

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition again today regarding children who are being exploited through the sex trade:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately implement all 49 recommendations of the final report as submitted by the Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The people who have signed this petition are all from Regina.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens concerned about the shortcomings of the tobacco legislation. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Star City, Tisdale, Ridgedale, Melfort, Prince Albert, and even one from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

I so present.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the condition of Highway 339. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 339 in order to facilitate economic development initiatives.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the community of Avonlea.

I so present.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition for citizens who have strong concerns about STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company) and its future. The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to urge the government to resist the call of some groups in Saskatchewan to eliminate both the passenger and express services of STC, leaving parts of rural Saskatchewan completely without these vital commercial and economic lifelines.

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

This petition is signed from residents of Saskatoon, Regina and Weyburn.

I so present.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present on behalf of my constituents. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with the federal government, First Nations representatives, and with other provincial governments to bring about a resolution in the Lake of the Prairies situation and to ensure that our natural resources as a whole are used in a responsible manner by all people in the future.

The signators, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Esterhazy, Stockholm, Melville, Churchbridge, Bredenbury and Langenburg.

I so present.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to present on behalf of constituents in the Indian Head-Milestone area. The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to make the necessary repairs to Highway 35 in the Indian Head-Milestone constituency in order to prevent injury and loss of lives and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area, Mr. Speaker.

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

This petition is signed from people from a lot of different communities, including the community of Estevan, Griffin, Regina, Creelman, Francis, Indian Head, and Weyburn.

I so present.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of people from southwest Saskatchewan concerned about the tobacco control legislation in the province. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of this petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from the city of Swift Current and the communities of Gull Lake and Blumenhof, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

Mr. Kwiatkowski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned about certain inadequacies in the tobacco legislation. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by the good citizens of Carrot River, Nipawin, Tisdale, Red Earth, and Arborfield.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents who are concerned about the huge increase in costs that farmers will be incurring this year due to the changes in crop insurance. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to halt its plan to take money out of the crop insurance program and hike farmers' crop insurance premium rates while reducing coverage, in order to pay off the provincial government's debt to the federal government.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by citizens of the communities of Southey and Cupar.

I so present.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition from the good citizens of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco product; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

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

And the signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Spiritwood, Mildred, Belbutte, Rabbit Lake, and North

Battleford.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and hereby received.

A petition concerning crop insurance premiums and coverage; as well as

Addendums to petitions previously received in this House as sessional papers no. 7, 8, 16, and 17.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question:

To the minister in charge of Energy and Mines: how much money was spent in total researching the greenprint for ethanol production plan; and further to that, how much money was spent on travel researching the ethanol plan in total?

Ms. Harpauer: — . . . Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: has your department ever custom-sprayed or paid for spraying services on land owned or leased by Ducks Unlimited in the calendar year 2001, and if so, what was the total amount spent?

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Social Services: in the fiscal year of 1998-1999, how much money did the Department of Social Services spend on dental and optical benefits and ambulance costs for social services recipients?

I have a similar question for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: how much money was spent in the calendar year 2001 for training firefighters in the province of Saskatchewan?

Thank you.

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day 14 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for the Information Service Corporation regarding the land project in Saskatoon: (1) has the government hired a company or individual to do public relations work among lawyers and others surrounding the implementation of the land project in

Saskatoon; (2) who are the principals of the company engaged to do the public relations work for the land project; (3) how much will the company in question receive for the public relations work; and (4) when will automated registration be introduced into the Saskatoon Land Titles Office?

I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and through you to the rest of my colleagues here seated in your gallery some very distinguished people with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. They may not be able to see me, but I know they're there, and I know that we work confidently with one another. David Marit, Mr. Speaker, Nick Postnikoff, Don Taylor, Jim Reiter, and Debbie Gronning. I would ask everyone to please welcome them to the Assembly this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members a number of SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) rural leaders that are here today very interested in what's about to take place in the House today and tomorrow. We have Deb Gronning, a director for Marengo; Jim Reiter, he's president of the Rural Administrators Association from Rosetown; Don Taylor, a director from Bredenbury and, by the way, is also my local reeve; Nick Postnikoff is a director from Blaine Lake, and Dave Marit, a director from Fife Lake.

I hope you enjoy the proceedings today, and stay tuned, there's going to be a lot of things happening. Welcome to the House.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to you and to this House, 26 students from Winston Knoll Collegiate. They are here with their teacher, Susan Evaschesen. And this is a really wonderful school up in the northwest corner of our city. Fine teachers, and I hope that the students who are here today from that school will enjoy the team sport that we call question period and that you'll be enlightened by the procedures that you observe here today. I look forward to visiting with you later. Please join me in welcoming them.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to introduce, to you and through you, to the members of the House the delegation from SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities), in particular my friend Nick Postnikoff, who is the SARM director for district no. five. He and his wife, Judy, live near Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce some very special people that

are in your gallery today watching the Assembly for the first time together since 1995.

I'd like to introduce my wife, Beckie, she's the second one from the right. And I've got three other daughters that are with her. The one on the left is Taylor, she's the queen of Ile-a-la-Crosse, and next to her is Michelle . . . (inaudible) . . . and next to her mother is Kellie. And both of my older girls are on the Indigenous volleyball team and they will be travelling to Winnipeg this summer to participate. And I want to thank them for being behind me all these years and welcome them to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Peters: — I would also, through you, Mr. Speaker, like to introduce the director for district six who happens to be my director in my constituency. So, Debra Gronning, I wish to welcome you here.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Kenaston Blizzards Senior D Hockey Provincial Champions

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, last Sunday night the Kenaston Blizzards defeated Hodgeville to become the provincial champions of the Senior D Saskatchewan Hockey League. This event marked the first time that Kenaston has gone to the top of the provincial playoff finals.

The best of three series began in Kenaston on Friday night with Kenaston defeating Hodgeville by the score of 7 to 4. On Sunday, in Hodgeville, the home team was humbled by Kenaston by a score of 9 to 3. This victory capped a winning playoff round for Kenaston, which included victories over Hanley, Craik, Dinsmore, and finally Hodgeville.

(13:45)

In this final series Kenaston has proudly represented the north division of the league against Hodgeville in the south. Indeed, senior hockey has been a great community sport in Kenaston for decades. As a hockey player myself, although some players and coaches may wish to debate that fact, I still enjoy watching the excitement of provincial hockey and the high level of talent that it produces. Saskatchewan should be proud of its history of turning out NHL-calibre players, many of who have gone on to become great professional players in the National Hockey League, such as Cory Sarich from Bladworth.

I would like to personally congratulate the Kenaston Blizzards on the provincial championship. I would also like to thank general manager Don George, along with coach Barry Firby and coach Brent McVeigh, for their hard work and commitment to these talented hockey players. It is with this true community spirit that the managers, coaches, and players across Saskatchewan provide an entertaining and high-calibre game of hockey for people to enjoy all winter long. I would ask that members join me in congratulating the Kenaston Blizzards in becoming the 2002 Saskatchewan Senior D championships.

Best of luck for next year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Shirley Douglas Visits Weyburn

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring you a good, recent story from the fine city of Weyburn — a story that I'm surprised our current MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Weyburn neglected to bring to the attention of this place. Allow me to help her out.

Last Wednesday, a famous daughter and a famous father were reunited. Weyburn-born Shirley Douglas joined her father Tommy Douglas on the Soo Line Historical Society's "Wall of Fame" at the Soo Line Museum. The members opposite, of course, know him as Tommy the commie.

This wall recognizes Weyburn people who have made significant contributions to public life. And this award is fitting in more than one way, Mr. Speaker. First of course, Shirley Douglas is one of Canada's leading actors with significant roles on stage, screen, TV, and radio on both sides of the border. Most recently, she starred in the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) television series *Wind at My Back*. For this distinguished career alone, she deserves our recognition. But also, Mr. Speaker, Shirley Douglas was in Weyburn on Wednesday to talk to students at the high school and to citizens at a public meeting about the state of medicare in Canada.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, in speaking out in support of publicly funded, publicly administered, one-tiered medicine, she joined her father in spirit and in purpose, as well as in the public's recognition. Mr. Speaker, like her father, Shirley Douglas is a remarkable person. Like her parents and all those pioneers who gave us the gift of our public institution like medicare, she deserves our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

1A 6-Man Provincial Football Finals

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for some young, hard-working athletes in my constituency. Last November 10, the town of Kelliher hosted the 1A 6-Man provincial football finals. Not only did the provincials take place in my constituency, but this year both teams who made it to the provincials hailed from my constituency.

The Kelliher Cobras and the Raymore Rebels came face to face once again for an exciting and intense season finale. This past season the Kelliher Cobras remain undefeated. However, their competition, the Raymore Rebels, were not far behind, holding a record of 8 and 1.

The competition was fierce and at the end of day the Raymore Rebels came out on top with a 42 to 34 victory. Congratulations are in order for this year's champs. Hard work and dedication are the prerequisites for this kind of success in competition, and both teams should be very proud of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that it is an honour to represent

a constituency whose youth has such drive to succeed and excel, whose youth are committed to working together as a team and who are determined to reach their goals.

I would like to thank the coaches, the teachers, the parents, and the fans who stand behind our young people and encourage them to be the best that they can be.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

John Rependa Legacy

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the Assembly's attention a very generous legacy by the late Mr. John Rependa of Outlook, Saskatchewan.

Before Mr. Rependa lost his battle with cancer last year, he received much of his care at Saskatoon City Hospital. Last month the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation very gratefully announced a cash donation of \$2 million from Mr. Rependa's estate, the largest single gift in the foundation's 19-year history.

What's that line from Shakespeare, Mr. Speaker?

The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones.

In this case, Mr. Rependa's gift will live long after him.

His gift will be used to complete the Rependa Memorial Education Resource Centre in the hospital, a fitting memory to the good works of one individual.

The Education Resource Centre will be used by the hospital's medical personnel to host visitors and speakers. It will house a lecture theatre, meeting rooms, and the hospital library.

Future plans involve the installation of telehealth and telemedicine equipment to provide and receive broadcasts on new medical techniques from around the world. The centre will be operational by the fall of 2003.

According to his friends, Mr. Rependa was known for his independence, his intelligence, and his insatiable curiosity. He was known for these qualities. He will be remembered for his incredible generosity.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Swift Current's Recent Sports Accomplishments

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to inform the members of the Assembly of the recent accomplishments back in my home community of Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, the Swift Current Batco TNT Eliminators are once again the provincial champions of bantam tier 2 hockey in Saskatchewan. The Eliminators recently went undefeated in a

16-round-robin tournament and defeated Weyburn to capture the provincial title and they are now competing in the league final against the Battlefords.

Congratulations and best of luck in the league final to Coach Dale Slusar and the provincial champion Swift Current Batco TNT Eliminators.

As well, Mr. Speaker, Swift Current is home to the provincial champion under-14 girls soccer team. The Swift Current Home Hardware United girls team had an overall record of 18 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties this season. They went undefeated in the provincial championships held in Saskatoon recently beating Prince Albert in the gold medal game.

Mr. Speaker, soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in my home community and the under-14 girls team is proof of the high calibre of players that Swift Current is able to produce.

Congratulations to coach Dale Perry and Anita Evans, and the players of the gold medal champion Swift Current under-14 girls soccer team.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mayor Predicts Huge Year for Humboldt

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have more good news for the province of Saskatchewan. During the Saskatchewan Winter Games I had the opportunity to meet with some of the people directly in touch with the mood of the province and what did they have to say, Mr. Speaker? Well they said, Saskatchewan is hopping.

At the Winter Games I had the opportunity to meet with Dennis Korte, the mayor of Humboldt. He was enthusiastic about the things occurring in our newest city, Humboldt. In an interview with the *Humboldt Journal*, Mayor Korte predicts a huge year for Humboldt. Becoming a city gives increased influence on a provincial level, the construction of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a new ice field, 65 building permits with an increased value of over \$3.5 million, and the city will have a balanced budget and even perhaps a slight surplus.

Mr. Speaker, this enthusiasm is a refreshing change from the attitudes expressed in this House by others. But to put a fine point on it I will close with the mayor's own words: "our area and district are strong and (we) are growing."

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Eston Girls Hockey Team Wins Provincial B Championship

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last evening in Tisdale the Eston Hurricane Bantam B females defeated the Tisdale girls team 5-4 in the final game to win the provincial B championship for girls hockey. The Leader of the Official Opposition will be happy to learn, Mr. Speaker, that the

overtime winning goal for Eston was scored by his niece, Amanda Howe, of Eston.

The Eston Hurricanes have treated the people of Eston to a winter of excellent female hockey and I would like to ask all members of the legislature to join with me in congratulating the Eston Hurricane Bantam B female team on winning the provincial championship.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Innovation Place — High-Tech Hot Spot

Ms. Jones: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a recent article of *TIME* magazine's Canadian edition, entitled "Canada's High-tech Hot Spots," Saskatoon's Innovation Place was identified as one of the world's foremost centres for agricultural biotechnology and as a home to companies that have amassed a long list of important breakthroughs. Innovation Place has also diversified into information technology and pharmaceutical sectors and has attracted many private international companies from Germany, France, and United States to also set up offices.

Mr. Speaker, Innovation park is a development of this government — and just to connect the dots for those confused — to attract and enhance job creation in our province by supporting the growth of advanced technologies locally. These investments are done to ensure that we remain competitive and have a stable revenue stream.

It is gratifying to see an international magazine of *TIME*'s stature recognize Innovation Place. The article reinforces this government's decision to establish it.

Innovation Place, the elder of our two research parks, is a shining tribute to the vision of this and previous NDP (New Democratic Party) governments. I'm proud that this successful public investment is in my hometown and in my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Government Reorganization

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, it's flat out crisis management on that side of the House. Last year at this time, the Premier was telling us that we needed bigger government and more departments so he hired nearly 600 more civil servants and he grew the government. Today he's done a complete flip-flop. He's merging departments and he's firing civil servants — exactly the opposite of what he did a year ago. And so, Mr. Speaker, it's complete chaos.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party supports smaller and more efficient government if it's part of a plan to grow Saskatchewan. But this government has no plan. They have no vision. They just lurch around from crisis to crisis while Saskatchewan people pay the price.

Mr. Speaker, why does the NDP have no plan to grow Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Speaking to the specific restructuring of government that has been announced this morning, the member of the opposition . . . Leader of the Opposition will know that in terms of the reductions in the civil service announced today, those reductions will be focused on areas that serve the administration of government — areas of communications, policy, information technology, those services which serve the administration of government.

The Leader of the Opposition well knows that a year ago . . . a year ago when we brought new people into the Saskatchewan public service we did so to provide front line service to the people of Saskatchewan: new workers in the child care field, as the member from Humboldt has called upon us to do; new members to rebuild the . . . new public servants to build the highways in Saskatchewan, as their whole caucus has called upon us to do; new individuals to fight forests . . . forest fires, Mr. Speaker.

We are meeting the public needs in Saskatchewan. We are looking at the internal structures of government to find the administrative savings, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course had the Premier and his government been good managers, they would have reallocated, they would trimmed in some areas to expand in the areas of need. But they just thought making a bigger government, spending a lot more money would be all right, and today we're paying the price.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier says that now his government is better and he got rid of two cabinet ministers to do that. Well perhaps our government would be even better yet if he got rid of all of his cabinet members, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Why, Mr. Speaker? Because this government has no direction. Last year they were hiring people; this year they're firing people. Last year they were creating new departments; this year they're eliminating departments. Last year he appointed new ministers; this year he got rid of those ministers. He doesn't seem to know whether he's coming or going, Mr. Speaker. It is complete chaos.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government and our Premier has no vision, they have no plan. Why are they letting things fall apart?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I understand that members opposite will not likely accept what I will say. But I know they're very much in the habit of accepting wisdom from outside the province, particularly from their friends in Alberta.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me here today a report from the recent Alberta budget. I ask, I ask members opposite to listen to this. Last year the Government of Alberta — listen, listen to this, member from Rosthern — last year the Government of Alberta boosted . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I would just ask for a little less background noise please so we can hear the member.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this report from Alberta indicates that last year the Government of Alberta boosted spending by 22 per cent and hired more than 1,000 staff based on projected energy revenues. Now it's all right . . . They'll stand here and criticize us for adding, for adding to the public service of Saskatchewan but they will not criticize their friends outside of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this very day, this very day I received — it was made public yesterday . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. Once again I ask all members just to kind of tone it down a bit so we can hear the questions and hear the responses.

(14:00)

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Now, Mr. Speaker, just, just yesterday . . . Another source that this party likes to quote is the Fraser Institute. Here is the report yesterday from the Fraser Institute.

Over the course of the last decade, Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan) was the only Prairie province that cut real government expenditures, reducing spending by 9.9 percent . . . Comparatively, real spending in Canada as a whole increased (by) 10.3 percent while real spending in Alberta increased (by) 6.4 percent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Of course the Premier . . . Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course the Premier sees that there's no relationship to Saskatchewan going backward in that regard. Along with the fact that we're going backwards in jobs and we're going backwards in population, we're going backwards in economic investment. Saskatchewan under the NDP is not moving forward, it's moving backwards . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. The request works both ways, members.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan know there are internal problems with the NDP. But they don't care nearly as much about that as they do the fact that the NDP is killing jobs; the NDP is driving people out of the province; the NDP are making hospital waiting lists longer instead of shorter, Mr. Speaker. Now we find out that the NDP is driving up crop insurance premiums by as much as 200 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

And what is the NDP government doing to counteract this? They're playing musical chairs in the cabinet room, Mr. Speaker. That's not helping the people of Saskatchewan. Why does this NDP government and their Premier not deal with the real problems facing Saskatchewan — the problem of no growth? When will he come up with a plan to grow the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I'm amazed and impressed that the Leader of the Opposition wants to debate plans, because we've talked about his plan. And we know their plan — cut the taxes, sell off the Crowns, and decimate the public service. That's the plan that's supposed to grow Saskatchewan reported in *The Wilkie Press* . . . is a plan that would gut Saskatchewan. That's what the rural editors are saying.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition today asks some questions about the downsizing of government. Well I have before me what the Leader of the Opposition was saying just prior to the last provincial election about the public service of Saskatchewan, and his plan, and his caucus's plans about the civil service in this province.

Here is what the Leader of the Opposition said just prior the last provincial election. He said:

Before I agreed to run for the leadership I ask the MLAs (over there), do you know who the deadwood are? Do you know who the skunks are?

They assured me they know who these people are. Civil servants can be very powerful. Look what they did to the Devine government.

That's the attitude of that party, and that leader, to . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan communities and RMs (rural municipality) are among the biggest . . .

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Once again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan communities and RMs are among the biggest losers in today's NDP government reorganization disaster. Thanks to the Premier's stamp of confusion, municipalities are being left to wade through an enormous new government bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, wondering about municipal revenue sharing? Go see the new Department of Government Relations. Need information on municipal policing? Go see the Justice department. Looking for municipal library information? Go see the new Department of Learning. Want municipal housing information? Go see the old Department of Social Services. Urban parks? Go see the Environment department. Municipal heritage sites? Go see the Department of Youth, Culture and Recreation.

Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier's idea of smarter, more efficient government? A giant bureaucracy for Saskatchewan communities and total confusion for Saskatchewan taxpayers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Today, Mr. Speaker, we have merged the functions of 10 departments and agencies of government. We have four fewer departments of government this afternoon — four fewer departments of government, Mr. Speaker.

We have a one-stop approach to government for economic development. We have a one-stop approach for learning in this province. And we have created to deal with our colleagues at other levels of government a Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, respecting the partnership between levels of government in this province and in this nation.

Now he wants to talk about bureaucracy. He should just turn around and talk to his colleagues that sit just behind him. Here's their idea of how you deal with the public service, the civil service, and the bureaucracy. I quote here, not now the Leader of the Opposition, but the member from Wood River, who just before, just before the last, the last provincial election said, quote:

The whole bureaucracy, the whole civil service has to be cleaned out. I can wield (he says. I can wield) a pretty good-sized broom. And you know what I would do with the broom in there.

We don't need men with brooms in the government benches, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd have asked my questions to the Minister of Municipal Government but I wasn't sure which one of the six or seven or eight ministers would have answered.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the NDP thinks that playing musical chairs with government employees and government programs is a good way to grow Saskatchewan, but most Saskatchewan taxpayers are going to see it as another way of growing government bureaucracy. Certainly that's what most community mayors and councillors and RMs are going to think.

Mr. Speaker, for emergency municipal services, see the NDP's new Department of Public Safety. For community infrastructure, see the NDP's new Department of Government Relations. For municipal library services, see the NDP's new Department of Learning; and for municipal housing questions, see the new Department of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, these changes are insulting and degrading to municipal leaders. Will the Premier explain why he has once again abandoned municipalities?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — It is, I guess, it is understandable that a political party in this House who says we can cut all the taxes and raise all the expenditures and balance the books, it is understandable that such a party could say — we have reduced by \$40 million the expenditures in the administration of government, we have reduced by four departments the size of government — can stand in the House in the same day and say we've grown government. Only that party could do as much.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of establishing a Department of Government Relations, I repeat, this is to respect the relationship between levels of government within this province

and outside of this province. Too long, Mr. Speaker, have we and others viewed this as hierarchical, paternalistic, where we don't work as partners but we work above and below. That is changing, that is changing, Mr. Speaker.

And finally before I take my place, I am not finished the restructuring. I am not finished the downsizing to grow Saskatchewan, to make this province better, because I have a plan now, Mr. Speaker, to downsize a little further. It is my plan to downsize the number of Sask Party MLAs in this House . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plans for Saskatchewan's Economic Growth

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, what the people of Saskatchewan want is a plan to grow the economy. Mr. Speaker, we may have a new cabinet but nothing else is changed. The NDP has no plan to grow Saskatchewan.

The population of Saskatchewan has fallen to 979,000 people — that's the lowest number in over 20 years. There was nothing in today's announcement that actually talked about growing the province of Saskatchewan. There was nothing that's going to address the fact that we're going to lose 38,000 students in the next eight years with your lack of plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier can shuffle all the deck chairs he wants to, but unless he has a plan, there is nothing for the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, why was there nothing in the announcement today that talked about growing Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — . . . contained in the Throne Speech we have just completed debate on is a plan to build this into the province of opportunity in Canada — seizing on our economic opportunities, seizing on our human potential, building on our infrastructure. But what do we get? The typical, the typical negativism from the members opposite, in spite of . . . in spite of all of the evidence to the contrary, of all the optimism of Saskatchewan people.

I can share over and over again with members opposite, headlines that are coming out of the press in our province today. Let's go to the *Melville Advance*: headline, "Economic development picture encouraging." Let us go to the *World Spectator* in Moosomin: "Rocanville booming," Mr. Speaker. Let us go to the *Northwest Herald*: "2002 promising year economic for Unity." It goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

Again this government — this government — Mr. Speaker, will not be deterred in its optimism and enthusiasm for the future of this province by the negativism of the nabobs opposite.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wiberg: — Mr. Speaker, today's announcement by the Premier is a feeble attempt to deflect from his own failing record, and it isn't working.

In the last election, the NDP promised to create 30,000 new jobs. The reality is Saskatchewan has lost over 30,000 jobs since the NDP made that promise. But is there anything in today's announcement to create jobs? No.

The NDP promised 10,000 new jobs in the forestry industry alone. Did they keep that promise? No. Is there anything in today's announcement to create those jobs? No.

Mr. Speaker, while the NDP is lurching from one crisis to another, Saskatchewan is losing people, jobs, and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why is there nothing in today's announcement to create new jobs?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to members opposite and to the people of Saskatchewan, we have made promises. We made a commitment to cutting taxes, and we've introduced the largest tax cut in the history of this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — We made a promise to fix the highways and we're spending \$300 million a year to do just that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — We made a commitment to increasing health care funding and we're doing just that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — We made a commitment to increasing education and we're doing just that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier just made a commitment to reducing the size of the opposition. And we're going to do just that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say we're going to do it without the kind of commitments that that opposition group have made — a \$650 million commitment to further decreases in taxation which isn't sustainable, gut the civil service, Mr. Speaker, and sell off the Crowns. Those are commitments you won't get from this side.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plans for Crown Corporations

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Economic Development is right. The opposition after the next election will be much smaller, but it will be made up of those members over there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Crown Investments. If there's any area of this government that needs some help, that the NDP need to get a handle on, it's the Crowns. But is there one word in today's announcement about reining in the Crowns? No. Does the NDP plan to stop competing with Saskatchewan businesses with the Crown corporations? No. Does the NDP plan to stop gambling taxpayers' money in places like Australia, Mexico, and Georgia? No. Nothing has changed.

In fact we still have the same minister, Mr. Speaker, the same minister who proudly announced that losing \$28 million in the potato industry was a success.

Mr. Speaker, why did today's big announcement contain no plan to rein in the Crown corporations?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if that member thinks providing service in rural Saskatchewan to almost every community in rural Saskatchewan, we should rein that in, Mr. Speaker, I don't agree.

If that member thinks, Mr. Speaker, that we should not spend nearly \$2 billion on goods and services partnering with over 12,000 businesses in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I disagree, Mr. Speaker, if he thinks we should rein them in, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to support our Crowns and our Crowns will continue to provide good service right across this great province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Effects of Government Reorganization on Health Care

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, in the lead-up to the Premier's announcement this morning there were high expectations of meaningful change to this government and the direction the NDP was taking. But unfortunately, we were again bitterly disappointed.

Specifically in the area of health care delivery in this province there appears to be no change at all. The minister's the same, the department is the same, and the NDP will continue to deliver mediocre health care services in the same old way. Morale is going to continue to decrease; the number of health care professionals that leave this province will continue to carry on.

Mr. Speaker, in this reorganization of government, what is going to change to deliver quality health care in this province; what is going to improve morale; and what is going to stop the exodus of health care professionals?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in this legislature we met the people of Saskatchewan. In dialogue with the people of Saskatchewan we built the action plan for health in

Saskatchewan; an action plan that is going to sustain health care for the future of our people well into the future — publicly funded, universally accessible.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, it is time for that party to stand up in this House and outside this House and tell us what is your plan for health. They wouldn't, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't, they wouldn't say a word at the Romanow Commission. The critic sat right there — wouldn't say a word. What is your plan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I would just ask the Premier also to direct his remarks through the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — What is their plan for private hospitals? What is their stance on privatization of medicare? What is their stand on user fees? What is their stand on premiums?

What we hear is silence from them on health care. It's time they stood up and were counted.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Crop Insurance Program

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In the last few days, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has confirmed that Saskatchewan farm families will be hit with an enormous increase in their crop insurance premiums.

He confirmed that they will pay more for a reduced program. He confirmed that the new crop and forage rainfall program is nothing more than a ridiculous game of chance. And we've learned that because the minister borrowed against the allocated federal agriculture funding to pay programs last year, farmers will pay more this year.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan farmers were hoping to see the Minister of Agriculture reorganized today, but sadly there doesn't seem to be a change. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how will the Premier's reorganization announcement today improve services and program delivery for the farm families of this province?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Mr. Speaker, there isn't any doubt that there are challenging times in the agricultural sector right now, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, we are here to support our farmers. We're here to support them, Mr. Speaker. Many, many of the producers are very, very supportive of the changes that have been made, Mr. Speaker. I talked to the livestock sector, Mr. Speaker. They're supportive of the changes in spot loss hail, Mr. Speaker. I talked to the livestock producers who are also supportive of the changes in the forage section within the crop insurance, Mr. Speaker.

The places that we can't get support from, Mr. Speaker, is from the federal government who have not belligerent, Mr. Speaker, and from those folks over there. That's where we've not got support, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plans for Saskatchewan's Future

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard the answers from the old team over the last week. We never got a single sensible answer, not a single indication that they were ready to move in a new direction.

Today we've heard from the new team, Mr. Speaker. Again not one single answer, not one single indication that this government is going to launch out in a new direction to turn this province around.

Mr. Speaker, do they have a plan to deal with municipal government? No. Do they have a plan to deal with VLT (video lottery terminal) addiction? No. Do they have a plan to address hospital waiting lists? No. Do they have a plan to create jobs? Do they have a plan to grow Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker, the NDP only knows how to make government bigger. They don't know how to make it smaller and make it work. Mr. Speaker, they hire ministers, they fire ministers. They hire civil servants and they fire civil servants. Mr. Speaker, there is no plan to address the real problems facing Saskatchewan. Why is the NDP and this government out of touch with the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in this House last week this government introduced and is implementing the leadership plan for the development of ethanol fuel for Canada. Last week in this House the government of this province showed leadership in taking on those who would sexually exploit our children on the streets.

Mr. Speaker, he talks about a plan. I agree. I agree. He has a plan. There is no doubt about that. And what's his plan? He goes to Calgary and says he's going to cut all the taxes. How much? \$1 billion worth — \$1 billion worth of tax cuts, he tells the people in Calgary.

He's got his MLAs standing up day after day, Mr. Speaker, saying we need more — more for crop insurance, more for snowmobile trails, more for municipal government, more for education, more for property tax, more for health. That's what he's got his MLAs saying every day, Mr. Speaker. And then they say, we know how we're going to pay for it. We're going to pay for it by privatizing, selling off the assets of a Crown corporation.

Mr. Speaker, they have a plan and it's a plan I reject, we reject, and the people of Saskatchewan reject.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Before orders of the day . . . (inaudible) . . . introduce a motion . . .

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested

to introduce a motion before orders of the day. Would the leader of the House, would he please advance the idea of the motion?

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — With respect of sitting hours, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

MOTIONS

Hours of Sitting

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That notwithstanding rule 3(4) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* that when this Assembly adjourns on Thursday, March 28, 2002, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 2, at 1:30 p.m.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to . . . Asking for leave to introduce some guests.

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature four people who are sitting in your gallery; Lynn Greaves, who is from the Saskatchewan Coalition for Tobacco Reduction; Carson Benallack, who is a university student who's accompanying her; Lisa Williams from the Heart and Stroke Foundation; and Colby Williams who's from the Canadian Cancer Society. And I'd like to welcome all of them here today. Thank you

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Melfort on his feet?

Mr. Gantefoer: — Leave to welcome guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join with the minister in welcoming those people in the gallery that are particularly concerned with the tobacco legislation and the whole issue of smoking in the workplace.

I thank them very much for their input and counsel over the period of time and look forward to making sure that we do everything we can in this province to discourage young people from starting to smoke. And I thank them for their diligence and determination to make the Saskatchewan public safer because

of their efforts.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Yates: — Convert.

The Speaker: — No. 7 converted.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand up on behalf of an open and accountable government and table a response to question no. 8.

The Speaker: — Response to no. 8 is tabled.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased once again to stand on behalf of an open and accountable government and table a response to question no. 9.

The Speaker: — Response to no. 9 is tabled.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

Saskatchewan Transportation Company Passenger and Freight Services

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move today:

That this Assembly encourage the government to maintain STC passenger and freight services, resisting the call of some to eliminate this crucial economic and social lifeline to rural Saskatchewan communities.

Now at the outset of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to dedicate my comments to my father. Now I dedicate the comments to my father because my father was a 35-year gas serviceman with SaskPower.

Now in the middle of the 1980s he became an employee of SaskEnergy, after the 1986 election in which privatization was a low-ball issue, according to the government of the day. They dabbled around the edges of privatization but they didn't come out and really say to the public, you know, you vote for us; we're going to divide SaskPower into the gas and electric components and we're going to put energy onto the chopping block.

Now when we were kids, when we were young kids in the McCall household, we didn't really realize the kind of turmoil that was going on with my mother, my father around the fact that with a stroke of an ideological pen, the government of the day was throwing my father's livelihood — and by the extension, the well-being of our family — into severe doubt. What was going to become of us?

Now I dedicate it to my father because he recognized what had happened in his workplace and it confirmed in him the political

beliefs that he passed along to his children. Now he made a good wage and was able to get us . . . to provide us kids with access to post-secondary education and, you know, we were able to live a good standard of living. We had a good quality of life. And a lot of that had to do with the fact that my father was a gas serviceman with SaskPower.

Now in 1986, the election was about a number of things: we had Allan Blakeney versus Grant Devine and it's similar in some ways to what's going on today — the outcome of that election. You know the government of the day, they lowballed everything they had to say about privatization, and the real agenda came afterwards.

Now in the past couple of years around the Sask Party's position on privatization and on Crown corporations, we've seen a similar positioning, a similar amount of lowballing, obfuscation — it seems like they're hiding something. Now, Mr. Speaker, in the 1999 campaign, in the election platform of the Saskatchewan Party, their document, *The Way Up*, they said . . . Some called it the way out, and they wouldn't be far off.

Saskatchewan people are the shareholders of our Crown corporations. They must be consulted directly through provincial referendum on any specific proposal to sell any Crown utility.

Now in the 2001 policy resolution handbook of the same Saskatchewan Party, the policy has changed. It has gone on to say:

Privatization will be considered if it is demonstrated that continued government ownership is no longer in the best interest of the taxpayers.

(14:30)

Now that's a very interesting statement, Mr. Speaker. It certainly retreats from the openness to a public debate that a referendum would imply. But, you know, I think they hedged their position, Mr. Speaker, because they realize that in poll after poll after poll, the Crowns are very well supported by the people of this province.

So how do you fight that public support? How do you go counter that demonstrated public opinion? Well at least in a referendum, the other side, the side that supports public enterprise, that supports the jobs and the revenue and the positive impact that the Crowns have on our economy and on our society, at least they would have a chance to air their case.

Under this new, this new and unimproved Sask Party policy, we've got a situation where privatization will be considered if it is demonstrated that continued government ownership is no longer in the best interest of taxpayers.

Now we saw something of this, Mr. Speaker, in the 80s. We saw something of this when they operated the Crowns like a tent peg they were trying to drive into the ground. And, you know, in terms of stripping equity, in terms of mismanagement, in terms of things like, you know, today, we're talking about STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company). I'm sure this wasn't the policy of the government of the day, but one has to

think back to the scandal around the Eagle buses, the kind of mismanagement that that entailed.

So, Mr. Speaker, what are they trying to do with our Crowns? What would they do if they came to power? And, you know, given the kind of waffling that they are doing in their official party positioning, one has to judge what they say . . . one would have to take into serious account what they have to say when it's off the cuff, when they don't have to worry about fronting or trying to square their position against all this public support for the Crown. You'd have to go back to the leadership for some of the comments. You'd have to go back to their comments off the cuff to the press. You'd have to go back to some of the things they say in this place.

Now, the Leader of the Opposition on April 4, 1998 said the following:

I definitely support the sale of STC. It's been a money loser for the province. And I think when it comes to major Crowns like (Tel and Power), we need to consult the people. (But obviously that's not the case with STC).

So what does that mean, Mr. Speaker? I imagine it means open for business, time to sell off the bus company.

Now, in the same edition of *The Leader-Post*, we add more information from another member from that side, the member from Melfort-Tisdale. Where he said:

. . . he has to be convinced that a government agency can do anything more efficiently than a properly regulated, properly accountable private agency. He would privatize the Saskatchewan Transportation Company and SaskTel.

So two of their big players over there, Mr. Speaker.

Now we go to a comment by their House Leader, from *Hansard* in 1996. Now I'm sure you'll have no problem in me measuring the comments that he's made in his place, because he's a very thoughtful person, and he puts forward generally what he means.

And in 1996, June 19, the member from Cannington stated:

. . . privatize it and let them compete.

. . . I believe that way is to privatize it. If that's what they want to do, if they want to get in and compete against the commercial interests that are already there.

. . . I think it needs to be privatized.

So last night we had the member from Swift Current, the current critic for Crown corporations from the side opposite, waxing almost poetic on the reasonability of his party's platform, and how they were completely separate from anything that went before in this province over the past 60 years.

He talked about, you know, the socialist CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation), and by extension, the socialist Thatcher government. And then of course, that socialist NDP Allan Blakeney government that they like to rail against. But

then there was also that big government interventionist Grant Devine government.

Now while I would accord the member opposite a certain credibility in his observations given that he was deeply involved in the workings of that government, so he was well situated to take the stock of what they were up to, I'd have to disagree with him on his analysis, Mr. Speaker.

It was . . . In 1982 they fought this whole election on this idea of there's so much more you can be, we've just got to get government out of the way and let the private sector work its magic — work its magic, Mr. Speaker.

Now we had a similar election like that back in 1960 and 1964, where Ross Thatcher framed it in terms of free enterprise versus socialism. Now these are the same people . . .

An Hon. Member: — . . . 60 years of socialism.

Mr. McCall: — The 60 years of socialism my colleague from Regina South says. And, you know, he was as amazed as I was last night, to find out about this 60 years of unrelenting, unremitting socialism in this province. It was very interesting, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, if the Sask Party doesn't have the guts to come clean on their policy, and just state straight out . . . you know, it would be nice if they would state straight out what they're going to privatize, and what they're going to hide behind, you know, a commission . . . you know this idea that they're going to assess the Crowns on an individual manner. Who are they going to get to assess the Crowns, you know? Grant Devine?

You know, what . . . what good is trusting that particular policy, Mr. Speaker? So if they're going to be about privatizing the Crowns, why don't they just come right out and say it — say it. You know, everything must go, we're open for business, it's on the auction block, and let 'er rip. And we can fight you on that and we'll win with the people of this province. But if you want to hide behind . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I would just remind the member to direct all of his remarks through the Chair.

Mr. McCall: — Certainly, Mr. Speaker . . . for that. I'd just like to touch on some of the, the details of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company, Mr. Speaker, and the service that it provides the people of our province.

STC travels about 3 million miles a year, serving some 276 communities in Saskatchewan. You know, does Greyhound do that? Do the big private concerns that they're such fans of, do they do that? No. But do we do it to the exclusion of private concerns? We don't. We operate 28 different routes with a fleet of 39 coaches and vans, varying in size from 55 seats to 15 seats. We have 206 agents operating in rural Saskatchewan and maintaining passenger and express depots in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

At the end of the year 2000, there was a staff of 234 full- and part-time employees made up of 209 in-scope workers and 25 out-of-scope workers. As well, that year, the annual payroll was

\$8.2 million; the assets at the end of the year 2000 were \$18.2 million. And you know, Mr. Speaker, the numbers involved in that don't really convey the situation.

At the start of this, I dedicated my remarks in this debate to my father. Now there is a fellow who lives in my constituency, who drives bus for the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. He's got a lovely wife, two small young boys, and he provides a good living for that family as he provides a good service for his clients, the people that he drives to Yorkton and back to Regina.

And, you know, Mr. Speaker, it's . . . I think I know what goes through his head when he must open his paper to read that the Sask Party is calling for an end to the merry-go-round that is the money-losing STC, you know. Only to be brought to task . . . You know, it was interesting that SARM was here today. In 1998 when Herman . . . when the — pardon me, Mr. Speaker — when the Leader of the Opposition was talking about putting an end to the merry-go-round of money-losing that was the STC, that, that the then president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, he called them to task and he said, you know, I think he's all wet. I think that the people of rural Saskatchewan do value the service provided by STC. And I think that he ought to rethink his position. So that's where we get into this business of where they try to obfuscate their position, Mr. Speaker.

Now over the past three years the subsidy on the dollar that the . . . the subsidy per mile that Saskatchewan Transportation Company has been receiving — in 1998 they received a subsidy of 82 cents on the mile. Now in 1999 that subsidy reduced by . . . to 77 cents. And again in the year 2000 it reduced to 72 cents. Over the past three years, Mr. Speaker, they've cut discretionary spending by over 20 per cent.

They're doing a good job of running the service; they're getting the kids to Carrot River . . . or the carrots to Carrot River and the kids to Edam. And they're providing a valued service for the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I stand strongly in support of this motion and I would cede the floor to my seconder at this time.

The Speaker: — Would the member read the motion into the record, please?

Mr. McCall: — With thanks to the bellowing opposite:

That this Assembly encourage the government to maintain STC passenger and freight services, resisting the call of some to eliminate this crucial economic and social lifeline to rural Saskatchewan communities.

So moved, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is there a seconder for the motion? Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Ms. Jones: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to second the motion of the member from Regina Elphinstone because I believe that this is an important issue for members to debate and is certainly of significant interest to the voters and the people of Saskatchewan to know

where members of this House stand on this issue. So I think it's a timely debate and it's an important debate.

Mr. Speaker, recently the Crown Corporations Committee, of which I am a member, reviewed the annual reports of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company for the reporting years of 1998, '99, and 2000, and we had an opportunity at that time to have a look at the very good work that the Saskatchewan Transportation corporation has brought forward to that committee.

I know that the member from Elphinstone had stated some of these statistics but I think it's important now that it's a bit quieter in here to state them again. And that is that the Saskatchewan Transportation Company travels 3 million miles a year, serves some 276 communities in Saskatchewan, operate on 28 different routes with a fleet of 39 coaches and vans varying in size from 55 seats down to 15 seats. They have 206 agents operating in rural Saskatchewan and maintain passenger and express depots in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. At the end of 2000 they had a staff of 234 full- and part-time employees made up of 209 in-scope workers and 25 out-of-scope workers with, Mr. Speaker, an annual payroll of about \$8.2 million.

In my opinion, and I believe in the opinion of most people in this province, a payroll from any company that contributes \$8.2 million to the economy of this province is certainly a well-accepted enterprise anywhere.

(14:45)

Mr. Speaker, I want to move and say a little bit about the fact that many, many people in this province enjoy having the services of a bus, a public transportation system, available to all in many communities both large and small. And I certainly came from a border town and many times during university took the bus back and forth to Alsask. My sister still very frequently comes in to Saskatoon from Alsask in order to attend doctor's appointments and tend to other medical needs. My mother in her final years used that bus very often to come and visit me and to obtain services that she required in Saskatoon. And after my dad had passed away, she certainly had no other way of getting there other than to employ perhaps somebody from home care or another organization that might bring her in, which would I think have cost a lot more money than a simple bus ticket.

When my children were going to school and were able to go out and visit their grandparents and their aunts and uncles, it was very safe and easy to put them on a bus and have them go and spend some quality vacation time with other relatives.

So I think that I certainly have enjoyed the services of the transportation company and I think that many other people in this province are in the same position.

In addition to the passenger service, Mr. Speaker, the transportation company also operates a charter service and a freight service and those particular services have great potential to improve the revenue stream coming back to the people of Saskatchewan.

And if we go to the demographics, Mr. Speaker, you'll find, and not you necessarily but I think all people will find that we are experiencing population increases in the transportation company's three main customer groups which are seniors, Aboriginal and First Nations people, and young people. And certainly I think that the young and the old have already been spoken to by myself in my comments up and to this time.

I want now, Mr. Speaker, to go back to the notion that this is a very timely issue for us to be speaking to and reiterate some of the previous comments that were made in terms of where does the opposition stand on this issue. I think people have a right to know, the voters of this province are certainly anxious to know what their position is.

And in support of some of my arguments, I'd like to refer to a newspaper article which comes from April 21 of 1998, the Leader-Star News, wherein the Leader of the Opposition says:

During the leadership contest, I said we need to talk about privatization with the people of Saskatchewan. I said I think that there are some areas where they are probably ready to move fairly quickly. STC for example. I don't think you'd have to talk very long with the people of Saskatchewan to get them to sell STC.

So that was in 1998, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And again in 1998, in April of the same year, we have another quote from the Leader of the Opposition. He says:

I definitely support the sale of STC. It's been a money loser for the province. And I think when it comes to major Crowns . . . (this has been a money loser for the province).

Mr. — no, can't say that — the member from Melfort-Tisdale says that he has to be convinced that a government agency can do anything more efficiently than a properly regulated, properly accountable private agency. He would privatize the Saskatchewan Transportation Company and SaskTel, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He's really on a roll. That's for sure.

Now yesterday we heard the member from Swift Current referring to "the ever-intrusive family of Crown corporations." So I think it's fairly clear what his opinion is on the Crown corporations, and certainly I've had an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of Crown corporations with the member from Swift Current quite regularly in another format.

But we have a conflicting view from the member from Wood River who in that Crown Corporations meeting that I was referring to earlier, asked the officials who were presenting to us, to revisit their decision to cut the service to Willow Bunch.

Now that was made in 1993, mind you. But I would ask if you can imagine, or if anyone in this House can imagine asking a private corporation to revisit their decision to cut service to anywhere.

So I just don't believe that that type of service would be extended if it were not done by Saskatchewan Transportation Company.

I believe that the response . . . I know that the response to the member from Wood River was yes, we will have another look at that. So certainly that would not happen with a private corporation, but it does fit in very nicely in with the mandate of the corporation and that is to provide good service to the people of Saskatchewan at the most reasonable rates possible.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my time is running short. This seems to go very quickly, but I do want to outline some facts about what would happen if the Crowns were privatized, and in particular the STC.

There is certainly no guarantee that private companies would maintain existing service levels. When maximum profit is the only objective, privatized companies would not keep their head offices in Saskatchewan, maintain staff in rural offices, provide bus services to people.

And so I simply, Mr. Speaker, want to close by saying that the opposition owes it to the people of Saskatchewan to let us know where they stand because they're all over the map.

I'm happy to second the motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter this debate on the motion put forward by my colleague, the member for Regina Elphinstone.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just at the outset, if I can comment a little bit on the last few remarks by the member for Saskatoon Meewasin. I think the corporate head offices and the excellent staff at the head offices of both PCS (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.) and Cameco, I think they'll be interested to discover that she doesn't really count them in terms of her own hometown as head office staff and as head offices of companies that were formerly in the public sector but that are in the private sector.

And while we're on the topic of head offices, Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me just point out for those members that the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . well, the Economic Development minister just asked the question, he said, where is Saskoil?

And here is the answer. When Saskoil was privatized by a previous government, the government retained, the government retained as they retain today with Cameco and PCS, they retained something called the golden chair legislation. And the golden chair legislation ensures that notwithstanding the ownership structure of that former Crown, the head office would stay.

So the only way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for those head office jobs to leave for Calgary is if the government of the day amended that legislation or the regulations. And guess who was the government of the day? The NDP, Mr. Speaker. That's who let Saskoil go, that's who bowed to their wishes in terms of that piece of legislation. And today a lot of those jobs are in Calgary. And that's who you have to thank, right over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . well, the

Economic Development minister said, do you believe this guy? And I can assure him, and the member for Elphinstone is shaking his head, I can assure them they can believe us because that's exactly the case. That's exactly the case.

There had to be some changes for Saskoil to leave. There had to be some. And they have been the only party in power for 10 years.

So the Minister of Economic Development wants to change the subject. I understand that he wants to talk about the bus company. So we'd be happy to talk about the bus company.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the spirit . . . I think — I don't want to put words in the member for Elphinstone's mouth — but I think the spirit of his motion is something that we agree with. He wants to ensure that their so sort of transportation services, passenger and freight to rural Saskatchewan.

Well we would make the point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that he is probably . . . this motion that he's forwarded to the Assembly today visits a little bit of disrespect to the many, many private sector operators across the province today that are doing this kind of service already.

You see, the members opposite would have us believe that STC is the only company out there providing passenger and freight service to rural Saskatchewan, when the truth, when the truth of the matter is, is that STC has abandoned many routes under their government, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Under the NDP, they have abandoned many routes in the province, and those routes are being picked up by the private sector.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they have a doubt of it, if they have a doubt of it, I want to refer them to the annual report for STC in 1997. Maybe they'd be interested to hear the remarks of the then chairman of the board, a fellow by the name of Dwain Lingenfelter. Dwain Lingenfelter who was that member's predecessor in Regina Elphinstone, in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

At the time, he was in the cabinet of the NDP but he was also chairman of the Board of STC. And here's what his statement from the 1997 annual report, that the chairman of the Board, Dwain Lingenfelter, says as follows, and I quote:

Expenditure problems had been addressed (speaking of years previous) had been addressed by eliminating bus service, by eliminating bus service on the least cost-effective routes.

So here we have one of the patron saints of the Crown corporations, the former deputy premier, the former NDP minister for the Crowns, and the former chairman of the Board of CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) saying that profit is king. And because some routes to rural Saskatchewan were unprofitable, STC would yank those routes. They would walk away from those routes. And that's what happened.

In fact, you know, before the member from Elphinstone drafted this little motion, he may have wanted to do a little research and discover that it is the NDP government, his own party, that has

dropped 700,000 miles from some of its routes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on that government's watch — on the NDP government's watch.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we certainly support the notion that we need to have this kind of service out to rural Saskatchewan and across the province. But we are not ideologically hidebound as members opposite are, believing, believing only that the government can supply the service. That's what they believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker — that the only agency that can deliver this sort of service is the government, is the state. That's what they believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The reality is where the state has let down rural Saskatchewan, where the state has abandoned rural routes, it's the private sector, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's picked those routes up and is operating quite successfully. The one closest to home for me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is a route from Leader to Swift Current. And I think the Crown corporation, STC, dropped that particular route I think about 20 years ago, I'm not sure of the date.

And you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? A couple of people in that community of Leader got together and said, I think we can do this, and maybe where STC couldn't make any money, maybe we could and still provide the service. And my understanding is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that 20 years later, six days a week, a 14-passenger, comfortable van goes down Highway 32 pulling a freight trailer and offering service to the people of Leader and Highway 32 all along the way. Six days a week to Swift Current and back, taking people to their medical appointments, taking parts to the different agriculture implements, hauling freight between those communities.

And you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know what? That service used to be provided by their family of Crown corporations — by STC. But STC apparently abandoned that route, walked away from it, and the private sector filled the holes.

So what we have said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that we need to take a look at this whole corporation. And where there are other ways to deliver this service, where there are businesses and communities, or maybe community-based organizations that want to get involved in providing this service and operating this business, we need to be open to that. We need to do that (a) to provide service; and (b) to save the taxpayers money, frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we need a government that is open to those sorts of suggestions, wanting to provide the service in rural Saskatchewan, but in . . . but stating unequivocally that it doesn't believe that government is the only way to do that. Because it's folly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's not happening right now in the province of Saskatchewan and it needn't happen in the future.

Fuller Bus Lines runs a bus from Alida to Regina three times a week. That route was probably once serviced by a Crown corporation or by a large company. They walked away, they walked away from that route, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the private sector filled the spot — the evil private sector that the government decries, the government seems to oppose at every

turn.

(15:00)

And they're looking to do more, Mr. Deputy Speaker, probably very wary of the thought they . . . of the notion they may be competing with their own government through STC.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have an amendment to the motion. And the amendment we don't believe guts the spirit of the member's motion at all. We believe it rather strengthens it.

An Hon. Member: — Enhances it.

Mr. Wall: — Right. We believe it enhances it. Because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it leaves this whole question open to the fact that small-business men and women, communities across the province, can also provide this service and provide it very effectively. They're very proud of the service they provide on the Fuller Bus Lines, and on the bus between Leader and Swift Current, and there's countless ones across the province. There's one in the Outlook area that we got a call from who are upset that this government seemed to be writing off their ability to provide service as well as anyone else.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we would . . . I would move the following motion, seconded by my colleague, the member for Lloydminster:

That all the words after government be deleted and the following substituted therefore:

to establish the economic and regulatory environment to ensure passenger and freight services are maintained for rural and urban Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It indeed was a pleasure to second that particular amendment because I really believe — as the member from Swift Current has pointed out — that the service that is provided in this province up to this time by STC primarily, but the service that is provided and can be provided in this province, can be done so most adequately and efficiently if you put the conditions and the standards in place that will allow people to take advantage of this opportunity.

Now at one time STC fulfilled a role in this province that wasn't being filled, and I think it has over the years served that purpose pretty well. It has delivered passenger service to rural communities that was not on major lines. It has offered parcel service, express service, freight service. It was in fact a bit of a lifeline to many rural areas that didn't have access to any other public form of transportation.

But that service, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has come at quite a cost. When I looked at the annual reports over the last period of time, that cost is fairly significant. It can range anywhere up to 3 — maybe up to \$5 million. There is an expense-over-revenue differential of nearly \$3 million in operating, and very often a

grant of \$2 million is presented to that corporation in order to keep it operating.

That cost is pretty significant, and that cost has to be weighed against the benefits that, in fact, was the services that were supplied to that different region throughout the province.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the province is changing, the demographics are changing. We're losing people from the rural into the urban communities; we're losing people from the province, generally out of the provincial boundaries.

So the shrinking routes that my colleague talked about is a fact of a changing demographics in this province.

In the 1995 annual report, way back then, they talked about reducing the over-road travel by about 300,000 miles annually. So to come to grips with that, the requirement for STC, or the bussing in this province has changed. Now that service that was almost a monopoly at one time, can be replaced, and I believe should be replaced. There is a role for the government, and the role of the government should be to put those conditions that I talked about, put the regulations in place. But those conditions and regulations should apply to all. They should apply to anyone who wants to take advantage of that particular opportunity so that they can get into that business.

The role of government should not be picking the winners, should not be picking the losers in this case. They should be allowing full competition, including the STC operation if they can fulfill the mandate in those particular conditions.

What we want to encourage . . . We want to encourage economic development. We want to encourage private investment because it is the investment that is the lifeblood of any business in Saskatchewan. And we want to encourage that investment. We want to keep that activity in this province growing. And without investment, and I'm talking about private investment, not investment from the taxpayers of Saskatchewan so that they can compete against it, I'm talking about outside investment that is going to drive the business that will create these opportunities. And these opportunities will be for opportunities in the public bussing that we still require in this province.

If those right conditions are in place and the right signal is there, maybe, just maybe, we can attract those kind of . . . that kind of investment and attract independent bus lines to come into this province. We have some examples already that are operating in the province and they're supplying passenger service, they're supplying express service — courier service even.

Maybe we can attract kinds of business, and maybe we can look at STC in a different way too. Not only independent bus lines, but maybe we need — besides the private investment — maybe we need to look at employee ownership, maybe we need to look at community commitment through partnerships.

So what does the government ownership of the STC as provided was a central service, but I think as I mentioned, we can provide these services in other ways.

If there were private investment in the bussing service, and including all of the ways of doing it, including the STC system, we would have the same services, we would have the same employment opportunities that my colleagues have talked about, and I think more. We would still have the same benefits. We'd still have the same services. But in addition, we would have the regional benefits and we'd have local benefits; we'd have additional employment, and we'd have both private and corporate taxpayers contributing to this province. And that is pretty significant in terms of economic development and growth.

What we . . . the current system of business with the STC as the main government player, I don't believe, is providing the scheduling and service in a significant way without a cost. That cost, in my view, has to be looked at. This cost of subsidizing the . . . by taxpayers' money . . . and it's not the government money, it's taxpayers' money. Very often the government forgets that little fact.

Are we getting the best return on that investment for 3 to \$5 million? That investment is an annual investment.

Are these . . . is there other ways that we might be able to utilize that investment to create something that's even better than we have now? Maybe we should be able . . . we should be considering things like tax incentives put in place for anybody that wants to take advantage of this opportunity. Maybe we should be talking about tax credits for development in the transportation system. Maybe should be short-term loan guarantees for viable operators. Maybe that's the way that we should be contributing from a government point of view to making a better system than we have operating now.

As I said earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this investment is the key to the economic growth and the key to entrepreneurial success and we have to do whatever we can, whatever it takes, to attract this growth and opportunity. We cannot afford to chase it away.

So what we need to do is to re-evaluate the dollars that we're spending right now on the STC and the monopoly bussing. We should try to attract anyone who might want to take advantage of this opportunity and this opportunity should be open to all — not just a winner picked by this particular government.

We have to keep in sight the objective of what we want to achieve in this bussing system. We want to be able to deliver the best system that we can with the best service that we can to the people that need it the most. We have to present it in the most efficient way that we need to deliver that service to all of our regions. It should be a benefit — an economic benefit — to both rural and urban, and it should be vital, and it should be growing.

That's the direction that we need to go with our policy, not only on this particular Crown, but certainly on SPC (Saskatchewan Power Corporation) in particular. We have to make sure that the engine that's driving the economy behind this particular function is in fact driven by opportunity for all to put the proper incentives in place, not to become the owner and the person . . . or the entity that picks the winner and loser. Open it up. Leave the opportunity there for everyone, including a changed STC, and I believe that we have a much better system, and that's why

I second and support the amendment to that motion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well to quote a phrase: well, well, well, well, well. We have a resolution that was put before the Assembly where we were urging the government to maintain STC passenger and freight services resisting the call to some to eliminate this crucial economic and social lifeline to rural Saskatchewan communities. And what do the members of the opposition put on the public record?

No reference to STC. No reference to the social lifeline to rural communities. What they want to do is establish an economic and regulatory environment to ensure passenger and freight services are maintained for rural and urban Saskatchewan. What they want to do, Mr. Speaker, is eliminate — eliminate the Saskatchewan Transportation Company.

And I can assure all members that the 200-plus workers at STC will be most interested to know that the members of the opposition party who want to be the next government in Saskatchewan, I'm sure that all of the people, the over 300,000 people that use Saskatchewan Transportation Company to get to and from services in this province, particularly rural Saskatchewan, will want to know that the members opposite want to get rid of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. And I'm sure that every farmer in this province and every small-business person in this province will be interested to know that the members opposite want to get rid of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company.

Now the members opposite say I'm out of touch. I just want to say this. I have been all over Saskatchewan for the last 16 years and have I heard anybody other than the members of the opposition call for the privatization or the elimination of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company? I can tell you, I can count on my one little finger and I got lots left over to tell them that I haven't had anybody say that we should get rid of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. So those members are out of touch, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say this about the members of the opposition. They like to think that they're the government-in-waiting. They like to tell us that they believe in public ownership; that they're not going to do anything to Saskatchewan's Crown corporations.

(15:15)

Well let me say this, the cat is out of the bag. We sat in Crown Corporations Committee in January when we talked about the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. And we put on the record that this Standing Committee on Crown Corporations wanted to continue its support for STC in the province of Saskatchewan. And what did the member from Swift Current do? He moved an amendment because he didn't want to be ideological; that he thought that not only would we have the Saskatchewan Transportation Company but we would have private enterprise in the province of Saskatchewan. But he didn't want to put on the record that the standing committee would continue to support STC, so he moved an amendment but

he didn't want to be ideological.

When we moved an amendment . . . I think the people of the province need to know where that member and every member of the opposition stands on this important public service that provides services to people living in rural Saskatchewan — senior citizens, young people, and students — as well as others. People need to know.

And what did that member do? He didn't want to support STC. Well now today we know. They have a motion, an amendment to the motion, and there is absolutely no reference to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company — not one reference.

What they want to do is set up a regulatory environment. Now, let's talk about a regulatory environment *à la* Saskatchewan Party style.

This is the government that says we will get rid of STC and we will put in place regulations to ensure that there is private business that's going to provide this kind of service. But this is the government . . . If you look at what they had to say last year when our party, our coalition government, put in place — put in place regulatory officials in the Department of SERM (Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management) to deal with water, into the Department of Health to deal with the provincial lab and water; when we put good social workers into the Department of Social Services, when we put highways workers onto the roads and byways of Saskatchewan, what did they have to say? Get rid of those 571 front line workers that provide important public services to the province of Saskatchewan. They said get rid of it.

Well, Mr. Speaker . . . well, Mr. Speaker, the gig is up. They don't support STC. No one is calling for its privatization. The only group of citizens in this province that are calling for privatization of STC are the members opposite. And we intend to tell the people of Saskatchewan very clearly where they stand on growing this province.

Where they stand is cutting taxes, cutting civil servants, but they want to regulate, and getting rid of our Crown corporations. And somehow this miracle plan is going to grow Saskatchewan. Well I think the only thing that needs to be cut is the number of Saskatchewan Party members at the legislature, that sit in this legislature.

They don't represent the people or they would not be moving this amendment. If they represented the people they would not be moving an amendment that deletes any reference to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. What they want to do is set up a regulatory environment. And we know very well that it's their intention to cut the number of civil servants in this province, and there will be no regulation in the province — none whatsoever.

Well, Mr. Speaker . . .

An Hon. Member: — Do they say STC is part of that regulatory thing?

Ms. Atkinson: — They don't say that. They don't say STC is going to be part of the regulatory environment. The member

from Swift Current, in Crown Corporations Committee, indicated to us that he thought that the roads of Saskatchewan should be joint running rights. He basically proposed that perhaps STC could run up and down the road between Swift Current and Regina.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're not interested in STC becoming . . . not interested in becoming the CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) or the CNR (Canadian National Railways) of Saskatchewan.

And I just want to remind the members opposite that currently STC operates 28 routes in our province, and they say too many. Well let's think about that. Too many. Which routes do you want to get rid of? Because I'm sure your rural citizens will want to hear about that. Those 38 coaches range in size from 15 seats to 55 seats. It travels over 3 million miles, serving 275 communities.

The other thing that we need to understand is that STC . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. Order. I understand private members' days are fairly boisterous, but I am having difficulty hearing the member for Saskatoon Nutana. So please come to order.

Ms. Atkinson: — Now the member from Wood River, the member who likes to call the members on this side of the House commies and socialists and reds — every red-baiting name that you can use . . . and I would say to the member opposite, get out of the 1950s. Most of us were born later than that.

What I would say is this, that STC has partnerships with 13 private operators; they're either passenger or freight service and in some cases they're both. And you know what? STC serves, in co-operation with those 13 private operators, over 400 communities in the province.

Now those members opposite say, let's get rid of those lines. And I say to the members opposite, which lines do you want to get rid of? Those members opposite say they don't like the idea that the people of the province subsidize, provide a grant, to STC in the amount of \$4 million to support passenger services.

But I would say to the members opposite that if you live in urban Saskatchewan, municipalities subsidize public transportation. And I believe that people living outside of our major centres in rural Saskatchewan need to have access to public transportation. Those members don't.

And I'm very pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have put it on the record they want to regulate bus services outside of the major centres and they want to privatize STC. And we won't let them do it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be able to stand and enter into the debate on STC. And as the constituency of Shellbrook-Spiritwood, STC and bus line service in my constituency is very, very important to people, and as the member for Saskatoon Nutana said, especially to the farming community.

I would also, I would also like comment to the member from Saskatoon Nutana, in her comments, and state that why is that member so against private enterprise? Why is that side so against private enterprise? Why does everything have to be unionized, government controlled?

The best part of Saskatchewan is rural Saskatchewan, and they do things different. They do things privately — private business. Why is government always got to be in the face of these people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in regards to STC, our bus service, 30 years ago we had a gentleman that owned a bus service. His name was Albert Bouchard. He owned a service called Crossland Coachways. He delivered a service from Chitek Lake down through Spiritwood, through Shellbrook and into Prince Albert. And members, I would like to say that this man was so efficient you could set his clock by his timing of his bus service. That's how efficient he . . . efficiency he was as a private enterpriser in this province of Saskatchewan. After 30 years of being in this business, he turned this business over to his son, Dennis Bouchard.

Dennis Bouchard wanted to expand his business a little bit so he moved to Meadow Lake, and I know the member from Meadow Lake across from me knows of this situation. Now Mr. Bouchard runs a service now from Meadow Lake down through Glaslyn, Spiritwood, Shellbrook, into Prince Albert, then on to Saskatoon. He does that three times a week. He runs the other side . . . or the other route which is Meadow Lake, Green Lake, Big River, Debden, Canwood, Shellbrook, P.A. (Prince Albert), and into Shellbrook. Private enterpriser, Mr. Deputy Speaker, private enterpriser.

The reason he does well: he does it more efficiency; he does it cheaper. And the problem is now, is STC is giving him the boot. They don't want him in the business of being in bus service. They don't want him to give service to the rural area of Shellbrook-Spiritwood constituency. The reason they don't want him in there is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because he is private. And the member from Saskatoon Nutana stood up and said, we don't need private enterprise. We want it government controlled.

Well that's what's wrong with Saskatchewan. We've got so much government control, there's no room left for people to be free enterprisers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member, Dennis Bouchard, who operates this bus service, of late has been kicked out of . . . (inaudible) . . . service and operating out of the bus depot at Prince Albert. He's been also kicked out of Saskatoon. Why? He cannot use that bus service to interline.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know this for a fact because as a member of Shellbrook-Spiritwood and a businessman . . . And I hesitate to say it to all the members on that side: how many members on that side have ever been in business for yourself? Exactly. One hand goes up — one hand goes up. On this side here, everybody's in private business.

So, Mr. Speaker, this gentleman is kicked out of Saskatoon and P.A. They're saying the reason he is kicked out is because he owes STC money. Well that's a good example to kick a person out. The problem is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, STC owe him a tonne of money — a whole lot more than what he owes STC, but he's still kicked out. He's totally on his own.

As a individual and a businessman, if I order a part from Saskatoon, or let's say Regina, or anywhere, and I want it shipped bus — because to me as a businessman in the town of Spiritwood I relied on the bus service — that part came to Prince Albert and that's where it stops. Because Mr. Bouchard could not interline with Prince Albert to get that part to me.

So do you know what I had to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I had to go and pick it up myself. And STC give a great service, but not to the people of Shellbrook-Spiritwood.

Mr. Crossland . . . or Mr. Bouchard, who owns Crossland Coachways, gives us service, but STC will not interline with him. That's the problem. The reason he won't interline — because he is private. And in your way of doing business there is no room for private enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, in this constituency of Shellbrook-Spiritwood the farmers depend on the bus service. But how do they get the parts there? So what they've had to do, Mr. Speaker, is depending on other services which cost them two or three times more. It's always a cost to the farmers or the people in this constituency.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, why is he so against the member from Meadow Lake . . . or the, pardon me, not the member, the person from Meadow Lake who owns Crossland Coachways? Why is he so against him and stopping him from interlining to give the service to my constituency? That's the only question I'm asking and he's asking. And do you know what kind of answers he's getting — absolutely none. And we the citizens of the Shellbrook-Spiritwood constituency have to put up with this crap. And it's like this in other centres all over Saskatchewan.

And then they stand up and they say, we want to get rid of STC. No we don't want to get rid of STC. We want it to change so it gives better service to the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order, order. Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I rise on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a guide of conduct for members engaging in debate in the House that is intended to keep debate at a certain level that would be consistent, I think, with civility and reasonable and respectful comment.

And I notice, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in his debate the hon. member uses the word crap, which I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, falls in the category of words that are not permissible in parliamentary debate.

And I would ask that you would ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark and apologize to the House and then continue his debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — I invite the hon. member to withdraw the remark and apologize to the House.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will scrap crap and I will use the word garbage then.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I don't think that quite qualifies as a withdraw and apologize. So I recognize the member for Shellbrook-Spiritwood to withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Allchurch: — I will withdraw the comments using the word crap, and apologize.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I just want to bring closing remarks in regard to a member from Meadow . . . a person from Meadow Lake who runs a private service in the province of Saskatchewan and goes through my constituency, but something has to be changed to allow this person to give better service to my constituency, who solely depends upon the bus service.

And that's why I moved their . . . my . . . that's why we moved an amendment and I support that amendment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Is there further speakers that wanted to address the motion? Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions for the member from Swift Current.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. We are still in the debate portion and there is 40 seconds left. The 10-minute Q & A (question and answer) will begin in about 36 seconds.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to enter into this debate. And the question that I put before the House in speculation, Mr. Speaker, is we've had this discussion once in other forums, Mr. Speaker, with the members opposite, and we put forward a motion asking them to support the continued operation of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company in rural Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't vote on that motion.

Now the motion passed, Mr. Speaker, because the government members voted in favour of it, but the members in opposition . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. The member's time has expired. We will now enter the 10-minute Q & A portion.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one question for the member from Regina Elphinstone. Do you know in the

last 10 years . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. All the comments to the Chair and through the Chair.

Mr. Brkich: — Question is to the Speaker, through the Speaker to the member of Regina Elphinstone. How many kilometres in the last 10 years have STC abandoned and how many routes? If you could answer that.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, you know, we've got a company here that's striving for efficiency and we've got an opposition here that likes to bellow away . . . You know, they ask a question, but they don't want to wait for the answer. It's just, you know, bellow, bellow, bellow. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Transportation Company has in fact abandoned quite a fair amount of kilometres in terms of routes that they serve.

But I ask you this: it's not a question so much of how many routes would STC abandon — because they maintain a good balance between value for service and getting out to as many communities as they can — and at the same time they have to put up with the bellowing from the member from Wood River about how they lose \$3 million a year, Mr. Speaker. Now they've been bringing that figure down. They've been doing a good job of managing but it's still a money-losing proposition to service those communities.

So the question isn't so much how many have been abandoned. It's, you know, how much would they abandon?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the member from Swift Current, I'd like to ask the member, are there any legislative provisions preventing any bus company from operating any route in the province of Saskatchewan? And if there isn't, could he explain to me why today there aren't private operators taking up those areas that may have at one time had other private operators or perhaps service by STC? And are those operators, when they want to pick up a route, are they not in fact asking for subsidy from the Saskatchewan Transportation Company?

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member should know and members of the House should know that there are a number of private operators operating in the province of Saskatchewan. That's what I focused on in my remarks.

And why are they operating in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because that government, that NDP government abandoned rural routes. They walked away from rural routes over the last 10 years. We quoted to them from their own former deputy premier, Mr. Lingenfelter, who quite clearly said, as chairman of the board, that STC was abandoning routes.

Yes, private sector operators are providing that service in those areas, and we ought to respect them and we ought to create the kind of environment that would allow that sort of thing to continue to happen. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon.

member from Saskatoon Nutana. Mr. Speaker, I take it that the bus routes that they abandoned lost money from the last question that I asked.

And one of the routes was Outlook. But there is a private entrepreneur that picked that up — I think it's called Larson and Company. What I want to know is by the move of the motion that will they reinstate some of these lines that were abandoned due because they were losing money?

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think what the motion says is that we want to encourage the government to maintain STC passenger and freight services, resisting the call of some to eliminate this crucial economic and social lifeline to rural Saskatchewan communities.

The point I want to make is that STC has a number of depots in the province that private operators have access to. They can . . . and the other point I wanted to make is that STC has linkages with private operators in order to transport passengers and freight in the province of Saskatchewan.

So I think the member is trying to indicate that there are routes that are being abandoned. And, Mr. Speaker, the officials clearly said that STC is looking at those lines where they aren't able to legitimately continue to operate and there's huge public subsidies. That will continue. But that doesn't mean we get rid of STC.

While I'm on my feet, I have a question for the members. I have a question to the member from Lloydminster. And he indicated that there are people that are interested in seeing STC privatized in the province of Saskatchewan and that government would simply go to a regulatory environment. I indicated in my 16 years in the House, I've never heard of anyone call for the privatization of STC except for the members opposite.

Can you tell me how many people . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. All comments to the Chair and through the Chair.

Ms. Atkinson: — . . . tell me how many members . . . how many people in his constituency have called for the privatization of STC and government to move in as a regulator?

Mr. Wakefield: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my remarks, I tried to focus on what we needed to do in order to attract a growing economy and a growing interest in bus systems. What I said was that STC was part of the solution but it has to be looked at under the same regulations as we have to look at other opportunities, and that is to put the right conditions and the right signals in place and have them apply to all, not just pick a winner of STC.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is for the member from Regina Elphinstone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, why won't the bus stations of Prince Albert and Saskatoon not interline with Crossland Coachways of Meadow Lake?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, one of the things about this situation is that we're trying to come to a mutually beneficial arrangement and to date — to date, Mr. Speaker — we've already got a situation where you know if it was STC by itself they'd be serving 275 communities. By partnering, partnering with the private sector — you know something that we support, that we think is great — by partnering with the private sector they're . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I'm unable to hear the member for Regina Elphinstone.

Mr. McCall: — By partnering with the private sector, Mr. Speaker, they're able to serve a grand total of 400 communities. Now that's tremendous co-operation, Mr. Speaker, and I guess where we differ from them is that our situation, our view has room in it for private and public; theirs has room for no STC whatsoever.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you to the member for Regina Elphinstone. Will that member indicate to the Assembly, please, if the NDP — the NDP, this government — promises, pledges by the spirit of their motion, to never abandon another rural route of STC as long as they're in office.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to page through here to get the mission statement of the corporation here which I think is quite instructive, and sadly I am not able to find it at this moment.

Okay, Mr. Speaker, I think the mission statement of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company says it very well when it states:

STC will continue to provide the widest possible level of passenger bus service in the province of Saskatchewan. In doing so, it will take whatever steps are necessary to contain expenditures, such that the subsidy required from its stakeholders can be held to a minimum.

And judging by the bellowing from the member of Wood River, Mr. Speaker, I think they would agree.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, to the member from Swift Current, I would like to ask the member opposite if the members of Saskatchewan Party will support the continued operation of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company in rural Saskatchewan?

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll tell the member through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the Saskatchewan Party will support . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Sorry, the member's time has expired and the . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. The seventy-five minute debate has expired. Order. Would the House please come to order? Thank you.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Reaction to September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I was enjoying the debate from the last motion. But this motion that we put forward on private members' day has a more serious tone and I think is certainly an issue that should be discussed here in the legislature because this is the first time, Mr. Speaker, that this House has come together since the terrible terrorist attack on September 11 of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the world has not been the same since September 11 of last year, and I think each of us can recall how we heard the shocking and terrible news of the two attacks on the World Trade towers in the United States, plus the other two incidents which took so many thousands of innocent lives.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the morning very well. I happened to be at home — it was one of those rare mornings when I was at home — and I was actually waiting for a call from a reporter from *The Leader-Post*. Colleen Silverthorn was to call me at 9 o'clock. And, Mr. Speaker, the phone didn't ring and I was, I believe, getting my e-mail and so I switched over to the news and saw the headlines that indicated that this terrible attack had occurred.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few times in life when you recognize that an incident has happened, a world event has occurred that will never leave us exactly the same as we were prior to that event occurring. September 11 was definitely one of those events, even though we're many thousands of miles away from where the horrific events took place in the United States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the outpouring of sympathy around the world was one that in spite of the horror . . . horrific actions that occurred caused one to have hope and some confidence that people still sense the need for justice, the need for right and wrong — to recognize what is right and wrong — the need to help our fellow man and woman when they are in trouble.

Mr. Speaker, even countries and even people with cool relations towards the United States recognized the horrificity of this activity and condemned the actions.

Mr. Speaker, of course those of us in this country who share many common principles with United States were certainly horrified at the terrible event that occurred.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people rallied in a very positive way. People offered to help; money was raised. People offered to go to New York City to help clean up the mess. People, people responded with moral support. I believe people with religious faith responded in prayer. And, Mr. Speaker, there was an outpouring of goodwill towards those who were wronged by the actions of a few terrorists back on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I was very fortunate to be able to attend the special service in Saskatoon, along with mayor of Saskatoon, some of my colleagues here from the legislature, leaders in the city of Saskatoon. The condolence book that the province provided was there for Saskatchewan citizens to sign. And I felt it a real privilege to join with hundreds of other people that morning in Saskatoon and sign a book that would express our deep sympathy and concern for the victims of that, of that action back on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the government for making those books available. But I also want to thank my colleagues, my fellow MLAs in the opposition, for also making condolence books available at a riding level. And we wondered, you know, how many people would be interested in signing these condolence books, but the response was an outpouring of concern and interest that surprised even me. And I know . . . and I have great, great belief in the responsible reaction of Saskatchewan people in circumstances like these.

Mr. Speaker, I think of the books that I was able to provide in the Rosetown-Biggan constituency. First of all, I was prepared to provide them, and we had funeral homes providing the books saying can we provide you with the books that would be passed through the community so these signatures could be received.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these books were being signed at volleyball tournaments. They were being signed Sunday morning in worship services amongst people of many different faiths. Mr. Speaker, seniors' groups were asking for these condolence books. And I believe at last . . . the final tally was about 1,500 people from the ridings represented by Saskatchewan Party MLAs had signed the condolence books.

It was more than just signatures though, Mr. Speaker. There were many comments in the books, comments of support, and a lot of artwork, particularly by children in this province.

And I talked in my opening comments about the fact that this event we knew would change our world forever, much of it in a negative way.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was also some positive responses. We saw the artwork of children with pictures of themselves reaching out to the children of victims who had lost parents in the World Trade tower, expressions of respect for that loss, expressions of sympathy, offering of prayers and best wishes, and offers of practical help to the bereaved who had lost loved ones.

I noticed from the children particularly, a concern about other children who had lost their parents. And that was extremely touching and certainly bodes well for the future of our province — knowing that we have children that actually care and understand the hurt and tragedy that surrounds actions of violence, such as occurred on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, the struggle continues against terrorism but the response must be measured and must be effective. I think of the different way that people responded. I talked about the way that children responded. I talked about the way the provincial government responded; the way the official opposition responded.

I have to also relay to my colleagues in the legislature the way one of our staff people at the caucus office here in the legislature responded. As he looked out at the front of the legislature after a couple of days and realizing that there was no American flag hanging outside in the way that we usually would show respect or recognition in such a circumstance. He was able to go and find an old American flag that I guess he had, or knew where it was. And he came in here one evening and he hung it out a window on the north side just to show that we in Saskatchewan cared. And a lot of positive comments from . . . I imagine from many of my colleagues here in the room. And many of the staff here at the legislature expressed appreciation for that.

And he thought after two or three days, well you know, really I just sort of hung it out there; I probably should go and bring the flag back in. As he came in here one evening and the . . . one of the commissioners was saying, you know, what brings you to the legislature this late at night? And he said, oh I was just thinking I should probably retrieve that flag. And the commissioner said, you know, why don't you just leave it a little bit longer? I think it's very appropriate that that flag is hanging outside the window of the legislature to show that we do care.

I mean, we certainly . . . we are Canada and they are the United States, and we have our agreements . . . and we have agreements and we have our disagreements. But these kinds of incidents transcend beyond those types of concerns. And that expression was appreciated by many, many people.

That being said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion that we are presenting this afternoon in recognition of that horrific event commits to our continued struggle against terrorism in all of its ugly forms. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it states our support for the United States and its allies in its fight against terrorism. And it particularly supports Canadian troops who are involved in the actions against terrorism here in North America and also the efforts that are occurring over in Afghanistan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was looking at the commitment that Canada has made, and since that fateful day in September when we were able to harbour planes that had to make emergency landings, we have gone on to increase our commitment to actually sending some of our troops to try to restore law and order and good government to the land of Afghanistan.

And I understand that the third battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry battle group, has sent a task force built around the US (United States) Army's 187th brigade combat team. We have also sent a Canadian naval task group on station in the Arabian Sea. We also have a strategic airlift attachment comprising of one CC-150 Polaris long-range transport aircraft which is based in Germany. We have a long-range patrol detachment comprising of two CP-140 Aurora maritime patrol surveillance aircraft operating in the Arabian Gulf region. And we have a tactical airlift detachment comprising of three CC130 Hercules transport aircraft.

And while, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm not familiar with all the equipment and don't know all the capabilities that we have over there, I certainly do recognize that there are a number of committed Canadian men and women in the Armed Forces who

did not shrink for a second from their responsibility to help restore peace and order out of the chaos that occurred from the results of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States.

I know all members of this House, regardless of our differences, will come together in support for the Canadian troops that are doing their duty, doing it well, doing it with honour, and doing it, quite frankly, on our behalf.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, September 11 taught us all a lesson. Even though we're out here in Saskatchewan, far away from where we think the turmoil of the world occurs, I think we all recognized, when we turned our television on and saw those horrible sights, how vulnerable we all are.

Yes, the buildings in Saskatchewan were safe, but there were many connections between Saskatchewan people and those who lost loved ones or perhaps actually lost their lives in New York City particularly and now impacted by our involvement in trying to restore order and good government to the land of Afghanistan.

The world is a small community when you begin to look at it in the light of events like September 11. And we recognize how we all need to be diligent in upholding democracy, upholding a standard that requires that we expect our people to be living in a safe environment, free from the terror that was so evident at that time.

Mr. Speaker, terrorism is unacceptable. It's unacceptable, period. It doesn't matter whether the terrorist attack was inflicted on the United States or whether it was inflicted on some European country, Asian, African country, some island somewhere. Terrorism is an unacceptable form of violence. It accomplishes nothing. It does huge damage and hurts innocent people.

And so therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a great honour for me to present to the Assembly a motion which I am prepared to move, seconded by the hon. member from Wood River, and I would ask that all members join in supporting this motion which says:

That this Assembly expresses its condolences to all families of the victims of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, condemns all terrorist assaults, fully supports the military actions of the United States and its allies against terrorism, and unreservedly supports our Canadian troops engaged in this war.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased and honoured to be able to second the motion put forward by the Leader of the Official Opposition.

I also would like to express on behalf of our party, I'm sure all of the legislature, and people of Saskatchewan and even that of Canada, in expressing our sorrow and condolences to the families and victims of September 11th terrorist attack. The attack on the Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the aircraft that

crashed in the fields in Pennsylvania, there's a lot of victims and a lot of families that suffered because of this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I consider terrorism to be one of the most cowardly acts there is in the world. But along with cowards, there are heroes. And I applaud the many heroes that come to the forefront as a result of these dastardly attacks. We look at the fire department of New York City, the police department of New York City, the hundreds and hundreds of these people that put their lives on the line to protect innocent men, women, and children — the people in the Pentagon that put their lives on the line, hauling people out of the burning building, helping others, again, from this dastardly attack.

I also look at the heroes that we don't know or don't hear about. The heroes that were on the aircraft. We don't know how the people on the aircraft responded to the terrorists on board. I have a pretty strong feeling about how some of the people responded. We did hear of some phone calls that were made from the airplane where people were saying they were going to attack the terrorists. And I very much applaud these people because we'll never know for sure.

(16:00)

I also applaud the pilots of these aircraft. Again, we don't know, but I have a very strong internal feeling that the aircraft that went down in Pennsylvania was probably directed by the pilot, rather than fly back to Washington, DC (District of Columbia) and attack the Capitol building or the White House.

Also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the victims and families of those who have lost their lives, or had families that lost their lives in previous terrorist attacks. Again, as I said before, I consider this a true act of cowardice.

But I'd also like to talk, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about how we got into this sorry mess. In 1989, in the height of the Cold War, or as the Cold War was basically at its height before that but starting to wind down, the wall came down. And as soon as the wall came down, signalled an end to the Cold War.

When the end of the Cold War came, there was a general feeling throughout the world that the world is at peace. We no longer have to support our defensive structures in our country or in other countries. And history will explain that.

We all, and I won't use myself as the example because I spoke about the evils of terrorism and what should be done about terrorism for the last 20 years, but when I use the "we," it's people in general in North America wanted to cash in on the peace dividend. By cashing in on the peace dividend we could deplete our military resources; the money that we spend on the military could be cut; we could put it into other programs.

And as we did this, we saw during the time that cuts were coming into military defensive forces, at the exact same time, there was an increase in hostilities throughout the world. There was tens of thousands of terrorists being trained. The wars in the world were actually escalating.

In 1978 . . . or 1987, sorry, I attended a military college in

Virginia and at that time the Cold War was still strong. There was 37 active wars in the world. When the wall came down and the peace dividend broke out, terrorism had a breeding ground because we all figured with the peace dividend that the world was a safer place.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from 1989 until present the number of wars in this world has increased from 37 to 80. The terrorist activity, as we are now aware of, has gone exponentially upwards. At the same time, military forces in the free world have been depleted.

Canada followed suit, no doubt supported by members party from . . . members opposite, their party in the federal level. And now the world is in a massive turmoil because of the depletion of military resources. And I say that with a bit of an explanation because people will debate with me that we don't need as many airplanes, tanks, guns; we're a safe place in North America. That myth has been shattered as of September 11.

But what really happened that brought us to this position was, when we depleted the military resources, part of that depletion was in the intelligence community. And I'll give you an example as quoted by Mr. Tom Clancy, who is a well known author, who spoke and said, "Right now we have (and I'll use the word spooks because that was his quote) we have 200 spooks in the CIA."

And to explain what spooks are, they're people that actually infiltrate terrorist organizations, and that's where the intelligence gets fed back to governments — 200.

And I say again, we have 200 active wars, not counting the terrorist activities.

Mr. Clancy stated that in order to provide good intelligence service to the United States they would need 2,000.

So we in Canada have done the same thing. We have shrunk our intelligence community to the point where we do not get updated and accurate intelligence.

My belief, my strong belief is, the September 11 catastrophe could have been avoided had our intelligent resources . . . intelligence resources would not have been depleted. And I'm not talking only of Canada. I'm talking about the free world. But as a result of depleting our intelligence resources, this allowed terrorist activities to grab a foothold.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, terrorist activities put the world at fear and even in Saskatchewan, after the attack on September 11, in my constituency I had people phoning me. I had people talking to me that were actually afraid to visit the United States 20 miles across the border. They were afraid. Terrorism worked. It put the fear into everybody in this country and other countries around the world.

So how do we feel about responding to the terrorist activities? I fully support Canada's involvement in sending our troops to Afghanistan. In fact, I fully support our troops going anywhere in the world to stop terrorism. And I really do not want to make this political but I do have to give you a quote about how other parties feel about supporting the actions in Afghanistan:

NDP Leader Alexa McDonough expressed strong opposition to the bombing in Afghanistan and condemned Chrétien's decision to commit the Canadian forces without taking it to the Commons first.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know what the plan would be from their perspective, or her perspective. If you do not want to partake in curtailing this terrorist activity, what are the options? Letting terrorists run rampant around the world. I do not condone that and will not condone that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I consider our military forces . . . or, Mr. Speaker, I consider our military forces to be amongst the best in the world, not because I was there but because I've seen how they operate with other forces and what they can do. Their biggest impediment is political apathy and underfunding. I know in my own heart that our troops will show themselves extremely well in Afghanistan and wherever they may go in the world following Afghanistan if in fact there is another exercise.

I fully support our leader's motion and I'm very proud to second it and I fully support our military endeavours in combating terrorism. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — I am extremely pleased to enter into this debate this afternoon. Like the members opposite, I will remember forever the time at which I learned of the attack on New York.

There are a few times in our lives where we will remember the exact details of what you're doing when you find out or hear of some information. And for me this is one of those few times, as it is for most Canadians and for in fact most people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, that day was a horrific day for the people of New York, the people of Washington, DC, and in fact for the people of the entire world. This was not an attack simply on the people of New York; it was an attack on the people of the world. There were people from more than 90 nations lost their lives in that day, in that attack — people from countries that may not normally be involved in American issues, Mr. Speaker. There were Canadians; there were people from China, Japan, and several other nations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue about the heroes as well of New York. We all saw and can remember the vivid images on television of firemen going into the buildings, people trying to rescue people trapped above the flaming floors, people trapped below the flames. We saw the pictures of fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, as rescue workers and emergency personnel tried to save those people that were trapped in the World Trade Center.

And, Mr. Speaker, those images will live forever in our lives. And we need to share the pain and the sympathy and the emotion of those people who lost loved ones that day in New York. And, Mr. Speaker, we can all feel that pain because I don't think there was a single person that I spoke to after that day that didn't understand the pain that those people were feeling.

It wasn't an attack against simply the people of New York. People felt that pain as if it were their own family, their own friends, people that they knew and loved. Well, Mr. Speaker, many, many Canadians lost their lives that day. Eighteen men and six women aged 29 to 70 lost their lives in the World Trade Center. They were born in cities and towns from all across Canada. Most of them now lived in New York, were born and raised in Canada, and/or worked or were visiting the World Trade Center at the time of the attack. Two were passengers in the aircraft that hit the buildings; they were killed with 2,890 other people who died in the attacks on the twin towers, Mr. Speaker.

And who were those Canadians? Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take a few minutes to talk about who those Canadians were, so people understand just who those Canadians were.

Michael Arczynski, a 45-year-old senior vice-president of Aon Corporation's Manhattan office. He lived in New York for nine years. He was a well-travelled man who said that he had three homes — Montreal, London, and Australia — with his principal home and his family being in Montreal, Canada. He and his wife Lori had three children. They were expecting their fourth child in February.

He's only one of the many, many victims that lost their lives in New York. Who were some of the others?

Garnet Bailey, a 53-year-old director of pro scouting for the LA (Los Angeles) Kings; a native of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. He was aboard United Airlines Flight 175 when it crashed into the World Trade Center. He was a professional hockey player; played for many teams including the Edmonton Oilers where he played with Wayne Gretzky. He was a Canadian that many had heard of his name and many had seen play hockey. He lost his life that day.

David Barkway was a 34-year-old executive of the Bank of Montreal Nesbitt Burns in Toronto who was visiting a client atop the World Trade Center's north tower when the first plane hit. He sent an electronic message to his office in Toronto asking for help. He left behind a pregnant wife . . . a two-year-old child when he died that day.

Ken Basnicki, 47-year-old father of two was in the north tower where he worked. The Toronto native was last heard from at 8:55 a.m. in a cellphone call to his mother from an office on the 106th floor. He was notifying his mother that the place was full of smoke and he didn't think he'd find a way out.

(16:15)

Jane Beatty, age 53. Worked at Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc. She was originally from Britain and lived in Ontario for 20 years before moving to the United States. She was on the 96th floor of the north tower when the terrorists attacked. She had survived five years with breast cancer. She had celebrated the occasion that day. She died in the north tower.

Cynthia Connolly, age 40. She worked at Aon Corporation. She was transferred from the Montreal office to New York in 1999. She was married to Donald Poissant, whom she wed in Montreal a year before she left for the United States.

Arron Dack. The 39-year-old father of two was attending a conference in the north tower of the World Trade Center when the first plane hit. He called his office just after the impact to say he was alive. Two minutes later, at 8:47, he called his wife, Abigail. He was a senior executive with Encompys. He is survived by his wife and two children, Olivia and Carter.

Michael Egan, age 51, worked at Aon Corp. He worked on the 105th floor and had his older sister visiting for a couple of weeks. Some colleagues of his said that his sister, who also died in the terrorist attack, visited his office so she could gaze over the city from his office. They both lost their lives that day.

Christine Egan was a 55-year-old Health Canada nurse epidemiologist from Winnipeg, visiting her younger brother I spoke of just minutes ago.

Albert William Elmarry. The 30-year-old moved from Toronto to the United States in 1999 to work in the computer support for Cantor Fitzgerald. He met his wife, Irenie, on a visit to his native Egypt. They were expecting their first child at the end of March. He had worked for IBM (International Business Machines) Canada Ltd., when in Toronto. He was on the 103rd floor when the terrorists attacked.

Meredith Ewart and Peter Feidelberg, ages 29 and 34, respectively. The Montreal couple worked in the office of the World Trade Center's top floors. They worked as consultants for an insurance firm, Aon International. They both got their jobs at Aon International at the same time. They had been married for 18 months.

Alexander Filipov, age 70. Born in Regina and lived in Concord, Massachusetts. Was on airlines flight 11 when it hit the World Trade Center. He was an electrical engineer, grew up in Windsor, and graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He was hoping to get home on time for his 44th anniversary in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Gerhardt, the 34-year-old vice-president with Cantor Fitzgerald, a bond trading firm, called his parents in Toronto just after the first plane hit the north tower. He tried to console his parents during the call, telling them not to worry. He also informed them that he was going to find his girlfriend who worked in the floor below. He was not heard of since.

Stuart Lee. He had worked only a day before the attacks . . . from his Korean homeland where he had taken his wife, Lynn Udbjorg, to show off his roots. He was on the 103rd floor of 1 World Trade Center when the tragedy took place. Lee, who would have turned 31 on Wednesday, was vice-president of integrated services at DataSynapse. He spent the last hour of his life e-mailing his company, trying to figure how to get out of the building.

Mark Ludvigsen, age 32, worked at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. He left his native New Brunswick for the US with his parents when he was seven. He worked on the 89th floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center. He proposed to his wife on a surprise visit to Ireland. He called his parents a few minutes after the attack on the north tower to console them that he was all right. He told them that they had nothing to worry about since he was on the other wing. He has not been heard of since.

Bernard Mascarenhas, age 54 of Newmarket, Ontario, worked for Marsh Incorporated, who had offices at the World Trade Center. He was the chief information officer for the insurance brokerage firm. He was in New York on a five-day visit to the technology department of his parent company. Marsh had 1,900 employees in the trade center, of which 295 were killed. He is survived by his wife, Raynette, and a son and daughter, Jaclyn and Sven.

Colin McArthur, age 52. Colin worked as a deputy managing director of Aon Corp. He immigrated to Canada in 1977. He is originally from Glasgow, Scotland. He married his wife, who also works at Aon Corp., after moving to Montreal. He has been working with the company for over 15 years.

Michel Pelletier. The 36-year-old commodities broker from TradeSpark, a division of a trading firm, Cantor Fitzgerald, was on the 105th floor of 1 World Trade Center. He called his wife, Sophie and calmly told her that he was trapped in the building and that he loved her. She was dropping her two-year-old daughter off at her first day of school. He is survived by a three-month-old son and their two-year-old daughter.

Donald Robson, age 52, raised in Toronto, was a partner of a bond broker for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 103rd floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center. He had spent the last two decades in New York. He was also present in the 1993 tower bombing, according to his wife. He is survived by his two sons, Geoff and Scott.

Rufino Santos, age 37, worked at Guy Carpenter as a computer consultant. He was leaving the company to work for Accenture a week later. He is a native of Manila and moved to British Columbia in the 1980s. He later moved to New York five years ago.

Vladimir Tomasevic, age 36, Toronto, vice-president of software development for Optus e-biz solutions. Was attending a conference on 106th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower. Originally from Yugoslavia, he immigrated to Canada in 1994. "He was my best friend and a part of him will always be with me," commented his wife in *Maclean's* magazine.

Chantal Vincelli, age 38. She was a marketing assistant to DataSynapse Inc. Her biggest dream in life was to be a New Yorker. "She loved the hustle and bustle, the atmosphere, (and) the go-getters," said her brother. She has been working in New York for five years. On the day of the attacks, Vincelli was setting up a kiosk at a trade show.

Deborah Lynn Williams, age 35. Information not released at the request of her family.

And Frank Doyle. Foreign Affairs has listed a 25th victim because of his deep Canadian roots. Thirty-nine-year-old Frank Joseph Doyle was married to Kimmie Chedel of St. Sauveur, Quebec. He also leaves two children. All of his relatives live in the Ottawa Valley. Doyle was executive vice-president of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods; had a home in Ste. Adele, Quebec.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are the individuals that were Canadians that lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Mr. Speaker, it was a day that every Canadian will remember.

Mr. Speaker, what did we do about this as a province? I want to just quote for a few minutes from a number of press releases and speaking notes from the Premier primarily. These are speaking notes of Premier Calvert at the ceremony we held on the steps of the legislature on September 14, 2001, where many members of the Assembly were present, as well as members from the general public, from the emergency services from Regina area. And at that service, Mr. Speaker, these were the words of the Premier:

Earlier this week, tragedy struck our American friends and neighbours.

This tragedy has also struck Canadians and touched the homes and hearts of our province.

These acts were an act on all humanity.

Even in these days after the catastrophic events, we have only begun to understand the impact and consequences and the magnitude of our common loss.

Today, we gather for one reason: to pay the respects of our province and our people to the many thousands of men, women and children who have lost their lives, lost their loved ones, lost their friends and co-workers.

From our homes, from our work places, here from the steps of our Legislature, our thoughts and our prayers extend to these our friends and neighbours in the United States, here at home and across the world.

On behalf of the people and the province of Saskatchewan, I extend to the people of America our deepest compassion and respect.

God bless us all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to speak from a number of documents. These quotes are from the address of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien:

There are those rare occasions when time seems to stand still. When a singular event transfixes the world. There are also those terrible occasions when the dark side of human nature escapes civilized restraint and shows its ugly face to a stunned world.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 will forever be etched in memory as a day when time stood still.

When I saw the scenes of devastation my first thoughts and words were for all the victims and the American people. But there are no words, in any language, whose force or eloquence could equal the quiet testimony last Friday of 100,000 Canadians gathered just a few yards from here for our National Day of Mourning.

I was proud to be one of them. And I was equally proud of the Canadians who gathered in ceremonies right across the country.

I have been saddened by the fact that the terror of last Tuesday has provoked demonstrations against Muslim Canadians and other minority groups in Canada. This is completely unacceptable. The terrorists win when they export their hatred. The evil perpetrators of this horror represent no community or religion. They stand for evil. Nothing else!

As I have said, this is a struggle against terrorism. Not against any one community or faith. Today, more than ever, we must reaffirm the fundamental values of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms: the equality of every race, every colour, every religion, and every ethnic origin.

But let our actions be guided by a spirit of wisdom and perseverance. By our values and our way of life.

And, as we go on with the struggle, let us never, ever, forget who we are. And what we stand for.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians across this country are showing their remorse, their feelings, and their need to express themselves after the events of September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk specifically about some of the actions that our province and the members on both sides of the House supported. Flags were lowered to recognize the American tragedy in our province.

The flags at all 1,000 . . . (government) office buildings across Saskatchewan have been lowered to half-mast out of respect for victims and their families of today's attacks across the United States.

"Our hearts go out to the victims, their families, to emergency crews, rescue workers, and the thousands of people grievously affected by the attack this morning on the United States," Premier Lorne Calvert said. "I am shocked and saddened by this very tragic news and the cowardly terrorist acts . . .

It is highly unusual to lower the flags in this situation. Flags are normally lowered when members of the Royal Family, the Governor General, or the Lieutenant Governor passes away.

But in this case, Mr. Speaker, the members of this Assembly felt it was important to lower the flags.

"I would say it reminds us how precious is some of the security we know in Saskatchewan — we can never take it for granted," Calvert said. "We extend our very, very heartfelt sympathy to the people of the United States and I'm sure the many Canadians who likely have family there (feel the same way)."

I want to talk for a second about the book of condolences, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan residents across this province had the opportunity to sign books of condolence to be sent to the United States and the people of New York, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan residents can sign books of condolence in support of victims and their families of the terror attacks in

the United States . . .

“Our hearts go out to the people of the United States in this dark hour of history,” Premier Calvert said. “The books of condolence give the people of Saskatchewan an opportunity to show their support and sympathy for the American people — and to put into words the deep sense of sadness and anger many of us feel towards the brutal acts of cowardly terrorists.”

The books were forwarded to the United States embassy in Ottawa (Mr. Speaker).

I’d like to share with the members of the Assembly the words of the Premier as he arrived back in Saskatchewan after that horrific event. As many of you would know, the Premier was on his way to New York and had it been one day further on in the calendar, Mr. Speaker, the Premier would have been in New York. He was meeting that morning with the Prime Minister and learned of the tragic event with the Prime Minister, as the news was brought in to the Prime Minister.

Premier Calvert took the time this morning before he left Ottawa (on behalf of all Saskatchewan citizens) to stop at the US embassy and sign the book of condolence there for victims and their families of the attack on America . . . and placed flowers and a card near the embassy gates. The card had a simple message — “May God Bless” signed: Premier Lorne Calvert and the people of Saskatchewan.

I think these actions show very clearly how the people of this province feel about the tragedy that faced the American people.

I just want to talk for a second about the Premier’s visit to Ground Zero. On behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, Premier Calvert visited the . . .

(16:30)

The Speaker: — Order. Just to remind the member . . . I know his intentions are very honourable, but to remember to distinguish between a quotation and not a quotation when he’s referring to other members.

Mr. Yates: — I am referring to a press release, Mr. Speaker, not a quotation.

Following the meetings with the investment bankers in New York, Premier Lorne Calvert took a moment to stop and pay his respects at ground zero.

So actually this is a quote, Mr. Speaker.

“To actually set foot on the ground where this tragedy happened is a surreal and humbling experience,” Calvert said. “It makes one think of how precious the gift of life truly is and what we should be thankful for.”

Calvert was especially moved by the sheer vastness of ground zero (Mr. Speaker). The crater extends for about three blocks in each direction, leaving a huge gap in the heart of New York’s (City) financial district.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier, on our behalf visited Ground Zero, showing our respects for the American people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I’d like to take a few minutes to talk about the events of September 11 and their effect on the people of Saskatchewan, the impacts on Canada as a country.

Mr. Speaker, the attacks on the World Trade Center have fundamentally forever changed our country. That day, September 11, I got home about 4 o’clock in the afternoon and my daughter, who is in her third year of university, asked me a question: what does this mean? What does the attack on the World Trade Center mean? And my answer to her was this, Mr. Speaker, that this is probably the most significant event in her lifetime that will shape the future of the world as it is.

The world is shaped by events that occur that are usually beyond our control that change the world that we live in. And I don’t think that anybody can argue that September 11 significantly changed the world, Mr. Speaker. Today, we feel the after-effects of the September 11 attacks that we’ve had a downturn in the world economy. Not the Canadian economy, not the American economy, but the entire world economy took a downturn after September 11.

It’s unbelievable in most people’s minds that a single act could in fact change the world economy, could actually have the impact that it had on the people — not just in America, not just in North America, but in fact the entire world, Mr. Speaker.

The impact of September 11 has changed many, many other things. It has changed how people look at their families, how they view the idea of travelling outside their own communities, outside their own provinces, outside their own country, Mr. Speaker. September 11 has had impacts that people never imagined in our communities.

I’d like to talk for a minute about some of the feelings that I have, and others have, about September 11. In a time of great grief, Mr. Speaker, people often have difficulty dealing with the situation that faces them. But we saw a city in New York draw together. We saw heroes every single day for weeks and weeks after September 11, Mr. Speaker.

We saw firefighters working extraordinary hours, beyond what they normally, humanly, would be able to do, Mr. Speaker, to try to rescue, on the sheer chance that one single person may be alive beneath the rubble. Mr. Speaker, we saw stories of firemen not wanting to go home after 15, 18, 20 hours on the job.

We saw many, many people across Canada throw out their arms and their hearts, their efforts, their money, to try to help the people of New York. We had many Canadians travel to New York to help, Mr. Speaker. We saw many, many other Canadians donate blood, give money, goods, take in various planes as they needed places to land during the unstable days right after September 11.

Canadians put out their hands to help the American people. Mr. Speaker, during times of tragedy that’s what we do in Canada. We are a country and a people, quite frankly, that always extend ourselves to our fellow human beings. We try to help when help

is most needed, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, September 11 has come, and to some degree has passed, but the effects will remain forever. Members of this Assembly, the people of Canada, the people of Saskatchewan, will never forget that day, Mr. Speaker. We will remember forever the vision of those planes hitting the World Trade Center, Mr. Speaker. We'll forever remember the vision of the World Trade Center crumbling, Mr. Speaker.

But out of difficult times also comes resolve, Mr. Speaker. We as a Canadian people will continue to resolve to have a world that is more peaceful — where people can live in safety and security without fear of terrorist attacks.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to say without doubt, without doubt, that every single member of this Assembly expresses his condolences to all the families of the victims of the September 11 attacks. And, Mr. Speaker, there are many people who through distant connections, relations, friends, who are going to know of some member who was affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that all members of this Assembly will condemn all forms of terrorism — that no member of this Assembly would believe that fear, terrorist attacks, armed conflicts against others, is a way to settle or solve any dispute. And, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt at all that members of this Assembly support Canadian troops in their endeavours.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is without doubt the fact that Canadian troops have served their country well over the various centuries. Mr. Speaker, Canadians have always done themselves proud in whatever they've tried to do.

Now, Mr. Speaker, today we stand talking about emotion, dealing with the hardships that the families of those people who were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11. And again, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to briefly speak about the 18 men and 6 women who lost their lives.

They were innocent victims, Mr. Speaker. They had not shown any aggression towards anybody. They were simply doing their jobs, going about New York, living their lives; some were at work, some were visiting. None of them raised any arm of aggression against anybody.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women were neighbours, friends, and families of people. They went to work that morning expecting it to be another day like any other day. They didn't expect what they experienced that day. Their families are still living with the fallout of that day, as many children are now growing up with a single parent. Many families are growing up with the fear and anxiety of what happened to their parent, and the uncertainty of the world in which they're now growing up in without that support, love, stability of that family member.

Mr. Speaker, we have to condemn those types of attacks on any citizens of the world. Nobody wants to live in fear; nobody should have to live in fear, Mr. Speaker. We should all live in a world where the safety and security is assured by the peace that we want and that is a common goal in our society, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 was one of only hundreds of terrorist activities that happen each year around the world, but we have never had a terrorist activity strike so close to home. We in Canada take for granted the safety and security that many people around the world have never had the opportunity to experience.

Mr. Speaker, all people from around the world should have the opportunity to feel safe and secure in their communities. Children should have the opportunity to grow up, go to school, and be educated in a society where they don't have to fear armed conflicts each day. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, around the world many, many citizens face those situations on a daily basis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member from Rosetown for making the motion. I think that this is an issue that all Canadians share their sympathy, their concern, and their condolence for the families, friends, and co-workers of those who lost their lives in the twin towers on September 11.

People from around the world experienced loss. This was not an American loss; this was a world loss. People of the United States suffered the most horrendous effects because it was their community, their home that came under attack, Mr. Speaker. But citizens from every province of Canada, from many states in the United States and, in fact, from over 90 countries around the world lost individuals that day.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue that we should all take very, very seriously as we debate in future issues concerning safety and security in our communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to at this time talk for just a couple of minutes about some of the other effects of the September 11 tragedy. The tragedy on September 11 has made it less secure for Canadians to travel, people are less certain of their willingness to travel outside our home country, Mr. Speaker.

Canada has never experienced the terrorist activity and, Mr. Speaker, I hope we never do. But our heartfelt warmth and sympathy and condolence goes out to the people of the United States and, in fact, all people around the world who have experienced terrorism as part of their lives.

The members opposite should be commended for bringing this forward, for talking about the issue of September 11 and for, in fact, moving us into this debate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, seeing the hour, I would like at this time . . . Because this is a very, very serious issue which I feel a significant number of members would like to have an opportunity to discuss, this cannot be just put aside lightly. This is a serious issue facing all Canadians. I move, at this time, Mr. Speaker, that we adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 16:45.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 202 of *Hansard* No. 7A Friday, March 22, 2002, the line reading:

. . . and I can confirm Don's good taste and judgment of character.

should read:

. . . and I can confirm Dawn's good taste and judgment of character.

We apologize for this error.