



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

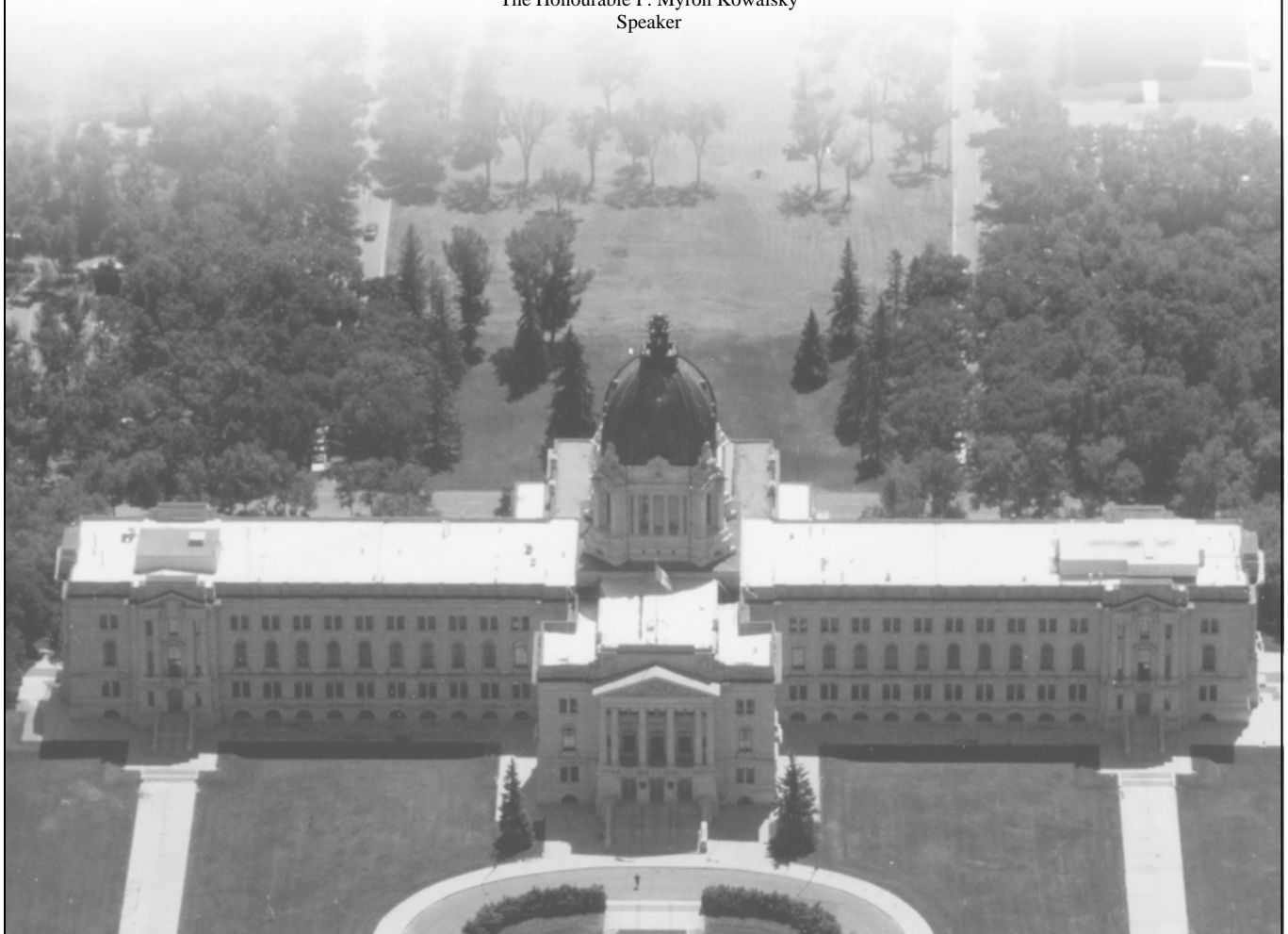
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, 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, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. 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, Hon. 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, 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, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have a petition to present to the Assembly this afternoon. The petition is regarding the drug Avastin and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present is signed by people from, it looks like, Saskatoon and Delisle. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I return again today to the subject of Highway 32 which runs from the community of Cabri through to Leader and is in very rough shape. 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 to make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These two pages of petition, Mr. Speaker, are signed by individuals from the community of Cree Lake primarily, their community being serviced by Highway 32. I so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the Martensville and Saskatoon area. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition dealing with the government's decision not to fund the cancer drug Avastin. 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 action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the city of Saskatoon, and I'm happy to be able to present it on their behalf.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of pages of a petition of citizens concerned about the safety of Highway No. 5. 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 action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, Warman, Vonda, Saskatoon, and Sturgis. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province who are very concerned about the government's implementation of a two-tier health system. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition today from constituents who are opposed to the NDP [New Democratic Party] government not funding the cancer drug Avastin. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon and Delisle. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition. And 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are from Colonsay and Asquith. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to read a petition on the drug Avastin. 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 action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good people of the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also join my colleagues on calling the government to fully fund the drug Avastin:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from the town of Davidson. I so present.

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly today and read a petition:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed primarily by citizens from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned that the Department of Health officials have

incorrectly reported the cancer drug Avastin as experimental. 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 action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon and Warman.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to Rule 14(7) are hereby read and received:

New petition concerning pay phones at Whitesand Regional Park, that's sessional paper 641;

And addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional papers nos. 7, 64, and 639.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Executive Council: is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003 such as information received from employees, former employees, customers or clients, suppliers, or others? And if so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Executive Council: how did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Executive Council: did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Executive Council: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to

mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Executive Council: does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? And if so, what is the nature of this activity?

Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for the year 2001-2002 and 2000-2001. Thank you.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Rural Development: is the management of the Department of Rural Revitalization aware of any allegations of fraud or any other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of this activity?

I also have a similar question for 2002 and 2001. I so present.

And also, I also give notice on day no. 36:

To the Minister of Rural Development: did the management, Department of Rural Revitalization, have established programs or controls to negate fraud risks or help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2003?

I also have similar questions for 2002 and also 2001.

Also to day no. 36:

To the Minister of Rural Development: does management of the Department of Rural Revitalization have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2003?

I also have similar questions for 2002, 2001, and 2000.

Also on day no. 36:

To the Minister of Rural Development: what did the management, Department of Rural Revitalization, find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2003?

Also similar questions, 2002, 2001, 2000.

Also on day no. 36:

To the Minister of Rural Development: how did management of Rural Revitalization monitor any established programs and controls to fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2003?

Also similar questions, 2002, 2001, 2000. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 36 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: how many of the employees who were involved in the fraud cases reported by the Department of Finance's news release issued on March 21, 2006, still remain employed in the government departments, Crowns, agencies, or boards?

I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure, a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of this Legislative Assembly a number of people that are seated in your gallery.

We'll begin with a young woman, a Regina entrepreneur, who recently sought the nomination in Weyburn-Big Muddy and acquitted herself very, very well. Her name is Terrill Young, and she's joined us in the Assembly today. Terrill, I wonder if you could just give us a wave. I'd like to welcome her.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — It was a great night in Weyburn the other evening. We may hear more, a little bit about that, a little bit later on in routine proceedings, Mr. Speaker. But we'll be talking about, no doubt later, talking about the next MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Weyburn-Big Muddy, and he's joined us in your gallery as well, along with his wife. I'd like to welcome, through you, and invite members to also welcome Dustin Duncan and his wife Amanda to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am very pleased today to introduce two special people to me, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery are my constituency assistant, Shelley Meyer, and her husband, Hans.

Shelley and Hans made the trip down today from still snowbound Carrot River to visit their legislature. Mr. Speaker, I know that all of us in this legislature and anybody who is involved in politics, regardless of where they are, puts a tremendous amount of responsibility upon our CAs [constituency assistant], and they all do a very, very good job.

And I'd like to thank Shelley for that today on behalf of all the people of Carrot River Valley. And we'd like to welcome them here to their legislature today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Party Nominates Candidate for Weyburn-Big Muddy

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spent a lot of great evenings in Weyburn but none finer than the one this past Tuesday night.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

Mr. McMorris: — This past Tuesday the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy nominated their next Sask Party candidate and the future MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

It was a standing-room-only of over 400 people that packed McKenna Hall. A youthful and energetic crowd selected Dustin Duncan as their candidate to represent the Saskatchewan Party and certainly to be the next MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy. Dustin was one of three excellent candidates, Mr. Speaker. We've met Terrill; the other one was Audrey Trombley.

It's very significant though, this was the only contested nomination of the three major parties that would be running down there. I think it does send a sign that the other two parties, the Liberal Party and the NDP Party, cannot find two members in their party that would want to run against each other to represent that particular area, Mr. Speaker.

I think it has something to do with what's going to happen after that by-election because I guess they just didn't want to take the whupping that Dustin is going to be putting on them, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — Nearly 700 memberships were sold in this contested nomination. There was a huge turnout and a buzz in the crowd, Mr. Speaker. The buzz in the crowd was people ready to roll up their sleeves and go to battle with the only one member from the NDP Party that would step forward, Mr. Speaker. They're ready to go to battle and win the next by-election in Weyburn-Big Muddy. All they're waiting for is this government to screw up the courage and call it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

North Saskatoon Business Association's Awards Night

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I, along with the Minister of Industry and Resources and the member for Saskatoon Fairview, attended the North Saskatoon Business Association's 9th Annual Business Builders Award Banquet. And I had the great pleasure of presenting the Team Builder Award, sponsored by SaskTel, to the Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre.

All in all it was a very, very positive evening, Mr. Speaker, with a capacity crowd and a palpable feeling of optimism for the future. The Business Builder Award recognizes business success, hard work, and commitment to excellence. All nominees are to be congratulated for their contributions to Saskatoon's and Saskatchewan's economic viability and sustainability.

Other recipients of 2006 Business Builder Awards were The Energy Doctor, who received the Job Creation Award sponsored by SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. Winner of the New Direction Award, sponsored by SaskPower, was Perdue Oasis Golf & RV Resort. The Management Quality Award, sponsored by Hitachi, went to Ecol Laser Services. CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce] sponsored the Small Business Award, and it went to Champetre County Wild West Resort.

Winner of the Export Award, sponsored by Nextrade Finance, was International Road Dynamics Inc. The Business Builder Award, sponsored by ICR, went to Advantage Collision & Paint. And, Mr. Speaker, the Member of the Year, sponsored by Cameco and Ecol Laser was Brian Hnatiw.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the nominees and winners of the 2006 Business Builder Awards. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Condolences to Ehman Family

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to the Ehman family on the recent death of Gerry Ehman. Gerry Ehman was born in Cudworth in 1932. He grew up in Cudworth and Vonda and attended St. Peter's College in Muenster.

His hockey career started in 1950, and in 1952 he turned professional. His career lasted 19 years and included over 1,300 professional hockey games with different teams, including the old Edmonton Flyers of the Western Hockey League and five teams in the National Hockey League.

He was a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1964 when they won the Stanley Cup.

His playing career ended in 1971 with the old California Golden Seals. He worked with the St. Louis Blues, then joined the New York Islanders in 1976. He was the Islanders' top

scout and assistant general manager, retiring from this position in 2002.

One of the players he spotted was Bryan Trottier of Swift Current who also had a very successful career in the NHL [National Hockey League]. Gerry, along with Bryan, were part of the New York Islanders when they won four consecutive Stanley Cups in the early 1980s.

Gerry was as solid as a Saskatchewan thoroughbred, which he owned and raced in many competitions. Fondly known as Tex, he enjoyed spending time with his family at the cabin at Wakaw Lake. Gerry Ehman was one of the greats of the NHL and made our province proud.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Don McDonald Named CTV Saskatoon Citizen of the Year

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise in the Assembly today to honour Don McDonald, a constituent of mine who was recently honoured as the 2005 CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] Saskatoon Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Don is an outstanding example of the Saskatchewan spirit of volunteerism and dedication to the community.

First and foremost, Don is a piper and has played the bagpipes for the North Saskatchewan Regiment Pipes and Drums for almost 60 years, taking part in his first parade in 1947. Since 1993 he has been responsible for organizing the march-in of cadets, soldiers, officers, and veterans for Canada's largest indoor Remembrance Day ceremony held every year at the Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, Don's dedication to the city of Saskatoon has spanned over 50 years. In the early '50s he played for the Saskatoon Hilltops, and he's remained a very active member of the Hilltops organization ever since. In addition, Mr. Speaker, Don is currently president of the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, president of the North Saskatchewan Regiment Association, and president of the Saskatoon branch of the St. John Ambulance as well as serving on the provincial board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Don McDonald, CTV Saskatoon Citizen of the Year. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

North Saskatoon Business Association's Awards Night

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great honour that I get to rise today to talk on the North Saskatoon

Business Association Builders Awards presented last night in the city of Saskatoon. This event which was attended by my colleague the member from Saskatoon Southeast, this event recognizes members of the association who have made exceptional achievements in business.

This year president, Shirley Ryan presented the New Direction Award to Perdue Oasis Golf and RV Resort owned by Jim Scharf Holdings. This link-style golf course has become a jewel of rural Saskatchewan. With plans to expand to 27 holes, it will surely become a draw for golfers across Western Canada.

The Small Business Award went to Arthur and Therese Denis of St. Denis for their vacation ranch, Champetre Country. Facing the prospect of economic difficulty on their family farm, they chose to make their home a tourist destination and welcome guests from across Canada.

Former NSBA [North Saskatoon Business Association] president, Bryan Hnatiw was awarded for his contributions twice with his company Ecol Laser taking home the Management Quality Award, and Hnatiw himself the Member of the Year Award.

Other award winners were the Energy Doctor receiving the Job Creation Award; the Saskatoon Inn Hotel received the Building Team Award; and the Exports Award for the International Road Dynamics Inc.

I'd like to say congratulations to all award winners and acknowledge the excellent work of the NSBA and president, Shirley Ryan, does in fighting for the concerns of Saskatchewan business people.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

Benevolent Spirit

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am incredibly pleased to be speaking today about a young man from Meadow Lake. Mr. Speaker, Blake Betker is a 10-year-old boy from our community. His grandmother owns a store where he tends a table of donated items. Blake sells goods that his grandmother and other Meadow Lake residents donate in order to raise money for various causes. Many of his items are marked at 1 or \$2, but many of his customers make a very simple donation instead of paying the 1 or \$2. He has been a salesman since he was seven years old.

A previous year has seen Blake give money to the Door of Hope and the Meadow Lake local food bank. Mr. Speaker, he has also used funds to purchase toys for hospitalized children or those who are in need. This past year Blake chose to donate to a fund for the victims of a rare lung disease called LAM [lymphangioliomyomatosis], a disease that has affected a family friend. And many of us in Meadow Lake know this person and support Blake in his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, when asked why he is so committed to his work, Blake simply replied, I have lots of toys, and I don't need them

anymore. So instead of keeping the money that I make, I give it to people who might need it more than I do. I just want to help people in need and maybe make them a little bit happier.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invite members to join with me in congratulating young Blake Betker on his charitable work and to wish him luck in all his business endeavours. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Premier's Annual Address to Regina Business Community

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night the Premier delivered his annual address to the Regina business community. He talked about various issues — education, immigration, taxes. But this year he had something new to share: his dismal population record. The loss of people and jobs threatens the government's ability to pay for programs and services such as the cancer drug Avastin. Two tiered health is alive and well under the NDP in Saskatchewan.

I wonder if he berated the business community on their plan to take over the most profitable part of the economy as he did in his 2003 campaign fundraising letter. The Premier talked of his resolve when it comes to taxes. The people have certainly seen that resolve. He raised the PST [provincial sales tax] to 7 per cent, and he has had a steely resolve to never lower it again.

He again demonstrated his steely tax resolve by refusing to lower education property taxes on farm land for the last three years. He abandoned his promise until half the RMs [rural municipality] refused to pay the tax to the school boards — a steely resolve to maintain the status quo, a status quo of destructive NDP policies that hurt people, farmers, and children.

When the Premier met with that arch-demon of the NDP, US [United States] Vice-president Dick Cheney, he talked of a lack of confidence. The oil and uranium industries have shown confidence in Saskatchewan, so it must be the Premier who has no confidence. The people of Saskatchewan have confidence in this province because they know they'll soon be able to choose a new government for Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Problems at Prairie Rubber Corporation in Assiniboia

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I sent a letter to the Minister of the Environment on October 20, 2005 advising about the tire plant in Assiniboia and the issues associated with it and forwarded another copy of the letter stating what the tire company needed to stay in business. I would like to ask the minister what the status of that request is

today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation is operated as a steward program much like the oil, reused oil operations and now the new paint one that we're working with. They had their annual meeting yesterday and a board of directors meeting. The issue of Prairie Rubber in Assiniboia was one of the topics that was there for discussion. One of the issues relates to some supplemental monies that they are providing to that particular operation and they've agreed that that would continue for another 90 days as people try to sort out the financial issues that relate to that Assiniboia operation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the 90-day option is not on as far as the tire company is concerned. Mr. Speaker, this government talks about a green and prosperous economy. And yet because of its inaction over the past number of months this tire plant will likely close down tomorrow. So much for green and prosperous.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier says young people need to be told of the success that is to be found in Saskatchewan. Well tomorrow there will be 40 young workers that will likely be looking for jobs elsewhere. So much for his success.

Mr. Speaker, when I wrote to the minister's office about this problem five months ago — five months ago — why did he or his predecessor not do anything?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation — which is a steward program with primarily car dealers and tire dealers as their board of directors — have a contract with Prairie Rubber, a private corporation that is owned by some of the local people and I think some other investors from other places.

They have been in negotiations around some of those particular fees. But, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation, which has representation of two people from Saskatchewan Environment, has been working on this before the letter that the member sent opposite and all through this particular time. And, Mr. Speaker, what really is going on is that that particular operation is having some difficulties, and they need to work as a corporation to make sure that they live up to the terms of the agreement they've entered into with the overall program. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work with those local people as they sort this one out.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's typical NDP; try and blame it on somebody else. Blame it on the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation. They won't take any of the blame over there themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us why Saskatchewan sends scrap tires to Minnesota and lets a Saskatchewan plant close down? Can the minister explain why it makes more sense to send our scrap tires to Minnesota while killing jobs in my constituency?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the overall tire industry is in charge of this particular program. And one of the big issues is, to do what that member wants and what some of the people within that corporation want would mean to increase the amount of charge on every tire sold in Saskatchewan, but especially the large tires that are available for farmers. Farmers' and off-the-road tires, those are the ones that are the most difficult to recycle.

And, Mr. Speaker, what their job is, is to review as a stewardship industry the balance between the consumers and who they are selling their tires to with this recycling program. Mr. Speaker, they are very capable people. We're very much willing to work with them as they sort this one out. They've been meeting regularly since the problems arose and they will continue to work at it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the plant in Assiniboia has been stockpiling tires and there's quite a mountain of them. And now because that NDP government failed to lift a finger to help, this plant is on the verge of shutting down. To the minister: what are the plans for the 1 million tires that this plant recycled in a year? What plans does the minister have for that mountain of tires that are there once the plant shuts down?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation uses various contractors to deal with particular tires and they will continue to negotiate in a fair manner with the different companies that are involved.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think that the member opposite may want to suggest what he wants to happen with that particular corporation in his community and practically make some

suggestions for the local people there, because this is a major issue around the balance between what consumers are going to be paying for tires — that extra amount — versus what kind of management and company is contracting with the overall corporation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we want to work with the people who are the experts in this tire business and they are going to come forward with a solution. We will respond when they have suggestions. And it may be an increase for everybody, but we want to make sure that they are doing it from the industry and not us stepping in and forcing private business to do something here.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, it's ironic the minister would say when suggestions are forwarded. It was five months ago that I sent the letter complete with suggestions to the minister and nothing has happened.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, a newspaper today, a columnist said, "We are experiencing a jobless boom." A jobless boom. Most of the young people are voting with . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. I would ask members to allow the member to put the question. Member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, a newspaper columnist said, "We are experiencing a jobless boom." Young people are voting with their feet.

And we heard yesterday, 8,800-plus young people between 15 and 29 left Saskatchewan in the past year. And here we have a company, tire company that's making a go of it in its plants in other jurisdictions around North America. But because of NDP policies and their attitude — they don't seem to care — this plant will be closing tomorrow. This NDP government has frittered away the last six months not doing a thing to assist that. Now they have 24 hours.

Will the minister at least try something in the next 24 hours to assist this plant so it doesn't have to close its doors at the end of tomorrow?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, what is always difficult is when members do not accurately portray what has happened. In December, in December the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation and this particular operation agreed to an interim increase of 50 cents per tire, which was an increase from \$1 to \$1.50 — that was a 50 per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, that particular amount was then to be evaluated as to what should be happened. That was done in December.

The member just opposite said nothing was done. Well that's not accurate at all.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Safety Issues Related to Garbage Dumps on Crown Lands

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of the Environment. My question is, what policies or safety protocols does his government have in place with respect to garbage dumps on Crown lands?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it relates to Crown land, garbage disposal is usually controlled by lease agreements or miscellaneous use permits, and these agreements would normally require fencing of sites. However some of the northern landfill sites don't have leases related to them. The people set up the dump sites on Crown land and so some of these are not licensed.

This policy came into place in 1986. Some of the ones that were pre-existing to that time have not come forward and been part of this system.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, the minister said that the current policy dates back to 1986. And I think it's time that this government had a look at their policy dealing with garbage dumps on Crown land.

Mr. Speaker, an unregulated garbage dump in northern Saskatchewan at Points North led to the loss of life of a young man from Oshawa, Ontario. Last November, Kenton Carnegie, an engineering student, went for a walk and never came back, Mr. Speaker. And his family has never been told why. I quote from a CBC story aired last night on *The National*, where Kim Carnegie, Kenton's father, said, and I quote:

I have an anger in me that I have never felt before. I have an anger burning inside of me that I have a hard time keeping track of my emotions. I just feel it could have been prevented and that's what bothers me the most.

Mr. Speaker, this garbage dump on Crown land attracted wolves. To the minister, Mr. Speaker: what policy is he going to put in place to prevent this ever happening again?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the situation is that the coroner — and this is the new provincial coroner that we have instituted in this province — is investigating this particular death. They're gathering all of the information from the local people, from the police, and for others that are investigating this.

And, Mr. Speaker, we're in a very difficult spot commenting on the actual cause of death — which is the task of the coroner to determine — until his report is completed.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of factors involved here. And some of the information that's come forward so far doesn't have all of the pieces in that. We need to wait for the final report.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, last night the coroner also appeared on the news item and she felt that there was little doubt as to the cause of young Kenton Carnegie's death. And, Mr. Speaker, wolf attacks are not . . . This was not an isolated incident.

Last fall near the Key Lake mine an employee went out for a jog and was attacked by a wolf and had to wrestle the wolf to the ground. And he only escaped with his life because his co-workers came along and helped him get rid of the wolf, Mr. Speaker. So Cameco took some action. They called in wildlife officials from the Department of Environment. They looked at the situation. The officials suggested that Cameco fence their garbage dump, and they have done that, Mr. Speaker. They no longer have a wolf problem in that area, Mr. Speaker.

So again, to the minister, why is the minister not protecting people? Why won't he put policies in place that deal with garbage dumps on Crown land?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member in his question actually answered his question. Saskatchewan Environment does work with mining companies, local communities in the North around planning and designing some of these landfill sites, and then steps are taken. But, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the parts of northern Saskatchewan where many of these communities are located are in wilderness areas where there are substantial wild animal populations. Local people understand that there are risks involved with this. Visitors that are coming to these places, I think, should have some understanding of this. The employers who work in these places need to make sure that they have predator plans for their employees and for everything else. Mr. Speaker, we'll work with all of those groups as we go forward with this.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, Cameco had a garbage dump on

their own leased land and they were proactive and they recognized the problem and they did something about. But there are a number of unregulated garbage dumps on Crown land in northern Saskatchewan where nothing has been done. The case in point, the one at Points North, Mr. Speaker. It's been four months since that young Kenton Carnegie was killed and nothing has been done to this date, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I quote again from the story on CBC last night which stated, and I quote:

Human negligence and [the] lack [of] environmental enforcement helped set the deadly trap.

Mr. Speaker, Kim Carnegie, Kenton's father, still has no answers. He said:

I'm concerned with the Saskatchewan Government. I guess we're angry that we lost our son. That's a tough thing. And we're angry that his brother and sister will have to go on without him.

To the minister, Mr. Speaker: why won't he take some action in this case, put some regulations in place so we don't have another tragic accident as happened in the Kenton Carnegie case?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, all of us recognize that this is a tragedy when a young person who is in the start of his career is taken from us like this. And I have the same concerns and I know all Saskatchewan people's hearts go out to this particular family.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we will continue to do is work with local communities. The Saskatchewan Environment is going and helping those communities that end up having their landfill sites in places that have not been appropriately planned and approved. We're going with sites inspections. We're going towards a system of making sure that they have permits for these things.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are many unregulated sites in the North, and we need to continue to work at those particular ones. But everybody who lives in the North should recognize that one of the advantages of being there is the wilderness; the other side of that is that it can be quite dangerous.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has admitted that they need to do more work in this area. Mr. Speaker, the wolf population is growing throughout northern Saskatchewan, and in fact it's growing and becoming a problem in the forest fringe areas of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Why doesn't this minister just take some positive action here,

require that these unregulated garbage dumps be fenced, so that we don't have tragic incidents as we've had last fall, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, what we will do is work with local communities around what's the most appropriate facility for those particular communities. And that's what we need to do. Because, Mr. Speaker, sometimes the communities aren't large enough to pay for all of the costs. One of the questions becomes, how do we deal with particular garbage? Our goal is to have a minimal waste system for the whole province, and we know we have some work to do in this particular area.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Number of Inmates in Correctional Centres

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently the Saskatchewan Party's crime committee went on tours of the Prince Albert Correctional Centre and the Pine Grove Correctional Centre. And one of the biggest concerns expressed to us by the staff was overcrowding. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the P.A. [Prince Albert] Correctional Centre, the centre is housing 40 more inmates than the capacity allows. And at Pine Grove, they're housing almost 20 more inmates than capacity.

Mr. Speaker, these concerns were also echoed recently by the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union. The union says, Mr. Speaker, overcrowding leads to an increased threat of violence.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: why is this NDP government putting the safety of workers in our correctional centres at risk?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think all members of the public should know and understand that our correctional facilities are secure facilities and are built for the purpose of housing offenders sentenced by the courts to those facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the current number of offenders in the province are determined by the courts. Once an individual is sentenced to the courts it is the responsibility of the Department of Corrections and Public Safety to fulfill the order put before them by the courts. Mr. Speaker, the numbers currently in the system are at an all-time high and they are high right across the

country. And it is a situation in which we are watching very carefully and making changes to our direction in order to deal with, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the admission that numbers in our correctional systems are at an all-time high is certainly revealing and that's a concern that the Saskatchewan government employees' union is saying . . . they're saying that overcrowding combined with a lack of opportunities for inmates is a dangerous mix. Barry Nowoselsky of the SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] says, and I quote:

Many inmates serve 'dead-time' — and dead time added to overcrowding increases the threat of violence in the centres, putting both staff and inmates at . . . risk.

Mr. Speaker, many people in our jails suffer from addictions, health issues, and lack job and life skills that contribute to crime and act as barriers to rehabilitation. Without proper rehabilitations people are more likely to reoffend once they get out.

Mr. Speaker, my question again to the minister is this: why is the NDP government encouraging repeat offenders by not addressing the issue of dead time?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the number of inmates that are incarcerated in any facility is as a result of being placed there by the courts. Mr. Speaker, there are programs within the centres. But as those counts go up of course there is not adequate programming to deal with the number of offenders that are currently in the system.

Mr. Speaker, the correctional system is manned by very highly qualified staff. They deliver programs throughout the system. And at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to thank the staff for their dedication and hard work in dealing with the high counts that we have currently in our correctional system.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate but we again see today that this government, rather than accepting responsibility, continues to blame someone else. Let's review the situation, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the P.A. Correctional Centre, inmates are sleeping in gymnasiums and on the floor. At Pine Grove, women are double bunking in visiting rooms and the boardroom outside of secure areas.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that this NDP government has cut program after program over the last decade, including two community training residences in Regina and North Battleford in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the SGEU says this is unacceptable. The question to the minister, Mr. Speaker, is this: why is this government ignoring these critical problems and, Mr. Speaker, in some cases actually contributing to making these problems worse?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well in fact, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inform the member that we are dealing with this issue. He may well be aware that this government has announced a new correctional facility in Regina being built. It's going to cost approximately \$47 million and house an additional 215 offenders, Mr. Speaker. We're at the point of tendering this new facility, Mr. Speaker, and that will significantly help deal with the problem. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Reporting of Escape from Regina Correctional Centre

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, that's all fine and good but the new upgrade at the Regina Correctional Centre is just taking the place of an old one that's going to be torn down.

Mr. Speaker, another issue arises regarding our correctional system. It is our understanding through recent media reports that an inmate escaped from the Regina jail on Sunday. Mr. Speaker, the media was not alerted of this escape until Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, that's two days between the time the inmate escaped and when the public was notified. A question to the minister, Mr. Speaker: can the minister explain to this Assembly why the public was not notified about an escaped inmate for two days and is the minister satisfied with this reporting process?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When an escape occurs at the provincial correctional centre, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] are immediately notified and it is the purview of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to notify the public, Mr. Speaker. In this particular case there was a communication error. That communication error has been acknowledged by the RCMP. And, Mr. Speaker, no, we're never satisfied when there are errors in the system. But it was identified, it's been noted, and been improved upon, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it appears this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that the blame thrower is working well again. First of all we see, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP are blamed. It's the court's blame. When is this government going to accept responsibility for its own actions, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate that the public safety is in jeopardy because of the inaction of this government?

Mr. Speaker, the question to the minister: Mr. Minister, do you find this acceptable?

The Speaker: — Order. I would ask the member to state his question through the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier to the member, we're in the process of building a new facility at the Regina Correctional Centre and we are in the process of putting 24 new beds in place at the Pine Grove institution. We expect those beds to be able to be opened as early as May 3.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, today I stand to officially proclaim The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act, effective April 1, 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Addley: — This Act will enhance the ability of parents, caregivers, and others to support a narrow segment of youth with extremely serious substance abuse issues. These are youth who are at risk to themselves or others, Mr. Speaker, and who are resistant to traditional interventions.

The Act includes involuntary detoxification and stabilization services for youth age 12 to 17 through an order from two physicians. Once ordered, Mr. Speaker, youth would be required to undergo involuntary detoxification and stabilization within a facility that offers a safe and protective environment for a period of up to five days. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, youth will be housed in the provincial secure youth detox centre, a unit created for this purpose at the Paul Dojack Centre in Regina.

There is a possibility of an extension determined by physicians for two additional five-day periods. The youth would be prohibited from leaving during that time using acceptable methods of intervention as defined by the physicians.

This Act includes provisions for involuntary community orders

of up to 30 days that would be issued either before or after involuntary detoxification in a facility or as an alternative to it. Mr. Speaker, these provisions require an order from two physicians for the safety and protection of youth requiring involuntary detoxification and stabilization. We understand that the rights of the youth in question are of the utmost importance and will ensure that their rights are protected. We will also keep parents informed of the process.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that invoking the powers of this Act will be something that parents, advocates of children's rights, or the health care system will take lightly. In fact I view it as a last resort when all other options have failed. We are confident that, in most cases, other available options for detoxification and stabilization will be successful. All other avenues will be pursued before authorizing that a youth will be apprehended against his or her will.

As we move forward to implement this legislation, we are breaking new ground. There are always challenges associated with innovation, but we will continue to work with our partners in law enforcement, Justice, and Community Resources to refine this process. We will monitor the use of this Act closely, using an evaluation mechanism to determine the efficacy of the approach. Thus we can assess what steps we need to take in the future.

My personal goal, Mr. Speaker, and that of our Premier and of the province is for a province where every child has the best possible opportunity to grow up free from addictions. I believe that the youth detoxification and stabilization Act provides one more tool to ensure this occurs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today to speak to the ministerial statement. I want to thank the minister once again. I got this about five minutes before we entered the House, and I just want to thank him for the courtesy of sending it over.

You know once again, Mr. Speaker, we see this government being reactive instead of proactive. You know once again we see that they needed to be prodded and pushed in a direction in order to act on these. The Sask Party supported this Act as it went through the Legislative Assembly. In fact it was the member from Kelvington-Wadena who first pushed through a private member's Bill and pressured this government to take action on this issue.

I also need to say, Mr. Speaker, that that push and action took almost two years. And yet again like so many issues involving drug treatment and addiction, youth issues facing our youth, this NDP government did nothing until they were pressured, pressured, and pressured, not only by the Saskatchewan Party but the press.

The Minister of Health once said that he was aware of these addiction issues since 1998. The minister of Education said it was just a passing fancy that the children were going through.

In fact when this issue came before the legislature, the former minister of DCRE [Department of Community Resources and Employment] indicated her hesitation to adopt any rules at youth that might require involuntary treatment. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote from that minister from *Hansard*, quote:

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a balance of opinion on both sides of the question regarding mandatory treatment. But I think I would fall on the side of people and parents who believe that better to err on the side of protection of youth than to have a disaster as a result of not having done that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, then her department reviewed the issue for months before suddenly deciding that the Saskatchewan Party was on the right track and, after all, adopting the policy. Mr. Speaker, they had to see that other governments such as Alberta were working on this legislation.

That is getting pretty familiar pattern with this government — to be reactive instead of proactive. In fact there's no doubts of mine and some people in this province who have to work with these kids with addiction problems that we wouldn't have seen any action on this issue were it not for the member from Kelvington-Wadena and the Saskatchewan Party.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the people in this province know that it was this NDP government who shut down SADAC [Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission] and that it was this Premier, this Premier, who personally shut down White Spruce which was an addiction treatment centre that was world-class.

Mr. Speaker, five days is not a long time in addiction treatment. It's not a long time either in detox. It concerns me, Mr. Speaker, that we will have the beds to move them from this one stage to the next stage. In the city of Calgary alone, Mr. Speaker, they have 60 beds for children aged 13 to 18. Mr. Speaker, not only are these detox beds; they are one-year treatment centre beds. Mr. Speaker, in the city of Calgary alone they have far more beds than the province of Saskatchewan.

An Hon. Member: — They've got three times the population.

Mr. Merriman: — Somebody's beaking that they have three times the population, Mr. Speaker. Well that's just all and fine. Maybe that one would like to come with me on some of these tours and speak to the children and the parents of these children who have been asking this government to get proactive and to do something about the children that are dying in our cities and in our province.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's easy to say that we're going to do something, that we're going to put nickels and dimes towards this issue, that we're really going to look at it. We have no interactive approach to these issues at all.

[14:30]

What about the parents, Mr. Speaker, of a 13-year-old child that's sent to Prince Albert, and they live in Shaunavon or Estevan or Carrot River? Are there any provisions in there for the parents to be able to visit with the children? None. Mr.

Speaker, what about the family assistance for travelling to get there with their child, to be with their child? Is there any type of respite care given while the children are in these facilities? None. Mr. Speaker, are there any counselling provisions made for the parents to assist them in dealing with these children when they come home? None.

Well, Mr. Speaker, you know it's disappointing that we always have to be — from this government — reactive instead of proactive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, be tabling responses to written questions no. 599 to 630 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 599 to 630 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the close of my remarks I will make a formal motion of condolence to note the passing of Frederick Neibrandt.

The Speaker: — Would the Premier request leave for condolences? Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Frederick Neibrandt

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, I will be making the formal motion of condolence to note the passing of Frederick Neibrandt at the close of my remarks. And the motion, I understand, will be seconded by the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Neibrandt passed away on November 21, 1987. And so clearly, Mr. Speaker, today's tribute in this legislature is long overdue.

Mr. Neibrandt was born on August 26, 1900, at Evenyer, which at that time was before the foundation of the province of Saskatchewan. It was in fact at that time in the North-West Territories.

In his 87 years, Fred Neibrandt's interests and occupations were many and varied. He was a teacher, farmer, a businessman, a

construction foreman, and a CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] member of this Legislative Assembly, representing the constituency of Yorkton.

He also did his share of travelling, but always returning to the Yorkton area. He studied at the University of Manitoba and then returned to Yorkton to teach. In 1924 Fred was married to Lillian Bailey.

In the 1930s in the midst of the Great Depression, Fred travelled to the United States and worked in Detroit, Michigan, for a time at General Motors. His experiences during the Depression, Mr. Speaker, clearly had a lasting influence on Fred Neibrandt. As a rookie MLA here in this legislature in the government of Tommy Douglas, Fred used the occasion of his maiden speech in this Assembly to acquaint members with the hardships of the Depression. He spoke passionately about witnessing working people standing in lines, waiting for jobs that never materialized or standing instead in relief lines. Those experiences instilled in Fred a commitment to social and political activism.

He began his political life as a CCF constituency president and provincial councillor. He served as MLA for Yorkton from 1956 to 1960.

Mr. Speaker, his life and career away from the political arena offered no fewer opportunities for service, and Fred Neibrandt seized them enthusiastically. Even toward the end of his life, the retired farmer maintained a large vegetable and flower garden with most of his produce given away to friends and residents of the Yorkton nursing home and to senior citizens' teas.

A man of many interests, talents, and pursuits, the community of Yorkton he served as MLA was perhaps his most passionate pursuit. And so, Mr. Speaker, by leave of this Legislative Assembly, I move, seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly:

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

Frederick Neibrandt, who passed away on November 1, 1987, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1960, representing the constituency of Yorkton for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Mr. Neibrandt was born on August 26, 1900, at Evenyer, in what was then the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Neibrandt attended the West Ebenezer School and completed high school at the Yorkton Collegiate Institute. He studied for two years at the University of Manitoba before returning to train as a teacher at the Yorkton normal school. Mr. Neibrandt married Lillian Bailey on February 6, 1924. They had two children.

Mr. Neibrandt's employment history included a variety of careers. For much of it, he was active in the family farm operation. He also spent time as a teacher, a salesman, a construction foreman, and working in a General Motors

plant. In his spare time, he pursued several successful business ventures.

In his private life, Mr. Neibrandt was an active participant in his community. His involvement extended from the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson Bay Rail association to the Rhein Curling Club. Mr. Neibrandt served as chairman of the agricultural committee of the Yorkton Board of Trade and as a school trustee. The Yorkton Co-operative Association also benefited from his tenure as chairman and director.

Mr. Neibrandt's involvement in politics began at the local level. He served as the president of the Yorkton CCF federal constituency and as a councillor for the provincial party.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so move, seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Canora-Pelly:

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

The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to second the motion of condolence that has been put forward by the Premier this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, as noted by the Premier, the date of death of Mr. Neibrandt was a long time ago; it was in fact on November 1, 1987, so it's been awhile. Normally we recognize people who have passed away who have been former members quite quickly, but notification of this Assembly has to take place of course by family members and others. And it has now taken place, and it's excellent that we recognize the contribution of every individual, no matter how long ago they have passed away, if that has not taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I note that Mr. Neibrandt was born near the community of Ebenezer. Ebenezer now is a community in Canora-Pelly constituency. And in fact I note that, you know, as a young man he was very active in the Rhein Curling Club, a curling club that still is active today. So obviously the involvement of an individual like Mr. Neibrandt in so many things, it's with great interest that I look at the number of occupations and the number of interests that Mr. Neibrandt had over his 87 years.

He was a teacher. He was a salesman. He was a construction foreman, worker at a General Motors plant, a farmer, and of course a politician — a wide-range of responsibilities that this gentleman undertook.

As indicated by the Premier, he was involved for I believe it's one term from 1956 to 1960 as the CCF representative of the Yorkton constituency and was replaced by the Liberal candidate, Bernard Gallagher, in 1960.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the gentleman was very involved in the community. He was a very active member of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, the Yorkton Board of Trade, and, interesting also, a person very active in the Hudson Bay Rail association. And, Mr. Speaker, that is something that still continues. And many individuals in east central, and more so northeastern part of this province still want to continue the need to be able to have an access route for shipping products directly to the Port of Churchill through the Hudson Bay Rail association.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'm grateful to the Assembly for putting forward this motion to recognize something that has not taken place in the last 19 years but we're doing that today. And I extend my condolences to the family that lost one of their family members. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier, the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm privileged this afternoon to also join in the tribute to the Neibrandt family with the Premier and the member from Canora-Pelly.

I had the opportunity of meeting and speaking with Mr. Neibrandt during my early years in preparation to serve as a member of the legislature, as well as having an opportunity to meet and visit with Mr. Neibrandt and members of his family as we were busy preparing our campaigns in that area, but also when we were involved in some of the sporting events.

I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly speaking a little bit about Mr. Neibrandt's involvement with the curling club. But Mr. Neibrandt also had a passion for sport and was much involved with some of the organizational work that took place in the Rhein-Ebenezer area around the sport of fastball of which both . . . I know the member from Canora-Pelly and I would have attended some of those sports days in the Rhein area. And Mr. Neibrandt would have been a strong supporter I would expect of our team at that time because the member from Canora-Pelly at that time was playing with the Margo-Invermay-Rama Rams is what they were — MIR Rams.

And at that point in time, I can remember one ball game of course that we were at where Mr. Neibrandt was cheering feverishly for our team only because he had recently been defeated by a Liberal candidate in that area. Of course he wouldn't have known Mr. Krawetz's politics at that point at all but knew that he wasn't a bad . . . was a pretty good pitcher and wasn't very happy when the member from Canora-Pelly struck out the member from Yorkton on a couple of occasions. So Mr. Neibrandt was clearly not very pleased with that exercise.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that as has been mentioned, Fred, Mr. Neibrandt, was a very, very good farmer, a very

progressive farmer and took great pride in the many crops that he grew in that area of the province, was in many ways a pioneer in some of the, some of the new varieties of grains that were grown in that area of the province or that region of the province.

And of course, because of his strong, keen interest in agriculture, we found him involved in things like the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool where he served as a delegate, where he served on the boards of trade — the agriculture boards of trade — was very active in some of the 4-H programs that came into the community, was very actively involved in helping build the work of the exhibition association which is a very prominent event in our city today. And Mr. Neibrandt was a part of that.

The member from Canora-Pelly talked a little bit about his involvement and engagement on the Hudson Bay Route Association which remains even today a very strong link to the Port of Churchill. Mr. Neibrandt knew the importance of, the value of grain transportation and was actively involved in the work in building a strong railway network and also a link to the Port of Churchill.

But I best know Mr. Neibrandt, Fred Neibrandt, Mr. Speaker, for his dedicated work to the party. There was never an occasion where we needed to engage his efforts to put together an event, a party event in the community or in the area, of which Fred Neibrandt wouldn't provide some of that leadership. There was never an occasion where we needed to renew many of our memberships or when we had a local event in our community where we needed somebody to do some of the canvassing, some fundraising for us, and on every occasion that there was, Fred would be the first to put up his hand to volunteer the work in making the party stronger.

[14:45]

And so I want to join with those, Mr. Speaker, today who have spoken about Fred's life and to extend my appreciation as the member from the constituency of Yorkton because Fred was very highly respected by the members of our community. They spoke very highly of his work. And I'm simply proud to say that I have the opportunity to sit in this Assembly today — based on much of the work that he did in pioneering and laying the path for those of us who followed from our constituency — to come to this Assembly and to be able to provide leadership in a variety of different ways.

So to Fred's family who are still in Yorkton . . . The sons are still in Yorkton today. One works for the city of Yorkton; the other is involved in some work on the farm yet and also owns a business venture in the community. I want to extend my appreciation to their family for giving us Fred Neibrandt, both to this Assembly — who represented the constituency of Yorkton in a very significant way — and also to the fact that he did such tremendous work in ensuring that the strength of our own party association has been built on the work that he has done.

So this afternoon I join with the Premier and the member from Canora-Pelly in expressing my condolences to the family and my appreciation for the tremendous contributions that he's

made, and not only to this Assembly but to the province of Saskatchewan and to the constituency of Yorkton and area. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Canora-Pelly:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to move another condolence motion.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Gordon Taylor Snyder

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the close of these remarks, I will make a formal motion of condolence to note the passing of Gordon Snyder. And I understand the motion again will be seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Snyder was my own MLA for many, many years. In fact in all my formative years as a young person growing up in Moose Jaw and for years beyond that, Gord Snyder had a significant role in teaching me who and what an MLA is and does.

I knew that when I came to represent the riding of Moose Jaw Wakamow — first Moose Jaw South as Gord Snyder represented it for many years, and then Moose Jaw Wakamow in 1986 — I knew that coming into this legislature I had some very large shoes to fill, both literally and figuratively.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Snyder, before he was ever a member of this legislature, before he was ever an active politician, and for the whole of his life, was a devoted family man — a husband to his wife Anita for 55 years and an extremely loving and caring father, grandfather, and in latter years, great-grandfather.

For all of we who knew Gordon, we knew he was an avid, avid fisherman — loved his cottage at Buffalo Pound. He was a gifted storyteller which perhaps explains why he was such an avid fisherman or why he convinced us all he was a very good fisherman. He was a man with a great sense of humour. But I

think above all else, a man with an unfailing commitment to other people whether it were his colleagues in the work site or his constituents or to the general public of Saskatchewan, an unfailing commitment to people.

Gord Snyder was born in Moose Jaw in 1924. He served as a navigator in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. After the war, like his father before him, he worked as an engineer on the Canadian Pacific railroad and became an active member of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen union local.

Gord was first elected as a CCF MLA in Moose Jaw in the government of Tommy Douglas in 1960 and always, Mr. Speaker, regarded himself as a proud, proud foot soldier in the battle for medicare.

Mr. Speaker, Gord Snyder would represent the people of Moose Jaw for the next 22 years as a member of this Legislative Assembly. When the New Democratic Party returned to power in 1971 under the leadership of Allan Blakeney, the new premier had no doubt as to who he would take to place in the Labour portfolio. And, Mr. Speaker, from 1971 to 1982, Gordon Snyder served as the Minister of Labour in the government of Premier Allan Blakeney and was the only Labour minister during that government's entire tenure.

In this role Gordon Snyder continued Saskatchewan's national and continental leadership in progressive social policy. In 1972, under the leadership and the direction of Gordon Snyder, Saskatchewan passed the first occupational health and safety Act, not only in Canada but in North America.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — In addition to creating the model for occupational health and safety protections that exist today, the Act gave workers the right for the very first time to refuse dangerous work. It may seem unusual to many of us today, but prior to 1972 that right did not exist for working people. Such, Mr. Speaker, is the lasting and far-reaching influence of the life and the work of Gordon Snyder.

Another of Gordon's notable achievements was the complete revamping of workers' compensation in Saskatchewan, changing it from a system that saw the government pay out lump sums for permanent injuries to one that was based on income replacement with the focus on rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, when Gord Snyder's tenure of Minister of Labour in this province began in 1971, Saskatchewan had the third lowest minimum wage among all of the provinces. By 1982, at the end of Gord Snyder's tenure, Saskatchewan had the highest single-tier minimum wage in all of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, Gordon Snyder created a legacy that every working man and woman in Saskatchewan, indeed in Canada and even across North America, has benefited from. He left as his work from this Assembly a legacy that will endure for a generation yet to come.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before I move the formal motion, let me say of Gord Snyder and of his legacy, there is one thing about Gord that for those of us who knew him will not ever be captured in print and that, Mr. Speaker, will be the sound of Gordon Snyder's voice — this deep, confident, assured, resonant, but always compassionate voice. And, Mr. Speaker, the last opportunity I had to speak with Gordon before his passing, the voice had not changed in all those years. And, Mr. Speaker, in his voice we heard the character of the man — deep, strong, assured, but always, always compassionate, Mr. Speaker.

We mourn the loss of a good friend of this province, a good friend of working people, a good friend of this legislature, a good friend of his family, a good friend of many of us, Mr. Speaker.

And so by leave of the legislature, I will move the formal motion. I move, seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly:

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

Gordon Taylor Snyder who passed away on December 10, 2005 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1982 representing the constituency of Moose Jaw South for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Snyder was born on December 17, 1924 in Moose Jaw. He grew up on the family farm, began his schooling at the Ross Public School in nearby Moose Jaw. He then attended the Moose Jaw Technical High School before graduating from Central Collegiate High School. In 1942 he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and served until 1945. Mr. Snyder married Anita Copeman on August 23, 1950. He is survived by his wife and their two sons.

Mr. Snyder joined the Canadian Pacific Railway after completing his education. He began as a fireman and later became a locomotive engineer. Mr. Snyder was an active and long-time member of the Moose Jaw Lodge 521 of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen. He served as recording secretary for several years. Mr. Snyder also owned land which he farmed between the railroad runs until 1956.

Mr. Snyder began his affiliation with the CCF in 1947 when he joined the youth wing of the party. The following year he began a two-year term on the provincial executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement.

Mr. Snyder was first elected to this Assembly in 1960 and was re-elected in the following four elections. Mr. Snyder joined the cabinet of Premier Blakeney in 1971 and served as minister of Labour for 11 years. His tenure was noteworthy for the introduction of the first occupational health and safety Act in Canada. Mr. Snyder was also responsible for other portfolios during the course of his career, including Welfare, Social Services, and Government Services.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Canora-Pelly:

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

The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I would like to join the Premier in expressing condolences on the passing of Gordon Snyder, a former cabinet minister and member of this legislature. I also want to express our most sincere condolences to the family of Gordon Snyder.

Members of the legislature who have passed through the doors of this Chamber and participated in the democratic process in our province have made a special and unique contribution to Saskatchewan. As members of this Chamber, we are drawn here from all walks of life by a desire to serve the public in the best way we know how. That was certainly the case with the member we honour today.

Born in Moose Jaw in 1924, Gordon Snyder was educated at the Moose Jaw Technical School before joining the RCAF [Royal Canadian Air Force] to serve his country in World War II. Following his discharge from the service, he began work for the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] as a fireman and was promoted to engineer in 1956. As indicated by the Premier, he also operated the family farm between railroad runs. In 1960 he was first elected to the Saskatchewan legislature and was re-elected four times before the NDP government's defeat in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, for us currently in the Legislative Assembly as we look at our careers in politics, it's indeed a marvel that someone would spend 22 years, active years in politics, busy years, working for the betterment of the province of Saskatchewan. And to be re-elected that many times must be something that the family must be really proud of today.

[15:00]

Throughout the tenure of the Blakeney government, Gordon Snyder served as minister of Labour, and in his time in office as the minister we saw the passage of the country's first occupational health and safety Act and the first legislation to ensure equal pay for similar work. He also worked on issues such as minimum wage and the establishment of a 40-hour work week which have contributed to the well-being of Saskatchewan workers. Indeed it was under his watch that the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Board developed the constant review of the minimum wage and tied it to a percentage of the

average industrial wage.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, Mr. Snyder spent 22 years. He has left behind a legacy which included four re-elections, an accomplishment that I'm sure he was very proud of during his lifetime, and now it can be a source of pride for his family members.

Mr. Speaker, the official opposition joins the members opposite in expressing our condolences on the passing of Gordon Snyder.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, the member for Moose Jaw North.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is with great honour and appreciation that I enter into this debate to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that my friend Gordon Snyder has made to my community, to our province, and to his many, many brothers and sisters who hold him in immense regard in our province. It, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is the fact of the matter that Gordon Snyder is the longest serving member of the legislature to serve in the city of Moose Jaw, and he made a difference.

It is not my intention in my brief remarks today, Mr. Speaker, to cover his fantastic accomplishments for working people. I know others will want to highlight that, and I will leave that for others to do. But I want to acknowledge the influence that Gord Snyder had on this proud politician, or politician proud to be one.

The first time that I sought public office, Mr. Speaker, it was less than resoundingly successful, and it was in the campaign of 1982. And at that time it was my great honour to have as my running mate this outstanding, highly respected member of the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] government who was not only a mentor for me but who was always willing to put his labours where his heart was.

I will oftentimes look back at that campaign, Mr. Speaker, and reflect on the fact that in my constituency I had the ignoble results of having set a new record. Nobody had ever been beaten by that much before in Moose Jaw North. And so it was less than resounding in its outcome.

However one of the things that I deeply appreciated is that Gord Snyder took time out of his own campaign in Moose Jaw South to come and help this rookie colleague of his to campaign in my own riding. And I know I've often thought about and looked back and thought, with Gordon having lost by such a small majority in that election, perhaps it was Gordon's tremendous commitment to the team and to the cause and his belief in social democracy that contributed to make the difference. We'll never know. But I do know this, that Gordon didn't hesitate for a second to become involved and pitching in for a brand new colleague.

It's been referred to, his great sense of humour. And one of the things that I loved about Gordon was that when Gord Snyder laughed he didn't just chuckle, his whole body shook. And he was a man who loved life. And he was a man determined to

leave the world that he found a better place for his having been here. And he did exactly that.

He was a big man and in my mind always an intellectual giant. He was seen as a man who was hard-nosed when he needed to be. He was decisive but also a man with a huge heart. His compassion was reflected in his service as minister for Welfare in his time, but in the special place that he held in his heart for the important role of government to come to the aid of the little guy — the man or woman who didn't have all the advantages but deserved to be respected for who they were and for their labours and to be protected from unfair risks.

And so to Anita and the family, I just want to express officially, on the record, my own personal sadness at having lost a good friend — a good friend personally but also a good friend to this legislature, to the people of Saskatchewan, and to say how deeply I and my constituents in Moose Jaw North have appreciated Gordon's commitment to us in our community and to the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning, the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's truly a privilege to be able to stand in the House today and join in this motion of remembrance and condolence for Gordon Snyder and condolence to his family, Anita and sons. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked about Gordon's accomplishments and his very life that brought him to the legislature in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd really like to make some comments today on my memories of Gordon and the things that I believe I have learned and benefited from Gordon and Gordon's experience.

Mr. Speaker, it was plain and simple. If you were from Moose Jaw, you knew who Gordon Snyder was. He seemed to be evident in community events, in labour events, in the politics of the area, was always highly thought of. And I remember him coming to my parents' house to renew NDP memberships and also coming to speak to my mom and dad during election times and campaigns. We just knew who Gordon Snyder was.

Mr. Speaker, it's quite a contribution that he has made to the province of Saskatchewan. And I was reading just the past couple of days out of *The Innovation Journal* a chapter that Gordon wrote. And it's chapter 7, and it's "Social Justice Through Legislation: Saskatchewan Labour." It's a wonderful history of . . . a quick, quick snapshot of the 11 years that Gordon Snyder spent as minister of Labour in the province of Saskatchewan.

And the wonderful thing about it is that it is in very clear English that Gordon would have used, and you can almost hear that wonderful voice saying all of these comments to you. I would recommend it to anyone. And it gives you a very straightforward understanding, rationale, reasoning for the many changes that Gordon helped put in place and accomplished for working people right across Saskatchewan and in fact, Mr. Speaker, right across North America.

My colleagues have spoken of The Occupational Health and Safety Act that was passed in 1972 — the first piece of comprehensive occupational health and safety legislation ever passed in North America. And it has been used across the world as a model and adopted in many other countries and areas beyond Saskatchewan's borders.

But it was interesting in this chapter that Gordon wrote in this journal. He talks about his crusade for occupational health and safety had its roots in his work experiences of the 1940s and '50s. His experiences as a railroader carried anger and vivid memories of hazardous, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions which employees were expected to tolerate as a normal working environment. Mr. Speaker, that's just some of the passion that Gordon Snyder brought to the role that he played in the history of our province and in the history of this legislature.

Again I would recommend anyone read this chapter. It's actually wonderful reading. It talks about the 40-hour workweek, the changes to the minimum wage, the changes and the importance of the changes to The Trade Union Act, and also he talks about The Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is a couple of things that really stick in my memory of Gordon Snyder and I would like to just make some quick comments on them. Long before my political life, Mr. Speaker, I was a delegate to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour convention. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, that convention held a celebration of the 25th anniversary of The Occupational Health and Safety Act. It was in the late '90s. On stage for the afternoon celebration was Gordon Snyder, Bob Sass who still is active in occupational health and safety and resides in Saskatoon, and also Bob Mitchell who was the deputy minister of Labour at that point in time. These three gentlemen were on the stage and we talked about occupational health and safety.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's very few pieces of legislation that we ever celebrate 25 years after the fact of them being but in place but that just shows you how remarkable this piece was and the importance and the significance of this piece of legislation, and what it has meant to working people in the province of Saskatchewan and right around the world.

That's one thing I remember, these three gentlemen being on the stage and Gordon making comments. And they were very humble about it, spoke about the work they did. But, Mr. Speaker, in the four years that I was minister of Labour, I can only imagine the fortitude and the work that it took to put in place that comprehensive piece of legislation. It's a debt of gratitude that many working people around the world have to Gordon Snyder and to others that did the work at the time. I will always remember that 25th anniversary.

But also, Mr. Speaker, there's another piece. The very first day I was appointed as minister of Labour, I was standing in my office here in the legislature, not quite sure of what I was supposed to be doing in a brand new office, moving boxes around, getting things moved in. I got a phone call. The very first phone call I ever got as the minister of Labour was from Gordon Snyder. And as soon as I said hello . . . you know by the voice who it is. And he said Debbie, he said this is Gordon Snyder. And he says, from an old guy who's been around for a long time, I just have one piece of advice. He said, do

something about that minimum wage.

So even though he may have retired, Mr. Speaker, he kept track of us. He kept track of the progress of the province of Saskatchewan, and he showed a keen interest that he carried with him right till the end. He was a wonderful man and one that we will all miss dearly. And I know in Moose Jaw he will be missed dearly.

The last time I'd seen Gordon Snyder was in the fall of this year at the New Democratic convention. And we had a reunion, the one evening, of MLAs and former MLAs, and it was a wonderful evening. We had lots of constituents that come into Regina for the reunion from all over the province, and we had about four tablefuls of people from Moose Jaw that came to join in the celebration.

And Gordon was there with his family, sitting at a different table. But typical Gordon Snyder, he got up and he brought his granddaughter over; he spoke a few words to everyone at the tables, said hello to old friends, bragged about his granddaughter a wee bit and his family.

He never forgot where he came from, and he never forgot his roots. And I think that is something that will stay with me forever, and it's something that I will always think of when I'm in this Assembly and in the role of an MLA, that we always have to remain as Gordon did — grounded — and realize that the important things in life are the places that we come from and the people that we represent. And I think Gordon did that in wonderful style and really was a role model for many of us.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, one of the opportunities — I guess it's a rule of the House — is that while I'm here I'm not an individual; I'm here representing the people of Moose Jaw Wakamow. And while I would like to pass along personal condolences to Gordon's wife Anita and his sons and his daughter-in-laws and the grandchildren that he was so proud of, Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to be here representing the constituents of Moose Jaw Wakamow because I know there's many of them in Moose Jaw that speak so highly of Gordon — to the dedication that he brought to his job, to the commitment that he brought to the people that he represented, and to the dedication that he went far above and beyond in the 22 years that he represented our constituency in this Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the constituents in Moose Jaw Wakamow, I would like to add condolences to Anita and to the family and to say that Gordon left a huge gap in many of our hearts, and we will have wonderful memories of him that will see us through many difficult times. Thank you.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a sincere honour for me to speak on this condolence motion for Gordon Snyder. Although I did not know him personally, I have immense respect for the legacy he left both through his years served as an MLA and as the minister of Labour. My family and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Gordon's wife of 55 years,

Anita, as well as the entire family. I would like to make special mention of Gordon's son Randy, and his wife Claire, and children Angela and Ryley as they are friends of ours, and extend our special thoughts and prayers.

Randy's marriage to Claire is one of the interesting stories in Gordon's life, for Claire is the daughter of Eiling Kramer, his long-time friend and legislative colleague. Mr. Speaker, I was not a member of the Assembly at the time of Mr. Kramer's death in 1999 and would like to pay my respects at this time to his family, especially my dear friends Jennifer Kramer-Sampson and Tim Kramer, and also extend sympathy with respect to the death of Eiling Kramer's wife Dorothy on January 14 of this year.

Gordon and Eiling shared a ritual for the opening of the fishing season each May. They were truly great friends. And what I know of Gordon is either what I've heard over the years or have researched in preparing for my condolence today. My understanding is that his formative years were divided between the family farm and Moose Jaw, and the discussions surrounded Christian responsibility to your fellow man and the works of prominent European social thinkers. Gordon was appalled at the injustice of an economic system which, left to its own devices, threw so many into despair and poverty. This view that society should serve all citizens, not just the wealthy and powerful, led Gordon and his parents to become some of the earliest members of the CCF Party which later became the NDP.

Gordon was first elected in 1960 and then subsequent election wins in 1964, '71, '75, and '78. We already heard it made Gordon one of the longest serving MLAs in Saskatchewan legislature with a total of 22 years.

His 1971 to 1982 appointment by Premier Allan Blakeney to the provincial cabinet as minister of Labour provided Gordon with the opportunity to develop legislation which reflected Saskatchewan values of fairness, dignity, and equality. If I may quote former Premier Blakeney, he said, quote:

He was a good able guy and a strong trade unionist. He was so well accepted by the trade union movement and employers as well, he just had all the qualities that we needed at the time.

Snyder was the only Labour minister for the entire duration of the Blakeney government from 1971 to 1982. As a cabinet minister, his favourite legislative accomplishment — which we've already heard about — was the development of a North American first, The Occupational Health and Safety Act which, since its implementation, has served to protect the lives and health of a great many people from workplace-related accidents. And I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is truly a legacy that I will be forever grateful and thankful for in the number of anecdotal experiences that I have encountered over the years.

Gordon Snyder was a union man all of his working life. He'd worked for the CPR railway as a locomotive engineer. And he believed with every fibre of his being that working people are best off if they have the protection of a collective agreement and the protection of a trade union acting on their behalf. With every fibre of his being, he believed that.

So here we are. He becomes a Labour minister in 1971, and The Occupational Health and Safety Act is passed in 1972 and introduced in the legislature by Gordon. It was a radical change to the law of this province, Mr. Speaker. What was radical were some of the provisions in the Act, and probably the most important was that it conferred on the working people the right to participate in the occupational health and safety concerns in their workplace. And it did that by requiring every plant with more than 10 employees to establish a joint occupational health and safety committee. It was a radical change in the law of this province and indeed in the law of any jurisdiction in Canada. The managers and workers working together were given the responsibility and the power to identify problems, to analyze those problems, and to seek advice with respect to those problems and to solve them.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify that I'm reviewing some of the contents of the Act because I believe that we are now taking it for granted in terms of . . . it's always been there. I know from my own work experience there are very few people that understand the history of this Act and how it came about and what tragedies took place prior to the Act. So I feel it's very important to read into the record once more some of the provisions of Gordon's work.

The people that work in that workplace meet at least once a month and talk about making their workplace safer. And, Mr. Speaker, it has worked. It has worked in a great way all across this province. So the right to participate — a very important right and the workers do it through the occupational health and safety committees — is an important right.

In subsequent years, there were two other rights that were introduced into the Act that were as important in terms of the contents of the Act as we know it today. The first one to appear was the right to refuse to do dangerous work. It was introduced into legislation in this province just a few years after the original Act was passed, still under the Blakeney government and the administration of Gordon Snyder.

The right to refuse to do dangerous work, one would have thought that that right would have existed all along, but it didn't. And because it now exists, it now prevents people from suffering a great danger to themselves in terms of taking their life or injuring them at their place of work. And the number of times in which refusals have taken place in workplaces have been many, and many indeed, and that has saved the lives of countless numbers of working people. And I think we should all be very proud of that because that right was born on the very floor of this legislature and has been a part of Saskatchewan law ever since.

Other provinces, seeing what Saskatchewan had done, mimicked the Act . . . the federal government, other Canadian provinces, as well as other jurisdictions all across United States and Europe. And, Mr. Speaker, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and in that respect the drafters have much to be flattered about.

The third right is a little more subtle but nonetheless extremely important, and it's the right to know if a workplace is using a type of chemical that may be harmful, in terms of inhalants or in terms of skin exposure, etc. The workers now have the right

to know what that chemical contains in advance of using that chemical and then have the right to decide whether or not that chemical is safe for them to use or have the right to refuse again.

Those three rights really form the muscle of the Act because they are so fundamental to the health and safety of working people. And we now have Gordon Snyder and the government of the day to thank for those rights.

This program, Mr. Speaker, is the flagship of this government as far as workers' rights are concerned and working people in this province are concerned. And all of us, all of us can take a great deal of pride in it.

Another Canadian first, Mr. Speaker, was the introduction of the 40-hour work week that was also made during his tenure as the head of the Department of Labour. One can hardly believe that one is dealing . . . that this happened in such . . . just a few years ago that we finally developed a 40-hour work week and prior to that there was no legislation around that. And he also, as we heard, had a major impact on Saskatchewan's minimum wage.

So I just want to quote from his obituary because I think this is something that is incredibly descriptive of the man that I wish I would have known personally and yet feel I do know from all of the stories that I heard about him. Gordon:

. . . was also very conscious that his success was a reflection of the quality of the wisdom, talent, skill and commitment of the people who shared his values and fought beside him to make them a reality.

Gordon led a meaningful and productive life, which in many ways, reflected the essence of the province [that] he [so] loved.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have the privilege of joining other members in paying tribute to the life and work of the Hon. Gordon Snyder.

And I want to begin by expressing my sympathies to the Snyder family for what is a great loss — a great loss to the family, Mr. Speaker, and a great loss to the province of Saskatchewan.

As other members have noted, Gordon Snyder's legacy is immense. And I felt very privileged to have the opportunity as a new member of the legislature in 1978 to serve with Gordon Snyder during the last four years of his time in this Chamber, and I have some fond and vivid memories of that period of service. But those were the last four years, Mr. Speaker, in a 22-year career in this Assembly.

I want to make reference, Mr. Speaker, to a few things that have not been heavily emphasized during the tribute. One, Mr.

Speaker, was that not only was Gordon Snyder a very strong trade unionist, but he also had an understanding of rural Saskatchewan, and he brought those two together, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the strengths, I think, of the CCF was that it was deeply connected in both rural and urban Saskatchewan. And Gordon Snyder understood the importance of linking the needs of farmers and the needs of working people together in a party that embodied the CCF, Mr. Speaker. And he had both deep rural roots and deep roots in the trade union movement, Mr. Speaker, and brought both to bear in his work in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I remember the most about Gordon was what a powerful force he was in this Chamber and in caucus, Mr. Speaker — a very powerful force and at the same time a powerful force that had an extremely kind heart. And that kind heart, Mr. Speaker, was embodied in the legislation that Gordon Snyder, as minister of Labour, brought forward in this Assembly.

I think one of the hallmarks of the Blakeney years and of the work that Gordon Snyder did, Mr. Speaker, was the commitment to increase the minimum wage in this province and protect the poorest of working people in Saskatchewan. And so during the Blakeney years and during the years of Gordon Snyder's tenure as Labour minister, the minimum wage in this province doubled, Mr. Speaker.

Minimum wage increases were an annual event in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And when Gordon Snyder left office in 1982, the minimum wage in this province was \$4.25 — the highest of any minimum wage in all of Canada — which was a remarkable accomplishment, Mr. Speaker.

Another important point, Mr. Speaker, that I want to mention is Gordon Snyder's contribution to the women's bureau, which he strengthened significantly, and was an advocate for equal pay for similar work and brought in legislation, Mr. Speaker, to bring this into effect.

[15:30]

During my time in the Assembly, Gordon Snyder also introduced on behalf of our government very significant legislation in 1979, amended again in 1980, to strengthen The Workmen's Compensation Act in this province. And Gordon Snyder in introducing that legislation, Mr. Speaker, he had a clarity that I think was very important and well appreciated by people in the labour movement in this province — a clarity about his determination to improve conditions for working people in Saskatchewan. And important mention has been made of the pioneering work of the Blakeney government and of the Hon. Gordon Snyder with respect to occupational health and safety legislation. He had that same kind of clarity, Mr. Speaker, when it came to improvements to The Workers' Compensation Act.

And so, Mr. Speaker, he was clear, first of all, about the circumstances prior to 1929 and he spoke about that actually quite eloquently in the Assembly on April 27, 1981. And, Mr. Speaker, I just want to quote briefly from what he said. He was talking about conditions of workers prior to the election of the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] in this province

and he noted that a worker, as it was known, was forced to bring action against the employer in the courts if the worker could afford it. He would only win if it could be proved that the injury was due to defective machinery or negligence of some responsible person. It is little wonder then that under these circumstances fewer than 30 per cent of the employees injured on the job actually received 1 cent of compensation. Mr. Snyder noted:

The majority of injured workers were unable to work and their families quickly became destitute and they were forced to rely on the mercy of the state for sustenance.

So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Snyder understood what the conditions of working people had been like and he was determined to improve on those conditions. And the legislation that was introduced, Mr. Speaker, in 1979 and amended in 1980 assured, Mr. Speaker, that workers would have compensation from the time of injury to the time of their retirement, Mr. Speaker and assured again, Mr. Speaker, that that compensation would be based on a percentage of the income that they had earned prior to their injury — 75 per cent — and, Mr. Speaker, guaranteed that those benefits would be indexed. And this is just one example of dozens that could be provided of the kind of determination that he built into labour legislation that would benefit working people.

I remember in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, when I had served about two and a half years, that Gordon Snyder brought in an amendment to The Labour Standards Act — which unfortunately is not in effect today but which was repealed by the Devine government later on in the 1980s — but which guaranteed the right of retail workers to be seated when working at a cash register so that basically they could avoid injury as a result of having to stand all day on their job.

He identified, Mr. Speaker, in a very practical way the needs of working people and he was a powerful, powerful advocate in caucus that those needs be addressed in a systematic and positive way. So it's a great legacy, Mr. Speaker, that he has left us and I was very honoured to serve with him. And the Assembly has lost a great champion for working people in this province. I remember Gordon Snyder as a deeply, deeply committed social democrat, a deeply committed member of the CCF-NDP, a great champion for the city of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, and a great humanitarian.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to add those comments to the words of others in the Assembly and again express my condolences to the Snyder family. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Environment, the member for Regina Lakeview.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to also join in to this discussion of Gordon Snyder.

Gordon and his wife lived in Regina Lakeview for many years and when I was considering entering into politics he was one of the people that I talked to about this particular opportunity. And as always he had very direct, very sage advice and he continued

to provide that to me right up until his death. He had been involved with so many different aspects of politics that you were always certain to get good advice if you went to see him.

And I just wanted to add these words from all of the people in Regina Lakeview who very much appreciated his work with us over many, many years, but specifically the last 10-plus years that I have represented this constituency. And so I send my condolences to the family as well.

The Speaker: — It has moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Canora-Pelly:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to move one further motion of condolence today.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Stephen Worobetz

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again at the close of my remarks, seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly, I will make the formal motion of condolence to note the passing of the Hon. Dr. Stephen Worobetz, former Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as is well known across this province, Dr. Stephen Worobetz offered his province and his country a lifetime of service in various roles — as an army medical officer, a doctor, a surgeon, health care administrator, volunteer, and philanthropist and Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, born in Krydor, Saskatchewan to Ukrainian Catholic pioneers, Stephen Worobetz worked as a doctor for a year before joining the army. In 1944 while serving as a medical officer in Italy, he was awarded the Military Cross for courage under fire. After the war, Dr. Worobetz practised general medicine and studied in Winnipeg and Philadelphia to become a surgeon.

In 1970, he became the 13th Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and the first Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan of Ukrainian origin.

Dr. Worobetz was for a time a president of the medical staff of St. Paul's Hospital and a Saskatoon separate school board trustee. For many years he taught at the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine. He was president of St. Joseph's nursing home, the Ukrainian Catholic Council of Saskatchewan, the revived Canadian Club of Saskatoon, and a member of the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic among other professional and service groups.

In 1989 he and his wife formed the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation to help charitable organizations including the University of Saskatchewan, Amnesty International, and the St. Paul's Hospital. In 1999 Dr. and Mrs. Worobetz created an endowment fund at St. Thomas More College supporting the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage.

In addition to numerous other well-deserved honours, Dr. Stephen Worobetz was a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and was invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1993. Mr. Speaker, the Order of Canada citation for the Hon. Dr. Stephen Worobetz reads, and I quote:

... he has provided exceptional service to others ... he has exemplified a spirit of social commitment, voluntarism, love of country and dedication to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this citation more than any other speaks of the core Saskatchewan values, the core values that Dr. Worobetz embodied throughout his life, including in his term as serving as our Lieutenant Governor.

And so, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move, seconded by the member of Canora-Pelly:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. Stephen Worobetz, 13th Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan, who died on February 2, 2006.

Stephen Worobetz was born on December 26, 1914 in Krydor and spent his childhood on the family farm. He received his early schooling in Krydor and at the Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon. Dr. Worobetz continued his studies at the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained a bachelor's degree in science. This was followed by a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Manitoba in 1940. From 1952 to 1954, Dr. Worobetz completed post-graduate studies in Winnipeg and at the University of Philadelphia to qualify as a general surgeon.

Mr. Worobetz married Michelene Kindrachuk on May 1, 1949. Dr. Worobetz began his medical career as a general practitioner in Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan. From 1942 until 1946 he served as a medical officer with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in England and Italy. He was awarded the Military Cross for courage under fire during the Italian campaign. Following the war, he returned to his surgical practice in Saskatoon.

Dr. Worobetz's involvement in the medical field extended beyond his practice. He held positions on the executives of the local, provincial, and national medical organizations.

He was sought to pass on his knowledge and experience as a clinical lecturer and senior associate in the College of Medicine.

In his private life, Dr. Worobetz was an active participant in the affairs of his community. He provided personal and financial support to several cultural, religious, and charitable organizations. With his wife, he created the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation to support community, organizational, and personal community enhancement opportunities.

The breadth of Dr. Worobetz's public service was recognized by numerous awards. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Physicians and Surgeons, an Honorary Doctor of Laws, an Officer of the Order of Canada, a life member of the Knights of Columbus and the Canadian and Saskatchewan Medical Associations. He was recipient of the Shevchenko Medal in recognition of his leadership in the Ukrainian community.

Dr. Worobetz was the first person of Ukrainian origin to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. During his tenure from 1970 until 1976, he sought to draw attention to those initiatives and activities that enhanced the Saskatchewan society.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Canora-Pelly:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. Stephen Worobetz, 13th Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan, who died on February 2, 2006.

The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the accomplishments of a great Canadian, a great individual from the province of Saskatchewan, and more specifically from the city of Saskatoon.

I want to join with the Premier and members opposite and speak to this condolence motion for former Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Stephen Worobetz.

Dr. Stephen Worobetz had an unparalleled record of service and dedication to Saskatchewan and Canada. But before he was our province's Lieutenant Governor, Stephen Worobetz was a doctor, a community activist, and a leader. As indicated, born in the small town in Saskatchewan of Krydor, Stephen Worobetz attended high school in Saskatoon at Bedford Road Collegiate and then moved on to attend the University of Saskatchewan where he completed his studies in 1935 and received a Bachelor of Science. He then attended medical school and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Doctor of Medicine

degree in 1940.

[15:45]

Dr. Worobetz was also a decorated war veteran. Out of school in 1940 he joined the Royal Canadian Medical Corps of the Armed Forces and served our country in England and Italy from 1942 to 1946. While he was serving with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as a medical officer, he received the Military Cross for his distinguished service and courage under fire. After returning home from the war, Dr. Worobetz continued his studies in Pennsylvania where he qualified as a general surgeon. Dr. Worobetz returned to Saskatoon and worked as a general surgeon during which time he held numerous positions — locally, provincially, and nationally.

Dr. Worobetz had an extensive career as a health professional in Saskatchewan. He was a clinical lecturer in the College of Medicine from 1956 to 1983 and also served as the senior associate in the division of oncology. Dr. Worobetz was an active member of the Saskatoon and District Medical Society, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Canadian Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, and was advanced as a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1973.

Dr. Stephen Worobetz was also dedicated to his family, church, and community, serving on many boards including being chairman and founding member of the St. Joseph's nursing home in Saskatoon. Dr. Worobetz was described as a man of quiet distinction who commanded respect by being an example to others.

Mr. Speaker, I recall the appointment of Dr. Worobetz in 1970. Dr. Worobetz was appointed as the 13th Lieutenant Governor in 1970 at a time when I in fact was a resident of Saskatoon attending the University of Saskatchewan. And I do recall the appointment of Dr. Worobetz from the perspective of a Ukrainian-Canadian. And I recall the pride that so many people in Saskatoon felt for the appointment of the first Lieutenant Governor of Ukrainian origin, and the fact as I think indicated by the premier at that time, Premier Ross Thatcher, who said it was long overdue because there was such a large base of Ukrainian-Canadians within the province of Saskatchewan.

And Dr. Stephen Worobetz I recall coming to the Mohyla Institute where I was a resident during my university years and was so well received, and spoke to university students on a very one-to-one basis in a calm, quiet manner. And yet you knew that this gentleman had so much to offer to you in the way of advice. So that was something that I think many people in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan were very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Worobetz was a volunteer and philanthropist. He provided exceptional service to others. Throughout the years he exemplified a spirit of social commitment, volunteerism, love of country, and dedication to his community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I want to express our condolences to the family of Dr. Stephen Worobetz and extend our sympathies to the bereaved family. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Saskatoon Fairview, the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I too want to join this Assembly in the condolence motion for Dr. Stephen Worobetz. Dr. Worobetz was a distinguished member of the Ukrainian community of Saskatoon and became, as has been mentioned, the first person of Ukrainian descent to be appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Worobetz was born in Krydor, which is a community very close to our family farm. And Mr. Worobetz is always mentioned with high praise whenever major Ukrainian events are held.

I will not mention all of Mr. Worobetz's contributions, which have already been well stated by the Premier and others, but only to say that he was the recipient of the Shevchenko Medal in recognition of his leadership in the Ukrainian community. And I want to, with this, join in expressing my sympathies to the family of Dr. Stephen Worobetz. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to speak to the condolence motion for the Hon. Dr. Stephen Worobetz. Many accolades have been given to the former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, very worthy accolades. And I'm not going to repeat all of the honours and involvements of Mr. Worobetz in the life of Saskatchewan, but I think it's appropriate to point out just a few.

He is one of the rare residents of this province that was a recipient both of the Order of Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Mr. Speaker — a tremendous honour for a very deserving person. These two honours certainly demonstrate his commitment to his province and his country.

He was also recognized for his outstanding community and professional contributions. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus. And as was mentioned by my colleague across the way, he received the Shevchenko Medal for his leadership in the Ukrainian community here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Worobetz served briefly in my constituency when he served as a medical doctor in the community of Lucky Lake. And as so many great Saskatchewan residents have done in their service to their province, they provided that service both in rural and urban parts of our province. And I think it's tremendous that Mr. Worobetz was able to serve all of Saskatchewan.

And his legacy has reached beyond the borders of this province and touched our nation and touched our world. Mr. Worobetz had the concern for the worth of his fellow man, and he valued service above self. And that's a wonderful Saskatchewan tradition and trait that Mr. Worobetz presented in a very large degree.

His service to our province and a representative of our province as our 13th Lieutenant Governor will be remembered fondly

and with great gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I want to particularly extend condolences to his family and friends — people who are certainly . . . have every right to be very proud of his accomplishments. When a man has the number of accomplishments to the degree that Mr. Worobetz did, you know that there was family and friends who supported and often probably sacrificed so that he could become the great person that he was. And I trust that they share in our pride and appreciation — as I know they do — for his service to the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, before putting the question, I would ask leave to give my personal condolences with respect to Dr. Worobetz.

Dr. Worobetz was someone that I knew and admired a great deal. I must say that he had considerable influence on my life even though I didn't know him very well personally. It was simply the fact that he was a role model. Dr. Worobetz was born in 1914. My father was born in 1914, so Dr. Worobetz was somewhat of a father figure to me as well.

It's been mentioned that Dr. Worobetz is known as the first person of Ukrainian extraction who became Lieutenant Governor. I do believe that like John Diefenbaker who made a breakthrough as an ethnic who became a Prime Minister, Dr. Worobetz, I believe, was also the first non-French and non-Anglo-Saxon to be appointed to this very important post, prestigious post as Lieutenant Governor.

He made a tremendous contribution to his country as has been mentioned already. He was an accomplished person in every which way. And by his example I consider him one of the breakthrough people, people who were under-represented and at that time were seeking a way of becoming recognized.

I want to mention that at that time things were quite a bit different. At the time of my father's early years particularly and through what is known as the dirty thirties and right up to the end of the Second World War, being a person of non-French, non-Anglo extraction in Saskatchewan was not exactly an easy thing. People in those days often . . . First of all they lived in isolated areas of the province, so there wasn't that movement and contact with other people. But they were often discriminated against and had to fight the difficult way and really work hard to get the jobs and to gain self-respect.

And I think with Dr. Worobetz becoming Lieutenant Governor, it was a bit of a breakthrough in the fact that the thing that people were working for, to have control of their own lives through economic and professional equality, was an objective. And Dr. Worobetz was a model that showed that this objective could be reached.

I want to mention also that I'm not the only person that he influenced. I had a telephone conversation with former Premier Roy Romanow and I asked him about his thoughts about the passing of Dr. Worobetz. Roy told me that he had attended his funeral. He said that their paths had crossed frequently and that

Dr. Worobetz's work, and I quote Mr. Romanow, "strengthened the fabric and diversity of Canada." And Mr. Romanow went on to say that he was a person of tranquillity in demeanour. In his public life he offered learned observations and advice.

Mr. Worobetz, as has been mentioned earlier, made a contribution not only by his example, but he also left a legacy, the biggest of which I believe was his \$500,000 endowment to St. Thomas More College to establish the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. These funds are used to ensure the preservation, study, and promotion of Ukrainian-Canadian heritage, creating greater public awareness of the contribution of Ukrainian-Canadians to the national life of Canada.

Mr. Romanow also mentioned to me that on the funeral card of Dr. Worobetz was this quotation which was taken from the inauguration of that particular foundation, of that fund, the Prairie centre for Ukrainian heritage, when he spoke there. Dr. Worobetz said this:

A dream we dream alone is only a dream. A dream we dream together makes us all winners. So let us dream and work together to add something of value to this great country of ours, Canada.

This is again his quotation:

I believe this centre will be looked upon as a well-deserved thank you to those who have gone before and sacrificed so much to make our lives better.

Dr. Worobetz brought the philosophy of this quotation to his work. He was an unassuming man. He was not a politician, but he did become head of state. He left a permanent example and a permanent legacy by his example and through his endowment on behalf of himself and his wife, Micheline. I wish to express my condolences to his family and friends and I wish them to know that Dr. Worobetz is revered.

[16:00]

The motion before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, the Premier; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Canora-Pelly:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. Stephen Worobetz, 13th Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan, who died on February 2, 2006.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, leave of the House to introduce a motion of transmittal, please.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, by leave of the Assembly:

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

I so move. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for Moose Jaw North, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned till tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:03.]

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Premier

Hon. Graham Addley
Minister of Healthy Living Services
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Pat Atkinson
Minister of Advanced Education and Employment
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Public
Service Commission

Hon. Joan Beatty
Minister of Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Buckley Belanger
Minister of Community Resources
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Hon. Eric Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources
Minister Responsible for Investment
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Minister Responsible for Information Services
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Hon. David Forbes
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Glenn Hagel
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Gaming
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Hon. Deb Higgins
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Hon. John Nilson
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Hon. Frank Quennell
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