

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to stand today to present a petition from people within the Bruno area, and actually the whole area surrounding Bruno, that are petitioning for the Bruno telephone exchange to become part of the Humboldt telephone exchange. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to allow Bruno to be part of the Humboldt telephone exchange.

And the signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, from Pilger, Bruno, Raymore, Meacham, and St. Gregor.

I so present.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition again today from people who are concerned about the EMS (emergency medical services) report and the negative impact it could have on rural Saskatchewan:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to not implement the consolidation and centralization of ambulance services as recommended in the EMS report and affirm its intent to work to improve community-based ambulance services.

The people that have signed this are all from Rose Valley.

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with proposed weight restrictions on Highway 43. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize the economic harm its plan to close Highway 43 to heavy traffic will do to south-central Saskatchewan and instead to vote necessary funds to upgrade Highway 43 in order to preserve jobs and economic development in the area.

And the petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Vanguard and Neidpath.

I so present.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition today to present on behalf of my constituents that are deeply concerned over the power and energy rates in this province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to use a

portion of its windfall oil and gas revenues to provide a more substantial energy rate rebate to Saskatchewan consumers.

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

And this is signed by folks in Estevan and also a couple of sympathetic people from Alberta signed it. Thank you.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of people in Swift Current and area I rise to present a petition with respect to our hospital in Swift Current. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners will humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to carefully consider Swift Current's request for a new hospital.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from the city of Swift Current, from Waldeck, from Pambrun, from Wymark, Admiral, Stewart Valley, and from Jansen, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of the citizens of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are concerned about the EMS report. And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to not implement the consolidation and centralization of ambulance services as recommended in the EMS report and affirm its intent to work to improve community-based ambulance services.

And the prayer is signed by citizens of Pangman and Radville.

I so present.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to present a petition concerning retaining the Hafford hospital. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take necessary steps to ensure the Hafford hospital remains open.

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

From the good citizens of Speers and Richard.

Thank you.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents concerned about the centralization of ambulance service. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to not implement the consolidation and centralization of ambulance services as recommended in the EMS report and to affirm its intent to improve community-based ambulance services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And signatures to this petition come from the community of Wynyard and the Kawacatoose First Nation.

I so present.

Mr. Peters: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition in regards to the health care and what's happening with Pioneer Lodge in Assiniboia. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that, at the very least, the current levels of services and care be maintained at Pioneer Lodge in Assiniboia.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by folks from Assiniboia, Limerick.

I so present.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise again on behalf of concerned citizens with reference to cuts at the Assiniboia Pioneer Lodge. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that, at the very least, current levels of services and care are maintained at Pioneer Lodge in Assiniboia.

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

Mr. Speaker the signatories on this are from Limerick, Assiniboia, and Mossbank.

I so present.

Clerk: — The following petitions for private bills are hereby presented and laid on the table:

By Ms. Higgins, of the International Bible College of Moose Jaw, in the province of Saskatchewan;

By Mr. Addley, the petition for the Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation, in the province of Saskatchewan;

By Ms. Higgins, the petition for the Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw, in the province of Saskatchewan; and

By Mr. Wartman, the petition for the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, in the province of Saskatchewan; and

By Ms. Higgins, the petition for St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw in the province; and

By Mr. Addley, the petition for St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, in the province of Saskatchewan.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

Of the citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly on the following matters:

To allow Bruno to be part of the Humboldt telephone exchange;

The centralization of ambulance services;

Swift Current's request for a new hospital;

Level of services and care at Pioneer Lodge in Assiniboia;

Necessary funding for Highway 43; and

A substantial energy rebate to consumers.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I submit the same question to a different minister, at the request of the government.

To the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs: how much money was transferred from the federal government to the provincial government in the 2000-2001 fiscal year for services provided to off-reserve Indians, which provincial government agencies and departments received money, and how much did each of these agencies and departments receive?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly two guests seated in your gallery. We have with us Mr. Bill Cooper, and Mr. Dustin Duncan, two young gentlemen that are very interested in politics. They've been here for the last few question periods, and they're here for . . . here to enjoy today's question period.

And I'd just ask all members to join with me in welcoming them here to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see this morning in your gallery someone that I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, a former resident of the city of Prince Albert, someone who's moved to Regina now, working with the Department of Education. I would like to ask all members to please join me in welcoming Brent Toles to the Assembly this morning.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce, seated in the west gallery, Mr. Bob Loewen, the principal of the school in Eston. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming an excellent principal for our school at home.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues in recognizing and welcoming Brent Toles, a former resident, and I might say, colleague of the Speaker. Brent is a well-known educator in the Prince Albert area and I very much wish him good luck in his new position and I would ask all members to join with me.

Also just to recognize Mr. Loewen as being a well-known educator in this province as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to join me.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Canadian Western Agribition Elects New President

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise in the House today to announce an appointment of a resident in my constituency of Arm River. Mr. Gary Anderson of Bethune has been elected as the new president of the Canadian Western Agribition.

Mr. Anderson is well-respected farmer and purebred Limousin breeder in the Bethune area thus giving him the necessary knowledge to carry out his duties as president. In addition, he has spent the last six years on the board of directors, one of which was spent serving as vice-president.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know Agribition is one of the great success stories we have here in Saskatchewan. The huge event draws people from around the world and brings experts in the livestock industry together. Purebred cattle are shown and sold, there are many industry related displays, and of course, one of the best rodeos in Western Canada.

This show is clearly an economic success for the province and as well, I believe, Mr. Anderson's expertise will enable Agribition to soar to even more successful heights.

Mr. Speaker, Gary's vision is to bring Agribition into the new millennium by expanding into the e-commerce field. As well, he's committed to providing the same high quality of show that has been provided in the past. I have no doubt that with Gary's dedication and experience, Agribition will achieve great things in the years ahead.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Anderson on his recent appointment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor gave Royal Assent to the Holocaust remembrance day Act passed by this Assembly. This Act provides for Yom haShoah to be recognized as an official day of remembrance in the province.

In passing this Act the legislature has asked that Saskatchewan people think about the atrocities that occurred during the Second World War and ask that we remember the important role ordinary people played in combating the hatred and terror that was the Holocaust.

On Sunday the Saskatchewan Jewish Council will hold a ceremony of remembrance in Regina to observe Yom haShoah. This year the ceremony will include a performance by the Regina Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductor Victor Sawa and will feature baritone Robert Ursan.

The orchestra will be performing the works of Viktor Ulmann entitled "On the Wings of the Soul." Mr. Ulmann was a Jewish composer and a victim of the Holocaust who was murdered in a Nazi concentration camp.

The performance will serve to remind us of the more than six million men, women, and children murdered in concentration camps; that they were each individuals with unique talents, skills, views, and abilities; and that while they were persecuted as a group, they lived their lives as individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I will have the honour of bringing greetings to the Holocaust memorial ceremony on behalf of this legislature on Sunday. In doing so I will ensure that those in attendance know that this legislature and the people we represent remain committed to ensuring that the lessons and the legacy of the Holocaust are remembered.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Swift Current Broncos Advance in Western Hockey League Playoffs

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this spring as the WHL (Western Hockey League) playoffs began I stood in the Assembly and implored my NDP (New Democratic Party) colleagues from Moose Jaw and Regina to consider crossing the floor, if only temporarily, to help their WHL teams avoid the longstanding NDP curse on sports teams in our province. They refused and the Pats and the Warriors were dispatched in the first round, Mr. Speaker.

Conversely our own Swift Current Broncos, with a great win over Kootenay on Tuesday night in game 7 of their second round series, are off to the third round of the playoffs.

I know that all hon. members will want to join with me in wishing Coach McEwen and all the Broncos the very best as our last Saskatchewan team in the WHL playoffs. The Broncos will begin their series tonight in Red Deer at the Centrium.

And as for the fans of the Warriors and the Pats, I ask them not to be too hard on their teams. Don't be angry with your coaches or your players. Rather place the blame squarely where it

belongs for their teams' failures — on their NDP MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of making the first members' statement of this session on the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination.

(10:15)

Last week we unanimously passed a Bill to officially mark and remember the most virulent exercise of racism in the last century.

And until prejudice is completely eliminated, we need to constantly guard against the pestilence that is racism.

Yesterday at the Rainbow Youth Centre, which I am proud to say is located in Regina Elphinstone, the centre's Peer Helper project posted a United Youth Peace Summit to develop strategies to fight racism and celebrate diversity.

I was happy to attend the opening ceremonies with the Minister of Culture, Youth, and Recreation. Regina youth from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds gathered to learn more about racism and to find out about what they can do in their own lives to eliminate this ugly reality.

At the end of the day the participants compiled a number of recommendations to form a quote, *Declaration for United Youth and Diversity*, a document which will give some direction on how to take a stand against discrimination and to raise awareness of Regina's diverse community.

I want to congratulate the participants, the presenters, and the staff at the Rainbow Youth Centre for demonstrating that each colour is special in its own right, but when they come together in a rainbow, it makes for a thing of remarkable beauty.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Grandson for Rosthern Member

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of our Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the member from Rosthern has served his constituency and this legislature well for the past six years. The member serves as our caucus chairman where he rules with an iron gavel. He commands and deserves respect.

We delight as the members opposite recoil in sheer terror when the member from Rosthern rises in this House to ask a question or to speak, for we know of the tongue-lashing, the glare, and the finger pointing that is about to be unleashed.

The member is often regarded as the stern grandfather of our caucus and of this Assembly, aided in the perception with his steely grey hair and his bifocals. Now his stature more correctly matches his appearance with an event that occurred during the early morning hours of Thursday, April 19. At 3:07 a.m. that

morning, the member from Rosthern was blessed with a grandson, a bouncing baby boy to carry on the Heppner name. A grandson, Dillon Heppner, tipped the scales at 10 lbs. and measured over 22 inches long was born to the proud parents, Ken and Sandy Heppner.

One family member commented on the newborn said, and I quote:

He has a normal-size head, unlike a Heppner head.

As his robust, newborn cries filled the maternity ward, other relatives smiled and nodded as he sounded just like his grandfather.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Building Launch

Mr. Kasperski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand before the House today to speak about the building launch of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College campus.

Mr. Speaker, the ceremonies are taking place at the Centre of the Arts as I speak here now. The SIFC (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College) is a proud, honourable member of our academic community. It is the only Aboriginal university owned and operated by Aboriginal people in all of North America.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, they are receiving a building that they can call their own. For years the SIFC has rented space from the University of Regina, but now with the funding, the architect, and the land in place it is time for the SIFC to start to build their own buildings.

This government, the federal government, and the whole community, has thrown their financial support behind this exciting project, Mr. Speaker. The government has committed to this project by investing 5 million in the future of education in our province. This sum of 5 million is also the amount put forward by the SIFC themselves towards the project. As well, Mr. Speaker, a contribution of 1.5 million is coming from Saskatchewan Crown corporations.

This truly is a community effort that shows the spirit of Saskatchewan. On behalf of the government, I'd like to congratulate the students, staff, and faculty, and the board of governors on their wonderful achievement.

Thank you, very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Melfort Constituent Receives Lieutenant Governor's Award

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, and members of the legislature. Lynda Haverstock, our distinguished Lieutenant Governor, recently presented a constituent of mine with a Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan.

Gerald Audette served as a councillor for the RM (rural municipality) of Flett's Springs for 10 years, and another 21 years as reeve. During this time he also served eight years on the Melfort Public Library Board and 12 years on the Melfort Hospital Board.

His list of involvements goes on. He served on the Highway 41 Extension Committee, the Boundary Commission for Health Districts, and the Rail Retention Committee. Gerald was instrumental in forming the Melfort Rural Pipeline Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines, and continues to chair both organizations.

He coached hockey in Melfort. Was a director of the Melfort Curling Club, and served on the UGG (United Grain Growers Limited) and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Boards.

Gerald has worked tirelessly to improve the community he lives in, and it's people like him who are the solid building blocks of our province. His hard work deserves to be recognized, and it gives me pleasure to ask the Assembly in joining me in recognizing Mr. Audette's contributions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Samuel McLeod Awards for Prince Albert Businesses

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday night members of the Prince Albert business community met to honour some of their own who have demonstrated over the past year excellence in a number of different categories.

I speak of course of the Samuel McLeod Awards for the year 2000. PalmX Route Accounting won in the new product for service category. Prince Albert Co-op received the award for the investment category. And for new business, the Floor Store was honoured.

The Marlboro Inn was honoured in the category of community involvement. In the service industry category, there was a tie, both Drs. Degelman, Rae & Degelman of the P.A. Vision Centre — by the way, where I get my spectacles, Mr. Speaker — and Rod's Decorating Centre were honoured. *Prince Albert Daily Herald* won the category for marketing. And the Business of the Year Award was the Prince Albert Co-op.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the very important role that business play in the community of Saskatchewan and the different towns that we all come from, and I want to ask members to join with me in congratulating all of these very, very important and very successful businesses in Prince Albert.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Review of Fyke Commission Report

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, 10 months ago, the NDP hired Ken Fyke to fix the mess they made of Saskatchewan's health

care system. And yesterday, Ken Fyke came to the legislature to explain and defend the recommendations in his report.

Mr. Speaker, my office has been swamped with questions about the potential impact of the Fyke Commission, and I was very much looking forward to asking Mr. Fyke many of the questions on behalf of my constituents. Unfortunately, last night the NDP House Leader broke his word and abruptly ended the session with Mr. Fyke before I was able to ask my questions.

So today I have a question for the Premier. Mr. Fyke said yesterday that the closure of 53 hospitals in 1993 didn't hurt the quality of patient care in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, does the Premier agree with that statement and does the Premier think he can shut down another 50 hospitals without doing further damage to an already failing health care system?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would want to respond and I would want to quote *Hansard* with respect to the facts. As the committee sat last night and as it convened, sat for six and a half hours, the rules which we had agreed to are clearly stated in *Hansard* on pages 602 and 603, Mr. Speaker.

Now I ask members opposite to read the opening statement of the chairman, which is what we had agreed to with respect to the proceedings that were to take place, and then determine whether or not our word was broken.

We extended the hours beyond, Mr. Speaker, what had been agreed to in order so that members could listen to Mr. Fyke and question Mr. Fyke.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, if they're interested in the discussions with respect to health care in this province, they should join us on the all-party committee so we can hear all the people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Premier today. I too was looking forward to asking Mr. Fyke questions last night on behalf of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I had questions from the CEO (chief executive officer) of the health district, I had questions from an EMT (emergency medical technician) with 24 years experience in our health district. I even had questions from a former NDP candidate to ask Mr. Fyke last night. But the NDP's House Leader prevented me from asking those questions of Mr. Fyke.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Premier. My constituency of Cypress Hills covers the entire southwest corner of Saskatchewan — 45,000 square kilometres. But if the Fyke Commission is implemented there will not be a single hospital in that constituency.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier tell me what services the people of my constituency can expect after the NDP shuts down all of their hospitals?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, by agreement, Mr. Fyke joined the members of this Legislative Assembly and he responded to questions, he responded . . . well if they don't want to listen, Mr. Speaker, there's no sense me responding.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wiberg: — Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Premier unless he chooses to duck this one also. When the NDP closed 53 hospitals in their failed attempt at health care reform, the result was that Saskatchewan people now face the longest hospital waiting lists in Canada. The result was a mass exodus of doctors and nurses.

One of the groups that has paid the highest price for the NDP's failed health system are Aboriginal people living in northern Saskatchewan. Now the NDP is on the verge of closing 50 more hospitals. So it's not hard to understand why Northerners are concerned.

I was anxious to ask Mr. Fyke about how his recommendations would improve health services in the North. But the NDP House Leader broke his word and shut down last night's session with Mr. Fyke.

So I'll ask the Premier, Mr. Speaker, why should Northerners believe him when he says closing another 50 hospitals is going to improve northern health services?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to attempt again to answer the question. If members opposite are interested in hearing what Mr. Fyke has to say with respect to his report they need only to join us on the . . . there they are again, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, six and a half hours of questions, one individual, but there is more time to question Mr. Fyke. Mr. Fyke can be asked to come before the all-party committee and those members know clearly that that is a process that can work and will work.

I only ask, Mr. Speaker, if they're interested enough in health care in this province, and if they're interested enough in dealing with what is the most important issues that are going to face the people of this province for decades to come, I ask them to join to make health care better in this province as opposed to playing silly partisan politics. Rise above it, join with us, come to the committee.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Premier.

Today my colleagues have expressed concern about the NDP's refusal to allow us to answer questions . . . or ask questions of Mr. Fyke.

Our caucus had been verbally assured by the Government House Leader that we were going to be able to have all of our members ask the questions that our constituents had for Mr. Fyke. But after just two hours of questioning from our members, the Government House Leader unilaterally shut down the committee.

Mr. Speaker, on top of all the other concerns we have that we listed about co-operating with the NDP, last night simply confirmed what we already suspected — you can't trust the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has asked us to join and participate in an all-party committee on health. Will the Premier put in writing the specific mandate, parameters, terms of reference, structure, and timeline for the committee that he is proposing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to members opposite, we are willing to sit down, we are willing to sit . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. Order. Order. The minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, we are willing to sit with members of the opposition; I as House Leader am willing to sit with their House Leader to discuss the terms and the conditions and the mandate and the structure of the all-party committee.

Mr. Speaker, members from that side have indicated to us that they were not willing to discuss participation in a committee until after Fyke report . . . appeared before this legislature.

(10:30)

Mr. Speaker, we have taken them at their word. I am willing, we are willing, this government is willing to sit down to discuss mandate, structure, timing of the committee — all of the things that are pertinent to being able to allow the people of this community to be heard by the legislatures, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, after last night's performance by the Government House Leader we simply are not prepared to enter into verbal discussions with that member.

To the Premier. Mr. Premier, Mr. Premier, you have asked . . .

The Speaker: — Will the member continue to direct all of his questions and his comments through the Chair.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Premier if the Premier is willing to put in writing under his signature the specific mandate, the parameters, the terms of reference, the structure, and the timeline for the committee that he is proposing. We were asked to participate by the Premier. We want his request in writing under his signature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, let me make very, very clear the proceedings that took place last evening. And I want to quote from *Hansard*, page 602:

If there are any objections to the procedures, then I will ask for a motion so that the committee can formally decide (on) its procedures.

Mr. Speaker, that was from the Chairman last evening.

Now I want to say if they are concerned about the mandate, if they're concerned about the timing of this committee, I ask them to sit down and negotiate with us the terms of reference. We're willing to do that.

What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is, is that we have a political party on that side of the house who puts partisan political politics above the future of health care and the people of this province. And I say shame on them, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Premier has finally received a reply to his strongly worded letter to the Prime Minister and apparently the Prime Minister has told him to take a hike. There will be no more money for Saskatchewan farm families.

Mr. Speaker, on March 21 this Assembly passed an all-party resolution calling for additional farm aid. The Premier then wrote — and he said he would do it on his own — the Premier then wrote to the Prime Minister on behalf of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier table the letter he received from the Prime Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite, as I did in the House yesterday, that we have received a letter from the Prime Minister's Office. And I said yesterday to the members opposite and to the media what the letter had highlighted.

It highlighted that for Canadian farmers — not just Saskatchewan farmers, Mr. Speaker — but for Canadian farmers today it looks like there isn't going to be any additional resources. No additional resources, number one.

Secondly, what the Prime Minister said, Mr. Speaker, is that he said that he's prepared . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I just want to be able to hear the answer. The minister will continue. Order, order. I would like to hear the response.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday to the member opposite and to the media, that the letter that we received from the Prime Minister is not only to Saskatchewan, it's to all Canadian premiers.

And it says that there are three things. One is that today the Canadian government provides \$2.6 billion to Canadian farmers — not just Saskatchewan but to Canadian farmers — and that that money in fact will be distributed through the course of this year.

Secondly, the Prime Minister said that he's prepared to open up the safety net discussion — is what we wanted to have, Mr. Speaker — and that the 60/40 formula that the federal government has had in place will remain.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well this is very interesting. Four weeks ago the Premier invited the Saskatchewan Party to join with him. He said if we would support his call for a billion dollars in new farm aid then he would go on and send a letter to the Prime Minister on behalf of the entire legislature; on behalf of all of us.

The Premier said he would write to the Prime Minister on behalf of this entire Assembly and now that he's received a response — so he says — all of sudden it's private correspondence.

Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder we don't trust an NDP all-party committee resolution.

This is a pretty simple request, Mr. Speaker. We would like to know why Ottawa is refusing to provide more farm aid. Will the Premier provide for this Assembly a copy of the letter that he received from the Prime Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members of this Assembly and to the member opposite that the concern that we have about the Saskatchewan Party and the member opposite is that we have a long history with their workings with farm organizations and farm groups to bring money to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, last year we included the Saskatchewan Party in the discussion about how we get more money for Saskatchewan farmers. And they worked with us for a period of time . . .

The Speaker: — The minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — And last year, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite participated with us in trying to get more money for farmers across Saskatchewan and across the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the heat got a little hot for them — when it was too hot in the kitchen for them, as it's too hot for them in the kitchen today in health care — what happens to these guys is they get in their little ponies and they're gone. And this is the same situation. We have a long history with these people.

They have no interest, Mr. Speaker, in bringing about change or betterment or enhancement for Saskatchewan farmers. No more than for health care. These people are about partisan politics.

They're about themselves, Mr. Speaker, not about Saskatchewan people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't understand what this Premier is attempting to hide from this Assembly. He shouts from his, he shouts . . . The Premier of this province shouts from his chair, where is your letter from Stockwell Day.

Well I would like to know what Stockwell Day possibly has to do with an all-party letter, all-party resolution from this Assembly with respect to agriculture? What is it that is so incriminating or is wrong with this letter that you've so-called received from the Prime Minister's office? Or more accurately, Mr. Speaker, from the Prime Minister's junior assistant, more likely.

In fact I think a bigger question, Mr. Speaker, right now is: what is the Premier of this province going to do now that the Prime Minister has told him to take a hike? What is the Premier going to do to add any further weight to our call for farm assistance for the people of this province? When is the Premier going to meet with the Prime Minister to press for additional aid?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the House and to the member opposite that I've already said that I had a conference call yesterday and will have another next week with my colleagues across the country to have a discussion about the further process. I'm meeting with Saskatchewan farm organizations in the next couple of days to have a discussion with them about the correspondence that we've received from the Prime Minister.

But I'll tell you what Stockwell Day has to do with this discussion, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you what Stockwell Day has. That member from Kindersley there, he supported Stockwell Day. He supported Stockwell Day and that's the same Stockwell Day who flew into Regina a couple of . . . during the November election who said there's no more money for Canadian farmers; no more money. And that's what Stockwell Day has to do with this House.

And that's who that member supports. And that's who that government or that opposition supports, Mr. Speaker. It's the Saskatchewan Party — Stockwell Day, no more money for farmers, no more money for health care, zero, Mr. Speaker, from the federal government — that's what they support.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Investments by Crown Corporations

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan).

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is sitting on millions of dollars worth of Crown profits, and they're socking it away apparently in some

sort of an election slush fund. And any money that isn't going into this election slush fund is being gambled away on money-losing ventures like potato companies and dot-coms if you can believe it, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to ask a few questions about some of these ventures if I may. For starters, Mr. Speaker, to the minister, what is IQ & A Partnership?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Well I think the question he's just asked — what is IQ (intelligence quotient) — is a very good question coming from that side of the House, Mr. Speaker. It's something obviously they don't have.

Mr. Speaker, first of all I have said in this legislature many, many times, Mr. Speaker, that our Crown corporations, in order to be viable and strong, Mr. Speaker, in order to be viable and strong in a deregulated environment that largely exists today, needs to invest in other ventures outside of our provincial borders, the same way as private utilities are investing in Saskatchewan and take earnings from the province . . . from our province and from our taxpayers. It's the only way our Crowns will survive, Mr. Speaker.

And I can assure the member that our Crowns will continue to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, maybe the minister could use his considerable IQ to actually answer some questions in the legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Or maybe, or maybe, Mr. Speaker, maybe he could take the time to read the annual reports from his own Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998 SaskTel bought 60 per cent of IQ & A Partnership for \$1.2 million. These are the details that the minister doesn't know, but we'll share it with him. In 1999 SaskTel bought the remaining 40 per cent, and in 2000 IQ & A Partnership went out of business. Mr. Speaker, according to its financial statements, IQ & A Partnership never generated a dime of revenue, and it lost \$2.3 million in two short years.

Mr. Speaker, the question is this: will the minister please explain what exactly was this company doing? Why did it never generate one thin, forlorn dime in revenue?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Mr. Speaker, the member chooses to select, select, Mr. Speaker, investments that have not made money, and we've acknowledged, Mr. Speaker, that that will happen. There is risk in investing, Mr. Speaker. There is risk.

I could go through the litany of investments, however, Mr. Speaker, that our Crown corporations have invested in where they have made millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of

dollars, Mr. Speaker.

I refer to one, Mr. Speaker, the Chunnel, where they made over a hundred million dollars for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We're looking at ways, Mr. Speaker, that our Crowns can invest, defer risk if it comes to insurance, and make additional revenues for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I think that makes only reasonable, good, common sense for our Crown corporations to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's saying we're selecting a few money-losers out of the Crown corporation annual reports. Well thanks to this government, Mr. Speaker, the pickings are pretty good. It's a veritable smorgasbord of lamebrain ideas coming from across the way, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here's how the NDP is safeguarding taxpayer dollars. SaskTel bought into IQ & A in 1998. It was belly up by April, 2000. It lost \$2.3 million and it didn't generate a single, thin dime — not exactly a Fortune 500 effort on behalf of the government.

Mr. Speaker, what exactly was this company up to? What services did it provide, who did it provide services to, and why did it go out of business?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — So well hidden, Mr. Speaker, it's in all of the annual reports — in all of the annual reports. Some big secret this member's revealing, Mr. Speaker.

I want to tell the public in Saskatchewan though, Mr. Speaker, what they did when they were in power, Mr. Speaker. They ran up an additional \$2 billion worth of debt in our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. They stripped away all the retained earnings, Mr. Speaker. They sold assets, Mr. Speaker. They added \$1 billion a year annually to our operating deficit . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I just want to be able to hear some of the responses and most of the question. The minister may continue.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — And this all happened, Mr. Speaker, while that member was in the Premier's office, Mr. Speaker.

And I'll tell you what we did, Mr. Speaker. We paid down that debt by \$2 billion. We now have some retained earnings, Mr. Speaker. We have some. And believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, as a result of that our credit rating has seen nine consecutive increases, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this minister in questioning over this week continues to refer to some Saskatchewan Party government. Now for the minister's benefit, it hasn't happened quite yet but it will happen soon

enough, Mr. Speaker . . .

(10:45)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, especially when we look at lamebrain schemes like this, it'll happen soon enough.

Mr. Speaker, let's slow it down. Let's slow down the pace a little bit for the minister. We'll slow down the pace a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, who did SaskTel buy IQ & A from and what was the total purchase price?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to again respond by saying the following: that our Crowns will continue to invest in ventures outside of our province, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps outside of the country, Mr. Speaker.

There will be due diligence on all of the investments, Mr. Speaker. There will be audits on all of the investments, Mr. Speaker. There is risk involved in investing, Mr. Speaker, whether you invest inside of Saskatchewan or outside of Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Speaker, our Crowns must remain viable so that they can provide services — services, Mr. Speaker — in many of the rural constituencies that those members represent. If we don't have strong Crowns, our Crowns will not be able to provide the quality of service at the reasonable, low cost — in many cases, lowest cost in all of North America — in those constituencies.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, these are important questions. We're asking the minister responsible for a company that apparently lost \$2 million worth of taxpayers' money. I'd say that's a pretty important issue, one that he might want to familiarize himself with.

Mr. Speaker, SaskTel spent a couple of million dollars buying up a company. They never generated any revenue from the company, and these barons of Bay Street lost \$2.3 million in just two years of operation. So I think it's reasonable, very reasonable to ask: who did they buy this company from?

Mr. Speaker, why won't the minister answer this question?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Well this is interesting, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday that member spent all day talking about the Crowns making too much money — all day, all day criticizing us for having too much money, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday he would have spent it all and then some, Mr. Speaker — all and then some.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that it is only reasonable, Mr. Speaker, that our Crowns will invest in ventures that may sometimes fail, but we will do . . . for the people of Saskatchewan we will perform

due diligence. We will do audits on every investment that we make, Mr. Speaker. There will be some that fail but our record will show, Mr. Speaker, that there will be many more that will make much profit for the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order, order. The House will come to order.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before order of the day . . . Order! Before orders of the day . . . Order! Before orders of the day, I have received two reports, members, I have received two reports. One is a report the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the 2000 financial statements of CIC Crown Corporations dated April 2001, submitted by the Office of Provincial the Auditor. I hereby table this report.

And secondly, I have received their report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the 2000 financial statements of CIC Crown Investments. It appears to be a duplicate, members. One report. I apologize for that. Hereby tabled.

Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I'd ask for leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the members in the House. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a family seated in the west gallery, a family currently residing in . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, they're in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. A family currently residing in Yorkton, Mr. Speaker, but the parents of this family were former students of mine in the community of Invermay.

I'd like to introduce Robert and Lydia Sliva and their family, Jason, Eric, Timothy, Stephanie, and Joseph. And I'd ask all members to welcome them here to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, before the business of the day, I'd like to ask leave of the Assembly to move motions of condolence.

Leave granted.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. And to all members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a former member of the Assembly, Mr. Martin Semchuk.

Martin Semchuk was born in 1914 to Sophia and Bill Semchuk of Meath Park, Saskatchewan. He married Josephine Grelowski

and had three children — David, Carol, and Sandra. Josephine died in 1981. Martin died in Oliver, B.C. on November 15, 2000. He is survived by his children, seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and by his friend and companion Marg Tatum.

Martin will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him. He was a passionate man, a poet, a painter, a businessman, an adventurer, a social activist, and a politician.

In the 1950's, Martin initiated the first winter road to Uranium City with Art Nelson, Johnny Midgett, Art Porter, and Jonas Clark. In 1980, the all-weather highway was named the Semchuk Trail in his honour.

Martin was elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature for the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) member for Meadow Lake in 1960 and participated with Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd in the fight for medicare.

During his four years of service, he worked to improve the housing and road access for First Nations people to the north, as well as foster a clear knowledge of northern people and their land. Martin also fought to have the Meadow Lake Provincial Park a reality.

Martin also served the people of northwest Saskatchewan in several other capacities. He was president of the Meadow Lake Board of Trade, a member of the Council of Meadow Lake, Director of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and the Saskatchewan Tourism Advisory Board.

When he and Josie retired from their grocery store, Martin was called by the hon. Eiling Kramer to work as the deputy assistant for the Department of Natural Resources and later the Department of Highways in Regina. He was known for his remarkable and innovative mediation.

Martin dearly loved nature, especially he loved the little chickadees.

Martin will long be remembered for his caring about social justice and economic parity and acting on his principles. He will also be remembered for his service to the people of Saskatchewan while a member of this Legislative Assembly and for his role in the creation of medicare. His contributions helped to make Saskatchewan a caring and compassionate place and that are lasting legacies of his love for this province.

Mr. Speaker, I would move, the member from Yorkton, seconded by the member from Canora-Pelly, I would move:

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

Martin Semchuk, who passed away on November 15, 2000, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1964, representing the constituency of Meadow Lake for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Mr. Semchuk was born on August 20, 1914 in Meath Park. He grew up on the family farm before being sent to Prince Albert for his schooling. Mr. Semchuk was predeceased by his wife, Josephine. He is survived by their three children, and by friend and companion, Marg Tatum.

In his private life, Mr. Semchuk operated a grocery store in Meadow Lake. He was an active participant in the affairs of his community, and a variety of organizations benefited from his involvement. These included service groups like the Elks Lodge, the Rotary, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. He served on the town council and the credit union, and Mr. Semchuk was the president of the Meadow Lake Board of Trade. He was a director of the chamber of commerce and the Saskatchewan Tourism Advisory Board. He sought to establish and bring organized sports for many young members, and minor sports to his community.

Mr. Semchuk's concern for the well being of his fellow citizens in northwestern Saskatchewan was evident in his endeavours. He participated in the efforts to create the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. In recognition of his role in establishing a winter road to Uranium City, and an all-weather highway being named the Semchuk Trail in his honour in the 1980s.

Mr. Semchuk was elected to the Assembly in 1960. He later returned to work in Regina with the Department of Natural Resources in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to second the condolence motion for Mr. Martin Semchuk on behalf of the official opposition.

I want to join with all colleagues in this House in noting with regret the passing of Martin Semchuk.

Much of Mr. Semchuk's life was committed to issues facing northern Saskatchewan as the Deputy Premier has alluded to. Particularly he was instrumental in the development of the first winter road to Uranium City. And I think, Mr. Speaker, so much emphasis was placed on that road that the people of the community and the people of the province saw it necessary in 1980 to name that all-weather highway in that area the Semchuk Trail. And I think that speaks very, very importantly for the tribute that is paid to Mr. Semchuk.

Martin Semchuk was deeply involved in his community. He was a businessman. He helped organize youth activities in Meadow Lake. And he also went on to a career in the civil service. Outside of his professional life, Mr. Semchuk took pleasure in poetry and art.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Semchuk's interests show a very accomplished and talented individual with a number of diverse interests.

To Martin Semchuk's family, I want to again extend sincere

condolences on behalf of the official opposition.

Motion agreed to.

(11:00)

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Gordon Grant.

Mr. Grant was born on September 13, 1910 in Regina, Saskatchewan. He leaves to mourn his wife Helen; children Don, Sharon, and Linda; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and Helen's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Gordon was predeceased by his wife Eileen.

Mr. Grant completed his primary and secondary education in Regina and attended the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and graduated with a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1933.

Mr. Grant was involved in real estate and owned Walter M. Logan insurance in Regina. Gordon, Mr. Grant, was a Regina alderman from 1947 to 1951. While in Regina he served on numerous boards and societies. In 1952 Mr. Grant became the first native-born mayor of Regina. He served as the mayor for two years.

In 1964 Gordon was elected as a member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly representing the Liberal party in the Regina South constituency. During his three terms as an MLA he served as the minister of Telephones, Public Health, Highways and Transportation, and Industry and Commerce. And Gordon also served as the Opposition Whip from 1971 to 1975.

Mr. Grant retired to Kelowna in 1975. Surrounded by his loving family, Gordon passed peacefully on January 16, 2001 in God's tender arms.

Gordon will be remembered for his service to the people of Saskatchewan while a member of the Legislative Assembly. He contributes as a lasting legacy of his love, of his city, his province, and his country.

In his private life Mr. Grant was a businessman. He was involved in real estate and owned Walter Logan insurance company in Regina. Mr. Grant was also an active participant in the affairs of his community. He held a variety of positions from member, to president, to chairman in a number of local and provincial organizations.

He served on the Regina Public School Board and General Hospital and Grey Nuns Hospital, the Cancer Society, and the Salvation Army. He donated his time to the Kinsmen. He lent his business experience to the chamber of commerce and the Exhibition Board and the Western Canadian Fairs.

Mr. Grant was also involved in the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities. Mr. Grant was first elected to the office of an alderman of the city of Regina, later to be held in distinction as being the first native-born mayor of Regina.

Mr. Grant was first elected to the Assembly in 1964 and successfully retained his seat in the following two elections. Mr. Grant was responsible for several portfolios including Highways, Transportation, SaskPower, the SaskPower Corporation, Department of Health, and also served as the Opposition Whip.

In recording this deep sorrow and loss of bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere bereavement for the family.

Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the member from Canora-Pelly:

That this Assembly record with sorrow the regrets of the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation for the contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to this province.

Mr. Gordon Burton Grant, who passed away on January 16, 2001, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1975, representing the constituency of Regina South and then Regina Whitmore Park for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Grant was born on September 13, 1910 in Regina, and he spent his childhood in Regina and attended the local primary and secondary schools. He furthered his studies at the University of British Columbia and Toronto before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan in 1933.

Mr. Grant was predeceased by his wife Eileen, but is survived by three children and his second wife, Helen.

In his private life, Mr. Grant was a businessman. He was involved in real estate and owned the Walter Logan insurance company in Regina.

Mr. Grant was also an active participant in the affairs of his community. He held a variety of positions, from member to president to chairman, for a number of local and provincial organizations. He served on the Regina Public School Board, the General Hospital, the Grey Nuns Hospital, the Cancer Society, and the Salvation Army.

He dedicated and donated his time to the Kinsmen. He lent his business expertise to the chamber of commerce, the Exhibition Board, and the Western Canadian Fairs. And Mr. Grant was also involved in the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities.

Mr. Grant was first elected to office as alderman to the City of Regina. Later he held the distinction of being the first native-born mayor of Regina.

Mr. Grant was first elected to this Assembly in 1964 and successfully retained his seat in the following two elections. Mr. Grant was responsible for working in several portfolios, including Highways, Industry and Commerce, Telephones, Saskatchewan Transportation, Saskatchewan Power Corporation, and the Health department. He was also the Opposition Whip.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there is no question that Gordon Grant left a mark both on this city and on this province. He had a distinguished political career, both at the civic level and here in this Assembly.

A well-known businessman here in Regina, he also served as an alderman in this city before taking over as its mayor. Mr. Grant served on both sides of this Assembly, very ably, from 1964 to 1975. While in government he held a number of portfolios including Highways, Industry, and a number of Crowns.

Away from politics, Mr. Grant remained involved in his community. As the Deputy Premier has indicated, he has devoted a huge number of hours and days to working for the community groups in this city, and I think they remember him very, very fondly.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Grant was a distinguished citizen of this city and this province. And I know I join with all members in this legislature in extending to his family our heartfelt sympathy at his passing after a long and rewarding life.

Hon. Mr. Melnychuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is with sorrow that I stand before you today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Gordon Burton Grant.

As you may remember, Mr. Speaker, it was just last year that I had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Grant to this Legislative Assembly, on his visit to Regina from his retirement home in Kelowna. And now, with his recent passing, we pause to remind ourselves of his contributions to our great province.

Mr. Grant was first elected in 1964, then re-elected in both 1967 and 1971. During his terms, Mr. Grant served the people of Saskatchewan with dedication and commitment. During the Thatcher government he held a number of portfolios, including Highways and Transportation, Industry and Commerce, Public Health, SaskPower Corporation, and the minister of Telephones.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Grant not only served the people of Saskatchewan as an elected member of this provincial Assembly and a minister of the Crown, he was also a former alderman and mayor of Regina, positions he equally held with distinction.

An active businessman, Mr. Grant had a sense of dedication to his community, a dedication that was reflected in his participation as an active member of several boards and organizations, including the Regina Public School Board, the Grey Nuns Hospital, the Regina General Hospital, the Cancer Society, and the Salvation Army.

Mr. Grant's contributions to our province and the city of Regina remains evident even today, reflected in the number of streets and roads that have been named throughout our capital city in his honour.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Grant's passing represents a loss for all of us. To his family, and on behalf of the Liberal caucus, I would like to express our sincere condolences for their loss. And while he is no longer with us, Mr. Grant's contributions will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to pay tribute to Mr. Gordon Grant, who was the first member for Regina South to serve in this Assembly. Mr. Grant represented the south part of the city, both when the constituency was called Whitmore Park and also as it moved into being called Regina South.

He was a very dedicated legislator, a man dedicated to his party, and a man dedicated to improving his community. He is fondly remembered throughout the constituency, even to this day, for the work that he did on behalf of Regina residents.

During Mr. Grant's time, both in this Assembly and in the city council, we saw a great deal of development in the south part of Regina. Mr. Grant has — as my colleague, the Liberal leader, has pointed out — has been honoured for much of that work with the naming of many streets. In fact, I live on one of the streets named after him — Grant Road.

I think it's worth noting that you can in fact stand on the corner of Gordon and Grant at the same time. Just to show how respected he was, simply naming Grant Road after him was not enough. They went on to also name Grant Drive, which intersects with Grant Road, after him.

Mr. Grant was a powerful, powerful man in terms of the presence that he had within our community. And I can tell you, the fact that he was returned three times to this Assembly I think speaks very highly to that. Mr. Grant is the only member in the southern part of this city, in Regina South, to have been elected three times in the seat. It's a seat that's not particularly kind to incumbents — or at least in the past it's not been. And I have to tell you that his ability to be re-elected twice is something I personally admire a great deal.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet Mr. Grant when he came to the Assembly last year, I believe it was. And it was certainly an honour to meet a man that was such an important part of our community.

His loss will be certainly felt but his accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, will be very much remembered. Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, there was an additional member that wanted to pay tribute to Mr. Martin Semchuk and I would ask the indulgence of the Assembly at this time to recognize the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the indulgence of the House to add my comments of condolence to the Semchuk family.

I was born and raised in Loon Lake which was in the Meadow

Lake constituency, and my parents knew Mr. Semchuk very, very well. And I feel obliged to rise and add some comments of condolence.

Some of the comments I'd like to make with regards to Mr. Semchuk are enclosed in a clipping, and I'll just read some of the highlights about it.

Some attributes of Mr. Semchuk — smiling, busy, a hustling merchant, crowded much activities into his life, and full of efforts and activities.

In the 20 years since he had moved to Meadow Lake, following, seems to have waged a constant campaign of community betterment and has identified himself with the multiplicity of organizations including the president of the Meadow Lake and District Board of Trade, member of the town council, member of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Motor Club.

He was a very big booster of tourism in the Meadow Lake area and aware of the growing industry that tourism was bringing to that area of the province. And to that end, he served on the Tourist Advisory Council, as well as vice-president of the Northwest Tourist Associates.

He was also involved with the Meadow Lake Rotary Club and was the exalted ruler of the Meadow Lake Elks Lodge.

He was one of the group that was responsible for building a winter road to Uranium City and they honoured him by naming it the Semchuk Trail.

He was also a member of the Credit Union in Meadow Lake and was a very able proponent of the great economic work that credit unions provided for Meadow Lake area.

He took an active part in organizing sporting events for the people of Meadow Lake and he was instrumental in promoting one of the first peewee baseball leagues in the province. As well, for three years running, he coached the local softball team to the provincial finals; and also, in the winter, lent a hand with hockey.

(11:15)

He was also involved with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army Shield Campaign, and he was also a successful business person. He had many, many involvements and was also supportive of fighting to have the Meadow Lake Provincial Park become a reality.

There's a whole list of attributes that Mr. Semchuk brought to the job. When I knew we were going to be expressing condolences, I phoned my parents and asked for some personal thoughts about Mr. Semchuk and they had many, many good things to say about him. One of the main ones was the Semchuk Trail; that he was an MLA for four years and then worked for Eiling Kramer, minister of Highways for many years.

Some of the words that were used to describe Mr. Semchuk were excitable — he had high energy, was enthusiastic. In fact even while standing still, he looked like he was moving. It can

be summed up in this: that he was the most energetic MLA they had ever seen.

He operated the Red and White Store in Meadow Lake and when he entered politics, his wife, Josie, took over the running of the store. He enjoyed door knocking and probably knocked on every door, and assumed that everybody was a supporter of the CCF when he knocked on the door and was astonished that some people weren't.

He was a very good family man and a good father and he cherished his children, Carol, David, and Sandra. And he was a good husband to Josie as well.

Not many people today are boosters of their community, but Mr. Semchuk was an unabashed booster of Meadow Lake. When he did lose in 1964, he still went on to work for the province of Saskatchewan in Regina. And he was very proud of his family.

One of the things that people don't know about Mr. Semchuk, he was also a poet and I'd like to read into the record a poem entitled "Northwest" about the constituency in the area of Meadow Lake. It's "Northwest" by Martin Semchuk.

Sometime, somehow in ages past, Unto an area of rock and sand,
A power greater than our own, Laid down this plot of fertile soil,
we call our own.

This precious, wondrous, great northwest, We proudly call
Saskatchewan's best, Was left here for all generations,
To enjoy with but few reservations.

The hungry thirties sent us here, To see God's green pastures,
And greener trees, We brought our hopes, our fears,
our dreams, It's just like yesterday it seems.

The greatest artists of our times, Should paint the scent I see,
The lakes like diamonds in a green, velvet stand, Then again,
like silver in rings of golden sand.

These boisterous streams of fabulous waters, So fill my eyes
with wonder, The hills, the trees, the good clean air,
All here for all, to have, and to share.

Tho' death may walk the night in nature's court, And sudden
sentence may be passed on sight, To feel with your heart,
this land of ours, You must learn to read the darkened hours.

But, hark! they greet another day, The birds, and the bees,
and all the trees, The waters glisten, as the fish flash by,
The flocks, winging into a gold decked sky.

This picture is yours to keep in your mind, For someday,
somehow, You must find the time, To see all this with your
own eyes, While all is still here, and before it dies.

I too would like to join with the member from Canora-Pelly and the Deputy Premier in expressing my sincere condolences and appreciations to Mr. Semchuk for his contributions for the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Delmar Storey Valleau.

Delmar Storey Valleau, who passed away on August 5, 2000, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1944 to 1948 as an active service voters representative for the servicemen and women in Great Britain.

Mr. Valleau was born on July 1, 1917 in Saskatoon. He spent his childhood in Regina and attended the local primary and secondary schools. He served at the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, and upon his return to Canada, he married Olive Greer on January 29, 1945.

Mr. Valleau was a wheat farmer in Saskatchewan when he chose to pursue studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. When graduating with his Doctor of Philosophy, he joined the faculty of Sonoma State University in California. Mr. Valleau played an important role in development of the School of Social Science and served as its Chair. He later took a leadership role in his capacity as the first Chair of the Department of Management, a department which he helped to found.

Mr. Valleau was first elected to the Assembly in 1944 and had the unique experience of serving as a member at the same time as his father.

Mr. Speaker, moved by myself, the member from Yorkton, and seconded by the member from Canora Pelly:

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

Delmar Storey Valleau who passed away on August 5, 2000, was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1944 until 1948 as an active service voters representative for servicemen and women in Great Britain.

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Mr. Valleau was first elected to this Assembly in 1944 and had the unique experience of serving as a member at the same time as his father.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again on behalf of the official opposition, I'm honoured to join with all members in the Legislative Assembly in recognizing the passing of one of our residents, Mr. Valleau.

Though I believe he spent much of his life as a distinguished academic in the United States, it is clear from Mr. Valleau's biography that he did contribute mightily to his country and this province.

Mr. Valleau served valiantly as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, just as so many brave, young Saskatchewan people did. He also took on the interesting and significant role as a member of this Assembly representing all our brave soldiers overseas.

Of course, after his time as a member of this Assembly, Mr. Valleau made a huge mark at the University of California as a leader in the development of not one, but two departments there. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Delmar Valleau led a very distinguished and impressive life.

On behalf of the official opposition, I extend to Mr. Valleau's family our sympathy at his passing.

Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also glad to have this opportunity to stand and express condolences for Mr. Valleau. Mr. Valleau resided in the . . . and was a member for the Lake Centre area, as well as being a member during the war years for the active service members in Area 1, which was Great Britain.

Mr. Valleau served the country well through his time in the service, in the armed services, the air force. But when he came back, he also served here in his community. He was elected to the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, was very active in that body; elected as president for the Sherwood local and committed a great deal of time to helping build the community.

He was continually interested in politics and political life, and through some of the articles that he wrote in the paper, letters that he wrote to the paper, you got a sense of his commitment to social justice and to the good of the community.

In one instance, he wrote in response to an editorial that had gone into the newspaper that was challenging the opportunity or the right of civil servants to actively engage in politics. And he wrote saying at this time there was one of the chief civil servants in the United States who was actively campaigning on behalf of the Democratic Party there, and he also pointed out that the presidential candidate at the time who was also serving as a general in the military in the US (United States) was also running his presidential campaign while he was a top civil servant in the military.

So he had a clear sense that just because you were serving in the capacity of civil service, you should not be excluded from your democratic rights to also be engaged in the political forum and wrote this into the newspaper in Regina.

He also in some of his own campaigning had to deal with a little bit of red-baiting, which was more common then than it is now. The member for Prince Albert, a certain John Diefenbaker, at the time was saying . . . trying to slander Mr. Valleau by saying that he had all the communist support in the particular area where he was serving.

Mr. Valleau's response to that was, well Mr. Diefenbaker must have been speaking to those people after I was to get that kind of information.

He was a committed socialist. There is no doubt. He brought those values to his time of service both in the community and to this legislative body. But he also took those values with him when he went and studied and got his Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) in the US. And he taught very well and taught using the example of Saskatchewan and was very, very well respected amongst his colleagues for the values that he brought into his teaching.

I would like to just read portions of a couple of comments that were made following Mr. Valleau's death. The first is by a student who wrote:

Dr. Valleau gave me purpose, a sense of what I wanted to do in life. A social science view of management which has made me better understand the world in which I live and, I think, given me a better appreciation of issues and how to develop solutions. We called Dr. Valleau, Del, behind his back and when we were in study groups we felt very close to him and all of us just thought the world of him. He was so proud of me (writes this man) when I was accepted to graduate school at UCLA.

He didn't get to attend graduate school, this student, but he much appreciated the grounding that Mr. Valleau had given him in the social sciences and respected him greatly.

I would also like to read briefly from the eulogy — the Delmar Storey Valleau eulogy — as it was written by Victor Garlin on August 21.

Del Valleau, who died on August 5 at the age of 83, when he retired Del was a professor in the management department, a department he founded in 1967. Now our department of business administration. A lifelong adherent of socialist ideals, Del was born in Saskatchewan.

And I believe Del was raised . . . He went to high school in the Melfort area. It doesn't say that in this but I think that's where he was, he was raised.

(11:30)

Victor Garlin went on to say:

Most of all Del wanted to use his academic understanding and his organizational experience in the service of socially useful objectives and to teach others to do the same. He never wavered from the view that the application of human reason in the service of political organization is the only way out of social chaos, oppression, and misery.

He writes:

To those of us who knew him, loved him, and appreciated him, he remains unforgettable.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add to those of us who have read about Mr. Valleau and who have inherited the socialist traditions that we try and express through this government, he is unforgettable for the gifts that he gave, and we hope that we can carry on those traditions and that we can do our best to make sure that we use and apply human reason to find a way out of social chaos, oppression, and misery for all people.

With those words I add my condolences to the family of Mr. Delmar Valleau.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a former member of the Assembly, Mr. John Kowalchuk.

John was born on August 30, 1921 at the family farm near Goodeve, Saskatchewan, the eldest son of Nicholas and Mary Kowalchuk. He received his public school education in Shappert, a country school about one and a quarter miles from his home. He completed grade 9 and 10 by correspondence, and then attended the Goodeve High School for grades 11 and grade 12.

In 1941-42, John received his teaching certificate at Normal School in Regina and taught for 14 years at the following schools: Wilton, Late Star, Cherryfield, Fenwood, Mount Hecla, and Hard Rock.

John was united in marriage to Emma Amelia Dohms on September 1, 1951 at Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ituna. After their marriage, John and Emma moved to British Columbia. The couple then returned to Saskatchewan in 1952 and John resumed his teaching career.

On October 8, 1955, John and Emma were blessed with the birth of their daughter Joanne. In 1958 John purchased the Goodeve Locker Plant and it was here where John first ran as a candidate for trustee for the Melville School Unit and was elected.

They sold the locker plant in 1961 and they moved to Melville where John sold SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) insurance with Peter Elash of Elash Agencies.

During the two years in Melville, the Kowalchuks were also farming. The farm was becoming a greater part of their lives, so in 1963 they moved back to Goodeve.

John's public service included chairman of the Melville Comprehensive School Board, reeve of the RM of Stanley, and chairman of the Melville (North) School Unit Board.

John was a passionate member of the CCF and later the New Democratic Party, participating in every aspect of political work from the poll clerk to campaign manager. And John eventually ran as a candidate for the CCF and was elected. And he served

as an MLA for the Melville constituency from 1967 to 1982.

John was on the committee which selected the official Saskatchewan flag. He served on the committee dealing with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance and the family farm protection Act and was the chairman of the committee of the land tenure in Saskatchewan regarding foreign and corporation ownership.

John was also the first minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources in Saskatchewan during which time he was chairman of the Saskatchewan Fur Marketing Board and vice-chairman of Saskatchewan Forest Products.

During John's term of office as minister he was involved in many, many new programs and projects, some of which included the opening of the regional office in Melville and Qu'Appelle; an agreement and the signing of the memorandum of intent for the Grasslands Park.

It was also during this time that John was instrumental in the Battersby Wildlife Protected Area and it would also be one of his proudest achievements.

In 1977 John was awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal with commendation for his 25-year reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and is intended as a mark of appreciation for exemplary community service to all people in all walks of life.

In 1981 John announced that he would not be seeking re-election. After his retirement, John served on the board of the Rail City Industries. He also served on the Goodeve Village Council from 1973 to 1985 — the last three years as the mayor.

John and Emma continued to farm and live in Goodeve until they moved to Melville in 1986. John continued to follow politics and public affairs and was always an avid reader and a debater.

He had many friends in Melville and was a regular member of coffee row for many, many years and I know will be greatly missed by that community.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I want to add my own personal involvement with Mr. Kowalchuk. I know Mr. Kowalchuk as being a very quiet and soft-spoken individual and who had a tremendous passion for helping people and working with communities. And much of his record that I've read today talked about his involvement in working with individuals, young people, and families to help better quality of life in their communities.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. Kowalchuk to have had a very passionate, passionate interest in politics and a very inspirational individual to our part of the province. I can remember the campaign of 1991 where Mr. Kowalchuk arrived in Yorkton to talk about how in fact we would be working at trying to win the Melville constituency.

And at that time of course, sitting in this Assembly was an individual by the name of Mr. Grant Schmidt, who most of us on that side of the province believed that he was the member of this Assembly that we would have a very difficult time in

defeating because of the number of contributions that many people believed that Mr. Schmidt provided to his constituency, and that he served his constituency in a fashion which many, many people believed were exemplary.

But Mr. Kowalchuk said to us on many occasions that it required a great deal of hard work and that we needed to knock on as many doors as we could in our constituency or in the Melville constituency. And because of Mr. Kowalchuk's long interest in community and his service to this Assembly and the people of that region, there were very few doors that we knocked on at which Mr. Kowalchuk didn't know people personally. And it was through his encouragement and through his strength that we were able to win the seat of Melville with Mr. Carlson.

And so on a personal note, I want to include that in our record, Mr. Speaker. Because on the east side of the province, I want to say that people like Mr. Kowalchuk have been a tremendous inspiration to those of us who serve in our party and continue to work at representing our part of the province.

John will long be remembered for his service to the people of Saskatchewan while a member of the Legislative Assembly and as a minister of the Crown.

Mr. Speaker, I would at this time like to move, seconded by the member from Canora-Pelly:

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

John Russell Kowalchuk, who passed away on August 18, 2000, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1967 until 1982 representing the constituency of Melville for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Kowalchuk was born on August 30, 1921 at the family farm near Goodeve, Saskatchewan. He received his primary education in Shappert. He completed grades 9 and 10 by correspondence and grade 11 and 12 at the Goodeve High School. In 1941-42, he furthered his studies at the Regina Normal School, and received his teaching certificate. He married Emma Dohmes in 1951 and they had one daughter.

Mr. Kowalchuk was a teacher by training but did pursue other careers and interests. He owned the Goodeve Locker Plant and later sold insurance with Elash Agencies. Mr. Kowalchuk's family has also been involved in farming and this became a very important part of much of their lives.

Mr. Kowalchuk demonstrated his commitment to his community by a lengthy record of public service. He was on the board of the Rail City Industries, he was the chairman of the Melville Comprehensive School Board, and he was the chairman of the Melville (North) School Unit Board for 12 of the 14 years that he served.

Mr. Kowalchuk devoted many years to civic office. He first

served as the reeve of the Rural Municipality of Stanley. Later, Mr. Kowalchuk served as the mayor of the village of Goodeve council from 1973 to 1985.

Mr. Kowalchuk was first elected to the Assembly in 1967 and successfully retained his seat in the following three elections. He was appointed the first minister of Tourism and Renewal Resources in 1974.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I join with the government in extending our sympathies to the family of John Kowalchuk on his passing.

It's obvious, Mr. Speaker, that John Kowalchuk was firmly committed to this province and to his beliefs. His commitment to public service extended from local government to school board, to the legislature and to the provincial cabinet.

Mr. Kowalchuk ably served in this Assembly for 15 years and spent several years as a cabinet minister. Throughout his life, he also farmed, taught school, and was a businessman. Throughout his career in provincial politics, John Kowalchuk was also on hand for many memorable times in Saskatchewan, including the selection of our official flag.

Mr. Kowalchuk was recognized for his commitment to public service in 1977 when he received the Silver Jubilee Medal. It should be noted that John Kowalchuk remained committed to his community and this province long after leaving political life.

Once again, to his wife, Emma, and their daughter, Joanne, and to the rest of John's family, the members of the official opposition note with sadness the passing of John Kowalchuk.

Hon. Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with respect and to add my sympathy and condolences to the Kowalchuk family on the passing of Mr. Kowalchuk.

I did not know Mr. Kowalchuk personally, although we did on occasion have some discussions about issues that may have been considered to be debatable. However, I would like to add to what the Deputy Premier and the member from Canora-Pelly has said about Mr. Kowalchuk and his service to the people of this community and the people of this great province of ours.

Very evidently, Mr. Speaker, it's obvious the high esteem in which Mr. Kowalchuk was held — to be elected, to serve for 15 years in this venerable institution. People that did know Mr. Kowalchuk, and who knew him from the times he spent in his many efforts on behalf of his community . . . communities throughout his constituency and throughout the province, used words like, very caring attitude towards others, towards the welfare of his neighbours. And that being one of his most obvious attributes.

And as we've heard the eulogies that have been expressed that has come through loud and clear — the high esteem in which

this gentleman was held.

I just wanted to read an excerpt from the letter that Mr. Kowalchuk wrote in 1981 when he announced that he would not be seeking re-election. And this typifies again his deep, sincere feeling towards his involvement and his opportunity to serve the province and his constituency:

Nearly 15 years have passed since I was first elected as a representative of the people of the Melville constituency in the Saskatchewan legislature. It's a lot of years that have gone into serving the people of Melville and community — years which I have never regretted; years which were challenging and productive; years which I look back on with a great deal of pride and satisfaction.

As I prepare to take leave of public life, I want to thank the many fine people who have given me encouragement and support over the years. Serving as your representative in the legislature has been challenging and rewarding. I'm retiring with the satisfaction of knowing that our constituency has shared in the benefits of Saskatchewan's progress and that my time in the legislature has been worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that typifies and exemplifies the true feeling that Mr. Kowalchuk did have for this province and for this venerable institution. And I would like to extend my sincere sympathy and condolences to his family.

(11:45)

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to say a few words about John Kowalchuk and express my sympathy to his wife and his family.

I had the great privilege of serving with John and I enjoyed the time that we spent together very much.

John Kowalchuk was a warm and gracious person. He had a love of people and, as other members have said, he was very well loved by the people of the Melville constituency and he was a very well-respected member of this Legislative Assembly.

John always had a twinkle in his eye and a warm smile. And I know that when I was first elected to the Legislative Assembly, he was very kind to me — and kind to me in a lot of ways in terms of giving me good advice, being supportive of me even when I may have made some comments that not everybody in my caucus agreed with. And I certainly enjoyed the time I spent with John.

And John was very knowledgeable on a wide array of issues that impacted on his constituents. As my colleagues have noted, he served both at the municipal level and also in the education field. He was the chairman of the Melville (North) School Unit Board and he was the reeve of the Rural Municipality of Stanley and served on the Goodeve village council.

He made many contributions in the discussion we had in the government caucus on education issues and on issues related to municipal affairs. And he was very knowledgeable on a wide array of rural matters and rural concerns and had a passionate

interest in the environment and in matters pertaining to natural resources. And it was very logical that he was appointed as Minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources in 1974. Unfortunately, because of health reasons, he had to step down from that portfolio.

And in the years that I was serving with him, he was serving as a private member. And we served together on the caucus Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, where John would have a very keen eye for potential difficulties that draft legislation that we were looking at might pose, and he'd make very useful suggestions about how we could accomplish our goals with this legislation, but make the changes that were needed to ensure that it wasn't going to create problems for local people on the farm or in the bush. So he had a keen eye for making sure that we accomplished our goals, but did it in a way that was going to meet the needs of people in his constituency and in this province.

John Kowalchuk was committed to building a more compassionate society in our province. And I saw that reflected in many ways during the years that I served with him in the government caucus.

He also had a strong commitment to ensuring that Saskatchewan gained control of our natural resources — our oil and our potash. And that was a commitment that we both felt very strongly about.

And he was very committed to building a province in which there was a fair share for all and he made a very important contribution towards achieving that.

And finally I might say that John had a passion for our God-given environment. And I enjoyed working with him in helping to ensure that that passion was reflected in the government legislation that we passed in the early '80s. There were a number of important environmental bills that were passed in '81 and '82 that John and I had the pleasure of working together on with Ted Bowerman, who was the minister of Environment at the day.

So, Mr. Speaker, I feel Saskatchewan's lost a great man in John Kowalchuk. And I want to express my sympathies to his family on his passing. And I think he'll be long remembered in this province for the work he did.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — I would request the indulgence of the House at this time to pay tribute to Yvonne Mack, a legislative employee.

Yvonne Mack joined the Legislative Library in 1989 as the first member services librarian. It was her work which developed an approach to MLA information service unique at the time in Canadian provincial legislatures and which has provided a model to other smaller legislative libraries since.

Yvonne was a leader in her professional community, taking on executive positions in the Special Libraries Association,

Western Canada Chapter.

She was a woman of the information age, attuned to the developments of electronic information and the Internet, constantly on the outlook for ways to use these new developments to provide a valuable and useful current information service to the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Yvonne was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer in 1994, only six months after the birth of her much-loved twins — Nicholas Allen Mack and Alexander Fee Quon.

Even as her illness worsened and difficult treatments were endured, Yvonne continued to be engaged in the outside world, returning to work as much as her health would permit.

She was devoted to her young family.

Yvonne died in Regina on September 17, 2000 at the age of 40.

We express regret at the passing of this respected, fine young professional, whose spirit and courage during her long struggle with cancer was an inspiration to all who knew her. Our sympathies are extended to her husband, David Quon, and family, who are with us here today.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with you in paying tribute to the immense contribution of Yvonne Mack to our common service for those of us who serve in this Assembly, and also to express appreciation for her work and for her life to her family, to her husband David, and her sons, Nicholas and Alexander.

As you most appropriately outlined, Mr. Speaker, she came to our Assembly back in 1989 and became our first member services librarian. In many ways this was I think for Yvonne, the crowning conclusion to a distinguished career in the world of library studies and library service.

I think those who knew Yvonne recognized that it was a profession that became a labour of love for her because throughout her entire life she was one who loved the written word and exceeded only by her love for her family.

And it was certainly my privilege, Mr. Speaker, when I served in your office, to come to know Yvonne's love for her work in this building. And also I think for those who were close to Yvonne, to appreciate her tremendous capacity to love life right to the very end.

It is without a moment's doubt that I am absolutely positive that the bedtime story in the Quon-Mack household was a sacred event. And I know that the love for the written word is something that is shared by her husband David and also by the boys.

I will long remember the opportunity that I had to visit with Yvonne the last day that she served in this building, when she was taking leave to deal with her health. And we went and met in her office, in her kingdom, and talked about just the joy and the privilege of being able to serve in a profession that she loves, in this building, and for the tremendous purpose of

service to her province as well.

And it's kind of interesting that, although she was taking leave to deal with her health, Yvonne's spirit was typically upbeat and positive and very much indicative of just her positive outlook on life in so many kinds of ways. It was, I think, an indomitable spirit.

And it was through her final years, with a great deal of love and respect by her colleagues in the Legislative Library and throughout the Legislative Assembly, that Yvonne knew that she had tremendous support from people who are here.

If prayers and good wishes could heal, Yvonne's illness would have gone away very rapidly. I know that she has developed some tremendous friendships and common loyalties from people who are here in this building that served together with her.

And I think it's fair to say that Yvonne neither beat cancer but nor did she become a victim of cancer, because she refused to allow that to happen. And her experience of her life and love of life became even deeper as a result of that.

I will long remember as well, on September 29 of last year, attending the celebration of Yvonne Mack's life at the Hotel Saskatchewan. And a good number of her friends and colleagues — and those are the same for Yvonne — from the legislative services here, were there.

And it was a wonderful, wonderful celebration, Mr. Speaker. It was a time in which certainly those who were there felt a sense of sadness, of loss, but because of Yvonne and her indomitable, positive spirit being what it was, it really became one of those things that we so often hope for but so rarely achieve when we come to a celebration of life. It truly was that.

And I was touched by being able to meet at that time, and to . . . and just to be witness to so many expressions of love and appreciation from so many facets of Yvonne's life, and including from those who are attached to the services of the Legislative Assembly, and the members here, a great source of pride for Yvonne.

I think there's no more appropriate way to conclude a tribute to Yvonne Mack than to directly quote her own words when she commented on her struggle with the final period of her life. And she said this, and I quote, Mr. Speaker:

This experience is not about how I will die, it is about how I will live. So I will live each day and try to do it the way I want — with dignity, humour, and with as much energy as I can muster.

And it is with the recognition of the tremendous statement about the love of life and living each day to its maximum that was so typical of Yvonne throughout her 40 years, Mr. Speaker, that I want to conclude by saying to her husband David and to her sons, Nicholas and Alexander, thanks for sharing Yvonne with us. And thanks for sharing your mom with us here, with the members of the Legislative Assembly, and the people of Saskatchewan.

Yvonne Mack, Mr. Speaker, will be thought of very fondly for a long, long time.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to be able to rise today to talk of the life of Yvonne Mack.

Yvonne was in the library when I first got elected in 1991 and we shared some common interests — particularly computers. I was always in there talking to Yvonne about how can I access the information that you have available. And we would carry on this discussion, because I could find out what she had available over . . . at that time it wasn't really the Internet, but through a BBS system.

But then I would have to go and to actually talk to her to get the files that I wanted. And so we would always discuss why this couldn't be improved and changed. And that is very much what Yvonne was working on and enjoying.

I remember coming out of our caucus office one day, and Yvonne was coming down the hallway just after the birth of her two children, and she was introducing them for the first time to the legislature. And she was there with her twin carriage, side by side. Both the boys were there, and she introduced them to me as Nicholas and Alexander. And I always remember that, Mr. Speaker, because that is the name of my son, Nicholas Alexander. So it was a memorable moment.

I'd like to offer my condolences to husband David and to Nicholas and Alexander.

I enjoyed working with your mother and she is missed in this legislature.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move, by leave of the Assembly, a motion, seconded by the member from Souris-Cannington:

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

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — I would like to thank all the members for their service to the people of Saskatchewan through this legislature and wish all members a weekend of good cheer. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:03.