



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

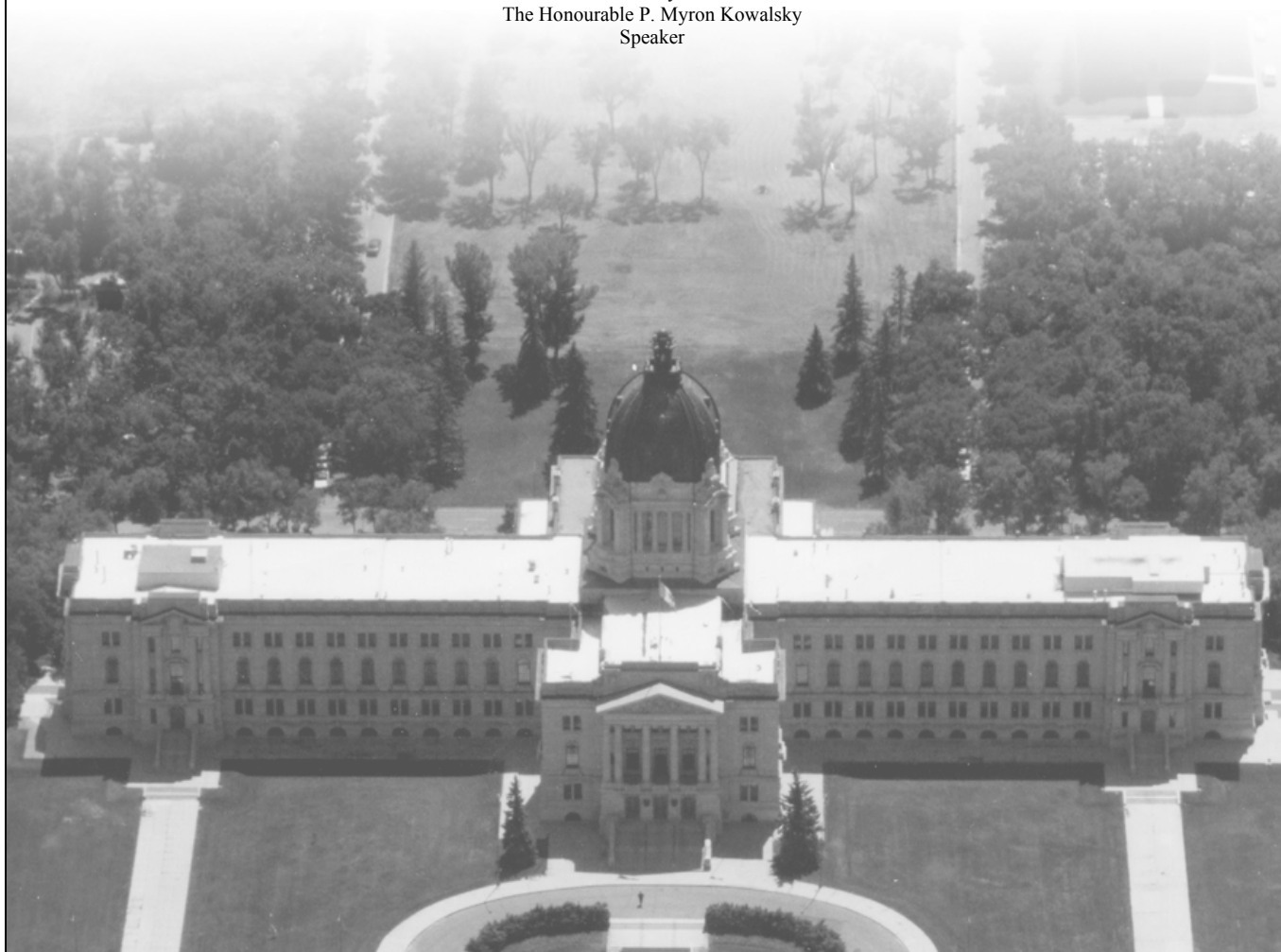
of the

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 Lackey, 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
Gantefoer, 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: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the condition of Highway 32 is leaving an irreparable image on the blight of the landscape I guess of the area down there in southwest Saskatchewan. And this petition today represents the signatures of a number of my constituents, but also signatures from many people who have travelled that road from out of province. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signatures on this petition come from communities such as Sceptre, Spiritwood, Leader, Calmar, Alberta, Gravelbourg, Lafleche, Liebenthal, and many, as I indicated, from Alberta such as High River and Stirling. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise again on behalf of constituents who are concerned about the lack of residential support for people with long-term disabilities in my constituency. The prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary steps to provide funding required for additional spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are all from the city of Swift Current. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents of mine who are very concerned about the assistance or lack of assistance to autism affected families. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to improve access to resources for families who desperately need help for their autistic

children.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Estevan. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise once again to present a petition from parents in the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

The petitioners today live on Buckwold, Adaskin, and Wright Crescent and Kenderdine Road in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — I also have a petition here with citizens that want to terminate the contract of Jim Fergusson:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the consulting contract is immediately terminated.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens from Davidson, Saskatoon, Regina, and Estevan. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from constituents opposed to the possible reduction of health care services in Wilkie. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Wilkie health centre and special care home maintain, at the very least, their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie and district. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure

today to rise in the Assembly on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan to present a petition concerning the rerouting of Highway No. 51. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Highway 51 is rebuilt to go through the town of Kerrobert so that local businesses may be given the opportunity to promote themselves to and gain business from patrons passing through Kerrobert.

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens all from the town of Kerrobert. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk Assistant: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) they are hereby read and received: addendums to sessional papers nos. 106, 107, 639, 666, 716, and 800.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 80, The Education Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be referred, considered in Committee of the Whole, pardon me. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 80 — The Education Amendment Act, 2004/ Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill 80 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 114, The Education Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — It has been requested by the Minister of Learning that the referral to Committee of the Whole on Bill 114 be waived. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 114 — The Education Amendment Act, 2005/ Loi de 2005 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill 114 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing

Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 115, The Education Property Tax Credit Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I request least to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bill 115. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 115 — The Education Property Tax Credit Act

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill 115 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 93, The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 93 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time?

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 93 — The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 93 be moved a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Third reading of this Bill.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 116 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: how many application forms were received by Crown Investments Corporation requesting the utility rebate be applied to power or energy bills? How many of these applications were approved?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly four members of the Saskatchewan Business Council who have joined us in your gallery. I'd like to introduce them to you and to the members now.

Joining us today is Marilyn Braun-Pollon and Gaylene Simpson of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; Don Richardson from the Restaurant Association; and Michael Fougere, a city councillor here in Regina and executive director for the Saskatchewan Construction Association. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Massey Place and Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Industry and Resources I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming the representatives of the business council. Certainly as each of them know, I and my colleagues have spent many meetings with them, consulting over the years about many matters and it is always a pleasure to do so. And we will continue to do so as we continue to build the vibrant economy that we enjoy in this province.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly I would like to welcome 41 students from the Naicam School in Naicam, Saskatchewan. They're here with their teachers, Catherine Smith and Ed de Gooijer. They are here for a tour of the legislature.

And as well, I would like to point out in particular Christina Boobyer, who has also been selected in an interprovincial competition to represent Saskatchewan, one of six or seven Saskatchewan students that are going on a seven-day interprovincial entrepreneurial seminar in Medicine Hat. And part of the highlight of that trip is to also have dinner with Premier Ralph Klein. So I know the whole school and the whole constituency are very proud of these young people, and on behalf of all of the members in the legislature would you please welcome them to this Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cumberland.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature eight people who are walking from Vancouver Island to Ottawa to raise awareness of the very serious issue of teen suicide in Canada. The youth suicide prevention walk is a four-year project which originated in 2003 and will be completed next year.

There are eight people, and they are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They are leader Vincent Watts, from BC [British Columbia]. Maybe he could wave. Reno Trimble and his sister Elise from Port Simpson, BC; Nancy Saunders and Charlotte Qālmanick-Meson. They're from the Canada's Arctic where youth suicide rate is seven times the national average. Emily Williams, from Duncan, BC, a community with the highest rate of suicide in British Columbia. Darnel Crewco, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and Angela Veen from England who is acting as secretary for the walk.

The group is due to arrive in Ottawa on National Aboriginal Day which is June 21. Please join me in welcoming the members of the Youth Suicide Prevention Walk. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and welcome the eight young people that are travelling to Ottawa to bring to the attention of officials the matter of teen suicides. It's an honour to have these young people with their commitment to their friends and peers in our Assembly today.

The future of our country is indeed bright when our youth are prepared to send the message that all teenagers are loved and valued. God bless you in your journey.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you and to all members of the Assembly, two guests that are seated in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they can wave as I mention their names. Frank Mentis who is with CUPE and that's Canadian Union of Public Employees — we should use the full names instead of acronyms — and Terry Zahorski who is the recently elected president of the Regina District Labour Council and also a Canadian Union of Postal Workers employee. And I'd like to welcome them to the House today and thank them for joining us in the proceedings today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Meadow Lake's New Saskatchewan Party Candidate

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of travelling to Meadow Lake, Canada where I was able to meet with a number of people in that community; business people, community leaders, First Nations leaders.

And then later that evening, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that the local members of the Saskatchewan Party nominated as their candidate in the next provincial election, whenever that comes, Mr. Ty Rutzki.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Rutzki was very pleased to let his name stand under the Saskatchewan Party banner during the next election. And, Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House, Saskatchewan Party members from across the province and indeed the people of Saskatchewan are grateful that he has let his name stand for our party in that constituency.

Mr. Rutzki is currently the general manager of Mistik Management Ltd., a woodlands management company. Prior to this, Mr. Rutzki was the director of finance and administration

for the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. He is very community minded. He's held a number of positions on boards in his community; for the local golf course, for the curling rink, for the 4-H club. He also played on the senior hockey team there, Mr. Speaker, and served as an alderman on the town council of Meadow Lake as well.

Mr. Speaker, Ty is energetic. He is eager to serve the people of his community. And many, many people in that constituency are eager to have him represent their concerns here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rutzki is a quality candidate. He is representative of the kind of men and women, the calibre of men and women that the Saskatchewan Party is attracting as potential candidates across this province. We look forward to being able to introduce him in this Assembly soon, Mr. Speaker. And we look forward to the day that he is an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Meadow Lake on the government side of the House in a Saskatchewan Party government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

International Nurses Day and National Nursing Week

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every day nurses work tirelessly to provide their patients with safe and quality care. They are committed to improving the health and well-being of all people and play an important and valued role in our health care system and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Nurses Day, celebrated annually throughout the world every year on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday. This is also National Nursing Week in Canada, a time set aside to recognize the significant contributions that nurses make to the health of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of National Nursing Week this year is Patients First, Safety Always. Saskatchewan nurses believe that patient safety is of the utmost importance. They provide their patients with the best, safest, and most effective care, and are continually working to expand their roles and increase their contribution to the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that nurses are currently in short supply around the world. Here in Saskatchewan we are addressing the issue in our action plan which was released in December 2001. In partnership with nursing organizations and health regions, we have made significant progress in implementing the plan's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, as a registered nurse and as the first nurse elected to this legislature, I extend my sincere appreciation to all Saskatchewan nurses for their hard work, commitment, and compassion. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking our nurses for their ongoing contributions to the health care system and in wishing them the best on this International Nurses Day and Week.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

Eatonia's Eaton Catalogue House

Mr. Dearborn: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. My home town of Eaton, Saskatchewan has a heritage society that is undertaking a very interesting project. Back at the town's founding, the town was known as Eaton, and it was named after the Timothy Eaton family. However our nearby Eston down the road caused concerns with getting the mail mixed up so the town name was changed to Eatonia.

What's happening for the heritage society is that they are taking an Eaton's house and putting it in the former town of Eaton down by the railway tracks next to the museum/library, which is the original 1925 station.

Mr. Speaker, as Canada celebrates Saskatchewan, this is a fitting testimony to many of the pioneers who did order their homes from catalogues. My family was included in that. And it's in very good condition. The house was built in 1917 and has been donated by the King family whose great-grandparents built the house. And now that they have a new residence, they have moved it into town. We're looking forward to its complete restoration and there will be a chance for the community to use this space for art classes and things of this nature.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention Ms. Anne Reinhardt who won the volunteer's medal, who is once again spearheading this initiative. And we look forward to having the house actually moved in July. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Saskatchewan Centenarians Honoured

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this centennial year I have the honour of presenting medals to six centenarians and today I would like to acknowledge three of them.

Helen Swedberg's life has taken her from Kansas to the Marchwell district near Yorkton to Big River. She raised four sons and she and her husband helped one of them run a hunting and fishing lodge at Dore Lake. After her husband died in 1962, Helen was the main wage earner in her family.

Mr. Speaker, at 102 years old Helen's mind is still sharp. When the Minister of Health recently visited, she recognized him immediately and warmly welcomed his visit.

Josephine Olenchuk immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in 1929 and homesteaded with her husband Peter at Timberlost, just west of Big River. Josephine always had a big garden so when she moved into her seniors housing unit she cut strips of grass with a paring knife and lifted them out with a small shovel so she could keep on gardening.

And Laura Matz was born and raised just north of Shellbrook.

She attended normal school and taught in the Shellbrook area for 19 years in all. She farmed with her husband Harvey in the Sturgeon River Valley and was active in her community. And, Mr. Speaker, Laura's a terrific singer. At her birthday party there was lots of music, and Laura knew the words to every song.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the staff of the Big River Health Centre and the Shellbrook seniors club for the wonderful celebrations they provided. And I ask all members to show their appreciation for three women who are still a very young 100-plus years old — Helen Swedberg, Josephine Olenchuk, and Laura Matz.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. It's a week where we celebrate the achievements of women entrepreneurs, women whose hard work and dedication to building better lives for themselves and their families create strong communities.

Women entrepreneurs make a major contribution to the Canadian economy. Four out of five new businesses in Canada are started by women. There are 821,000 women entrepreneurs in Canada. Women entrepreneurs add \$18 billion to the national economy, and women-owned businesses employ 1.7 million people in Canada.

Women have consistently demonstrated that they can overcome any obstacle to build a successful business — even an NDP [New Democratic Party] government. Despite the NDP government's failure to create long-term economic growth and provide entrepreneurs with a business environment that encourages investment, women are getting the job done.

While the number of Saskatchewan men self-employed declined between 1991 and 2001, the number of self-employed women actually grew by 24 per cent. And last year, 33 per cent of Saskatchewan businesses were owned and operated by women entrepreneurs.

A lot of credit for that can go to organizations like the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan that assist women with new and existing business through a wide range of programs and services including business advising, mentoring opportunities, and seminars that teach business skill development. On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party, I want to extend my congratulations to all the women entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

University of Regina Receives Major Donation

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the pleasure of

attending a very important day in the history of the University of Regina. Today the Building Dreams and Futures fundraising campaign at the university received the largest donation from an individual in the university's history.

Former Regina businessman and philanthropist Kenneth Levene made a \$4 million donation which will be used to develop, advance, and promote the Faculty of Business Administration's graduate school of business. In recognition of the donation, the graduate school of business will now be known as the Kenneth Levene graduate school of business. As Mr. Levene has said:

... it is my fervent wish that this graduate school of business and its quest for excellence serve as a catalyst in creating an exciting new climate for the economic growth of this province.

Mr. Speaker, while the contribution of Mr. Levene to the future economic growth of the province is certainly unique, the sentiment that he expressed is not. Every day across this province, thousands of businessmen and women make personal and financial contributions to their community above and beyond the taxes they pay to support health care and education and other public services. It's a generosity that often goes unrecognized and unappreciated by a segment of society that considers business to be nothing more than an expression of greed.

And so today, as the University of Regina celebrates a major private investment in education in this province which will benefit students and businesses across the province for decades to come, I want to recognize the major contributions made by Kenneth Levene to the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Von Imhoff Exhibition at Neutral Ground Art Gallery

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an art exhibition currently at the Neutral Ground Art Gallery here in Regina featuring the work of a renowned and at the same time little-known Saskatchewan citizen.

Mr. Speaker, Count Berthold John Von Imhoff was born in Germany in 1868. He studied art at a number of prestigious European schools before emigrating to the United States in 1892 and eventually moving to Saskatchewan in 1913. Even before moving to Saskatchewan, Count Von Imhoff was well-known for his religious art and frescoes. He moved to Saskatchewan and set up his studio just outside the town of St. Walburg in order to work in an area of peace and tranquility.

By the time of his death in 1939, Count Von Imhoff had completed the interior decor of over 100 churches of all denominations. Many of the parishes that commissioned him were poor and he often worked for little financial gain. In 1937, at the request of bishops and priests across Western Canada, he received the knighthood of St. Gregory the Great from Pope Pius XI in recognition of his achievements.

Today in his St. Walburg studio, over 200 of his paintings still remain. Mr. Speaker, the Neutral Ground Art Gallery exhibit of Count Von Imhoff's works runs until May 20. It is part of Saskatchewan's centennial as well as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Regina's German-Canadian Society Harmonie.

Mr. Speaker, Count Von Imhoff is a significant and extraordinary figure in Saskatchewan's cultural heritage. I urge everyone to take the opportunity to view this exhibit of his work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, in November of 2003 Saskatchewan's Commission on First Nations and Métis People and Justice Reform released an interim report. It called for a comprehensive review of the justice system — a review that was to happen in partnership with Aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, when the Justice minister announced his action plan this morning, there was an obvious omission. If there was a true buy-in from Aboriginal people, they would have been at the table. Where was the minister of First Nations and Métis affairs? Where were the members of the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], and where the reps from the Métis association?

Mr. Speaker, why does this government always believe it can do things better on their own, instead of including all the people directly affected?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question, particularly because it gives me an opportunity to quote from a document that I didn't have this morning. And it is the press release of the Chair of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, Chief Willie Littlechild. And he says, quote:

"There is a reason to celebrate and be optimistic about the future as a result of the response to the Commission on First Nations and Métis People on Justice Reform," said former Chairman, Chief Willie Littlechild. The Action Plan that increases the number of partnerships is a very pro-active strategy.

In congratulating Premier Lorne Calvert, Minister Frank Quennell and Minister Peter Prebble for the Government's expressed commitment, Littlechild calls and encourages

all partners to continue working together to ensure the three year strategy achieves the desired outcomes . . . [so to] create the desired healthy, just, prosperous, and safe Saskatchewan.

"I am personally very encouraged by the serious consideration and planned implementation of our recommendations . . ." said Littlechild.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister hasn't heard the comments from Chief Lawrence Joseph this morning. Saskatchewan's Commission on First Nations and Métis People and Justice Reform talks about the underlying causes of crime.

One of them called for a significant investment in nutritional programs. In his last budget, the government increased the basic food allowance by \$10, the first increase in 20 years. That amounted to 30 cents a day, Mr. Speaker. It also failed to index that allowance to the rate of inflation. That means those on social assistance will always be significantly behind.

Mr. Speaker, why did this government ignore the commission's recommendation to make significant investments in nutritional programs?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say very clearly — and I spoke to this, this morning at the news conference that the member was at — that this government, Mr. Speaker, is significantly increasing dollars that are available for nutritional meals that are served in our school program. In this budget is an increase of over 50 per cent in the number of nutritious meals that will be served in our 98 community schools, Mr. Speaker, in which about half of the school population is First Nations and Métis, Mr. Speaker.

Also in this budget, Mr. Speaker, which the member does not acknowledge, is a very significant investment in a rental supplement both for families with disabled members and for families with children. An increase of \$131 a month, Mr. Speaker, for 10,000 families, Mr. Speaker, with children through this rental supplement and an increase of up to \$150 a month for families with disabilities. The member should acknowledge those increases . . .

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, maybe the government should also indicate that they acknowledge that Saskatchewan had the second highest growth in food bank usage in Canada last year. And maybe the government should

also acknowledge that food banks gave money to the schools last year in Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan's Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform issued a final report in June 2004. It recommended that emergency detox centres be immediately built in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, and La Ronge. Mr. Speaker, other than the re-announcement of renovations to Regina's jail today, the action plan says nothing about the immediate construction of detox centres in these communities. When will these words become actions, and why was this recommendation ignored?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this particular question has been asked a number of different times. In this particular budget, we're moving forward with a plan to provide further detox places in the province, also further longer treatment spaces. And we're going to continue to do that in light of the information that we have from the experts. And we're also going to be using the information that will be provided by our Legislative Secretary looking at the issue of addictions.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the commission's report also called for the appointment of someone to make sure its recommendations were not ignored — an implementation commissioner. Well the minister told the media this morning that he's ignoring that recommendation.

In October 2004 the Premier said the commission's report was not an exercise to go on any kind of library shelf. Well, Mr. Speaker, this didn't go on a library shelf; it went right to the garbage can.

Mr. Speaker, why is this government betraying Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan? Why is the minister perpetuating racism and mistrust in the justice system, and why is he ignoring so many of the recommendations in this report?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I don't believe anybody in the Aboriginal community believes that this government or this Justice minister is purporting racism or promoting racism in this province.

And if I may continue with the quotation from the Chair of the commission, the Chair of the commission:

"I am personally very encouraged by the serious consideration and planned implementation of our recommendations . . ." said Littlechild. The thematic approach adopted by the Government of Saskatchewan response is a very effective way to address the challenges and dealing with the underlying causes of crime as a

priority. It will secure increasing involvement, use of alternatives and improve justice system responses.

End quote, Mr. Speaker. I accept the characterization of Chief Willie Littlechild, Chair of the commission, as to our response, not the characterization of the member opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Vacant Nursing Positions

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last month the Minister of Health told nurses at the annual convention of the Saskatchewan registered nursing association that the nurses' vacancy rate is less than 1 per cent. Right now there're about 11,500 nurses in Saskatchewan. A nursing vacancy rate of 1 per cent is about 100 vacant positions. A year ago though, Mr. Speaker, according to the information provided by this minister, there were 203 vacant positions. That's a difference of 100 positions, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what happened to those 100 vacant positions?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think there are about 8,300 registered nurses in this province, and so we end up working with that particular number of people. The information that we compile weekly comes from all of the regional health authorities across the province, and we rely on that information that comes from the SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] employee database. And, Mr. Speaker, I stand by the previous information I've provided.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — I find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, there's a difference of 100 vacant positions this year over last year. He failed to answer the question completely. He didn't say one word on what happened with those 100 positions. Because if you ask SUN, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, or SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association], they believe that this minister has chopped those 100 positions. He hasn't filled them; he's chopped them, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me how many vacant positions has he eliminated in the 2004-2005 year?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, what I can say to that member is that this budget this year provides 7.1 per cent increase in health budget up to \$2.9 billion. And 1.8 billion of that money goes to the regional health authorities with 80 per cent of that going to staffing costs and compensation.

Mr. Speaker, we have increased the amount of money available each year, and we have provided for the ongoing operation of the whole health care system. And, Mr. Speaker, decisions

around staffing are made in regional health authorities at the appropriate places. And, Mr. Speaker, we are supporting a continued provision of the services that we have as well as adding new services where those are required.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, last year there was 203 vacant nursing positions in the province. This year, Mr. Speaker, the minister's saying there are about 100. That's 100 positions less.

But according to SUN, if you talk to SUN, what they think this minister is doing is just a bargaining play. He's limiting the number of vacant positions to show that they are addressing the problem, Mr. Speaker. They are not addressing the problem because I would say the last two answers to the question simply tells the story. They have eliminated the positions, but he has not the nerve to tell the House that's exactly what happened, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, is SUN correct? To the minister, is this simply a bargaining ploy by this NDP government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we know better in this House and in this province to trust the research that those people across the way do. We know that consistently day in, day out that there are problems over there. And this opposition critic is continuing in the same long tradition that we've had before.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with the regional health authorities, provide the funding that's needed for them to expand and work with the facilities that they are working at. And we will rely on the information that we get out of our weekly reports and out of the SAHO employee database. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to make sure that we can provide services for everybody in the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know there was 203 vacancies last year. The minister has said that. He's gone on to say this year that there's only 100 vacancies. The numbers are his own numbers, Mr. Speaker — his own numbers. Now if he chooses to attack SUN for what they're saying they feel that this minister is doing, I find that very strange, Mr. Speaker — very strange.

You know, nurses around the province continue to express their concerns with the health care system. Nurses continue to talk about low morale in the workplace. They continue to talk about poor working conditions. Mr. Speaker, nurses have an increasing amount of sick leave and WCB [Workers'

Compensation Board] claims. Nurses are being denied vacations because of a shortage of personnel.

When will the minister address the real issue and start hiring full-time nurses to address the problems that nurses are saying are happening in every work site that they're at?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the nursing positions in this province are about 54 per cent, little higher than 54 per cent, full-time positions. This is higher than the Canadian average of 51 per cent, and it's higher than all of our Western provinces. So we have more full-time nurses in Saskatchewan than Manitoba, Alberta, or British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, what we have been doing very consistently is hiring nurses to fill positions that are available across the province. And in fact there are not as many positions that are open because we have new graduates. We have people who are quite willing to work in our health care system. We are going to continue to train more people. We are going to continue to work to provide more nurses because we know that over the 5- and 10-year period, there are many people who will retire, who will require replacement.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Martensville.

Prosecutions Under The Election Act

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are about the role of the Attorney General's office in prosecuting violations of the elections Act.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, our office spoke to the Chief Electoral Officer. He told us that he identifies a violation of the Act that could potentially result in charges being laid. He is then required — required, Mr. Speaker — to refer the matter to the Attorney General's office. The Electoral Officer does not decide whether or not to prosecute under the Act. That is up to the Department of Justice, according to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Mr. Speaker, my question, to the Minister of Justice, how are potential prosecutions under The Election Act handled? Would the decision be made by someone in the public prosecutor's office, or would it be referred to an independent prosecutor to make that decision?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, this question is asked in the context of a particular circumstance in Saskatchewan. I understand that the member has raised the question before, of a political party in Saskatchewan failing to file its returns within a period of time.

The Chief Electoral Officer who's an independent officer, an

officer of this legislature, has expressed an opinion as to how they should proceed under the legislation, has provided that opinion to me, has provided that opinion to the member, Mr. Speaker. We respect the independence of the independent office of the legislature. And I trust that all members of the legislature do. And in this particular context, it's not a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, and I think we should let the Chief Electoral Officer do his work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Chief Electoral Officer has been doing his job, and it will soon be the job of our Justice minister to make a decision on that. And that's what the question was about.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Chief Electoral Officer issued a news release confirming that the Karwacki Liberals missed the filing deadline for their annual return and could be deregistered as a provincial party. He also informed our office that he'll be referring this contravention of the elections Act to the Attorney General's office to determine whether the charges should be laid. Mr. Speaker . . .

[14:15]

The Speaker: — Order. Order please, members. Order. The member may proceed.

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the question is, how will the Department of Justice handle this referral? Will they make the decision on prosecution themselves, or will they refer it to an independent prosecutor to remove any perception of political interference?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Again, Mr. Speaker, when we have, or when public prosecutions has a referral or a request from the Chief Electoral Officer, they'll make a decision. And they'll make it independent of the Minister of Justice.

I'm sure the member opposite, I'm sure none of the members of this House, I don't think the citizens of Saskatchewan want a politician deciding when a political party is prosecuted, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I wrote the Chief Electoral Officer asking him to investigate another violation of the elections Act by the Karwacki Liberals. In 2004 the Karwacki Liberals accepted \$92,833 in donations from the federal Liberals without disclosing the names of the original donors as required by

section 250 of The Election Act.

Mr. Speaker, I think Saskatchewan taxpayers would have some pretty serious questions about any money received from the federal Liberals these days, especially when Mr. Karwacki fails to disclose who sent them those envelopes of money.

Mr. Speaker, if this violation by the Karwacki Liberals also gets referred to the Attorney General's office, can he assure us that the Liberals will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, or will the NDP, Mr. Speaker, continue to prop up the Liberals as they're doing in Ottawa?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the citizens of the province of Saskatchewan enjoy all their democratic freedoms. I'm sure that the member opposite, the member from Martensville is enjoying his use of qualified privilege right now.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there is a Chief Electoral Officer. He's an independent officer of this legislature. I have been called upon by members of the opposition to interfere with independent commissions in the operation of their work.

This goes beyond that, Mr. Speaker. I think the Chief Electoral Officer should be allowed to do his work. The member from Martensville campaign against the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan could very well proceed outside of this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Consultation Regarding Labour Legislation

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today the Saskatchewan Party will be moving a motion in this Assembly to refer labour Bills 86 and 87 to public hearings over the course of the summer. The result of the motion, if passed, will not be the defeat of those Bills, Mr. Speaker. The result of that motion, if passed, would only be consultation.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Premier, the Leader of the NDP promised in the election campaign that he would not undertake major labour legislation changes without extensive consultation. We also know, based on verification from stakeholders in the economy and any fair measure of what extensive consultation is, we know that those consultations have yet not occurred.

The question to the Minister of Labour is this. It's reasonable. Will she vote with our motion to refer these Bills to public hearings? Will she ensure that there is time for extensive consultations with all the stakeholders on the labour side and on the business side on these two important Bills?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, after preparation these Bills were tabled in the House last fall. Since then we have had many conversations with many interested stakeholder groups. December 10 we had a meeting with the Saskatchewan Business Council. They were very clear in their demands, Mr. Speaker. Since then, Mr. Speaker, we have had written submissions from the chamber of commerce. I've met with their human resource committee, also the Canadian Federation of Independent Business which, Mr. Speaker, has the same spokesperson as the Saskatchewan Business Council.

And also we have received a written submission from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and many comments from the legal community throughout the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, most people in the province of Saskatchewan would subscribe to the radical notion that introducing a Bill and then waiting for your phone to ring does not constitute extensive consultation. Mr. Speaker, that seems like eminent good sense that a government would consult ahead of introducing a Bill in this Legislative Assembly. Even if you accept the minister's definition, ludicrous as it is, that waiting for the phone to ring does constitute consultation, her phone has been ringing and the input from the stakeholders is further public hearings.

So if she says that she is willing to listen to their input and the input from those stakeholders is public hearings, will she agree, will she support our motion and facilitate those public hearings?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, now here we see where the opposition hops from one side of the fence to the other because it was this opposition that tabled a fairly lengthy Bill on whistle-blowers — no notice, no consultations, no nothing. Mr. Speaker, they say one thing and they do another.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in the election campaign in 2003, the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce wrote to the Premier, wrote to the Leader of the NDP. They asked him point blank, do you have any labour legislative changes planned if the people of the province elect you to be the government? The letter comes back from the Premier of the province whom people should be able to trust, to take at his word. The letter comes back under his signature and it says, there will be no major labour legislative changes without extensive consultation. That consultation has not happened, Mr. Speaker, by any fair measure.

Will the minister explain to the people of this province — to all

the stakeholders, labour and business — why they have broken the Premier's promise from the campaign in '03?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, this government takes a great deal of time and effort to deal with all stakeholders across the province. Mr. Speaker, as government we are responsible for the situation, the province as a whole. We look at all situations. We receive input from all stakeholders. Because there's one stakeholder group that doesn't like the results of the consultations, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't mean they didn't happen.

Mr. Speaker, this government spends a great deal of time and effort and puts a great deal of value in the comments back from stakeholders. This is good legislation. It deals with a situation that needs to be addressed and, Mr. Speaker, we will carry on with it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, that's amazing. The minister said because there is one stakeholder group that doesn't like the Bill they're just going to plow through and avoid any more public hearings.

That one group that that minister is referring to are the men and women and the co-operatives of this province that create jobs for Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. That's who that one group is — men and women who create a tax base so we can afford health care and education and all the things that we prize in the province. If not for that one group we have no health care. There is no education. There is no ability to help people who need help through Social Services. That's the one group that the minister marginalizes.

Now they're asking quite simply for public hearings on this Bill. The minister will not agree. But we want to give her another chance, one last chance to do the right thing, to show that she has at least a vague notion of who is creating jobs and who is paying for the public services we prize. Will she agree to public hearings with the stakeholders affected by these Bills?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, here we see again the kinder, milder Saskatchewan Conservatives, Mr. Speaker. They say one thing when someone's in the gallery. They say something else when someone else is in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, it was no more than a couple weeks ago the Leader of the Opposition said that we don't want anything unique in Saskatchewan labour legislation. We don't want anything unique. So here we're bringing in changes that bring

Saskatchewan's Labour Relations Board in line with six other jurisdictions in the country.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they don't want that either. They don't want it to be the same. They don't want unique. And if he doesn't want anything unique, would he get rid of three weeks holidays for workers in Saskatchewan? Would he get rid of parental and maternity leave, which is better in Saskatchewan, and would he get rid of compassionate leave because there's no compassionate leave in the province of Alberta?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Why is the member for Regina Qu'Appelle . . . Order please. Why is the member for Regina Qu'Appelle on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — With leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Qu'Appelle has asked leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member for Regina Qu'Appelle.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly a guest who is in your gallery — a member of my constituency who works hard both for his union, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, and in the community — Gary Schoenfeldt, who is sitting up here in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask all members of the Assembly to join in welcoming Gary to this Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Action Plan for Improving Health, Justice, Prosperity, and Safety in Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House to inform members that earlier today my colleague, the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety, and I released our government's action plan which responds to the recommendations of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform. Our action plan is entitled, Creating a Healthy, Just, Prosperous, and Safe Saskatchewan.

This is our goal, Mr. Speaker — to create a province where all Saskatchewan citizens enjoy good health, prosperity, justice, and safety. We are especially committed to working to achieve this goal as we celebrate our province's centennial and as we focus on the future of our province. Our action plan is consistent with the goals of this year's provincial budget — strong and vibrant communities and healthy and self-reliant families.

In response to more than 100 recommendations made by the commission, our government has developed a long-term, integrated approach that combines initiatives to reduce crime and improve social and economic development in our province.

Mr. Speaker, our government will be investing more than \$48 million this year to respond to the commission's recommendations. While some of this funding is directed to new initiatives, some will be directed to enhancing or expanding existing programs.

Mr. Speaker, many important steps have been already taken in Saskatchewan to reduce the incidence of crime and violence in our communities. We will build on these successes by working to keep all Saskatchewan communities safe. I would like to take this opportunity to provide this House with some highlights from our action plan.

Mr. Speaker, the provincial alcohol and drug strategy will focus on youth, Aboriginal people, street people, and northern communities to help them and their families deal with the serious problem of substance abuse. Initiatives to combat crystal meth are included in our alcohol and drug strategy.

Funding for 2005-2006 in the Health budget . . . [inaudible] . . . supports the families and children in poorer communities with the highest number of children and youth with cognitive disabilities, including FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder]. This includes direct supports, diagnosis and assessment, and prevention and early intervention. Social programs are significantly enhanced and will continue to help those who need it most.

The budget contains an increase to the social assistance payment adult basic allowance as well as an increase in shelter rates. This year 600 new housing units will be added and up to 700 homes will be renovated for low-income families. The new rental housing supplement will help up to 10,000 low-income families and up to 3,000 households of people with disabilities find adequate housing.

Quality child care helps our young children get a good start in life. This year 500 new child care spaces will be created, and families of children with special needs will no longer wait for child care. We will continue to work with First Nations to address the recommendations of the Baby Andy Review of July 2003.

This year Saskatchewan Learning will work with the FSIN to develop shared educational standards to create a smoother transition for students going from a provincial school system to First Nations schools. The student data system launched in October 2004 is an important tool to identify young people not attending school and develop initiatives to improve attendance. All students in grades 10 to 12 in provincial schools are included in this registry.

[14:30]

About 1,000 new training opportunities will be provided to help young people gain skills for tomorrow's job market.

In this year's budget we announced some very exciting

educational opportunities for Aboriginal students including the Aboriginal bursary program for students enrolled at the First Nations University of Canada or the University of Regina; Gradworks; the University of Saskatchewan math and science enrichment program for Aboriginal students; and the Aboriginal apprenticeship program.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue our efforts to increase the number of Aboriginal persons working throughout our criminal justice system as judges, lawyers, police officers, and correctional workers.

This year we are funding 18 new policing positions. The funding includes 11 positions for the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] — nine policing positions for northern communities, one position to develop an Aboriginal recruitment strategy, and one to support the RCMP cadet program. We are also funding five new municipal police positions.

Justice officials will work with municipal police services to ensure their participation in the development of a recruitment strategy. They will look at ways to attract Aboriginal candidates into policing and ensure Aboriginal recruits are provided with the necessary supports to achieve career success.

In 2005-2006, Saskatchewan Justice will establish a police affiliated victim services program in northern Saskatchewan to serve Stony Rapids and Black Lake. We will also establish a victim witness coordinator position in La Ronge to serve children and other vulnerable victims and witnesses in northern Saskatchewan.

This year targeted, integrated crime reduction strategies will be implemented at Meadow Lake and Prince Albert, as well as in a selected northern community. We will be consulting with our partners in the North to select that location.

Funding is being provided to enable the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court in North Battleford to enhance counselling, provide child counselling, and offer prevention information. We are also providing funding to support a coordinator position in Saskatoon to implement a specialized domestic violence court.

Programs to reduce violent behaviour among inmates will begin in our province's correctional centres this year. This will help reduce the risk of reoffending when the inmate returns to the community.

We will enhance cultural programming in our correctional facilities to help offenders, especially youth, reconnect with their heritage in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, work continues on the replacement of the 1913 portion of the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre.

This year we will establish a video link between the Saskatoon Correctional Centre and Saskatoon Provincial Court, and we'll implement two video conferencing projects in northern locations to reduce the need for prisoner transportation for first appearance.

Following the success of the Cree Court, the Provincial Court

will establish an Aboriginal provincial court party in Meadow Lake which will travel to a number of court points in northwestern Saskatchewan. The court will include a full-time translator.

A Cree-speaking Justice of the Peace was recently appointed to work in a northern Cree-speaking community. A Dene-speaking Justice of the Peace will soon be appointed to work in a northern Dene-speaking community. A key objective of this action plan is to use effective alternatives to court and incarceration whenever possible. This year we will increase the number of adult alternative measures by about 1,000.

The Police Act amendments introduced last week are the foundation of a new police public complaints commission. This new commission will include First Nations and Métis people and will handle all public complaints against municipal police members.

Our province's coroners' program will undergo significant growth over the next three years. This year we will recruit a provincial forensic pathologist. And in coming years we will increase forensic pathology services, enhance support for community coroners, and establish regional coroners' offices in Saskatoon and Regina.

The recruitment of Aboriginal people into policing, the establishment of a new police complaint's process, and changes to the province's coroners' program are initiatives that also respond to the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into matters relating to the death of Neil Stonechild. Both reports also talk about the need to build bridges of understanding in our communities.

Over the coming year our government will develop a strategy to promote intercultural understanding, to eliminate racism, and encourage mutual understanding and respect in our province.

The Commission of First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform recommended the establishment of an implementation commissioner. We prefer to focus resources on implementing reforms, establishing new programs and initiatives, and enhancing existing community-based programs. To put our plan to action, Mr. Speaker, we have developed an implementation mechanism that involves our partners — the federal government, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and the Métis community.

Currently we are working separately with the FSIN and Métis representatives as we recognize these groups have unique needs and circumstances that we wish to address in a collaborative, respectful way. I am certain we will maintain our positive working relationship with these groups as we move forward with our plans.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to working with individuals, groups, and communities across our province to continue along the path of creating a health, just, prosperous, and safe Saskatchewan for all as we begin our second century.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I may again, a quote from the Chair of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice

Reform. To quote Chief Willie Littlechild:

“There is reason to celebrate and be optimistic about the future as a result of the response to the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform,” said former Chairman, Chief Willie Littlechild. The action plan that increases the number of partnerships is a very proactive strategy.

In congratulating Premier Lorne Calvert, Minister Frank Quennell and Minister Peter Prebble for the Government’s expressed commitment, Littlechild calls and encourages all partners to continue working together to ensure the three year strategy achieves the desired outcomes that will create the desired healthy, just, prosperous and safe Saskatchewan.

“I am personally very encouraged by the serious consideration and planned implementation of our recommendations.” . . . said Littlechild. The thematic approach adopted by the Government of Saskatchewan is a very effective way to address the challenges and dealing with the underlying causes of crime as a priority. It will secure increasing involvement use of alternatives, and improve justice system responses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the commission for their important work which contributed to increasing our understanding of the issues of offending and victimization in Saskatchewan. As well I also express our appreciation to all those who shared their experiences and advice with the commission.

I invite all members of this House to show their appreciation to these individuals and organizations, whose efforts will help shape a province that remains an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Copies of this important action plan are available on the Saskatchewan Justice website at www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the minister for giving us a copy of his statement.

Last June, Mr. Speaker, the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform put forward a report containing recommendations for reforming the justice system. Today the government responded.

This government had the opportunity to undertake a meaningful and comprehensive strategy to review the justice system. It had the opportunity to undertake measures to restore the confidence of all Saskatchewan citizens in the justice system.

Today the NDP responded. It was a poor mixture of rehashed

budget announcements. It lacks a comprehensive strategy for change, it lacks a clear accountability mechanism, and it lacks a commitment to a renewed partnership with First Nations people to follow through on their recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, First Nations and Métis people want a justice system that reflects their hopes and demands for a justice. And instead they got a response from this government that fails to address the realities that they live with every day. The failure is clear in this NDP’s response to the commission’s report.

First of all the NDP failed to act on the most important recommendation, that of an independent implementation commissioner to hold the government accountable for their actions on justice reform. What we need is for someone outside of this government, someone that actually holds the government’s feet to the fire and ensure that they look at all the recommendations in a timely manner. That recommendation was totally ignored. The response restated the previous budget’s commitments rather than rethinking the justice system in the province. That’s what the First Nations people called for, Mr. Speaker.

It promised 18 new police positions which were previously announced in the budget, but it fails to note that the NDP has not even come close to fulfilling their promise from the 1999 election to hire 200 new police officers. People have to ask, if the government can’t keep its old promises, why should they believe that they’ll keep any future promises? It does nothing to correct the previous failure of the NDP to deal with the actual underlying causes of crime.

Mr. Speaker, one of the big problems people have that are involved in the justice system is the need for food, for the nutrition that we need to be able to operate in our daily lives. This calls for enhanced nutrition programs, but it does nothing to address the fact that food bank usage continues to grow under this NDP government as children and adults continue to go hungry.

We have a housing element. It talks about the rental supplement program, but it fails to acknowledge that the disabilities component of this program does nothing for people facing intellectual disabilities or difficulties with addiction. It also fails to make home ownership a cornerstone of neighbourhood stability and renewal.

Mr. Speaker, child services. This report talks about increased spending on KidsFirst, but it fails to mention this government is sitting on an additional \$22 million from the federal government that . . . [inaudible] . . . the First Nations family.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about detox beds, but there’s commitments that this government has made for the last number of years about detox and treatments — especially for youth — that they have failed to fulfill. The provincial drug strategy that focuses on drugs like crystal meth — that this government is only now starting to acknowledge — but it isn’t acknowledging the fact that, besides government, there is a right and responsibility of parents to become involved with their children’s addictions and with addictions of people right across the province, and that only government can be the people that deal with problems.

Mr. Speaker, government does not have the answers for everything. They have to rely on individuals and families to do some of the work.

They talk about FASD. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that everyone in this Assembly is well aware that this is an issue we brought forward from this side of the House for 10 years. We have heard in three consecutive budgets this government talking about a diagnostic centre and treatment programs and their whole framework for cognitive disabilities that we have not seen. It was supposed to be released in September 2003. And today we still have not seen this framework that we've been . . . that the government has promised us.

Mr. Speaker, First Nations employment is another issue. The government's at least recognizing that ensuring First Nations and Métis people have training and employment is important. But what it doesn't talk about is this government's failure to do that. In 2001 only one-third of First Nations people were employed compared with 59 per cent of Métis people and 78 per cent of non-Aboriginal population.

Mr. Speaker, clearly this government's failure to create a meaningful partnership with First Nations and Métis people to create economic opportunities has created the underlying causes of crime.

Mr. Speaker, this document that was released today is something that has been well . . . has been waited for by many people for a long time. I'm sure by the end of the day the government will understand there are many people find this document very lacking.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to make a ruling unless the member would . . . Would the member just state his purpose?

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave to introduce a motion with respect to the referral of estimates for the Fiscal Stabilization Fund. That is the further estimates which were referred to the Committee of Finance, but to refer those to the policy field Committee on the Economy where other Finance department estimates are being considered. I believe that this was agreed to by the opposition. I wonder if I might have leave to move that.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move a motion with respect to transfer of certain estimates. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

MOTIONS

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader is recognized.

Referral of Estimates to Committee

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That vote 71, further estimates for the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the policy field Committee on the Economy.

I move, seconded by the member for Yorkton.

The Speaker: — By leave of the Assembly it has been moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park, seconded by the member for Yorkton:

That vote 71, further estimates for the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the policy field Committee on the Economy.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

[14:45]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, before orders of the day I wish to bring down a ruling.

Yesterday the member for Melfort raised a point of order regarding . . . requesting the Speaker to review the record of proceedings and tapes for the purpose of identifying whether unparliamentary language or phrases were recorded during yesterday's session. I did listen to the tapes and did review *Hansard*, and I wish to respond to the point of order in the following manner.

Disorder in the House was obvious following the member's statement by the member for Kelvington-Wadena and also following a response by the Minister of Highways and Transportation to a question from the member for Batoche.

The review of *Hansard* did not reveal any record of unparliamentary language. No discernible unparliamentary remarks were recorded on the tapes for these incidents. I do wish to comment on the source of disorder.

Disorder in the House is of concern because it impedes the ability of members to perform their duties as elected members.

Order. Order please, members. Order.

I'll repeat. Disorder in the House is of concern because it impedes the ability of members to perform their duties as elected members when the House is convened. The fact that a point of order was raised indicates a concern on the part of one or more members.

Members' statements are a routine proceeding specifically to allow for members to speak unimpeded on issues of the member's choice. Question period is a routine proceeding specifically for private members to hold government members accountable and for ministers of the Crown to account for

government policies and processes.

Use of unparliamentary language and personal attacks spoken on the record or heckled across the floor tend to cause disorder and to shift the focus of routine proceedings away from their intended purpose of clarifying positions on issues and debating the merits of political positions.

It is the member's individual and collective responsibility to respect the written and traditional rules of this Assembly. This has been interpreted as using language and tone that is respectful to the Assembly while debating and questioning and responding. I also wish to quote citation 491 from Beauchesne's, 6th Edition; 491 reads:

The Speaker has consistently ruled that language used in the House should be temperate and worthy of the place in which it is spoken. No language is, by virtue of any list, acceptable or unacceptable. A word which is parliamentary in one context, may cause disorder in another context, and therefore be unparliamentary.

I ask that all members keep in mind these guidelines during proceedings of this Assembly so that members are able to exercise their privileges and are not impeded from performing their duties.

On a second and unrelated point of order, I wish to bring to the attention of the member from Martensville that an off-the-record comment he made today was clearly audible to the Speaker and was directed at a visitor in the gallery, and that the members in this Assembly ought not to engage visitors in the gallery in debate.

Why is the member from Regina Rosemont on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — With leave to make a statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont is requesting leave to make a personal statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I value very much the democratic processes of this House and the need for parliamentary language. And whether intended or not intended, I wish to apologize for any unparliamentary remarks I may have made in this House yesterday.

The Speaker: — I thank the member.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — Order please. The Chair recognizes . . . Order please. The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased once again to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions 1,236 through 1,249 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 1,236 through to 1,249 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 87

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to put some words on the record if the gentlemen opposite would listen and refrain from, you know, the comments that have been coming across this floor for the last five minutes. The Deputy Premier doesn't seem to quite understand about the fact that things do get out of order. And in fact there was an apology made and it's been accepted and that will be the conclusion to that.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 87, Bill No. 87 . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please, members. The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a moment about the circumstances leading up to Bill No. 87 specifically, even though we know that Bills 86 and 87 have been put forward in this legislative session as Bills that have been linked together.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 87, according to the *Votes and Proceedings* of this Legislative Assembly, was introduced on November 19, 2004. And, Mr. Speaker, the most important point that has to be made about the introduction of this Bill is that usually when a Bill that may be deemed to be controversial or will affect various sectors — in this case employers and the various businesses in this province as well as labour and the various workers in this province — that there would be, Mr. Speaker, the least that could be expected, that there would be consultation prior to the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed in many instances in being involved with the School Boards Association of this province where there were Bills that were put forward that affected trustees, that affected teachers, that affected school divisions. There was consultation to begin with. Yes in some instances there was disagreement about what a particular section of the Bill would include. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's what consultation is all about. It's to put forward a plan that is best for the province of Saskatchewan.

And that's what I think is lacking here. We have not had the kind of consultation by the Minister of Labour and the Department of Labour with all stakeholders. We have Bill No. 87 that identifies a number of clauses that I will get into shortly that are not in the best interest of the province of Saskatchewan. There is a need for compromise. There is a need to develop something that just is a bit better.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a very clear example of this right here in this Legislative Assembly. The minister responsible for The Municipalities Act and the miscellaneous municipalities Act introduced those Bills coincidentally on the very same day, November 19, 2004. And we heard very quickly, as we have heard from businesses, that those Bills were flawed, just like we're hearing that Bill No. 87 is a flawed Bill. And after an outcry, the Minister Responsible for Government Relations looked at the concerns, listened to the concerns, and on March 21, 2005, those two Bills were withdrawn from the order paper.

Mr. Speaker, they weren't withdrawn to be never seen again. And in fact the minister has stood in this House — and we have congratulated him for that — he stood in this Assembly, and he indicated a number of public meetings that he held across the province where he had the opportunity to hear from community leaders. Those people who are elected at the various community levels — whether they be with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities or the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities — but there were people that came forward and expressed their concerns.

The minister said he listened. He built a team together that produced a new set of Bills. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on April 18, 2005, we have Bills numbered 106 and 107, The Municipalities Act and The Municipalities Consequential Amendment Act, 2005 reintroduced into this Assembly.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not unheard of for a government to look at a Bill that's flawed, look at a Bill that was put through in a hurried fashion. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I recall last fall when the municipal Bills were introduced, there was a great rush. There was almost a push on every member on this side from various people to say we must get this through. This has to be passed before we recessed for Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, that would have been the wrong thing to do. It was clearly shown that these Bills needed to be improved. And in fact now that they are in the . . . again on the order paper, we find very little concern expressed by the people in the province of Saskatchewan whether they be elected officials or whether they be administrators or whether they be in fact the government opposite. So there is clear example that this kind of situation should be looked at.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour has stated numerous times in her responses to questions that I've asked her, she says, I am listening. I received input from the Saskatchewan Business Council. I have received written writs from the chambers of commerce in this province. I have received individual letters from businesses expressing their unhappiness, their concern, their position about the fact that Bill 87 is not going to be good for the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, if this is in fact true that the Minister of Labour has heard these concerns, I think she should be able to do the right thing. And the right thing at this time is not to, not to cancel the Bills or leave the Bills on the order paper. The right thing to do, Mr. Speaker, is to move the Bill into committee and direct the committee to have public consultation because that's what needed. We need to build a partnership — a partnership with labour and a partnership with business and a partnership with government that in fact will build the province of Saskatchewan and create an environment that is good for the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the minister knows that section 18 of this Bill gives board members the same privileges and immunities as judges of the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Speaker, that's a tremendous power to be given someone, some group who are not judges, who do not follow the same training, who do not follow the same regulations as do magistrates in this, in the province of Saskatchewan.

One day we asked the Minister of Labour, could she clarify whether or not particular sections of this Bill do in fact grant the Chair of the Labour Relations Board or his designate to in fact search and seize. And the response by the minister on one day is yes, it does. It will give, it will give the ability to search and seize. Two days later, Mr. Speaker, two days later when she's asked the same question, the Minister of Labour says well no, in some circumstances it might; those are pretty broad powers. I'm not sure. And she goes on and on in a very uncertain manner, Mr. Speaker.

So what we are saying to the minister is if we don't have a clear path, if we don't have a clear decision about what this Act really is going to do, then let's delay it. Let's hold it up so that indeed there can be consultation with all affected stakeholders.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, it's very clear that the clause that is being put forward in Bill No. 87, it is not the norm across the country, in all of Canada. It is not the norm that we will see. In fact it will be the exception. The only other province that has this type of seizure power is the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Industrial Relations Board does not even have the powers of the court. And that was what is referenced in this Bill. It says that the CIRB [Canada Industrial Relations Board], which is an adjudicative body that rules on disputes between very large employers handling up to 10,000 grievances at any given time, does not have the power of search and seizure. They have to, Mr. Speaker, get a court order. They must get a court order to search and seize documents. But in clause number . . . Bill 87, the LRB [Labour Relations Board] is given the right to search and seize if it chooses.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at Bill No. 87 and the power that it is going to give to the LRB, this has huge implications for small business in this province. Mr. Speaker, granting the rights to the LRB that police and safety offence regulators would only use in limited circumstances sends a chill throughout the entire business community.

Mr. Speaker, it's not only the business community in this province that we're very concerned about. It is the business community outside of this province that looks at Saskatchewan and assesses it, analyzes the environment that is present, and then decides whether or not they should expand to this province. With this type of legislation, Mr. Speaker, this will not influence a business to come to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we've asked the minister to explain a number of times why does Saskatchewan's LRB need broader powers than the Canadian Industrial Relations Board, which is under federal jurisdiction. And the minister has not explained that. She has not explained what problems they are trying to fix by introducing Bill No. 87.

We've asked the minister to explain who requested this change. We asked the minister to explain what consultations she had prior to November 19. We've asked the minister to explain who was responsible for drawing up this Bill. And at no time have we had an answer in any shape or form, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the minister claims that the power that Bill No. 87 will give to the LRB will speed things up so the board can render decisions quickly. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's take a look at what the current LRB is doing. When we look at section 4.1 of the Bill as introduced, section 4.1 indicates that the chairperson of the board may make regulations. Mr. Speaker, the chairperson of the board, not this body, not this body which makes regulations and reviews regulations, will now be in charge of making its own regulations.

Mr. Speaker, when we take a look at the decisions of the LRB in responses to written questions, I want to indicate that from the year 2001 there are still two cases that are pending regarding a decision from the LRB. From 2003 there are 10 outstanding decisions. And from 2004, there are 20 outstanding decisions.

Mr. Speaker, one of the clauses in this Bill is a clause that will extend the term of a board member who is leaving the board and allow that board member to continue in that role until a decision is rendered on the cases that they are involved with. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine?

We have cases from 2001 that a decision has not been rendered yet. And now we're going to allow members of the board to remain, I guess, on the payroll until a decision is rendered. Mr. Speaker, I think that this will create tremendous concern. How can we have a system that both business and employers and employees as well will see as being fair if in fact a chairperson or a board member may — and I say may, Mr. Speaker — may be looked at as unnecessarily delaying a decision because they know then that they can stay on that particular file for as long as it takes to render a decision. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that that is a decision that we need to have in our Trade Union Act at this moment.

Mr. Speaker, section 4 of this Bill also gives the chairperson and vice-chairperson the ability to hear fair representation cases alone. Mr. Speaker, this is a power that is given to one person to in fact adjudicate a case alone. And I think that for employees, this should be of serious concern — and not only for the employers that are expressing their concern but also for workers

— that in fact one person will determine whether or not they will have the ability to hear a particular case.

Mr. Speaker, I think very clearly it needs to be shown by any changes that we make to The Trade Union Act that there needs to be a balance. There needs to be impartiality so that all decisions are seen in that light. They must be impartial, and they must be balanced to ensure that the rights of people have been maintained.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a look at section 17 of the Bill. Section 17 will give the chairperson of the LRB the ability to make regulations of procedures for proceedings before the LRB. This power, as I indicated already in my comments, is normally reserved for the Lieutenant Governor in Council or in other words cabinet. Cabinet makes the regulations that should determine the course of action of the LRB.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this question which is before us needs to be looked at very seriously. It needs to be looked at by public input. It needs to have stakeholders consult and see what is best for the province.

Mr. Speaker, I think that very clearly you can see how this may disrupt the LRB's ability to in fact be seen as fair and impartial. I think what you'll see happening is that there may be examples of whether or not the rights of individuals are protected, whether or not in fact the LRB is acting in a fair and judicious manner.

Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns about introducing clauses that pertain to Canada's Labour Code is that when the powers granted to the Canadian Industrial Relations Board under this Act are set up to deal with federal companies that operate from coast to coast, not your average small-business owner in Saskatchewan. So, Mr. Speaker, when we have reference to the Canadian Labour Code, we are also bringing into play the concerns and the cases of the Canadian Labour Code and how they may be interpreted in this province.

Section 18.1, Mr. Speaker, grants the minister certain powers, and the minister indicates that privileges will be included in section 18.1. Mr. Speaker, power is a privilege. And when you have a situation where the LRB has been granted privileges and immunities similar to the judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, you have now given the LRB a very, very strong power. You have given them the ability to act as judges, but yet they are not obligated to follow the same rules as magistrates and judges. I think very clearly that when people take a look at this, they will understand that this is not in the best interests of the environment of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, one of the clauses that is contained in Bill 87 talks about first contracts and the ability to achieve a first contract. Mr. Speaker, I've talked to a number of labour lawyers about first contracts and in fact, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that a number of years ago when I was involved with the Canora school division as the board Chair, I had the, I had the privilege of negotiating the first contract of a new union that was created in that school division. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you with sincerity that it is not easy to get everybody together at the table in a short period of time. It takes months in fact, Mr. Speaker, because when you look at the leaders that are negotiating on

behalf of the union, they're coming from Saskatoon or they're coming from Regina. There's difficulty ensuring that you have the ability to get together.

Mr. Speaker, this clause is suggesting that after 90 days from the time that a union has been created that one side or another may apply to the LRB for its first contract. Mr. Speaker, the Act also is indicating that they must begin the actual negotiations by 20 days after an order is made, that it created that particular union group.

So, Mr. Speaker, really what you have now is 70 days of bargaining — two months. That will be virtually an impossibility. And talking to various union groups and various labour lawyers across the province, when you look at the contracts that have been signed, the first contracts for a newly created group, average time, Mr. Speaker, is about 10 months. That's what it takes if you're going to be sincere about negotiating a first contract.

And a first contract is very important, Mr. Speaker, because you're starting with zero base. You don't have, you don't have an establishment of what clauses you will be including in your contract, you don't have a base at all. And it's virtually impossible to get that through within 90 days.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I think you have an example where this government is trying to interfere in the normal negotiating process. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that when I asked the Minister of Health about negotiations and interventions by government, he said very clearly that it is the intention of the NDP and the Minister of Health that political interference would occur in a collective bargaining situation if needed. And we saw that, Mr. Speaker. We saw an example of that prior to the 2003 election when in fact, near the last few days prior to the calling of an election, we saw the actual intervention by the NDP into the collective bargaining process.

Mr. Speaker, it is the right of all labour organizations to collectively negotiate the terms of their contracts. They must not have these contracts imposed by government. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that another example of a Bill that is flawed, a Bill that has not been thought out.

If there would have been consultation on this section, I'm sure that the minister and her officials would have heard clearly from union groups, from business groups, to say 90 days is just not workable and that it should be something different. But without consultation, you have a clause in the Bill now that is flawed, that is impossible to be upheld.

Mr. Speaker, the minister, this minister has once again failed to practise due diligence by consulting with all stakeholders prior to writing this legislation. There needs to be consultation, sincere consultation with all stakeholders. There may be a situation where the minister, as I've indicated before, needs to move a Bill forward, but after consultations with all groups at the table. And the minister then can say clearly that there is no compromise but I believe that in the best interests of the province of Saskatchewan, this is what's going to move forward.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker, that's not a surprise then to

the stakeholders because they've been at the table. They have heard the discussion. They have had the debate. They have all put forward their thoughts and their ideas about improving the Bill. And in the end, the minister then will make that decision.

But it's clear, Mr. Speaker, that this consultation has not occurred on Bill No. 87. Mr. Speaker, I feel that without proper public consultation, we are sending a very negative message to the community, to the business communities within this province, and to businesses that are looking at Saskatchewan and trying to determine whether or not there is an environment that is receptive to expansion of their business.

[15:15]

I think that today's decision will affect the future of this province in a profound way. And, Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I have no other option but to move the following motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be not now read a second time but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn, and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Mr. Speaker, the motion is seconded by the member from Kelvington-Wadena. I so move.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, with respect to item 3 on the blues, Bill 87, it has been moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Kelvington-Wadena:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004, be not now read a second time but that the order be discharged and the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to enter into this debate this afternoon to talk about Bill 87 which in fact is a Bill to amend The Trade Union Act and deal with powers of the Labour Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that we have public dialogue on important public issues. Mr. Speaker, I've listened with interest to the comments that have been made by the members opposite. And one of the things I do want to put on the record — and I think it's important to have factual information on the record — is that the province of Saskatchewan is not a police state, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rhetoric escalate about this Bill, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say this. We have had an opportunity to review the legislation that is presently provided

in the Alberta Bill, the Alberta Labour Relations Code. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important given that we have the two chambers of commerce, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce meeting in Lloydminster yesterday, today, and tomorrow, for there to be understanding about what this government is trying to do.

And I want to read the provisions of that Bill, the Alberta Code, into the public record so that people will understand the similarities between these amendments. And I'm going to read section 13(1) into the Bill, and it says:

The Board or an officer may

- (a) inspect and examine all books, payrolls and other records of an employer, an employee or any other person relating to employment or terms or conditions of employment;
- (b) by notice in writing demand the production of any books, records, documents, papers, payrolls, contracts of employment or other records relevant to employment or terms and conditions of employment or relevant to the membership or constitution of a trade union or employers' organization, either forthwith or at a date, place and time specified in the notice;
- (c) take extracts from or make copies of books, records, documents, papers, payrolls, contracts of employment and any other records . . . [related] to employment or terms or conditions of employment;
- (d) require an employer, employee or any other person to make, furnish or produce full and correct statements either orally or in writing respecting . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I'm just finding it a little difficult to hear the member, and I would ask members to allow the debate to proceed in an orderly fashion. The Chair recognizes . . . Order please. Order please. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: —

. . . or terms or conditions of employment.

- (d) require an employer, employee or any other person to . . . furnish or produce full and correct statements either orally or in writing respecting employment or terms and conditions of employment, and may require the statements to be made on oath or to be verified by statutory declaration;
- (e) post or require any employer, trade union, employee or other person to post any notices or other communications of the Board at the locations that the Board . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. It is not helpful to the debating process if we have members trying to converse across the floor. And if members do have comments they want to make to each other, I invite them to take the usual procedures. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: —

. . . [or] post any notices or other communications of the Board at the locations that the Board or officer, as the case may be, considers advisable.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, an officer may, in the execution of the officer's duties,

- (a) enter, inspect and examine at all reasonable times any premises or other place, other than a private dwelling, in which the officer has reason to believe that a person is employed,
- (b) make any examination and inquiry necessary to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act or any order, decision, directive, declaration or notice of the Board or any written instructions of [a] . . . Chair, a vice-chair or an officer have been complied with, and
- (c) question an employee, without the employee's employer being present, during the employee's regular hours of work or otherwise.

And

(3) An employer's organization, employer, trade union and employee, and any person acting on their behalf, shall give reasonable assistance to the Board and officers to enable them to do any of the things referred to in this section.

Now, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order please, members. Let us just allow the debate to proceed and we'll take turns. Member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have said that the Labour Relations Board and this legislation will have the powers of search and seizure, have more powers of search and seizure than the police. And that simply, Mr. Speaker, is not . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. The Speaker has made a ruling and there are to be no comments on the Speaker's ruling whether it's on the record or off the record. Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point is, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have said that these amendments to The Trade Union Act give the Labour Relations Board more powers of search and seizure than the police. And, Mr. Speaker, this is not true. It's not true, Mr. Speaker.

The Labour Relations Board will have reasonable access to workplaces and union offices to interview staff and review records. This authority, Mr. Speaker, is in keeping with the powers accorded regulatory agencies across the country. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the members know it.

Mr. Speaker, The Public Health Act, which I know that people from the restaurant industry know about, gives the public health inspectors the power to make any inspection, investigation, or inquiry that they consider necessary. This has been the practice in the province for some time.

Mr. Speaker, if you are a small-business person you know that under The Revenue and Financial Services Act, when we're dealing with taxes, a person can enter without a warrant into any premises or place where business is carried on, any property is kept, or anything is done in connection with a business, or any books or records are kept or should be kept,

pursuant to this part or any revenue Act for the purpose of carrying out an audit or inspection. So, Mr. Speaker, even the provincial revenue auditors have this authority and, Mr. Speaker, they can enter a business premise.

Mr. Speaker, for those people in the construction industry, in the construction industry under The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 1999, a commission representative from the apprenticeship branch can enter any premises or place where work in a designated trade or designated sector is performed for the following purposes, to ensure compliance with the Act.

Mr. Speaker, my point is this is not groundbreaking legislation. The Government of Alberta has given their Labour Relations Board the powers that are contained in this amendments to the Act. And, Mr. Speaker, we have several examples in the province of Saskatchewan. Under the authorities of various pieces of legislation, various public people can enter premises to deal with public health, with taxation, with apprenticeship, with an electrical inspection for instance, Mr. Speaker, and gas inspection, Mr. Speaker.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the member from Canora, he says that no other group has regulatory-making authority. And I would say take a look at the following pieces of legislation. The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission allows the commission to make regulations to designate or remove the designation of a trade or a sector. The Highway Traffic Act can . . . the Highway Traffic Board, they too can make regulations under The Highway Traffic Act, The Motor Carrier Act, and The Railway Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Labour Relations Board at present has regulation-making authority as outlined in The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act, 1992 which I know once again people in the construction industry know about. And, Mr. Speaker, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has regulation-making authority as outlined in The Members' Conflict of Interest Act. And, Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Commission, the commission has regulatory-making authority as outlined in The Public Service Act. And, Mr. Speaker, under The Regional Parks Act, the authority has regulation-making powers. Now, Mr. Speaker, what these regulations have to do with is the process of the board. That is what they have the authority to do.

Now, Mr. Speaker, then I heard the member from Canora talk about judges, that the Labour Relations Board and the members shall have the same privileges and immunities as a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Speaker, what this Bill does not give the members of the Labour Relations Board is the same powers as a Court of Queen's Bench judge. It gives them the same privilege and immunities, and there is a difference, Mr. Speaker.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that there has been a great deal, a great deal of information that has been provided to the public that does not accurately reflect the content of the Bill. And if this province is to make progress, we need to have an environment in this province where we can have good public debate without unnecessarily escalating rhetoric that does not represent the real facts contained in the Bill, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the Bill; much has been said about the Bill from the members opposite. But, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is not groundbreaking. It's not revolutionary. It's not radical. It gives the Labour Relations Board powers that are available in six other jurisdictions in this country, including the federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are engaged in a great deal of mischief, a great deal of mischief, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, the members of the legislature representing the government have determined that this Bill is not a radical piece of legislation. It is not revolutionary. It simply gives the powers to the board that they would experience in several other jurisdictions if those boards were in Alberta or British Columbia or Manitoba or the federal Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour entered this Bill into this legislature in November. It's called . . . December, January, February, March, April, May — six months later we are going to pass this legislation. We have had lots of opportunity to have our input. And, Mr. Speaker, consultation does not mean at the end of the day that the people who are opposed to certain sections of this Bill will get their way.

Mr. Speaker, this is a balanced piece of legislation. It's a piece of legislation that needs to go forward. And, Mr. Speaker, it is a piece of legislation that will go forward because it is not certainly, Mr. Speaker, breaking revolutionary new ground.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member for Canora-Pelly on his feet?

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member for Canora-Pelly has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member for Canora-Pelly.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege and an honour to introduce a group of students and teachers and chaperones that are seated in the east gallery.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon from the Preeceville School we have 16 students and from a school in Papineauville, Quebec we have 18 students, for a total of 34. These are grade 10, 11, and 12 students from the province of Saskatchewan and the province of Quebec.

The Quebec teachers that are with this group are Liette Schreyer and Francine Lemon. And with the group from Preeceville of course is a person who has been in this Legislative Assembly a

number of times, she continues to bring students to the Assembly, which is of course Sheila Ivanochko. And chaperone is Leanne Jakubowski.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to welcome not only our Saskatchewan students to their Legislative Assembly but to the Quebec visitors. And I hope that you have a great time in the province of Saskatchewan until your return to Quebec. Welcome.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 (continued)

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the amendment to the second reading motion made by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Kelvington-Wadena:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be not now read a second time but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn, and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the amendment? Those who favour the amendment say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who oppose the amendment say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I do believe the nos have it. Call in the members for a recorded vote.

[The division bells rang from 15:35 until 15:44.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the amendment to the motion as moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Kelvington-Wadena:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004, be not now read a second time but the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn, and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Those who favour the amendment please rise.

[Yeas — 23]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	Krawetz	Draude
Bjornerud	Stewart	Wakefield
McMorris	Eagles	Gantefer
Harpauer	Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Brkich
Weekes	Merriman	Dearborn
Hart	Kirsch	

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion, the amendment, please rise.

[Nays — 28]

Addley	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

Clerk Assistant: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 23; those opposed, 28.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment defeated. Debate resumes on the main motion. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity to join the debate.

The Minister of Labour talked about one group, and a reference to that would be that it's a very small group. This one group represents 58 different associations within the province. And that one group represents thousands of businesses. And that group and the businesses also represents tens of thousands of both unionized and non-unionized workers in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't say that it is just one group.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Nutana talked about different areas in her reading about the ability to seize or not to seize, but also used a word in that discussion of copy. So, Mr. Speaker, if you're coming into a business and you are copying documents — I guess you can call it by a different word — but if they leave my premises, I would assume that you're seizing them. Also, Mr. Speaker, I assume if you're copying the documents, you're using my equipment to copy them with, which we may have a discussion at that point in time.

The Speaker: — Order please. Why is the member from Meadow Lake on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member from Meadow Lake has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Member from Meadow Lake.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues and the members opposite for granting leave.

I want to introduce, Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery first of all, a constituent of mine but also a Vice-chief with the FSIN, Vice-chief Delbert Wapass. And also with him are Irene Oakes and Trish Watson.

We just finished a meeting and they had asked to come down and have a look in the Chamber here as well, to see how the legislature works. So we are pleased to have them join us here today. To all of my colleagues, please join me with me in welcoming Vice-chief Delbert Wapass and Irene Oakes and Trish Watson as well. Thanks very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 (continued)

The Speaker: — Member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the ability to enter into my business, as I believe the wording says, at the time of day or convenience, first of all, Mr. Speaker, without prior notice, I would certainly want as a business person my counsel to be there in order to make sure my rights are observed.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague had pointed out and I'm just going to reiterate some of these points because I think they're crucial to the point. Number one is, Mr. Speaker, in researching this, I could find no cases that were before the board where this legislation would be warranted or required. There doesn't seem to be a need and even if there is a need, there is certainly no need to expedite or to force this through without consultation. Now the minister may argue about consultation and I'll certainly get into that from my perspective.

One of the concerns, Mr. Speaker, is that in section 18, this Bill gives the board members the same privileges and immunities as a judge from the Queen's court bench. The difference, Mr. Speaker, is that the Queen's court bench is a lawyer who's gone through training, through different various sections of legal to understand the implications of the decision. Members to the labour board are appointed by governments in power. There is no prerequisite that I'm aware of for training or structure or understanding of the issues that are before them.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when the minister from Nutana talked about these being in the same legislation as in other provinces, well, Mr. Speaker, what they've done is cherry-picked sections out of other provinces instead of incorporating the total legislation from other provinces, if they're so pleased to have that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we're electing a board who is appointed, which we don't know of the qualifications of the people involved. And we are putting in this one person the ability and the authority to interpret on their own half the Bill and its designates.

Mr. Speaker, this should be of concern to all parties, not only business but unions. As these members rotate, other governments take form, other boards are appointed. It leaves in the hands of an individual person, the Chair of the board, to interpret these laws unto themselves. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious concern, and the interpretation today by one individual can certainly be a different interpretation tomorrow by a different individual.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of small business, I would like to say on behalf of those of us who are not a member of any association, that it's difficult for us to present or to come to this House to present our case, as it speaks, without taking this out to people in various areas around the province. Small-business people are trying to make a living, grow the economy, and employ people. They don't have the time to drive to Regina to present. They don't have the legal counsel. They don't have the expertise to do it, but they do have a concern as to how this law will be interpreted when it comes to their business.

And I'd like to give you one example on that, Mr. Speaker, and it's my own example. When the minister from Nutana says they will not be able to enter homes, well that's very comforting. Except, Mr. Speaker, I have three companies, and the head corporation of those companies are in my home. So how does that work, Mr. Speaker? Can I take that as fact, that my house is incorporated . . . all of my businesses are incorporated within my home, that the labour board would not be able to enter my home . . . to interpretate this law.

Mr. Speaker, how does that work for people who have home-based businesses? A lot of businesses that have home-based businesses employ people outside of their homes — accountants, lawyers, daycare centres, growers, plant growers, other. Maybe even a farmer may employ eight people. So does that mean that his home, which is the head of his corporation, that the labour board cannot enter that premise?

Mr. Speaker, I've had a lot of calls this week from my colleagues who are my peers in the business community, and they have a sad solution to this situation, Mr. Speaker, very sad. We'll move our head offices out of this province. And that's a shame, Mr. Speaker. That's a shame that we're forced to even contemplate those decisions. But I believe that's maybe what the other side does want. But what does that do, Mr. Speaker? That moves our tax dollars also out of this province . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . but, as the colleague said, you know, that makes more for the rest of us. Well I don't think it does, Mr. Speaker.

I'm proud to make my earning here. I'm proud to pay my taxes here. But it's my decisions, Mr. Speaker, not the decisions of an individual that's appointed to a labour board to contemplate these decisions.

I believe these laws are not good even for the union movement, Mr. Speaker. You know, how do we send an individual that we don't know has the training and the expertise to do a job to make a decision to enter a premise and seize documents . . . or copy documents, pardon me, to examine documents. Where do the limitations go? Not only do I have my corporate documents; I have my family trusts. I have my personal stuff. How do I know that when they're on that computer where they're going, Mr. Speaker?

You know, Mr. Speaker, this is something that those of us that are in the business community cannot comprehend why this government is so intent in getting this through so quickly. How do the people in Eastend, Saskatchewan, how do the people in Hudson Bay, how do they get to give their opinion on this, those that aren't part of large associations, whether they be unionized or non-unionized associations? This province is run on small business. It's the foundation of this province.

And this government has made the decision to enter those businesses where courts need to be involved, lawyers need to be involved. I find it terribly irate that somebody would make the decision based on the ability that I have my business in my home, would enter my premises. And, Mr. Speaker, the comfort of a minister just saying, oh that won't happen, well, Mr. Speaker, I've heard that before. It's kind of say one thing and do another.

You know, Mr. Speaker, those of us that have invested our own money — our own money — without government grants to build businesses in this province and employ people want to have a say in the way these things are interpreted. We can't take two days out of our business schedule to drive down here to meetings.

Mr. Speaker, we want the right to have these hearings across this province so all small-business owners have a say. This isn't just about big business. This isn't just about big union. This is about all of us who have a say in this. And are . . . what we saying is that the small-business people don't have a say in this province, that what we do isn't interpreted . . . or what you're saying, we're not welcome in this province because it's a stroke of a pen to leave, and with it we take the tax dollars.

You know, Mr. Speaker, nobody is against good law. But people are against this law that's interpreted and forced down their throat without proper consultation. You know, Mr. Speaker, we're not asking for something that nobody else would have. It's a right to speak. It's a right to speak freely in a democratic society, have our point heard by the government of the day, to interpret our concerns.

And, Mr. Speaker, those concerns, from the phone calls I'm getting from my peer group, are severe. You know, Mr. Speaker, this isn't a fear tactic to say businesses are going to leave this province. I'm not standing here saying that, Mr. Speaker. I'm staying here, standing here saying that we want a right to be heard, and we haven't had a right to be heard.

Now the minister may say this has been on the books since December, but a lot of us are out there trying to make a living since December, Mr. Speaker. Farmers are in the fields now, planting. You know, Mr. Speaker, the difference of passing this law in May or November is absolutely insignificant. It makes no difference. There are no cases that are pending that need to be heard under the labour standard board that can't wait until . . . The minister can beak all she wants.

I want to ask her how many home-based business people has she talked to? How many of them has she sent out a letter and informed what's going on in this House?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Merriman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's fine to talk to big business. It's fine to talk to big labour, but there's the rest of us out there. There's those of us who are creating employment, trying to employ our families while they're on the farms to make a living.

You know, Mr. Speaker, they can say what they want. But the calls that come into our office tell us that they're not consulting. They can say that they're consulting. You know, Mr. Speaker, the minister speaks up. She says one thing. She says she never said seizure, and yet it's in the press. It's everywhere that she did say the word. Well, Mr. Speaker, those of us that may be getting a little older and have time for our memory failures, you know, Mr. Speaker, I understand that. But it's on the public record what she said. And she did say seizure one day and said no the next day. And that's what concerns us in the business world.

[16:00]

We need stability. We need government stability. We need stability to know that when we invest dollars in this province, we have an opportunity to get return on those investments, on a stable marketplace . . . not laws that are changed.

When the Premier went before the election, he committed to the business community in the province there would be no significant changes without consultation. And this is the third major Bill since that. And the business community is asking what kind of stability is that. Where is the stability? Why should I invest my dollars in this province?

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's one thing to say that this is urgent. And it's fascinating that we have some urgent things that we should be doing, certainly on crystal meth and other issues. But there is no urgency to put this Bill through this month or any time this summer without the opportunity for people to speak to it.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's funny how we can get these labour laws that are quickly put through, and yet when we try to do something on crystal meth, we want to study it for a year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Merriman: — We want to go out, Mr. Speaker, and we want to have consultations around the province to understand crystal meth. Well, Mr. Speaker, get on the Internet. There's

enough there to bury you for a year.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand how we can push a Bill through that has no significant impact in the next six months, and yet we can't commit to putting in treatment centres for our children who are dying in this province. Mr. Speaker, I just don't get it. It's a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and that substitute the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

And it's seconded by the member from Humboldt, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest, seconded by the member for Humboldt:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to enter this debate. I don't intend to take up a lot of the House's time, but I think there are a few comments that I'd like to put on the record.

I will indicate at the outset that I have no intentions of supporting the amendment nor do I believe my colleagues will. This legislature has lots of work before it, and I think it's important that we proceed with our legislative agenda which is what this government intends to do and which is what we will do. And ultimately, Mr. Speaker, we will oppose these types of amendments.

And I want to speak, Mr. Speaker, first of all . . . and I want to speak as an MLA who has sat in this legislature for a considerable period of time. I also want to speak as someone who has been a business person in this province since I was 18, 19 years old, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say to members of the opposition that they should not take the approach that they are the only people who come to this legislature with some history in business because that's not simply the facts.

Mr. Speaker, there are those of us who don't belong to the Progressive Conservative Party or the Conservative Party or the Liberal Party, but who are New Democrats who have a business background and who frankly have been successful without government grants, without government support. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that I am one of those members of

the legislature who come with that kind of a business background and who also come with the knowledge that what I have generated — in terms of wealth and the opportunity that I've been able to create jobs for some young people in this province so far — came without the support of government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to set the record straight that not all the business people of this world support a right-wing political ideology. I'm one who doesn't, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in fairness and I believe in balance.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lautermilch: — And, Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that I have never, ever been a member of a trade union. I have never been in a workplace where that has been part of the workplace. And I'm not saying that I wouldn't have. I would have joined if the place was unionized and I would have been proud to be a member of a group of people who use a trade union for job protection and job security. And I think that's part of the balance.

And I think we also have to understand, Mr. Speaker, that this province was built on the work and the sweat and the brows of working people both urban, rural, unionized, non-unionized.

It's been built by Aboriginal people, people from all ethnic backgrounds. And it will continue to be built that way.

And, Mr. Speaker, it will be built by a positive attitude and it will be built by fairness. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, it'll also be built by a balance in terms of the legislation that goes before this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we may not always agree with members of the opposition in terms of some of the issues and how they will portray some of the issues and some of the legislation that comes forward.

And I have to tell you that I don't always agree with the chamber of commerce. I've been a member of the chamber of commerce. I've been a member of the CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] many, many years; when it was first started as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker. I felt it was a . . . [inaudible] . . . for a small business. But I don't always agree with the conclusions of that business community — that part of our business community.

And I've got to say, Mr. Speaker, that even members of the opposition will have to admit that the leadership of the business groups aren't always speaking 100 per cent in terms of what their membership are saying. It's not always the case. Now that might be a little controversial and the members opposite may not agree to that, but that, Mr. Speaker, is a fact.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am more interested in seeing the kind of an economy that we have been able to build here in this province, the kind of economy that we should be proud of, Mr. Speaker, and the kind of economy that's been built on positive attitudes and the belief that we can do things here in this province that maybe can't be done anywhere else in the world, Mr. Speaker. And we've proven that. We've proven that in health care, Mr. Speaker. We've proven it over and over

again in terms of worker protection here in this province. We've proved that we are leaders.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the fear . . . the fearmongering, the fearmongering that goes on, sometimes I have to take exception to. And that's why I'm speaking to this Bill today because there has been a lot of it go on in this province in the last little while.

And there's been some misinformation cast, Mr. Speaker . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. The member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say this. There should be no doubt that the private sector has confidence in this economy. There should be no doubt because the numbers will portray that that's exactly what's happened, Mr. Speaker, whether it's potash, whether it's uranium, whether it's the oil and gas sector, whether it's manufacturing, whether it's agriculture, Mr. Speaker. All you have to do is look at the numbers.

You'll look at the GDP [gross domestic product] growth in this province. You'll look at what the bond rating agencies are saying about the management of this economy, Mr. Speaker. Twelve successive credit upgrades here in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, you never hear members on that side of the House give this government credit for that, or the former administration. Never. All they ever do is stand up and say that we've created an environment where there will be no investment. Mr. Speaker, those aren't the facts because the investment is happening and the economy is growing.

If you look at the nations of Stats Canada . . . of Canada, and what Stats Canada says about this province, we led in nominal GDP growth on a per capita basis. This province, number one. We led on a per capita income tax . . . income growth. A per capita income growth, Mr. Speaker, number one. Personal disposable income, number one. Growth in personal disposable income, number one. Productivity growth, Mr. Speaker, number one. Real GDP growth, Mr. Speaker, number one.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, part of that growth are members of my family. My son and daughter-in-law own businesses both in Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and they employ people, Mr. Speaker. And they listen to what members of this opposition say and some of the business community.

And, Mr. Speaker, they know the facts. They know the facts because they pay attention to what's going on in the place where they're investing money. And, Mr. Speaker, they're doing it without government grants; they're doing it without any kind of support. They're doing it only with hard work and their desire to grow this Saskatchewan economy. And they want to be part of it, and they're going to employ people.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that of my three children, they're all living right here in this province, and they're all generating wealth in this province, and they're all part of building the province for Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lautermilch: — And so what I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is I know what's in Bill 87. I've read this Act. I also know what's in Alberta legislation. And I know the role of regulators. I know the Department of Health when they come into inspect your place — I've sold food, repackaged food — and I understand what responsibilities they have and also what authority they have.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that not all people believe in the fear that's being cast by members of that opposition. Not all people believe in that. But I tell you what, Mr. Speaker. There are a million people in this province, the vast majority of whom have voted NDP over the years because they believe we manage the economy much better than right-wing governments, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're going to be re-elected. And, Mr. Speaker, that's why members of that right-wing philosophy are going to be sitting on that side hungering for power for a long, long time, Mr. Speaker.

In closing I want to say to you, that I'm proud to support Bill 87 on behalf of the people of Prince Albert Northcote because it's fair and it's balanced, it clarifies some old wording in legislation. So, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting this amendment. I support this Premier. I support this Labour minister. I support this government. And I'm supporting Bill 87 because it's the right thing to do.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. The question before the Assembly is the amendment to the motion as moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest, seconded by the member for Humboldt:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004, be not now read a second time but it be read a second time this day six months hence.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Those who favour the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 16:14 until 16:21.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the amendment moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest, seconded by the member for Humboldt:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word “That” and substituting the following therefor:

Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.”

Those who favour the amendment please rise.

[Yeas — 22]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	Krawetz	Draude
Bjornrud	Wakefield	McMorris
Eagles	Gantefoer	Harpauer
Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Weekes
Merriman	Dearborn	Hart
Kirsch		

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the amendment please rise.

[Nays — 28]

Addley	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

Clerk Assistant: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour, 22; those opposed, 28.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion defeated. Debate resumes on the main motion. The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to enter the debate on the Bill 87 this afternoon. Unfortunately on a couple of occasions now the official opposition has tried to suggest the very, very reasonable step of public consultations for this Bill, that this Bill be subjected to continued consultations with all the stakeholders on both sides of the equation — those who create jobs and with organized labour. On both counts, Mr. Speaker, the government members, the NDP have stood in their places to vote against consultation.

Mr. Speaker, on this particular Bill it is important for us to remember what has transpired in terms of the information the government has provided both to the opposition and to the business community, to the taxpayers, to the voters of Saskatchewan about the nature of this Bill. We have seen the minister unsure of what's in the Bill. The Minister of Labour at one day said that seizure was part of it. Then the next day said seizure wasn't part of it. Then she clarified that well, seizure is sort of part of it because it's a matter of officials of the government, of the LRB being able to photocopy and take

documents out, which most people would define as seizure.

So again we have seen a minister unsure of her own Bill. Unable to answer basic questions about a Bill which you'd think the Minister of Labour who sponsored it would be able to do. Consultations of course would help with that. Public hearings would help with that. It would give the time the minister might need to do her homework and find out what is actually in this Bill.

We've also heard the Minister of Labour and other speakers from the government side say there's nothing different in this Bill. There is nothing different in here relative to what is available in other provinces. Mr. Speaker, we've heard from the deputy Leader of the Opposition, we've heard from the member for Saskatoon Northwest, and many others on the opposition benches who've spoke to this Bill. We've heard from the business community. We've heard from other observers that the Minister of Labour is dead wrong on that count. We have heard them clearly highlight that the powers for seizure as they are articulated in the Bill, as the minister has confirmed through photocopying, are different than other jurisdictions. We have heard highlighted clearly for the public record that the government hasn't simply adopted what's available in other provinces, they've cherry-picked elements of other Bills in other provinces.

And, Mr. Speaker, we see here in this Bill, in section 18 of the Bill, specifically giving the members of the board, the LRB, the same privileges and immunities as a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench.

There is only one other province in the Dominion of Canada that provides that power to Labour Relations Board members and that's the province of Quebec. That is a pretty key part of this Bill. That is a pretty fundamental essential element of this Bill that you would give the powers of a judge to someone who is not legally trained, someone who's clearly not a judge, someone who is appointed by the government to the Labour Relations Board.

So we know very clearly that the information we've gotten from the NDP is not true on this Bill. That's a good reason for perhaps just to defeat the Bill outright, but it's certainly a good reason, Mr. Speaker, for continued public consultation on the issue.

We have tried to get an answer to the question — from this minister and this NDP government, from this Premier — why this Bill? Why are we doing this? Who is asking for this? I haven't heard where the outcry is for this Bill, for the Labour Relations Board to have the powers of a judge. Or for the increased powers for search and seizure that come in this Bill. I don't know who's asking for it, Mr. Speaker.

Well the member for North Battleford is asking for it. The member for North Battleford is asking for it. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Doesn't he trust his businesses in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker? Doesn't he trust the men and women and the co-operatives of his constituency who are creating jobs, who abide by the laws, who have to live by labour standards and freely and willingly do so? What doesn't he trust about his businesses in his constituency that he thinks he needs the LRB

to have the powers of a judge?

And other than members of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, MLAs out there who clearly have a quid pro quo going with union leadership — not union members but some union leadership — is that the reason for the Bill? Is that the why behind the Bill?

Because I haven't had organized workers, I haven't had unionized workers come and ask me, lobby me in my office or here or write me letters saying, we really need this Bill. Well the member from Regina South might want to listen to this. I have not had anybody in organized labour come to me and say, we really need this Bill. I haven't had unionized workers say, we need this in the province of Saskatchewan.

So why do we have it? Well, Mr. Speaker, we don't have the answer as to why . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we don't know why. The people of the province don't know why. I would argue the significant part of organized labour doesn't know why. Business does not know why we have to have Bill 87.

But we know what it will do, Mr. Speaker. We know what Bill 87 could do without the kind of consultation that would improve this Bill, without the kind of public hearings that it could actually make this fair and balanced. Mr. Speaker, we know what it will do without that, without the improvements that could come from public hearings. It will send the wrong message about the business climate, about the investment climate in the province of Saskatchewan. It will send a mixed message, Mr. Speaker.

Well the Deputy Premier's chirping from his seat. He should get up and participate in the debate because I want to tell him that he is part of a government, he is the proud deputy leader of a party that campaigned only months ago in this province, looked business people and organized labour straight in the eye and said, we will not implement major labour legislative changes without consultation. He looked them in the eye and did that.

And then he broke that promise, Mr. Speaker. That's the track record of that Deputy Premier right there.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — And that's what they're all about. And that's what that Deputy Premier's all about . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Members will have ample opportunity to enter debate. Right now, the member from Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — The sad reality is that that Deputy Premier, the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I would ask the member from Yorkton to not interrupt the debate. The member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is that members of the government opposite — the NDP, the Deputy Premier, the Premier — they have not a clue, not a clue as to how to send a positive signal about the investment climate and the investment opportunities in our great province. They send mixed messages, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

Bill 87 is an example of that, when the Premier promised to consult before labour legislative changes, and he didn't do that. The minister has not consulted on the Bill. That question has been resolved.

We see other mixed messages. We see the Premier, we see the Deputy Premier travel around the country, Mr. Speaker, and say that the future is wide open in Saskatchewan, that you should come and invest here. And what do we see, Mr. Speaker, from the Premier of the province? What does he think about the businesses that he says wants to come and invest here in a fundraising letter from the campaign? He says, quote:

Big corporations see a successful provincial economy and want to take over the most profitable parts of it . . . so they finance a political party, in this case the Saskatchewan Party, to get it for them.

What a mixed message, to go to some jurisdiction, some other place, or even within the province and say, we want your investment, your future's wide open, and oh by the way, when it really comes down to it in a campaign, we think you're out to take over the most profitable parts of the economy. That's what the socialist Deputy Premier thinks over there. That's what the NDP believe over there when it comes right down to it. They've got to stop sending these mixed messages. Our economy can't take it any more, Mr. Speaker.

What other mixed messages have they sent out, Mr. Speaker? On the one hand they would say, at the same time they were saying the future's wide open, they were contemplating Bill 87 and implementing most available hours, Mr. Speaker. They were going to bring it in to this Assembly and drive it through if nobody objected. It would be a law in the province. And you know what? We would be the only place on the continent with such a law.

The Premier kind of . . . The Deputy Premier is kind of grinning from his seat. I wonder what he thinks of that reputation for this province around North America, to those people in Yorkton that he says he wants to create jobs in his community and then he accuses them of wanting to take over the most profitable parts of the economy — or introducing most available hours legislation or Bill 87, Mr. Speaker.

And do you know what the matter of consultation on that issue was? Do you know what we found out, Mr. Speaker? With respect to most available hours — and it goes directly to Bill 87 and the issue of consultation — on the most available hours measure, the Minister of Labour . . . Why she's the Minister of Labour still, I don't know, for this reason if not for others.

The Minister of Labour, days before she went to the SFL

[Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] to announce that she would be introducing unilaterally most available hours or government-directed hours, met with some business groups in the province. Did she breathe a word of this to those business groups days before she went to the SFL to announce it? Not a breath, not a word from this NDP government, from the NDP Labour minister who says, well they're committed to consultation. They are not committed to consultation, Mr. Speaker. They are committed to driving through their agenda, and whether or not it hurts the economy doesn't seem to matter to them at all.

Well you know what, Mr. Speaker? It matters to the people of the province. It matters to organized labour. It matters to union members who would like to see more numbers in their ranks, more employees. It matters to small-business men and women and to co-operatives. And I want to tell you, it matters to the official opposition. And it's part of the motivation — not all — but part of the motivation we have to change the Government of Saskatchewan and change it soon.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Here's another mixed message. And I'm glad the minister of industry and natural resources is here because, you know, I'm not sure how much of a fight he has in . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I just want to remind the member that they should not be referring to the presence or absence of members during debate. Member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of mixed messages, imagine this. Imagine the Premier at his dinner in Regina — which I understand was significantly smaller than the dinner that we had in Regina — imagine a dinner in Regina where the Premier announces to the province and the world that when it comes to the oil and gas sector, he will wake the sleeping giant. That's were the words that he used.

And then a few days later, they announced something pretty positive with respect to the oil and gas sector — enhanced oil recovery initiative. That's not bad. And when they announced it, we congratulated them for it, and thought maybe after 60 years, maybe they actually will try to wake the sleeping giant. Maybe they will finally get it. And then days later, days later, the Finance minister stands in his place and delivers a budget that — what? — increases taxes to that same oil and gas sector, \$25 million this year, \$40 million next year. That's the kind of mixed messages that hurt an economy. That's the kind of mixed messages that we see in Bill 87 that the member for northwest was referring to.

Perhaps even more than high taxes or a bad regulatory environment in terms of dissuading businesses from investing or retaining their investment and employees is instability, is a government they can't trust, is an investment climate they can't figure out. And Bill 87 is the most recent example of the kind of mixed messages that we get from the Government of Saskatchewan.

But there is another concern, Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 87, and it goes to the vision of this government, of this NDP Premier — or the lack of vision. And I want to highlight for the

public record the amount of public discourse and discussion in the newspapers and in the media and by people of this province about their complete lack of confidence — this is the people of this province — their complete lack of confidence in the vision or the lack of vision demonstrated by the members opposite.

Here's some quotes from just this spring, March 24, 2005, *Leader-Post*, quote: "But what might . . ." This is a political columnist in the province, quote:

But what might be harder to get past is the NDP government's failure in this budget to demonstrate a grander vision.

Here's the same article:

If there is a hallmark of the Calvert administration, it's that it can't make up its mind what it wants to be when it grows up.

That's from a column by Mr. Burton entitled "Calvert and Co. walking blindly through [the] term." Here's some more, Mr. Speaker, again from the *Leader-Post* or rather from *The StarPhoenix*:

[The government] . . . has yet to articulate a vision for how it intends to improve our competitive position with other provinces, and seems to be conflicted over who it represents.

Here's another one:

It is a similar problem to last week's provincial budget. A reasonable Saskatchewan taxpayer could be forgiven for asking Finance Minister Harry Van Mulligen [and I'm quoting] 'Are we getting anywhere, or are we just spinning our wheels?'

That from Todd Hirsch, who the Premier proudly introduced and welcomed to his own economic summit, Mr. Speaker. Todd Hirsch can't figure out what this government's plan is, if it has a vision. Bill 87, Bill 87 is going to just further confuse people like Todd Hirsch and the business community, and frankly labour . . . in the organized labour too in the province of Saskatchewan.

Here's another one:

It's ironic that the main sector responsible for vaulting Saskatchewan to the status of a 'have' province — the oil and gas sector — is the one targeted by the capital tax amendment.

And that's what I just referred to in terms of other mixed messages.

Mr. Speaker, here's another one from *The StarPhoenix*:

The NDP's evil twin is ideological and disorganized, with a tendency to lurch from one crisis to the next with no clear idea of its destination or how to get there.

From the P.A. [Prince Albert] *Daily Herald*, and it's too bad the

member for Northcote is gone. Here's what they had to say.

The Speaker: — I would remind the member about what I reminded him about. The member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — I'll try much harder to refer from doing that. Here's what the P.A. *Daily Herald* had to say on the issue of vision:

Besides, does Calvert think that Wall [that would be . . . I guess that would be me] is the only person who has noticed that this government has been lurching from crisis to crisis and failing to articulate a vision for the province . . . it's also dismayingly obvious that the government has no coherent plan to use the windfall money to Saskatchewan's . . . advantage.

And the list just goes on and on and on of people making observations that this government lacks a vision. It doesn't know what to do with respect to the economy, Mr. Speaker.

Here's another quote from a recent editorial regarding the rebate, the minister for Nutana's rebate. Here's what they say:

Another \$137 million-credit on everyone's SaskTel bill does nothing for the province's future and underlines the utter [underscore the word utter] lack of vision that's become the hallmark of this mundane administration.

Mr. Speaker, Bill . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Why is the member for Prince Albert Northcote on his feet?

Mr. Lautermilch: — To raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Would the member from Prince Albert Northcote state his point of order.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Yes, my point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that I noted just moments ago the Leader of the Opposition recognized my absence. And I want to say to the House that it was only because he's very difficult to listen to. I was in the members' lounge.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order please. The point of order and the order that I have already brought has been reinforced. I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — And, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Speaker, I truly do apologize that the member wasn't here.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of vision is important here. What's at stake is important with respect to Bill 87. Bill 87, and the fact that the government is unwilling even to get further consultation to try to improve the Bill, underscores the complete lack of vision that this party, this NDP Party, this fourth-term party in terms of their government, has for the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, what is the result for this province of that

lack of vision? Because if it didn't hurt our province, if the lack of vision by the NDP didn't have any major impact on the province of Saskatchewan, I guess no one would worry about it. But the sad reality is that it has a major impact on Saskatchewan. It has a negative impact on Saskatchewan.

Because of the lack of vision, because of things like Bill 87, our province has been able to attract only 165 new people in two years. The NDP Finance minister created more government jobs than that, frankly, in the last budget; 165 people in the midst of a boom if you listen to the member for P.A. Northcote. At the same time, in those same two years the province of Manitoba attracted 17,000 new people — 17,000 new people.

Can you believe it, Mr. Speaker? This NDP government is taking it on the chin, is getting a licking from our province to the east of us that has resources that pale in comparison to what we have. They can't manage to even compete with a province frankly, that's not as blessed as we are in natural resources. A hundred times better population growth than when we've seen in our province. That's the first example.

Here's the second one as I wrap up, Mr. Speaker, and I encourage members opposite to pay careful attention to the speech, on both sides of the House.

What is the result of a lack of vision? What is the result of things like Bill 87, Mr. Speaker? Do they have an impact? Well here, from an article earlier this month in the *Leader-Post*, is what the *Sask Trends Monitor* and the very respected statistician Doug Elliott had to say. And I'm going to quote this, Mr. Speaker:

Doug Elliott, publisher of *Sask Trends Monitor*, who compiled the statistics for the chamber [of commerce] report, said that, "private sector is underperforming during a period of high commodity prices . . . and high investment."

And that's what we've been saying in our party. That's all we have been saying. That there is so much potential and so many resources in this province, that we should be leading the country, we should be leading Manitoba.

The Minister of Industry and Resources doesn't have to take it from me. He can talk to Doug Elliott. He likes to quote Doug Elliott. Doug Elliott says clearly and starkly that we are underperforming under their leadership. And in large measure it's because of most available hours, it's because of high business taxes, and it's because of their unwillingness to even consult on things like Bill 87.

I'll just continue . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here's what Elliott said and I quote:

We're at the stage in the business cycle where the private sector should be driving everything because of commodity prices. This is as good as it is going to get in Saskatchewan.

That's what he has to say. He goes on to say:

What's going to happen when the public sector goes stagnate; as it will? Then we won't have anything happening.

Because he highlights, Mr. Speaker, Doug Elliott does, that in our province the public sector is growing faster than the private sector in the face of a boom, Mr. Speaker — in the face of a boom.

Mr. Speaker, what's at stake? What's at stake with respect to Bill 87, and the motion we presented to the House, and our reasonable suggestion that it needs further consultation? What's at stake if we don't get a government that understands how to implement the kinds of policies we need for a better investment climate and a growing economy in the province?

What's at stake isn't statistics. What's at stake is not numbers. What's at stake aren't percentages.

What's at stake is the sustainability of the province we love, it's the future of Saskatchewan. What's at stake is a decision that businessmen and women across this province will be making as to whether they will invest more and create a job for a family or maybe whether they will look elsewhere for their investment. That's what's at stake and that's what's frustrating from this NDP government, this Premier, and this Deputy Premier.

They don't get it. Because if they got it, Mr. Speaker, they would agree with our motion. They would submit Bill 87 to further consultation and get it right. For once, they would get it right. I will be voting against this, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Those who favour the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 16:45 until 16:51.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Labour, that Bill No. 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004, be now read a second time. Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 28]

Addley	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 22]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	Krawetz	Draude
Bjornerud	Wakefield	McMorris
Eagles	Gantefoer	Harpauer
Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Weekes
Merriman	Dearborn	

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. Order.

Hart Kirsch

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 28; those opposed, 22.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I move that Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill 87 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 86

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 86 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be considerably shorter than my remarks on Bill No. 87.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, very clearly when we look at a comment made in an open letter to the Premier of Saskatchewan dated April 20, 2005, where I quote from this letter, it says:

It is our fear that if your government proceeds with Bill 86 & 87, you will undoubtedly confirm Saskatchewan's reputation as an anti-business jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I think that speaks very clearly about the fact that Bill 86 along with 87 need to have amendments. Bill 87 is now before the committee and I'm hopeful that the minister responsible for that Bill will indeed move amendments to it as she's heard from various groups. She's been able to stand in this Legislative Assembly and say, I am listening, and I am hearing, and I am receiving reports. So I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that she recognizes that indeed Bill No. 86 is flawed.

There are a couple of problems with it. A Bill that introduces whistleblower protection is good. No question about that, Mr. Speaker. But when you look at the concerns about an anonymous third party that can put forward a complaint that is going to be investigated, that is of concern. And that needs to be clarified by the minister to ensure that that is not what the intention is. And I think she needs to ensure that there be amendments that will in fact bring that about.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's clear that 86 should have followed the same path as we suggested for 87 and that there should have been further consultation to indeed produce a Bill that would have been supported by a partnership of not only the government, but business and labour workers as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 86, The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members

for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 16:57 until 17:03.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Labour that Bill 86, The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2), be now read a second time. Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 28]

Addley	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 22]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	Krawetz	Draude
Bjornrud	Wakefield	McMorris
Eagles	Gantefer	Harpauer
Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Weekes
Merriman	Dearborn	Hart
Kirsch		

Clerk Assistant (Committees): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion 28; those opposed 22.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 86, The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2) be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill 86 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 122 — The**

Miscellaneous Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes, we've only just begun. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rise today and put a few comments for the record. And I'd like to talk about the labour legislation in Saskatchewan and the protection of Saskatchewan workers and managing the work environment of part-time workers.

The issue of providing vulnerable workers with opportunity to make a decent living from a secure job, Mr. Speaker, is a complex one. It is about young people. It's about women. It's about Aboriginal employment, about immigrants, and about the working poor.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Speaker, we passed legislation that dealt with part-time hours and most available hours. Part-time work and the conditions faced by part-time workers has become a more complex issue now than it was in the 1990s. Mr. Speaker, we need a broader set of guidelines, a broader public policy set that deals with the largest set of issues that protect the rights of workers.

This is once again a question of approach, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Conservative party has a knee-jerk reaction, an approach to its policy. If it's a headline, that party will grab it and use it as an issue.

Mr. Speaker, we prefer a more complete approach to public policy. We want to take a broader brush to developing policy regarding the Saskatchewan workplace. We have established a commission that will make recommendations to improve access by part-time and vulnerable workers, to employment income, employment benefits, and work opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Lynne Pearson, the dean of commerce at the University of Saskatchewan, will be chairing that three-member commission. The other members are Fred Cuddington, consultant and mediator, and Deb Thorn, chief executive officer at Temple Gardens Mineral Spa in Moose Jaw. The commission will submit a report and recommendations to the government by December 15, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, we are about helping Saskatchewan people find employment opportunities that allow them to better support themselves and their families. I'm looking forward to reviewing the results of the commission's work. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to have an even wider and more comprehensive approach to part-time hours than just additional hours.

Mr. Speaker, when the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] introduced social welfare in this province, we removed it from a mishmash of municipal programs and created a standardized approach across the province. When we made hospitalization and medicare province-wide, we were applying broad principles and standards to the whole province.

When we put occupational health and safety into labour law —

the first in the world to do so, Mr. Speaker — we were making it part of a broader set of worker protection. In some other jurisdictions, occupational health and safety regulations were in health departments, in some they were stand-alone regulations. It was here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we made regulations a part of a larger, cohesive policy governing the treatment of workers.

We are withdrawing the old legislation, but that does not stop us from working toward the protection of the vulnerable, the protection of part-time workers.

The issue of providing vulnerable workers with the opportunity to make a decent living from a secure job is a complex one. We address the protection of vulnerable in our society through the social legislation, the Building Independence program, minimum wage, health care, School^{PLUS}, and many other actions and programs.

We will address the issue of part-time workers with a variety of tools — education, law, regulation, services, and social change. We will examine existing government policies and programs including the application and enforcement of employment standards that address these issues and assist workers.

This is our approach, Mr. Speaker. It is not the irrational, fearmongering, headline-driven approach of the opposition. I would like to talk about the fearmongering approach of the opposition Saskatchewan Conservative party, Mr. Speaker. I have in recent days had the opportunity to read some of the advertisements run by the Saskatchewan Business Council talking about the changes to the labour laws we have introduced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are building on our progressive legislation, and we're working to better labour relations for part-time and full-time employees. Our first-contract legislation is part of an overall approach to create a positive labour, investment climate. That is the way that we are building this province. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Saskatchewan Conservative party cannot understand these facts. And they hide behind advertisements that make dubious claims.

We have first-contract legislation, Mr. Speaker. The reason we have first-contract legislation is because it provides stability. The members opposite will do well to remember that the quality of labour and stability are the key to investment criteria for business which we continuously hear from that side. Stability prevents the loss of productivity, Mr. Speaker, the loss of profit, Mr. Speaker, and the loss of work due to strikes and other work disruptions. Mr. Speaker, it prevents the loss of money for workers and business.

Mr. Speaker, the history of new certifications clearly shows that the parties need some assistance prior to establishing a mature bargaining relationship. The anti-labour types across the aisle don't understand these things, Mr. Speaker. They don't understand the real world of labour relations, Mr. Speaker. First-contract legislation addresses this issue. And these are the facts, Mr. Speaker, which seem to escape those folks over there. Mr. Speaker, the best we can say here is that those folks have totally missed the boat on this one, totally missed the boat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look forward to the commission set up by this government, and I have every good reason to believe that the members of this commission will provide us the facts which are sorely missing, Mr. Speaker, sorely missing. And the facts will no doubt have many quality solutions for part-time workers in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end by saying that the legislation regarding the Labour Relations Board is not new. These are general powers that the board has that we have simply now listed. These are not new, Mr. Speaker. These are not the draconian measures that the opposition is trying to trump them up to be. And, Mr. Speaker, the opposition should quit hiding behind ads. And, Mr. Speaker, what they should do is come clean. They should come clean about their anti-union and anti-worker positions. Quit hiding about behind ads.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe in democracy in the workplace and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that means equality. Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this side of the House we are not going back prior to The Trade Union Act, the days of the master-servant relationship laws. We're not going back to those days, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know the Leader of the Opposition has some hankering in that direction.

Oh yes, he wants to take us back 60 years, Mr. Speaker, to the good old days — the good old days, Mr. Speaker, the days before medicare, the days before crop insurance, the days before union protection, the days before workers' compensation, the days before occupational health and safety. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's what the Leader of the Opposition says.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, he says we can still turn this thing around. That's what he's quoted as saying. We can still turn this thing around in our province if we try some policies, economically, that frankly we haven't tried in six decades, Mr. Deputy Speaker — six decades. Just like the member, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from Kindersley and I quote, "We need to move back to the pre-World War II situation." Mr. Deputy Speaker, which policies would he be talking about? The war or the Depression? Which ones?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this not the end. There's more that the opposition leader thinks about labour legislation and occupational health and safety. He says they destroy jobs. They destroy jobs, and how is this good for part-time and full-time workers? And here's a quote from the Leader of the Opposition on his speech he's got posted on his website, on his website:

... red tape and regulations that have been foisted onto [the] business community by this government, be it through Workers' Comp or occupational health and safety or various pieces of labour legislation, too often has driven businesses and jobs they create and ... taxes they pay out of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, he has not been listening at all to what is being said about the facts in the Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say again, the opposition should quit

hiding and just come clean. Come clean about their anti-union and anti-worker positions. They should come clean about those. I look forward to the commission's work, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, people did not win the right to vote in a day, and workers did not win the right to organize overnight. Part-time employees' rights must and will be addressed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank ... Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the working people of this province for their hard work and dedication to making our world a better place.

And I would like to thank the young people for their enthusiasm for a better future. Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this time I'd also like to thank my colleagues for carrying forward in the face of adversity and remembering that we are here for working people and for those young people, and to make a better tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seeing that no one on the government side wishes to continue with the debate, I would like to make a couple of quick comments about Bill No. 122.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there has been consultation with the people of Saskatchewan. The Minister of Labour wanted to introduce regulations and changes by way of reintroducing sections of a Bill that have sat idle for 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the comment of many people, the comments of many people have varied a great deal. And I want to put one comment on the record and this is from the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* of February 1, 2005. And this is a paragraph from an article in that paper that day. And I quote. Even a former NDP minister says the available hours legislation is flawed:

... [Dwain Lingenfelter] told reporters ... he didn't know why available-hours was revived ... just like 10 years ago, it has caused consternation in the business community with uncertainty over whether it will even benefit the workers it is intended to help.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think you can see by the quotation from a person who was around at the time that that Bill was passed over 10 years ago, the public outcry and the realization that that particular section clause 13.4 was not in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan, was not in the best interests of the very people that the member from Saskatoon Fairview talks about, that in fact it might not even help those people. And the government of the day recognized it and that particular clause sat idle.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to complete the job of removing this job-killing monster and indeed passing this Bill immediately.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 122, The Miscellaneous Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried. Call in the members. Standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 17:20 to 17:24.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is motion by the Minister of Labour that Bill 122, The Miscellaneous Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time.

Those who favour the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 50]

Addley	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson	Wall	Toth
Elhard	Heppner	Krawetz
Draude	Bjornerud	Wakefield
McMorris	Eagles	Gantefoer
Harpauer	Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Brkich
Weekes	Merriman	Dearborn
Hart	Kirsch	

Clerk Assistant: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion 50; those opposed 0.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I move that Bill 122, The Miscellaneous Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill 122 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on Bills Relating to the Same Subject

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, before we proceed any further, I wish to make a statement. I want to draw to the attention of the members that this Assembly has two Bills on the order paper that contain provisions with substantially the same purpose: Bill No. 206, An Act to amend The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 1994 under the name of the member for Canora-Pelly, and Bill No. 122, An Act to amend certain Labour Acts under the name of the Minister of Labour. Both Bills propose to repeal the same sections of The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 1994.

According to Erskine May, *Parliamentary Practice*, 22nd Edition, page 499:

There is no . . . rule or custom which restrains the presentation of two or more bills relating to the same subject, and containing similar provisions. But if a decision of the House has already been taken on one such bill, for example, if the bill has been given or refused a second reading, the other is not proceeded with if it contains substantially the same provisions . . .

This Legislative Assembly has numerous precedents on the subject of the same-question rule with respect to Bills. It has been ruled that once the Assembly has given or refused second reading on one Bill, the Speaker must then prevent any further consideration of the other Bill. On this day, May 12, Bill No. 122 received second reading. Consequently it is necessary that I order that Bill No. 206 be removed from the order paper.

The Chair recognizes the Government Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Yes. Mr. Speaker, in order to expedite the work of the policy field committees, I would move that this House do now adjourn and that the policy field committees reconvene at quarter to 6.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:29.]

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Premier

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

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

Hon. B. Belanger
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. E. Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources

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