



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

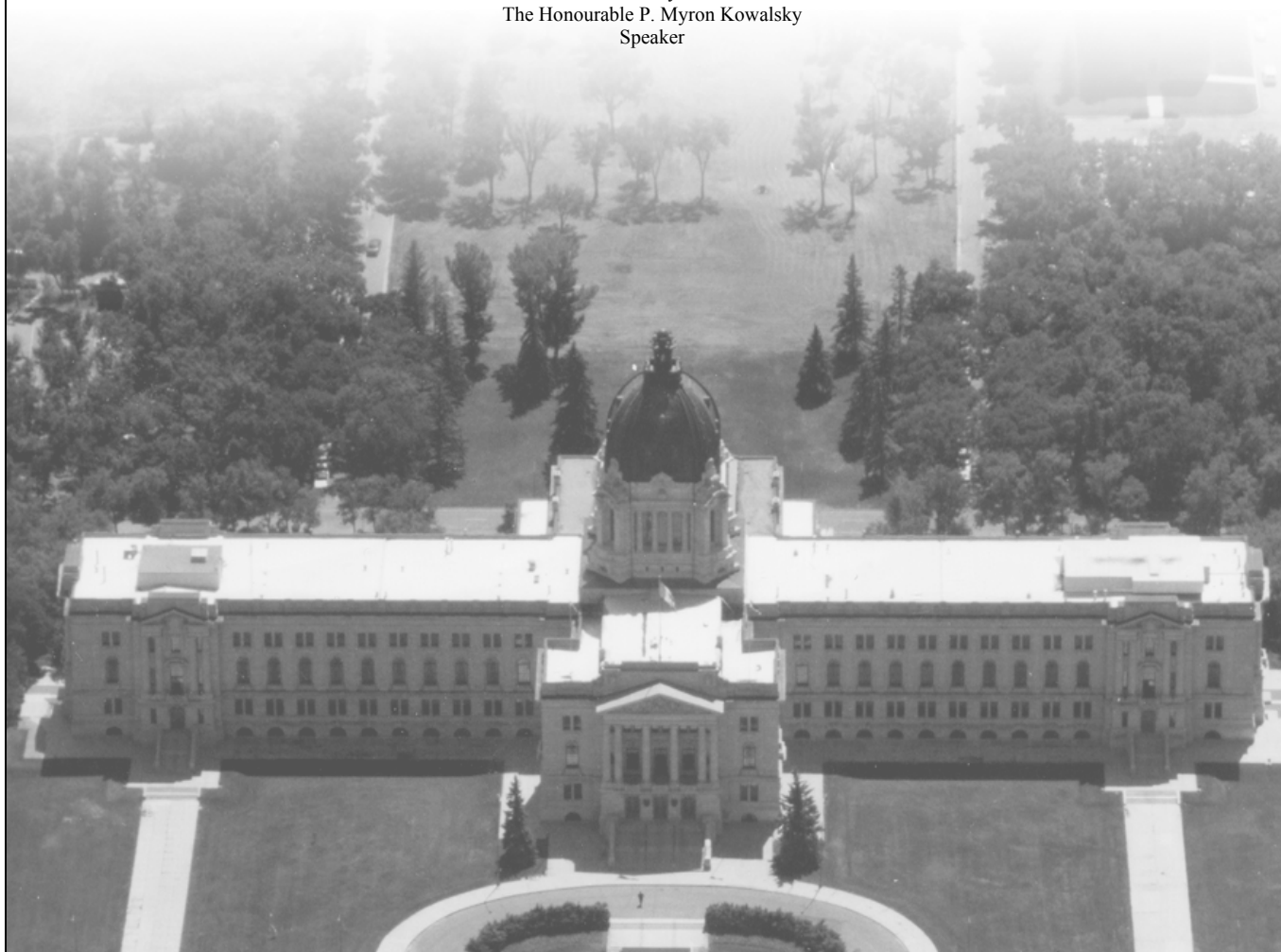
of the

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 13:30.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again to present a petition addressing the potential of a tax on food in the province of Saskatchewan, and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by people from the communities of Hantsborder, Nova Scotia; Moosomin; Rocanville; Fleming; Killarney, Manitoba; Saskatoon; Freulton, Ontario; Penticton, BC (British Columbia); Wawota; Kipling; and Langbank.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again today I rise on behalf of constituents from the Cypress Hills area and communities of a wide variety throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, concerning the possible tax on meals.

The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you. I too rise to present a petition under the same theme, and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

And these are signed by people from Saskatoon, from Warman, Langham, Martensville, Duck Lake, Hepburn, Melville — from all over the province, Mr. Speaker.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the potential of the PST (provincial sales tax) expanding. The prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendations to expand the PST to include restaurant meals.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners that I rise on behalf of today are from the city of Swift Current, from the towns of Mankota, Lancer, Hazlet, Hallonquist, Waldeck, Maple Creek, and Cabri.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by residents of the Rosetown-Elrose constituency. They are saying that they are strongly opposed to the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to implement a regressive, new, 7 per cent tax on restaurant meals. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Outlook, from Kenaston, Conquest, Macrorie, Lucky Lake, and Birsay. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals and confectionery goods. Please do not tax our food.

The signators, Mr. Speaker, are from Yorkton, Melville, Bredenbury, Wynyard, Langenburg.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon-Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, at the risk of being repetitive, I too rise with regard to citizens concerned about a tax on restaurant meals. And I'll read the prayer for that.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

And is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by constituents from Smiley, Kindersley, Plenty, Kerrobert, and Flaxcombe.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With spring around the corner, the petitions are flowing, and this one's regarding the Qu'Appelle Valley water level.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to do everything in its power to work with First Nations people and the federal government to bring a prompt end to the dispute so that the water level in the Qu'Appelle River system can return to normal and end the economic harm and uncertainty this dispute has caused.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people along the B-Say-Tah lake road, also in Fort Qu'Appelle.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present a petition on behalf of those citizens concerned about the possible expansion of the sales tax. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

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

And this is signed by folks from Lake Lenore, Kindersley,

Blaine Lake, Eatonia, and Rosetown.

I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition with relation to the tax proposed for restaurant meals and the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good folks from Hanley, Limerick, Glentworth, Flintoft, Gravelbourg, throughout my constituency, and as far away as Drumheller.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned with the government's proposal to tax restaurant meals. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education's recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are from Medstead, Glenbush, Rabbit Lake, Glaslyn, Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, and a host of more signatures, Mr. Speaker.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to speak on the regressive, new, 7 per cent tax on restaurant meals. The prayer, Mr. Speaker, reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government not to implement the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education recommendation to expand the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals. Please do not tax our food.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is from Saskatoon, Osler, Hague, North Battleford, Cudworth, and Carrot River.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of citizens from west central Saskatchewan concerned with senior citizens bridging the gap between independent living and long-term care. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that citizens of Unity and district remain in the community for this necessary service that will bridge the gap between independent living and long-term care.

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed mostly by the folks from Unity, but also from Kindersley and Wilkie.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order a petition concerning the expansion of the provincial sales tax to include restaurant meals presented March 29, 2004, is found to be irregular and therefore cannot be read and received.

According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 47 and 48.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

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

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many customers have subscribed to SaskTel's *Max* TV service from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003? And as well what was the total number of *Max* TV subscribers on January 1, 2003, as well as December 31, 2003? Further to this, what was the total number of *Max* TV subscribers that have disconnected services between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: how much of the \$79.3 million provided by the federal government in 2003 under the first

ministers' accord on health renewal was spent on diagnostic and medical equipment in the year 2003; and what were the specific purchases in each health authority?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

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

To the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs: how many lawsuits have been brought forward by First Nations against the provincial government to reclaim tax money used for gasoline and purchases on reserves after the provincial government altered its taxing scheme; how many of the lawsuits have been settled and for how much; how many lawsuits remain; and what is the total and the amount of money being sought by the First Nations people?

I have a similar question for the Minister of Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — I am extremely pleased today to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the Assembly, Katherine Bardutz and her son, Eric who are constituents of mine in the constituency of Regina Dewdney.

Eric is a grade 4 student at St. Dominic Savio School, and he is doing a heritage project on the legislature. So he is here today as part of that project to see this wonderful building and observe some of the activities today. I hope that you are not disappointed by your visit here, Eric. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to my colleagues here in the Legislative Assembly, it is a pleasure to introduce, in your gallery, Mr. John McBain of Rapid View, just outside of Meadow Lake.

I would ask all members to welcome John here to his Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you, through you and to all members of the Assembly, two young, very ambitious and very energetic young men. We have Trevor Holloway and Nathan Markwart. They are both constituents of Regina Walsh Acres. They were both instrumental in my election campaign and both hard-working university students at the University of Regina. And I would like to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a very serious issue, one that requires attention and intervention from every level of government as well as members of the public. For the safety of our society, we must do all we can to ensure a zero tolerance policy is not only mandated but enforced.

I am talking about sexual assault and the sexual exploitation of children, Mr. Speaker.

And this week, during Sexual Assault Awareness Week, I ask all members of the House to recognize those whose lives have been irrevocably changed due to unspeakable and totally unacceptable acts of violence and abuse.

(13:45)

According to a recent report from Statistics Canada, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest rate of sexual assaults in Canada. Of the top three urban centres in Canada with the highest rates of sexual assault, Saskatoon is no. 1 and Regina is no. 3.

Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that a victim survey suggested as many as 90 per cent of all sexual assaults are not reported to the police. And even if they are reported, sexual assaults are less likely than other violent offences to result in charges being laid. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, 6 out of 10 victims of sexual offences reported to police in 2002 were children and youth under the age of 18 years. Mr. Speaker, 85 per cent of these victims were young girls.

Mr. Speaker, those who perpetuate these acts must be dealt with accordingly. It is ultimately the responsibility of an elected government to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. And any and all measures must be taken to see that this is enforced. When there's a question of public safety, citizens must be given relevant information so that they can take appropriate action to protect themselves and their families.

I ask all members of the House to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Corner Gas

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure everyone in this Chamber knows by now that one of the most popular television shows on Canadian TV is filmed right here in Saskatchewan. *Corner Gas* has been described as way beyond normal.

But, Mr. Speaker, Canada loves Saskatchewan humour. *Corner Gas* is so popular that 1.2 million people from across the country tune in each week to watch it. Mr. Speaker, *Corner Gas* delivers a full tank of laughs.

This 13-part comedy series stars Tisdale-born comedian Brent Butt, as well as fellow Saskatchewan natives and Gemini award winners Janet Wright and Eric Peterson. It centres on a service station in rural Saskatchewan and takes a peek into the lives of a group of locals. Whether the characters are up to nothing at the local coffee shop or learning about Pilates, Canadians are filling up on laughter.

Mr. Speaker, *Corner Gas* has announced that it will begin filming its second season both in Rouleau and at the Canada-Saskatchewan Sound Stage. Brent Butt recently said in an interview that having a sound stage has made all the difference.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Morin: — He went on to say, and I quote, that "it's a better facility than anything in Toronto."

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Morin: — Perhaps more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the sound stage allows aspiring young artists in the film and television industry the opportunity to pursue their dreams right here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the actors, writers and crew of *Corner Gas* for its success, and I wish them luck in the opening season.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Update on Fire at Advanced Ag and Industrial of Biggar

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 16 my home community of Biggar came close to losing one of its major employers, Advanced Ag and Industrial.

The business builds environmental tanks for the oil and gas industry and employs some 25 . . . or sorry, 65 people. A number of these employees watched on that Monday morning as their jobs appeared to be going up in smoke as fire roared through the office portion and front production area of the business.

I'd like to commend and thank the employees that went above and beyond their duties and went back into the office to pull computers and files from imminent destruction, saving Advanced Ag's most current and important documents and blueprints, allowing them to continue operations missing only a few beats.

I would also like to thank the firefighters from the Biggar and Rosetown fire departments who contained the fire from spreading to other structures on the property and making a dangerous situation even more worse, as well as the members of

the local Hutterite colony who assisted in moving hazardous materials away from the blaze, playing a big part in saving the rear portion of the building that housed some of the equipment.

I'm happy to report that the business is in full production, running three shifts a day to meet production obligations. They are utilizing their remaining structures on the site and are looking forward to reconstruction of their main building. I'd also like to thank the owners for getting things up and running within days of the fire and committing to rebuild in Biggar. Your commitment is appreciated and important to the community.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Mr. Hagel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan citizens continue to build on the tradition of excellence that makes our province such a great place to live.

Earlier this year the Lieutenant Governor presented six recipients with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Established in 1985, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit is our province's highest honour. It recognizes outstanding contributions in the arts, business, the professions, research, education, community leadership, and public service.

Mr. Speaker, these talented individuals have enhanced the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Saskatchewan. They have made a mark in our province and have vigorously pursued their dreams while demonstrating a selfless spirit.

The latest recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit are Dr. Lorne Babiuk, international authority in veterinary virology and immunology; Margaret Cugnet, advocate of the arts and Yorkton community leader; retired chief executive officer of Cameco Corporation, Bernard Michel, who was instrumental in bringing the synchrotron to Saskatchewan; Roy Romanow, former Saskatchewan premier and Chair of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada; acclaimed ceramic artist, Jack Sures; and one of Saskatchewan's most gifted writers, Guy Vanderhaeghe.

I ask all members, Mr. Speaker, to join me in acknowledging these six individuals for their dedication to this province and in congratulating them for exceptional accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Rose Valley's Annual Dance Competition

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've always felt extremely privileged to represent the people from Kelvington-Wadena. People from this area are innovative, hospitable, and know how to put on events in a very big way.

Rose Valley is one such town. Not only do they put on a top-notch indoor rodeo each fall, but they put on an exceedingly successful dance competition which is going to be a three-day event.

The Rose Valley School of Dance has been in existence for 21 years, starting with classes in Ukrainian, then adding ballet and then highland dancing. It currently offers 52 students, age 3 to 18, ballet, jazz, and tap. For the past 11 years, Crystal Anderson has held the position of artistic director of Rose Valley School of Dance, and under her direction, students have excelled at dance exams and placed well at competition.

The weekend of March 19-21 this little town's population of 400 expanded by 1,400 people as close to 500 dancers from 19 schools of dance gathered at Rose Valley for their annual dance mania. They actually had to turn down club entries. At some of the events during the weekend, there was standing room only for crowds of over 400, as there were not enough chairs in the town to accommodate the numbers of attendees.

Mr. Speaker, without the countless hours of time donated by parents of the dancers, as well as support of this community, this event wouldn't have occurred. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask this Assembly to join with me in congratulating Rose Valley Dance Club for putting on this highly successful, competitive event.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Partners in Employment

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, our province is one step closer to building independence for all Saskatchewan people with the help of a new pilot project called Partners in Employment.

This program celebrated its official launch in February and has so far helped more than 125 people living with disabilities to find work. It has enriched their quality of life and provided a real and greater independence.

Mr. Speaker, Partners in Employment is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, job seekers, businesses, government, and other community organizations. This program offers individualized services to help people with disabilities in finding, securing, and maintaining employment. Services include job development, pre-employment training, job maintenance, and job coaching.

Mr. Speaker, one person who has benefited from Partners in Employment is Stephanie King, the first client to successfully attain employment through this program. Ms. King is proud of the success she has achieved, and she says, quote, "the program is the best thing that has happened to me." That quote says it all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Stephanie King and all of the program's participants who have successfully found employment. Let us also acknowledge the Saskatchewan Abilities Council for its commitment to providing people the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Achievements of Young Musician from Eatonia

Mr. Dearborn: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to applaud the achievements of Juline Wilson from Eatonia. Seventeen-year-old Juline placed fifth in the International Clarinet Association's high school competition in July 2003. She is one of a long line of students, highly accomplished by the band teacher in the local school, Mr. Steve Mealy, who sent a number of individuals to the Canadian honour band and now placing in international competitions.

Wilson was shortlisted to the top six after submitting an audio recording of her playing. Last year's top finalists from the competition were from Latvia, and this year she competed against five Americans as the only Canadian as well as the only female in the competition — an amazing accomplishment to be ranked fifth in the world.

Please join me in congratulating this outstanding musician and in wishing her every success in her future endeavours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Waiting Times for Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I introduced John McBain to members of the Assembly. Mr. McBain's wife, Lorna, saw a neurologist on September 11, 2002 because of intense headaches. The neurologist ordered an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) that day.

Recently John McBain received notification that Lorna's MRI has been scheduled for April 27 at 11:45 p.m. — almost 20 months later. The only problem is, Mr. Speaker, Lorna McBain died on March 29, 2003. In fact yesterday was the one-year anniversary of her death. And today we ask a question of the Premier on Mr. McBain's behalf.

When will this government shorten the MRI waiting lists in the province of Saskatchewan so there isn't another instance, another case, like Mr. McBain's — the fate of his wife where she died waiting undiagnosed, on an MRI waiting list?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we're all concerned when there are issues like this that are raised. But our goal in this province is to provide the diagnostic services to people when they need them, and we're working at that goal.

As it relates to MRIs, it's become more and more the latest and best method of diagnosis and we are working to increase the capacity in Saskatchewan. In the last number of years we have increased the capacity substantially. We've grown 153 per cent

in the last four years approximately in the numbers of MRIs that are being provided, but we see that there are increasing demands and we're working to make sure that those demands are met. And if the member opposite will stay tuned, we can have more information about that shortly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it could well be that people in this province don't have long to wait, maybe not even a short time to wait. Mr. Speaker, Mr. McBain's wife passed away six months after an MRI was ordered. She passed away undiagnosed. There is a chance, there is a chance that Lorna McBain could be alive today if she had timely access to an MRI.

And so we ask the Minister of Health this question: will he show Mr. McBain and his family the respect of an apology for how the health care system in this province has let that family down, and will he outline today clearly for Mr. McBain and for others who languish on waiting lists the measures this government is prepared to take to ensure that this sort of thing never happens again in the province of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, in this present year that's ending tomorrow, we will be doing almost 13,000 MRI examinations in the province of Saskatchewan. The three machines that we have here have the capacity to do more and we're looking at how we can increase that capacity. And as I said earlier, if the member opposite would just wait a little bit, he'll have some more information about some of these things.

We have been working very diligently to provide the best care that we can for the people of Saskatchewan and we will continue to do that. And I'll always remind myself that we're always here in this legislature talking about how we can provide the resources that help the system. We do that in a way because we're working for our family members, our friends, our neighbours, right across the province. We are concerned about them all and we will work hard for all of them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, to the extent that Lorna McBain could potentially, could potentially still be with us had she received timely access to an MRI examination, I want to give the minister another chance. Notwithstanding some announcements that might be coming in the next few days, I ask this minister or the Premier to stand up and apologize. Apologize to Mr. McBain, to his family, and to others who are currently waiting, languishing, seemingly forgotten on waiting lists — the longest MRI waiting lists in the nation.

(14:00)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, we're concerned about all people who end up with challenges within the health care system, but we are working very diligently and carefully to use the resources that we've got to make sure that we provide the best care for the people in the system.

And we've indicated in our action plan that also as we move forward and looking at the national agenda around providing medicare, that many of the ways that we've been doing things over the last number of years have to be challenged and looked at to see whether the dollars are being used in the right place. And as I said yesterday, that includes looking at how we allocate dollars in this province and where they go.

The member opposite has raised a number of issues that relate to acute care — some of the very expensive care — and we're looking carefully at those, but we end up then having to look at all the dollars spent in the province and how we allocate those.

And I ask the member opposite and all of his colleagues to be with us as we look at this very, very challenging problem.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister may want to take the opportunity later to explain why he would refuse the simple dignity of an apology to this particular family whose case we raised today.

Mr. Speaker, there's an additional case we'd like to talk about today. Forty-year-old Bernie Tyson is a master control operator for Global Television. Mr. Tyson saw a specialist in January, 2003 because of hearing problems and he was put on an MRI waiting list. By November, 2003 his symptoms had grown worse and he was upgraded to an MRI priority list. His appointment for the priority MRI was set for August of this year — August, 2004 — 10 months, Mr. Speaker, for a priority MRI.

But luckily Mr. Tyson's file was reviewed by an MRI technician who made arrangements to see him immediately. He received his MRI and it indicated that he had a brain tumour and he needed immediate surgery.

So again we would ask the Minister of Health: how would the registry, how would the measures to monitor waiting lists that the minister's been talking about over the last number of weeks, how would they have helped Mr. Tyson?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the methods that we've been using with the Sask surgery registry involves a careful assessment of the patient's need on a standardized method across the province.

One of the challenges has been how we do the comparisons and how we have a fair and equitable system, and clearly the assessments are a crucial part of this. But it's also the ongoing working with the people within the medical system.

And it's always a challenge to have something that is fail-safe in the whole operation, but clearly you end up having to make sure you get the best assessment by the professionals involved so that we can provide both the diagnostic skills and then also ultimately the treatment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Tyson was told he would need immediate surgery. However when he arrived at the hospital for his surgery, his neurosurgeon told him that because of the extent of the mass in his brain that he could not proceed with the surgery. In fact there's only one place in Canada where this surgery can take place, and that's Toronto. And as we speak today, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tyson awaits for the call from Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, what would have happened had he been forced to wait until August for his priority MRI under the current health care system provided by this current NDP (New Democratic Party) government?

The question to the minister is: if we don't have the resources or the plan here in place to provide Mr. Tyson and others with timely MRIs, what arrangements has the minister made or will the minister make with other provinces to ensure that above all the people of this province who need MRIs — possibly in life and death situations — who need MRIs, can access them on a timely basis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I would remind all of us here and all of the people across Saskatchewan that the way our health system works is that you continually consult with your doctor to make sure that any changes that have taken place in your condition or care are monitored on a regular basis. And that then that information is provided to the health system and as it sounds like in this case, there were some moves that were done to have things done very quickly.

What I would say also is that in Saskatchewan we have arrangements with every province in Canada that we will pay for the services for Saskatchewan people in those provinces. Some of the services we require that people get prior authorization before they go to another province, but all the doctors in the province and many of the other health professionals in the province know the appropriate procedure to request that prior approval. And it can happen within hours if necessary.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, were it not for the help of the technician, Mr. Tyson would still not have his MRI. He would still know . . . not know what the problem is. And with respect to the province's out-of-province travel approval committee, the process that's in place, the minister will know as MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) on this side of the House will know, that they're approving nothing, Mr. Speaker.

The indication from doctors' offices is that this committee is just simply not approving these sorts of trips anymore — for financial reasons or for some reason. At least that's the information, that's the information that we are getting from doctors who discourage patients from even applying for this process.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan you can wait up to 22 months for an MRI. Normand Laberge, CEO (chief executive officer) of the Canadian Radiologists Association has indicated that Saskatchewan has the longest MRI waiting lists in the country. In fact, according to Mr. Laberge, he says, and I quote:

This government is getting away with murder.

MRIs are a diagnostic tool. Without one it can be difficult to determine how severe a patient's condition might be.

Mr. Speaker, we'd like to know today, on behalf of Mr. Tyson and Mr. McBain, what is the government's plan to reduce MRI waiting lists?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the information that the member opposite has related to, the approval process, is not accurate. There are many cases being approved for people that require specialized treatment outside the province.

What we do first though, is to see if the treatment is available in the province, and that's the job of the people who are running this particular area of the medical services program.

But what we need to remind everybody is that your family doctor and the others working with them, including technicians and other people who are there, are all part of the health team. And I think we have to remember also that many of them have skills that are very crucial in assisting the doctors in assessing patients. We have to work together with all of them. We have to support what they're doing.

In Saskatchewan we have many, many very capable professional people. We're not a big province though. We don't have all of the specialized procedures and surgeries and other things that may be needed. And we make arrangements — whether it's in Canada, the States, or Europe — to get some of those things if we don't have them here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what the minister has just outlined is a very nice theory. The fact remains, the fact remains, that Mr. Tyson, Mr. Tyson would still not have his MRI. He would still be not diagnosed under that system.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the minister again to highlight what is he prepared to do with respect to improving the MRI waiting list in the province of Saskatchewan? And we give him a chance today again to do the right thing and stand up and apologize to those people who have either suffered on a waiting list or lost loved ones who have waited on those MRI waiting lists.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of concern for all of the patients that the members opposite bring forward, as well as all of the patients and all of the people within the province that require help.

And we're working very carefully on organizing how our health care system works. We're also working very carefully to get the resources that we have in our province organized in a way so that we can provide this care.

One of my frustrations, Mr. Speaker . . . actually, there's two frustrations. One of them happens to be down in Ottawa and the kind of contribution they're providing on the national medicare. But the local frustration is the unelected Leader of the Opposition who doesn't come forward with any suggestions about how we would solve some of these problems.

And some of his colleagues have said oh, that's not their job as opposition. Well, Mr. Speaker, when it's a problem that concerns all of the citizens of this province, it's a job for everybody. And we all need to work together to do that, and I invite the member opposite to come forward with some positive suggestions and help us do this task that we've got.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Provincial Tax Regime

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's pretty obvious now that the Premier has confirmed that he will be raising taxes in tomorrow's budget. But what's worse, the Premier is now claiming he was honest about tax hikes during the election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, this Premier was a lot of things during the election campaign, but honest was not one of them. Time and again the Premier told voters that his platform was sustainable and affordable, that he would not, that he would not have to raise taxes. In fact he would continue to cut taxes.

Mr. Speaker, voters trusted the Premier and he has betrayed that trust. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier point to one time, one time during the election campaign when he warned voters about a tax hike?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member opposite to provide us with this opportunity to discuss Saskatchewan's finances, which is an issue of great concern and interest to the people of Saskatchewan.

Speaking about finances, I think it's fair to say that given the improvements that we have made in reporting and accountability over the years, the people of Saskatchewan, like the opposition, were aware of the financial situation going into

the election last year, as they are aware now of the financial situation in Saskatchewan.

The members may groan, but you know, Mr. Speaker, that is one of the tremendous improvements that we've made — better reporting, more reports on our budget during the course of the year. Even more reports by the Provincial Auditor. Summary financial statements to provide a sense of what the overall spending has been in government for previous years. These are improvements that we've made. I think the financial situation was aware to all the people in Saskatchewan, including the opposition. If they weren't, they sure made them aware, Mr. Speaker, of what it was.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, for 28 days this Premier looked the people of Saskatchewan in the eye and said things that just weren't true. In his own election platform, the Premier promised that he would continue to cut taxes. Not raise taxes, Mr. Speaker, cut taxes. In fact there is not a word about raising taxes. But that's exactly what he's going to do tomorrow. He didn't tell the truth, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the Premier's election platform right here in my hand. Can the Premier show me one place in this election campaign document where he talked about raising taxes?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I also have a copy of that platform, and I'll get into that in a minute. But I just want to say that, again, I think the people of Saskatchewan were well aware of our financial situation. And if they weren't made aware of the reports on our budget and the reports by the Provincial Auditor, the opposition made sure that they were made aware. What was a great puzzle, though, to the people of Saskatchewan, to have the opposition on the one hand say, you know, the finances of this province are so bad, so bad — but then come forward and say, but forget all that; we want to now spend half a billion dollars. Well then, the people of Saskatchewan said, they can't be trusted, Mr. Speaker, and returned this government, Mr. Speaker. That's what happened in the last election.

Mr. Speaker, the platform I have, Mr. Speaker, and I assume the same platform, where we said:

Continue to cut taxes responsibly — without jeopardizing health and education.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read what the Premier said in Yorkton on the day that he released his platform, October 17, 2003. And I quote:

It is a platform that is financially achievable, financially viable. It is a platform that provides the room fiscally for the ongoing and growing base funding to health and education and other valuable public services. And it is a platform that provides for the room to receive the recommendations of the Boughen Commission on the funding of education. It is a platform that is realistic, practical, and above all, affordable.

(14:15)

Mr. Speaker, that's what the Premier said. What he didn't say is that this is a platform that includes tax hikes. Mr. Speaker, how on earth can the Premier claim that he warned voters about a tax hike when he said no such thing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I outlined what it is that we did say during the election campaign. It was very clear. Even then we're expressing our concerns about the need to support health and education.

Mr. Speaker, what was a great puzzle during the campaign was the fact that this party opposite would say on the one hand to the people of Saskatchewan that finances are not to be believed — that the finances are so poor, worse than made out by the Provincial Auditor, worse than made out by anyone, that they're so terrible — but then on the other hand say, but forget all that; we now have this proposal to spend half a billion dollars. That's why the people of Saskatchewan said that party cannot be trusted. They're not credible. That's why they continue to sit on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fact is, this Premier does not have a mandate to raise taxes, particularly the PST. On January 8, CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) radio reported that the Premier's on record saying he does not have a mandate to raise the PST. A reporter asked and I quote, do you have a mandate to change or raise the PST? And the Premier answered, no, no.

The Premier went on to say, and I quote, we have no appetite to increasing taxes. Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty clear statement. The Premier admitted he has no mandate to raise the PST and that he has no appetite for raising any taxes. Does the Premier plan to keep his word or does he plan to betray his voters by raising the PST in tomorrow's budget?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, whether it's during the election, before the election, after the election, we have continued to state that the priorities of the people of Saskatchewan as we see them are quality health care, education,

support for our young people. We think those are the priorities now. They were the priorities then. We intend to maintain those priorities. We intend to support those priorities.

I find it ironic, Mr. Speaker — maybe there's a stronger word for it — that you would have an opposition that on a daily basis comes forward with examples of where, in their view, the health care system is not working in their view. And they say that the health care system needs additional resources and then say, no you shouldn't have the additional resources. That's why the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, are so cynical about opposition parties because it seems to be darned if you do, darned if you don't. That's the message coming from the opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's now evident that even the Finance minister has now admitted that the NDP was covering up a tax hike during the last election campaign in November 2003. Back in January the minister admitted that the NDP deliberately avoided talking about a tax increase. Why would that be so, Mr. Speaker? Because, and I'm quoting now from the minister . . . the Finance minister opposite, and I quote:

I suspect that anyone who talks about tax hikes is not going to be very popular during the course of an election campaign.

At least the Minister of Finance is now telling the truth about not telling the truth, Mr. Speaker. But not the Premier. He's still looking people in the eye and saying things that just aren't true. Why did the Premier run a dishonest campaign?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the priorities of the people of Saskatchewan are quality health care; the priorities are education; the priorities are support for our young people. The opposition and the people of Saskatchewan will see soon enough that those are our priorities, that we remain committed to them.

Mr. Speaker, no one was misled during the election campaign. The people of Saskatchewan were clearly aware of the financial circumstances of Saskatchewan. That is why we put forward a series of commitments for the people that were clearly responsible in their nature; as opposed to the opposition, Mr. Speaker, who are not believed, who are not credible. And that is why, Mr. Speaker, they continue to sit on that side of the House because they weren't credible then. And you know what? They're not credible now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day,

with leave to move some motions of condolence.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to move motions of condolence. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to members for the granting of the leave. I move, seconded by the member from Swift Current, firstly today:

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

Bernard David Gallagher, who passed away on October 1, 2003, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1971, representing the constituency of Yorkton for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Gallagher was born in Yorkton on July 22, 1925. He attended local schools and graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate. Mr. Gallagher married Dorothy Jean Lang on August 1, 1949, and we note today Mrs. Gallagher's recent passing. Mr. Gallagher is survived by his six children.

Mr. Gallagher was elected to this Assembly in the 1960 general election. He retained his seat in the following two elections. Upon leaving this House, Mr. Gallagher retained an interest in politics and continued to be active in the Liberal Party. Mr. Gallagher was a farmer by profession and spent his retirement enjoying both horse racing and bridge.

And, Mr. Speaker, there will not be large numbers in the House today who will remember serving with, or remember the service in this House of Bernie Gallagher, but I tell you the historical record, the historical record on Bernie Gallagher tells me that this was a fiercely independent man, an Irishman, and a fiercely independent man who spoke always — always — his views whether it was in caucus or in the government benches.

And I think the comments that were shared at the time of Mr. Gallagher's death, recorded by Will Chabun of the *Leader-Post*, will have a great deal to tell us about Mr. Gallagher.

It is reported the young farmer was elected to the Saskatchewan legislature as a Liberal from Yorkton in 1960. Quote:

"I think that he probably felt that (the) other elected representatives didn't represent the man on the street — or I should say, the man on the tractor," said his brother, Greg Gallagher who is president of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party.

And Garrett Wilson a lawyer here in Regina, known to many of

us, made this observation:

Bernie was always a gentle soul; he was a good, hard-working MLA.

Today, Mr. Speaker, this legislature remembers the contribution of Bernard Gallagher to the life of this legislature, the life of his community, and the life of this province.

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale and seconded by the member for Swift Current, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Bernard David Gallagher, who passed away on October 1, 2003, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1971, representing the constituency of Yorkton for the Liberal Party . . .

Ending in the words:

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

I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mary Batten, who was a Liberal colleague of Mr. Gallagher, described him today as a quiet, competent, and loyal man. He served as a good conscience for the Liberal caucus.

My colleague, Clay Serby, attended Mr. Gallagher's funeral this past October and described it as a fitting tribute to an honourable man. So we remember Bernard David Gallagher today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour on behalf of the members of the official opposition to stand today in unity with the Government of Saskatchewan as we express our condolences to the family of Mr. Gallagher.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I only know Mr. Gallagher through the pages of a book I recently read, *Rumours of Glory*, by a former political columnist, Dale Eisler. It's a book that highlights the rise . . . the two terms of government and then the defeat of the Ross Thatcher government which Mr. Gallagher would have served in.

And I remember the references to him in that novel as well, and

agree with the Premier that he clearly was . . . he clearly was someone who fought for what he believed and guarded his independence and his ability to voice his concerns and those of his constituents.

And I know my colleague, the member for Canora-Pelly, would also like to offer some comments, but we just want to say, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition that we do join today with the Premier and his colleagues in sending our sympathies and our best wishes to Mr. Gallagher's family today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an honour today to stand in the Assembly to recognize a gentleman who gave a lot to the province of Saskatchewan, especially to eastern Saskatchewan — east-central Saskatchewan. And I know having Bernard David Gallagher's brother, Greg, in my constituency, as a constituent, I've learned a lot from Greg about what kind of a person his brother was.

Mr. Speaker, the family that I have been able to get in contact with have made some very interesting comments about their father, their brother, and how he related to their family.

As indicated by the Premier, Mr. Speaker, Bernard David Gallagher was the first child born to Fergal and Alberta Gallagher. And I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker — I know the family member members already know this — that a history book is being compiled that will describe the family history of the Gallagher family and the . . . I know family members look forward to that history book that will describe the events of coming to Canada, and living through the times of probably great hardships in the province of Saskatchewan as they continue to build their family.

Mr. Speaker, his daughter describes Bernard as a bright man with an impressive memory, a man who didn't mince words and didn't try to blur the issue. You know, Mr. Speaker, I guess that's why, in 1960 in a stronghold . . . in a CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) stronghold of Yorkton at that time, Bernard Gallagher decided to contest that nomination. And he was successful, Mr. Speaker. And when I spoke with Greg, he indicated that he had . . . there was one characteristic that Bernard had and that was the ability to make friends. He didn't mince words. He didn't try clouding things over.

He came to the point and in that way earned friends very quickly. And as indicated, he was successful in being elected in 1960 and then again in the subsequent two elections in the constituency of Yorkton.

(14:30)

Mr. Speaker, after becoming a cabinet . . . after becoming an elected member, Bernard continued to show his fierce independence. And I guess I'd like to sort of comment that probably we saw the first free votes in that Liberal caucus that time because Bernard often would not hesitate to vote against his party if he thought they were wrong. And as a result, you know, your free vote probably originated, I'm sure much to the consternation of the then leader, Ross Thatcher.

Mr. Speaker, there are many things that his family reports that I would like to put on the record. And one of them was that Bernard was a person who was faith filled. That's the description that comes to mind for talking about Bernard Gallagher. He had the ability to believe in his faith and he was often seen saying the rosary on a regular basis.

He lived life to his fullest. And interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, many, many different people of various political stripe commented about those strong characteristics that Bernard brought to this Assembly. And in fact at his passing, his family received a letter from Ed Broadbent that stated that even though he disagreed ideologically on certain issues, he had a great deal of respect for Bernard Gallagher.

I want to thank Susan Sadoway, who is the late Bernard's daughter, for sharing some of the things that she's shared with me today where she's . . . comments about the fact that Bernard taught his children the gift of acceptance. She says that about a year before he was diagnosed with cancer, he lost his eyesight. He had been diagnosed with macular degeneration. But he didn't consider that as a disability, and in fact while being a palliative care patient in hospital already, he really never complained. And she recalls one day a nurse coming into the hospital, into his room and asking him if he was in a great deal of pain. And Bernard said he didn't consider it a pain but just a mere discomfort.

Bernard was also very generous and giving of his time. Susan's comment, and I quote: "He would give you the shirt off of his back."

He was often seen giving rides to hitchhikers. Obviously as an MLA he travelled the province of Saskatchewan and at the end of the trip when he was able to drop off his passenger, many a time he would give them \$20 to help them along on their way or maybe just buy them a hot meal — so a tremendous amount of respect for other individuals, probably less fortunate than himself.

In most recent years, Bernard began a petition to ask that a refugee seeking sanctuary at his church be allowed to stay in Canada. So he stayed very active and very busy right to the time of his passing.

Susan has indicated that Bernard was never pretentious or showy. Before he died he made sure his funeral was planned. He said that in spite . . . She said that in spite of his blindness, Bernard picked out his own casket, although he had indicated he would rather be buried in a cardboard box. He indicated that he preferred to be taken to his burial spot in an old Cadillac as opposed to a shiny new one. Lastly, he travelled to the spot where he would be buried and felt the headstones of those who were to be his new neighbours. Bernard wanted to be sure that his headstone was not larger or more ornate than those around him.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated, Bernard leaves his four sons and two daughters to survive him. As indicated, his wife of many years just passed away on March 15. So I would like to extend our condolences and my own special condolences to the family of Bernard David Gallagher.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion of condolence moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current. By leave of the Assembly:

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

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

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — Before we proceed with the next motion I would ask leave of the Assembly if we could revert to one business item to complete that, and that is the item of written questions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to stand on behalf of the government to table written responses to questions 16 through 21 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 16 to 21 have been submitted. Thank you very much, members. Returning now to Government Orders.

I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again by leave to move other motions of condolence. And again I will move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Swift Current:

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

Alexander Mitchell, who passed away on July 26, 2003, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1966 until 1971, representing the then constituency of Bengough for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Mitchell was born on the family homestead in Cardross on July 27, 1912. He attended local schools in Cardross and in Moose Jaw before joining the family farming operation. His marriage to Mary Gall on December 25 — Christmas Day, Mr. Speaker — on December 25, 1935, lasted over 51 years.

Mr. Mitchell was an active participant in many community organizations. He was a member and past master of the Masonic Lodge Verwood No. 177. He was a member of the Assiniboia Shrine Temple, the Regina Wa Wa Shrine Temple, the Mossbank Elks Club, and the Moose Jaw Percepsy.

Mr. Mitchell earned his pilot's licence and later owned his own plane. This interest in flying led to his and his wife's 30-year involvement with the Saskatchewan Flying Farmers Association, including a period on the executive as president of that association.

Mr. Mitchell's involvement in politics began with the Bengough Liberal Association. He served as president of the association before being elected to this Assembly in a by-election in 1966 election. He retained that seat in the general election the following year.

Mr. Speaker, Alex Mitchell has been well known in the Cardross, the Mossbank, the Assiniboia area of our province. And often the story has been told about Alex Mitchell on the day of that very historic occasion in our province's history when the then premier Douglas was debating Ross Thatcher, Leader of the Liberal Party, in Mossbank, on the question of public ownership and Crown corporations.

And the story has often been told about Alex Mitchell, so delighted was he in the performance of his leader, Ross Thatcher, so delighted, as the historian has put it, that finally someone had stood up to Tommy Douglas, that when the debate was over, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the debate was over, they say that Alex Mitchell literally jumped to the rafters and swung from the rafters in that old Mossbank hall. That story is often told.

When Mr. Mitchell's obituary appeared in the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* last summer, I remember reading this one little sentence, which perhaps very, very astutely summarizes the memories of those who have loved and known Alex Mitchell. It said simply, Alex was a giant man packed into a small frame.

Mr. Speaker, it is with regret, that this Assembly notes the passing of Alexander Mitchell. We extend our condolences to his family, and in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — The motion before the House is the motion of condolence been moved by the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member

from Swift Current, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to his province - **Alexander Mitchell**. In recording its own deep sense of loss and grief, the Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

I recognize the . . . (inaudible) . . . Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Certainly on behalf of the official opposition, I want to join with the Premier today and the Premier's colleagues, in expressing our sympathies and expressing our condolences to the family of Mr. Mitchell.

Again, perhaps from my recent read of *Rumours of Glory*, I can certainly understand the comments that the Premier has made, and the particular anecdote he has told about Mr. Mitchell in the wake of the results of that great debate.

As you look at the information that all members of the Assembly are presented with here today, of course the story is so much more than politics. And as is the case with so many Saskatchewan people, community leaders, and members of this Assembly, and others, it is the story of community service through the Mason and through the Shrine, in Mr. Mitchell's case, and through the Elks Club, and then later through the Flying Farmers Association, an organization for which he served as president.

And then there's a brief paragraph, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that highlights Mr. Mitchell's involvement in politics and the reason that we're now making this motion today, the fact that he was elected in a by-election and then re-elected in a general election to serve this legislature on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, though times have obviously changed significantly since 1966 through the five years that followed up until '71 . . . and to highlight that point I think I'd point out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I think the budgets at that time, the provincial budgets, were in the hundreds of millions of dollars compared to where they are at now, Mr. Speaker, well over \$6 billion.

But the point is this, that the service that Mr. Mitchell offered to his constituents and to all the people of this province regardless of the fact that the issues may have changed, that the size of the budgets may have changed, that the scope of the duties may have changed, the service is as it is today. It's important, it's the bedrock upon which we base our system of governing, certainly here in Saskatchewan and in Canada.

I know the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy will want to talk as well about Mr. Mitchell, but certainly on behalf of the official opposition, I just want to join the Premier today in extending our condolences and best wishes to the family of Mr. Mitchell on this occasion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Ms. Bakken: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to speak today in remembrance of Alex Mitchell, a long-time resident of the Cardross district, who was elected to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly to represent the then constituency of Bengough.

Mr. Mitchell was elected first in a by-election and he served in this government, in this Legislative Assembly, under who I believe was the greatest Premier this province has ever had, Ross Thatcher. As previously noted, Alex Mitchell was born at the family homestead on July 27, 1912 where he lived and farmed for over 50 years.

Alex was well-known throughout the Cardross district as a hard-working, efficient farmer and as a dedicated community leader. And as the Premier has indicated, one of Alex's loves was flying and he obtained his pilot's licence and by the late '40s owned his own aircraft. And he and his wife, Mary, were active members in the Saskatchewan Flying Farmers for over 30 years.

Mr. Mitchell represented the Bengough constituency from 1966 to 1971. Although the boundaries have changed over the years and the name is now Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency, the majority of the area he represented is the same area I represent today.

(14:45)

Mr. Mitchell back in 1966 was concerned about some of the same issues that constituents have in this area today. In Mr. Mitchell's maiden speech on March 10, 1966 he spoke about the need for a nursing home in Bengough, about a two-price system for wheat that he felt would benefit smaller farmers, and he also spoke about the highways in the area.

And to quote from his speech, Mr. Mitchell, and I quote, believed in rebuilding and oiling of No. 13 and No. 36 highways. He believed that they should be oiled and completed. No. 34 Highway will probably not be oiled this year, he said, but he will press for a completion of it within two years.

Mr. Mitchell, and I quote, said, this highway is an important link to the United States Customs and important to people of the Bengough Big River region.

Mr. Mitchell went on to say that he urged the government to rebuild and oil No. 13 Highway across the entire province. He said it is the only east-west highway except for the Trans-Canada Highway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Mitchell also dreamed big. He believed that the government should build airstrips along the highways near rural towns. He believed this would be a great asset to both towns and the rural economy. Again to quote from Mr. Mitchell's maiden speech, and I quote, the numbers of farmers and businessmen who are using light airplanes for business is increasing and I am sure this method of transportation will grow.

Although I never had the privilege to meet Mr. Mitchell, I have heard many stories about him over the years because my dad, Darwin Lackey, was Mr. Mitchell's campaign manager in the 1967 general election, and I've heard many stories about the times that they had when they stayed in the old Bengough Hotel for the full month of the campaign.

And I spoke to my dad about Mr. Mitchell this morning and I asked him what he recalled about the campaign and about Mr. Mitchell. And he said that he remembers that it was a hard-fought campaign and that Mr. Mitchell only won by 232 votes.

And so I asked him to describe in his words what he would say if he had the opportunity to speak about Alex Mitchell. And he said, and I quote:

It isn't hard to describe Alex Mitchell. He was sincere, down-to-earth, a straight shooter, and it was easy to campaign with Alex because he was respected wherever he went in the constituency, whether people agreed with his politics or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to quote from Mr. Mitchell's obituary from the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* as those who loved him most and knew him most best expressed how they felt about Alex Mitchell. And from the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald*:

Alex was a giant man packed into a small frame. He had a lot of energy and was a social character. His presence was felt and respected wherever he appeared. Active in sports in his youth, he later enjoyed dancing, telling jokes and stories, and engaging in political argument. He had a long, memorable, and meaningful life which touched many people. Alex will be sadly missed but never forgotten by his family and his friends.

Mr. Mitchell passed away on July 26, 2003, one day short of his 91st birthday. On behalf of the residents of the former Bengough constituency and this Assembly, we express sincere sympathy to all members of Mr. Alex Mitchell's family.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — Will the Assembly accept this motion of condolence for Mr. Mitchell as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — Okay. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, again by leave of the Assembly, I move, seconded by the member of Swift Current:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and

expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Olaf Alexander Turnbull, who passed away on March 15, 2004, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1964, representing the constituency of Elrose for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Turnbull was born on December 30, 1917, in Kindersley. He attended local schools before graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. Mr. Turnbull married Alice Turner on July 21, 1945 and he is survived by his wife and their five children.

In his private life, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Turnbull carried on the family tradition of farming. He first became involved in his local community by serving as a councillor on the rural municipality of Kindersley. Mr. Turnbull focused his energy in a variety of farming organizations.

He served as a director and as vice-president of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union. He was the Saskatchewan representative on the federal price stabilization board and a member of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. He also served as chairman of the 1959 march to Ottawa farm group.

Mr. Turnbull held memberships with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, the American Farm Economics Association, and the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

Ole Turnbull served one term in this Assembly and following his election in the 1960 general election, Mr. Turnbull was appointed to cabinet as the minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development. He later held the Education portfolio from 1962 until 1964.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not many weeks or months ago, Ned Powers of the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* did a feature article on Ole Turnbull, talking not only about his record of accomplishment in public life, and talking about his record of accomplishment in the co-operative movement — in later years, the director of the co-op college — but, Mr. Speaker, what was interesting, and I'm sure Ole Turnbull enjoyed this, the photo used in this feature article sees him seated in front of a piano with a large saxophone in his arms. For as much as his passion for politics and public life, as much his passion for co-operatives and co-operation, was his passion for music.

And some of us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who were attending to Saskatchewan's elementary schools when Mr. Turnbull served as minister of Education would not have known at the time that the introduction of music into the elementary school curriculum of Saskatchewan, the introduction of music into the classroom when some of us were at school, was exactly the result of Ole Turnbull's combination of love for education, for political experience and life, and for music. And that is a gift, that is a gift he has given to a generation and now generations of Saskatchewan young people.

Mr. Speaker, Ole Turnbull's funeral was not many weeks ago. And at that funeral, the minister who delivered the message, the Reverend Brian Walton, said this of Ole Turnbull:

Ole did not just live. He laboured, he lobbied, and he loved doing all of this with intellectual prowess and a characteristic reservation born of deep humility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we extend to Ole Turnbull's family and his friends the condolences of this legislature and in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — The motion before the House is the motion of condolence moved by the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, and seconded by the member from Swift Current:

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

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

I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again I want to join with the Premier and members opposite in expressing our condolences to the Turnbull family, to all the family and friends of Mr. Turnbull, on his passing on March 15.

I'm drawn, I'm drawn, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to one point, one particular line here that resonates with me in a particular way. It appears that Mr. Turnbull was 43 years old when he was first elected. It also says that he and his wife together had five children. Now I don't know this for certain but I'm sure he would have been helping to raise those children while he was also serving in this legislature a fair distance from home. And many members in this Assembly know from personal experience the challenge that that presents.

And so it is an honour to mark not only his service as a member of this Legislative Assembly, but also as a member of Executive Council in two important roles in the early 1960s. And I know that the member for Rosetown-Elrose will also want to share some remarks about Mr. Turnbull. But let me just say through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the Premier, that we certainly join with him and all members of the Assembly in expressing our sympathies and condolences to Mrs. Turnbull and the family and friends of Mr. Turnbull.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I am pleased to join with my colleagues in remembering the life of Olaf Turnbull, more commonly known as Ole Turnbull, who

represented the constituency of Elrose from 1960 to 1964. To my best knowledge I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Turnbull but I understand that he made some remarkable contributions to the province of Saskatchewan. And today we honour that commitment to his province and the service that he provided throughout his lifetime, including the period of time that he served as the member for Elrose in this Assembly.

Mr. Turnbull was a farmer, but he was much more than a farmer. He was an educator. He was a musician. And he also, like many of us in Saskatchewan, dabbled in politics.

The area around Elrose — north and south, east and west — has been very, very much focused on the political life of the province of Saskatchewan. Communities in this area of Saskatchewan are vitally concerned about politics and this would be the environment that Mr. Turnbull grew up in.

Mr. Turnbull was entering Saskatchewan politics at the same time as Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd were at the end of their political careers here in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Douglas went on to a short term federally, and Mr. Lloyd was defeated in that period, 1964, I believe.

But it's interesting that Mr. Turnbull took on both of their portfolios in his short term as an elected official representing the people of Elrose. He, as a minister, took on the responsibility of co-operatives, I believe for the first half of his term, which had been Mr. Douglas's portfolio, and then the second half of his term he took on Education which had been Mr. Lloyd's portfolio. So certainly a very . . . He must have been very much trusted by his colleagues taking on that portfolio, those two portfolios.

I think he lived an interesting life before his time in politics, involved in music, as the Premier had mentioned. He was involved in many bands and even in his younger days, tried to make a living with music. He was part of a six-piece band that went throughout Alberta trying to make enough money just to buy their gas to get back home again. He went on to a year later joining a band or a group called the Bitz Greater Vaudeville Show and when he was in Saskatoon also entertained at two or three nights a week at places like the Legion, the Rainbow Room, the Cavern and the Bessborough. So Mr. Turnbull certainly enjoyed a very colourful life, not only in politics but in the area of music as well.

We express our condolences to the family. I understand that the Turnbells raised a family of five. Tragically, Mr. Turnbull is predeceased by one of the children, Jane, who was tragically killed in a car accident. But we know that the remainder of the family very much treasure the memories of a father, a husband, a grandfather, and even a great-grandfather. And with my colleagues here in the House, I too want to express my thanks for his service to the province of Saskatchewan.

(15:00)

I understand, just in closing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that two things happened at the funeral service, the day of the funeral service, that were expressly asked for and requested for by Mr. Turnbull.

First of all he asked that at the lunch they serve his favourite food, which was pickled herring. And that has to reflect his Swedish background or some Swedish blood somewhere or Scandinavian blood. And secondly he requested that his band play that day, and I understand they played for about an hour. So it was nice to see that Mr. Turnbull's requests were fulfilled on the day of his funeral as people stopped to remember a man who served Saskatchewan and served this province well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to join all of my colleagues in extending condolences to the Turnbull family.

I have to tell you that I have known Ole Turnbull since as far as I can remember, far back as I can remember. I remember as a young child going to the Turnbull farm in the Kindersley area when both Ole and my dad were involved in the Saskatchewan Farmers Union. They had five kids in their family and we had five kids in our family and the Turnbull and Atkinson kids would often play together.

Many things have been said about Ole in the legislature this afternoon, but I think one of the things that's not been noted that I think needs to be acknowledged is that if it wasn't for Ole Turnbull in the early 1960s, we would never have seen Catholic high schools being supported by public, public funding. Up until Ole introduced the Bill with the support of Woodrow in this legislature, Catholic high school students attended Catholic high schools but their parents had to pay tuition.

And that was quite a controversial move in those days. It was the early 1960s and the legislation for secondary schools hadn't been changed since the early 1900s. And there were a number of people in the province that believed that public funding should go to public schools only.

Ole often commented that when Ross Thatcher's government was elected in 1964, and given that he'd only lost by about 30 votes in that constituency, that that may have been one piece of legislation that had contributed to his defeat.

The Premier mentioned Ole's involvement in bringing music education to Saskatchewan elementary high schools. And I too was a young child in elementary school in the 1960s and I remember enjoying music education as part of our school curricula.

One of the things that I remembered about Ole in his later years, and he happened to live in the constituency that I represent, was his activity when it came to music. And as the member from Rosetown has indicated, Ole was involved in a band, and he was the founder of the Saskatoon Hobby Band. And they made it their practice that they rehearsed every week for about three hours and then they played for fun. And I just loved the line that he used to crack — it was an old joke — that old saxophone players don't die; they just lose their wind. And that really was Ole's outlook on life.

In later years after he left this Legislative Assembly, he became the principal of the Western Co-operative College of Canada. And what I appreciated about him and his involvement in co-ops is that he was extremely interested in the new wave of co-ops and he encouraged those of us in the '70s and '80s to think about housing co-ops, worker co-ops, and new generation co-ops as they're called now.

He also encouraged us to go out and get involved in our co-ops as young people, run for the board of directors, and he was interested in the democratic side of co-operatives, and governance.

After he left the co-operative college in about 1982, he did a lot of work overseas with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), working in various developing countries ensuring that people in those countries had access to information regarding the co-operative movement and how well co-ops had moved . . . had worked on the Prairies, particularly when we were developing in the '30s and '40s.

The other thing that he did after he was defeated, he took his master's in continuing education. And when you think about it, when he was elected in the early 1960s — I believe 1960 — there were very few people in this province that had degrees. And he had a degree in agriculture and after his defeat he went back and got a master's in continuing education.

Mr. Speaker, Ole Turnbull, even though he served in this legislature for four years, he made his presence known by introducing changes to the secondary school Act that allowed Catholic school supporters and their children to have access to public dollars so that they didn't have to pay tuition. And he also ensured that school music . . . or music programs were available in our schools.

I know that those people who golfed with Ole every summer are going to miss his presence. And he has golfed with people like Guy Vanderhaeghe and other younger people who really enjoyed his presence on the golf course.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join with other members in recognizing the contribution that Ole Turnbull has made to this province and to extend sincere sympathies to Alice and all the members of the Turnbull family.

Mr. Speaker, I think as is clear from the remarks that other members have made, Ole Turnbull had a deep, deep commitment to the people of his constituency and to the people of Saskatchewan. And he had a great passion for publicly funded medicare; a great passion for the co-operative movement in the province of Saskatchewan; a great passion for public education in this province; and a deep, deep concern for the well-being of the farm community in Saskatchewan. And he contributed in a very significant way on all those fronts, Mr. Speaker.

Ole Turnbull was a man of high principle. And I think that one of the things that's very clear, Mr. Speaker, is that the members of the CCF who were elected in 1960 were a group of courageous men and women. And it took enormous courage, Mr. Speaker, to implement publicly funded medicare in the province of Saskatchewan. And Ole Turnbull was very much playing a key leadership role in that struggle, in addition to the contributions that he made as minister responsible for co-ops and co-operative development and as minister responsible for Education.

And I think that that contribution is important to be remembered, because in addition to Premier Woodrow Lloyd and Allan Blakeney, it was members like Ole Turnbull who helped give Saskatchewan and Canada the gift of publicly funded medicare.

He was also, Mr. Speaker, a man who was deeply committed to the principles of democracy. And not only did he demonstrate that in his commitment to democracy in this legislature, but he also demonstrated that in the ongoing commitment that he made to democratic process, after leaving this legislature, and particularly in his service at the . . . with the co-operative college of Canada.

I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of serving as an employee of the co-op college of Canada shortly after Mr. Turnbull left his position as principal and director of the college. And I know that he was held in very, very high regard by all members of the staff, by all members of the board, and by the large number of people from the co-operative movement who would come to the college to take classes and engage in discussion. He left an incredible legacy to the co-operative movement in his service at that college, Mr. Speaker, and we are all fortunate that he made that contribution.

I can also say that Mr. Turnbull was always someone who would offer friendly advice. He maintained a strong interest in Saskatchewan politics throughout his life, and he was often willing to offer encouragement and support to myself and other members of the legislature when we had the occasion to meet him. And I appreciated that very much.

So I think Mr. Turnbull has made an enormous contribution to the life of the CCF and the New Democratic Party in this province, an enormous contribution as a minister of the Crown in this legislature, and an enormous contribution to the farm movement and the co-operative movement of Saskatchewan. And we are indeed blessed to have had him in our midst, and it is . . . I again want to extend sincere sympathies to his family on his passing. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — Will the Assembly accept this motion of condolence for Mr. Turnbull as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — Motion is carried.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again by leave, and I will move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Swift Current:

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

Henry Harold Peter Baker, who passed away on March 4, 2004, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1982, representing the constituencies of Regina East, Regina South East, Regina Wascana, and Regina Victoria, first for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and then for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Baker was born on the family farm near Lipton on November 24, 1915. He received his early education at local schools before graduating from teachers college in Regina. Later he pursued his education, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Chicago where he studied business engineering and personnel administration. Mr. Baker married Helen Sauer on May 31, 1942 and together they had one daughter.

Mr. Baker's first career was as a teacher. He taught in elementary and high schools and spent two years instructing RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) air crew personnel. Mr. Baker then became the secretary of the Public Service Commission — a position he held for 14 years. Mr. Baker was active in a number of community organizations including the Frontiersmen and the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Baker's dedication to his fellow citizens was evident in his lengthy service in civic and provincial affairs. He was an alderman on the Regina City Council for three years before his election as mayor for the first time in 1959. He continued to lead the council until 1970, and then for a second period from 1974 until 1979. He was Regina's longest serving mayor.

At the provincial level, Mr. Baker was first elected to this Assembly as a member of the CCF in the 1964 general election. He retained his seat in the following three elections as a member of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some many in this community — certainly in the community of Regina, but I say across the province — have many memories of Henry Baker. I think Henry Baker will first of all be remembered, not as a member of this legislature, but first of all as mayor of Regina, the city that he loved — longest serving mayor of the capital city — and was able at this time to fulfill both duties, as a member of this legislature and to serve as the mayor of Regina. And if there is a tribute to Henry Baker, we see it each time we look across the lake and see the very majestic and proud Regina City Hall, built under Henry

Baker's stewardship. And appropriately I'm told the council chamber is named the Henry Baker — the Henry Baker chamber.

Henry Baker had a skill of being able to touch people, to reach out to people. Now he was not without his moments of controversy, as we all know. And he could, Henry Baker could inspire a little hostility in some. We all remember the case where the other councillors in the Regina City Council voted to move Mayor Baker's salary to \$1 per year, and in fact they did for a period of time.

(15:15)

But we all, I think who have met Henry Baker or who know of Henry Baker, we all accept and realize that if there has been an elected individual in this province who had a better rapport with people, who would take more time with people and be where people are, I'm not sure who it is that would exceed Henry Baker's record.

I just noted . . . Someone was kind enough to look this up for me. This is from Henry Baker's campaign literature in 1964. And speaking of the candidate, Mayor Henry Baker, it says:

A deep sense of responsibility, an enormous fund of energy to cope with the mounting problems of a growing city and yet happily blessed with the faculty to somehow have time to bend an ear to the ever present taxpayer's worries, have helped to make him one of Regina's most popular mayors.

The stories, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of Henry Baker are legion — are legion in this city — of how Henry would be at almost everybody's funeral if not their wedding as well.

Our former colleague Ned Shillington, when he was sitting in this House, used to tell a story of Henry Baker. And Ned was off to visit with a couple that were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, and as Ned looked over to the display they had set up at the 25th anniversary, here's the wedding picture of the bride and groom, and Henry Baker right between them.

Mayor Baker touched the people of Regina where they lived. He served the people of Regina as its mayor, he served the people of Regina as one of their MLAs, and served this province. There are so many, many fond memories of Regina's longest serving mayor, and a long-serving member of this legislature.

And so we express the condolence of this legislature and in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — The motion before the House is the motion of condolence moved by the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member from Swift Current:

That this Assembly records its sorrow and regret for the passing of a former member of this Assembly and

expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk): — I recognize the member of Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Three years on city council here in Regina as an alderman, 15 years as our capital city's mayor, and 18 years here in the Legislative Assembly representing the people of Regina, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Premier.

I actually remember watching the news . . . Every single noon hour I would rush home from school and watch the news with my dad. It came on right after another show that we always watched together here on CK TV and . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, it was the, it was the Flintstones, and the member for Nutana is correct. I know she would have enjoyed that as well. And I remember watching the news with my dad and having a keen interest in politics at a, admittedly, disturbingly early age.

And so my memory of Mr. Baker is that of his role as the mayor of Regina. I remember being surprised when I found out later that he had also served this province and this community as an MLA, and he served it for 18 years. He sat in this Assembly serving the people. So the Premier is correct to say that there's no question that people in this community . . . but people across the province will most likely remember his service to his community as its mayor.

Mr. Speaker, again the list of other forms of service is long in the case of Mr. Baker, whether it was the RCAF, the frontiersmen, or the Boy Scouts. And it is a, really a testament to the memory of a man who was committed to his community, committed to the residents of his community, and demonstrated that at many levels.

And I, if there was one thing someone were to ask me that I would remember of Mr. Baker, I too would remember that period of time that his fellow councillors voted for a significant wage decrease for Mr. Baker. Again, I was unaware that he was also serving in this Legislative Assembly at the time and I do remember thinking that that was just patently unfair for that to have happened because he was the mayor, and whatever was due him, I thought at that early age, was certainly due him.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day to mark the service of people who sacrificed much. No question it was the case in . . . with Mr. Baker, sacrificed much to serve, sacrificed time with family and friends and personal time to serve — in his case perhaps doubly so because of his role as the mayor and then as an MLA for Regina. So on behalf of the official opposition, we join with all the members of the Assembly in communicating our condolences and our sympathies to the family and friends of Henry Baker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance, the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I represented the constituency Regina Douglas Park, it was my pleasure to represent the constituency of Regina Victoria. And one of the MLAs that represented that riding before me was one Henry Baker.

When I moved to Regina after a few years, I ended up living in the Regina Victoria area and became active in the local executive, political executive for the New Democratic Party when Henry was the MLA. And it was my very great pleasure to get to know Henry, to have gotten to know him, and to work with him.

I was pleased to be able to work as a campaign organizer and manager for him in the 1978 and then again in the 1982 campaigns. It was a real treat to work with him, to have him as the candidate, because he loved going out there and meeting people. He was always glad-handing; he was always shaking hands; he was always mixing; he was mingling. Sometimes you get candidates you literally have to push them out the door to get them to do anything. But Henry Baker was not one of those candidates, Mr. Speaker. So it was a real pleasure to work with him.

It was also a real treat to get into discussions with him because of his unique experience that he brought to politics, as both a Member of the Legislative Assembly and as mayor of the city of Regina. And therefore his understanding of issues, his perspectives on various issues of the day were very interesting to me.

He had a number of qualities that I think endeared him at the end of the day to the people that he represented. One of them was, I guess you might almost say is an old-fashioned term and one we don't use very much, but he was a gentleman.

He was a gentlemen in the sense that he was unfailingly courteous and always polite in every which way — always courteous, always polite in every which way, And he was also very well dressed. He was always extremely well dressed. And when you looked at him and you saw how he treated people with dignity and kindness, and you saw the way that he was dressed, you'd say well that's a gentleman. It's an old-fashioned term but to me when I think of Henry Baker I always think of him as a gentleman and in a very kind way.

He was also a consummate politician and the Premier has alluded to some of his abilities. It's fair to say that he had an ability to always be very attentive — always gave those who were making representations to him the sense that they were being well listened to, that he was paying attention to their concerns.

Further to that he also had a real personal touch in terms of always attending meetings and events where there was some reason for him to be there, whether it was a family celebration, whether it was funerals, and Mayor Baker — I call him Mayor Baker, Henry — knew lots of people in Regina. And it was only right that he would attend their personal celebrations but also to be with them in their time of loss. That was Henry's way.

But he would also attend meetings. And people would always remark on the fact that, you know, you could have some community meeting and the meeting would go on for three hours, and Henry might only be able to come for half an hour, or so, or 15 minutes because of his busy schedule, but people would always remark on the fact that the mayor cared and the mayor was there and the mayor was there to listen. They recognized that he had other obligations, but that was the way he was.

He also acted on people's concerns. He was not a person to simply listen, let it go; he acted on their concerns. And he had to have acted on their concerns because one doesn't get to be elected for the length of time that he was as mayor of the city by ignoring people's concerns, or as the member of the legislature for approximately 18 years without acting on their concerns. He genuinely cared about people. He liked it when they came to him with their problems and he liked helping them with their problems. That's the kind of politician that he was and I think that counts for his longevity.

He was also a real leader. He tried to look at where it is that his city and his province should go and then to try to bring people with him in that direction. One of his main interest areas in the city of Regina was economic development. He worked very, very hard with the economic development people in the city to try to stimulate business development in Regina. I think it was largely successful.

When I moved to Regina in the early 1970s, Mayor Baker was presiding over a huge building boom in Regina. That created its own stresses and strains at that time, but the mayor was presiding over a huge building boom in Regina and he promoted that. He worked hard at that and I think we need to give him a lot of credit for presiding over a very robust period of expansion in Regina's history.

He also provided leadership on issues when it came to senior citizens. When he became very active in politics in the '50s and '60s, it was almost a definition that to be a senior citizen was to be poor in our society.

Now there have been many changes since the '50s and '60s because of improved pensions and the like. That's not to say that all senior citizens are now well off. But more senior citizens are in a better position than they were, relatively speaking, in the '50s and '60s.

So to be a senior citizen in those days was to be poor. And Henry Baker worked hard, both within the city of Regina and at the provincial level, to see what he could do to improve conditions, to improve services, to improve housing for senior citizens. And I think the record will show that Henry Baker provided very strong leadership in providing improvements in the lives of senior citizens in the city of Regina.

He also had a flip side. Although he was very concerned and worked hard on the interests and needs of senior citizens, he was also very interested in young people, you know. And it has been mentioned, the organizations that he was involved in.

He was very concerned about young people and even towards the end of his term as mayor he continued to champion the need

for a drag strip facility. Because it was his perception that young people needed to have a place where they could safely let off steam with their fast cars. So he worked and tried to promote the development of a drag strip facility for young people in Regina.

I know there was lots of people saying that's not really a priority; we don't need that. But he believed honestly and strongly that young people needed to have those kinds of outlets and something needed to be done. And I think that was evidence of his concern for young people in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Baker was a larger than life person for me and for most people in Regina. He's an icon. He's remembered to this day.

Whenever I go door to door in the areas that he used to represent, I still get elderly people who remember him well and who ask me questions about, where's Henry, how is Henry, do you know how Henry is doing. And I think that's a reflection on how he touched the lives of people in his area and throughout the city of Regina that they still, after all these years, remember him and ask about him, Mr. Speaker.

So for those who look to longevity in politics, because he was the longest serving mayor in the city of Regina but also a very long-serving MLA in this legislature — 18 years; from 1964, I believe it was, to 1982. That's a very long time to be in this legislature. If you want to look to longevity in politics, then I say you should look to Henry Baker and how he conducted himself — his qualities, how he approached people, how he listened to people, how he acted, how he provided leadership — to get some sense of how you can be successful as a politician.

(15:30)

You know that — if I might just digress for a minute — Henry Baker was always very serious about his role as both an MLA and as a mayor, and he took it seriously. That's not to say that he was a person without humour, but he took his job seriously. But he was also one that from time to time could poke fun at himself.

And I remember that before I ran for Regina City Council I told him that, look, I'm thinking of running for city council. I think you know I have a contribution I can make there. He says, well you know, let me just tell you that in my view that there are three attributes that you should have as a politician, and I don't know if you have any of them. And I said, well what are those? And he said, well I think you should have grey hair. I said, why? Because grey hair means that you're more mature and that you're a bit older, and it's a sign of wisdom if you have grey hair. And I said, well I don't have that.

And he said, it helps to have a bit of a paunch. And I said, I'm working on that one, but why? He says, well you know in my day it's sort of . . . it shows that you're successful and he came from a different generation when if you had a paunch it means that you typically worked in white-collar jobs, and therefore that was a sign of success. But I, you know, was getting there, but I didn't have that.

And he said, and there was a third thing you should have. And I

said, well what is that? And he said, well it's helpful if you want to be a successful politician to have hemorrhoids. I said, hemorrhoids? He said, yes that's so that you can always sit down and look concerned about things.

Well I don't want to comment on that one, Mr. Speaker. But let me say that Henry Baker's good qualities — his ability to poke fun at himself, his leadership, his engagement with people, his genuine interest in people — account for the fact that he was the longest serving mayor in Regina history, was one of the longest serving members of this Legislative Assembly, and accounts for his great success as a politician.

And all the people of Regina, and especially the people in the area of Regina Victoria that he represented and all the previous constituencies, will all miss Henry. And along with the other members, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere sympathy and condolences to Helen and Donna.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to hear this afternoon the tribute to Henry Baker. And as has been said, Mr. Baker served not only this legislature, but he also served the people of Regina in his capacity as alderman and mayor of the city of Regina.

I had the privilege of serving with Henry for four years in this legislature. And I marvelled, Mr. Speaker, at his ability to move from this legislature to city hall and somehow do a fine job in both roles. This was no mean feat. Now it was facilitated somewhat at the time, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that there was a large majority on this side of the House. And Mr. Baker on occasion was able to slip away while the Assembly was in progress to attend matters at city hall. But he always attended to the needs of his constituents in both his role as mayor and as an MLA, and this I found to be quite remarkable.

And as has been said by other members, Mr. Speaker, Henry had a real ability to touch people and to be with people at important moments in their lives. So he was always slipping out of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to attend a wedding, to go to a birthday celebration, to go to another event that recognized an important time in someone's life, and to be with families when they were mourning the loss of a loved one. He was at many, many funerals of friends and family members in the city, Mr. Speaker. And he somehow found time to do that in addition to all his responsibilities as both mayor and an MLA.

And he attended, Mr. Speaker, to the smallest matter of concern that someone would phone him with. He was back in touch with him quickly, and he endeavoured to do his very best to attend to their concern. And in that sense, Mr. Speaker, he was a real model for many of us in the House.

I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that as a new member in the Assembly, I appreciated his advice. And I appreciated also, Mr. Speaker, his ability to recognize, in caucus, to recognize matters that would touch someone and would have impact on the community that the government would not always pick up on,

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Baker had a keen sense for what issues and what policies that were being considered by government might be problematic and which ones would touch people in a positive way and should be acted upon. And I also appreciated his ability in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to add with other members . . . join other members in extending my sincere sympathies to the family and saying what a great contribution Mr. Baker has made to life in Regina and to life in this province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion of condolence moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current by leave of the Assembly:

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

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

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And, Mr. Speaker, again by leave of the Assembly I move, seconded by the member from Swift Current:

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

Murray James Koskie, who passed away on March 14, 2004, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1995 representing the constituency of Quill Lakes for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Koskie was born on November 5, 1929 in Sinnett. He grew up on the family farm and received his early schooling at Humboldt College. He furthered his education at the University of Saskatchewan and graduated with a Bachelor degree in Education and a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Murray married Shirley Ann Hugill on June 24, 1961, and together they've had three children.

Mr. Koskie practised law before being elected to this Assembly in the 1975 general election. He was re-elected in the four following elections. Mr. Koskie served in the cabinets of two premiers. He held the Social Services and Consumer Affairs portfolios in the Blakeney administration, and later in 1992 Mr. Koskie was appointed the minister of Highways and Transportation in

the Romanow administration.

Mr. Speaker, there are those of us today in the House who served with Murray Koskie in this House, some of us in the House today who in fact cut our political teeth alongside of Murray Koskie. Some of us served in opposition with Murray. We served in the government caucus with Murray. Some of us sat around the cabinet table with Murray Koskie, and some of us have participated in many campaigns with Murray Koskie. The last opportunity I had to do any extensive visiting with Murray was in fact during the course of the October-November campaign of last year. And those of us who have known Murray well and worked with Murray, I think, would be unanimous in describing Murray Koskie as a warrior on behalf of social democracy.

Murray Koskie taught me a great deal about campaigning — first of all about knocking on doors, about meeting people. How well I remember working with Murray Koskie in a by-election in the constituency of Thunder Creek where together Murray and I, Murray Koskie and I, spent some time out at Caronport, Briercrest Bible College. First time I had campaigned with an experienced campaigner, it was a great lesson.

Murray Koskie, I recall, served on a number of occasions as our party Whip. And I would . . . I want to say to current members of the House, we think our whips today are tough. They had not had the experience of Murray Koskie in bringing discipline to a caucus and to some new members of such a caucus.

Murray Koskie had throughout his life, until the very close of life, an unwavering conviction to the principles of social democracy — an unwavering conviction.

And those of us who served in this Chamber with Murray will I think all remember . . . At least my experience is that no single voice, no single voice could so fill this Chamber from the seat — never mind standing, but from the seat — no single voice could so fill this Chamber as the voice of Murray Koskie.

He was a good friend — a good friend of this government; a good friend of past governments; a very, very good friend of the New Democratic Party; and a very, very good friend of the people of the Saskatchewan, particularly the people of the Quill Lakes.

I was so pleased to hear that a large number of Murray's former colleagues in this legislature were able to be present at his funeral in Muenster. Unfortunately it was the day of the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) convention, and some of us were not able to be there, but I was so pleased that a large number of Murray's former colleagues were there. A tribute, a tribute to the regard in which Murray Koskie is held by his former colleagues in government and by members of the New Democratic Party across Saskatchewan and by the citizens of Saskatchewan. And so it is with some real regret that we extend the condolences of this legislature to Shirley and to Murray's family and friends.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current, by leave of the Assembly:

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

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again we join with all of our colleagues here today, in expressing our condolences and extending our sympathies to Mr. Koskie's family on his passing earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, my own direct memories of Mr. Koskie would relate not to the times that he spent serving in two different administrations — in terms of his cabinet portfolios — but rather when he was an opposition member here in this Assembly on this side of the Assembly.

I remember, as a young erstwhile assistant for the government of the day, being a little bit concerned whenever Mr. Koskie would take to his feet in question period, unsure of whether or not he would be asking the minister that I worked for any questions because when he asked those questions, he did it effectively and he did it forcefully. And yes, as the Premier has noted, he did it with some volume to be sure, whether he was standing or whether he was seated. And certainly those days too were a service to his province when he was serving, not only just those who were represented by opposition members but the entire province, all the people of the province as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, again, just the number of years — two decades of service to the people of Saskatchewan and successive re-elections — perhaps speaks volumes to the esteem that he was held in by his own constituents, his family, friends, and neighbours.

(15:45)

So on behalf of all of us on the opposition benches, we too wish to join with the Premier in seconding the motion and in extending our condolences to Shirley and their family on the passing of Murray Koskie.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would want to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in offering condolences to Shirley and her children, their grandchildren, family, and their friends on Murray's passing.

I was one of the members of the legislature who the Premier referred to as having the opportunity to serve with Murray. I came to this legislature in 1986. Murray at that time was already a seasoned veteran.

He had of course survived the rout of the government and sat in a very small rump opposition from 1982 to '86. And so I think it became very clear to many of us that Murray had much to offer new members of the legislature in terms of the process that takes place in this legislature — the debates, the issues — but I think more importantly than that, to learn Murray's respect for this institution and his love for the political party that he gave so much to; his work as a social democrat in this province in terms of bringing about a better Saskatchewan, a better place for not only his family but families of all of the people of Saskatchewan.

And Murray was a very unique kind of an individual. He wasn't always terribly open in terms of his personal life, but I was fortunate enough to be a friend of Murray's and get to know his family. I was in Murray's home in Regina a number of occasions, and through these encounters with Murray it became very, very clear to me Murray's passion for education and ensuring that his children got through university.

He had a small house right around the General Hospital, and as I recall it, it was the main floor that . . . Two of his kids were going to university, and they were living there. And Murray would live with them during the session, and there weren't enough bedrooms to go around. But so the kids could study, it was Murray who slept on the cot in the front room. And so those were the things of Murray Koskie that I remember that he didn't share with the general public as a public person.

He taught me — and I know my colleagues would agree — he taught us much about loyalty; he taught us much about teamwork. As well he taught a lot about compromise. Now those who didn't know Murray well would maybe have a hard time to believe that to be the case but it was true.

We would have our discussions in caucus; we'd have our debates in some of the backrooms in the legislature into the late hours, and the early hours of the morning because Murray loved nothing more than a debate on political issues or on social issues, philosophical issues. But you know at the end of the day Murray understood that it was important to listen. You didn't always have to agree but at the end of the day the team was what was important to him.

Murray as well cared about people, as I said and the Premier said earlier. His belief in social democracy as a political philosophy and a living philosophy of life, a philosophy of living was evidenced in the way he treated his children and the way he treated Shirley and the way he described . . . displayed I think the love for his grandchildren.

It was one of the themes at Murray's funeral that I heard over and over again — his love for his grandchildren and his desire to be with them and to let them know how important they were to him. So that is a side of Murray Koskie that I was very honoured and very pleased to get to know.

Murray, as I said, survived the purge of 1982 I guess when the

NDP were returned with I think seven or eight members. Very, very small caucus; difficult times. The government side was huge, so huge they were sitting on the opposition side. And so it was very difficult, I understand, sometimes to concentrate, to be part of the debate. It was rough times.

But Murray was one of the few members who was able to survive a difficult election for the New Democrats here in the province. And it was because of his care and his attention to detail and his attention to his riding and the people who from Quill Lakes sent him here election after election for some 20 years, that he was able to serve for that period of time as well.

And Murray could often be a little bit humorous. And I recall Murray saying one time, you know he said, I'm really glad all of you young guys came in here in '86 because he said working with you and being with you makes me feel young again. And so I hope we were able to share a little bit of that with Murray as well in those early years from '86 to '91.

I watched Murray in this legislature, as the Leader of the Opposition indicated. You could see some concern on the government's side when Murray, in opposition, rose to speak. You could also during a debate, during estimates, see that Murray really did have a feel, an affinity for rural Saskatchewan and for agriculture. He spent a lot of his time focusing on rural issues because he cared about them, and that I think is the other reason that the people from Quill Lakes continued to send him back to represent them here in the legislature.

And the occasion of his funeral the number of people who came to share that afternoon with Shirley and the family, I think was, as well, evidence of the respect that he had gained not only as a politician but as a person in the community, in Muenster and the areas that they lived for those number of years together. And I think it made the family feel quite proud of Murray and his accomplishments and proud of Murray's life.

I want to, Mr. Speaker, offer my condolences and those of my family to Shirley and the children, their grandchildren. Murray was a great guy. He was my friend and I'll miss Murray Koskie.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the member from Prince Albert in offering my condolences to Shirley and Murray's children as well as his grandchildren.

As the member from P.A. (Prince Albert) said, there were a group of us that came into this Legislative Assembly in 1986. And we were young, and we were inexperienced, and we wanted to take this place like never . . . like no one had ever seen before. We had all kinds of questions we wanted to ask the government. We wanted to hold them to account, and we had our issues.

And many of the members that came in in 1986 were from urban Saskatchewan, and Murray represented rural Saskatchewan. And we soon all cut our teeth on learning how to be on the House Leader's committee, committees of caucus, how to get organized, how to do politics, and how to ask the

right questions in the Assembly. And when you had to speak in the Assembly, Murray's job was to make sure he had people who were prepared to speak, but he wanted to know what you were going to say.

I think it's fair to say that Murray wanted to ensure that our caucus, while it was broadly representative of the Saskatchewan perspective, that we kept our eye on the ball. And the ball was to raise the kinds of issues that people in the public were talking about and to prepare ourselves for the 1991 election campaign when we would be the government of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, when the member from P.A. talked about compromise, we learned how to compromise. And when I say we learned how to compromise, I'm talking about members who wanted to ask questions that represented their particular view of the world that didn't necessarily represent the broad view that was necessary in order to form government in 1991.

Murray Koskie also taught us about loyalty and he also taught us about discipline. And when I say loyalty and discipline, it was loyalty to each other regardless of what had happened in that debate in caucus or in a committee. When the decision was made, the decision was made and he expected us all to line up, including himself, even if he'd lost the debate. And I think that was one of the reasons why when we came to government in 1991, the group of people who had been in that opposition were so disciplined and loyal to each other in terms of some of the things that we had to do between '91 and 1995.

The other thing that I remember about Murray in this Legislative Assembly is that he was an expert at heckling. And I think that the members of the government called him the moose, if I recall, because his voice could be heard everywhere when he decided to enter the debate from his chair.

I think one of the biggest privileges that I had and . . . because Murray had never served in the legislature in the caucus with women and when we were elected in 1986 there were three women that entered our NDP caucus. And I think one of the biggest sort of things that allowed me to be accepted by Murray — because he was a tough, rough-and-tumble politician — was one night when a few people were getting together he designated me as the driver, which meant that I got to come along for the ride, so to speak, and witness the joys of being with Murray Koskie and others.

Mr. Speaker, Murray Koskie was a CCFer and he was an NDPer, and he absolutely loved the political party that we all represent. He loved the party. And he would go to our NDP conventions and he was there watching the debate. And as the member from P. A. said, he was a private guy. And he would listen to what people had to say, and when it was all said and done he would say, don't you just love the people in our party. And we all did. And we all do.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our movement — the CCF and the NDP movement in this province — have lost a true and loyal and disciplined soldier and warrior. And for those of us who have been in political fights in this province, Murray Koskie was the kind of person that you wanted to have shoulder to shoulder with you as you made your way through those political debates.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this Legislative Assembly has lost a member who loved this place and there are many members of the Legislative Assembly that love this place, and there are some that don't. They like being a member of the legislature, they like doing their work, but this isn't necessarily the forum that they love. Murray loved being in this Assembly, he liked question period, he loved the thrust and parry of debate, and he liked figuring out how he was going to outwit the opposition or the government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Shirley, Murray's children, his grandchildren, and obviously his brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews and his friends.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, I wonder if I could ask leave to make a few remarks with respect to Murray Koskie.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Members, my recollection of Murray Koskie is one of fondness. I worked with him on a daily basis when he was the chief whip of the opposition caucus and I was his deputy. And I was his gopher. And, I tell you, running through, being his gopher, I really got to know the workings of the legislature and the workings of caucus and actually the workings of the government through Murray Koskie. He also taught us . . . gave us confidence in doing things like asking questions in the legislature. And I certainly do appreciate all the discussions we had in the evenings. And we did appreciate the occasional refreshment — after work of course — as we gathered in Murray's office.

(16:00)

Murray has been described — and I would concur — that he was sort of tough on the outside but soft on the inside. Murray was the person who had, always had his political nose to the ground. He believed in teamwork. And I never knew of anybody that could see through and cut his way through a political issue and right to the nub of what was important.

And so those of us that were somewhat idealistic when we come in, Murray had a way of tempering idealism with reality. And he did it in a very direct way. He had a way of conveying a message of reality to his colleagues. And I was often the recipient of this directness. But I must say that I learned a lot.

Murray expected a lot of himself and he expected a lot of performance from his colleagues as well.

It was mentioned several times today about his ability to heckle and his voice. I sometimes thought that he had been trained as a ventriloquist because although the people on that side of the House were able to hear him and people on that side of the House were able to hear him, the Speaker very rarely was able to hear him.

Well Murray was a person who was very proud of his constituency and the people in his constituency. He often talked about the innovation, the progressive and prosperous farmers, and people who went on to develop manufacturing of farm machinery in his constituency and area.

And I was very humbled to be able to attend his funeral and to be able to meet his family members there. And I would like to — alongside of all my colleagues — express my condolences to Shirley and his family on the occasion of his passing.

I recognize the member for Milestone.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, as one of the opposition members who had the privilege of sitting in this Assembly as a member sitting across from Mr. Koskie, I think I'd just like to say a few words.

I can remember walking into this Assembly, and Mr. Koskie sat down about the third bench from the end, and I can remember looking at Mr. Koskie, and I don't know if there was anyone who had a look that — you know how teachers are sometimes when they look at you, that stern look? — and Mr. Koskie would look across at us. And those of us who were on the government side of the House that were new to this Assembly, we were kind of wondering, now what's coming out of that member at the time. You never knew what was coming out of Mr. Koskie.

But Mr. Koskie was . . . could give you that stern look, he could give you a firm look, and yes, he could make some very witty quips that really, just as they came across the floor, they just seemed to gather momentum and steam.

There was another thing about Mr. Koskie when he was speaking. He'd be speaking away, he'd be reading, and I was just quipping to the member across the floor — remember how he used to grab his glasses? He'd be speaking away, he'd just tear these glasses off to . . . (inaudible) . . . his point. And he'd be . . . and he'd get those glasses going, and just to, just to really reinforce the point he was bringing across.

And as a member sitting on the opposite side of the House, Mr. Speaker, and I'm not sure if, Mr. Speaker, the member from Prince Albert Northcote, and a former member from P.A. as well . . . I remember those evening sittings. They were very colourful. Mr. Koskie was certainly an individual who knew how to make any . . . We used to do a lot more of the evening sittings, and he was certainly an individual who could make an evening sitting colourful. I don't know how in the world you can do that when you're getting late at night.

But certainly Mr. Koskie brought a rapport to this Assembly. You didn't always agree with him, but you knew where he stood and he was very firm in his convictions and his beliefs. And as the member from Moosomin and on behalf of my colleagues, we extend to Shirley and her family our deepest sympathies on the passing of her husband — a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle to so many members, and a friend to many.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion of condolence moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current:

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

province.

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

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you. I move, seconded by the member from Melfort:

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Nutana and seconded by the member from Melfort:

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

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the House now stand adjourned.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Government House Leader that this House do now stand adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 16:06.

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