



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

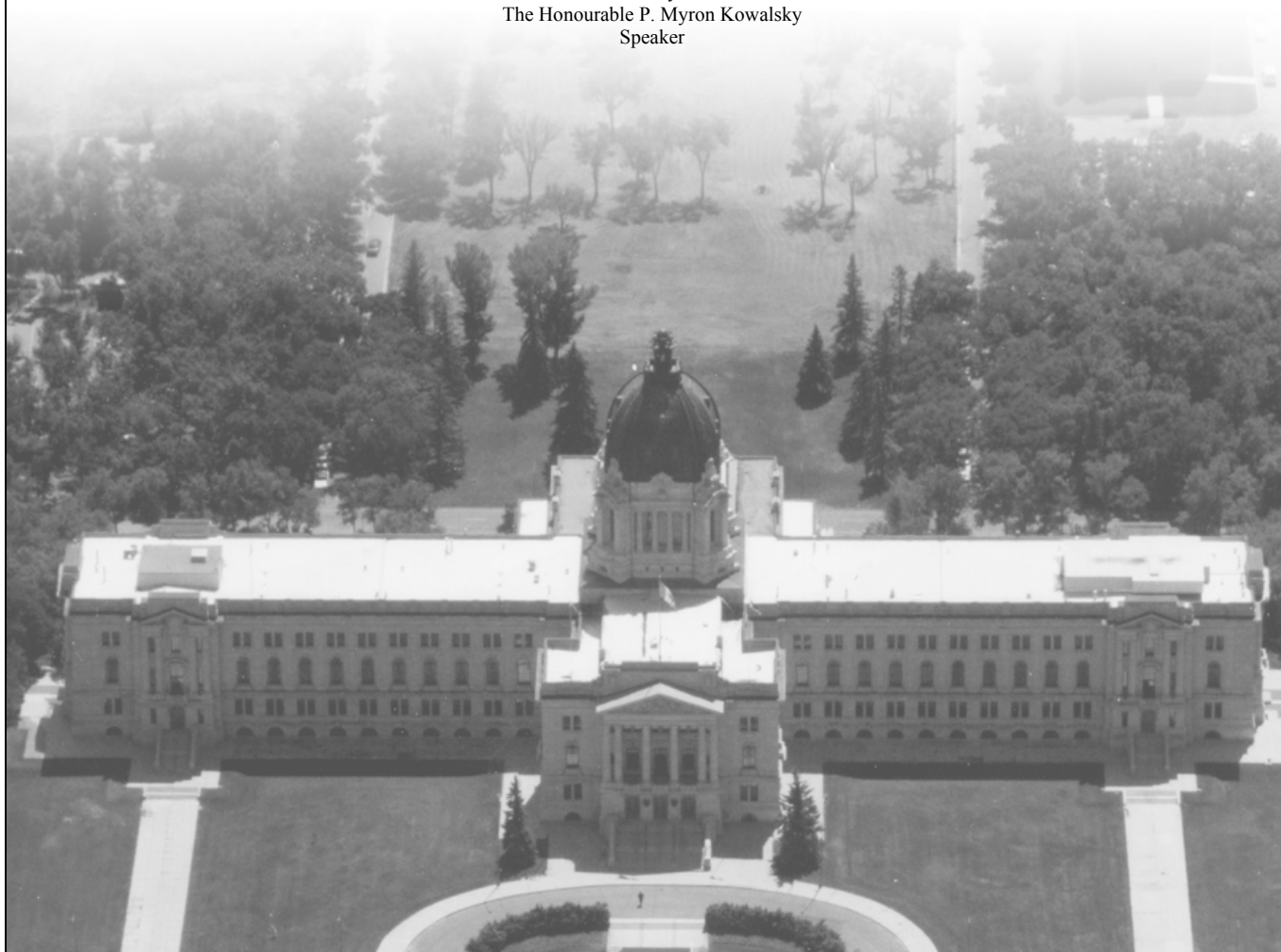
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken, Brenda	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Hon. Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

The Assembly met at 10:00.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk: — I wish to inform the Assembly that I have received a communication from the private secretary to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor stating that Her Honour will open the first session of the twenty-fifth legislature at 10 a.m. today, the 18th day of March 2004.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber at 10:01.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that she does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present legislature until later today when the Legislative Assembly shall have elected a Speaker according to law.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:03.

Clerk: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the rules of the legislature, it is my duty to call upon you to elect a member to preside over your deliberations as your Speaker.

Pursuant to the procedure specified under rule 29(1), the following members have declared their intention to stand as candidates for election to the office of Speaker — in alphabetical order, Ms. Doreen Hamilton, the hon. member for Regina Wascana Plains and Mr. Myron Kowalsky, the hon. member for Prince Albert Carlton. Thank you.

In preparation for the vote, the Sergeant-at-Arms will now bring in the ballot box and the Pages will distribute the list of candidates to all members and post the list in the polling booth. The ballot box will then be inspected and the sealed ballots will be opened. The registration clerks will take their places at the tables. And then I will give you a notice and announcement as to when you can begin start to start the balloting.

Ladies and gentlemen, members, I will now ask those members who wish to cast their ballots to proceed to the registration table behind the bar on their respective sides of the House. There you will receive your ballot paper and then proceed to the polling booth by following this path. The assistant Clerks will ensure that there's privacy at the voting booth.

I want to also remind all members to please print the first and last name of your candidate on the ballot paper.

Please proceed to cast your ballots.

The members proceeded to cast ballots.

Clerk: — Members, members of the Legislative Assembly . . . Thank you, hon. members. If there are any other members who have not voted and wish to do so, will they please vote now.

All members having voted, the House will recess to the call of the bells while the Clerks at the Table count the ballots. The bells will ring for three minutes to recall members to the

Chamber when the results of the first ballot are ready to be announced. Thank you.

The Assembly recessed for a period of time.

Clerk: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that you have elected as your Speaker, Mr. Myron Kowalsky, the hon. member for Prince Albert Carlton.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to express my grateful thanks and humble acknowledgement of the high honour the Assembly has conferred upon me.

While I leave the floor of this Assembly to take the Speaker's Chair, I leave behind all political partisan biases in order that I may discharge with impartiality to all, and to the best of my ability, the various and important duties pertaining to the high office of Speaker.

It will be my aim and duty to uphold the principles and traditions of the Assembly and to secure for each member the right to express his or her opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; to recognize the rights and privileges of hon. members, the political groups, and the Assembly itself; to facilitate the transaction of the public business in an orderly manner; and above all, to seek to be fair and impartial in the decisions you entrust to me.

As I take my place in the Speaker's Chair, I feel somewhat humbled and at the same time privileged to be given this responsibility by my colleagues. I accept the job of Speaker gladly, even though I feigned reluctance to approach the Chair.

Historically it is recorded that in Westminster several Speakers lost their lives because they were unable to carry out the decrees of their ruling monarch. Fortunately, democracy has evolved. The Speaker is responsible not to the Queen, nor to the Premier. The Speaker is responsible to the elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

Today when the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition combine their powers of persuasion to help me to this Chair after a secret ballot — although I think they've both been working out — it signifies that we all accept the rule of the majority vote and that the Speaker's job is to preside impartially.

I thank both the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier for their tugging and pulling, and I also thank the member for Regina Wascana Plains for indicating interest in serving as Speaker and thus assuring that the Speaker's Chair was filled through an electoral process. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of the government members of this Assembly. We congratulate you on your

election to this important office as Speaker of the House and the legislature. And Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that I can assure you that all members here will accept your guidance and your rulings with good grace.

Today the Speaker assumes the position of highest authority in the Legislative Assembly, and your position, Mr. Speaker, represents all the power and proceedings of this Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, we are thankful for the wisdom, the impartiality, and the fairness your high office brings to our deliberations. And we know that you will set an example by which we may govern ourselves during your tenure in the Speaker's Chair.

I think it is fair to say, Mr. Speaker, you do not have an easy role to play. You are spokesperson for this Assembly and its relations with authorities outside the legislature. You preside over the sitting of the Assembly. You enforce the rules; you enforce the order and conduct of business — not an easy task some days, Mr. Speaker — and you are responsible for the daily administration of the Legislative Assembly.

And you assume the responsibilities of Speaker of our legislature at a very historic moment in this legislature's history. Combined with the very unique makeup of this House, we also begin the implementation of the democratic reform that will significantly change our procedures and see much greater citizen involvement in our legislature. We are confident that your own background in this House and your own character and personality, of which we all know, and your previous experience will give you the tools to meet the many challenges that your position will bring in the days ahead. And your respect for our traditions and for the rules of this House will guide us in making this legislature a model of functional democratic institution.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I know that you are supported in your work and in meeting the challenges your position entails with the resources and experience of your dedicated staff of this legislature — the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, Clerk Assistant, the staff of the Speaker's office, the Legislative Law Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the staff of our Legislative Library, and the staff of *Hansard* — and of course, Mr. Speaker, on occasion you will I'm sure receive the advice of members of the House as well.

Mr. Speaker, I speak I'm sure on behalf of all members, but certainly on behalf of members of government, in expressing our best wishes to you and our firm confidence that you will enjoy your tenure.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure on behalf of my colleagues in opposition to also congratulate you this day on your election to the Speaker's Chair. In many ways, the Chair that you occupy is a symbol of all that is right about the parliamentary process that we have and we enjoy here in Canada and in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it's true — I certainly agree with the Premier — that you're assuming this role again at a very interesting time in the history of this legislature in terms of the changes that are coming for committees and procedures, and also because of the closeness of the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the results of the last election showed us in the Saskatchewan Party that we've got to get more New Democrats to vote for us. And it's working already because I can tell you there were many NDP (New Democratic Party) MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) that were asking Saskatchewan Party people to run for Speaker, wanted to support them, Mr. Speaker.

And I just want to point something else out very quickly. On the weekend — if you'll permit me; it's a bit of a prop — but if you'll permit me, on the weekend there was a front page picture in the *National Post*. It was a picture of officials in the South Korean legislature; they formed a human shield around the Speaker. They were protecting him, if you can imagine, from shoes that were being hurled at him by the members of that legislature.

I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that's not going to happen here. We've talked to the Table Clerks and they've agreed to duck if we start throwing shoes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, as near as we can tell this is the first time since the Legislative Assembly began electing Speakers that a Speaker has been re-elected to an additional term. And certainly that should be an indication to you of the confidence that you have.

We'd also like to thank the member for Regina Wascana for entering the race as well.

We wish you well in your deliberations in this very important session and congratulations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The House will now recess until 2 p.m. later today when Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor will present the Speech from the Throne.

The Assembly recessed until 14:00.

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. L. Calvert
Premier

Hon. P. Atkinson
Minister of Crown Management Board
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. J. Beatty
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Provincial Secretary

Hon. B. Belanger
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. E. Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources

Hon. J. Crofford
Minister of Community Resources and Employment
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues
Minister Responsible for Gaming

Hon. D. Forbes
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for the Office of Energy Conservation

Hon. D. Higgins
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. J. Nilson
Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. P. Prebble
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

Hon. F. Quennell
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. C. Serby
Deputy Premier

Hon. M. Sonntag
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Minister of Highways and Transportation

Hon. L. Taylor
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. A. Thomson
Minister of Learning
Minister Responsible for Information Technology

Hon. H. Van Mulligen
Minister of Finance

Hon. M. Wartman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization