

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker: — It is my duty to inform the Assembly of the following vacancies in the representation in the constituency of Carrot River Valley due to the death of Mr. Carl Kwiatkowski; in the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview due to the resignation of Mr. Chris Axworthy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOUR OF CARL KWIATKOWSKI

The Speaker: — Out of respect for a colleague, I will ask that we observe a minute of silence in memory of Carl Kwiatkowski, a member of this Assembly for the constituency of Carrot River Valley from September 16, 1999 to February 2, 2003.

Will members please rise.

The Assembly observed a moment of silence.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Prince Albert Northcote on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — To ask for leave to make a statement of a personal nature.

Leave granted.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Following the release of the deputy minister's report regarding SPUDCO last month, I apologized to the people of Saskatchewan for not having been as forthcoming as I could have been regarding the details of the business relationship between Sask Water and Con-Force. I indicated at that time that it was my intention to offer that same apology in the Legislative Assembly once the session resumed.

I stand today in this Assembly to offer my apology to the public and to all members of this House for not having exercised greater vigilance in my responsibilities as minister of Sask Water. I should have paid more attention to certain details and I should have insisted on greater clarity in all the communication associated with this project.

Mr. Speaker, I have admitted that I made mistakes, accepted responsibility for those mistakes, and apologized publicly. Today, Mr. Speaker, I offer to you and through you to all members, my personal apology.

Thank you.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, I am advised that Her Honour is here for prorogation.

PROROGATION

At 10:07 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne.

Her Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislature:

It is my duty to release you from further attendance at the Third Session of The Twenty-Fourth Legislature.

In thus relieving you, I would like to thank you for the work you have done.

This Session's work is a positive step towards ensuring that the wealth of Saskatchewan's human and natural resources creates opportunities for the citizens, communities and industry of our province.

You passed **The Ethanol Fuel Act**, which creates the necessary climate for the private sector to lead the way in developing a vibrant ethanol industry in Saskatchewan – the first jurisdiction in Canada to establish the legal framework to allow for mandating the use of ethanol-blended gasoline.

In response to the recommendations contained in the Final Report of The Action Committee on the Rural Economy, you passed **The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act**.

This Bill encourages development in both the livestock industry and our value-added sector by removing the existing farm ownership restrictions for Canadian residents, Canadian citizens, and Canadian-owned corporations.

You recognized that safe drinking water is an essential element of a healthy environment and strong economy.

In this regard, you passed **The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act, and The Environmental Management and Protection Act**, to ensure that the citizens of Saskatchewan have a sustainable, safe and clean supply of drinking water.

You also addressed other environmental measures necessary to ensure sustainable economic growth by passing **The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act**.

This Bill ensures that province-wide standards are applied to all forest operations in Saskatchewan.

In keeping with your commitment to provide quality health care to the people of Saskatchewan you passed several Bills which strengthen our health system.

The Health Quality Council Act creates the Health Quality Council – a first in Canada. The Council will provide objective, timely, evidence-based information and advice for achieving the best possible health care within the available resources.

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act establishes the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to manage and allocate much of the province's health research funding.

You also passed **The Regional Health Services Act** which improves coordination, province-wide planning, and accountability in the health care system. This Bill also allowed for the formation of 12 new regional health authorities from the previous 32 health districts.

To achieve your goal of building the province of opportunity, you worked with municipal governments, who have expressed interest in increasing their autonomy and authority to deliver quality public services to their communities.

In this regard, you passed **The Cities Act**, which provides cities with more flexibility to govern, regulate, license and deal with a variety of local matters, and fully recognizes their evolution and independence as larger municipal governments.

Amendments to **The Urban Municipality Act**, **The Rural Municipality Act** and **The Northern Municipalities Act**, were also passed that enhance the authority and accountability of local governments.

You passed **The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act**, which will allow for three major improvements to services provided by Saskatchewan Government Insurance.

A Safe Driver Rewards Program will provide insurance premium discounts to safe drivers.

Improvements will be made to the Personal Injury Protection Plan.

As well, Saskatchewan drivers will be given the choice of alternative insurance coverage that allows for judicial resolution of accident claims.

You also took major steps forward in protecting our most precious resource – our children.

You passed **The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act**, which clarifies and strengthens Social Services' response to children sexually exploited on the street, enhances the capacity of outreach workers to provide victims with proactive intervention and increases deterrents of those who victimize children.

Also, to help ensure that children receive the financial support to which they are entitled, regardless of where they live in Canada, you passed **The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act**, **The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Act**, and **The Family Maintenance Amendment Act**.

Finally, in taking leave of you, I wish to thank you for the diligent manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of the Session, and wish you the full blessings of Providence.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, and members of the

Legislative Assembly: it is the will and pleasure of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 18th day of March, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. This Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber at 10:15.