

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of this project.

These petitions come from the Meyronne, Swift Current, Prelate, Regina areas, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, to present a petition as well, and reading the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the Swift Current, Rocanville, Eastend area. In fact it's got some from out of the province as well.

Mr. Bjornerud: — I also would like to present a petition today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project.

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

The communities involved, Mr. Speaker, are the town of Tompkins and Gull Lake.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a number of petitions and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada

Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project.

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

And these are signed by people from Gull Lake, Tompkins, Abbey, and all over southern Saskatchewan. I so present.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I too have petitions to present today.

Whereas your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. McPherson: — I was going to put forward petitions, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Well wait till you're recognized.

Mr. McPherson: — Well how often do we have to stand?

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. Order. The members will be recognized in presenting petitions by the Speaker and it will be done in an orderly and consistent manner. I recognize the hon. member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The people that signed this petition are from Swift Current, from Prelate, from Gull Lake, and Regina. Thank you.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also present a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to enact legislation to completely ban the practice of night hunting in Saskatchewan.

And the signatures on this petition are all from Melfort, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The petition I am presenting, the prayer of relief reads as follows:

That your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to save the Plains Health Centre by enacting legislation to prevent the closure, and by providing adequate funding for the Regina

Health District so that the essential services provided at the Plains hospital may be continued.

These petitions are mostly signed by residents of Assiniboia. I also see Glentworth, Limerick, and Wood Mountain and Fir Mountain. I so present.

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring forward petitions from people in the province of Saskatchewan regarding night hunting. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to enact legislation to completely ban the practice of night hunting in Saskatchewan.

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

The people who have signed the petition are all from the North Battleford area of the province. I so present.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition. The petition . . . the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to save the Plains Health Centre by enacting legislation to prevent the closure, and by providing adequate funding to the Regina Health District so that the essential services provided at the Plains may be continued.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that signed this petition are primarily from Assiniboia, Congress, and Viceroy, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to present on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to enact legislation to completely ban the practice of night hunting in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks out in Liberty, Davidson, Simpson, and Imperial. I so present.

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions on behalf of numerous people throughout the province, particularly those in and around the Humboldt constituency, concerned about the well-being of our youth and the serious problem of escalating youth crime. These petitions numbered over 1,300 that I have presented, and I would like to complete them today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the Parliament of Canada and the legislature of Saskatchewan enact legislation and policies to deal with the problem of youth crime.

The petitioners on these particular petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from Killdeer, from Weldon, from Humboldt, Lanigan, from

Annaheim, from Spalding, Kinistino, numerous places throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, and I do thank them for their concern. I so present.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy today to present petitions as well that are self-explanatory. I'll read the prayer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project, with or without federal assistance.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will every pray.

From the communities of Maple Creek, Piapot, and surrounding towns in the south-west. Thank you, 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 call upon the provincial and federal governments to meet to conclude a cost-sharing agreement on the twinning of the remaining portions of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan; and

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to cause the government to reach agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway; and

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to enact legislation and policies to deal with the problem of youth crime; and

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to cause the government to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders in an effort to end the practice of night hunting.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 10 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation: which law firms, accounting firms, and consulting firms were involved in the negotiations surrounding the proposed purchase of the Guyana Electric Company; submit a list of names and addresses for all firms and lawyers, accountants and consultants involved; and a schedule of payments made to each firm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mrs. Teichrob: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to

you and through you to other members of the House, a visitor in the west gallery this morning. Michele Wilde was a member of the staff in the legislature for about six years, serving different, various ministers. And her husband started, about a year and a half ago, a very successful business in the town of Meadow Lake, related to the transportation industry. And it's a pretty long commute from Regina to Meadow Lake so Michele left us last year to move up there.

We're very glad to see her back visiting us today and glad that their business is successful in Meadow Lake, creating jobs and serving the business community there.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly today, some very special guests seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. We have here today several members of the Saskatchewan Neuroscience Network. They are here today as part of the proclamation of Brain Awareness Week, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, Saskatchewan is the home of a thriving community of neuroscientists and health professionals who work every day to overcome the effects of the diseases of the nervous system. Their efforts in research and in the development of innovative health care strategies rank, Mr. Speaker, as world leaders.

And today we have with us — and I would ask them to stand when I introduce them — Dr. Alan Boulton, who is the director of the Neuropsychiatry Research Unit of the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan; professors Rick Devon, Madan Gupta, Bernie Juurlink, Steve Richardson, Tom Wishart, and a graduate student, Paula Ashe. I would ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming them to the Assembly this morning.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Renaud: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the Assembly, I would like to introduce, in your gallery, Mr. Andrew Taphorn, from McKague, Saskatchewan and with him is Sharon Taphorn. Sharon is from Regina and Andy is here for the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) convention. Please help me join . . . or join with me in welcoming them to Regina and to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome Dr. Alan Boulton to the House. I think in my current condition perhaps it's his medical services that I require today. But I'd like to acknowledge his distinguished career as a researcher and also the fact that he's been active in commercializing that medical research to help to create the many new jobs we have in the province.

Besides being famous as an academic, he is one heck of a bridge player, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Labour Statistics and Economic Good News

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd be remiss if not reminding the Assembly that today is in fact Friday the 13th. There is in fact a full moon out, and I'm sure that we'll hear no end of weirdness from the opposition today in terms of conspiracy theory and the rest.

Before we get to that though, I would like to point out that there is in fact some very good news to report to the Assembly today, particularly in terms of the job numbers that have been released by Statistics Canada for February. I am very, very pleased to advise the House that Statistics Canada tells us that there are 14,900 more people working in Saskatchewan than there were a year ago. I am very pleased to tell you there are 3,000 fewer unemployed people. Regina has the lowest unemployment rate in the country, and for young people, there are 5,800 more young people working today than there were a year ago.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Good News Stories in Saskatchewan

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to read five headlines into the public record:

(1) "Four Winds Ford opening in Carlyle," the *Carlyle Observer*, January 19, 1998.

(2) "Big Sky Pork building at Sturgis and Preeceville," the *Kelvington Radio*, January 21, 1998.

(3) "Elrose mayor reviews past year — a banner year," *The Eston Press Review*, January 13.

(4) "Jobs popping up all over," the *Esterhazy Miner-Journal*, January 13.

(5) "Wheat Pool expands again," *The Melfort Journal*, January 27, 1998.

What do these stories have in common, Mr. Speaker? They are all good news stories and they're all taking place in opposition constituencies.

These, and many others like them, make Saskatchewan people very happy. They make the opposition not so happy — even grumpy, Mr. Speaker — because they don't like good news, especially in their own homes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Channel Lake Investigation

Mr. Hillson: — Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Minister of Crown Investments say earlier this week that the Public Accounts Committee will now be allowed to investigate fully the work of Channel Lake, and also to call witnesses.

However, I continue to be concerned as to when this will be allowed to happen. During the meeting of Public Accounts last month, the NDP (New Democratic Party) members voted nine times against having Channel Lake put on the Public Accounts agenda. In their view, taking another year or two or more before we looked at Channel Lake was quite soon enough. Of course the Saskatchewan Party also agreed that there was no rush to jump into Channel Lake and also voted against adding Channel Lake to the agenda.

Mistakes were made and hopefully lessons were learned. Hopefully one of the lessons learned is that by denying our right to ask questions the people's right to answers is also denied.

I have written to the Chair and Deputy Chair of Public Accounts requesting an early and special meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. If the government and the official opposition are truly committed to a full examination of what went wrong, they will be committed to doing it in the next few days and not the next several years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Brain Awareness Week

Ms. Murray: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health said in his introduction of our special guests, next week is Brain Awareness Week. Brain Awareness Week was begun in 1997 by neuroscientists affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan. Several public education events took place in Saskatoon, including public lectures, presentations to service clubs, and visits by graduate students in neuroscience to local high schools.

This year, the second year, the scope has expanded, the events enlarged, and Brain Awareness Week will be recognized throughout Canada and the U.S.A. (United States of America).

To launch the week, Mr. Speaker, there is a banquet tonight in Saskatoon at which the minister will speak. One major focus this year will be on acquired brain injury. Obviously the major purpose of this week is to bring together the researchers, clinicians, students, and representatives from various voluntary groups with an interest in neuroscience research.

But the work of all these dedicated people is obviously of great interest and concern to all of us. We all have been affected in one form or another by Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, stroke or other afflictions of the brain.

Ninety seconds is only enough time to say how much we value the work you are doing during this week, and we express our gratitude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Athlete of the Year Celebration

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last evening Sask Sport held its 1997 Athlete of the Year Award celebration at Queensbury Centre. I would like to congratulate all athletes for their talents and their contributions to the Sask Sport scene.

But in particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent and friend of mine, Dennis Dauvin, of the Bruno-Peterson area of the province. Dennis was a most deserving Sask Sport nominee for the 1997 Masters Athlete of the Year Award.

Dennis was a member of the Saskatoon Masters softball team which won the provincial masters men's championships. The team went on to win the gold medal at the Western Canadian Masters Championships, and Dennis was named the top pitcher. He also competed with the Bruno team that finished second in the intermediate A men's division provincial championships.

Now, Mr. Speaker, over the past 38 years, Dennis has contributed his outstanding pitching talents to numerous teams throughout the province, including the Peterson Wildcats, the Bruno Merchants, Rosthern Valley, and in the past 10 years has played with the Saskatoon Masters, who were successful in winning the Provincial Softball Championships for 10 consecutive years.

Now, at 52 years of age, Dennis continues to delight softball fans and spectators, pitching for the Bruno Merchants and the Saskatoon Sutherland Bar Masters.

I would like to take the opportunity once again to commend him on his very fine efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Home Town Hero

Ms. Stanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise here today to talk briefly about a friend of mine, a friend of my home town, and a friend of rural Saskatchewan.

Joe Stakiw is a home town hero. Way back in 1939 he began serving rural Saskatchewan in the RM (rural municipality) of Spruce Lake where he became secretary-treasurer. He moved to the RM of Medstead, and in 1943 he found his permanent home in Maidstone. He served the RM of Eldon for 39 years in the capacity of secretary-treasurer and an administrator until he retired in 1982.

Mr. Stakiw is quoted as saying, "I enjoyed every day of work". Well, Joe, let me say as a person from Maidstone and the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) for that constituency, we appreciate the work that you have done and we know that, still at the age of 82, you are still giving your time and effort to uplift the community — as well as learning to downhill ski at 72 years of age.

Joe, we will always be grateful for everything you've done for us over the years. And as reported in the Regina *Leader-Post*, we all congratulate you on receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service in Rural Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Kentucky Fried Chicken Outlet Wins Award

Hon. Ms. Bradley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year at

this time I was happy to congratulate the owners and staff at the Weyburn KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) franchise. Their restaurant was named the best in Canada.

I refer members to *Hansard*, March 27, 1997, because, in the interest of time, I'm happy to say now that my statement there can be repeated now.

Manager Glenn Lucas, owner Brian Johnson, and their fine staff won again. Only four KFC outlets in North America have won this award two years running. The staff was given \$1,200 in loonies as part of their award, and Brian and Glenn are going to Disneyland.

I also want to add that I attended this event and it was exciting but especially gratifying to see the excellent team work that brings this honour to Weyburn as Glenn Lucas recognized the wonderful contribution of the staff, the majority being high school students.

I again congratulate Weyburn KFC, and once again invite all members, especially the Premier with his known fondness for good KFC, to my constituency to experience first hand the quote, "Best of the Best," as the award says.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Affordable Housing for Low Income Families

Mr. Pringle: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government recently announced the establishment of three very important partnerships. These partnerships of community groups, private businesses, the cities of Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert, and the provincial government have provided secure, affordable housing for low income families in the core neighbourhoods. These three projects are well on their way and have received national recognition for their innovation and vision.

Mr. Speaker, it has been difficult to provide new housing units for low income families in the traditional manner, given the withdrawal of federal funding. However, our government is exploring new, local approaches to meet the need for housing, approaches such as these projects, and I commend all the partners involved.

Through these three partnerships, Mr. Speaker, 32 families have received loans and grants to be applied to the down payment on their own home. These projects were the start of renewed efforts to assist in the revitalization of core areas of our major cities. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

SaskPower Presidents' Severance Package

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan). Three hundred thousand dollars for Jack Messer — \$300,000. Mr. Minister, that's more money than a lot of people in Saskatchewan earn in

10 years, and those are the people who are going to be paying for this obscene severance package.

Mr. Minister, the NDP has abused the taxpayers of this province a lot over the last 10 years, and you have kind of gotten away with it. But they're never going to forgive you for this one.

They will never forgive you unless you immediately apologize to every single taxpayer in Saskatchewan and you immediately cancel this obscene political pay-off to the Premier's buddy, Jack Messer. Mr. Minister, will you do that today?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite that in my statement earlier this week I said already that the government is disappointed in the way Channel Lake developed, and I said that very clearly and indicated that we did deserve our share of criticism.

Having said that, I want to say clearly that we have set in place processes to deal with the lack of communication that occurred between management and the board of directors. But I want to say to you, sir, that when it relates to Mr. Messer and the severance package arranged by Mr. Milt Fair, the former CEO (chief executive officer) of the Wheat Pool, and legal counsel, that this is a legal matter, not a political one.

And I say that the front page of the *Leader-Post* that speaks to that issue clearly indicates that this is a legal matter, as the *Leader-Post* story of November 21, '93 dealing with Mr. George Hill. Politically, paying George Hill was not a good idea. Politically, paying Jack Messer is not a good idea. But legally, this is what is deserved under the law. And on that point, I will have to take the heat for the bad politics that may exist because, legally, paying Mr. Hill and paying Mr. Messer . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, further supplementary. Mr. Minister, to say this isn't political is very wrong. Of course it's political. Everything Jack Messer does is political. Everything you do is political. Mr. Messer was a political appointee. The boards of directors are all appointed people.

Do other people quit their job and get a \$300,000 severance package? No. This is a political pay-out because Jack Messer is the Premier's buddy. And everyone in Saskatchewan knows it's political.

Mr. Minister, do you think it's fair that after the mistakes Jack Messer made in the Channel Lake and Guyana deals, do you think it's fair to give him more money than some make . . . people make in 10 years? Is that fair, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I say again to the member opposite, who was part of the caucus, who was part of

the caucus at the time that Mr. Hill transferred over a million dollars from SaskPower to a trust account in Saskatoon before the election when the Devine government was defeated, you remember that. You remember that clearly.

We dismissed Mr. George Hill with cause. I remember it because I signed the letter. And after two years of negotiating, spending tens of thousands of legal dollars, we ended up, not because we thought it was good politics but because the law required, after much negotiation, 325,000 severance — after we got back the million dollars that you, sir, allowed Mr. Hill to transfer to his account in Saskatoon.

And I would ask you to apologize. I've taken the heat on behalf of this government for mistakes we've made. You have never apologized, and I challenge you to do that today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister knows full well exactly what happened to the former minister as a result of that. And, Mr. Minister, the people of Saskatchewan will judge you accordingly. I believe they will.

Mr. Speaker, I would be demanding the minister's resignation but I'm scared he might resign and give himself a big fat severance package as well. The minister might keep quoting legal opinion — the same legal opinion that says Jack Messer was terminated without just cause. This means you are at fault; you fired Mr. Messer. You don't deserve to pay his severance.

Why do Saskatchewan's taxpayers always have to pay for your government's mismanagement? If this legal opinion is correct, as you say it is, you just made a mistake that cost Saskatchewan taxpayers \$300,000. Why don't you take responsibility and resign, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — I say again to the . . . I believe that in every way I have taken responsibility for the mistakes made over the period by Channel Lake. I've admitted mistakes were made, I've said we set processes in place, and I've done that.

On the legal issue of severance, I've explained as best of my ability why the severance on legal grounds was necessary. But what hasn't happened in this House, Mr. Speaker, is that member — Conservative member — today, yesterday, and with Mr. Devine, has never responded to the wrongdoing of his government, which included a million dollar payment to Mr. Hill against all of the reports that were . . . might recommend differently. And you've never apologized for the \$15 billion — \$15 billion — in debt that you, sir, and your cronies were responsible for during the 1980s.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Sale of Channel Lake

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of CIC. Mr. Minister, I have an idea how you can save a lot of money. Why don't you change Jack Messer's severance contract but don't tell him? He won't know because he won't read it. Why won't you change the gross amount to the net amount and deduct \$5 million?

Mr. Minister, the Channel Lake deal is smelling worse than Wascana Lake in the spring. And Jack Messer isn't the only one who's getting ahead on this deal. Your friend Owen Mitchell said he had no direct involvement in this deal; then why was he questioned in the investigation of the deal and why did he resign from SaskEnergy's board just 10 days ago, just before the whole story came out?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite that as you know, Mr. Owen Mitchell, who worked for the provincial government during the 1970s in the budget bureau as an analyst, son of a former deputy minister of the Tommy Douglas, and I believe Liberal, government of the day, his mom lives in Regina — June Mitchell, a well known social activist. Owen, who is presently a vice-president at First Marathon, explained the situation, and I quote:

Mitchell said he wasn't in a decision-making capacity, a position to benefit, any way in the Channel Lake acquisition.

Read the story in the *Leader-Post*. Read the Deloitte & Touche report. If you haven't had time take an hour or two and read it. And I want to say to you, I want to say to you that your association with the Conservative Party and the payment to George Hill, your association and payment to George Hill and the severance package that legally we were required to put to Mr. Hill, tells you a lot about your honesty and integrity here in the Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister talks about reading. It's his government and their people they appoint that haven't learned how to read yet. Mr. Minister, it's time to start fishing for the bottom feeders out of Channel Lake, and we have just the net for you to do it with.

Immediately after question period the Saskatchewan Party will be moving a motion calling for an independent public inquiry into the whole Channel Lake fiasco. That inquiry would be empowered to make any recommendations they deem appropriate, including legal action against any person or entity. The Saskatchewan Party motion also calls on your government to cancel Jack Messer's obscene severance payment until the public inquiry completes its work.

Mr. Minister, will you support this motion? Will you support a full public inquiry into the Channel Lake fiasco?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's a little hard to speak because after asking the question, as you can see, they holler and yell from their seats so I can't explain well, but I know why they don't want to hear the answer.

I know why they don't want to hear the answer. And, Mr. Speaker, the reason is, is that at the last Public Accounts meeting that their representative from Melfort was at, he voted against — the auditor looking into Channel Lake. That's what he did. And today, and today because it's good politics, he says, let's have a public inquiry.

What a phoney lot over there. Just as phoney as those who signed the promise to the Liberal Party, and then a week later moved over to what is now called the Saskatchewan Party, which is really the same old bunch of Tories. A Tory is a Tory is a Tory.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Health Information Network Appointment

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the minister responsible for STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company).

Mr. Minister, we found out recently about another million-dollar mistake by one of your family of Crown corporations, STC. It seems that former STC president, Peter Glendinning, lost the company \$750,000 because his new computer wasn't billing customers. So naturally, the NDP management gurus made Glendinning vice-president of Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming.

Then you replaced him with another NDP hack, Gordon Nystuen, who decided the best way to fix the computer problem was to turn it off. And now you're going to reward his Stone Age computer skills by putting him in charge of one of the most important computer networks in the province, the Saskatchewan Health Information Network. Mr. Minister, haven't you learned that appointing your NDP buddies to senior government positions is costing taxpayers millions?

Mr. Minister, will you reverse your decision to put Gordon Nystuen in charge of SHIN (Saskatchewan Health Information Network) and hire someone who is qualified for the job?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to announce, as we already have, that Mr. Gordon Nystuen will take on the responsibility of managing the SHIN board. The SHIN board, Mr. Speaker, is going to be managing a portfolio somewhere in the neighbourhood of around \$40 million. And that \$40 million project will bring to Saskatchewan, will bring to Saskatchewan a state-of-the-art technology similar to what we're having in Manitoba and similar to what we'll have in Alberta.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure the members opposite that the process for Mr. Nystuen to get to the SHIN board, or to be the CEO of SHIN, required that he would compete against 37 applications that were received from across the nation. And of those 37 applications, 4 people, Mr. Speaker, were short-listed, and on the review of the SHIN board panel, decided that Mr. Nystuen was the best candidate to handle the job on behalf of delivering a very comprehensive information health service to the people of Saskatchewan.

And I, Mr. Speaker, am responsible for that; support that Mr. Nystuen take that job.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLane: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier told us this week in

the House that Channel Lake taught him a lesson, that he had learned a serious lesson. What happened, Mr. Premier? Mr. Premier, if the Channel Lake fiasco demonstrated anything, it showed what can happen when you appoint your political friends to senior manage positions when they're not qualified.

Now we're hearing you're preparing to do that again. Mr. Premier, why are you preparing to name former NDP bagman, Gordon Nystuen, as the CEO of the all-important Saskatchewan Health Information Network board?

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I just highlighted for the member opposite of the new Saskatchewan Party, old Tory Party, exactly why it is that we hired Mr. Nystuen; that Mr. Nystuen was involved in a process. And I'll highlight for the member, again, from Arm River what had happened here.

There were 37 applications that people from across the country . . . that applied for this job. At the end of the day, Mr. Nystuen's name was short-listed with four other members, and of those four members that were short-listed, Mr. Nystuen won the award to be the CEO of the new SHIN corporation.

And I am very pleased that Mr. Nystuen's name has come to the top through due diligence in an excellent process. And he will now be the individual who will be delivering this service in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLane: — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan do not want the government to simply shuffle the NDP deck and appoint another one of their party friends as the CEO of the SHIN board. And what you are demonstrating today is that you are more concerned about lining the pockets of your party friends than you are about the proper management of SHIN.

Obviously the CEO for SHIN should have a great deal of experience in developing and managing information technology, especially when as many as 80 per cent of these types of projects fall flat on their face. Mr. Nystuen's experience would hardly suggest he is the man. Yes, this hack has worked at Liquor and Gaming so he's right out of the ice. And I guess that's better than your last hack who put you right into the fire. But please tell this House, Mr. Premier, how counting beer bottles qualifies somebody to manage the Saskatchewan Health Information System.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that clearly the member opposite doesn't have much knowledge about the large portfolio of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming and/or of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. Because if you think that the level of work that a CEO does with the Liquor and Gaming Authority is counting beer bottles, you have very little — you have very little — knowledge about the expertise that's required in running a large corporation or company. And of course, I'm not surprised then, by the question that you ask because you have very little understanding and appreciation about the value of what SHIN will provide in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Because in Saskatchewan today, the SHIN board is made up of health professionals, of stakeholders that represent the broad piece of what's required in delivering the health component in this province. Doctors, physicians, nurses, many, many stakeholders are involved in sitting on the board. Mr. Nystuen's job will be to work with those people and to ensure that we have a comprehensive health system in the province, delivered through SHIN.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLane: — Mr. Speaker, for some reason the NDP government has come to the conclusion that \$40 million, or is it 80 million that we talked about last session, is better spent on a health information network and padding the wallets of party friends than it is to look after the sick and the elderly. The fact that the NDP is spending valuable health care dollars to set up a new bureaucracy to oversee this project also underlines just how screwed up this government's priorities really are.

Mr. Premier, it appears that SHIN may be home to more party friends than Mr. Nystuen. We have learned that not only are you going to be paying him \$112,000 a year for this party friend, you're also setting aside another \$2 million for administration of this project.

Mr. Premier, how many more NDP friends, how many more personal friends of yours, will line their pockets assigned to this project?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I'm not understanding fully what it is that the member is challenging here. If the member in fact is challenging the fact that Mr. Nystuen is now the new CEO, I've outlined for Mr. Nystuen the process in which Mr. Nystuen got to be the new CEO for the health information system.

But I hear the member opposite talking about something different; the member opposite talking about the value of a health information technology system to this province today. And that to me, Mr. Speaker, disturbs all of us a great deal. Because sitting on the SHIN board today, Mr. Speaker, are stakeholders of the health profession from across the province who tell us that in order to provide comprehensive health services, in particular to rural Saskatchewan, will require a technology piece similar to SHIN.

And I hear the member opposite suggesting that that's not important, that we should be taking the \$40 million and putting it somewhere else. But that's because the member opposite does not believe in the medical system, doesn't believe in medicare. He believes in the two-tiered system, the privatization of the health care system. That's what the member from Arm River believes in, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Examination of Channel Lake

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, the government has taken it upon itself to add a new verse to the Beatitudes. The new beatitude reads, blessed are they who throw in with the NDP, for they

shall never want.

My question for the Premier is: in view of the statement made on Tuesday in this House, is he now prepared to call off his back-benchers' stonewalling the Public Accounts Committee, is he now prepared to ask his friends in the Saskatchewan Party to lay off and let the Public Accounts Committee meet promptly to examine witnesses, to get to the bottom of this, or is he still taking the position that two or three years down the road is soon enough to deal with this issue?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, how quickly he forgets and how mutually insulting it is. He says that these are my former friends over there. At least four are your very close, bosom friends. I think the best hope that we would have in this case is for you to talk to them and try to convince them to do this.

The Public Accounts Committee will do what will be necessary and proper in pursuit of this. We have tabled the documents, in effect showing the factual circumstances surrounding this whole operation. Public Accounts, the Provincial Auditor, will be involved in this. There's lots of room for further re-examination of the evidence and Public Accounts in due course will make their decisions as they see fit.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier told us in this House on December 17 that there was absolutely nothing devious about Mr. Portigal just being out of job after he'd sold the company and then popping up working for the new company. He told us on Tuesday that there definitely was something more underneath all of this than what he told us on December 17. And in point of fact, way last June, Portigal had been fired.

Will the Deputy Premier tell us when he knew that indeed there was something behind Portigal's leaving the old company and going to the new company; when he knew there was something behind and it was a great deal more than he was telling us on December 17? And will he tell us if Portigal also got a pay-out the same as Messer? Did he get a package; does he get a severance?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I know the member knows this, but in order to respond to his question, he will have my statement from earlier this week. I just want to quote two parts. On page 1 I said, "On December 9, I instructed my officials of Crown Investments Corporation to conduct a thorough review of the operations of Channel Lake." That's when I became aware, as a result of the report of the auditor late in 1997.

And I concluded my response on page 11 of that speech I gave on Tuesday. I said, "At the time, my answers were based on incomplete information as noted in the CIC and Deloitte Touche's report." They refer to my incomplete briefing notes I had at the time.

I have said that we have apologized for the problems that were caused by Channel Lake. We did full revelation. We tabled those documents.

I say again, I know the member opposite, being a lawyer, has read these documents. I'm sure you're raising this for political purposes. I don't mind that. I know what the reason is. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Portigal got no severance package. As soon as I was aware of it, I asked my officials to review the file, we reported it here, and to the best of my knowledge, no payment was made in severance to Mr. Portigal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Multilateral Agreement on Investment

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, the multilateral agreement on investment is scheduled for ratification in May 1998.

Now, Mr. Premier, many, many Saskatchewan citizens are raising legitimate concerns about the impact this investment treaty will have on Saskatchewan's economic, social, and environmental well-being. Fears have been expressed about corporate powers superseding that of democratically elected governments.

Now because the people of Saskatchewan want to know exactly what their government has done about this issue to date, and I am certain that you have written documentation that your administration, your minister has presented to Trade minister Sergio Marchi and the federal negotiator, Mr. Bill Diamond, I would ask that you explain your position; and if you have any documentation of exchange between Mr. Marchi and your minister, I would ask that you table that today please.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I think this question by the hon. member is a very important question which has long-term, significant implications for not only the province of Saskatchewan but for Canada. And I don't have access to the documentation which has transpired and the correspondence which has transpired. I'd have to check my files to make sure that it can be released. I don't know whether they're personal and confidential terms.

But in general, in general I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. member, this government shares the grave concerns that the member from Humboldt has raised about the multilateral agreement on investment. The MAI (multilateral agreement on investment) is intended to put in, on an international basis, some ground rules for the investors of the world, which investors in the world now have no such ground rules.

We do not like what we see as the proposed ground rules because — some of my answer — what will be, we think, is a strait-jacketing of provincial jurisdiction and national jurisdiction and a lowering of standards in the areas of environment and health, to name two, and this government is simply not going to allow that to happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — Mr. Premier, there is no question in anybody's mind in Saskatchewan that your Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs has discussed the concerns of the Saskatchewan people. What they are concerned about even more is that there has been no tabled written document presented by your government to the committee, to the standing committee in Ottawa.

And in addition, their concern surrounds provincial obligations in this matter. Given the statement by Mr. Gerald Schmitz, research coordinator for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and I quote, he says:

If there are obligations that affect provincial areas of jurisdiction, then provincial legislation is necessary to give this effect.

Will this Assembly, Mr. Premier, be formally addressing the issue of the multilateral agreement on investment through provincial legislation in this session?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question because the state of the negotiations is such that it can be fairly said they are very much incomplete.

When I was in Washington a few weeks ago, the American government itself had indicated — at least some of the senators and officials that I visited with — that they too had these very much on their minds, and the concerns, therefore, necessitated an incomplete set of negotiations. So nothing is required until the negotiations are finalized.

But I would say to the hon. member that I have raised this issue publicly on record and I'd be prepared to show it and send to her and to any member of the House who's interested, a speech which I gave to the Canadian Institute on International Affairs before the end of the year 1997 outlining our concerns on MAI and the principles of international investments.

Subsequently, I said the same to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour in speaking to their annual convention. And I do know there's correspondence around involving the minister and myself because, as I've said before, this government does not want to — and will not — accept any kind of international rule which lowers the standards of environment, social services, and above all, anything which would further damage the medicare where we invented it right here in this province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 5 — The Animal Products Amendment Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 5, The Animal Products Amendment Act, 1998 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. 6 — The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 6, The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998 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. 7 — The Pastures Act

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 7, The Pastures Act be now introduced and read for the very 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. 8 — The Stray Animals Amendment Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 8, The Stray Animals Amendment Act, 1998 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. 9 — The Parks Amendment Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Scott: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 9, The Parks Amendment Act, 1998 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. 234 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 1998 (Indexed Minimum Wage Initial Rate)

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move a Bill, Bill No. 234 of 1998, An Act to amend The Labour Standards Act respecting the indexing minimum wage initial rates. I so move.

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

The Speaker: — Orders of the day. I recognize the hon. member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to rule 46 to ask leave to move an emergency motion of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — The hon. member for Cannington has requested leave to introduce a motion of urgent and pressing necessity.

And I'll ask the hon. member to advise the Assembly very, very briefly why he believes it is a matter that is of urging and pressing necessity and to give a brief advice to the House as to what he wishes to propose by way of motion.

MOTION UNDER RULE 46**Sale of Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd.**

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recent events surrounding the sale of Channel Lake Petroleum by SaskPower have left numerous unanswered questions and there is a clear need for an independent public inquiry into this matter pursuant to The Public Inquiries Act. Therefore, I wish to move the following motion:

That this Assembly demand that the Lieutenant Governor in Council initiate a public inquiry into the purchase, management, and sale of Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd. by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation pursuant to The Public Inquiries Act; that the scope of the inquiry should include but not be limited to an examination of reporting procedures between the Channel Lake Petroleum board of directors and SaskPower board of directors.

Two, the activities undertaken by SaskPower, SaskPower subsidiaries and/or the Crown Investments Corporation in the process of performing due diligence in the sale of Channel Lake Petroleum to Direct Energy Marketing Ltd.

Three, all reports completed by or contracted by SaskPower, SaskPower subsidiaries and/or the Crown Investments Corporation reviewing the sale of Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd.

Four, all events and transactions associated with the loss of \$8 million by Channel Lake Petroleum in 1996 and 1997 through unauthorized arbitrage activities and all events and transactions associated with the sale of Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd. to Direct Marketing Ltd.; that the inquiring commissioners be empowered to make recommendations regarding the legal action against any person or entity they deem appropriate; that the inquiry commissioner shall immediately turn over any evidence of criminal wrongdoing they uncover to the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police). And that SaskPower immediately cancel Jack Messer's severance package until this inquiry is completed.

Leave not granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**SPECIAL ORDER****ADJOURNED DEBATES****ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Ward, and the proposed amendment thereto moved by Mr. Krawetz.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am happy today to have the opportunity to speak in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I know that many members would like to have talked about Channel Lake for the rest of the day and

probably that is very important. But the Speech from the Throne, of course, also has importance in our province and I'm quite sure that we will have lots of time to talk about these other emergency things as we go along.

I want, Mr. Speaker, to first of all welcome yourself and all of the officials and everybody back to the session. We're glad that everybody has come back in good spirits and in good health, and I'm sure that we are going to have a lively session. And we know that it will be fairly adjudicated and that we will accomplish something positive for the people of Saskatchewan.

I know also that sometimes it may be very boring for people to listen to speeches that seem to be repetitious, but the democratic process is such that we do that sort of thing in order to continue to reinforce that we listen to what the people say rather than just to be dictated to. And so sometimes boredom and repetition is the way that that is accomplished. So we will do that as well some days.

And as we go through this process for the next few months, there will be days when people in the town of Gull Lake will want to shut their television sets back off, because they of course are receiving the transmissions for the first time this year, from the proceedings of the House. And I welcome them to the proceedings, and I hope that they do find some days when they will actually enjoy it. It's not quite as good perhaps as the soap operas, but we'll try to make it entertaining and I'm sure that they will find that there is some usefulness out of what we do here.

(1100)

The town of Maple Creek, of course is enjoying the second year, and by now they even know probably when is the best time to tune in so that they can get the meat of the thing and find out when question period is and that sort of thing. So we welcome them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I was particularly interested in the Speech from the Throne because I wanted to hear some positive things for our province at this particular time in history, when we seem to be enjoying an economic boom.

An economic boom in Saskatchewan doesn't happen very often because there is an old saying — and people will know that I've said this before — Saskatchewan is always first into a recession and the last out. And that means that by the time we get out of a recession the next one has probably already started, and we missed the boom.

What we have enjoyed though somewhat, a period of time of the boom this time. The other parts of the world of course, that have come out of the recession are now going back in. In the Asian countries of course, things are not looking all that rosy.

I hope that we can somehow, in our nation and in our world, keep that downturn over there. But naturally it will spread here to some extent, in time, and we'll try to offset that here in Saskatchewan if we are careful with how we handle the prosperity that we have now. It's the old story of the seven good years and the seven lean years, and we're having the seven good years. And if we're careful and lay a little aside now, perhaps

we will weather the storm in the future a lot better than we have in the past. I think it's learning from experience is what it's called.

And I was hoping that the Speech from the Throne would address that kind of an approach. Unfortunately I have to say that I missed some things. I can't say that I'm against the Speech from the Throne and that I would vote against the Speech from the Throne on the basis of what's in it. But what I'd have to do is vote against it on the basis of what it hasn't got in it.

And what it hasn't got in it is nearly enough attention to the problems that we are going to face in the future in our province. We haven't . . . For example, I looked, being a farmer, through and through the speech, and I read it several times, and I still couldn't find very much that concerns agriculture or the petroleum and natural gas industry. Not very much in a positive way. The two backbone products of this province, even though other things seem to be taking the attention.

The reality is that agriculture will be here for ever because people will always have to eat as long as they're alive, and as long as the meteorite that's supposed to come in 30 years doesn't destroy the world, people will still want to eat. You can never escape that.

Petroleum and natural gas, of course, can still be replaced with some alternatives but at the present time they haven't been replaced, and they won't be for a few years. Now I think we need to work on that, of course, but the reality is that they are key to the province and they are key to the economy of our province and they are certainly important to the south-west where I come from and the area that I represent.

And this government, of course, while they reduced the mineral royalties rates prior to the reading of the Speech from the Throne, and we welcome that, they haven't actually in the Speech from the Throne alluded to a continuing program to sustain those industries. That, Mr. Speaker, is why I can't support the Speech from the Throne, because they don't include the very important things.

They do include some important things though, that I want to congratulate the government on. I want to congratulate the government for taking back on the apprenticeship program approach to education. It has worked very well in Europe, and having had some contact with some of the Europeans from countries where people have enjoyed the benefits of an apprenticeship program over the years, I have always wondered why we didn't pursue this a little more. It works so well over there.

For example, in the country of Switzerland, they train people for the job that they're going to do in their life as a part of their educational process through an apprenticeship program. And now that we have the government recognizing that that program is again important and are expanding on it, I want to say, congratulations, I'm glad you're doing this.

There are going to be some problems, and that's natural. The only thing I would caution the government on is that they do look at these problems and that they do work hard to offset

them before they become serious problems. One minor glitch that we have already noticed on the west side of the province, which some of the people at Public Accounts have already heard about of course, is the Workers' Compensation Board and the way that it affects the apprenticeship program.

For example — and I say this for the government members so that they will know the kind of thing they have to watch for — the people in Alberta have coverage from the Workers' Compensation Board when they are being educated if they take a job for their apprenticeship in Saskatchewan. If a Saskatchewan student though, from, say Burstall, Saskatchewan, gets a job in the gas plant which is only a couple of miles away from town but across the border in Alberta, they are not covered by Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation because they are working out of province — is the argument the Workers' Compensation use. Unfortunately though, the Alberta Workers' Compensation won't cover them either because they are Saskatchewan residents. They are students working in Alberta; they are Saskatchewan residents. So it's a catch-22 — they can't be covered.

And the employer is caught in the middle saying, I can't pay minimum wage even, because if I do, I have to be covered for Workers' Compensation; that's the law in both provinces. So it doesn't matter which way we go. We just can't employ these people from Saskatchewan; they're not covered by Workers' Compensation. And so our children are left out of that opportunity for training on the west side of this province.

Now maybe the students from Regina haven't noticed that problem and maybe that's why the government hasn't noticed the problem, but now we're here to tell them that it is a problem. It needs to be corrected. I'm hoping that they're working on it.

And there will be other problems like that with apprenticeship programs, especially as we try to expand them, because you do have to coordinate a lot of people. You have to coordinate employers as well as, of course, as the educational system and the students and that's going to take some work.

But I say, hang in there. It's a good project, it's a good plan. Keep at it. We'll make it work. And we'll have a lot of people that will be trained for the jobs that are available.

For many years I've said it makes no sense to have a degree in the arts and sciences if there is no job at the end of the education. We went through that in our family, and of course one of my daughters had to eventually take training in another field in order to get employment. And she's very nicely employed right now; in fact just got a big fat raise and a new job. So she's very happy with the education she got — in Saskatchewan, mind you. And even though she had to go somewhere else to get the job, it's Saskatchewan education that made her what she is today, having the ability to go out there and compete in the world market for jobs. And she's done very well.

And that tells me that we have a good education system. We can improve on it. We do have some other problems in education; we have problems with how we negotiate wages and those kind of things. But that's all solvable kinds of problems.

So I encourage the government to carry on with that type of program.

I want to talk for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, about my own constituency because in the Speech from the Throne replies we have that opportunity to associate our constituencies with the rest of the province and get an opportunity to let people in the Assembly know what it is that we need to have in, say a rural community that's a little further away from the centre of the province.

As I've alluded to earlier, we have a natural gas and petroleum industry that works very well in our community. We have integrated. I believe the first wells were drilled in 1951 or '52 in the south-west, so it's got quite a long history.

And in that history, we have developed the understanding of working as a partnership. Unfortunately though, partnerships where different people's needs come to loggerheads once in a while find the industry basically ramming straight up against the needs of environment, the needs of farmers and ranchers to protect their soil. And those kind of things are natural.

When an industry like the oil industry has to come onto other people's property, even though they have bought the mineral lease from the government, they have still got to deal with getting onto the ground and dealing with the surface owners. Because after all, you can't drill to 3 or 4,000 feet down into the ground unless you can first get your rig onto the field that is owned by the farmer.

So it's very simply a question of continuing to work to make this partnership work and to grow and to make the availability of these industries to continue to be able to have jobs for those people who can't stay on the farm; for those people who want to come from other places to work in the area. These are important industries, Mr. Speaker.

It is why I have introduced this session a private members' Bill. And not because we're trying to discourage new oil and gas industry; we do not want to do that. But we do want to help as much as we can for those two factions to be able to continue to coexist. They don't necessarily share, even though lots of farmers' sons will work for the petroleum industry and even though lots of people who work in the petroleum industry will quit and go back to a farm, or buy a farm and go back to agriculture.

The reality is though that when you have an oil rig working on a piece of farm land, there are some problems that happen. Some of the chemicals that are used of course will kill livestock. Some of the processes, the simple mechanisms that are used in the mechanical equipment, will kill animals and livestock and even endanger people. So you have to constantly to be working on this balance.

That's the reason why I brought in a very simple amendment that we're going to be talking about in the days to come. And that is The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act. It is a very good Act. It hasn't been properly administrated in the past years and that needs some attention. And that's why we are trying to tune it up a bit and get people to take on the responsibility, of working on the Arbitration Board, clearly

using the mandates that they have rather than to fall asleep at the switch.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we are attempting to do is to be very simple and very straightforward about it. What we are saying is that in today's society, an Act that was written in 1969 that said we will now have 30 days from the time a pollution problem occurs until the farmer has to report it in order to be compensated and in order for that mess to be cleaned up, if he's not within that 30-day structure, he automatically loses the right to clean up the environment, to clean up his farm, and to force the petroleum company to be responsible for the damage they've done — that is irresponsible, and it is not proper to allow that type of deadline to exist in today's society when we have . . . Of course since 1969 . . . and think back, how many of us are that old that we can think back to 1969? We didn't even know what pollution really was back then. We . . .

An Hon. Member: — It was a blur.

Mr. Goohsen: — Exactly right. The member from Wood River, formerly Shaunavon, knows exactly what it is. It's a blur looking back that far because of course we've got some of that pollution in us maybe. But age does that to us.

But if you'll think back to 1969, people were just starting to understand the effects of even a basic chemical like DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane). A chemical that we clearly know now has long-lasting effects in our environment. It poisoned our birds to the effect that a hawk would lay eggs that didn't have shells. When they sat on the eggs in the nest they simply broke and no more new hawks were being hatched.

When the hawks were flying over my tractor, I have occasion to remember seeing them fold up in mid-air and drop dead to the ground. I don't know if they had that heart attack because of DDT but I know that I haven't seen one since they banned DDT. And I know that there is an association there.

So having a 30-day limit on the time that people can report a pollution spill on their farm and have it cleaned up and have it dealt with by a board that is already in place is unrealistic. And I'm asking this Assembly in the days to come, Mr. Speaker, to look at this amendment to that Act and take that 30-day limit out because it's unrealistic.

The only other point that I'm going to make on that subject, Mr. Speaker, is that along with that, I'm asking the Assembly to consider removing also another outdated section of that Act which is the \$1000 limit for compensation for those pollution problems and clean-up problems that the board is tied to under the legislation from 1969. That's unrealistic.

A thousand dollars in 1969 would buy me at least a third of a quarter section of land. And of course today, I couldn't pay the taxes on a half section with that kind of money because inflation, of course, has devalued the buying power of the dollar. And things that were set back, that far back are simply outdated.

And so we need to have the board put into a modern context of dollar values. And so we're saying to the Assembly, take a look at removing those two things from the Act in order to give the

board the power to use its mandate so that we can have the oil industry and the gas industry, the natural gas industry, and the farmers and the ranchers continue to work as a joint group working in our communities for the betterment of all.

We have also, Mr. Speaker, in the south-west, come to realize that the shortcomings in the Speech from the Throne might include . . . including things that look nice and fluffy and warm, I guess is the way I felt the day I heard the Speech from the Throne. It was a warm, fuzzy feeling. That's what I want to say — a warm, fuzzy feeling, You felt kind of good. But once again . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, I know it's a good feeling.

But once again when you re-examine it and you find that, hear the government saying we're going to help the little children and the poor kids around our community, who could be against that? Well motherhood and apple pie; I've said it many times, you'd have to be a fool to be against it.

(1115)

But sometimes, if you take a look at it, maybe we're trying to cure a problem by not really curing the problem. We're simply trying to pick people up the wrong way. And this is where I think I would differ in the philosophy that the government is using.

They say they're going to bring in a new social program. And I always say: don't give me anything more for free, I can't afford it. And it's just a simple fact of life that every time somebody gets something for free, somebody else is going to pay for it. And usually it seems to be me and I don't like that.

So I'm going to say to the people of Saskatchewan, I want to help the kids — I've had kids of my own — but I want to help them in a real way.

And when the Minister of Social Services says that he's going to bring in a plan as a family income supplement plan, everybody that's going to get those dollars is going to say, thank you, we'll take them. I've never seen anybody turn down a cheque in a long time. There are some odd exceptions, but most of the time people grab the money quickly. And they're going to say, it's good; we need the money, we'll use it. And the odd one will buy beer and everybody's going to complain of course. But most of them will use it to help the kids, and that's good.

But realistically over the long period of time . . . And I want to use a metaphor, Mr. Speaker, to explain my feelings on this. When you feed money to a family through a family income plan where they haven't worked for it, it's like the government having two big hands. And they reach underneath that family and they pick that family up and they lift the family up. And they do — they lift them up. They lift them up economically, they lift them up mentally and socially, because now they have a few more dollars to spend and they can buy some new shoes and they're doing good.

Unfortunately as soon as we get out of this boom period in the province, if we go into another recession and the government suddenly finds that it's short of money and has to cut back programs, they're going to say, whoops, we can't afford this

social program any more; we're going to cut it out. Or you have an election and you elect a different government and they take their hands and they pull them out. That's the government: pulling its hands out.

Where does that family go, Mr. Speaker? They fall, because there's nothing under them to hold them back up. It is metaphorically a drop back to where they were and you're right back to where you were to start with.

You will say, Mr. Speaker, how do you cure that problem? And I say to you that it's not simple but it is possible. What you have to do is pull people up with government money, in a metaphorical sense, from the top up. And you do that by giving them increased wages, increased jobs, and something that they can work at themselves and take pride in. And that way, as you're pulling the society up, all of the people that are poor, as you're pulling them up, it's like you automatically put a slab of cement under them.

And when government programs do stop, if you work on things like minimum wage being increased, then those things are sustainable and they go on. And that slab of cement, when the government lets go, is there to catch them and they don't go down; they stay. They have stability, and then they can continue to go on their own.

Now what have I been talking about? I'm talking about increasing the minimum wage in this province. Our minimum wage is too low in Saskatchewan. And I know every businessman is looking for an opportunity to choke me just now. But if they think about it, they won't do that because I understand how the system works. For a few minutes they'll be angry because there's always a lag time when people want to line their own pockets, they want to have profits. And there's a lag time where they lose some money when minimum wage is increased. Business has to take that out of their pockets and pay the people.

But you aren't having the government pay them. And if you think about it and you automatically, at the same time, do what Alberta has done — which is decrease taxes to the business sector — comparably at the same time, 1 per cent of corporate tax reduction at the same time that you implement an increase in minimum wage, automatically gives them the money to pay their employed people that extra money. And those people then don't have to depend on the government. They don't have to go to the food bank. They don't have to worry about the government going broke because they are now on jobs that are paying. And they don't have to worry about the government cutting back or social services pulling their hands out from under them; they've got that cement slab of stability under them.

Now you would find this strange to come from a person that claims to be a right-wing person but there is nothing wrong with having a social conscience. And every right-wing person that hasn't got a social conscience is not my friend. You have to have . . . and neither is the person on the left side. But you have to have this stability, and we are behind.

Why does Alberta continue to go along ahead of us? Why do they get away with having a higher minimum wage than we do?

They have a higher minimum wage than we do, and the business people don't complain . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh they say it's lower. Well then let's drag them up with us.

The reality is, the reality is that the people of this province do not need social programs, they need to have stability. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that the members opposite really agree with this; they just don't have the nerve to put the program into place. What you have to do is cut corporate taxes by 1 per cent in order to offset it and then increase your minimum wage. Pull people up from the bottom, cut out your social program, give them jobs, and they'll all take care of themselves.

Now . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Less than 50 per cent. Well look at that. Now I'm into a grand debate and it's too bad that we can't have all the lights on at once, Mr. Speaker. But anyway, I think I've made my point on why we have to do these things.

I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, a few things more about my constituency before we get into the lunch hour here and everybody gets sugar depleted and too crabby. In the south-west we've run into some very real problems. It was like I was saying to some folks the other day, when I was involved with the municipal programs as councillor and reeve, people had rat problems in their garbage dumps and they had some rats under their granaries, and we had a program to cure that. And the last thing anybody in the world wanted to hear about was rats. But they were a problem. It's a very simple kind of an ugly little thing and nobody wants to kind of get involved with it but it's necessary to talk about because it's necessary to cure it.

Well the same thing happens with white-tailed deer. I mean how many people in the province, or especially in Regina, really care about a white-tailed buck? Not very many people. But the people that are involved with the Sceptre Wildlife Association, they care about the white-tailed deer and the white-tailed buck and so do the people in the wildlife associations across the province.

That whole group of people, of course has recognized a very serious problem with our wildlife, and they trigger it, and they point to the white-tailed buck as an example of what has gone wrong and what needs to be approached. And so we're calling on the ministers to take a listen today about a problem that is growing and needs to be resolved.

And that problem of course, is the loss of the gene pool in our wildlife, and the loss of the gene pool of course is the concentration of hunting on the larger horned animals. Naturally when people hunt, they want to find a trophy. And the pressure comes on the trophy animals as a result of the fact that that's the way the sport has evolved. We don't give trophies, for example, for the white-tailed deer with the prettiest face; we give a trophy for the one with the biggest horns.

And so the reality is that by having outside hunters allowed to come in on a double tag — which of course is one of either sex — it automatically becomes, as the wildlife people have pointed out, a trophy licence. And we need, along with the night hunting that has occurred and those things that have depleted our top end of our populations, we need to address the situation of how we are going to propagate the species of our wildlife

with strong gene pools.

And that has to be done by taking a look — again I'm going to point to Alberta and this time I know what I'm talking about for sure — because in Alberta they do have some two-tiered hunting licence programs and I'm sure that the minister will be studying those as soon as he hears about it and will be taking a look at it.

But some of those ideas are working and we also have to ask the government to take a look at these smaller problems, not just be looking at Channel Lake problems, not just be looking at the big problems of the multilateral agreement on investment which is all very important. But we have to take care of the rats, and the deer, and the sheep, and those other little things in our province that need to be taken care of. We have to take care of municipal roads; we have to take care of our schools; and we do, of course, have to take care of the big problems as well.

I want to say just a couple of more things before I sit down, Mr. Speaker. I've heard, and I guess it's natural for the last six or seven years as we've been here, people condemning the past administration. People, of course, will condemn this administration.

And I guess I'm reminded of a little story that one of the members from the opposite side told me the other day, and I think it's worth repeating, and he'll probably say it himself. But he said life in politics is like carrying a gunny sack on your back and as you walk down the road, hitchhiking along the road, you stop and you put a pebble in your bag. And he said after awhile you pick up another pebble and pretty soon the bag is so full of pebbles that you fall down and collapse because of the pressure.

Well politics is like that and the government, of course, is experiencing some of that this week. In fact I think they had a major rock dumped in the bag this week — oh it's a boulder, yes — and I think it was called Channel Lake of course, but that's just the reality of the way the democratic system works.

The past administration got dragged down by that bag full of rocks too and of course they're no longer here. But the reality is that every government does do something that's good.

I heard the other day from Ron Wormsbecker — who of course used to be a member of this Assembly but now he's not, so I can give him credit by . . . with his recognized name — and he was telling me that there's enough snowfall that the Rafferty dam will probably get another big shot of water this year in spite of the fact that the south-west is bone dry. The south-east is going to, of course, enjoy that run-off and the dam is going to be filling up again.

And so even though it cost a lot of money a few years ago and was roundly condemned by a lot of people, the reality is that that dam is in place along with the structure of the other two or three dams that were put in in that area. And the floods that used to hit Minot, North Dakota no longer happen because that water's controlled. And that was a good thing.

Now you can criticize how it was done and how the tenders were done or not done and all those kinds of things, but the

reality is that in the long term that project is helping Saskatchewan people and it's helping the people from North Dakota. It's probably also helping the people in the Red River Valley who of course know more than enough about flooding from last year.

And of course you've got the pulp mill up North that's working quite nicely. And it had some problems, but that administration did some good. They brought it in. They kept it there. They expanded it. They did what they did. And it's still there providing jobs.

The upgraders of course. People are bragging these days about how a big sale was made and profits were made. Well if it hadn't been there, you couldn't have made the profits. It was there because of the work of the administration of the 1980s. You've also of course got the fertilizer plant doing a fantastic job of making money and providing jobs. And those are the good things.

And I think that we have come to a point in time, Mr. Speaker, when it's time to give some credit to the past administrations that did some good. I can think of some things that I didn't like about Tommy Douglas, but the man did a lot of good as well.

So let's remember the past as good things, otherwise we won't enjoy the good times we're having now because we're all filled with this anger and this hate of the past. It's a good province and we have rounded the corner and we're now fairly prosperous. Why chew ourselves up about mistakes that were made before. Let's get on with the future and enjoy this prosperity.

This province is in pretty good shape. If we sit around and mope and be gloomy about the past things that have happened, we're never going to enjoy life and we're not going to enjoy the prosperity until we lose it again. And then we're going to say, boy we sure must have had a good time, though I wish we had it to do over again.

It's sort of like the guy that sells his canola and he asks for the three wishes. You remember that story, Mr. Speaker. And of course the second wish, I hope that canola goes up. And of course the third wish was, I hope it goes up again and this time I have sense enough to sell it.

Well you see that's the way life is. And I want to remind people that we are in pretty good times. Let's enjoy the good times. Let's enjoy what we have. And I think, Mr. Speaker, even though I have to vote against what's not in the Speech from the Throne, things are not too bad in our province. And for those people that think that they have to go out and eat road kill in this province, there is a good social services program that holds people up. And I wish them all well this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I want to take this opportunity to wish a happy birthday to the member from Swift Current. I understand it's his birthday today. He won't tell us how many he's had. And I'm sure likely turning 40 at this time in history is probably good. And so I hope that

all members will join with me and maybe giving the member from Swift Current a bit of a round of applause, because this is quite a big birthday for him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Renaud: — Many other members have acknowledged, Mr. Speaker, your outreach to the school children and to the adults of the province explaining and educating people on the roles of the MLA, explaining our position and our duties and the advantages of democracy. Our province is, and will be, an even better place because of your actions, Mr. Speaker. You must be commended on this initiative, and I want to thank you personally for your visits to Carrot River Valley.

I want to acknowledge all MLAs and Assembly employees, pages included. It is good to be back and to see everyone again.

And to my friends across the floor, I know we will have some disagreements, but I'm sure in the end we'll be able to walk outside and talk to each other and enjoy each other's company.

I want to state very clearly that the member from Regina Wascana Plains, who moved the Speech from the Throne to open this third sitting of the twenty-third legislature, did total justice to a Made in Saskatchewan plan for our province; a plan with the signature and acceptance of the Saskatchewan people, the signature of the New Democratic Party. Congratulations.

And to the seconder, and to other speakers on this side of the House, your words have been inspiring. To hear your words and your speeches makes my job as a member of the Assembly so rewarding.

The words from across the floor also makes me proud to be a part of this government, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to be so negative and so critical of a truly Made in Saskatchewan plan that includes the values of our citizens and our community — compassion, equality, cooperation, and common sense.

(1130)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Renaud: — Before I talk about the plan, I want to share with you and with the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada, and in fact especially to the people that are watching for the first time — that includes I believe, about 30 new communities, Mr. Speaker — that now can enjoy this advancement in technology to watch democracy in action, I want to share some good news about Saskatchewan in recent years, in recent weeks. And the reason I can tell you about some of the wonderful things that are happening in Saskatchewan is because we have all joined together the Saskatchewan way. A few years ago we made some tough decisions and now we can begin to recoup the rewards of those sacrifices.

When I talk about some of the achievements Saskatchewan people have made, I talk about fighting the war on deficits. A war, Mr. Speaker, that we have won. And in a few days we will be introducing the fifth consecutive balanced budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Renaud: — Raising our credit rating, Mr. Speaker, from B's. And I know when I went to school B's were pretty good. But I think for a government who needs to borrow money on occasion, B's aren't very good. Now that credit rating, Mr. Speaker, is A's across the board. A's, Mr. Speaker. And that's pretty good even for . . . It was very good for me in school but it's very good for a government to have A's. It costs us less when we have to borrow money. It costs the taxpayers less when we pay that interest on the huge debt that we still have.

Some of the other good news, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that retail sales continue to grow in the province of Saskatchewan. It grows faster than any other province in Canada. Activity in the oil and gas continues to set new records.

Our population? — steadily increasing. I remember coming to power in 1991 and I think our population was somewhere around a million, maybe a little less. Now it's well over a million people and it continues to grow.

Our young people are coming home to work. They're not going out to Alberta or to Manitoba. In fact, Mr. Speaker, and the member from Regina South announced it earlier, that we have 14,900 more people working in the province of Saskatchewan this February than we had just a year ago. We have 3,000 fewer people on unemployment insurance. Regina has the lowest unemployment rate in all of Canada. We have 5,800 more young people working in Saskatchewan today than we had a year ago. I think that is an excellent record, Mr. Speaker, and it speaks well for this government and the plans of this government.

I get a touch of that quiet pride that the throne speech makes reference to when I think about some of these positive changes, Mr. Speaker, that have taken place in just a very short time. It's been only . . . I believe it's about six and a half years since the NDP government has come to power in the province of Saskatchewan and all of these good things have happened in that short period of time. I think there are certain people that need credit for this. I think the leadership of this government . . . I mean everybody tightened their belt, yes. Every citizen in the province of Saskatchewan participated in what we needed to do to get this province turned around, but certainly the leadership of this government was instrumental in that. And the leadership in particular, Mr. Speaker, of our Premier. Premier Romanow has . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize already that the hon. member has realized that he's violated one of the rules of the House that prohibits members from using the proper names of members of the Assembly because we are required, of course, to use the reference to one another in terms of the roles that we serve in the House. And I'm sure that he'll want to avoid doing so in the future.

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that correction. And certainly our Premier is well known; his name does not have to be mentioned. Everyone in Canada is certainly aware of the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan and the job that he has done to balance our books and to get us on the right track.

But as the throne speech states, Mr. Speaker, even though we've got all this good news, we can take pride in those

accomplishments, but we dare not rest upon them. There is much left to do together, and a long way for us to go. So we must move on.

Now here are a few words about the plan, investing in families, and especially in children. It is unacceptable to have child poverty in a country, in a province, as rich as ours — the best country, the best province, in which to live. And we, with the leadership of that government that I was just telling you about, Mr. Speaker, will succeed the Saskatchewan way in defeating this terrible blight. We will allow people to avoid dependency, and allow those who genuinely need help to get that help.

And we will continue, Mr. Speaker, to work to full implementation of the 911 service province-wide.

We will continue to move ahead and we will press for reforms for the young offenders system, recognizing, of course, that of the 95,000 youths in that age category, 94,000-plus are kids that go to school every day, that play hockey, that work in the local grocery store. We must recognize, while we need new rules for the violent, repeat offenders, that the majority of our kids are an asset — are in fact our greatest resource. We must not preoccupy ourselves so much with the offenders that we forget those kids.

And how about jobs? We have done a good job, I think, as a government, to facilitate the creation of jobs, help the private sector fill that role, but we must certainly do more.

In the area of diversification and agriculture and value added industries, in ecotourism, in the oil and gas and mining sectors, 20,000 new jobs since 1991. That's our record, Mr. Speaker. And we're well on our way to 30,000 new jobs by the year 2000, which is our pledge. This is a good record, but we must not rest on our laurels.

And education, Mr. Speaker, investing in post-secondary education, training, and apprenticeships, as the member from Maple Creek mentioned earlier. A commitment to high quality public education and lifelong learning in partnership with community, industry, and educators.

And investing in health care, Mr. Speaker, as part of our plan. And I want to tell you about additional service in the north-east part of our province, in the North-East Health District and in the Pasquia Health District, part of my constituency. We can now access more palliative and respite care. We have home care, more home care, better home care than we ever had before.

Visiting specialists — we have that now in the north-east part of the province — where specialists come to the communities of Nipawin and Tisdale, Melfort. We don't have to drive to Saskatoon; they come to see us.

We have a renal dialysis centre in Tisdale, brand-new announcement. Telehealth project in Nipawin and Cumberland House, with these and the new partnerships with our provincial doctors. A new MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) in Regina and other technological advances and more help with needed and newly discovered drugs and the development of the Saskatchewan Health Information Network, along with additional money for ambulance service, a new and additional

air ambulance airplane. Health care renewal is beginning to become tangible, Mr. Speaker — something that our people can see, they can feel, and they can touch.

Investing in transportation, a continuation of the strategy of more money, better planning, including community involvement, and a challenge to the federal government to get more involved. It was the federal government's decision to allow the railways to abandon rail lines. It was their decision to take away the Crow rate and deregulate, leaving all kinds of pressure on our large infrastructure.

We need them to join with us, not to make decisions unilaterally. They have to join with us and become partners in protecting and fixing the roads that are deteriorating because of their decisions. We need their support to help our rural communities as railways are controlled and legislated by the federal Liberals, not by this provincial government.

They want to make the railways rich, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Acting Speaker. How? By taking away more from the producers. Take away money from the producers, give it to the railways. Sounds good, I guess. Members opposite seem to think it's okay. I don't particularly think it's okay. We will not stand for that.

We are also asking that they stop immediately the railways from abandoning one piece of track at a time until Justice Estey completes his report on our transportation system. A potential short-line may be the answer in some cases if it has the support of the producers and proper agreements with the CN and CP (Canadian National and Canadian Pacific). But if the track has already gone, what chance does it have? It will take no traffic off the roadways of Saskatchewan.

And last, and certainly not least, part of our plan, Mr. Speaker, is fiscal integrity or fiscal common sense. This may be the most important part of the plan or the thing that . . . the part of the plan that links the rest of the plan together. Because without financial freedom, we cannot accomplish what we desire; we cannot follow that map, that plan that the throne speech delivered.

I want to take a moment to talk about our official opposition and the Liberals. And I think this is an appropriate place to cut in. When we talk about financial common sense, I think it is a very good time to chime in about the opposition because it's something they have a little problem with, Mr. Speaker.

The newer . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well success yes, yes. The newer, the newer Conservatives over there, I hear them chirping once in awhile, they want to spend, spend, spend.

You know if . . . I follow some of them to meetings. They like a government member sometimes to come into their constituencies to know what's really going on. So I have that opportunity once in a while. And I talk to these different organizations that they meet with and they tell me, what are you going to promise me because the members from the newer-than-new Conservative Party have promised us millions and millions of dollars for — you name it. Maybe it's for new schools, maybe it's for new roads; it depends who they talk to. That's how they base their next new promise for money. So I

want everyone to be aware of that.

One minute it's millions of dollars more for new schools, like I mentioned earlier, or maybe the next minute it's millions of more dollars for more hospitals yet; more roads. And the next minute they're going to cut every tax — every tax. They're going to slash every tax in the province of Saskatchewan and the next minute they're going to get rid of the debt, too.

Well I've heard it mentioned by our Premier on occasions: Houdini, maybe he could do that. The people across? No, I don't think so.

They never mention, they never mention in any of their promises for more money, Mr. Speaker — or when they're going to cut the tax — where they're going to get this extra money for roads or hospitals or schools. Or how they're going to cut the tax or how they're going to pay the debt.

They seem to forget that part of it, Mr. Speaker. They seem to leave that on the side. They don't want to mention that because . . . I think they would have said to the people: well, yes, we would have to borrow and we would have to increase the debt. And yes, we would create a huge debt and large interest payments. But that's okay because, well, Mr. Devine did it and he got away with it okay, and then they brought you in to clean up the mess. But we could maybe go back there now and we could do that.

And so they never seem to be able to tell the people, after they make a promise, exactly where they're going to get the money. And I think they owe that to the people of Saskatchewan. If you're going to make a promise, you've got to tell the people where you're going to get the money for that promise.

I remember hearing those same promises in 1992 — or pardon me, 1982, 1982 I heard . . . Have you heard some of these sayings: oh, I know everything is good but there's so much more we could be? Oh, I remember that. 1980, 1980-82.

And there was another thing I heard at that point in time: we can mismanage this province and still break even. I heard that too in 1982.

(1145)

An Hon. Member: — It was a miracle.

Mr. Renaud: — I think it, it was a miracle, exactly. I think it was the same people that sit over there now that maybe even said those words. Did you ever . . .

An Hon. Member: — They used to be Liberals.

Mr. Renaud: — Were they? Oh, okay. Did you hear the words, "Give her snoose, Bruce?" I've heard that somewhere. And I hear those same words over there today.

Or did you ever hear this? "Never say whoa in a mud hole." I heard that somewhere too . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, well my friends, we're still paying \$760 million each and every year. We indeed got stuck in that mud hole. We got stuck in that mud hole and now we're paying. And we will never again drive

through that mud hole with that party over there, the newer and newer Conservative Party.

The other day the . . . A few days ago the rural municipalities of the province of Saskatchewan were asking the province for \$56 million. And they need money. There is no question about that. If we had the \$760 million that we spent each and every year on the interest on our debt, think of what we could do with the rural municipalities of the province of Saskatchewan. Do you, when you go to the SARM meetings, apologize? I think they should apologize because that's the reason that they're not getting \$56 million. The reason is sitting right across there, Mr. Speaker.

This new Conservative Party is saying the same things as Grant Devine said six and a half years ago. They think that the people have forgotten. The only thing that the Saskatchewan people have not forgotten is that they will never vote for that Saskatchewan Party, that newer-than-new Conservative Party, ever, ever again.

And I know that the member from Kelvington chirps back there. She moved over from the Liberal Party to the Conservative Party and still feels comfortable. I can't understand that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Trew): — Order.

Mr. Renaud: — I know that the member across hides behind that desk, and even though she moved over from the Liberal Party over to the newer-than-new Conservative Party, she thinks that people will forget. But people will not forget.

Actually it reminds me of a little story. There was Tom and Bill. Yes, it's a little story, yes. There was Tom and Bill . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Trew): — Order. Order. The hon. member for Carrot River Valley has the floor and the speech . . . the debate to the Speech from the Throne. I would appreciate if all hon. members would give that member the opportunity to make his address to the legislature. And I assure you that there is ample time for all members to get involved in their turn.

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you. Well hopefully, the chirping will be down a little bit as I tell this wonderful little story. It's a wonderful little story about Tom and Bill. And they had been the closest of friends since childhood. They played on the same ball teams, they married sisters in fact and built homes . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Trew): — Order. Now I find myself in an uncomfortable position of having risen three times. There are two opposition members who are leading me to my feet. I'm not anxious to name them — they know who they are. They're not alone in heckling in this legislature today. I ask all members to cooperate and allow the member for Carrot River Valley to continue with his debate.

Mr. Renaud: — Well I think, Mr. Speaker, that the story will hit . . . it will touch a nerve maybe and this is why they don't want to hear it. But I'm going to tell it anyway.

Tom and Bill had been the closest of friends since childhood.

They played on the same ball teams. They married sisters in fact. They built homes in the same neighbourhood. Then all of a sudden Tom died suddenly. Bill was devastated.

One evening watching a beautiful sunset Bill was sure he felt the presence of Tom near by. Is that you, Tom? he asked. Yes, Bill, came the reply. What's it like where you are? Well it's kind of nice. I get up in the morning and I have some breakfast and I maybe go down for a swim in the lake. And when I encounter one of those lovely ladies I enjoy a romantic interlude. Soon it's time for lunch and a nap. Wow, said Bill, I had no idea heaven was like that. Who says I'm in heaven? replied Tom. I'm a moose in Wyoming.

The reincarnation of the Liberals and the Conservatives to the Saskatchewan Party remind me somewhat of that moose in Wyoming. Maybe it's a fox in a hen-house. Could be a fox in a hen-house or a wolf in sheep's clothing or something like that. Maybe it's like the caterpillar who loses his skin and then becomes a beautiful butterfly only to return to that crawly little caterpillar again.

And the Saskatchewan people know that they cannot trust those who would do anything to have power.

I want to read you a few quotes, Mr. Speaker. And this is a quote, Rod Gantefoer said, no, absolutely no . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Trew): — Order. The member for Carrot River Valley just named a sitting member in the legislature and that is not acceptable. I ask — order, order — and I ask the hon. member not to do so.

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the member from Melfort-Tisdale said, this is what he said, no, absolutely no, not with the Tory Party or any other party. I am a Liberal member from the legislature for Melfort-Tisdale and that is what I will stay, he said.

And the member from Canora-Pelly, asked about crossing the floor, said this . . .

An Hon. Member: — Oh no.

Mr. Renaud: — He did, he did. It's totally false and nothing but an attempt by the Tories to grab media attention. We have signed a document from all members and I can say unequivocally there is no truth to it. Well my goodness.

An Hon. Member: — What he meant to say is that we're staying on the same side. We're not really crossing the floor . . .

An Hon. Member: — Moving over.

Mr. Renaud: — I agree.

The member from Melfort-Tisdale, again when asked about crossing the floor, said:

“I absolutely can say I have never ever considered, never mind participated in, any discussions to cross the floor. It's almost too ridiculous to imagine,” he said.

“I was elected in Melfort-Tisdale as a Liberal and I will continue to represent Melfort-Tisdale as a Liberal. None of our members have initiated or participated in discussions with any party.”

Well isn't that interesting? These are the same people that are making all these promises now about more money for schools and more hospitals and more wonderful roads, never telling the people where they're going to get the money.

And the member from Saltcoats said this:

“As ludicrous as these reports are, I want to assure you, the people of Saltcoats constituency, that I remain committed to you, the Liberal Party, and my caucus colleagues.”

And look where he is sitting now.

I know the other night we went to a reception and following him to that reception we got to the wrong reception. It was kind of fun though, actually. But maybe he got lost when he was looking for his party. All of a sudden . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I guess you should never follow them.

And the member from Kelvington I have . . . oh, the member from Kelvington said this:

I would like to inform the people of Saskatchewan, and particularly those in the Liberal constituencies, that we are continuing our loyalty and support to the cause of the Liberal Saskatchewan Party, the official opposition caucus, and to the people of Saskatchewan.

We have not approached the Conservative Party or any other party with the intention of crossing this floor.

That was actually in *Hansard* on April 2, 1996. So it's quite interesting. That's an example of the party next that want power of the province of Saskatchewan.

And to the member from Melfort . . . I see he's not here this afternoon.

The Speaker: — Order. Order, order. I know the hon. member is also well aware that rules of debate prohibit hon. members from making direct reference to the presence or the absence of other hon. members as the debate point in their remarks in the House. And I will ask the hon. member to withdraw his last remark.

Mr. Renaud: — I would like to withdraw that remark, Mr. Speaker. It gets so heated in the discussions here that sometimes we forget the rules.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Now I'm not asking the hon. member to comment on the ruling but simply to do what's requested and get on with his debate.

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to the member for Melfort, when I go to the local bar in Tisdale, I can get a beer, I could play VLTs (video lottery terminal) . . . I do go. I do go occasionally, yes. But I can also buy a Saskatchewan Party membership — a Saskatchewan Party membership. Yes

— yes, I can.

An Hon. Member: — In the bar?

Mr. Renaud: — Right there. Yes. I wonder if this is the new policy that we can maybe purchase these in all bars across the province? I don't know that. And I understand that the Melfort from . . . the member from Melfort is looking for the next phone booth so that the next leadership meeting could be held. I don't know if that's right or not.

And the Liberals. And the Liberals. The member from Battleford . . . North Battleford and I quote, "if only people had optimism." This was a quote from the other day in this House. Well it is he, Mr. Speaker, it is he that has no optimism. It's the people of that party that have no optimism. Negative — they're so negative.

I'm glad that the member from North Battleford is not the groundhog, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think that winter would ever go away. I think we would have winter forever.

The Liberals, if they could get off that defend-the-federal-Liberal kick for a minute, might be able to see the excitement, the enthusiasm, the upbeat attitude of the Saskatchewan people. Mind you, I can understand their dullness, their lack of enthusiasm as they watch Mr. Goodale and Mr. Chrétien deliver blow after blow to western Canada, to the prairies.

Why don't you join us? You could perhaps spend more time and effort maybe talking to your federal Liberal counterparts to help fund for an example with Canada's national highway system and not just in New Brunswick, but right here in the province of Saskatchewan.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a great place to live. Just the other day in Nipawin we had the winter games, the Saskatchewan Winter Games. We had 2,100 volunteers, Mr. Speaker. We had 1,600 participants, athletes. We had many, many corporate sponsors that helped fund the winter games.

This is a little quote I have from one of the coaches that were in Nipawin, coach Gene Kondra, and it's from the *Star-Phoenix*:

I've run out of saying that I'm impressed. Now I'm in awe. The people here are just terrific. They have treated us like celebrities and I can't say enough about this town.

The town of Nipawin, the people of Nipawin, showed the rest of Saskatchewan the true Saskatchewan spirit, the optimism that's out there. I just wish that members of the Liberal Party, members of the new and newer, newer-than-new Conservative Party would join in this feeling of optimism and catch the Saskatchewan spirit and join with the rest of Saskatchewan as we move forward to the next century, to the new millennium.

I encourage you to support the plan. I encourage you to support the throne speech that was so eloquently delivered by our Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Jack Wiebe on Monday, March 9, 1998. I know I will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to bring to the attention of the Assembly that there are two new communities that are able to view the actions of this Assembly — the community of Spiritwood and the community of Shellbrook.

I also understand that as we are at a time in the day when we plan to move into other items, that I ask, beg leave, to adjourn debate on the throne speech debate.

Debate adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it's by agreement of all the members in the House that this would be a time to introduce two condolence motions. And could I ask leave of the House to do so.

Leave granted.

(1200)

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I want to rise and say a few words in tribute to the passing of a former Clerk of this Assembly, Mr. Charles Beverley Koester, better known as Bev Koester.

Bev Koester died peacefully on Sunday, February 1, 1998, leaving to mourn his wife Carolyn; his children Elizabeth, Charles, Christopher, James, and Kate; 10 grandchildren, and his sister, Vera-May.

Bev Koester was Clerk of the House of Commons from 1980 to 1987 and he was honoured by appointment to the Order of Canada as an officer in 1989 for his public service.

Prior to his service in the House of Commons, Bev Koester taught history at the University of Regina right here in Saskatchewan after receiving his doctorate in western Canadian history from the University of Alberta in 1971.

And Bev, as he was widely known and respected, served as Clerk of this Assembly from 1959 to 1969. And it was during that period, at least the latter two years of his tenure here, that I got to know him first. I entered the Legislative Assembly as the member for Riversdale in 1967, and from '67, '68, and '69, Bev Koester proved himself to be the man that he was in all of his dealings with me and with every one of us.

A person of high intelligence and an understanding of the rules of the House. A deep appreciation of the tradition which is the parliamentary tradition. The belief that civilized debate and discourse is the hallmark of a civilization, and generally speaking, a very civilized human being. More than a good adviser and an impartial adviser, he was widely read, could be counted on in terms of providing advice to individual MLAs over and above the rules.

I say the latter because in my years in this Legislative Assembly I've often argued the proposition that it's not the formal rules that make this House work, but it is the informal understandings and relationships that work and make this House work — the informal relationships amongst members, the honouring of

arrangements, the ordering of business. The odd time when we overstep our bounds, applying common sense and rectifying it and making amends for doing the transgression — these are the things which really all contribute to the formal set of rules. It's true we rely on them and we need them, but if you are richly nuanced and well-read and experienced in the ways of life, the combination of the black and white of the rules, together with this background, this storehouse of information and knowledge and gentility and civility, is really what makes this House operate.

Bev Koester was absolutely critical to the operation of this House. We all went to him. I served in opposition from '67 to '69 — and I could do so with absolute impunity, knowing that the advice I sought would be tendered to me in confidence and that it would be the best advice — not from partisan, political points of view, but from the point of view of making sure that this institution, this body, retains the respect that is so necessary for it to have in order for us to do the day-to-day dealings in our lives.

So I fondly remember, as I address you, Mr. Speaker, and look at our current very distinguished and able crew of Clerks at the Table, I can visualize in my mind's eye the very erect figure of this distinguished personage, Bev Koester.

It's a number of years since he's been here, but I guess it's said it's always the first experiences which are sometimes the most lasting, and my experience with him, as Clerk of the Assembly, was the most lasting or one of the most lasting ones that I've had.

He graduated from the Royal Canadian Naval College in Victoria, B.C. in 1944 and served in the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Navy from 1944 to 1961 and retired as Lieutenant Commander. So you can see, a very distinguished military record as well.

One of Bev's personal accomplishments was to serve on two separate occasions — two separate occasions — as temporary senior Clerk of the House of Commons in London, England, which I surely must think would be one of the highest accolades paid to any Clerk.

Many things can be said about this distinguished Canadian. In closing, I think it's been said best by a quotation which I will recite from the former federal leader of the New Democratic Party, Ed Broadbent. On September 16, 1987, on the occasion of Bev Koester's retirement from his duties in the House of Commons, Ottawa, Ed Broadbent said the following, quote:

Dr. Koester has a long record of distinguished public service in Canada. He is a native of Saskatchewan and was Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in his home province for some nine years. His interests and contributions to Canadian life have been wide-ranging, as a teacher, decorated member of the Canadian navy, historian, university professor, author, and of course as one of the country's leading parliamentary experts.

I think that sums it all up. Bev Koester cared very passionately about the well-being and effective operations of our parliamentary institutions and will be remembered by myself

and by many others for his many great contributions to this House, to the House of Commons, and in the broader scheme of things, his many contributions to the enhancement in the increase of civility of our great society.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, by leave of the Assembly, seconded by the hon. member from Moosomin:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former table officer of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to this institution and to the province.

Charles Beverley Koester, who died in Kingston on February 1, 1998, was an officer of this legislature for 10 years, first as Clerk Assistant and later as Clerk from 1960 until 1969. Dr. Koester was born in Regina on January 13, 1926. He received his early education in Regina before pursuing his studies at the Royal Canadian Naval College and the universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Dr. Koester had a long and distinguished record of public service. This began as a naval officer during World War II and continued for many years at the naval reserve. He was a noted historian, passing on his knowledge to students in the Regina school system and subsequently as a professor and head of the history department at the University of Regina and as an author who wrote in the area of political history.

Dr. Koester's public service was most distinguished by his lengthy tenure as a parliamentary expert, beginning with his service to the Saskatchewan House. Dr. Koester was later invited to become Clerk Assistant at the Canadian House of Commons in 1976. In 1980, he was appointed Clerk and served until his retirement in 1987. His abilities were also recognized at the mother parliament at Westminster, England. On two occasions, he was awarded the then unique honour of serving as a temporary senior Clerk at the House of Common.

This Assembly avails itself of this opportunity to record its tribute of respect to a former table officer of this Assembly and expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise and, certainly on behalf of the official opposition, extend our deepest sympathy to the Koester family on the passing of a loved one, a father, a friend, a husband, and an individual who has served his country well.

As I read over the brief resume that we had received regarding Mr. Koester, and while I didn't have the privilege of knowing Mr. Koester personally, I can certainly understand the respect that he has gained throughout the parliaments of this country and the legislative assemblies, and indeed the mother parliament in London, England.

Working with the Clerks of this Assembly, one begins to understand the role a Clerk plays in how this Assembly

operates. And certainly assemblies operate a lot more efficiently with them than I'm sure they would without them.

And so Mr. Koester's involvement as Clerk of this Assembly and as an Assistant Clerk and then moving on to the House of Commons in Canada is certainly an indication that he has received a lot of recognition. He devoted himself to his service for his country. We see that through his number of years in service as a naval officer during World War II and continuing on in the naval reserve.

I also note his historical background and the fact that history seemed to be a very integral part of Mr. Koester — the fact that he was a professor and head of history at the department at the University of Regina. He passed on a lot of knowledge of history, I'm sure, through the years, not only to the parliamentarians and the legislators who have served under his term as Clerk, but also I understand to many students. And so it's certainly with deep regret that we stand here today. But we certainly want to extend to the family of Mr. Koester our deepest sympathies, and we trust that you will find strength in knowing that there is a God who does care in times of bereavement such as we have today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Julé: — Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly, I too would like to add to these condolences.

The Speaker: — Leave is not required.

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of the Humboldt constituency and the member from Saskatoon Greystone, I offer condolences also to the family and friends of the former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Charles Beverley Koester, and the family and friends of the past MLA for the Pelly constituency, Mr. Arnold Joseph Feusi.

Serving the province as they have, in the honourable manner that they have, these men have indeed instilled in all the people of Saskatchewan a great sense of pride. Our sincere sympathy and deep appreciation for your support is extended to both the Koester and the Feusi family. Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — I have another condolence motion and this is to pay tribute on the occasion of the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Arnold Joseph Feusi of Prince Albert.

Arnold Feusi was born on March 31, 1912 in Superior, Wisconsin but was raised and educated in Langenburg, Saskatchewan. He leaves to mourn his wife Sally; two daughters, Twyla and Tanny; a son Tim; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; his sister Elsie; his brother Jim; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Feusi was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Elizabeth; two sisters, Leona and Ardena; and three brothers, Joe, Hubert, and Albin.

As I've said, Mr. Speaker, Arnold Feusi was raised and educated in Langenburg. He then attended Normal School in Saskatoon, and from there returned back to the Langenburg district to teach, as a teacher. That lasted until he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941.

(1215)

He married Sally, his wife, just before being sent overseas for a four-year tour of duty as a radar technician. Again a very distinguished record of service in that great Second World War.

Upon his return, Arnold and Sally moved to Kenosee and Madge Lake where he was park warden. And then his desire for the betterment of Saskatchewan and its people led him into provincial political life.

Arnold was first elected to this House in 1952 as the then CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) member of the Legislative Assembly for the Pelly constituency. He served only one term under the former premier, the late Hon. Tommy Douglas in the Douglas government, and then returned back to the employ of the public service in the Department of Tourism.

Later, Mr. Feusi was transferred to Prince Albert where he worked as building supervisor for northern housing for the Department of Natural Resources, after which he resumed his teaching career and moved to Weyburn as an instructor in carpentry and vocational math until his retirement in 1973.

After retirement, Arnold and Sally Feusi moved to Moose Jaw, your home city, Mr. Speaker, where he wrote several manuscripts including "The History of the English Language". However, Arnold was always drawn to the North and considered Prince Albert home; so in 1989 he and Sally returned to Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, Arnold will long be remembered for his strong belief in the ideals of social democracy. Quite obviously he was an advocate and supporter of the party of the day that believed in that, the predecessor to the New Democrats here today. He'll be remembered for his strong belief in those ideals, but I think he'll be remembered for at least one or two other contributions.

His services to the ordinary people of the province while as an MLA, something which I think we tend to overlook a bit as MLAs, something that I know the journalists do overlook. The belief that all of the activities of a member of the House can be related to what goes on in this House. It's important. But we know, all of us, that a large, large part of the work is being able to help the needs and the concerns of ordinary people back home. And he, by all accounts — I did not know Mr. Feusi — but by all accounts carried out that job very, very well. And it was done at a time, '52-'56, when there were many important social changes being made in the post Second World War era. Many important social and economic changes have helped make Saskatchewan — what I would like to think, in any event — as a more caring and compassionate place and a more lasting legacy of his love for his province.

I think that he also has to be remembered for the fertility of his mind. To undertake to write manuscripts on the topic of the history of the English language is indicative of an inquisitive person and also a highly ambitious person. And I think it was characteristic of so many of the MLAs of that period. Regardless of what stripe of political party they represented, they were men and women who may not have had the highest formalized education, but they brought to this House an imagination and a brain and sense of values and an inquisitive

nature about them which compelled them to get into a variety of areas over and above the consuming task of being an MLA. They were truly oriented toward world issues.

Yes, pocketbook issues, home issues, were number one, but it didn't stop there. It was always coupled with the fact that there was an obligation to understand factors in other communities, in other provinces, in other countries. Without overstating it, understanding that we are all but citizens of one small world.

That's what Arnold Feusi represented: that kind of a gentleman and that kind of a character and that kind of a personality and that kind of a contribution.

Mr. Speaker, with these few brief and inadequate words, I would like to move, seconded by the member from Moosomin, 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.

Arnold Joseph Feusi, who died in Prince Albert on January 14, 1998, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Pelly from 1952 until 1956. He was born on March 31, 1912 in Superior, Wisconsin. Shortly thereafter he moved with his parents to the Langenburg district. Mr. Feusi received his early education at local schools in Langenburg before graduating from the Saskatoon Normal School. He married Sally Dilschneider in 1941 and together they had two daughters and a son.

Mr. Feusi's strong desire for the betterment of his country, his province, and his fellow citizens was evident in many facets of his life. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, first as a radar technician and later received his commission as a flying officer. Mr. Feusi was also a civil servant of the departments of Natural Resources and Tourism. His first forays into public life were at the local level, where he held positions in several organizations, including the Kamsack branch of the Fish and Game League, the Farmers Union Lodge, and local school boards. He was an active CCF participant in the Saltcoats constituency and in 1952 he was elected to this Assembly as a member of the Tommy Douglas administration.

Mr. Feusi was a teacher by training and taught for many years in his home district of Langenburg, and later in Weyburn. His love of knowledge was well known within his family and they recognized this by nicknaming him "our walking encyclopedia." His efforts are also recorded in the many English language manuscripts that he wrote.

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, seconded by the hon. member from Moosomin.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Feusi but I would like to join the Premier in offering my greatest sympathy to the Feusi family. Mr. Feusi gave much of himself to our country and to our province and to our constituency, for that matter.

For a person to be married and then go off four years to war is a hardship that I don't think any of us can even fathom how hard that had to be on Mr. Feusi and Mrs. Feusi at that time. Young people gave up much of their life for our country and I commend them for that.

Mr. Feusi, as the Premier has mentioned, was a member of many organizations in the Kamsack-Pelly area. He was an MLA from '52 to '56 so we can see how much concern he had for what happened to our, you know, to our province.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add, on behalf of myself and constituents, our condolences to the Feusi family.

Mr. Kowalsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with our Premier and the member from Saltcoats to offer my condolences to the family of Arnold Feusi, and who are living now in Prince Albert, and some in Moose Jaw, and perhaps some grandchildren living elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to get to know Arnold Feusi over the last nine years when he and Sally moved back to Prince Albert after a remarkable career as a teacher in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force), in Saskatchewan civil service, as well as having served as MLA for Pelly.

Arnold and I met several times, mostly by chance at the Prince Albert Co-op. And there, standing over a shopping cart, Arnold would ask me about how things were going in the legislature. And every time we would exchange ideas, Arnold would offer me a thoughtful expression about issues with which our legislature was dealing at the time.

I enjoyed these conversations, Mr. Speaker, and I found it inspiring just to know that a man like Arnold Feusi, in his 80's, with his vast experience, still wanted to contribute to the well-being of others through the democratic process.

His clarity of expression was always evident. His precision of language is reinforced by Arnold's physical appearance. He was very particular about his posture and his dress, and I believe that this was partly because of his military training, but more his determination to look and keep himself fit so that he could continue to contribute to the well-being of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, just four years ago our New Democratic constituency association of Prince Albert Carleton chose to pay a special tribute to Arnold Feusi and we organized a social event to do this; invited his family and his friends. And after Arnold Feusi graciously received the accolades that were bestowed upon him, he took a few moments to talk about public issues which concerned him. And amongst his remarks was his advice on the issue of smoking in public places.

First he said it was something that government should look at because it affected so many people and because it had a direct effect on the health budget, which is paid for by public money.

And Arnold suggested that this legislature would be wise to take direct action to reduce access to the tobacco product and to reduce contact that people had with second-hand smoke.

I know that today Arnold would be pleased with the progress that has taken place in clearing the air in public places, but I believe he would feel we still have a ways to go to help individuals kick the habit.

In discussion with family members, I was advised both the manuscripts that Arnold left for his family about his life, about the history of the English language, and he actually compiled a dictionary, a practical dictionary of the English language, where he would . . . indicated in this dictionary that all English words should be spelled phonetically. He did this from his belief that people should have equal access to things like health and education and also access to the language, but they shouldn't be deterred by the sometimes difficult and irregular spellings. For example, the word enough would be spelled "e-n-u-f." I believe that the students of Saskatchewan, perhaps in all the English speaking world, would shout a loud hurrah to Arnold for that and they would spell it "h-e-r-a."

Arnold Feusi will be remembered by his family and those who knew him as a person who has dedicated his talents to the betterment of others. He worked as a teacher, as a park warden, as a building superintendent, as was mentioned by the Premier. He worked with the DNS (Department of Northern Saskatchewan) in Saskatchewan. And his service to people through this legislature, and all those things that he did, were consistent with that theme: working for the betterment of others.

As I mentioned earlier, his family remembers him as their very own walking encyclopedia, a person who was always willing to help others and help them understand issues and processes.

And they remember him also for his compassion to people. Arnold was very conscious at all times not to discriminate on the basis of appearance or colour or handicap. To him, every person was to be treated equally. He believed in equality and he lived it.

Mr. Speaker, we always have something to learn from others in our own lives, and when I think of Arnold Feusi, I think of someone who was able to steer steadily and calmly and thoughtfully through his retirement years, thus reminding me of the changes that we feel passionate about can be achieved if we just take our time and clearly identify how things could be better.

He was a good person. I feel privileged to have known him and I join with others to express my sympathy to the family of the bereaved.

Motion agreed to.

(1230)

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member for Moosomin, by the 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 families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Kowalsky: — Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a good weekend and to move that the House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — Over the course of this week, hon. members, many of you in your participation in debate, have welcomed one another back to the House, and let me now wish for you that you will leave and go home and have an enjoyable weekend with your families and your constituents.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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