

The Assembly met at 10:00 a.m.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — I wish to advise the Assembly that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open this sitting.

Prayers

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I present once again the names of people on a petition extremely concerned over the situation of our health care with the closure of the Plains.

Wherefore the 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 by the Plains hospital may be continued.

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

The signatures are from Churchbridge, primarily from Churchbridge, and I so present.

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I also have a petition this morning from petitioners from communities of Bredenbury and Churchbridge. And they also ask that the government provide adequate funding to the Regina Health District so that essential services provided at the Plains Health Centre may be continued. I so present.

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a petition here signed by citizens certainly concerned with the closure of the Plains Health Centre and how that just goes to address the critical problem of huge waiting lists in this province. But the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

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.

Those who've signed this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are from the communities of Langenburg and Churchbridge. I so present.

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise again today on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan to present a 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.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by taxpayers, disgruntled taxpayers, from the Churchbridge, Langenburg, Bredenbury areas, and I so present.

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd be happy to present a petition on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. The prayer for relief reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately start work on the rebuilding of our secondary highway system to provide for safe driving on what are becoming known as pothole roads; to enter into negotiations with SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) and SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) for a long-term plan of rural road restitution reflecting future needs and to provide safety for all drivers as the new trucking regulations changes safety factors on these roads.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These come from the area of Shackleton, Maple Creek, and I'm happy to present them on their behalf today.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy 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 of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act to save the Plains Health Centre;

Of citizens humbly praying for the government to immediately start work in rebuilding our secondary highways system to provide for safe driving;

And finally, citizens humbly praying for the government to repair and pave the gravel portion of Highway No. 349.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 75 ask the government the following question to the Minister of Health:

What comfort level is there for people that are using blood and blood products supplied by the new Canadian Blood Services; are blood products being brought in from England where mad cow disease is still a problem; are blood products being brought in from the U.S. (United States) to Saskatchewan, and to what extent is blood testing of these products a 100 per cent process?

I'm happy to ask that question today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Student Wins Remembrance Day Poetry Contest

**Mr. Jess:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last session the member from Meadow Lake gave a member's statement in which he said words to the effect that perhaps it is the youth of today who are best able to reach across the generations and understand the feelings of the men and women who served in our world wars. With the 80th Remembrance Day coming in less than three weeks, I lend my support to that belief.

I am proud to report that a student in my constituency has won the provincial poetry contest and that her poem is now entered in the national competition.

Brita Barranieski, a graduate of Hafford Central School, placed first out of more than 3,000 competitors. Brita is now continuing her studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

She was honoured by Hafford School, and she will also be recognized by the local legion at the Remembrance Day service next month. Her poem will be read at that service and I will be happy to share it with any member who is looking for a fresh, heartfelt, original material for services in your constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as long as we have thoughtful and creative young people like Brita, we are not in danger of forgetting the purpose of this very important day of remembrance and respect. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

### Highways in Saskatchewan Contest Update

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to give the latest report on the Worst Highways in Saskatchewan contest. We already have received over 50 phone calls and e-mails dealing with this particular subject from across the province and in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's gone beyond Saskatchewan.

We had a phone call this morning from a gentleman in Toronto who said his local radio station is playing the contest in Toronto because people from the east eventually maybe drive through Saskatchewan. They need to know which is the worst highway, to avoid it.

We had a phone call from a gentleman in Edmonton who says that he misses a lot of things about Saskatchewan but he doesn't miss the highways. In fact he wants the prize, if he wins, to go to his father-in-law who actually has to drive these roads.

Mr. Speaker, this particular issue is gaining a lot of attention, so again I would ask the minister: Madam Minister, will you please be a judge? Help us determine which is the worst highway in Saskatchewan, and then fix it.

### Strasbourg Hosts One-Act Drama Festival

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and for you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am happy to announce that today and Saturday in your constituency of Last

Mountain-Touchwood, the play as Shakespeare said will be the thing, the thing to see that is. The Last Mountain Theatre Company of the town of Strasbourg is hosting the annual Saskatchewan One-Act Play Festival sponsored by Saskatchewan Lotteries, and by Saskatchewan Community Theatre, Inc.

Theatre groups from eight communities will perform before an enthusiastic audience and before one stern adjudicator who shall remain nameless.

The plays will come from Strasbourg, Bulyea, Prince Albert, Yorkton, the Battlefords, Kerrobert, Wolseley, and Swift Current. There will be four plays each night with a gathering in the green room after the performances for both players and audience.

This festival is being held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Last Mountain Theatre Company.

Mr. Speaker, we sometimes make the mistake I think of identifying community vitality with economic activity alone. In fact the economy, though very important, is only one piece of the puzzle that makes for healthy, interesting and culturally alive towns.

Strasbourg is one example of a well-rounded community, and volunteers like this group of players make it so. You are lucky, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to have such a town in your constituency. Thank you.

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

### SGI Canada Charity Classic Bonspiel

**Mr. Kasperski:** — With the almost perfect weather outside today I hesitate to even mention winter sports, even if curling is one of the top five religions in Saskatchewan. But I think it is important to announce that earlier this month the sixth annual SGI Charity Classic bonspiel took place here in Regina. Spectators were treated to an exciting preview of the curling competition we will see this winter, provided by 32 world-class rinks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over \$31,000 was raised and presented to KidSport Saskatchewan. This volunteer charity is committed to ensuring that all Saskatchewan children have an opportunity to participate in community level sports, in spite of any social or economic obstacles they may face. At the same time KidSport helps children to learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Previous bonspiel recipients have included the MS (multiple sclerosis) society, the Saskatchewan Head Injury Association, and the Children's Health Foundation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this charity classic is organized and staffed by volunteers and sponsored by SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) brokers and partners.

Curling, voluntarism, and good works are, I submit, a combination completely typical of Saskatchewan and I congratulate all who took part. Thank you.

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

### **Nifty Noodle Plant**

**Ms. Murrell:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In our ongoing efforts to help opposition members report the good news happening around the province, I wish to inform the House and the member from Thunder Creek of a success story in his own constituency.

He of course, like his buds, is so busy moaning about sick cows and bumpy roads that he dismisses the worthy efforts of his own people. Nifty Noodles of Mossbank has had something of a bumpy ride over the years but persistence and determination by owner Jeff Sarsfield and the local people seems to be paying off. Upgrades have been made to the plant in the past couple of years, helped along by some funding from PAWBED (Partnership Agreement on Water Based Economic Development), and it is now competing in the flat noodle market right across the country.

The plant has been operating on a two or three day a week schedule; now it is moving towards a two-shift a day, five days a week operating schedule and it expects to have 20 or 22 employees within the next couple of years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is just one more economic success story, a story taking place not in the major centres but in rural Saskatchewan, a story which presents concrete evidence of what we on this side know, and those on that side deny, that the people of Saskatchewan are hard-working, innovative, determined, and optimistic, eager and able to compete in both national and international markets.

I am happy to congratulate owners and workers of Nifty Noodles of Mossbank. Thank you.

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

### **Save the Plains Committee Workers**

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to speak about two individuals who made the Save the Plains Committee the success that it was: Darlene Sterling and Lenore Schmelling. It was through their hard work and dedication that the Save the Plains Committee was successful in bringing this issue to the top of this province's agenda. They travelled hundreds of miles every week just to talk to citizens of this province about the closure of the Plains hospital. Despite personal attacks by the government members opposite, many of whom arrived at these meetings in government vans, they fought on.

Darlene and Lenore received a great deal of support from the people they met, and the support wasn't just moral support. People across this province were so angry at this government for not listening to them for closing the Plains, that hundreds donated money to fight the closure of the Plains hospital.

And now as the closure of the Plains draws near, the nurses who fought hard to save health care in this province have fittingly decided to donate the remaining funds that were collected to a charity called Think First. Think First is a charity that works for the prevention of brain and spinal cord injuries among young

people.

Although all members of this House may not have been in agreement with the issue of the closure of the Plains hospital, I hope all members will join me in congratulating Lenore and Darlene for their dedication to the betterment of this province.

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

### **Foster Family Week**

**Mr. Ward:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to acknowledge in this Assembly an important group of largely unsung heroes who contribute to our province.

This week has been designated as Foster Family Week in Saskatchewan. There are more than 800 foster homes across our province. This week is a good opportunity to recognize and commend the many individuals who run foster homes, for their work and their commitment.

Foster families work as part of a team with social workers and other professionals to support families and their children. They are required to take foster care training as set out by the Department of Social Services and the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association. The training takes place both before they are approved and afterwards.

Foster families make an important contribution to the lives of many children and youth within our communities. When families experience problems that for one reason or another result in them not being able to care for their children, foster families are there to help. Foster families give the children in these difficult circumstances a safe and secure environment and the unconditional love and support that every child needs.

Please join me in commending Saskatchewan foster families and their work in contributing to a better future for our children.

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

### **Globe and Mail Article**

**Ms. Stanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to bring forward to the House an article that was written in *The Globe and Mail* yesterday on page A31, featuring the member from Lloydminster.

I rise to tell the House about this, not because I feel pride that I was included in that article, but because I want to pay tribute to my parents and grandparents who came to this country from western Europe because they had hopes and dreams of building a better life and a just society.

I believe that in this province it wasn't only people like my parents, there were many people that came to this country who tilled the soil, broke the land, and hoped that their children and grandchildren would live a better life because they were able to do this.

I believe in my whole heart in the province of Saskatchewan, in the country of Canada. And I believe that we have built a good province. But not only that, I think it's incumbent to all of us,

no matter how we vote or who we represent, to continue building this kind of country and province.

I believe that to live the legacy of our parents and grandparents, it is up to us to continue the work that they started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Adjournment Motion

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the Premier.

The NDP (New Democratic Party) keep telling us they want to go home because there's nothing left to debate. The fact is there are 37 Bills on the order paper, Bills dealing with health care, Crown corporation management, child prostitution, highways, legislative reform. We are prepared to debate any one of these Bills. But what have we been debating over the last three days? An NDP motion to go home.

Mr. Premier, when I go home this weekend I'm going to tell everyone about the NDP MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) that didn't want to work. The NDP MLAs that wanted to go home instead of debating these important issues.

Mr. Premier, it's not too late. Will you withdraw your adjournment motion?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The session was called for a specific purpose, as everybody in the province knows, which is to deal with the power strike. That was dealt with Monday.

And the members opposite have said they wanted to debate. Well in fact, the facts say the opposite. Tuesday night we asked the members opposite would they like to come back and work as they were supposed to at 7 o'clock? Not them, not working after 5 o'clock.

Yesterday the members opposite said they wanted to debate. I stood up in my place and said, let's extend the clock. Mr. Speaker, what's happening here is clear. As usual the old rump Tories are playing politics with taxpayers' dollars.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, yesterday, I think we need to clarify exactly what happened. Just moments before the end of the sitting day yesterday, the NDP House Leader tried another one of her goofy little antics. She tried to extend the sitting hours of the House. Did she want more time to debate one of the Bills before the Assembly? No. She wanted to extend the debate on the NDP motion to go home. You sometimes wonder if the NDP House Leader has any idea what she's doing. At the least the guy they had as House Leader before understood the job.

To the NDP House Leader, Madam Minister, we'll extend the House hours all you want. All you have to do is withdraw your adjournment motion and let us debate real issues like health care, like post-secondary education, like highways, like taxes.

Will you do that today, Madam Minister?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, personal attacks are not really appropriate, but I must admit it's what I have come to expect from the Saskatchewan Party and it's what the people of this province have come to expect from the old rump Tories.

We are quite prepared to debate the issues in this province and we do it regularly. We do it regularly in meetings with the people of Saskatchewan in the communities of this province — spending a whole day in Nipawin, with the people of Nipawin, the whole cabinet; spending a whole day in Humboldt, with the people of Humboldt, with the whole cabinet.

Now we had business in this legislature. The business is completed. At a cost of \$30,000 a day, the members are playing politics and they're not even prepared to work when we give them the opportunity to work. If they want to work, they can extend the debate today at 1 o'clock and work beyond 1 o'clock, as most people in this province work beyond 1 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, that . . .

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

### Health Care

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the closure of the Plains has claimed its first victims.

Madam Minister, two of Regina's anesthetists are leaving the province, and others are thinking of leaving. They are so frustrated with the way your government has handled health reform in this province, they don't know where they are going yet but they are just going to leave the province.

Working conditions, administration, and the way your government is handling health care reform are all factors. You can't attract nurses. You can't attract doctors. And now even the specialists are leaving the province. Madam Minister, why in the world are you driving away the specialists out of our province?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's true that the two anesthetists are leaving Regina. That is true. I understand that the Regina District Health Board has had some meetings with the anesthetists in order to resolve some of the difficulties that have occurred.

**Mr. McLane:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, even the members opposite don't support the answer from the minister because it wasn't an answer. The question was, Madam Minister, what are you doing to stop this? It sounds like nothing. It sounds like

again, Madam Minister, you're uninformed.

Not only are our specialists leaving, Mr. Speaker, we have another hospital that's scheduled to close in southern Saskatchewan. The minister's predecessors, Mr. Speaker, the former health ministers have all said the cuts are over, no more closures, no more bed closures, no more layoffs.

Even the Associate Minister of Health said, and I quote, Mr. Speaker:

In fact some media reported that Eric Cline wanted two messages to emerge from the budget. That nurses and other health employees wouldn't worry about layoffs, and that the communities shouldn't worry about losing more hospital and nursing home beds.

Now here, Madam Minister, we have another hospital that they're talking about, the Thunder Creek . . . the health district is talking about closing in Central Butte. Madam Minister, are you going to step in and pick up where your other ministers failed, and stop the closure of the Central Butte hospital.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I would remind the member that seven years ago when this government came to office there were over 400 individual boards and agencies that were involved in the delivery of health services in the province of Saskatchewan. At that time, Mr. Speaker, there was absolutely little co-ordination and integration between the various groups that administered a publicly funded health system in the province.

After the Murray Commission we determined that it was important to try and integrate and co-ordinate the services that were being delivered. Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the change that occurred in the past five years has been huge. And the task that the district health boards have been given, along with the employees and the doctors and all of other health professionals, to bring this system together have been complex and difficult.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're making our way through this, and I anticipate that at the end of the day we will have the very, very best health system in the world.

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

### Tax Rates

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Minister, Saskatchewan families have the second highest tax burden in all of Canada thanks to your NDP government. The average family in Alberta gets to keep over \$9,000 more in take-home pay than the same family in Saskatchewan. The average family in Manitoba gets to keep \$4,000 more. That's a tremendous disadvantage, and it's driving our best and brightest people out of this province.

Mr. Minister, when are you going to start easing the tax burden on Saskatchewan families? When are we going to see some meaningful tax relief in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, when we balanced the budget in 1994, the budget that had been put into deficit by the members opposite when they were in power, we began a series of tax reductions which are affordable, sustainable, and reasonable. In 1995 and '96, we had cuts to the personal income tax rate through the reduction to the deficit reduction surtax; 1997, two points off the sales tax; 1998, two points off the personal income tax.

So we've started, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're going to continue down that road. And I might say Saskatchewan people know that we go down that road in a reasonable and sustainable way. Because do you know what? Every year every individual in this province pays \$725 in taxes in interest payments alone on the debt run up by those members over there.

And the member talks about average families. I'll tell the member what the average family pays — \$2,900 a year interest payments on your debt, Mr. Member. That's what the average family in Saskatchewan pays for your debt.

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Minister, Saskatchewan has the second highest tax burden in all of Canada. Only Quebec is worse, and now Jean Charest is promising sweeping tax reductions.

So before long, Saskatchewan will be dead last: the highest taxes, the worst highways, the longest waiting lists, the worst job creation. That's the NDP record. It's no wonder you want to shut down this House and go home. I wouldn't want to defend your record either.

Mr. Minister, you've been in office for seven years. It's your responsibility — there's no one else to blame. How can you defend this dismal record?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'll defend the record of this government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with pride because this government has taken a bankrupt province with no hope and in despair, and we have restored to this province through our fiscal planning, Mr. Deputy Speaker, hope. And what is important in a person's life and what is important in a province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is hope and that's what we have because we're going in the right direction.

We're going in the direction of gradual, sustainable, reasonable, tax reductions and that's what we're going to continue to do.

And I predict, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the people of the province are going to support us in that because they do not want to go back to the 1980s, back to the days when those members were opposite. What did we see, Mr. Deputy Speaker? We didn't see tax reductions under them; we saw tax increases.

And not only that we saw the building up of a debt of \$14 billion that we're still trying to pay off. And we are paying it off. The interest payments are going down but it's still \$2,900 a year taxes just to pay interest on your debt. That's the major problem we face.

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

### Job Creation Record

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Premier once said that taxes are the silent killers of jobs, and he's absolutely right, of course. And nobody's killing more jobs than your NDP government.

Over the past 12 months NDP Saskatchewan has had the worst job creation record in all of Canada. In fact we were the only province in Canada to actually lose jobs over the past year.

Over the same period, nearly 50,000 new jobs were created in Alberta — 50,000, Mr. Deputy Speaker. NDP taxes are creating jobs; it's just that they're in Medicine Hat and Calgary.

Mr. Minister, when are you going to do something about the NDP job creation record, dismal as it is? When are you going to encourage businesses by meaningful tax relief so jobs can be created in this province instead of everywhere else?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm amazed at the members opposite — the worst, the worst, the worst. On this side of the House we're actually proud of Saskatchewan. We're proud of the fact that in the last five years our economy grew faster than any other economy in Canada — bar none.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — We're proud of the fact that we have more people working at full-time jobs than ever before in our history. We're proud of the fact that an Alberta-based consulting company chose Saskatchewan as the best place for youth employment. And we're proud of the fact that our economy is more diversified than ever before in our history.

This group over here perhaps should call themselves the Alberta Party. We believe in Saskatchewan, we believe in its future, and we are very proud of what the people of this province have achieved.

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

### Victim Impact Statement Program

**Mr. Heppner:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Minister, the province of Manitoba recently introduced a victim impact statement into its criminal justice system. This gives the victims of crime the right to file a statement with a court prior to sentencing.

Once the defendant is found guilty, the victim impact statement provides the court and the judge with a clearer picture of how the crime has affected that victim. The statement may also be considered if the convicted criminal applies for early release or parole.

Every province in Canada now has a victim impact statement in place, every province but Saskatchewan. Once again we're behind the rest of Canada thanks to the NDP.

Mr. Minister, the Saskatchewan Party believes that every victim

of crime should be given this right, and of course should always consider the effect on the victim when passing sentence.

Mr. Minister, why doesn't Saskatchewan have a victim impact statement program? Will you be introducing this program?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan is very proud of its victim services program. We have, I think, the best program in Canada as it relates to the victim services program that we have set up right across the province.

This program covers about 850,000 out of the million people in the province. It provides assistance through coordinators and volunteers and police to provide the assistance to people as they take part in the court process, whether as witnesses or whether they are the people that are the victims that are suffering in this process.

We have, I think, something that we can be very proud of in the system that we've got. Victim impact statements, as one little piece of all of that, may be something that other provinces have done in a very narrow way. We've decided that we want to provide victim services in a broad way that assists people when they go to court. And we are very proud of the work we're doing.

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Mr. Minister, you have a program but it's a hit and miss program. And as usual most of the time it misses. There's nothing definite, there's nothing secure in that.

Section 722 of the Criminal Code establishes the victim impact statement and says this statement must be considered by the court at the time of sentencing which yours doesn't. However it also says a statement must be prepared in a form established by the provincial government. Your government has not set up this program, so crime victims in Saskatchewan do not have the same rights as crime victims in other provinces.

Mr. Minister, what are you waiting for? We believe this program should be established immediately. Every crime victim should be informed of this right and be given the option of filing the victim impact statement prior to sentencing.

Mr. Minister, many people think that our justice system puts the rights of criminals ahead of the rights of the victim. This is just one more step you could take to balance the scales of justice. Will you establish the victim impact statement program?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, our victims' services program in this province provides a broad base of service to victims. And when we get to the situation that the member opposite is talking about, around statements to the court, there are various procedures working with the prosecutors and the police as it relates to that.

Now the specific question around the format of a victim impact statement, if there's something there that we need to do, we'll do it.

But what I am going to say is that our victim services program, this program is one that is the envy of other places. We have

expended great amounts of money that have provided a very good service right across the province. It also includes our special centres in Saskatoon and Regina as it relates to children who are victims. And we think that we are doing a good job that will provide the best service for victims in the province.

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

### Security and Parking Issues at Regina Hospitals

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the NDP announced the impending closure of the Plains hospital, there have been all kinds of implications — bed shortages, waiting lists, extended waiting lists.

Now more recently there was obvious that there was no plan for the concern or safety of staff, patients, or visitors. This is clear by the fact that they are forcing people now as a result of closing the Plains Health Centre into one of Canada's highest of crime neighbourhoods. That's sad, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We hear stories now. We are being told by people that are reluctant to go and visit their loved ones after dark in the area. We hear stories that nurses are being warned not to carry purses, only pocketbooks. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health: why are health care workers being advised to be extra cautious when they are around Regina's two remaining hospitals?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have to say on behalf of the government, and I say this with the utmost of respect for the member opposite for whom I do have personal regard, that this really is stretching an argument to incredulity.

If the argument is that this area where Plains and Pasqua and . . . the General and Pasqua are located are dangerous areas, now all of a sudden after your debate on Plains you raise it. You didn't raise it last year. You didn't raise it the year before. You didn't raise it the year before that. You never raised it whatsoever.

This has got to be one of the most ridiculous arguments that one can ever argue and submit. You have cases for the Plains hospital. You can mount them. I don't adopt them, but this one surely sinks to be the very bottom, bottom of the list.

And I say to the member opposite, don't insult the people of Regina. Don't make this out as some sort of a city which is undesirable to live, that doesn't have compassion and caring and crime protection and prosecutors and police as the Minister of Justice has talked about. Don't raise this in one last but failed effort with respect to the Plains.

We're going to have the finest health care system for southern Saskatchewan when this is completed in the next few weeks.

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

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you. And it's obvious, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Premier perhaps missed those times when we did bring to the attention of the people of this province and to the NDP government the fact that they failed to consult with those authorities before proceeding with the plans at the General Hospital.

They forgot to talk to the police about the security problems that may face residents, people, persons, visitors, everybody in that area — more traffic, more people, more crime — for reasons only the Premier seems to think are logical. He is closing a hospital in the safest neighbourhood of Regina and moving everything into the core of the city. Regina city police have said in the media that they were not contacted by your government regarding the relocation of the Plains.

I ask again the minister, why did you not consult with the Regina city police before you decided to move so many people into one area? Why do you not think about the personal safety of patients, visitors, and staff? This should have been something that had been done a long time ago and we brought it to your attention.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, this is, again I say with the utmost of respect, one of the most illogical questions I've ever heard. If the argument is that the Pasqua and General hospitals are located in dangerous locations of the city of Regina, then the logical extension of that argument is that they should be closed and moved to safer areas.

It's wrong to say more traffic, more people, more crime. More traffic, more people, less crime. Where do you think the criminals hang out? Do you think they hang out in the busy areas? Look, if the question is making sure that there is absolute protection that is required or increased protection which is required, that would be looked after by the district health board and by ministers of Health to do this.

But to argue that by virtue of Plains shifting over to the merged Pasqua/General operation, which will provide the finest health facility for all of southern Saskatchewan, is somehow an increase in crime because there are more nurses walking around, more doctors walking around, more nurses' aides walking around, more health care workers around, I think is an absolute insult to the people of Regina.

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

**Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the concerns about the safety of people in those areas outside of the security, lighting security in the areas of those hospitals, creates great problems. What I would like to ask the government, what are their plans to alleviate the problems of people accessing the General Hospital in the core area?

Right now the parking is horrendous. People are afraid to park their vehicles long distances from the main entrance. There are people who have difficulty walking that need to see specialists and are going for surgery and they have a long ways to walk. There is no place to park, and when they do, if they're not able to park in the area where they have security lights, they need to walk great distances where there are no . . . nothing other than very dim street lights.

How is that issue going to be addressed, the parking?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is . . . if the hon. member is talking about the question of parking problems for the new area which is under construction, has been under construction, this is going to be solved. This is in the

process of being solved. That's an entirely different question than the first two questions which the hon. member raised.

Accessibility is now well on the way to being told to the people of southern Saskatchewan and Regina as to how to get there. And the parking situation will be straightened out in due course, in full dispatch.

Look, I ask yourselves to frame your questions not for the short-term, temporary run that you may try to get a hit, a political hit. Look at six, nine months, a year from now, and ask yourself . . .

Have you toured that facility? Have you toured that facility? I bet you you haven't toured Pasqua and General. Take a look at it. If you toured them you will see what I'm saying. We will have the best in health care for southern Saskatchewan in Regina by a long shot, with accessibility.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave to make a slightly extended ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### SaskTel Obtains Extension from CRTC

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to announce to you, and through you to the House, that Saskatchewan has been successful in obtaining an extension to SaskTel's moratorium from CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) regulation to June 30, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the reason we negotiated the original exemption in 1992 was to ensure that Saskatchewan could adopt national telecommunications rules in a manner which is more sensitive to our unique needs and circumstances.

As a result we have among the lowest communications rates in Canada for both residents and small businesses. We have a competitive market for the delivery of long-distance services. All of the competitors provide their national sales packages. We have announced our rules for the delivery of local telephone services, with AT&T Canada already announcing its intent to enter Saskatchewan in 1999.

As owners of SaskTel we have continued to ensure that services are sensitive to the needs of our population. SaskTel provides a 15 per cent discount on telecommunications costs to municipalities and health districts.

SaskTel was the first in Canada to provide access to the Internet to our rural residents on the same basis as is available to urban residents. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that we could not have accomplished these tasks if we had been nationally regulated over the last five years.

Mr. Speaker, we sought the original exemption because we were convinced that national competition policy, which is based

on market forces alone, would not guarantee equitable and affordable participation by all Saskatchewan citizens in an increasingly global economy.

The challenge that continues to face this government is how to guarantee the right of inclusion for all of the citizens in this time of change. This government recognizes that a strong telecommunications infrastructure is essential in providing an opportunity for all of our citizens to get onto and stay on the information highway, to build their social, cultural, and economic participation in this new emerging world based on electronic transactions.

This extension to June 30, 2000, is not a coincidence. It is intended to allow the provincial government to ensure that we continue to meet Made in Saskatchewan objectives in this regard. By that date, the federal government has committed to putting in place a mechanism to address the critical issue of affordability of access in rural and remote areas. Such areas include most of Saskatchewan.

In April 1998, this Assembly passed a unanimous resolution supporting the need for a national mechanism to ensure affordable local telephone rates for our rural and northern residents. This Assembly recognized that an adequate, regionally sensitive mechanism to ensure that all residents will have affordable access to basic telecommunications services is essential for the survival and development of small communities across our province.

The federal government has promised to, and I quote:

Develop a national access strategy to ensure affordable access by all Canadians to essential communications.

In addition, it has stated that:

Where market forces cannot provide such services, the strategy will identify the means — regulatory, financial or otherwise — of providing them to people in rural, remote and northern communities.

We will work with the federal government to ensure that it lives up to this promise, and we are confident that by June 30, 2000, the federal government will have implemented such a strategy. In negotiating this extension, we did not believe that we could turn the regulation of SaskTel over to the CRTC until our rural northern residents can be assured of equal access to the opportunities afforded by the new information-based economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that SaskTel has continued to operate as an efficient, viable business providing leading edge technological solutions to our residents, and will continue to do so in the future.

During the transition to CRTC regulation over the next two years, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to promote a competitive telecommunications environment which is sensitive to our market needs and to the needs of all of our citizens, rural and northern included. Thank you.

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



**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very interested certainly, and I think the people of Saskatchewan are, in the minister's statement here this morning. Yesterday in the House we raised the issue of government advertising within SaskTel, and the minister responsible responded by saying that they are advertising in a competitive market and therefore it's necessary. And we certainly agree with that. A considerable amount of competition has resulted from the deregulation. It has also resulted in competition that is going to be difficult to meet. No question about it.

The NDP's calling card that we are hearing this morning is that we aren't ready for competition, unfortunately. Although the minister says we're advertising directly for competition, the minister this morning is saying we aren't ready for competition.

That's the NDP's old standby call is the call to fear, saying that we can't compete, that we don't have opportunity to compete, that we're going to put at peril things like Internet connections for rural subscribers — all of those kinds of things.

That just simply isn't the case. If the evidence is clear in terms of long-distance rates here in Saskatchewan, competition has resulted in lower rates, not higher rates; not loss of service, more service rather than less service.

Just this morning I heard on national television this morning that Cantel and its strategic partner is going to be offering 20 cent a minute long-distance wireless communication right now, Mr. Minister. We are going to see that kind of competition. That doesn't exclude subscribers, it adds new subscribers to the block that we are going to be competing against. Rather than looking at ways to hold off that competition you should be looking at ways to meet that competition and beat that competition.

Cantel is in the market now and they should be congratulated for offering that kind of low rate of service to the people all across North America. Their advertising caption was 20 cents a minute local calls anywhere in North America. Mr. Minister, that's the kind of competition SaskTel is going to have to meet. That's the kind of competition that the people of Saskatchewan will want. That's the kind of competition that will result in lower rates here in this province.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the date given here only a year and a half hence, not the initial five-year extension of course which was granted to begin with, is a clear indication that Saskatchewan is in fact moving to CRTC national regulation.

The issue of course that has been flagged is not whether or not we will come under national regulation rather than provincial monopoly; rather it is, how can this be done with some degree of cross-subsidization to ensure that more isolated areas will still have affordable services.

We support the move but we also support the idea that there has to be something done to make sure that with CRTC regulation, we don't end up with a system whereby telephone service in our cities is cheap and in other areas it is exorbitant, taking people

out of local service.

The hon. member for Kindersley has mentioned some of the, what a few years ago would have seemed quite incredible deals in long-distance service. However, of course, the other side of that is that local service is going to become increasingly problematic. And that is what must be guaranteed, because if some regulation isn't accomplished, many rural people will simply not be able to afford basic service.

I think that this year and a half extension is an example of co-operative federalism at its best. Our two levels of government are working to ensure that there will be affordable service in the more isolated areas of our province. That is fundamental.

We cannot escape the effects of globalization, but we must manage them to the benefit of all so that we do not end up with a society of winners and losers. And in this case the losers would be our rural and northern residents. Thank you.

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

#### MOTION UNDER RULE 46

##### Halt to Closure of Central Butte Hospital

**Mr. McLane:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to rule 46 to seek leave of this Assembly to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would ask the member to give a brief, and very brief explanation of the motion.

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why this is of such a pressing and urgent necessity is one that I outlined earlier in question period, the very fact that the NDP has already shut down 53 hospitals, 54 counting the Plains. We cannot let the Central Butte Hospital be just one more example of the NDP abrogating their responsibility for health care. That in itself indicates the pressing and urgent need for this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I will now read the text of the motion for the House:

That this Assembly call upon the provincial government to halt any actions to close the Central Butte Hospital; and further, that this Assembly urges the provincial government to simply provide adequate funding to the Moose Jaw-Thunder Creek Health District in order to ensure the future of this vital hospital so that it may continue serving the health care needs of people in Central Butte and all the surrounding areas.

And I so move.

Leave not granted.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. MacKinnon and the proposed amendment thereto moved by Mr. Gantefoer.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments in regards to this motion before the Assembly. The motion of adjournment, and the subsequent amendment that was presented by my colleague, the member from Melfort, has given, Mr. Deputy Speaker, members of this Assembly, if they really wanted or showed some interest in representing their constituents, an opportunity to enter into debate.

Now earlier this afternoon we heard the Government House Leader, the member from Saskatoon Idylwyld, try to indicate to the province that the opposition members were not really interested in representing their constituents or entering into real debate.

Therefore we have a motion of adjournment in front of us brought by the very member who said the only reason the Assembly was called was for a specific purpose.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suggest to you that the people of this province are not interested in having taxpayers' dollars wasted in government calling a session, or calling the members into session to deal with a specific government purpose when there were so many other issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let's take a look. When has the government called a fall session? As we've discussed, as my colleagues have been discussing, the only other time was last fall when the Premier wanted to get his picture in the papers as having spoken out in support of the Calgary accord and speaking, addressing the constitution. And that was the only specific purpose that the government called a session last fall.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you're aware, while we dealt with that issue, there were a number of other issues that were addressed as well.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why was the Assembly called into session? To meet a specific government objective, totally, totally removed from the concerns of the public in the province of Saskatchewan. In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reason we were called was so the government could legislate government workers back to work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you look at fall sessions, and I think the paper adequately brought it forward, the fact that there are many jurisdictions in this country that do have legitimate fall sessions that give opportunity for the government to place a platform before the public, before the opposition members, and give an opportunity then for legitimate debate in the spring when the session sits, to address the direction of government and the Bills that it would bring forward.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government House Leader could argue, well there really isn't a lot on this agenda for us to discuss. I would suggest to you that if anyone had the opportunity to look through the agenda, there are numerous Bills on the order paper for discussion.

But I would suggest as well that the reason we are not entering into debate on those Bills is because the only Bills left on the order paper are Bills that have been brought forward by opposition members in this Assembly — Bills that reflect the real concerns of the public of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we look at the concerns raised in front of us . . . and I've got a couple of concerns that I would like to raise that I think would be imperative for us to discuss and a very legitimate reason why this Assembly should have a fall session, is in the area of education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the communities, two of the communities that I represent — actually one of the communities that now is in the constituency of my colleague, the member from Cannington — have over the past number of years worked towards amalgamating school services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the problems they're facing today is the fact that both of the buildings that they've worked to amalgamate and placing the K to 6 system in, in the community of Langbank, and the 7 to 12 in the community of Kennedy, the unfortunate realities are both of the buildings have deteriorated to the point that they should be replaced. And when you look at it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's a sound argument that says, well you really can't justify two new buildings. And the communities have got . . . have gathered together and there's been community debate. The board has called interested individuals to debate this issue and they have arrived at the conclusion that the best option to address the problem of deteriorating buildings is to build one school in one of the communities.

(1100)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that's a proposal that is now on the desk of the Minister of Education. I would hope that the Minister of Education, when they debate expenditures for their upcoming budget in the spring of 1999, will give serious consideration to this proposal. A proposal that has come together as a result of the work of a number of people in those two communities, to amalgamate under one building to show that they know what it is to save dollars and find ways of expanding their educational dollars certainly in an appropriate manner that addresses the need to put the education dollars directly into programs for the young people rather than just bricks and mortar. So rather than two, you talk about one. It would give me, as the MLA representing the area, the opportunity in a fall session to address that.

Certainly, Mr. Deputy Speaker as well we have the issue of highways and the ongoing debate about the highway system in this province. And the fact that nationally, national TV and media are picking up on the contest that is currently running in the province of Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we think about this Assembly and then think about the debate we are entering into today, and I believe the Minister of Agriculture talked about where have we been in regards to discussing agriculture. Well we had a debate on Tuesday, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If the member would have been listening very carefully over the past number of days, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he would be aware of the fact that my

colleagues have spoken to agriculture at length.

But where have the government members been? Where have the government members been? The government members have sat on their hands and said nothing about . . . because they want to go home, they don't want to sit here and debate this . . . debate legitimate concerns. They're interested in just allowing the Government House Leader, the member from Saskatoon Idylwyld, to have her way and say, time to go home, we're only going to bring one piece of legislation in, time to get on with it and forget it, go back to your constituents and have a good time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you look at the motion, and even yesterday the member from Saskatoon Idylwyld, the Government House Leader, had indicated to this Assembly, well let's stop the clock. She suggested today that we weren't interested in debating issues. Well I'm not sure where she's been because we've been debating the issues. Unfortunately we've had to debate the issues based on a motion that calls for an adjournment of the Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as well I would like to suggest that maybe the current Government House Leader should talk to the former government House leader, the member from Regina Elphinstone. At least that member had a good idea of how this Legislative Assembly worked — of how MLAs would work together, of consultation.

Since we started this session, our caucus really hasn't had any contact with the Government House Leader regarding the adjournment motion.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you talk about adjournment motions one would have thought that the Government House Leader — as we've seen the former government House leader, the member from Regina Elphinstone — would go to deliberate lengths to consult with the opposition in planning the process of the legislative sitting and the issues that we would be debating as we've brought forward in the amendment, whether its agriculture, whether its finances, whether its the taxation in this province, whether its health care or education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find it appalling that the current Government House Leader would show just such disdain for this Assembly, for this institution, that she wouldn't take the time to at least sit down with opposition members as we did I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you're aware of in the last fall session even though we came and the government had a specific agenda of dealing with the constitution. In dealing with the former government House leader — the government House leader, from Regina Elphinstone — recognized that the opposition has a role to play, and as well came up, sat down with the opposition and came up with a format that allowed for discussion on other issues as well.

And I would suggest to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the current Government House Leader could have approached the opposition. We could have worked out an agreement process that would have allowed for legitimate debate on these other issues rather than just immediately slamming the opposition with an adjournment motion that this Assembly adjourns until the call of the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it's important the public know that the only reason, as the minister from . . . the Government House Leader indicated, the only reason we were here is for that one specific purpose to legislate SaskPower workers back to work and that the government really did not want to debate other issues.

They did not want to debate the closure of the Plains Health Centre. They did not really want to enter into the debate of agriculture because they don't know where they're going, and therefore the Government House Leader brings in a motion of adjournment — a motion that really stymies, in reality, stymies the ability of the opposition members to address the very concerns — the very concerns — that we heard last night at a meeting in Estevan. And I'm sure concerns — I'm positive — concerns that were even raised today as the minister . . . as the Premier and his colleagues met with the SFL (Saskatchewan Federation of Labour) at their convention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's no doubt, there's no doubt, there's a number of issues. There's no doubt that the only reason we're debating an adjournment motion is because the government really did not want to get to the meat and the very issues, the reality of what the public are talking about, people are talking about, as I indicated last night whether it's health care, whether it's taxes in the province of Saskatchewan, or even the fact that the way the economy is rolling the jobs just are not here for our young people to look forward to.

I think the comment as well about Alberta, talking about a good place for youth employment — yes — because the quality of the young people in this province. We nicely do a job of training them and then they head off to Alberta. And Alberta's just thankful that we have quality young people that they can call to meet the demand for the job opportunities that are in that province. Why can't we have them here, Mr. Deputy Speaker? That's a good question. That's a question the public are asking.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suggest then . . . and I would have to say that I'm appalled that the only reason that we have had an opportunity to debate has been linked to a government motion of adjournment rather than sitting down and negotiating and discussing other avenues, and opening up the floor so that the interests of the public are represented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I certainly do support the amendment and I will have great difficulty in supporting — in fact I oppose — the motion to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Thank you.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're into our third day of debate on a motion to adjourn this House. The government determined that it was necessary to recall this legislature to deal with one specific example. And for days now we've heard from my colleagues on this side of the House, the entire opposition in fact. We've heard of the many problems that exist in Saskatchewan. Whether we're talking about health care, whether we're talking about highways, whether we're talking about agriculture, there are many issues that need to be addressed.

Since 1991, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have not had a full fall sitting. Our neighbouring provinces on either side of us do have

a fall sitting. And when people look at that kind of approach they know that their elected representatives will be able to deal with current matters. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's ironic that our last recall was back in March. And the adjournment time prior to that had been May — a long period of time. Many issues that come before the people of Saskatchewan in the months of August, September, October, are forgotten about by the time March rolls around. And the people of Saskatchewan want better representation.

As my colleague indicated, last fall was a classic example of dealing with a number of things. The Calgary conference was of course the uppermost on everyone's mind, and we spent a lot of time. There were public meetings held right across Saskatchewan to gain input from the people of Saskatchewan to indeed develop a Saskatchewan position on the question of unity. That very same thing could have taken place this fall.

There are so many issues, there are so many questions that the people of Saskatchewan have, and this was an opportunity for this government to develop new ideas, to bring forth new legislation, to indeed change the way things are done in Saskatchewan.

There could have been, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there could have been an opportunity to develop, with opposition, a plan to indeed spend a period of time in this legislature and deal with issues that are current today.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it was interesting that the Minister of Agriculture indicated last week that there was no crisis in agriculture, that there was no need for a debate. And yet on Tuesday of this week, on Tuesday of this week we spent all day debating agriculture. We debated agriculture for the entire day.

And there are questions that still need to be answered, Mr. Minister. There are still questions that need to be answered in agriculture.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. Why is . . .

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, point of order. I hear the Minister of Agriculture using language that certainly is not conducive to the well-being of this Assembly, and I would suggest Mr. Deputy Speaker address the language that is being used by the member who is not allowed to use from his seat what he cannot use from standing up.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. I take this point of order from the hon. member from Moosomin, and I must say that the Deputy Speaker was tending to other business and did not hear the language. So I will from now on take very careful consideration of what is coming from the other side of the House and from other members of this . . .

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's very clear that there is a need to debate agriculture, that agriculture is in crisis. And if the Minister of Agriculture cannot understand that problem, then he better go out into rural Saskatchewan and meet with farmers and indeed determine whether or not there is a crisis. Because there is one, Mr. Minister. There is definitely one in agriculture.

And the points that the opposition has raised over the last number of days point that out very dramatically. The examples that we've given where farmers are on the verge of losing their property because of falling prices, that is a problem. And whether the minister wants to ignore whether he said this or whether he said that, there is a problem. I think he would agree with that. Very clearly he would agree with that.

And it is a time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the minister to do something. This session was an opportunity to do something. And what did we have from the government? On Monday evening of this week we had a motion to adjourn.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not acceptable to the people of Saskatchewan. They wanted this government to show leadership, to provide ideas, to correct the mistakes that we've indicated.

We have raised issues, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're not just fabricated issues. They are real issues for the people of Saskatchewan. And this government has done nothing this week. They have provided us with the motion to adjourn, to go home.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think very clearly the people of Saskatchewan know that the official opposition, the Saskatchewan Party, wanted to see ideas come forward from this government. They wanted to see from this government new legislation that would correct some of the problems that are occurring in Saskatchewan. But we didn't get it. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that as the hours continue on, we won't get it. We won't be getting those ideas; we won't be getting that legislation.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the resolution by the House Leader of the government is not acceptable to the official opposition, and I believe it's not acceptable to the majority of the people of Saskatchewan.

I oppose that resolution. I support the amendment. And I would ask that the government members opposite also support that amendment and let's continue putting forth ideas and legislation that will help the people of the province.

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

Amendment negated on division.

The division bells rang from 11:16 a.m. until 11:20 a.m.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

#### Yeas — 30

Wiens	MacKinnon	Lingenfelter
Mitchell	Atkinson	Tchorzewski
Johnson	Goulet	Upshall
Kowalsky	Van Mulligen	Teichrob
Bradley	Trew	Renaud
Sonntag	Scott	Nilson
Cline	Serby	Hamilton
Junor	Stanger	Jess
Kasperski	Ward	Murray

Langford                    Murrell                    Thomson

**Nays — 14**

Krawetz	Bjornerud	Toth
D'Autremont	Boyd	Gantefoer
Heppner	Osika	Hillson
McPherson	Aldridge	McLane
Julé	Goohsen	

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I move that the House does adjourn, I would like to thank all the members for coming together on such short notice, and I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Government House . . . Order. The Government House Leader has moved a motion that the House do now adjourn. Before I ask the question, I do want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our pages, Graham, Diane, Ellen, and Megan. They volunteered from their regular jobs to assist the MLAs here, and I think they have done a very good job. They may not do it again but they did for this and I think we show them a . . .

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — And I guess a special thanks to everyone that had to put a special effort into an emergency session as this. And I thank you very much for that and I thank you for your decorum.

The Assembly adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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