacher's associate, Wanda Warner.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the councillors as well from the rural municipality of Bone Creek which the member from . . . yes, Wood River — I keep thinking Shaunavon. But I'd like to welcome them as well, as I pay taxes in that RM (rural municipality) as well as my friend from Shaunavon. So I would like to welcome them here as well today and wish them the best in their deliberations.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add to the member from Regina Wascana Plains my welcome to Richard Boxall, in particular, and the students from Balgonie — I consider Richard amongst my many friends — and also introduce to all members of the House, Jonathan Denis who is in the east gallery. Jonathan has joined me for the remainder of the session as my sessional assistant. He's been very, very interested in government, in governing, and in politics from a very early age, and I hope that when he seeks wise counsel from each and every one of you, which I've encouraged him to do, that you will add to his good experience in this Assembly. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was beginning to think I was blending into the woodwork back here. If I could, I know there's been a number of SARM people down who are at the SARM convention introduced, and they've all been wonderful people but I would like to introduce — and no intent at all in making others feel badly — six of the very, very best people.

From the RM of Beaver River, we have Ken Schamber, a councillor — if he'd stand, please — and also right beside him is Deb Johnson, the administrator there.

I'll go down to the other end now — from the RM of Loon Lake is Alan Simpson; beside him is Ted Warner; the administrator from Loon Lake is Darren Elder; and also on a training session from Wilkie, I believe, is Trent Elder, joining us here today.

So if everyone would join with me in welcoming them.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to join with our colleagues in welcoming Manley McLachlan, who is up in the top row in the Speaker's gallery. We're happy to have him here today and we hope that his visit will be productive in the legislature and those areas of concern that he has.

While I'm standing, I too would like to add my welcome to my good friends and neighbours from south-west Saskatchewan. I think all of the other members have piqued our interest in exactly who these folks are, so I think I'll ask them to stand up as I quote some of their names off so that we'll know exactly which ones they are. And they are, of course, the council members and their wives from the RM of Bone Creek; as I said, my friends and neighbours from just across the line from where

I live.

And we have Brian Kiss and his wife Gwenn. If you'll just stand up, the folks will know who you are, Brian. There they are. And we have also David Krause — I don't know if they're sitting in order up there. David is one of the councillors over there. We have Arlene and Mel Larson; we have Morris Bredahl; and we also have Ron Fuller.

Welcome to the Assembly, folks, and we hope that your deliberations at the SARM convention will be productive.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Lorje: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce a politician at a different level. I am referring to our former colleague, the member from Kelvington-Wadena from 1991 to '95, Mr. Ken Kluz. He's seated behind the bar today, Mr. Speaker. I welcome him here and I hope he's enjoying it as much today as he did when he sat in this House and acquitted himself very honourably.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and to members opposite, two young people seated in the gallery opposite, two young people from the Canora-Pelly constituency — Kimberly Bansley and Ray Berezhitsky. Kimberly is a student here at the U of R (University of Regina) and is taking advantage of the documents in the library and is doing some research here. Welcome to you both.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in panning the gallery I noticed a good friend just walked in; I think she's come here with her daughter. A very close friend of mine I met in Saskatoon, Darwin McKenzie, is at SARM. Welcome Cathy McKenzie to the Assembly; she's actually a very good pianist, a good musician. And we trust they'll enjoy their time here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Students Against Drinking and Driving 10th Anniversary

Hon. Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the province is working on tougher laws on drinking and driving in Saskatchewan, there are hundreds of students also doing their part in educating the public on this important issue. It is the 10th anniversary of the organization, Students Against Drinking and Driving, known as SADD.

Over 180 Saskatchewan schools have registered SADD chapters, and the Tisdale Unit Composite School has been a member for eight years. The school's chapter has been very active in trying to educate the public about drinking and driving. They have hosted speakers on the subject and held many presentations as well as volunteering the designated driver program at community functions.

Mr. Speaker, this is a special year for Saskatchewan chapters who are going to attend the national SADD conference in Saskatoon, March 21 to 23. The students who attend this conference will be learning valuable skills. I applaud the efforts of the Tisdale Unit Composite School, along with other chapters in Saskatchewan, for promoting safe and responsible driving. While the province is working to do its part to address this problem, we also welcome and congratulate the students involved in Students Against Drinking and Driving for their efforts over the past 10 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Tragic Shooting in Scotland

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my condolences to the grieving families in Dunblane, Scotland. Yesterday 16 children in a kindergarten class there were the fatal targets in a shooting spree. A dozen more children are recovering from their injuries.

As a mother and a grandmother, I cannot even begin to comprehend the horror they are going through. It is such a tremendous tragedy, but especially when the most vulnerable and helpless members of our society become the targets of senseless violence. The unimaginable sorrow these Scottish families are going through should make us all appreciate every moment we do get to share with our loved ones.

I ask all the members of this Assembly to join me in expressing our condolences to the community of Dunblane, Scotland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kowalsky: — Mr. Speaker, on the same topic, violence of any kind is shocking. Violence against children is unthinkable. Violence, by its very definition, has no logic, no sense, and no justification.

And yet as it happens — happens as it did yesterday in Scotland, a land which is better known for its food, its dress, its dance, its drink, its history, its poetry, its contribution to Canada — it can happen anywhere.

What the senseless act did was destroyed 16 children and it tells us sadly nothing except that we are an imperfect species. All we can do, Mr. Speaker, is join the world in expressing our shock, our sympathy to those family members in Dunblane, and hope with them that this kind of insanity will not happen again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Passing of Dr. Geoffrey Buck

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I was saddened to learn of the passing of a prominent teacher of youngsters and a teacher of many Saskatchewan teachers. Dr. Geoffrey Buck passed on at the age of 94.

Not only was Dr. Buck a valued member of Saskatchewan's education community, but he was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. On the beautiful fall day of

October 31, 1931 a group of teachers met in my home town of Invermay to form the Rural Teachers' Alliance. A young man from Melville, Geoffrey Buck, joined the executive and became a firm supporter of that organization. Due to the efforts of many, including Dr. Buck, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation was founded in 1933.

A man of many skills, Dr. Buck was also a member of the Natural History Society.

I would like to express my condolences to friends and family members of Dr. Geoffrey Buck, and I would ask the House to do the same. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Banner Year for Saskatoon

Ms. Lorje: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is fair to say that MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) spend a lot of time looking for positive indicators so that we can announce them as signs that things are going well. It's one of the duties of politicians to emphasize optimism, unlike the media, who seem to deal in doom and gloom.

So it was with a great deal of interest and appreciation that I read a recent article in that oracle of social democratic philosophy, the *Star-Phoenix*. The article said, with no prompting from me or anyone else in government, that Saskatoon is going to have a "banner year." If Conrad Black says it's so, then it must be so.

Specifically, the article says that during this year, as Saskatoon celebrates its 90th birthday, it will pass the 200,000 mark in population. The children are coming home and bringing other provinces' children with them. And to employ these people, our economy is booming — booming, Mr. Speaker, with high paying, high tech jobs at Innovation Place and elsewhere.

The biotechnology industry is growing exponentially. Building permits are up by 20 per cent, industrial building by 41 per cent, and housing starts are the best in Saskatchewan. There are many new ventures among the 5,319 businesses in the city of bridges.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a booster for Saskatoon. I thank the *Star-Phoenix* and the Saskatoon Economic Development Authority for making my job easier. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan's Maintenance Enforcement Program

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 10th anniversary of Saskatchewan's maintenance enforcement program. This program has worked to benefit Saskatchewan people. For the past 10 years, over 19,000 applications for enforcement have been received. More than \$122 million has been collected on behalf of Saskatchewan families. And the default rate for maintenance payments has dropped from 85 per cent to 25 per cent. While this success should be noted, there are worthwhile improvements on the way that will make this program even more efficient.

A new, automated voice response phone system will allow clients to receive up-to-date information on their payments and the program 24 hours a day.

And while the majority of parents who have the financial capacity to pay are paying as ordered or agreed, something needs to be done about those who are still ignoring their responsibilities. This program has a successful track record. New measures are needed to ensure that the people of Saskatchewan continue to get the service that will benefit children and families. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Regina Lions Junior Band

Ms. Murray: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of listening to the music of the Regina Lions Band as they began the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

It was 50 years ago that Mrs. Marion Mossing approached the Regina Lions Club for sponsorship of a community band that she had started. A half century has passed and what started out as a dream has become a reality. Over that time, many young students have received valuable education and experience through the field of music.

The Regina Lions Band organization is well known in North America and has acted as excellent ambassadors for the city of Regina and for Saskatchewan. Besides holding the special concert last Saturday, many more events are planned to mark the 50th anniversary. A reunion is going to be held in July.

The Lions Band also entertains the public in the Buffalo Days parade each year in Regina and this year, because of the reunion, they hope to have a 500-piece marching band in the parade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Regina Lions Band organization who have contributed so much to the community and the province.

Thanks should also go to SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and SaskPower for their support and to Bob Mossing and Luther Appel for their hard work and dedication. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Deputy Speaker's 50th Birthday

Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I'm in order or not. Perhaps this statement would be more appropriate under condolence motions. Nonetheless, I'll press on.

Last night a few people in the Deputy Speaker's constituency had a quiet little party for him because Saturday will be his 50th birthday. I think that we would be remiss in this house if we left this significant occasion without comment. I think, as well, now that he is approaching 50, it is best to comment before rather than after — just to be on the safe side.

Mr. Speaker, we all have birthdays and they generally don't need much public acknowledgement, but halfway to the century mark is significant enough to mention. I want to first say that when I referred to my old seat mate in my throne speech debate, I actually meant former seat mate. I meant no offence to my elder, nor will I listen to any of my colleagues when they suggest that we put rockers on the Speaker's chair for when he's in it. Comments like that are simply insensitive, Mr. Speaker.

Even more insensitive is the crack by the member from Watrous who said that if the Deputy Speaker is still doing today what he did when he was 20, he sure wasn't doing very much when he was 20. I think the member should withdraw that remark while there is still time.

And while also there is still time, I know all members will join with me in wishing the Deputy Speaker at least another 50 more. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Rural Health Care

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today's edition of the *Leader-Post* points to more bed closures, staff lay-offs in our health care system, and I'd like to table this document now, Mr. Speaker.

This may not be of great concern to this government, but it is to the more than 300 people who recently attended a town hall meeting in Yorkton to say, enough is enough.

The need for further downsizing is based once again on dollars, not need. Mr. Speaker, the East Central Health District is battling a monthly deficit of \$300,000 because the NDP (New Democratic Party) government refuses to defend rural health care and fund it accordingly.

Will the Minister of Health stand in this House today and give his assurance to the people that rely on the services provided by the Yorkton Regional Hospital and the Foam Lake Health Centre that he, as provincial Health minister, will guarantee that the almighty dollar will not override the health care needs of Saskatchewan residents?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that this member asks this question about health care funding, because there was a motion in this House yesterday to call into question the fact that the federal government is cutting health care spending in our country by 35 per cent up to 1998.

And if that member was concerned at all about health care, health care spending, and the East Central Health District, that member would be joining with the members over here in saying to the federal government that medicare needs to be a priority of Canada and that we want to keep it that way. But that member did not support that motion, Mr. Speaker, and I say if that member had any sincerity at all, he wouldn't be an apologist for

the federal Liberals that are actually gutting the health care system in this country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If in fact the federal government is to blame for everything, why don't you resign your seat and do away with that portfolio today.

Mr. Speaker, a recent edition of *Yorkton This Week* quotes Dr. Jim Millar, who made the following statement to the East Central District Board about the growing deficit, and I quote:

We're averaging . . . \$300,000 a month. If we continue, our deficit by the end of the year will be . . . \$3.6 million.

Board member Ben Weber is quoted as saying:

Three-hundred thousand a month! That's pretty scary.

Mr. Speaker, the health care system that this government has produced is pretty scary. Will the minister tell this House now how he intends to address the deficit situation facing health districts without cutting services or eliminating more front-line health care workers, and I'd like to table it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I'll tell the member, Mr. Speaker, what we're not going to do. We're not going to apply 73 per cent of any reductions we do to education and social services as the Liberals are doing.

Since 1991, Mr. Speaker, this government has not cut health care spending. We have increased health care spending in the province of Saskatchewan, with no thanks to that member over there, Mr. Speaker. That member can get up and he can complain all he wants about health care spending and he can say we should spend more — when we are spending more — Mr. Speaker, but that member is an apologist for the Liberals in Ottawa who are cutting health care spending by 35 per cent to 1998, Mr. Speaker. And that member has the audacity to stand up in this House and lecture us about our health care spending.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McPherson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the minister wouldn't tell us what he's not going to do and get on and tell us what he is going to do. Mr. Speaker, the February 18 edition of the Swift Current *Sun* contains an article — and I'll table that one now — which serves as another glaring example of what is happening throughout Saskatchewan. This district also faces a huge deficit and fails to receive proper funding for a regional hospital.

This article quotes Swift Current District Health Board's CEO (chief executive officer) Dan Miller, as stating:

Although Swift Current Regional Hospital serves a wide area in the Southwest, it appears from the province's perspective to be a regional hospital in name only (in name only).

Mr. Speaker, a lack of funds means a loss of nurses and beds, and as a result a lack of proper health services to the people. Will the minister table today documents that will show which of our health districts are running deficits so the people of Saskatchewan can know what to expect from that government?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well I'll say one thing, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to talking about deficits, there's no deficit of gall when it comes to that member. Because that member has the gall to stand up in this House and talk to us about health care spending when the party with which he is associated with is cutting health care spending by 35 per cent up until 1998. And I see, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian health care association says in a recent communiqué, the federal government appears to be imposing even further feelings of insecurity on Canadians.

Now that member wants to talk about why people feel insecure about the health care system. It isn't because of what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, because we have increased spending on health care in this province. It's because of what that member's party is doing, Mr. Speaker. That's why there are feelings of insecurity.

I have a letter here from the Canadian cooperative association, and they make the same point to the federal government, Mr. Speaker, and so do millions of other Canadians right across the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has created fear and anxiety throughout the province because they refuse to fund a safe and reliable health care system.

This government has tightened the purse strings on health districts to the extent that many are forced to make cuts — forced to make cuts, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, each and every time they are forced to do so, the people who depend on our health care system are left with a far lower quality of health care than they deserve or expect.

Mr. Speaker, this government cannot continue chipping away the health care system that is already a mere shadow of what it used to be. Will the minister stand in the House today and make a commitment to the people of Saskatchewan that the days of reducing the level of health care in this province are over? Just make the commitment. Stop the politics for a few minutes there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that the member's huffing and puffing today has more to do with the member's desire to lead a political party — any political party — than it has to do with concern about the health care system.

And I want to say this to the member, Mr. Speaker, that in the last provincial election he and his party ran around this province saying that we should cut spending. Now they were talking

about a 5 per cent or a 10 per cent cut to spending. The reality is 60 per cent of the spending in the province is on health care and education. And they wanted to cut it in the election. They say one thing in the election, a different thing today, and they certainly say something different than their Liberal counterparts are doing in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Municipal Government Amalgamation

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, municipal leaders from across the province remain sceptical about this government's claims that there is not a top-down plan that will force them to amalgamate. An article in today's edition of the *Regina Leader-Post* quotes the Premier as stating the municipal funding levels in the upcoming budget will, and I quote, "have some impact" on the way local politicians approach the issue.

Is the Premier indicating that his government will simply tighten the purse-strings of local government so tight they are left with no option except amalgamation?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the position of the government remains the same, and that is that we are trying to prepare the province for the 21st century, involving as part of this preparation, making sure that the infrastructure for rural Saskatchewan is as strong and as good as it possibly can be, as we can afford it.

We are seeking a partnership arrangement and a partnership agreement, if at all possible, with all of the partners in local governments, as we are in economic development, as we are in health care, and the various other areas of initiatives. And we intend to pursue that. We intend to continue that policy. We intend to continue saying to our fellow partners in governments, join us in this venture. I've given up on the opposition party coming along to the 21st century, but I have not with respect to the local governments of this province, who have served us well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, health care serves as a perfect example of how this government will squeeze the purse-strings to achieve the end result they're looking for. By controlling the spending of district boards, this government has closed hospitals, eliminated services and programs; all of which has resulted in chaos in our health care system. Municipal leaders need to know if this government is now directing them down the same path.

Will the Premier indicate in this House today what level of funding cuts can municipal leaders expect in the upcoming budget?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the budget will be tabled and presented to the legislature on or about March 28. I think the date actually is March 28. I think obviously in tradition of

the legislature and the tradition of our parliamentary system must be honoured. On that, the funding arrangements for municipalities and for all of the activities of government will be announced.

I would say, however, that the budget making this year has been made more difficult, not only by the challenge that we face for the province in looking to the future and building for the future, but it's been made all the more difficult by the actions of the federal Liberal Party, of which this member is also a part thereof, which federal Liberal government has dramatically cut back on transfer payments and dramatically cut back on equalization payments to the province of Saskatchewan, penalizing us.

And I'm not even taking into account, Mr. Speaker, the Crow benefit being destroyed, the offload with respect to aboriginal people and off reserves and the like. All of this has been made all the more difficult by the federal Liberal Party, a member of which is asking this question.

So I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that this will all be announced in due course and the people in Saskatchewan will be partners with us in building for the 21st century.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Crown Construction Tendering Agreement

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan). Mr. Minister, when your government first introduced your union preference Crown tendering policy, you said it would be reviewed after a year and any necessary adjustments would be made at that time.

Well, Mr. Minister, it's now been over a year since that policy was introduced. We are heading into another construction season and the contractors want to know what you plan to do to fix this policy which is opposed by the vast majority of construction contractors in the province.

Mr. Minister, has your review now been completed? And when will you be announcing the results of your review?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minister of CIC, I appreciate the opportunity to answer the question. The member is right. There has been an internal review going on over the past winter, as you indicate. I'd like the member to know that the review has indicated that we will continue to meet with our partners. Obviously, there's two different points of view on a number of issues. We hope in the next little while to continue to work with the partners to come to some very reasonable conclusion. I'm sure the member opposite is interested in helping in this process, as he usually is, and we look forward to his advice on the issue.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

High-risk Offender Identification

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a

question to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Minister, earlier this week our caucus brought forward a proposal to adopt Manitoba's notification process when dangerous sex offenders are being released. In today's newspaper, we hear that Winnipeg police have notified Saskatoon police that a man from Manitoba, who is a high risk to re-offend, who refused treatment, has moved to Saskatoon.

Mr. Minister, Saskatchewan police are frustrated because there is little they can do to protect people from dangerous sex offenders because your government has not made the necessary changes.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: we do not want Saskatchewan turning into a safe haven for sex offenders. You stated that you are currently reviewing the situation. How long do Saskatchewan people have to wait for these changes?

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that question. As I stated before, we are watching this situation very carefully. We are very concerned about children and families in Saskatchewan and we have in fact a committee that has been working on this that includes officials from our department, from the local police.

I personally have reviewed the Manitoba protocol and there are very many positive things in that particular document and their report. We are moving with all of the appropriate people to provide a Saskatchewan answer to this and we will be coming forward with this I think by . . . within the next three or four months.

McDowell Report

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Premier. Mr. Premier, your consumer protection legislation calls for a 10-day cooling-off period. During that time a consumer can change their mind about a product or service they bought if it turns out to be something other than what they expected. Mr. Premier, after the fit you threw yesterday, I think you need a cooling-off period, but also the taxpayers of Saskatchewan need a cooling-off period. Taxpayers have been sold a bill of goods about the McDowell report. It was supposed to be a pay decrease. Because of your government's delays it's now a pay increase. Taxpayers deserve a second look at this, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Premier, will you allow for that cooling-off period, will you allow for the Provincial Auditor or even Stirling McDowell to look at this again, determine what amount is an unintended overpayment, and will you commit your MLAs to give the money back?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the Board of Internal Economy perhaps I can shed some light on this discussion. Now I understand the member's desperate drive for credibility given the state of his five-member party there. But on the other hand I'm not sure that the way to build credibility is to admit that you've gone into a situation where you voted without understanding what you were voting for and

then declined to acknowledge your vote after that.

McDowell, who is very well recognized, indicated clearly that the full implementation of McDowell is a 2 per cent cut in pay. Now that results in, depending on the length of the government prior to the next election, at least a 6 to \$8,000 decrease for every single member in the House. So I suggest you quit playing games and earn your credibility the honest way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member . . . what the minister is actually saying is that they knew fully well what the delay in the implementation would mean. They knew that if they delayed the implementation of the McDowell report, it would result in an overpayment, it would result in more money going to MLAs.

Mr. Premier, farmers participated in a program just like that that resulted in an overpayment. Your government said to them it would be unfair for farmers, other farmers, unfair to other farmers not to ask them to repay that overpayment. This is the same thing, Mr. Premier. The delay in the implementation of the McDowell report has resulted in an overpayment. This is unfair to Saskatchewan taxpayers and all MLAs should be required to pay it back.

Mr. Premier, your government has reversed decisions on a regular basis — GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) overpayments, VLT (video lottery terminal) revenues — and you say that that's good government. Why is it then impossible to reverse this MLA overpayment and . . . because it is so unfair to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan?

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Well I certainly wouldn't want to deny the member opposite his ability to act on his conscience. I'm going to table, Mr. Speaker, some cheque blanks and you can fill it out for the amount that you feel you've been overpaid. And I'll just give those to the Clerk of the legislature right now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, order. I'll ask the members of the Assembly to . . . Order. I'll ask the members of the Assembly to come to order and allow the minister to provide her response.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — I'll repeat again to the member opposite: if you have difficulty understanding your math, I suggest you review your figures which you were provided with, which you voted on, and you can fill out your cheques for the amount you feel you were overpaid.

And I will just emphasize that over the term of government the total amount saved on MLAs' salaries will be in the range of 350 to 400,000, so quit misleading people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Repayment of Government Funds

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've heard in the last couple of days, and even leading up to now, about shortages of money and people that have to pay money back, even some suggestions that the hard-working MLAs that serve this House and the people of Saskatchewan may, in fact, may have to pay some of the monies back. And if that's necessary, so be it.

However, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice today. Since the election, we've heard one cabinet minister after another tell Saskatchewan residents that the sky is falling. It's clear that every dollar counts and there's no question about it.

My question regards \$125,000 that the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan admitted it to take illegally from the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. Will the minister confirm whether or not that money has now been fully repaid by the Conservative Party, and if so, what rate was used to calculate the interest the Conservative Party paid on the amount?

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — I would think you'd have to ask the legislature, the Clerk of the legislature. I don't know and I don't have that information.

Mr. Osika: — Mr. Speaker, once again I hate to refer back to the financial stress, and it's clear to the people of Saskatchewan that the government must make sure that it does its best to recover every dollar stolen by former Tory MLAs, especially when the government says it doesn't have enough money to keep its promises.

My question again to the Justice minister is whether or not the government is considering civil lawsuits to try to recover all or a portion of the \$1 million that was defrauded by former Progressive Conservative MLAs and cabinet ministers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the hon. member, and I really appreciate that we've finally found a point on which the Liberals and the people on this side can work together. Thank you.

Sale of Cameco Shares

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister in charge of CIC announced today the sale of nine and a half million Cameco shares for a total return of \$717 million.

Yesterday at a Regina Chamber of Commerce breakfast, the Finance minister had to assure business people in attendance that all revenues from the debt-reduction tax will be used to pay down the debt.

Will the Minister of Finance make this same commitment where the revenue from this sale is concerned?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I want to answer the question on behalf of the government and I want to answer it in this way. The member opposite asks assurance of us. Already

what we have said, to reassure the House again, that the proceeds of this sale will be applied to debt. I hereby give this assurance to the House one more time, and I answer on behalf of the government to doing that.

But I think his question really is misdirected. I think what he and I should do is join hands and ask of his leader what the Liberal Party thinks about the proceeds. Because I notice that four days after you issued a press release urging that we apply all the proceeds of Cameco to long-term debt, four days later in the *Leader-Post*, your leader says that he would apply this to a 2 per cent reduction in the sales tax.

So which is it, Mr. Member? Are you with us or are you with the Leader of the Liberal Party?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regardless what the Premier thinks in this regard, anything would be of benefit to get in terms of tax relief. The word of this government is simply not good enough. This is the point, Mr. Speaker — the word of the government simply isn't good enough.

They've made a habit of cancelling agreements and breaking promises with the people of Saskatchewan. The current GRIP controversy and promise to return 10 per cent of VLT revenues back into our communities serve as a perfect example.

Mr. Speaker, a private members' Bill introduced yesterday by the official opposition would guarantee the people of this province that all net proceeds from sales such as the one we're discussing today are directed to the province's long-term debt.

Will the Minister of Finance or the Premier and this government support this Bill which will provide the Saskatchewan residents with the added security they need and deserve.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the hon. member that he's at least a dollar short and at least a day late, because this Legislative Assembly has already passed balanced budget legislation a year ago. And we are obligated by law to apply the proceeds to debt already. So I am glad to see that he is onside.

But when he says that we have broken our word and he's got to keep an eye on us, no, don't worry about us. You and I are in agreement. We have to keep an eye on your Liberal leader who wants to spend the money. And we have to keep an eye on — you and I have to keep an eye on — your federal Liberal Finance minister who urged us to sell and also to spend on day-to-day operations.

I think that something is not quite right here between you and your Liberal leader and between you and the federal Liberal counterparts, and everything is right between you and I. So why don't you come on and join on this side's position with respect to liquidation of the debt, as we have said.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 19 — An Act to revoke the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move first reading of a Bill to revoke the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 20 — An Act respecting the Management of Forest Resources

Hon. Mr. Scott: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move first reading of a Bill respecting the Management of Forest Resources be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 21 — An Act to amend The Interpretation Act, 1995 and to enact a related amendment /Loi modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995 et édictant une modification corrélative

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that An Act to amend The Interpretation Act, 1995 and to enact a related amendment be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 22 — An Act to amend The Radiation Health and Safety Act, 1985 and to make Related Amendments to The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993

Hon. Mr. Anguish: — Mr. Speaker, I move a Bill to amend The Radiation Health and Safety Act, 1985 and to make Related Amendments to The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 23 — An Act to amend The Archives Act

Hon. Mrs. Teichrob: — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill to amend The Archives Act be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 24 — An Act respecting the Prescription of Pharmaceutical Agents and Contact Lenses

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill respecting the Prescription of Pharmaceutical Agents and Contact Lenses

be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 25 — An Act to amend
The Legal Profession Act, 1990**

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that An Act to amend The Legal Profession Act, 1990 be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 26 — An Act to amend the Statute Law

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that An Act to amend the Statute Law be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

(1430)

Bill No. 27 — An Act respecting Architects

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill respecting Architects be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — If I could have the assistance of a page for tabling the answers to question no. 6. Just open, accessible, honest government. You ask; we answer.

The Speaker: — The answer is tabled.

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, in keeping with an open, accessible government, we're tabling the answer. You ask; we answer. That's the system.

The Speaker: — The answer is tabled.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, hon. members of the House. As you will know, sir, it's the tradition of this Assembly that we take time out fairly early at the beginning of each session to pay tribute to former members who have passed away. Today we shall be remembering six such members, all of whom sacrificed their time and energy to the service of our province.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to note the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr.

Percy Alvin Brown. Mr. Brown died in Victoria on March 2, 1994. He leaves his wife, Ola, and his daughter, Diane, as well as five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown's only son, Kent, passed away unfortunately just a few days ago as well. I sincerely wish to pass along my personal condolences and those of the Assembly to Mrs. Brown.

Percy was born at Lebret on July 12, 1912, and received his education in Melville. In his youth he proved his prowess in the boxing ring, Mr. Speaker, and held the welterweight title for all of western Canada.

In the late 1930s he married Ola Atkey, and they were happily married for 57 years. He was elected to Melville town council in 1951 and returned by acclamation in 1952. That no one chose to contest his election is proof of his huge local popularity.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be able to stand in the House today to commemorate the memory of Mr. Brown. Men or people of his calibre are seldom found anywhere, and certainly this is a characteristic which we seek in people who pursue and follow the interest and devotion to public life.

Those who knew Percy remember him as an honest, gentle, and funny man whose reputation as a tiger in the boxing ring was belied by his rather humble nature. Boxing was a lifelong passion shared by both Percy and, as some members may know, former premier of this province, the Hon. Tommy Douglas. In fact Tommy once visited the Laird Gymnasium here in Regina where Percy was involved with the young boxers of the time. Afterwards, one of the youngsters proudly said, Tommy showed me how to fight. And believe me, at least in one way, we know that Tommy was a fighter.

Percy was a renowned storyteller who often spoke of his days as boxer and gandy-dancer, which as some of the members of the Assembly may be aware of, is a railroad section hand who pounded gravel between the railway ties. This occupation developed his back and arm muscles which aided him of course in the boxing ring.

Mr. Speaker, Percy Brown was an accomplished raconteur. He was a hero to every young boxer — certainly every young boxer in Melville — and he was a champion in every sense of the word. The people who dealt with him as provincial secretary of the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) knew him for his patience and his dedication. He was soft spoken and seldom raised his voice. Both political friends and opponents knew him as a friend, and none forgot his tenacity and endurance in the ring or out of the ring.

At the time that he was sitting, there were two other CCF members with the surname Brown. And Percy, true to his humorous nature, often referred to the trio as the Brown boys. Of these three, Percy, who cut a rather dashing figure of a man, often said: I'm not the most patient, I'm not the best looking, but I am one of the Brown boys.

Mr. Speaker, the members of Percy's day were forward thinking and hard working and certainly very dedicated, and certainly prepared to pursue goals in the face of all kinds of obstacles and

pressures. It was they who laid the groundwork for the social programs pioneered in this province and later copied around the country and some parts of the world. It is because of men like Percy Brown that, by United Nations standards, Saskatchewan today is the best place in the world in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, our condolences go out to Mrs. Brown and her family, especially upon hearing the news that Kent has recently passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore like to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Percy Alvin Brown, who died in Victoria on March 2, 1994, was a member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Melville from 1952 until 1956. Mr. Brown was born at Lebreton on July 19, 1912 and received his education in Melville. In his youth, he excelled at boxing, having held the welterweight title for western Canada. He married Ola Atkey in the late 1930s, a marriage that was to last 57 years.

In his private life, Mr. Brown was a business person. He operated the photo studio in Melville with his brother in the late 1940s. In 1952, he was elected to serve as member of this Legislative Assembly for Melville. He ran again in the 1956 general election but was not re-elected. After leaving provincial politics, Mr. Brown moved with his wife to Pullman, Washington where he pursued his business interests. They returned to Canada in 1974, choosing Victoria as the site of their retirement.

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

I so move.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, on behalf of the official opposition, would like to express our sincere sympathy and condolences to the member Mr. Brown.

Leaders of our communities that have preceded us have set the stage and the challenges that face us now today. And as the Premier has said, Mr. Speaker, those are the people that have prepared a life and been the pioneers of the type of environment that we can enjoy in this great province of ours today.

And I'm proud to be able to speak on behalf of the official opposition for this former member of the Melville constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I again rise to pay tribute this time to the passing of another

former distinguished member of this Assembly, the late Mr. Alexander Cameron of Regina.

Mr. Cameron was born at Avonhurst on June 30, 1907. He leaves to mourn his daughters, Marie and Roselaine, and sons, Stuart and Grant, as well as many grandchildren. Mr. Cameron was predeceased by his wife, Miriam, in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, Alex Cameron was educated at Campion College, which was then affiliated with the University of Ottawa, and after completing his studies there, he attended Normal School at the University of Saskatchewan.

The late Alex Cameron taught in several communities in south-west Saskatchewan and was an ongoing organizing member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. After serving for many years as the principal of the high school in the village of Richmond, in 1941 Alex Cameron ended his teaching career and began a new career as an automobile and implement dealer.

He began his time in public service by first serving as the mayor of Richmond for many years. He was the founding manager of the district credit union and served as an active proponent of the Swift Current health region. He was also active in community service and was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

Alex Cameron was first elected to this Assembly in 1948 and he had a proud and a very distinguished career as a politician and public servant. He proudly held the post of MLA for the constituency of Maple Creek from 1948 to 1971 when he was defeated.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I entered the legislature in 1967 for the first time, and at that time it was my pleasure to serve in this House as a rookie member with the late Alex Cameron.

I can attest to the sterling qualities of this individual. His oratorical skills were a legend. I would say, indeed, are a legend. Colleagues from all sides of the House would be drawn to hear him speak. In fact in those days before television, there were several speakers who could attract all the members, doesn't matter where they were — on a coffee break or attending to constituency business — if the word got out that Alex Cameron was entering the debate. Whether you were on the government side or on the opposition side, you came to the House to listen.

This was not only oratory in the sense of the skill of delivering a speech, but it was oratory in the sense of substance of debate and merit of debate. There were the barbs, gentle — and sometimes a little bit pointed — to individuals, but never on a personal basis. Always there was an argument from principle.

It's not surprising that his skills and experience led him to serve in cabinet in the various posts of minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance, SaskTel, Sask Minerals, and the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. And he was capable and able in the various positions that he held. I can still see him in my mind's eye how he was seated over in the front bench, actually where my colleague is now, the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, that the late Alex Cameron is a person from whom you could learn in another way. I learned very early that while we held our differences here very passionately, even back then — in fact I would argue perhaps then even more so than today — on big issues you could always meet outside the legislature and bury those differences and over coffee discuss individual constituency problems, or the problems of political life and come to agreements to the betterment of the running of this Assembly, the organization of this Assembly, and most importantly, to the betterment of the management of public affairs for people in the province of Saskatchewan. I very often look back on those days with a lot of regret and a great deal of fondness.

It's not, Mr. Speaker, therefore to be much of a surprise to know that in the footsteps of the late Alex Cameron we saw Stuart Cameron, his son, now Mr. Justice Cameron of the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan, take his place in this Assembly.

And here too was a fine person. Slightly different — in some ways I would almost say markedly different than his dad, in as much as Stuart was softer spoken, less prone to the oratorical flare of Alex — but similar to this extent: gentle and always focused on the substance of the debate, the issues of the debate.

Again, a good relationship could be maintained with Stuart, something which obviously his late father had a great influence on him and the contribution that he made to the legislature and now to the people of Saskatchewan on the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said, no matter what his political persuasion, Alex Cameron was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He could always separate himself from politics and relate to people in a very special and personal way.

I think I reflect the feelings of many members of this Assembly when we learned of his death — sadness, sorrow, regret, and yet a celebration in his life and that he shared it with all of us in the province of Saskatchewan in this great country called Canada.

(1445)

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Alexander C. Cameron, who died in Regina on January 16, 1996, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1948 until 1971, representing the constituency of Maple Creek. Mr. Cameron was born on June 30, 1907 at Avonhurst where he received his early schooling. He continued his studies at Campion College and graduated from the University of Ottawa. Later he attended the Normal School and the University of Saskatchewan where he received his teaching certificate. His career as a teacher encompassed periods in several communities in south-west

Saskatchewan, notably Morse and Fox Valley, before assuming the principalship of the Richmond High School.

On February 17, 1935 he married Miriam Stodalka. In 1941, Mr. Cameron left the teaching profession to pursue his business interests as an automobile and implement dealer.

Mr. Cameron's interest in his community is illustrated by the many organizations in which he served and held posts. He was an organizing member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and an overseer of the Village-Trustee Larger School Unit in 1946. He had an active role organizing credit unions in the mid-1940s and was a proponent of the Swift Current health region. He was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

A long tenure as mayor of Richmond marked the beginning of Mr. Cameron's service in the elected office here. This was followed by an even longer tenure as a member of this Assembly. He was first elected in 1948 and re-elected in the five succeeding general elections. Mr. Cameron was responsible for several cabinet portfolios, including Mineral Resources, SaskTel, Saskatchewan Transportation Company, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance. His political career also included the presidency of the provincial Liberal Party.

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

I so move.

Leave granted.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add to the Premier's comments in this House today as we pay tribute to Alex Cameron, a former Liberal member who served in this legislature for 23 years as the member for Maple Creek.

For a quarter of a century and beyond, Mr. Cameron was a stronghold in the Liberal Party. First elected in 1948, he was an integral part of the Liberal Party and the Liberal caucus during some of the most colourful years in Saskatchewan politics.

Before entering politics, Mr. Cameron was dedicated to improving the minds of young people throughout Saskatchewan. He was a teacher in Morse and Fox Valley and spent many years as principal in Richmond. Mr. Cameron's dedication to education also led him to become an active member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

When he was first elected, Alex Cameron probably had no idea how long and prosperous his career as a politician would be. Under the Thatcher government, he served as minister of Mineral Resources, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, SaskTel, Sask Minerals, and the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. He is also renowned as the opposition Finance critic during the years of the Tommy Douglas government.

Mr. Cameron was dedicated to the Liberal cause. A former

party president, he is remembered for his strong principles and great oration. Former Liberal leader Davey Stuart remembers him as, and I quote, "the man who kept the Liberal Party alive in the 1950s."

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour to recognize such a distinguished and respected man in the House today. On behalf of our party and our caucus, I express my gratitude and appreciation to the life and work of a great politician and a great man. Thank you.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay respects to a gentleman who has done a lot for the people in my constituency through the years.

Alex Cameron had a much smaller constituency than we have now, and of course it was called Maple Creek constituency at that time and for many years after. But not to confuse folks, it is of course now called Cypress Hills. And even though his portion of the constituency was somewhat smaller, the reality is that the challenge was just as great for him back in those days when transportation and technology wasn't quite so great.

People who knew Alex knew him as a very modest man, both in the way that he represented himself and the way that he lived. His house still stands today in Richmond, Saskatchewan as a reminder of how humble an individual he was. I was too young to be able to vote for Alex, but I supported his nephew Bill Stodalka as my local MLA when he ran some years later.

Alex Cameron represented the south-west for 23 years in the legislature. But he represented the concerns of the area he came from all of his life and wherever he went. He was a teacher, an overseer of the Village-Trustees Larger School Unit, and played an active role in organizing credit unions and health regions. Alex was a good man and deserved to be re-elected the five times that he was elected.

I want to thank Alex for the contribution he made to improve life for those in the south-west of Saskatchewan and to express our deepest sympathies to his friends and to the family.

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join with other members of this House as we pay tribute to the former member, Alex Cameron, who passed away on January 19, 1996 at the age of 88. And I too extend my most sincere sympathy to his friends and family.

Alex Cameron, as has been stated, was born on June 30, 1907 in Avonhurst, Saskatchewan where he completed his early studies. Mr. Cameron continued his schooling at Campion College in Regina and later attended the University of Ottawa. He later received a certificate in teaching from our University of Saskatchewan.

Following his formal education, Alex Cameron taught in Morse, Saskatchewan and in Fox Valley. And he was later appointed principal of Richmond High School. And in 1941 was when he left teaching to work as an automobile and implement dealer.

Mr. Cameron was also an active organizing member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation as well as the overseer of

the Village-Trustee Larger School Unit. In addition to his numerous contributions to education throughout our province, he played a very active role in organizing credit unions in the mid-1940s and he was also a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

Mr. Cameron's political life began as a mayor of Richmond. And subsequently he was elected as a member for Maple Creek in 1948, and as others have noted, has the incredible accomplishment of having been re-elected five times. During the Douglas government Mr. Cameron served as the opposition Finance critic. He was later appointed, as was most eloquently pointed out by the Premier, to cabinet posts including Mineral Resources, SaskTel, STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company), and SGI. Mr. Cameron was a candidate for the leadership of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party in 1959 and he later became president of the Saskatchewan Liberal Association.

There are several people in the Liberal Party who have spoken to me about Mr. Cameron. I was unfortunately out of the country at the time of his death, and his funeral honouring and celebrating his life. But the people who have spoken to me, Mr. Speaker, have stated that this gentleman was considered, and I quote: "the Liberal of all time." And yet he represented what was considered at the time an arch-conservative region of the province.

He was also called, and I quote a former member of this Legislative Assembly: "the truest of the true Liberals who exuded deep principles and unquestionable integrity." Alex Cameron will be remembered not only for his public service but for the love and the compassion that he showed to his families and the respect that he showed to all the people he met.

He will be sorrowfully missed by his four children, Grant, Stuart, Marie, and Roselaine, and their adorable and adored grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Miriam in 1989. And it's an honour for me to rise today and join with the colleagues in this Assembly to honour this honourable man.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Once more it is with great sadness that I must rise to inform this Assembly of the death of another former member of this House, the late Mr. Lionel Philius Coderre. Mourning Mr. Coderre are his wife of 49 years, Pauline; his children, Claudia, Richard, and Barbara, as well as his grandchildren, brothers and sister and many nieces and nephews. I wish to convey the sympathies of this Assembly to all those who knew and loved Mr. Lionel Coderre. I am sure that he is sorely missed.

Lionel Coderre was a man devoted to public service and he demonstrated his total commitment to his country, province, and community in many, many ways. He was born appropriately in Coderre, Saskatchewan on April 15, 1915. He completed his schooling in Coderre and College Mathieu in Gravelbourg. After completing his schooling, Lionel Coderre began the first of his many successful business ventures, first by selling Rawleigh products and then by working as a nurse in the Provincial Hospital in Weyburn.

In 1939, like so many young men who were to follow, Lionel Coderre enlisted in the army with the South Saskatchewan Regiment. While in the army, his many talents were recognized and he attained the rank of major. During World War II, he took part in the Dieppe Raid, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and was wounded then in Holland in 1945. It was while convalescing from his wounds that he met and later married his wife Pauline.

After recovering, Lionel Coderre again entered the business world, this time as the owner-operator of the local power plant. He later turned a small radio shop into a thriving Marshall Wells hardware store.

In 1956, Lionel Coderre turned his attention and his talents to politics. That year he was elected to the Saskatchewan legislature as the MLA for Gravelbourg. And after 1964, when the late former premier, Ross Thatcher, assumed office, Lionel Coderre held the portfolios of minister of Labour, minister of cooperatives, and later minister of Public Works in the government of Ross Thatcher.

He lost his seat in 1971. And, Mr. Speaker, as it so happens it was also my pleasure to have served for a time with the late Lionel Coderre, entering, as I explained to the members in the remarks I made respecting the late Mr. Alex Cameron, in 1967. It was quite an experience watching these very talented and worldly people like Lionel Coderre, on the front benches.

When you consider his accomplishments and the risks and the sacrifices which he made, say just during the war years, you could see that questions that a rookie like myself or others might direct to him are pretty small potatoes by comparison. A person who was committed and took the risk of laying down his life for his country could easily handle any of the issues of the day.

And Lionel Coderre had a certain sense of balance about him. There was also a certain quickness to his temper. I recall on many occasions when — on a few occasions I should say, not on many occasions — when you could get to him with an argument or a particular position taken, and Lionel Coderre would explode. I mean this in the best sense of the word. You didn't see papers flying, but he had a rise in his voice, a change of complexion in his face, kind of a speeded-up delivery. And we felt always, in opposition, that if we worked Lionel Coderre the right way we could perhaps needle him into saying something or doing something that would prove embarrassing to the government. No such luck.

He was always able to carry out his duties with aplomb. It was not an easy period in governments in 1964 to 1971, marked by very serious debates about deterrent fees in medicare, the trade union legislation — a variety of matters which came before the House. And Lionel's job at one point, as minister of Labour, was very difficult, especially as it came immediately after the election of the Thatcher government after 20 years of Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd.

And you can imagine the change in philosophy and direction that he was asked to guide through this House with respect to

legislation. It made for interesting times for him. And he conducted it always in a sense of principle and ideas and kept it away from personalities and focused his attention to try and improve public life the way that I would like to think all of us are also dedicated.

Well when he lost his seat in 1971 with the election of the Blakeney government, Lionel Coderre went into retirement and enjoyed a very active retirement, continuing his involvement in politics, I think until about 1980. He also spent many hours with his ham radio — ham radio operator — computers, something which I can't figure out even today, Mr. Speaker, and meeting with his many, many friends.

(1500)

Mr. Speaker, I know that he will be missed by all who knew him. He was a great public servant. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Lionel Philius Coderre, who died on August 3, 1995 in Regina, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Gravelbourg from 1956 until 1971. Mr. Coderre was born on April 15, 1915 in the town that bore his family's name. He began his schooling in Coderre and completed it at College Mathieu in Gravelbourg. He then embarked on the first of his many business endeavours, selling household products. A period working as a nurse in the provincial hospital in Weyburn followed.

In 1939 Mr. Coderre answered the call of his country and enlisted in the South Saskatchewan Regiment. He was a participant in the ill-fated Canadian raid on Dieppe and was twice mentioned in dispatches. His distinguished record saw him attain the rank of major and command of his own company. Mr. Coderre's active service came to an end in 1945 when he was wounded in Holland. It was during his convalescence that he met and married Pauline Graf.

Mr. Coderre returned to his community and his business pursuits. Initially he bought and operated the local power plant for 10 years. His interest in radios then came to the fore with a thriving radio shop. Not content to simply sell and repair small appliances and do wiring in the community, Lionel Coderre used his ham radio equipment to keep the Franciscan Fathers — if you'll believe this, Mr. Speaker — in Peru in touch with their family and friends at the St. Michael's Retreat House and right around the province of Saskatchewan.

Lionel Coderre entered provincial politics in 1956 by winning the Gravelbourg constituency. He successfully retained that constituency in three subsequent general elections. Mr. Coderre held the ministerial portfolios of Labour and of Co-operation and Co-operative

Development from 1964 until 1970. At that time, he assumed responsibility for Public Works.

Mr. Coderre's keen interest in political affairs continued until after he left office, lessening only in the mid-1980s when he stepped aside for a new generation to take the reins.

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

I so move Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour to have an opportunity to speak on behalf of my colleagues here today, with a great deal of respect for a gentleman who unfortunately I did never have the opportunity to meet in this life. A person who, I am told by a number of people that are in my constituency, was a rather distinguished gentleman in every respect.

Major Lionel Coderre, as the Premier so mentioned, had a very distinguished war record. He also applied himself with a great deal of dedication to all of his endeavours in terms of business, and some of those being a hardware dealer, electrician, a number of other small enterprises in the town of Coderre. And again served with dedication in various ministries, as the Premier mentioned earlier.

Also a great family man, I'm told. He is recalled also with a, with a good deal of fondness by Mr. Alex Mitchell who is in my constituency. And again always stated how dedicated a gentleman that Mr. Coderre was.

So if I might again just express our most sincere sympathy on behalf of my colleagues here today. Thank you.

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join with all members of this Assembly in honouring the memory of Lionel Coderre who died on August 3, 1995. Of all the former members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker — I have had the pleasure of meeting several — Mr. Coderre was among the most interesting. Mr. Coderre, as you know, was born on April 15, 1915, in the community named for his own family. It was in Coderre, Saskatchewan that he completed his grade school and after which he attended College Mathieu in Gravelbourg.

Mr. Coderre began his career in selling household products and later was employed by the provincial hospital in Weyburn as a nurse. When World War II broke out he enlisted in the South Saskatchewan Regiment in 1939. Mr. Coderre became a distinguished, successful soldier, being part of the raid on Dieppe. He was later promoted to Major and commanded his own company. And his military career ended in 1945 when he was wounded in Holland. During his convalescence he met and married his wife, Pauline Graf.

Following his efforts in World War II, Mr. Coderre returned to Saskatchewan to buy and operate the local power plant in

Coderre and subsequently he opened a shop to sell and service radio electronics in the Coderre area.

Mr. Coderre first sought office in 1956 in the Gravelbourg constituency and was re-elected in three succeeding general elections. During his terms in the legislature, he was appointed to several ministerial portfolios, including Co-operative Development and Public Works. But he took on a very, very difficult portfolio of Labour in the Thatcher government, an administration not noted for its good relations with the labour movement.

Lionel Coderre was truly a politician ahead of his time, Mr. Speaker. Those of us who knew him were always impressed by his tenacity, his intelligence, and his honesty. He always cared for the common citizen. Even after his defeat in 1971, he continued to volunteer for the local food bank and to aid his acquaintances, his friends, and his family in every way possible. Everyone knew him as an advocate for the poor and underprivileged and his former colleagues from all political stripes have stated that the Assembly was enhanced by his presence here.

Lionel Coderre loved his country; he loved his province; he loved his fellow citizens; but his first love was always his family. He is survived by his wife Pauline, his children, Claudia, Richard, and Barbara, and the lights of his life, his grandchildren, Anika, Marc, and Nicholas.

Now in Lionel's own words, Mr. Speaker, I will end with this quote:

It is my hope that my sons and daughters will remember me when I'm gone, not just for the battles of my life — politics and war — but in memories of our home.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I must sadly inform this Assembly of the death of another former member of this Assembly, the late Mr. Ernest Franklin Gardner. Mr. Gardner, better known as John Gardner — that's how I knew him — died on Saturday, May 13, 1995 at the age of 72 years after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He leaves to mourn his wife Ruth, his sons, Don, Ron, Dean, and Glen as well as 16 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and many other family members. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pass this Assembly's most sincere condolences on to Mr. Gardner's family and friends.

John Gardner served as a member of this Assembly for the constituency of Moosomin from 1965, when he was elected in a by-election, until 1975. He held numerous positions with the government of the day including minister of Public Works from 1965 to 1967, and as Chair of a little known but as it turns out in my mind a very important committee function, as Chair of the Saskatchewan Flag Selection Committee.

I want to depart from my written notes to say that as is the history I suppose in things of this nature, the debate surrounding the selection of the Saskatchewan flag tended to be

rather emotional and heated at times. It certainly proved to be that way in the case of the federal government's selection of our national emblem.

And John Gardner's task as Chair of the Flag Selection Committee was not made any easier by the various submissions by people who took an intense interest in the chronology and the history of our people and our province, and the heraldry and all of the symbols which go into the proper selection of a flag. I think they did a pretty good job. I love the Saskatchewan flag as much as I do the Canadian flag.

And at the time, the controversy seemed maybe to even endanger the political career of not only John Gardner, but of the government of the day. But it proves again that if you really apply your mind to doing what's right, what's proper, and what's correct, even if you make mistakes, you're going to win out at the end. And we won out at the end with John Gardner's activity on this particular committee.

John demonstrated his community-mindedness in a number of ways, including terms on the Kipling Hospital Board and the Cannington Home Care Board. He was actively involved in the Royal Canadian Legion, and in his later years he served on the executives of the Southeast Regional Library, the Saskatchewan Library Trustee Board, and the local Kennedy board, Kennedy, Saskatchewan being his home town.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I told you that he was first elected to this Assembly in 1965 in a by-election and I mentioned Kennedy, Saskatchewan. And I want to tell you that's when I first met John Gardner. Hard to believe that a young person like myself would have that kind of a connection back, but it's true. I was at that time a very young — not even sure admitted yet, maybe articling student — lawyer to a Saskatoon law firm who had as one of its members a very distinguished Saskatchewan person, a Canadian by the name of George Taylor.

And the '64 election produced the defeat of Woodrow Lloyd's government. In some ways it was a narrow victory by the Liberal Party and there were a number of contested seats as a result of that general election situation. One of those was down in the Moosomin area and a controvert was in process. And we were hired, at least George Taylor's firm was hired — I was there as an employee and a person basically carrying George's bags; those who will know George know that that's more true both in substance and appearance than you might care to think — to go down there to act on behalf of the CCF-NDP.

And we were collecting affidavits and doing all the things needed to be done with respect to the controverts. And I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, it was one of the hottest several days in Saskatchewan's history, at least I thought. I don't know what the records show, but man oh man, it was hot. And every step that you took, sweat was coming out of the forehead and you could barely do your work. And all of a sudden there was a honk of a car. It was John Gardner and his lawyer and his campaign manager calling me over — I was there by myself at this particular day trying to get the evidence, as it were — to join him in his car which had the God-given luxury, as I look back at it now, of having air-conditioning.

An Hon. Member: — Probably a LeBaron in those days.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — It was a LeBaron wasn't it? A nice Chrysler LeBaron. And so there we were. We sat down in the car and he turned on the air-conditioning, and the discussion turned to the fact that we had competing visions. I was not in politics, I was in law. But here was a highly educated, intelligent man. John Gardner, in fact, in addition to being in farming, was also involved in the university world, as the member from Saskatoon Greystone knows for sure.

And from that moment I didn't know that I was going to run in the 1967 general provincial election. In fact my own personal intentions were not to enter politics, certainly not provincial politics. And there it was. The controvert produced the by-election, the by-election produced the victory of John Gardner — I think my colleague will have a word or two to say about that, the member from Regina — and he served subsequently in a number of capacities, minister of Public Works from '65 to '67. I've already told you about the flag work as well.

And in this House, Mr. Speaker, he was again one of the gentle creatures of this Assembly. And I don't mean in demeanour, lurking under the demeanour a ferocity or an anger, which sometimes happens from time to time in the make-up of individuals. But I mean truly a gentle man and a gentle person. And while he held his views passionately, he had a certain academic disposition to him, as demonstrated by his career at the university and the like, which permitted easy access and easy discussion with him.

I very much am a strong proponent of this man's contribution. And I say that we should all be very, very proud that we had the honour and the privilege to have in our midst, in our public life, a man of the quality, the ability, and the integrity of the late John Gardner.

(1515)

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore like to move, seconded again by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Ernest Franklin (John) Gardner, who died on May 13, 1995, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Moosomin from 1965 to 1975. Better known as John, Mr. Gardner was born on January 5, 1923 in Kennedy, Saskatchewan. He completed his early schooling there before continuing his education at the University of Saskatchewan. He enrolled in mechanical engineering but interrupted his studies to serve in the Second World War. He trained as a pilot and navigator with the Royal Canadian Air Force and rose to the rank of pilot officer. After the war he returned to the university to complete his studies.

Mr. Gardner's first employment position was as a selection officer with the federal civil service. Subsequently he returned to his farming background, combining winter months teaching at the Saskatoon campus of the University of Saskatchewan with summers working his land. Mr. Gardner's commitment to the university did not end with his retirement from teaching but continued up until his passing. He was serving his second term as a member of the University senate. Besides his chosen professions, John Gardner was an active participant in a variety of community organizations. He served as a councillor for the rural municipality of Wawken and as mayor of Kennedy. The Kipling Hospital Board and the Cannington Home Care Board also benefited from his membership as did the Royal Canadian Legion.

Mr. Gardner next turned his attention to provincial concerns on June 30, 1965 when he was elected to this Assembly in a by-election. He retained his seat in the general election of 1967 and again in 1971.

During his terms of office he held numerous positions, most notably as the minister of Public Works from 1965 to 1967 and as Chair of the Saskatchewan Flag Selection Committee. He also served on the executive of the Saskatchewan branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I might deviate from the motion to say, another important organization of this Assembly which should be supported by all members.

In his later years, Mr. Gardner enjoyed long tenures on the executive of the Southeast Regional Library, the Saskatchewan Library Trustee Board, and the local Kennedy board. He also chaired the Regina Rural Health Region from 1988 to 1994.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

Leave granted.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan and members of our caucus, I would also like to recognize the late Ernest John Gardner, a former member of this legislature.

Mr. Gardner's 10-year term as Liberal MLA began when he won a by-election in Moosomin constituency in 1965. His predecessor, Hammy McDonald, had been named to the Senate, so he had big shoes to fill. But according to those who knew him, John Gardner had no trouble filling those shoes.

Members of the Liberal Party remember him as a progressive and educated farmer whose dedication and vision helped him define his success. He was a modern thinker with an old-fashioned commitment to hard work and honesty.

John Gardner was a vital part of Ross Thatcher's government and a key member of the cabinet. Besides taking on the role of

deputy premier, he held the portfolios of Agriculture minister and minister of Public Works.

But not all his successes came in this House. He was also a respected councillor for the RM of Wawken and he was mayor of Kennedy. His dedication and forward thinking also showed in his work with organizations such as the Kipling Hospital Board, the Legion, the Cannington Home Care Board, the Southeast Regional Library Board, and his own local library board.

He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather, and a very strong family man. Perhaps this is his greatest legacy of all.

I join with the Premier and other members in this House in paying tribute to this man who gave his time and his devotion to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people in his generation and in many generations to come.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to stand today on behalf of the PC (Progressive Conservative) caucus and on behalf of the Moosomin constituency to pay homage to Mr. Ernest Franklin Gardner, the former MLA for Moosomin.

Mr. Gardner, or John, as he was known, was an individual who truly understood the words of duty and dedication. His dedication to his fellow citizens was evident in many ways. Although he ultimately was educated as a mechanical engineer, he put that on hold during the Second World War to serve in the Royal Canadian Air Force. His dedication was demonstrated again in his early employment history when he served in the federal civil service as a selection officer.

Mr. Gardner epitomized much of what we think of as a Saskatchewan way of life. Although he ultimately made his career teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, he stuck close to his rural roots by returning to work on his family farm every summer.

On his retirement from teaching, Mr. Gardner displayed again his characteristic sense of duty, his active interest in community groups — his work as an RM councillor, his term as mayor of Kennedy, and his service to the Kipling Hospital Board, and the Cannington Home Care Board, as well as library boards in the area. And it was my pleasure to serve with Mr. Gardner, both on the hospital board and on the Kennedy Library Board.

All of these things and many more show how the needs of others was always foremost in his mind. I find it quite moving to note that right up until his passing, Mr. Gardner continued his work as a member of the university senate.

Of course in remembering Mr. Gardner's service to his community, it is impossible to ignore the time he spent here as the MLA for the constituency of Moosomin, the constituency I now represent. I know from talking to my constituents that Mr. Gardner is still held in the highest regard by those he knew and those whose lives he touched. We have heard already Mr. Gardner's distinguished political history. I think it is important to recall, his service as an MLA and as a minister was only one

part of a life of devotion to the good of the community.

Despite his long battle with cancer he maintained a keen interest in provincial politics. My slimmest of marginal victories in the 1991 election may have been due to a letter to the editor just before election day when Mr. Gardner suggested Liberals could be liberal again.

In officially recording the deep sense of loss and bereavement, the third party caucus would like to affirm the Premier's motion and extend our most profound sympathy and our most sincere respect to his wife Ruth, and family, and all other members of the Gardner family.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by reiterating that it has been an honour for me, on behalf of the PC caucus and the Moosomin constituency, to take part in paying respects to such a fine man, Ernest Gardner.

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well it is with both pride and sorrow that I join with other members in this House to honour the memory of the former member, John Gardner, who passed away on May 13, 1995. And I extend to the family of Mr. Gardner my most sincere sympathy.

Mr. Gardner was born on January 5, 1923 in Kennedy, Saskatchewan where he completed his schooling. And he later attended, as has been cited, the University of Saskatchewan where he was working toward a degree in mechanical engineering. He interrupted his university education to serve his country, and he served his country as a pilot and then as a pilot officer in World War II. He then returned to our province and completed his studies after the war. Upon completing his university education, John served with the federal civil service. And he loved farming so much that he decided to return to farming while teaching at the University of Saskatchewan in the off-season.

Mr. Gardner's career in public office began as a councillor in the municipality of Wawken and he later was the mayor of Kennedy. Mr. Gardner was elected to this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Moosomin in a by-election held on June 30, 1965. He was subsequently re-elected in 1967 and in 1971. Mr. Gardner served as the minister of Public Works from 1965 to 1967. And during this time, was the period in which the Premier referred, he was the Chair of the Saskatchewan Flag Selection Committee and an executive member of the Saskatchewan branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mr. Gardner also served as an executive on the Southeast Regional Library and later on the Saskatchewan Library Trustee Board and the local Kennedy board. As well, he chaired the Regional Rural . . . pardon me, Regina Rural Health Region from 1988 to 1994.

Mr. Gardner was a most respected MLA who fought tirelessly for Liberal principles. According to his Liberal colleagues at the time, he worked very, very hard to keep caucus in the Thatcher Liberal government on the centre of the political spectrum. According to one respected colleague who cited this:

The record will show that John lost as often as he won but he never ever stopped trying.

John Gardner will be remembered by all as a man who most certainly stood for his convictions regardless of the circumstances surrounding him. And I wish to thank, in this forum and on this public record, Mr. John Gardner for his very kind support of me. Mr. Gardner is lovingly remembered by all who knew him, but especially by his wife Ruth; his children, Don, Ron, Dean, and Glen; their 16 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Thank you very much. I'm going to be relatively brief. I did have the . . . it was a pleasure to have contested an election with Mr. Gardner. He was, as the Premier stated, he was the candidate in 1965 when the former leader of the Liberal Party had retired and taken a seat in the Senate. He was our candidate.

The CCF-NDP, as they then called themselves, blamed themselves for the loss of that by-election — they felt they should have won it — and handled it very badly. The same was true in . . . '67 was not a great election for the CCF-NDP. There were some notable exceptions to that. But in 1971 again blamed themselves for having lost that election . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . that's right, exactly. The member from Kindersley says, all these flukes. That was exactly right. We were very slow to admit that John Gardner was actually very difficult to defeat.

He was a real gentleman. And it was partially a difference in the style of politics at the time. One of the changes I think was the television in the House, but there was a different atmosphere. We were members of a profession, and the relationship between us as professionals mattered to us, And we didn't always . . . sometimes allowed the public political concerns to come between us. More often we did not.

I once remember, as a lawyer, sharing a taxi to the court-house with an esteemed member of the bar. We had a case against each other. My client got into a terrible fit about it and . . . (inaudible) . . . chamber's application. When the chamber's application was done, I told him to take his file and get out of the office. One of the real pleasures of practising in a small town, you can do that with a fair amount of impunity. My relationship with my professional brethren was more important than a relationship with a client.

That was also true of politicians of the day in a way. And that has passed, and I really regret that. I think the public are ill-served by the current mood in which it's sort of total warfare. We try to destroy each other. I think we are not always well served by the current relationship we have with each other.

It was also partially though the individual. He was of a sort. If he saw you struggling down the street on a hot day he would stop the car, invite you into his car to cool off in his air-conditioned Chrysler. Air-conditioned cars weren't all that common in those days.

I remember I was the victim of his good manners in some way. I remember going to a hockey banquet; to my chagrin, who was chairing the hockey banquet but none other than the MLA,

somewhat to my surprise. I say I was a victim of it because it was not treated with any discourtesy; the opposite was true. He made a point of introducing me; did so in the most civil way: "Everybody has opponents; I have an opponent; I want you to meet him, Ned Shillington." And I felt about that high.

And I learned a little from John Gardner about treating opponents in elections. I learned to treat opponents with respect and you in turn gain public respect. So if I learned anything at all from John Gardner, I learned manners in the political sphere. He was a gentleman. He served his constituency well, and I want to add my condolences to the members of his family whom I knew and have met on many occasions. I want to forward my condolences to them as well, for someone who was a gentleman and he served his constituency very well.

Motion agreed to.
(1530)

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I sorrowfully rise today to inform this Assembly of yet another death of a former member of this Assembly, the late Mr. Frank Kenneth Radloff. Frank Radloff leaves to mourn, his wife Inez and four children; Sharon, Shirley, Spencer, and Debbie. Mr. Radloff was well known and respected within his community and across the province. He dedicated himself to serving in a number of capacities including school trustee, member of the Elks' lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Rotary Club. And he also served as mayor of Nipawin for many years. The esteem in which he is held in Nipawin is clearly demonstrated by the fact that a new subdivision there will be named Radloff Place in his honour, and quite appropriately so.

As so often happens with those who serve in municipal politics, Frank Radloff turned his attention to the provincial political realm. And he was elected as a member of this House in 1964 and was successful in retaining his seat in the 1967 election. Mr. Speaker, at that time I entered the House and this was another acquaintance, and I would say even friend, that was a colleague of mine and a friend and acquaintance as a result of my election at that time.

Frank served in the back benches, as the term is used, and on various committees of the House, various committees of the legislature, and various other duties as assigned by the government of the day to him.

And I want to say that, especially from the position which I now hold for the time being, how important it is in the working of a parliamentary democratic system that we understand that we are all equals essentially in this House; that we all play a function, which is to improve the quality of service and improve the quality of life for people, but we may do it in various capacities. I often say to my caucus that a cabinet is no more, no less, than a committee of caucus. And we have several committees of caucus and we have several committees of the legislature. And each one of us in our various committees can play a very important role in the shaping and the development of public policy.

Most recently, the example, sir, of yourself as one of the members of the committee respecting the question of drinking

and driving and the introduction of legislation — which has yet to be debated of course — I think is an example of powerful public policy which is initiated in a way other than what the journalists sometimes think is the only way that legislation or action is initiated; namely through cabinet. It is initiated through individual MLAs and committees.

Frank Radloff was that kind of a person, who served with integrity and independence, always loyal to the Liberal Party and the Liberal cause, always loyal to the government and the leader of the day. And in his loyalty and in his devotion to committee service he contributed mightily to the seven years, '64 to '71, of the Thatcher administrations. Believe me, I know that Ross Thatcher relied on that loyalty, on that sincerity, knowing that Frank Radloff would take on the various functions which were available to the people of the House — not available to the people of this House — which it is the duty of the members of this House to undertake in this view and in these roles.

Frank was fairly — how should I describe this? — opinionated. Perhaps that's the wrong word to use on a condolence motion but he had strong views about many things. And that period, as has been pointed out by myself and the member from Greystone, was a period where there was for the first time after 20 years, a different ideology in place. And the debates were sharp; Frank's views with respect to those debates were equally as sharp.

But there's another aspect about that period as well. On the national scene we saw a very difficult situation in Quebec with street protests culminating in the Quebec crisis of 1970.

I remember a large debate in this House about whether or not the emergency measures Act as introduced by Mr. Trudeau should be supported by this Assembly and the various feelings which were felt by members of the day. Frank was opinionated and he had a view on this. We used to try to tease him.

One day, one of the members on our side — I don't know who it was, Mr. Speaker — wrote him a two-word note. It simply said, "Viva Luega." I don't know what it means. In fact I turned around to the House leader on this side to make sure that I have not used a phrase which is inappropriate, but that was what was written on the note. I was shown the note. I said, what does it mean and why are you sending it to Frank? He said, I think it means "Long live the revolution." He said, I think it's going to get under Frank's skin. Let's just see what happens.

So we — I shouldn't say we — one of the members called over the page and asked that the page do the appropriate thing, as sometimes pages are asked to do. And then they just slip out one of the side doors and around and back and so forth so that the page could not show the trail from the sender of the note to Frank Radloff who was seated in the back bench in high-spirited debate of the motion. And he opens up this note. And you could see his face turn eight or nine shades of white, pink, orange, fuchsia, bright flaming red, asking the page, where did it come from? Of course she was sworn to secrecy and did not tell.

Then the note was shown to some colleagues and then he points

over to me and said out loud, Romanow, you did it. What did I do? I didn't do anything. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I did not.

And I thought at this stage in the game, I had really betrayed a friendship of a person who I quite liked. There was blunt talk with Frank. I could hardly wait until adjournment because I wanted to go over to him and say look, I had nothing to do with this and I hope it's okay with you.

Well much to my easing of mind and I might say joy, Frank had no ill feelings at all, notwithstanding the fact that he felt that the note was in some way treacherous or a betrayal or perhaps maybe even unloyal, disloyal in the context of the debate of the moment and of the period. And he said to me, he said, I think, Romanow, you did it. I'm not going to tell anybody that you did it. He said, but what does it mean? I said, I don't know what it means. I think it means, long live the revolution. Frankly, what I really meant to say was long live the Liberal revolution — with a wink.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — And he gave me a wink back; we had a laugh about it. And that was it, on that occasion. Campaigning against him in 1967 — I campaigned in my own riding, but also in several other ridings in 1971 — it was always a treat, because as my colleague, the House Leader pointed out in reference to John Gardner, it was the nature of campaigning in those days that you did not try to belittle or demean, on a personal basis, opponents.

It was the basis of campaigns that you could certainly tell the community, look, that person stands for all of these issues and ideas which are wrong, and I stand for all these issues which are right. But there he is, trying to serve, or there she is trying to serve the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

It wasn't uncommon to have our paths cross during the campaign trail. In 1971, I remember driving up there for a rally, the election of . . . (inaudible) . . . and Frank was on the main street knowing full well that our rally was taking place that night. And, Mr. Speaker, it was a grand rally because the government was about to be defeated and everybody comes out on those occasions. Believe me, those are the highs of political life.

But one could take time to stop the car and speak to Frank. Where are you off to? Off to the rally to campaign against you; I hope you don't mind. Well no, just say a few kind words about me and good luck; I think a lot of those people will be mine there, in any event. It was that kind of an exchange. And he could take it and he could give it, and you'd take it in the same spirit.

Well I think this is a great quality, and Frank Radloff, no wonder he was such a dominant force in municipal politics and served so well in this House. He was very much held in esteem and I personally will miss him.

So Mr. Radloff was elected, as I said, in '64 and re-elected in '67. He is going to be sadly missed and fondly remembered by those with whom he worked over the many years of public

service.

And so again, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Frank Kenneth Radloff, who died in Nipawin on May 15, 1995, was a member of this Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Nipawin from 1964 to 1971. Mr. Radloff was born in Star City, Saskatchewan on December 9, 1916 and attended local public and high schools. On June 30, 1938, he married Inez Nygaard and together they had four children.

A merchant by trade, Frank Radloff distinguished himself in his chosen career and in his service to his community. He was president, shareholder and manager of Seruw Stores Limited and received the Master Retailer Award for Saskatchewan in 1964.

He served for a decade as a school trustee from 1942 until 1952. Mr. Radloff devoted 21 years, Mr. Speaker, as mayor of the town of Nipawin, serving first from 1953 to 1963 and again, after his defeat in '71, from 1974 to 1985. (That's quite a record.) Local service clubs also benefited from Frank's time and efforts. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Elks lodge and the Rotary Club. He was an honorary member of the Canadian Legion. His leisure interests were reflected in his involvement with the Nipawin Curling Club and the Nipawin Golf Club.

Mr. Radloff's provincial political career began as a candidate for the Liberal Party in the 1960 general election. Although he was unsuccessful at this time, he did win election in 1964 and again in 1967. Frank Radloff sought a third term in the 1971 general election but did not retain his seat.

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

I so move. Thank you.

Leave granted.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to extend the sympathy of the Liberal opposition to the memory of Frank Radloff. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Radloff subsequent to 1991, when I first became involved in politics. And it's with a great deal of regret today that I have to acknowledge that in intervening years he had offered at some occasions for us to sit down and he would tell me some stories about his career in politics. And after hearing the Premier relate a story about the note-passing, I now very much regret that I don't have a wealth of stories to add to that because they may

get closer to the bottom of who was really responsible in those days.

I also would like to — although there is some repetition — to read into the record some of the information that I have. And I particularly want to do it because Frank's widow was kind enough to provide me with this information when she knew that this acknowledgement of his public career was going to happen.

Frank Radloff was born at Star City, Saskatchewan where he was raised and educated. On June 30, 1939 he married Inez Nygaard, and they resided on a farm for a year, when they moved to Nipawin.

Frank and Inez owned and operated Seruw Stores Limited in Nipawin. Frank was very active in community development and served in numerous capacities. As the Premier mentioned, he was the mayor of Nipawin for 22 years. He was also the chairman of the Nipawin School Board for 10 years. He was a member of the Saskatchewan legislature for eight years, during which time he was a secretary to the Hon. Douglas McFarlane.

Frank was also a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. A Rotarian, he received the Paul Harris Fellow in 1985. He represented the Rotary Club District 555 in a friendship exchange in India, Philippines, and South Africa. He was a recipient of a 25-year IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) pin for his years of service.

Frank Radloff also earned many awards. In 1952 the degree of Honorary Citizen of Nipawin was conferred by the Nipawin Composite High School. In 1953, by command of Her Majesty the Queen, a medal was conferred on Frank Radloff.

In 1963, in Saskatoon, the Golden Jubilee Award in recognition of outstanding contribution to retailing and service to his community by the retail merchants of Canada. In 1964 a Master Retailer Distinguished Award was presented by Saskatchewan retail merchants association.

In 1965 Frank Radloff was honoured by the Saskatchewan Liberal Association and presented with a scroll written by Premier Ross Thatcher which read, "A tribute of appreciation and gratitude for your work as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan."

(1545)

In 1983 an honorary membership in the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. In 1983 as well, a special merit certificate for 35 years of devoted and unselfish work in the Nipawin Rotary Club. In 1985, Radloff Day was celebrated to honour Frank and Inez Radloff.

It was because of Frank Radloff's political clout and his commitment to the community that many improvements were made in that area. Frank Radloff was very proud and always tried to be in attendance at his family's accomplishments.

Left to treasure his memory are his wife, Inez, currently of Nipawin; his daughter Sharon of Saskatoon; grandchildren Byron and Kim and great-grandchildren Jason and Jasmin; daughter Shirley of Nipawin; grandchildren Dylan, Candice,

and Wade; son Spencer of Calgary; daughter Debbie of Kingston, Ontario; grandchildren Kaili and Bryn.

Frank Radloff was a man who always had time to hear what the other person had to say. Whether it was early or late in the day, his life was lived caring for others.

This poem by an unknown author was Frank Radloff's favourite, and I would like to end by reading it into the record in his memory:

Take time to live; it is the secret of success.
Take time to think; it is the source of power.
Take time to play; it is the source of youth.
Take time to read; it is the foundation of knowledge.
Take time for friendship; it is the source of happiness.
Take time to laugh; it lifts life's load.
Take time to worship; it is the highway to reverence.
Take time to pray; it helps bring God near and washes
the dust of earth from our eyes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well it is with great sadness that I join all the members of this Assembly to pay tribute to the memory of the former member, Frank Radloff, who passed away on May 15 of this past year. And I too extend to his family and friends my most sincere condolences.

A merchant by trade, Frank Radloff was a very prominent business person who was respected by all who came to know him, those who he serviced and those with whom he worked. He began his career as president, shareholder and manager of Seruw Stores in Nipawin and received the Master Retailer Award for Saskatchewan in 1964.

As was cited earlier, his career in public service began by serving as a school board member from 1942 to 1952. And immediately following this became the mayor of Nipawin and known by all throughout the province of Saskatchewan as that community's most ardent supporter.

Mr. Radloff first sought political office in 1960 for the riding of Nipawin. And while his initial candidacy was unsuccessful, he was elected in the two subsequent general elections of 1964 and 1967. Frank's history of serving the public goes well beyond his political career. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Elk's Lodge, the Rotary Club, and an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion. During his leisure time he belonged to the Nipawin Curling Club and the Nipawin Golf Club.

Now I do want to share some comments by a former colleague in this House that add to and give further insight into Frank's character. She said, and I quote — and this is from Sally Merchant:

Frank was a gentle, gentle soul who always knew exactly what was important. He was a relentless advocate for his community of Nipawin which he called the pearl of the pines. He gave up a great deal to be in the Legislative

Assembly and brought the prestige of his own background and superb qualities to this Assembly.

Indeed what she was talking about with me this week, as did some other members of this House, they said that with the kinds of individuals we've been honouring today, they actually elevated the Legislative Assembly by their presence.

So left to treasure the memory of Frank are his wife Inez; his children Sharon, Shirley, Spencer, and Debbie; their seven grandchildren and their two great-grandchildren.

So, Mr. Speaker, our province as we know, was built on vision and commitment of generations past, be they Liberal, Conservative, New Democrat, CCF, and just so many others who had vision and commitment. I am most privileged to join with everyone to honour the memory of Frank Radloff who served us so very well.

Hon. Mr. Renaud: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with others today in offering my sincere condolences to Mrs. Inez Radloff and her family on the passing of Frank. Frank Radloff's life was dedicated to his community and his province. As a member of this House in the 1960s, he vigorously promoted the needs of his constituency. He promoted a vision of economic development in the north-east. He was a great promoter of Nipawin area, and saw a great future in tourism, especially fishing on Codette Lake, and the potential for further hydroelectric development on the Saskatchewan River at Nipawin. Many of the projects that he envisioned have come to pass, and still there are some that remain to be completed.

Mr. Radloff was also entrusted by the people of Nipawin to serve as their mayor for over 20 years both before and after his term as member of this Assembly. And before that he had served for 10 years as a school trustee.

Mr. Radloff didn't stop at elected services, as was mentioned earlier. He was also very involved in the Legion, the Forester's Lodge, the Elks, the Rotary Club, the Nipawin golf and curling clubs. On top of all his community commitments, Mr. Speaker, he was also a respected business person.

As I mentioned in my reply to the Speech from the Throne, the north-east is still an area of our province where the pioneer era is a time of living memory, and Frank Radloff was one of those pioneers.

Mr. Radloff devoted over 50 years of elected service to the people of Nipawin. And his long public life and leadership in his community played a large role in making Nipawin the thriving and healthy community that it is today. I know that the family of Frank Radloff are very proud of his efforts to make Nipawin and area a better place to live. And I, Mr. Speaker, am very proud to be able to serve in the same constituency that Frank Radloff served some 30 years ago.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I sadly rise today to inform this Assembly of the death of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Russel Allan Sutor. He died September 23, 1995 in Fort Lauderdale after a short illness. Mr. Sutor is survived by

his mother, Anetta, and stepfather, Ross Atkinson, who currently reside in British Columbia; his brother Don Sutor and his sister Dianne Lasek.

Born in Mossbank on April 24, 1951, Mr. Sutor was 31 years of age when he was first elected to the Legislative Assembly as MLA for Regina Northeast in 1982. After three years of service to the people of this province, he resigned his seat for business and personal reasons.

Mr. Sutor was well-known in Regina for his business enterprises, including ownership of a travel agency, a delivery service, and at one time, I believe the Inntowner motel.

After his resignation to the legislature, Mr. Sutor retired and moved to Florida where he lived for the 10 years prior to his death.

While he did not serve in this House for a long period, Mr. Speaker, he did serve the people of Saskatchewan well. Mr. Sutor sat on the government side but along with the opposition members on that side of the House. I was not with him because when he entered the House, I exited the House courtesy of voters of Riversdale and with their blessing.

And it was a rather boisterous group of government MLAs at the time, as I'm told, because after, again, a long period of administration of a certain ideology with the election of the Devine administration and people like Mr. Sutor, a new agenda was on the table for Saskatchewan. It was a boisterous group of government MLAs. Perhaps those who will speak to Mr. Sutor's memory can say more specifically a few words about that.

But I was told, and from what I could observe by watching on occasion this new thing on television called the legislative proceedings of the Assembly, that Russ Sutor stood out as the quiet and reflective one. He was a true gentleman with a gentle nature and we were saddened to hear of his passing at such an early age.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Russel Allan Sutor, who died in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on September 23, 1995, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Regina Northeast from 1982 to 1985. He was born on April 24, 1951 at Mossbank, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Sutor established his credentials as a businessman. He owned a variety of businesses, including a travel agency, a delivery service, and a Regina motel.

Mr. Sutor entered provincial politics at the young age of 31 by winning a seat in the 1982 general election. Initially he served as a government back-bencher but was later given a

position as legislative secretary to the minister of Economic Development and Trade. Mr. Sutor resigned his seat in April 1985, citing personal and business reasons for doing so.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

Leave granted.

Mr. Osika: — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add my voice of sympathy, sincere sympathy to the bereaved family on behalf of the official opposition and the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan. For someone to have reached the pinnacle of life, and being honoured by being elected to this Assembly is an achievement that should be recognized and very honourable.

I would just like to once again express our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family and acknowledge the service to the people of Saskatchewan that Mr. Sutor had given during his lifetime.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus to Russ Sutor, a former Progressive Conservative member of this Assembly. Mr. Sutor was elected in a 1982 Tory election sweep in the former constituency of Regina Northeast. I didn't know Mr. Sutor personally; however I understand he was a very caring and conscientious individual. Although Russ didn't run for another term in office, he did much to improve life for his constituents in the period of time he served as a MLA.

In the end he did not seek re-election because he was probably simply too busy. Russ owned and operated several businesses in Regina, including the Inntowner motel, Gref's Delivery, and North West Travel and was active in the Regina community associations as well, many of them.

Although he loved our province and its people, the harsh Saskatchewan winters made it hard for Russ to do what he loved most — and that was to sail. That's why he decided while he was still a young man to move to Florida, buy a sailboat, and sail to his heart's content. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Russ was working toward an even bigger goal. He set his sights on sailing around the world. I'm very sorry to say that because of his untimely death, Russ was unable to fulfil that dream.

Russell Allan Sutor is survived by his sister, Dianne Lasek, and his brother Don Sutor — both reside here in Regina — as well as his mother and step-father, Anetta and Ross Atkinson, of Nanaimo, B.C. (British Columbia).

Russ is sorely missed by his many friends and family and we offer our deepest sympathies to them all. Thank you.

(1600)

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Such is the uncertain nature of politics these days that although Mr. Sutor left a scant 12 years ago, I guess it would be, only the

member from Regina Elphinstone and I actually served with him in this legislature today. I didn't get to know Russ Sutor well. I'll tell you what little I do know, and I think you'll agree, Mr. Speaker, it does tell us something about his character.

I talked about the rather gentlemanly relationship — I would call it the professional relationship — which existed between politicians in the earlier era, in the 1970s. The 1982 election just marked a watershed. The whole atmosphere descended just on a toboggan ride. Nothing that occurs today comes anywhere near what occurred during those four years. We can only have sympathy for the Speaker of the day. I'm sure they have complaints against us which are equally bad but . . . We used to, we sat where the official opposition was. Where the third party was was actually taken up by government members. So loud was the heckling that we actually couldn't hear ourselves think. When someone asked what it was like I used to say it's like turning up your television set so loud it hurts your ears, then try giving a speech. That was kind of the atmosphere.

In that atmosphere Russ Sutor stood out. He was just not a part of it. The members who sat on that side of the House were the ones who just tried to make it impossible for us to speak to each other. At times it was. We had to hand each other notes.

I sat where the member from Humboldt sat, Lawrence Yew sat where the member from Saltcoats sat, and Russ Sutor actually sat where the member from Cypress Hills sat, so we did kind of get to know each other. In this atmosphere he really stood out. He was not part of this very raucous legislature. He did not take part in it. He did not try to shout anyone down. He was at all times a gentleman.

I thought even at the time something unusual about this individual, because although he was a new member and might easily have followed the lead of others, he didn't. He took his own way, was at all times a gentleman, was at all times civil, and although his stay here was relatively short, less than one full term, he did leave an impression on me at least of someone who was a gentleman, someone who was civil, and someone whom I thought, had the circumstances been otherwise, it might have been nice to have as a neighbour or perhaps even as a friend.

So to his family, I pass on my condolences. And I express the thought that serving with Russ Sutor was a pleasure in a legislature in which I don't think I'd say that about everyone who was a member of that legislature, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 9 — An Act to amend The Direct Sellers Act

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Direct Sellers Amendment Act, 1996.

This Bill is intended to improve consumer protection measures in direct sales. It also improves enforcement of the Act for the benefit of both consumers and direct sellers. Amendments also provide for interprovincial harmonization of cancellation rights and contract requirements under the Agreement on Internal Trade.

Saskatchewan's Direct Sellers Act has been in place for many years. It needs to be updated to respond to changing market-place conditions. These amendments were developed by the consumer-business-government working group that has developed the proposed consumer protection Act. This working group, in its review of existing market-place legislation, identified this Act as the priority for updating. The proposed amendments have also been the subject of extensive consultations with other consumer, business and municipal groups, including direct sellers.

The Direct Sellers Amendment Act, 1996 will continue to balance the rights of consumers and direct sellers. It also continues to recognize, however, that direct sales are different from other types of retail sales transactions. It is for this reason that the Act provides, and will continue to provide, for a cooling-off period in which the consumer may cancel the contract.

I want to be very clear, Mr. Speaker, that most direct sellers operate in complete compliance with the legislation. In fact many have better policies with respect to contract cancellation and return rights than are set out in the Act. However a few do not comply and continue to make direct sales without being licensed. In these situations consumers are not protected because there are no bonds to protect consumer funds. Where these contracts are for large sums, as with home renovation contracts, a significant amount of money could be put at risk.

Direct sellers who comply with the Act suffer because of unfavourable publicity generated by those who do not comply. Unlicensed direct sellers are also unfair competition to licensed sellers. Several amendments, including increased penalties for non-compliance and improved investigative powers, will assist in addressing these concerns.

One challenge in keeping direct sales legislation relevant and responsive is the variety of goods and services sold door to door. Direct sales include everything from contracts for the sale of food and cosmetics to lawn care and home renovations. The issues for consumers can vary among these different types of sales.

Some of the amendments I am introducing today provide for greater flexibility to respond to the needs in different types of direct sales. For example, a new provision limits the amount of

deposit a direct sales home renovator can accept before the cooling-off period is over.

The Bill also introduces a requirement for those direct sellers who are exempt from the licensing requirements to carry identification cards. These sales people will be required to produce their identification card upon request by a consumer. And any failure by a direct seller to provide their sales people with the identification cards will render their contracts with consumers unenforceable.

The sale of some goods is not appropriately governed by direct sales legislation and is best dealt with through municipal by-laws. This is true, for example, with respect to the sale of perishable, unfrozen food products. Exemptions from the Act are therefore updated to reflect today's sales activities.

Mr. Speaker, under the Agreement on Internal Trade, provinces and territories agreed that harmonization of direct sales cancellation rights and contract requirements would benefit both consumers and direct sellers. Harmonization provides consumers in all parts of Canada with the same cancellation rights. Direct sellers who operate in more than one province will be able to use the same contracts in each province. This will reduce costs.

Negotiations to harmonize these provisions are now complete. Some of the amendments I am proposing today are designed to put into effect these harmonized provisions.

Mr. Speaker, interprovincial harmonization will not in any way reduce the level of protection for Saskatchewan citizens. Under the terms of the agreement, provinces agreed to harmonize to the highest standard. For example, Saskatchewan is one of three provinces that currently has a 10-day cooling-off period with respect to direct sales contracts. All other provinces have a shorter period. The 10-day period has been accepted by all provinces as the appropriate standard.

Harmonization also directly benefits Saskatchewan. For example, the content of all written contracts will be prescribed in the regulations. Regulations will also prescribe a clear statement of consumer cancellation rights that all direct sellers must give to purchasers.

A new provision also ensures that where a credit contract is associated with a direct sales contract, cancelling the direct sales contract also cancels the credit contract. This is particularly important if the credit contract has been assigned to a third party.

Mr. Speaker, the regulations must be revised before these amendments will come into force. Regulations will contain contract requirements, additional exemptions, and related matters. The consumer-business-government working group will continue to be involved in the development of these regulations.

We will also be consulting extensively with interest groups with respect to these regulations before this Act is proclaimed.

Once again I would like to highlight the significance of the

government's partnership with consumer and business groups in developing this package of amendments. In their work the partnership adopted the principle of balancing the interests of all parties and recognized that it is necessary to afford special protection to vulnerable consumers. This Bill is a result of these efforts. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Direct Sellers Act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to comment that we are in the process of reviewing the legislation and we are seeking opinions on certain matters related to the legislation presented by the minister and we would ask for adjournment of debate.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 10 — An Act respecting Marketplace Practices, Consumer Products Warranties and Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to move the second reading of The Consumer Protection Act. This Bill is intended to serve two main functions. It introduces market-place practices legislation designed to bring increased fairness to consumer transactions in Saskatchewan. It also combines the existing Consumer Products Warranties Act and The Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards Act with these new provisions to create one, consolidated consumer protection code for the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this House will be all too familiar with the concerns which the market-place practices provisions of this Bill are intended to address. The elderly couple who are victimized by an unscrupulous home repair contractor who only does a partial repair of a roof at several times the cost of comparable services. Or the recent immigrant who is convinced to purchase repairs which are not required or not performed. Or the elderly woman who is pressured to buy a product she does not want or need. We have all heard these stories, often from our own constituents. These are the obvious victims of unfair market practices.

We should also recognize that we all suffer the consequences of these actions. All consumers become wary and distrustful. Saskatchewan's legitimate businesses suffer unfair competition and guilt by association. Our community as a whole suffers as a result.

Mr. Speaker, let me make it perfectly clear from the outset that most businesses in the province operate in an ethical and a fair manner. These businesses are not the focus of this legislation. I do not anticipate that any changes in their operations will be required by this Bill. This Bill will operate merely as a statement of the first principles by which they have always operated.

(1615)

Indeed, from the initial stages of the development of this legislation, a working partnership was struck between

government, business groups, and consumer groups. This working group included members from the Consumers' Association of Canada, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Retail Council of Canada, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, as well as the departments of Justice and Education of the provincial government.

Established more than two years ago, this group was asked to work together with a starting premiss that they would respect legitimate business and consumer interests and that they would recognize that all parties to any consumer transaction have rights and responsibilities with respect to that transaction.

With this concept of shared rights and responsibilities in mind, the working group was asked to consider our existing consumer protection legislative framework. They were asked to identify the cracks through which unscrupulous businesses were falling. They were also asked to consult with their constituencies and the broader community in order to test their conclusions prior to making recommendations to this government.

Mr. Speaker, The Consumer Protection Act incorporating the new market-place practices provisions is the result of these recommendations. The working group identified a gap in our current legislation between fraud as proven beyond a reasonable doubt under the Criminal Code on the one hand, and what we would consider to be standard ethical business practice on the other.

It is within this gap that unscrupulous businesses have practised a thriving trade in our province without crossing the high threshold required by the criminal law. Indeed, seven of the ten provincial jurisdictions in Canada have market-place practices legislation to address this problem. Until now Saskatchewan has not.

I am advised that the working group found the business practices legislation in other provinces to be instructive, but not determinative in their deliberations. The working group wanted a Saskatchewan solution which respected both consumer and business rights. They wanted to empower the parties involved in a dispute over a consumer transaction to resolve their own problem if at all possible, without prolonged and expensive court proceedings.

However, where consumers were unable to adequately protect their own interests due to infirmity of any kind, the working group recognized that special protection must be available. Similarly, where a business is intentionally victimizing consumers, rapid intervention must be allowed to protect the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, the market-place practices provisions contained in part II of the Bill can best be described as a balance — a balance between encouraging consumers and businesses to resolve their own disputes and providing sufficient teeth in the Bill to deal with the intentionally unscrupulous businesses and those consumers in special need of protection. A balance between respecting and endorsing the thousands of reasonable and fair consumer transactions conducted every day throughout Saskatchewan, and identify and addressing those few but troubling transactions that proceed in an unfair manner. A

balance between the obligation of all consumers to educate and inform themselves of their responsibilities in any transaction and the need to prohibit unfair business practices. To strike this balance, part II of the Bill will apply to a broad range of consumer transactions in the Saskatchewan market-place.

The Bill defines the types of behaviour that constitute unfair business practices, including misrepresentation, making a false claim, or taking advantage of consumers who are not in a position to protect their own interests or who are not able to understand the nature of a transaction.

In addition, the Bill contains several specific examples of these unfair practices. It then takes the next step of making it an offence to engage in such an unfair business practice. Having set the ground rules, the Bill provides a variety of remedies to a consumer, depending on the severity of the breach under the Act.

The consumer is given the ability to take court action where the consumer believes he or she has been the victim of an unfair practice. However, the Act requires the director to actively encourage consumers and suppliers to resolve their disputes through mediation.

The Bill also provides for a voluntary agreement for compliance between the supplier and the director whereby a supplier agrees voluntarily to stop an unfair business practice.

Obviously the best resolution of a dispute is one which comes from the parties themselves. However, where such a resolution, even through facilitated discussion or a direct dialogue between the parties, is not available, further steps may be taken. Under the Act the director will have limited powers to commence an action on behalf of someone who has been victimized by an unfair business practice. The director will also be empowered to administer the Act and to act on behalf of the disadvantaged or vulnerable consumers where they are unable to take steps to protect themselves.

In other situations, where it is in the public interest to do so, the director is able to seek an order for a supplier to immediately comply with the requirements of the Act. The director can obtain an order requiring any person to refrain from dealing with consumer assets, or the director can apply to the court for an injunction to prevent an unfair practice. These are actions which only will be taken where a supplier has refused to cooperate with the director.

In providing these powers to the director to act on behalf of consumers, the Act is of course careful to provide for both hearings and rights of appeal for suppliers affected by such orders. As part of this balance, the Act also sets out specific consumer responsibilities under the Bill. These include making reasonable efforts to minimize any damages that may occur, and where appropriate, attempting to resolve a dispute with the supplier before taking court action.

By making this full range of remedial options available to the consumer, the supplier, and the director under the Act, it is anticipated that charging and prosecuting a business conducting an unfair practice will rarely be required. It will be limited only

to the most outrageous offenders. The working group was careful to recommend a Bill which would protect consumer interests without creating an unfair or oppressive regime for responsible businesses. Throughout the Act the concept of reasonableness is central to any assessment of steps taken by either the consumer or the supplier.

With respect to parts III and IV of the Bill, I would simply advise this Assembly that these provisions represent The Consumer Products Warranties Act and The Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards Act, as they now exist, consolidated into this broader legislation. These Acts have served Saskatchewan consumers well over the past 20 years and I would encourage all interested parties to re-familiarize themselves with the significant existing protection which these Acts provide.

The only substantive amendment to these provisions is the addition of section 44, of a mediation and arbitration clause, that would allow disputes regarding consumer product warranties to be resolved with some finality by these alternative methods.

Mr. Speaker, the partnership between government, business groups, and consumer groups, which led to this legislation, is to be commended. This Bill is a true Saskatchewan solution. It balances legitimate interests while providing assistance and special attention to those who need it.

I invite all members of this Assembly to support this important new addition to Saskatchewan's consumer protection legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting Marketplace Practices, Consumer Product Warranties and Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, we are currently reviewing the Act with stakeholders and we therefore request to move to adjourn debate at this time.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 3 — An Act respecting The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: — Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I'll move second reading of The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology Act.

Mr. Speaker, since its establishment in 1988, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology has been committed to providing quality education and training, to respond to business and industry, and to enrich individuals and communities in Saskatchewan. SIAST, as I'll call it, the acronym for the institute, is geared to produce a skilled workforce that is flexible, entrepreneurial, and technically competent.

When the original institute Act was written, Mr. Speaker, SIAST was a brand-new organization. SIAST has now had the opportunity to develop as an institution. It is now time to amend the legislation to reflect a number of changes in terminology

and administrative practices which have occurred as SIAST has evolved.

Mr. Speaker, when SIAST was established, it was necessary that the Act enable the transfer of programs and employees from the advanced technology training centre to SIAST. In addition, it was necessary that the Act provide for an interim governing council until a board of directors was appointed. These provisions are no longer applicable and this Bill reflects the current practice.

By changing the name of the Act from The Institute Act to the name in Bill No. 3, Mr. Speaker, this Bill more accurately reflects the organizational structure of SIAST, with a central planning and a coordination unit known as the SIAST secretariat, and the four major program delivery arms known as SIAST institutes. Most hon. members will be familiar with the Wascana, Kelsey, Woodland, and Palliser institutes as they have come to be known.

Mr. Speaker, the former SIAST campuses are now referred to as institutes to reflect the higher level of importance for the institutes.

I welcome any questions hon. members may have during the Committee of the Whole, and during detailed discussions of the Bill's provisions. These proposed amendments are based on consultation with the SIAST board of directors and their desire for amendments to the Act.

I ask the members of the Assembly to support these amendments, and I therefore move second reading of Bill No. 3, The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology Act.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again counting on a spirit of cooperation, I move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

(1630)

Bill No. 4 — An Act to amend The University of Regina Act

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to explain the background and purpose for The University of Regina Amendment Act, 1996. The present Act requires amendment to update its administrative provisions as they relate to the powers of the board of governors to invest the monies of the university.

This section is properly described as a housekeeping amendment of which I'll be pleased to discuss in the Committee of the Whole. The existing provisions in the Act are outdated. The current provision restricts the university's authority to invest funds to a specific list of authorized investment vehicles. This list is no longer appropriate and the university has been cited by the Provincial Auditor for improper investment; the investments not having complied with the existing provisions of the Act.

The proposed amendment will give the university investment

authority; power which will be consistent with the provisions in The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995 which was passed in this legislature in the last session. It will also be consistent with investment authority given to other public institutions.

The amendment maintains the past practice of having statutes for the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina mirror each other in areas where the university should appropriately have the same administrative powers or duties. Giving the university more up-to-date and flexible investment authority will enable it to maximize its return on invested funds.

The University of Regina serves the needs of nearly 13,000 students, Mr. Speaker. It takes justifiable pride in its tradition of teaching excellence and innovation. If we are to maintain that academic reputation into the 21st century, we must move with the times. It is important that the university have the legislative authority it needs to continue to effectively serve its students and the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments were specifically requested by the University of Regina, which has identified them as a high priority. The government considers it important to support the university and its role in our province. I am pleased to move therefore that Bill No. 4, The University of Regina Act Amendment, 1996, now be read a second time.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Counting on the increased amount of cooperation as expressed in this Assembly, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 6 — An Act to amend The Community Bonds Act

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise and speak in support of The Community Bonds Amendment Act, 1996. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the community bond program has been very successful since it was introduced more than six years ago.

Working through grass roots bond corporations, thousands of ordinary Saskatchewan men and women have invested more than \$14 million in value added businesses — business that are in manufacturing, processing, destination tourism, and in the provision of export products and services; businesses that have brought needed jobs and vitality to many small towns in addition to strengthening the economic bases of our cities.

The bond program has been an important tool for our community economic development and has helped contribute to a new development culture throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, as, and the hon. members will know, community economic development has been at the heart of the highly successful economic strategy *Partnership For Renewal*. And community economic development is a central and strategic successor to the document *Partnership for Renewal* and included in *Partnership for Growth* which we unveiled on February 22 of this year.

The changes our government has made to the community bond program legislation over the years have helped strengthen the

bonds as a community economic tool, providing flexibility and greater partnership in the bonds process while continuing to ensure due diligence and protecting the bondholders and taxpayers of the province of Saskatchewan.

Previous amendments to the Act have made the program accessible to cooperatives and regional economic development authorities and have strengthened the Community Bond Review Committee and eligibility criteria.

The amendments being proposed in this session continue that spirit of flexibility and diligence, of not burdening the bond corporations with unnecessary paperwork and regulation while ensuring that protection for their investors is there.

The amendments are a mix of housekeeping measures and provisions designed to make it easier for bond corporations, or bond co.'s as they are also known, to raise funds and administer their affairs. For example, the amendments provide for some discretion in the requirement of a REDA (regional economic development authority), RDC (rural development corporation), or municipality nominee and a youth director throughout the life of a bond co.

It has been difficult in situations where a project company is winding down and few bondholders remain to recruit candidates for those director positions. It has been similarly difficult, particularly in rural areas, to recruit experienced youth directors at the current age level of 16 to 25. In changing that range to 18 to 30, we are helping bond co.'s find the experienced candidates for their boards.

Other amendments take out references to environmental bonds. The original intent with the environmental bond had been to have a specified rate of return as well as a separate legislation. However the environmental projects that came forward qualified under the manufacturing and processing eligible sector. And it was deemed that separate bond offering would be both unnecessary and administratively costly. Hence we're proposing that the regulation be amended to add environmental projects as eligible community bond investments.

Mr. Speaker, another important amendment is to eliminate the small fee a bondholder had to pay each year to guarantee his or her investment. This fee for guarantee, three-quarters of one per cent, was established to help the government offset losses under the program. But the fee has caused more problems than it has solved. It has annoyed bondholders and it has proven a hindrance in some instances to the sale of bonds. Elimination of this fee will be appreciated by bondholders and bond corporations, which we will reimburse for the monies collected to date. This action of eliminating a nuisance fee is consistent with our commitment in *Partnership for Growth* to reduce regulations by 25 per cent over the next 10 years.

Other changes are of similar administrative nature. They include: first, allowing bond co.'s more discretion in retention of their net earnings, changing the annual return filing dates to coincide with the bond co.'s filing of their own financial statements, waiving of the requirement for filing financial statements if the project company is bankrupt or if there are fewer than 10 bondholders remaining in the bond co., allowing

a bond co. to dissolve after its early maturity date if the project company is bankrupt.

And other changes are to remove the articles of incorporation that form . . . from the regulation and remove the annual amendment that was required to the regulation to prescribe the dollar limit of guarantees that could be approved each fiscal year. As this latter amount is determined by Treasury Board through the budget process, the listing of the annual limit is unnecessary and an unnecessary administrative task.

Mr. Speaker, the changes I've outlined have resulted from an ongoing review of the community bond program. They reflect our desire to streamline and enhance the bond process by reducing the amount of red tape.

These changes will help the bond corporation directors, most of whom are busy volunteers, to do their job better. And that in turn will help us all in our shared task of community economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that all members of the House will work together to ensure the speedy passage of these measures to further strengthen the community bond program. And it's in that spirit that I now present The Community Bonds Amendment Act, 1996 for second reading.

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to the extent and size of the Bill, we'd like more time to review this. And so at this time I'd move adjournment of debate.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 7 — An Act to repeal The Industrial Incentive Program Act

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I just want to refer first of all in this second reading that this is a very minor amendment. The Department of Economic Development has requested that the Bill . . . the Economic Development department has requested this Bill is no longer needed and therefore we are here to do the work to repeal the Bill.

The program that governed and was governed by this Act was introduced in 1984 and took applications until March 31, 1987. And it has not been active for a number of years and the legislation is no longer required. And the reason for that is obviously because many other programs have come into place to take the place of this piece of legislation. And if a similar program were to be contemplated in the future, it could be established through the regulations under the department as it now exists in legislation.

In essence, Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been introduced simply to reduce and remove legislation that is no longer needed and outdated. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the Act.

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

The Assembly adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

