

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again on behalf of concerned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan, concerning the closure of the Plains Health Centre, who pray:

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

And they're signed by people from Regina, Craven, Fort Qu'Appelle, Edgeley, Avonlea, Avonhurst, and virtually all of southern Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre also. 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.

The people that have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, are from numerous communities throughout southern Saskatchewan.

**Ms. Julé:** — 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 Wilcox, mostly from Wilcox, and throughout Saskatchewan. I so present.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise also 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 pages that I have before me today, Mr. Speaker, are signed by people all from Grenfell.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in regard to the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement. The prayer reads as follows:

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 hall hiring formula; (2) prohibit the

expansion of this Crown Construction Tendering Agreement or other like agreements to other Saskatchewan Crown corporations; and (3) to 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 Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present.

**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 closure of the Plains Health Centre.

The people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are mostly from Moose Jaw, Regina, and North Battleford.

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise again today to present petitions of names from throughout Saskatchewan regarding the Plains Health Centre. 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.

People signing this are mainly from Francis, Balgonie, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also 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 Moose Jaw, Assiniboia, and Mortlach. Thank you.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I again 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.

And the people that have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Regina; they are from all throughout Saskatchewan, a number of addresses here, and I'd like to present this to the Assembly. Thank you.

**Mr. McPherson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of tens of thousands of people throughout the province that have signed petitions regarding saving the Plains Health

Centre, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

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

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from Regina mainly, in fact many from Regina Albert South constituency. Also Weyburn, Mossbank, and some from Assiniboia, but definitely all throughout southern Saskatchewan.

### 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; and

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

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to reconsider closure of the Plains Health Centre; and

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to halt the closure of the Cypress Lodge kitchen services.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, a teacher and four students from 33 Central which is really Fillmore School and they're seated in the west gallery.

The school is known in the area as 33 Central because the town is on Highway 33 between Regina and Stoughton.

And I would ask the guests to please rise. Mr. Leo Carteri is a science teacher, and he's here today with Steven Schultz, grade 12 student, Anders Foss, grade 12 student, Carrie Lind, grade 12 student, and Janelle Smith, grade 11 student.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Carteri has taught in Fillmore for 22 years, during which time his professional dedication to science and technology has been outstanding. The best proof of Mr. Carteri's involvement and motivation as a teacher are shown by his students. He has a high percentage of enrolments by all students in his science classes, consistent medal performances at local, regional, and national science fairs, and a high percentage of student enrolments in post-secondary studies of science and technology.

Mr. Carteri believes that competitions like the Canada-wide science fair not only broaden the students' academic horizons but also expose them to the corporate world through business sponsorships. As a teacher, Mr. Carteri is encouraging, creative, interesting, and flexible. He works to individual student needs, and he is extremely knowledgeable of his subject.

Mr. Carteri's leadership and professional dedication to science and technology has earned him the 1995 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, and Mathematics. And because of his motivation and influence on his students, one of his students here today has also won awards: Steven Schultz.

Steven Schultz in 1994 attended the Canada-wide science fair in Guelph, Ontario, where he won a bronze medal for his project and a communication award. In 1995 he won the silver medal for his project in Whitehorse, Yukon. Stephen is in grade 12 and plans to take engineering.

Anders Foss, Carrie Lind, and Janelle Smith are all exceptional students at Fillmore School and excel academically with averages in excess of 90 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I think this speaks well to the quality of teaching that's occurring in this province, and the quality of teaching and the quality of excellence that's occurring in rural Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Mr. Carteri and his students to the legislature this afternoon because it is the beginning of Education Week, and I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming them.

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

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Minister of Education in welcoming our special guests in the west gallery. Fillmore is in the Indian Head-Milestone riding and I'm very proud to have such a distinguished teacher and students in the constituency. And again congratulations on behalf of the Assembly and we look forward to many more opportunities from the education system out of Fillmore. Thank you for coming here. And I ask members to join me in welcoming them here today.

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

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

#### RCMP Discusses Race Relations

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring to the attention of fellow members of this House a very important meeting that took place in Regina this past weekend. Over 50 police officers gathered in the city to discuss ways to improve race relations in our country, particularly as our police forces relate to different races in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this is a subject that needs much discussion in our province and our country. And it's a subject very close to my heart as it was something I dealt with extensively during my career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As a member of the force, I was fortunate to be involved in the first cross-cultural training program instituted by the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) in the late '70s, working with Professor D. Bruce Sealy at the University of Manitoba.

This program was to promote cultural awareness pertaining specifically to aboriginal Canadians. Uniformed and civilian

personnel were included in this program; Indian peoples played a major role in this program as well. And it's since then that the program has greatly expanded across the country's police forces and includes various ethnic groups and cultures. Today it's more important than ever that all races in our country are treated in a fair manner by the police.

And I'm proud to say my constituency is the home of one of the first on-reserve RCMP detachments in our province. The detachment located on the Okanese Reserve serves the four File Hills reserves near Balcarres, Saskatchewan. I know the Government House Leader, as well as the Minister of the Environment who also has an on-reserve detachment in his riding, were on hand at Peepeekisis School last year when the on-reserve detachments were officially opened and know what an important step this was in racial diversification of the RCMP. Thank you.

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

### Education Week

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week, March 18 to 24, has been proclaimed Education Week. And during this week students, teachers, and parents across the province will be involved in activities which reinforce a historical truth — that with knowledge all things are possible, and without it, all things stop.

The theme of Education week is “Learning: Because Wonders Never Cease.” Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we put a high value on wonder and on learning. In Saskatchewan we direct a considerable portion of our incomes to our public education system. Our educational success is proof enough that it is wise to do so. We should continue with the high level of public support for education.

Our success as educators is built on partnerships. First, there is a partnership between teachers and parents. Second, there is the partnership of local, provincial, and federal governments. Third, there is the intergenerational partnership where we all contribute to education, regardless of age. The challenge for the 21st century is to learn, adapt, and innovate within our system to keep Saskatchewan the best place in which to live.

There can be no greater satisfaction than for us to be able to say to future generations, education in Saskatchewan is the best because we made the adjustments necessary to keep it that way.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I too would like to recognize the start of Education Week in Saskatchewan. The subject is near and dear to me, having been a former teacher and former president of the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association. My wife still teaches in Invermay and I have two children in school.

We must commend all the teachers and instructors, non-professional staff, students, parents, and trustees for their dedication and ongoing commitment to education.

The theme of this year's Education Week is “Learning: Because Wonders Never Cease.” I find it very appropriate because these days our children face a rapidly changing environment. They must adapt to swiftly developing technology and an evolving job market.

Our education system must equip our children with tools they will need to survive in the future. This is a critical time for education and we must work through past funding cut-backs so that quality education continues for our children.

I hope that as the government prepares its upcoming budget it does take the time to consult with all stakeholders so that our children can get the high quality education they deserve. We must ensure that future education reforms are the best choices for our children. Thank you.

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

### Onion Lake First Nation — Wascana Energy Agreement

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday, we had a treaty land entitlement announcement from the south-east part of the province.

While that announcement was being made, the Minister of SIMAS (Saskatchewan Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat) and myself were in Onion Lake in my constituency taking part in the announcement of another equally important agreement.

Onion Lake First Nation and Wascana Energy have reached an agreement to jointly develop land selected by Onion Lake under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. A memorandum of understanding was signed on Friday by Chief Wallace Fox, President Frank Proto of Wascana Energy, and all band councillors.

Wascana Energy will provide expertise in several areas related to selection, exploration, development, and mineral extraction of the lands under the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for the Onion Lake First Nations and for north-west Saskatchewan in general because the activity generated by this agreement will lead to jobs and economic development.

I was happy to be present at the signing and, as always, to witness the accompanying ceremonies.

I congratulate Chief Wallace Fox and the Onion Lake First Nation members, and I encourage other companies to follow the lead of Wascana Energy in working with all first nation bands for their mutual economic benefit. Thank you very much.

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

### Education Week

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise in recognition of Education Week in Saskatchewan. The role of education has changed throughout the years. We have gone from one-room classrooms teaching grades 1 through to 9 or 10 — and it's one of those schools that gave me a good start

in education — to state-of-the-art institutions using modern technology.

However, not all students and teachers are fortunate enough to have the most modern benefits. Teachers in some areas of our province are struggling with fewer resources, a shortage of staff, and at times deteriorating facilities — all told, a crumbling infrastructure. Although many teachers, school boards, and administrators are faced with such challenges, our children continue to receive a good education.

The theme of this year's Education Week deals with the wonders never ceasing. Indeed as an educator myself I can attest that this is always an appropriate theme for the process of education. The most rewarding part of education is the look of wonder in a student's face when a new concept or idea is discovered. Seeing young people strive for and attain their best through our education system is constantly a wonderful experience to behold. It is all the more wonderful in these times when technological advances, through computers and Internet, have propelled us into a whole new area of information and learning.

There are accomplished individuals whose successes can in part be attributed to Saskatchewan's top-notch educational system. On behalf of the PC (Progressive Conservative) caucus, I would like to acknowledge Education Week and offer our profound thanks to all the hard-working people and groups in our education system.

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

#### **E.C. Leslie Provincial Debating Tournament in Lloydminster**

**Ms. Stanger:** — Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the Education Week theme, it was my pleasure to attend the 1996 E.C. Leslie provincial debating tournament in Lloydminster on the weekend.

The students who participated in this debate came from all over Saskatchewan. The schools from my constituency which were represented at this event included H. Hardcastle School from Edam, Lloydminster Comprehensive High School, and Turtleford School.

In 1979, the provincial tournament of the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association was named the E.C. Leslie tournament in honour of one of Saskatchewan's best-known lawyers, Everett Clayton Leslie, who died in 1978.

Mr. Speaker, I was also pleased to be involved in the presentation of awards at the tournament. I extend my congratulations to all the students who won awards and would like to mention the winners from my constituency: Robin Brown, Jasmin Brown, Nicole Hughes, and Bonnie Hughes, all from the Turtleford School; Taran King, Russ Piffer, Ryan Pierce, and Michelle Charles from Lloydminster Comprehensive School.

I would also like to congratulate the teachers who coached the students and thanks to the Lloydminster Comprehensive High

School for organizing the event. Thank you.

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

#### **Wendel Clark a Maple Leaf Again**

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome one of my most famous former constituents back to Canada. Wendel Clark grew up and started his hockey career in Kelvington. Even from a very young age, he showed his winning combination of talent, grit, and determination when he stepped on the ice. He quickly became a fan favourite for the Saskatoon Blades and in the mid-'80s he broke into the NHL (National Hockey League).

As captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Wendel Clark became one of hockey's most prominent figures. His tough checking style and scoring touch brought many proud moments home to his family and friends in Kelvington. His parents, Les and Alma Clark, frequently left their Kelvington farm to watch their son at Maple Leaf Gardens.

But many people at home in Kelvington and Toronto were terribly disappointed when Wendel Clark made his home south of the border as a member of the Colorado Avalanche. This season he was traded to the New York Islanders; then just last week he captured the headlines once again when he was re-acquired by the Toronto Maple Leafs.

I would like to welcome Kelvington's hockey hero back to Canada.

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

#### **L'il Red Bus Line**

**Ms. Bradley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last spring I announced to the Assembly the formation of a bus line connecting the communities of Bengough, Ogema, Pangman, Ceylon, and Radville to Regina. Unfortunately, the founder of this very worthwhile service died and it looked for a while as if it would flounder.

This year I am happy to announce that the L'il Red Bus Line, as it has been christened, is alive and well; in fact, Mr. Speaker, it had its inaugural run this morning and I was one of its first passengers. We left Pangman at 7:30, stopped in Ogema, and did a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Bengough at the seniors' centre. The bus then continued on to Ceylon; Radville, where a second inaugural ceremony took place, and then into Regina before noon. It will be leaving Regina this afternoon at 5:30 p.m.

It will repeat this journey five days a week, bringing people into the city for appointments and visits and delivering goods back and forth to the local businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is an example of several small communities expanding into one large community to meet the interests of all because all recognized the need; \$35,000 was raised to get the operation going. As Chairman Peter Sotropa said, it is good to see people not thinking strictly from the point of view of their

own town.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all the shareholders who recognized the need of this important service to their communities: the seniors from Bengough, and the community and business people from Ogema, Pangman, and Radville. The L'il Red Bus Line, Mr. Speaker, proves once again that people in rural Saskatchewan are quite capable of facing challenge through cooperation and initiative. Thank you.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Rural Road System

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government is committed to spending almost \$85 million over the next few years to upgrade Saskatchewan's rural road system. They realize the decision should not be based solely on finances and they understand that safety and dependability must also be part of the equation, unlike the provincial government.

Will the Minister of Municipal Government indicate if this government is prepared to match the commitment by the federal government?

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

**Hon. Mr. Renaud:** — I want to thank the member for the question, Mr. Speaker. And the news to the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) delegates was news to us. We still haven't had any indication from the federal government as to what kind of agreement he wants.

But I want to tell the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, that on one hand the federal government takes \$320 million away from our farmers in Saskatchewan and the next minute they offer 20 million back. It sounds a lot like the transfer payments and the Crow buy-out — \$7.2 billion reduced to \$1.6 billion.

It's always the same story, Mr. Speaker. And the opposition members sit there and defend the federal government over and above the Saskatchewan people. I can't understand that.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, this government can say what it wants about being committed to our highways, but the facts speak otherwise. The Highways department budget has fallen from 177 million, from 212 million when the government came to power.

NDP (New Democratic Party) offloading has provided our towns and RMs (rural municipality) with an eighteen and a half per cent less in revenue-sharing grants to maintain our roads. In last year's Highways budget, of the 70 people who lost their job, all of those were . . . maintain our roads and highways and keep them safe for travel.

This is not a commitment to our rural road system or the people

of rural Saskatchewan. Can the minister explain why the federal government can make an \$85 million commitment to our rural people yet this government will not?

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

**Hon. Mr. Renaud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite, it's pretty easy to make an \$85 million contribution to the roads in Saskatchewan when you pull out 320 million.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that any money coming into our roads is very important. But I want to tell the member that \$20 million will affect about 150 kilometres of rural roads in this province — roads that we can fix. Because of the new truck traffic and the grain elevator consolidation and railway abandonment, there are going to be 60,000 kilometres of roads affected by this decision, Mr. Speaker. So I don't know which 150 kilometres he would like us to spend the \$20 million on.

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

### Rabbit Processing Plant Failure

**Ms. Draude:** — My question today is for the Minister of Economic Development. Another day in NDP Saskatchewan and again another bad day news for business people.

Today's edition of the *Leader-Post* tells us sadly about the story of another failure — of CanRa Processors Inc. The reason stated for this failure was poor management and government bungling. I guess the minister can chalk this up to another failure of his government policy in business. Seventy more jobs lost and \$500,000 in government-managed investment funds.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister is this: how much of the \$500,000 lost was Saskatchewan taxpayers' dollars? And I want to know the cost including administration, the original offering memorandum, the prospectus, and the cost of acquiring the funds from Asian investors.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to the member's question about the rabbit kill plant in Swift Current or the slaughtering plant that has announced recently that it's going to cease slaughtering rabbits. I want to say to the member opposite that having been opened in 1980, this is a plant that has had a troubled past, going into bankruptcy a number of times. I think the former administration, if I remember correctly, put money into the plant.

As you know, there's been immigrant money put into the plant, and it just hasn't been able to survive.

Now the interesting thing, I think, Mr. Speaker, is that in Swift Current there are many exciting, positive things happening: the expansion of Rem Manufacturing; Spar industries, a great company; the whole tourism aspect where many jobs are being created.

But obviously what the opposition will bring to the House every day are the doom-and-gloom stories. And that's . . . maybe they

see that as their role. But if the member is indicating that she would expect taxpayers to put more money into that project, then be honest. Stand in your place and say that we should have more taxes to bail out the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Next question.

**Ms. Draude:** — The failure of this project is another clear example of how the government is killing economic development. The Saskatchewan growth fund tried to sell the plant, and it did have a potential buyer until the government had to have their piece of the pie. The government would only accept an offer if the growth fund could have voting shares in the company. The offer was made by a Calgary businessman, Del Fisher, but he withdrew the offer knowing what the result of the government involvement would be. He said, and I quote, "If it had government involvement, it would go broke again."

Will the minister admit that this loss will affect our ability to attract other immigrant investor funds?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — No, Mr. Speaker. I want to say to the member opposite that the immigrant investor fund here in Saskatchewan, by many people's admission, the Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund is in fact one of the best in Canada. And recently the business magazine — and I'll get the actual quote for you — has indicated that the SGGF (Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Ltd.) fund is one of the best funds in Canada. And obviously any fund that takes in the amount of money that the Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund has will not have its success on every investment. You know that as a business person; I know that. This is one of the challenges that immigrant investor funds have; they're high risk. This is one of the risks that didn't work.

But I can point out to you many, many projects — and you will know them because we've had this discussion before — of where SGGF has invested money and many hundreds of jobs have been created.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, not only do we have businessmen questioning the wisdom of government officials but this failure puts into question the government's economic development strategy. Mr. Speaker, this industry has potential for double digit growth and export opportunities to developing countries and Europe. Other exotic meats are being produced in Saskatchewan in even higher volumes, but we're losing our slaughtering facilities.

Will the minister commit to fixing his flawed economic strategy to ensure that we take advantage of these opportunities, so we can have jobs instead of bankruptcies?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say to the member opposite that the plan that we have for economic

development, which is known as *Partnership for Growth* is worked on by, I say again, many hundreds of business people from across the province, the unions.

In fact she herself came to our office and had input into the document. It was a good interview, as I understand, and she had some ideas. I didn't hear anything new or exciting that isn't in the document. If you've got some new thoughts that you didn't have when we consulted, I would be very interested in knowing what they now are. But obviously you can come to the House every day and point out where companies have failed or farmers have gone broke. And in any economy, anyone can do that.

But what I would urge you to do is to look at some of the positive things that are happening even in your own area — the expansion in the grain collecting system, the operations where value added is happening. There are many positive things happening. But they're, as your leader indicated the other day, burning tires; obviously that may be his idea. This is . . .

**The Speaker:** — Next question. Next question.

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

#### McDowell Report

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier or his designate. Mr. Premier, we have now received a response back from the Clerk, and the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) pay increase is not 6 to \$800 as you were suggesting last week. In fact it's nearly \$4,000 for Regina MLAs and nearly \$4,400 for non-Regina MLAs.

This is a significant increase at a time when you are telling taxpayers that they have to take and make even further sacrifices. Mr. Premier, will you give back this increase? Will you now implement the McDowell report retroactive to January 1 as originally recommended?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make another attempt to explain this whole procedure to the member opposite, even though he has sat through all the meetings and read all the materials. And it concerns me a little the way he keeps sliding back and forth between gross and net.

Now I assume that your concern is the cost to the taxpayer. And the cost to the taxpayer is a net decrease in every year that McDowell is implemented of 2,000 per member and a net decrease to the legislature of \$350,000 over the term of the government.

And in fact if you look at the figures even for this year, if the House sits a full 70 days, there will be a gross difference to the taxpayer of around \$500 for an out-of-Regina member and about \$150 for an in-Regina member. If the House sits longer, in fact the cost of McDowell gets more expensive than the current system.

This is a complicated change in pay and rations, and most of

it's centred around the principles of accountability and transparency, of which this member seems to continue to avoid that particular issue.

So I suggest you revisit the purposes and the long-term . . .

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

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, one month ago the Premier spent 30,000 taxpayers' dollars to go on TV and tell us cuts would start at the top. You're the only one that isn't showing leadership in this area, Madam Minister.

However if you're not prepared to act, we are. Tomorrow our caucus will be making an announcement about giving up the increase. But today I want to give you the chance to show some leadership and give up the increase as well. I want to give you one more chance to get out of the trough, Madam Minister. Will you take that opportunity, or do you still think it's okay for taxpayers to be forced to give you a raise?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind the member that the system we've been paid under ever since '91 was a system designed by his government, and since then our cabinet has taken a pay decrease of 5 per cent. MLAs' salaries have been frozen since 1991. And also due to the redistribution that we initiated, there's eight fewer MLAs.

Now if you're not prepared to 'fess up that a net decrease in pay is what McDowell accomplishes with the July 1 implementation that you keep forgetting you voted for, then I don't know what else I can do with you. That's just the way it is.

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

#### Addiction Services Funding

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Gaming minister. Madam Minister, the casino agreement between FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) and the government states that 25 per cent of casino profits from Indian-run casinos will go directly towards addiction services.

I commend FSIN for recognizing this very important issue and for setting aside a large percentage of casino profits for the purpose of treating those individuals and families who suffer because of gambling addictions.

However the same isn't true for the casino in Regina. Madam Minister, your government is taking the largest take-out percentage of any casino in North America, and yet zero percentage of the profits of the Regina casino is dedicated for addiction services. Why is this, and what percentage of your government's casino profits are going towards addiction services?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, I'd like to thank the member for his question. This is just a little more complicated than it would

appear on the surface, partly because the government is a regulator of a wide range of gaming. Casinos are not the only thing we're involved in.

Now the first nations saw part of these revenues as an ability for them to deal with a range of addiction services, so they don't plan to deal with only gaming addictions. They'll be taking a very holistic approach, and they'll be dealing with alcohol addiction, solvent addiction, a wide range of addictions issues in their community.

And so you would not be able to directly compare the figures. You'd have to look at what we also spend on alcohol and drug addiction and those kinds of things in our government.

The other part of the answer is that we have 1.5 million that isn't taken — again because of the range of gaming that the government's responsible for — it's not taken directly out of the Casino Regina. It's taken out of the General Revenue Fund of government. So that accounts for the difference in the figures.

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, allocating one and a half million dollars for addiction services isn't a whole lot when the government rakes in hundreds of millions each year. Your government won't listen to Saskatchewan people who want a say in expanding gambling. You won't listen to your own advisory committee's recommendations.

One such recommendation is that there be no instant cash machines located in casinos in order to make gamblers think twice about the amount of money they are spending. But you installed an ATM (automated teller machine) inside Casino Regina anyway. It's easy to see that this was done in order to make more money for your government without any care about those addicted individuals or their suffering families.

Madam Minister, why did you allow your government's greed to take precedence over your own advisory committee's recommendations? Why did you place an ATM in the Regina casino?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just again revisit the question of the amount and indicate that this government actually contributes more towards prevention, education, information, and counselling per capita than any government in Canada. So you may say it's not enough, but it's certainly much more that is being done.

And I add again, to make it relevant to the point you raised, you'd have to also add in alcohol and other things because that's the portion that's in the FSIN portion.

On the issue of the ATMs, ATMs are only a problem for a person with an addiction, and for a person with an addiction, our information is that you'd have to be . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . You either want the answer or you don't. The issue would be that unless it's further than a 20-minute radius from the casino to the addicted person, it would not make a

difference. So I guess we could put the ATM somewhere out near Southey, but it's really not a rational solution.

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

### High-risk Offender Identification

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Saskatoon Greystone gained one new resident recently. He is a convicted pedophile released from prison despite being high risk to re-offend.

Now the police have done their best within the law to alert parents as to the danger that this man poses to their children. But, Mr. Speaker, the parents who have called my office — and I'm sure the offices of government members as well — are truly worried about the security of their children.

My question is to the Minister of Justice: will you, Mr. Minister, explain why you have not taken a stand on this and why you do not speak out in defence of the defenceless?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the hon. member for the question. The position of the government is that our greatest concern is for the families and the children in the communities and all of that. What we're doing is having the protection of those people in mind.

Now the whole question here involves many, many difficult issues and I think the hon. member knows that.

We have a committee that's an intergovernmental committee headed by somebody within the Justice department who has been . . . they've been working with this and with some of the police officers. They are very carefully reviewing the Manitoba protocol which has been in use for approximately nine or ten months. They also are looking at some of the suggestions that come out of Alberta. And we understand now over the last couple of days that Alberta is just getting ready to release some kind of an official proposal based on a draft protocol that they set out last year. We're looking very carefully. We have a plan and we're working at it.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Minister, with all due respect the answers that you've given me are politically safe answers but they most certainly are not solutions. While the wheels of justice may grind very slowly, the pedophile acts on impulse — in other words, without warning. He doesn't give people a lot of time and a lot of notice.

Statutes and debates and loopholes are the domains of legislators and lawyers, but they are of absolutely no comfort whatsoever to the parents in Saskatoon Greystone trying to pacify their very frightened children. Children all over our province have been terrified by what happened in a Scottish town just days ago. And the children in my constituency also fear now every single male who is a stranger that fits a vague description of this convicted pedophile.

Mr. Minister, why is it that Manitoba has taken action to deal

with this? And why is it that Alberta is taking action to deal with this, but Saskatchewan most definitely is showing evidence of still dragging its feet?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the hon. member for the question. Again I would say that she has not understood my answer. We are extremely concerned about this. We are working carefully with the police, with Department of Justice officials, the Department of Health, mental health professionals. We're also listening very carefully to parents in the community.

I was actually in Saskatoon on Friday afternoon talking with some people about some of these issues. We are also in a situation where we are looking very carefully at the Manitoba protocol and the Alberta protocol. We do not want a situation where children are afraid to be on the streets, and we need to be very careful how we do this.

I think the discussion that takes place in this place, this legislature, is probably not the right place to have the discussion and I'd be very happy to meet with the member so that we can talk about some suggestions that she might have.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, we are the legislators of the province of Saskatchewan. The primary responsibility of government is law and order for its citizens. And the policies of your government, sir, demonstrate very poor priorities.

It is no accident that people looking for an easy ride in a system come to Saskatchewan in droves. Ten pedophiles, sir, have been released into Saskatoon alone — ten within this year. And it is no accident that ordinary people are truly fed up with paying a price for your government's lack of policies.

Now you, sir, have 100 pieces of legislation before this very Assembly this session alone. Will you make the children of Saskatchewan your top priority and get a piece of legislation in this House immediately to deal with this issue?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the hon. member for the third question.

I think the first point I would like to make is that to deal with this problem does not necessarily require legislation, because when I talk about protocols, it's not legislation.

The other point is that part of the difficulty within the Saskatoon region is that they do have the regional psychiatric centre, which our federal Liberal counterparts have just announced that they are going to double the size of that.

And one of the factors that you might wish to look at and discuss with the Liberals with an I or the Liberals with a Y — I'm not sure which Liberals — is that you look at the whole question of the role of the regional psychiatric centre within Saskatchewan. That is the magnet for Saskatchewan of the people who need help from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and



Alberta. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, while you continue to say the same things day after day on this issue, all it does is to demonstrate your government's misplaced priorities.

Now the laws of your government, sir, put the safety of the most vulnerable at risk to protect the privacy of a dangerous individual. I suggest you read the Constitution of Canada about the rights of individuals over the rights of society.

This pedophile has no real sense at all of what it means to respect the privacy of young children, and he is known to be capable of violence and is very likely, as has been stated, to repeat his pattern of sexual assault on little girls.

Mr. Minister, I have simply one question which I've now asked three times. Will you, sir, please tell us how long will the children of our province have to wait until your government makes their safety a priority?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — I'd like to thank the hon. member for the fourth question. I think there's no question that our government holds the safety of families and children as the utmost priority.

I think there should be some recognition . . . and I'm surprised at the hon. member's understanding of the constitution. A lot of this . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . or lack thereof, that's correct.

This matter relates to the criminal law. That's a federal area of responsibility. There are some things that we can do in conjunction with the criminal law, and we are actually working together with some of the federal people on this as well. But practically, we are sitting with a situation where we need to balance many, many interests, but obviously the most important interest is the safety of the community. Thank you.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Telecommunications Enhancement Fund

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call the attention of the Assembly to the announcement that my colleague, the Minister of Post-secondary Education and Skills Training, and myself made last Friday at St. Angela's Elementary School in Saskatoon regarding the telecommunications enhancement fund and the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives are part of our department's multi-media learning strategy. And I'm pleased to announce that in total, 177 locations across the province have been approved for funding.

Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, we outlined the progress achieved

under the telecommunications enhancement fund. The fund provides support to schools for securing the wiring and cabling necessary to link students to each other and to an array of electronic resources such as the Internet. These technological enhancements will enable Saskatchewan teachers to develop links to enrich student learning, exchange resource tools, and facilitate discussion groups with fellow educators.

Providing access to computer technology to today's learners opens a new world of learning and prepares our young people for the future. It is in support of these goals that the provincial government committed funding of \$934,000 to the \$1.35 million telecommunications enhancement fund.

The telecommunications enhancement fund was approved through the Canada-Saskatchewan infrastructure works program in 1994. One million dollars from this fund is allocated to cost-share wiring and cabling. Today we see how computer networking and multi-media technology can be applied for education and training. Educators and learners can access information in the next classroom, across the province, or around the world.

As well, Mr. Speaker, my colleague and I launched our department's newly developed home page on the Internet — development of the web site in the early stages — and those who view it are invited to leave comments or suggestions through the e-mail button.

The department, along with its public education partners and private industry, are well on the way to ensuring that Saskatchewan learners get the skills they need to participate fully in our knowledge-based economy.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Education, I would also like to acknowledge that today is the first day of Education Week in our province, and I would encourage all members of this Assembly to participate in special events that may be occurring in their community during this week. I would also encourage you to take the opportunity to view Saskatchewan Education's new home page on the Internet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to acknowledge the minister's statement regarding the improvements to the Internet home page. It's encouraging to see that a program has been put in place. We're also encouraged by the fact that 177 locations in the province will have the services of Internet.

My concern around the Internet of course is to see that there is a fair breakdown of the 177 sites between rural and urban communities, and we know that there are. We know that there are, and we encourage that. We have had questions raised of course, around the area of funding and the cost of paying for the Internet.

There are different rates to use the Internet — urban and rural — and we're hearing that the cost factor almost makes it prohibitive in some areas. So while we're encouraged with that, we see that the federal government has been involved, and nearly half a million dollars of the project is federal funding.

So we're very encouraged with that. And as the minister has indicated, and I have stated already, that this is Education Week. We're very encouraged by the many projects that MLAs have been invited to, whether they are in their home constituencies, in schools, and we know that there are many positive things taking place for the children of Saskatchewan and we hope that this is one of those. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Mr. Minister, in response to that announcement, I think it's exciting that during Education Week that we're moving into some new areas of technology. I think there's three areas there that deserve commendation for what's happening. It's a technology area and I think it's good to see that we're moving into that as well.

I think when we're looking for new areas in job opportunities, hopefully some of the learnings that will take place because of this will help the job opportunities for the kids. And I think also because this week is a week that talks about wonder in education, I think it's also good to see something new happening there so kids can be in some wonder about what's happening.

One or two concerns that I do have. One is, I think we need to ensure that this has access to everyone, all our students. It would be very unfair if some of the students didn't have access to it. The other one is on the matter of cost. And I'm wondering who's going to be left having to fund all of this in a year or three. I believe it starts off with something like \$125 in the first year with unlimited access. Second year, it moves to \$250 for 75 hours of access and then \$5 per hour after those 75 hours are taken care of. The third year it moves to \$500 for 100 hours and that's on a monthly thing.

I'm a little worried it's going to be a little bit like the gambling scenario. Kids are going to get hooked on this because it's a great idea. They'll love it, they'll get excited about it, and then who's going to pay for it?

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on her feet — to request leave to respond to the statement?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — With leave, to make comment on the ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the hon. minister for being so kind as to supply me with her statement today, and to congratulate the government, as well as the Government of Canada, on such an important initiative.

It's very interesting, and it's timely that this should happen today. Not because of Education Week, but because of a telephone conversation I was having yesterday with an expatriate of Saskatchewan who's now living in Alberta. And

part of our discussion were the areas in Canada where there is a dearth of training, and tremendous opportunities for people. But what it does is point out to us the lack of training that we've had that's focused on preparing our young people to take over those positions. That, of course, was in the area of telecommunications.

So I think it's a very, very exciting venture. I think once again we should congratulate the provincial and federal government for working in cooperation with one other to ensure that we have well-trained young people who can take us into the next century.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say congratulations once again and look forward to seeing the benefits of this program.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### **Bill No. 28 — An Act to provide for the Establishment, Development and Maintenance of Public Libraries**

**Hon. Mrs. Teichrob:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill to provide for the Establishment, Development and Maintenance of Public Libraries 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. 29 — An Act to enable Co-operation among all Types of Autonomous Libraries for the Provision of Library Services**

**Hon. Mrs. Teichrob:** — I move that a Bill to enable Co-operation among all Types of Autonomous Libraries for the Provision of Library Services 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:** — Yes, I'm pleased to table the answer to question no. 11 in keeping with our policy of being open and accessible.

**The Speaker:** — The answer to question 11 is tabled.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I would like to have done the same on this question except that if the question had been answered as it was asked, the answer wouldn't make any sense. We'll have to convert this one.

**The Speaker:** — That's converted to motions for returns (debatable).

Members, I just realized here that I've gotten slightly out of sync and can I ask for leave of the House to return to just before orders of the day.

Leave granted.

### TABLING OF REPORT

**The Speaker:** — I wish to table the auditor's report on the financial statements of Crown agencies, to be laid before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with provisions of section 14 of The Provincial Auditor Act.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 8 — An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Act

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say that it's indeed a pleasure to rise and begin the second reading debate on An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Act.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to this Act are necessitated by the great success of what is known as Innovation Place in Saskatoon and the desire to continue to build on its success, both in Saskatoon and elsewhere in our province.

In order to do this, it is deemed advisable to set out SOCO's (Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation) legislation and specify authorities with respect to the operation of the research and development park in Saskatoon as well as the rest of the province.

Mr. Speaker, before turning to the details of the legislative amendments, I want to briefly place SOCO and Innovation Place in context in the government's overall economic strategy, particularly as it relates to *Partnership For Growth*.

Mr. Speaker, on February 22 I had the distinct privilege to announce in Saskatoon the *Partnership For Growth*, the second phase of the government's economic development strategy. It's fair to say that this strategy was created by stakeholders in all sectors of our economy — community economic development leaders, business, labour, REDAs (regional economic development authority), municipal government, and many, many others, including members of the opposition. Many of them were in Saskatoon for the announcement.

*Partnership For Growth* builds on the success of our first strategy, *Partnership for Renewal*, which was initiated in the fall of 1992. And under that strategy we set a target and goal, we and industry, of 30,000 new jobs by the end of the year 2000. And I'm happy and pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that in the first three years since the announcement of the program in the fall of 1992, 10,000 new jobs have been added to the economy of Saskatchewan; those jobs being added in large part by small and medium-sized business, many of them export oriented.

(1430)

Mr. Speaker, this provincial government will work diligently to implement the initiatives outlined under *Partnership For Growth* and we will do our part to create a positive climate for growth and forge many more partnerships between private and public sector entities. The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation is one of the ways the government can make a cooperative . . . and do cooperative ventures with the private sector to create wealth and jobs.

We introduced the legislation to create SOCO back in . . . about a year ago, and we have built a very new and exciting Crown corporation which is increasingly recognized as a significant contributor in many ways to the economy of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the results of SOCO's first full year of operation I believe are impressive, and I want to congratulate the staff of SOCO for the excellent work that they have done.

I just want to outline, Mr. Speaker, a few of the success stories for the Assembly before I move on to the final comments. But since its inception in August of 1994, SOCO has committed and created many new projects for a total of \$11.4 million of investment and equity. These projects have an estimated overall value of \$37.8 million including a total commitment of other private and public sector investors.

Companies such as SLS Manufacturing, a manufacturer of hydraulic valves in Yorkton, has used Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, as has Shuttlecraft, a boat manufacturing facility in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, you will be well aware of the Temple Gardens Spa project in Moose Jaw and the Microgro greenhouse in Biggar as they also received SOCO investment. The list goes on and the projects range from conventional manufacturing to leading edge technology developments.

Clients estimate that the projects SOCO has invested in or committed to will result in 168 new jobs — permanent jobs — and 98 temporary jobs. And in addition, 156 jobs will be maintained through client expansion or increased operating capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, SOCO was instrumental in facilitating arrangements for numerous other projects where it was not necessary for the corporation to invest. And as we said in our opening speech back when we introduced SOCO, part of the role is to help facilitate companies get loans from other entities so that the government does not have to be involved. And if SOCO can assist a business to obtain financing without investing taxpayers' money, they have truly done that job in an admirable way.

Mr. Speaker, the assets of Innovation Place, the province's research and development park located in Saskatoon, were transferred to SOCO in August. And in 1995 the construction of a 15,000-foot office and laboratory and warehouse building was completed and an expansion of the atrium was initiated to house a pilot scale biofermentation facility.

Mr. Speaker, SOCO also established a development division which established contracts with a large number of out-of-province businesses which could benefit from a presence in Saskatchewan. And I mentioned those in the House the other day, companies like AgrEvo from Berlin, Plant Genetics from Belgium, plant Limagrain from France, and Monsanto from the United States are but a few of those out-of-province companies that have found home in Saskatoon that add credibility, huge amounts of credibility to this institution as a world-class research and development park.

I think this is an impressive list of accomplishments of a new corporation with a total of 29 staff and an operating budget of approximately \$2 million. I congratulate the management and staff of SOCO for their work over the past year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak that SOCO does not create jobs, as we all know; the businesses that they invest in create the jobs. And again, this use of partnership-based approach to economic development is the cornerstone of SOCO's efforts as well as *Partnership for Growth*.

As I mentioned earlier, a major addition to SOCO's mandate during 1995 involved the transfer of Innovation Place from Crown Investments Corporation to Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation. We believe the integration of Innovation Place with SOCO is an excellent strategy. Both have a strong economic development mandate and complementary activities, and SOCO is now positioned to support economic growth in advanced technology through investment and through the provision of research and development provisions and facilities.

Since its creation in 1976, Innovation Place has grown to become one of North America's — in fact one of the world's premier research development parks. It's hard to believe, but 94 companies now have employees amounting to 1,400 working in various and a variety of areas of knowledge-based business and research development projects.

Tenants at Innovation Place are involved in environmental science, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, and several other areas. Lately Innovation Place has become known particularly for its strength in agriculture biotechnology, and Innovation Place is recognized as a world-class ag biotech centre.

A strong demand for new facilities has come with this recognition, and occupancy today is close to 100 per cent. And many tenants are expanding, and new tenants are seeking facilities in the research park. By the end of 1995, Innovation Place assets totalled \$14 million with approximately 14 million of new construction approved or under way. Several new multimillion dollar projects are at the conceptual and analytical stage for Innovation Place.

Mr. Speaker, with this kind of expansion, it is possible that we could run up against SOCO's legislated capitalization limit of \$100 million for its activities in the coming year. We would then be faced with having to turn away potential clients and development for Innovation Place in Saskatoon, which would harm the economy of Saskatchewan. And clearly this is an untenable position, and the prudent step to take is to amend the legislation to facilitate the meeting of that strong demand.

Therefore the amendments that we are bringing in today.

I hasten to add that the capital required for Innovation Place is investment capital. It is not a grant or a subsidy. The taxpayers of Saskatchewan receive interest on the money we invest on their behalf in Innovation Place. And Innovation Place from time to time has required modest operating subsidies, but we constantly strive to keep that to a minimum.

Innovation Place has been so successful that in response to requests from the University of Regina, REDA, and the city of Regina, we are examining the potential of a similar park at the University of Regina.

*Partnership for growth* established commercializing new and emerging technologies as its 20th objective. As a specific action in support of this objective, the Government of Saskatchewan made the following commitment. During 1996-98 expansion, expand Innovation Place at the University of Saskatchewan and examine the feasibility developing a complementary research and development park at the University of Regina.

It is for these reasons that we place before the House the Bill that would amend Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister for a few of the comments on the Bill. But in looking at the Bill, I see there's a tremendous amount of money that in fact we're dealing with. And I think given the record of some of the economic development initiatives by the government, we'd want more time to consult with some of the groups and stakeholders. And at this time I'd ask that we move adjournment on debate.

Debate adjourned.

**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:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all recognize the need for health and safety at home and at work and in public places. The legislation before us is not controversial. The amendments that we propose simply bring existing legislation up to date.

I'd like to take a few moments to give some background on the legislation and the proposed amendments before us here today.

The need for radiation safety legislation in Saskatchewan was first recognized in the field of medicine. Ionizing radiation or X-rays became major diagnostic tools for the medical community in the years following the war.

In 1958, the Minister of Public Health appointed a committee to look at the whole issue of hazards arising from the use of X-ray equipment. The committee also considered the need for regulations in regard to radiation and methods which would be used for compliance and enforcement of such regulations.

As a result of the committee's work, the radiological health Act was passed in March of 1961. Ten years later, in 1971, the Act was renamed The Radiation Health and Safety Act. The Act allowed regulations to be put in place. It also required all radiation emitting equipment to be registered, set formal requirements for the maintenance of such equipment, and introduced standards for the training of operators. The purpose of the legislation was to protect both the public and the technicians from exposure to excessive amounts of radiation.

The last major revision in 1985 considerably expanded the provisions relating to the uses of non-ionizing radiations. Three years ago in 1993, a comprehensive package of new regulations covering all aspects of the use of both ionizing and non-ionizing radiations came into effect.

Mr. Speaker, during the preparation of the radiation health and safety regulations, several limitations became apparent. It is to address these limitations that the amendments are before us today. The proposed amendments to The Radiation Health and Safety Act, 1985 will clarify the qualifications for persons allowed to operate X-ray equipment. This is necessary, because at present some entities with ionizing radiation equipment are allowing untrained persons to operate the equipment. Obviously that is not a desirable situation.

The majority of required qualifications have been prescribed in the Act. Patients, workers, and the public should be reassured because the amendments will ensure only qualified and trained people will be able to use such equipment. Obviously the amendments will address concerns raised by professional associations like the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, the Saskatchewan Association of Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Safety is of course at the root of these amendments. The legislation will enable the minister to issue codes of practice as recommended by the radiation and health safety committee.

It will also, for example, enable regulations to be made regarding the display of warning and other signs about health and safety. This benefits both workers in the field and the public.

Mr. Speaker, Health Canada has developed several safety codes for radiation emitting equipment which may be adopted as part of the province's radiation regulations. The amendments before us also make several housekeeping changes. These include for example, the deletion of the term, maximum possible dose, because the term is no longer in use. Other clauses which specify the regulation-making authority of The Radiation Health and Safety Act are also clarified.

Mr. Speaker, we also have before us consequential amendments to The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993. These amendments simply clarify the occupational health and safety legislation by including references to radiation issues.

(1445)

Mr. Speaker, this is, I am confident, one of those occasions

when we can all agree on a piece of legislation. These amendments will improve safety for both people working in the professions and for the public who have come to rely on the services that they provide.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move second reading of this Bill.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, to give us an opportunity to review this Act with our stakeholders, we ask for an opportunity to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

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

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — I would beg leave of the House, Mr. Speaker, for a moment or two. The minister who is to introduce the Bill is at the present moment being interviewed by the media and I expect him to be in here in a minute or two.

Leave granted.

### **The Assembly recessed for a period of time.**

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to move second reading of The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 1996.

In 1994 the law society amended its rules to make discipline hearings open to the public. With the full endorsement of the law society, this Bill enshrines that requirement in the Act.

Amendments are also being made to ensure that the law society has the ability to discipline former members and lawyers from other provinces who are authorized to practise in Saskatchewan but who are not "members" as that term is defined in the Act.

With the increase in mobility in the profession, it is necessary to tighten up the wording of the Act. These amendments will ensure that lawyers who practise in more than one province are not able to avoid being disciplined for misconduct for technical reasons.

I'm also introducing amendments to clarify the discipline process. A complainant's right to appeal a decision to take no action on a competency complaint is more fully established. This will make the Act consistent with the current practice of the law society, which is to provide these complainants with the right of appeal.

The competency and standards committee performs a very valuable service for the public and the profession. It works with lawyers who may be experiencing difficulties, to assist them in improving their skills. Amendments I am introducing today confirm the remedial and consensual approach of this committee.

A new Legal Profession Act was passed in 1990. It allowed the

government, for the first time, to appoint two public representatives to the governing body of the law society. Today I am introducing amendments to this Act to increase the number of public representatives to four.

The public representatives already in place are making a valuable contribution to the law society. By increasing their number we will be able to appoint persons who represent an even broader cross-section of the community. I know that this will be of considerable assistance to the law society as they continue to meet the challenge of regulating their members in the public interest.

The Legal Profession Act, 1990 also continued the existence of a special fund. This fund, financed entirely through contributions by lawyers, is available to reimburse clients when their lawyer misappropriates their funds.

In a recent case, the Court of Appeal allowed a business partner of a lawyer to make a claim against this special fund for money the lawyer had taken from the business partner. The purpose of the fund is to protect the clients of lawyers, not someone with whom the lawyer may have had business dealings. Today's amendments will clarify this situation.

The final change proposed by this Bill addresses the jurisdiction of the small claims court to resolve disputes between lawyers and clients respecting fees. A recent Court of Appeal decision held that if a lawyer sues a client for fees in small claims court, the client cannot dispute the amount of the claim at this level of court; instead the client must first ask the small claims court to delay hearing the case. If the court consents, the client must then make an application to the Court of Queen's Bench to have that court review the amount of the bill.

This process places an unnecessarily complicated and expensive onus on the client. The change proposed in the Bill before us today will allow the small claims judge to determine the dispute in its entirety. This change will enhance the ability of clients to achieve a fair result in a less expensive manner.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Legal Profession Act, 1990.

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

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate the Justice minister's comments with respect to the amendments to this particular Act since it is one that is good for the legal profession, particularly because our society in this day and age is virtually driven by lawyers. And it's also an opportune time. I just recently heard that lawyers nowadays are buried at sea, Mr. Speaker, because someone said that way down deep they're good people.

These amendments to the Act appear to afford, at least, clients the opportunity to cut some costs, maintain some control over attorneys from other jurisdictions. And I think anything that assists the public in dealing with any professionals for assistance is an important move. The disciplinary hearings to be open to the public and the increase in public participation is definitely a welcome change to these types of statutes and laws.

I believe that it's necessary that our public, the very people who rely on professionals, do have more input and are involved in some of the processes that involve disciplinary actions procedures. So I commend the government for moving in that direction.

I then would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that any further concerns . . . I'd like to adjourn debate on it since any further concerns may be raised at the committee stage. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Bill No 26 — An Act to amend the Statute Law**

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise again today to move second reading of The Statute Law Amendment Act, 1996. This Act makes several very minor amendments to a number of existing statutes. It corrects inaccurate references, numbering errors, typographical errors, and other minor mistakes in statutes. It also corrects errors made in previous consequential amendments and makes consequential amendments that were previously missed. These amendments ensure that minor technical errors in legislation are removed.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend the Statute Law.

**Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Speaker, due to the nature of the amendments, or the Bill as we see it, we see no need in holding up this Bill. We may have more to say in Committee of the Whole. Human nature being what it is and the human element being involved in the putting together of words and phrases and documents, creates some errors, and I believe it is astute on the part of those individuals who determine and find those errors and then make the necessary corrections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(1500)

#### **ADJOURNED DEBATES**

#### **SECOND READINGS**

#### **Bill No. 9**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 9 — An Act to amend The Direct Sellers Act** be now read a second time.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, with respect to The Direct Sellers Act, Bill No. 9, we understand that it deals specifically with door-to-door sales and that the recommendations were made by representatives from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, from the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the consumers' association . . . Retail Council of Canada, and government representatives from Justice and Education.

We understand that there will be increased penalties for individuals with their first offence with a maximum of \$10,000 and a one-year jail sentence. Subsequent offences could have a \$25,000 fine or one year in jail. For corporations, there would be a maximum fine of \$25,000 for a first-time offence and a subsequent of \$100,000 in fines. The court can order restitution but not more than specified in the small claims court. And this can only happen if a civil suit has not been launched.

The registrar can slap a restraining order on the person or his business if his licence is suspended. This prevents a business from continuing to carry out business.

It defines home renovators as a category of direct sellers. A deposit is limited to about 15 per cent, and hold-backs must be in compliance with The Builders' Lien Act. The registrar must be given written change of any notices and business . . . with their names, the owner's names and address, and members' names and address.

The Act will not apply to direct sales contract entered into before the Act comes into force. These changes, as we see it, will help Saskatchewan come in line with other provinces in harmonizing direct sales, cancellation rights, and contract requirements.

And so due to the nature of these amendments or the Bill, we can see no need in holding up this Bill any further. And we may have more to say to it at the Committee of the Whole.

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

#### **Bill No. 10**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 10 - An Act respecting Marketplace Practices, Consumer Products Warranties and Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards** be now read a second time.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you. The Consumer Protection Act, Bill No. 10, introduced by the Hon. Minister John Nilson, on Monday, would make offence to engage in unfair business practices. Recommendations, again, were made by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, consumers' association, the chamber of commerce, the Retail Council of Canada, and government reps.

The maximum penalty would allow for \$5,000 per individual, or \$100,000 per company. The main focus as we see it for this Bill is to protect seniors, immigrants, and disabled by selling them products that they won't need, they don't need, or by charging them exorbitant prices. The door-to-door salesman and home renovators were typically the worst offenders.

This Act will also punish garages that offer free estimates and then charge for repairs without consent or indicate repairs are necessary when they are not. Supposedly trying to encourage . . . this will encourage out-of-court settlements.

A director would be appointed to administer and enforce the Act and inform consumers and businesses of their rights and

duties. It would also maintain public record of enforcement proceedings, judgements, and compliance. The director may take action on behalf of a group of consumers.

This Act includes consumer product warranties and provides remedy procedures for defective or substandard products if the defect results in a breach of warranty.

Unsolicited goods and credit cards will continue to ensure recipients of these credit cards are not obligated to the sender unless it is in writing and signed by the purchaser.

Stories of unscrupulous corporations from time to time in Saskatchewan proves that there needs to be a better system to control these people. Due to the nature of this Bill, of the amendments of this Bill, we'll see no need to hold this up any further.

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

#### **Bill No. 3**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Mitchell that **Bill No. 3 — An Act respecting The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to make some comments on Bill No. 3, the amendment to the SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Science and Technology) Act.

I've had the opportunity to meet with some people from the institute and talk about the previous Acts — The Institute Act — as well as the amendments that are proposed. And in meeting with them, I see the kind of the move that is taking place in terms of really reaffirming what is actually taking place. We recognize the fact that the campuses, as they were once known, is no longer the term that is being used, and now we're referring to them as the institutes in the four locations.

The centralizing of education under the auspices of the secretariat and addressing the concerns around its make-up will be addressed. And I think it recognizes the fact that there is a need for a central coordinating unit, and the secretariat will be responsible for that.

In discussions with a couple of the principals from the two institutes, they have identified some small, little concerns, but nothing serious. And they're pleased with the fact of course that it will be now known as the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. And of course there is some reference to removing gender-biased language. And we're also pleased with that.

So after some consultation and discussions, we see no need to hold the current Bill up. And we would like to make further comments at committee after consulting again with other partners. Thank you.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a

Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

#### Bill No. 4

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Mitchell that **Bill No. 4 — An Act to amend The University of Regina Act** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as The University of Regina Act, we are aware, of course, that The University of Saskatchewan Act was amended in the spring of 1995 and has brought into line the conditions regarding investment procedures at the University of Saskatchewan. And after some consultation again, it seems that The University of Regina Act is attempting to do exactly that — bring it into line with The University of Saskatchewan Act in as far as its investment powers. The amendment will allow the board of governors at the university to have some flexibility as far as investments, similar to that at the University of Saskatchewan.

The University of Regina has of course requested this legislative change. And we see very little problems in terms of its suggested amendment. And therefore we will also have the Bill proceed to next reading.

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

#### Bill No. 6

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter that **Bill No. 6 — An Act to amend The Community Bonds Act** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to participate in the debate about the Bill on community bonds. I note that at the present time that there is virtually no community bonds corporations active. It's indicated in the information that I've received that in 1993-94 there were only four bond corporations actually active and I'm very proud to be a part of one of them, the Melfort and District Community Bond Corporation.

One of the experiences that our group had through this whole community-bond exercise was that on one hand it seemed that it would be a very, very easily sold kind of a venture whereby local people could invest in their communities with no risk. The risk being taken by the province of Saskatchewan and that the processes that were in place of due diligence and things of that nature would also minimize the amount of exposure that these projects would have to the taxpayers of the province as well.

Strangely enough, the experience with this whole bond corporation has not been all that positive. I recall in 1995, the Saskatoon experience where they raised a significant amount of money — \$2.2 million — and at the end they could only find a couple of eligible projects to invest in and 1.2 million of the 2.2 was actually returned to the investors.

The Prince Albert experience was even worse, about the same time, where they raised \$796,000, couldn't find any eligible companies to invest in and the whole amount was returned to the investors.

The Melfort and District Community Bond Corporation had similar difficulties in that we raised some significant money. At the end of the day it was very difficult to find any company that was eligible for these investments and we had to apply for a change in the statutes governing our bond corporation set-up so that the investment could actually be made in Thomson Meats, which the minister of Economic Development is very proud to always point out as one of the stars in the Saskatchewan job creation platform. And certainly the fact that we were able to convert our community bond to support a local project was very worthwhile.

So I guess the point of all of this thing is that I'm trying to suggest that there maybe are problems that go beyond The Community Bonds Act itself and I recognize that this particular statute does not address them.

One of the concerns that people came to us with as community bond participants, were that the overall climate of investment in this province, even though it is such an ironclad investment as that done with community bonds, was such that many projects just were not interested in accessing projects within Saskatchewan.

So we would hope that this program, that has a lot of merit and has a lot of potential, would be looked at, not only just in isolation but in context of the overall labour laws, the overall statutes governing Crown corporations and tendering and all the rest of the things that are giving us kind of a bad eye in terms of why investors or particular companies want to come to this province, will be looked at. So we hope that as we go into committee and look at the details of this that we'll be able to point out and suggest ways that this Act can actually be improved. And we therefore will not be limiting its process right now.

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

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

#### Bill No. 13

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Calvert that **Bill No. 13 — An Act to amend The Department of Social Services Act** be now read a second time.

**Ms. Julé:** — Mr. Speaker, in respect to Bill No. 13, An Act to amend The Department of Social Services Act, we see that this Act promotes fairness to all parties. However our caucus does not have any concerns at this time, but we will be addressing the Act in some more detail during the Committee of the Whole.

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



(1515)

**Bill No. 14**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Calvert that **Bill No. 14 — An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Income Plan Act** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure members in this Legislative Assembly can understand the great deal of work that has to be done to talk to stakeholders in some of these Bills, and certainly this Bill is one of the ones that has been very, very much in need of conversation with stakeholders. So with the permission of the Assembly, I'd like to move adjournment of debate.

**The Speaker:** — The motion for adjournment of debate by the hon. member for Melfort-Tisdale is out of order. I refer members to page 1 of the appendices of the rule book in which it says:

That a Member who has moved for and obtained the adjournment of a debate should not be thereby precluded from moving an amendment to the motion, other than a second motion to adjourn the said debate.

Having previously moved adjournment, therefore the member is ineligible to do that and debate will proceed.

**Mr. McPherson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After listening to some of the member for Melfort-Tisdale's comments, Mr. Speaker, I too have a great number of concerns probably shared by the government members opposite. And so at this point I'd like to move adjournment of debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 15**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Calvert that **Bill No. 15 — An Act to amend The Child and Family Services Act** be now read a second time.

**Ms. Julé:** — Mr. Speaker, in respect to this Act, Bill No. 15, the Act to amend The Child and Family Services Act, again our caucus does not have any concerns at this time and we will be addressing the Act in more detail, in complete detail, during the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

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 3:19 p.m.

