



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

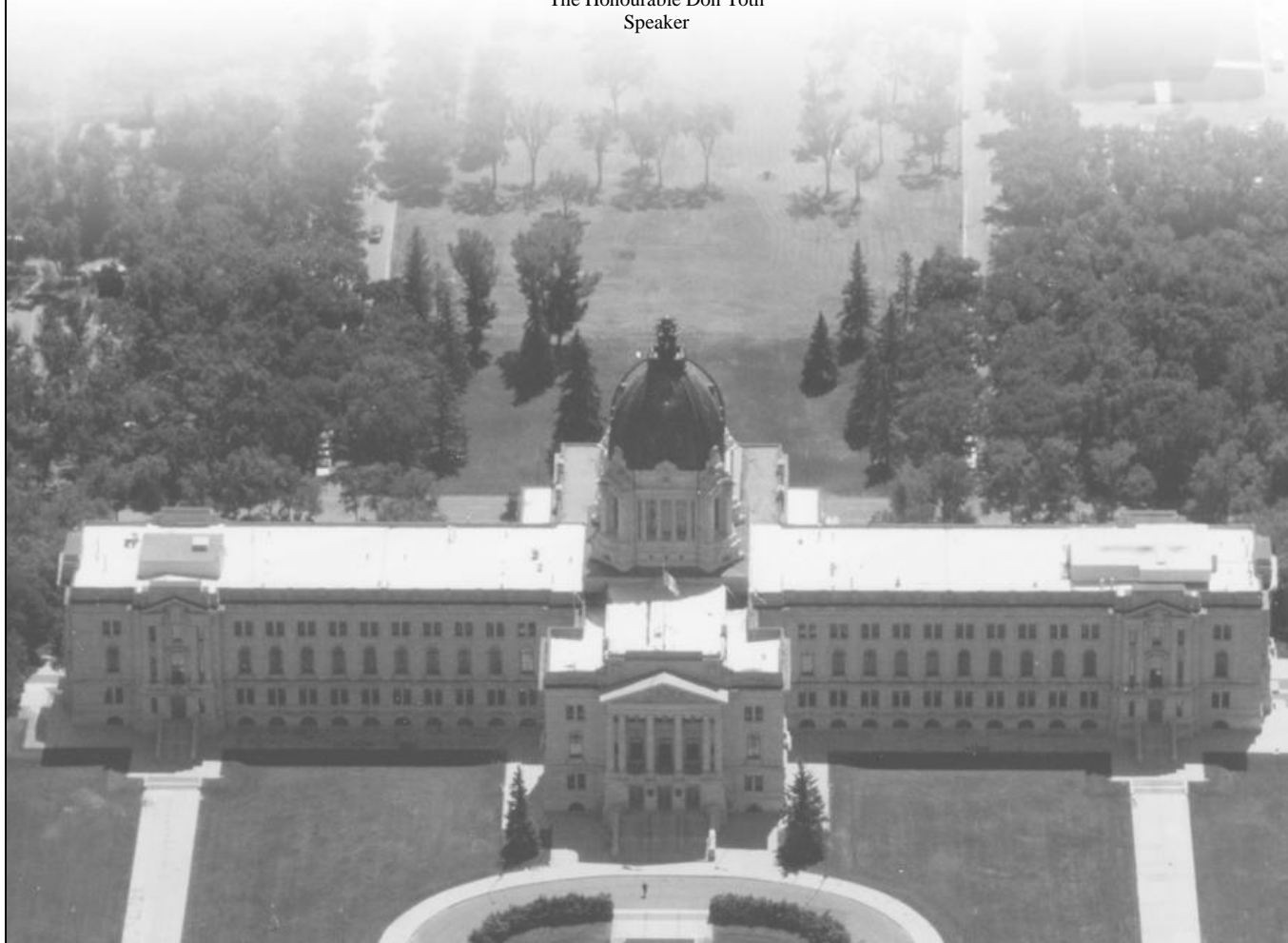
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

| Name of Member | Political Affiliation | Constituency |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allchurch, Denis | SP | Rosthern-Shellbrook |
| Atkinson, Pat | NDP | Saskatoon Nutana |
| Belanger, Buckley | NDP | Athabasca |
| Bjornerud, Hon. Bob | SP | Melville-Saltcoats |
| Boyd, Hon. Bill | SP | Kindersley |
| Bradshaw, Fred | SP | Carrot River Valley |
| Brkich, Greg | SP | Arm River-Watrous |
| Brotten, Cam | NDP | Saskatoon Massey Place |
| Calvert, Lorne | NDP | Saskatoon Riversdale |
| Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken | SP | Saskatoon Silver Springs |
| Chisholm, Michael | SP | Cut Knife-Turtleford |
| D'Autremont, Hon. Dan | SP | Cannington |
| Draude, Hon. June | SP | Kelvington-Wadena |
| Duncan, Dustin | SP | Weyburn-Big Muddy |
| Eagles, Doreen | SP | Estevan |
| Elhard, Hon. Wayne | SP | Cypress Hills |
| Forbes, David | NDP | Saskatoon Centre |
| Furber, Darcy | NDP | Prince Albert Northcote |
| Gantfoer, Hon. Rod | SP | Melfort |
| Harpauer, Hon. Donna | SP | Humboldt |
| Harper, Ron | NDP | Regina Northeast |
| Harrison, Jeremy | SP | Meadow Lake |
| Hart, Glen | SP | Last Mountain-Touchwood |
| Heppner, Hon. Nancy | SP | Martensville |
| Hickie, Hon. Darryl | SP | Prince Albert Carlton |
| Higgins, Deb | NDP | Moose Jaw Wakamow |
| Hutchinson, Hon. Bill | SP | Regina South |
| Huyghebaert, Yogi | SP | Wood River |
| Iwanchuk, Andy | NDP | Saskatoon Fairview |
| Junor, Judy | NDP | Saskatoon Eastview |
| Kirsch, Delbert | SP | Batoche |
| Krawetz, Hon. Ken | SP | Canora-Pelly |
| LeClerc, Serge | SP | Saskatoon Northwest |
| McCall, Warren | NDP | Regina Elphinstone-Centre |
| McMillan, Tim | SP | Lloydminster |
| McMorris, Hon. Don | SP | Indian Head-Milestone |
| Michelson, Warren | SP | Moose Jaw North |
| Morgan, Hon. Don | SP | Saskatoon Southeast |
| Morin, Sandra | NDP | Regina Walsh Acres |
| Nilson, John | NDP | Regina Lakeview |
| Norris, Hon. Rob | SP | Saskatoon Greystone |
| Ottenbreit, Greg | SP | Yorkton |
| Quennell, Frank | NDP | Saskatoon Meewasin |
| Reiter, Jim | SP | Rosetown-Elrose |
| Ross, Laura | SP | Regina Qu'Appelle Valley |
| Schriemer, Joceline | SP | Saskatoon Sutherland |
| Stewart, Hon. Lyle | SP | Thunder Creek |
| Taylor, Len | NDP | The Battlefords |
| Tell, Hon. Christine | SP | Regina Wascana Plains |
| Toth, Hon. Don | SP | Moosomin |
| Trew, Kim | NDP | Regina Coronation Park |
| Van Mulligen, Harry | NDP | Regina Douglas Park |
| Vermette, Doyle | NDP | Cumberland |
| Wall, Hon. Brad | SP | Swift Current |
| Weekes, Randy | SP | Biggar |
| Wilson, Nadine | SP | Saskatchewan Rivers |
| Wotherspoon, Trent | NDP | Regina Rosemont |
| Yates, Kevin | NDP | Regina Dewdney |

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 18 grade 8 to 11 students in the west gallery from Mankota. And they're accompanied by their teacher Rhonda Pilgrim and chaperones Ron Ficzel, Lana Nogue, Stan Scribner, Ross Schafer, and Dennis Dyck.

Mr. Speaker, these students have been through a year-long leadership training program. The teachers have been working in collaboration with the University of Regina's Greystone Centre for Interprofessional Collaboration to explore leadership opportunities for our youth and address issues facing youth in our school and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with the group after question period, and I would ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Legislative Assembly a guest that is seated in your gallery. He moved to Saskatchewan in July 2007, and he and his family now reside in Grenfell where he is establishing his own business. And I wonder if the members would join with me in welcoming Mr. Danny Thompson. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of the indexing of minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, the indexing of minimum wage would ensure that minimum wage earners would be able to maintain a standard of living as cost of living increases. And the prayers reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of the cost of living increases.

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

The petition is signed by residents from Maple Creek, Melville, and Webb. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know these workers in the community-based organizations throughout Saskatchewan have been traditionally underpaid, and because of that there is an issue around high staff turnover, and the subsequent lack of caregiver continuity has a negative impact on the quality of care clients give. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

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

Mr. Speaker, these folks come from Zealandia, Regina, and Saskatoon. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind when it comes to providing safe and affordable water. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, are signed by the good residents of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Duck Lake. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition in support of a new Saskatchewan hospital, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners recognize that the existing nearly 100-year-old structure is in much need of replacement. The petitioners ask that:

. . . the Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately recommit funds and resources for the continued development and construction of a new Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford and provide the Prairie North Regional Health Authority with the authority necessary to complete the essential and much-needed project.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners are all from The Battlefords constituency. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for graduate students in Saskatchewan through the expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are students from the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, as well as a number of health care professionals practising here in the province who have graduate degrees. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Canada is a country that came of age as a nation on the battlefields of the First World War. Today is the National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Mr. Speaker, on this day 92 years ago, the Battle of Vimy Ridge began, a four-day battle that led to the capture of the critical high ground by the Canadian corps, including the soldiers of four battalions that hailed from Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this battle has become a national symbol of sacrifice and bravery. The actions of these soldiers defined the character and strength of our country and province. We owe a debt of sincere gratitude and must never forget the defining contribution of those who served, those who came back and helped continue to build our nation, and those who never returned home to enjoy the freedom for which they fought so bravely.

So in their honour, Mr. Speaker, flags on the Saskatchewan

Legislative Building are at half mast. Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to take a moment today to reflect on and honour their legacy etched into the lives and freedoms that each one of us enjoys every day here in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

St. Ann's Senior Citizens' Village

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the people at St. Ann's Senior Citizens' Village to providing quality housing and health care to all of their residents. St. Ann's, located in Saskatoon Eastview, operates as a special care home and independent living and a supported independent living apartment facility.

St. Ann's is a Catholic seniors' home with a mandate of affirming the spiritual needs of residents, enabling them to live in dignity while enjoying the respecting companionship of their peers. St. Ann's provides physiotherapy programs, social and recreational programs, pharmacy and laboratory services, family physician services, and spiritual and religious services.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge all the hard work done by the organizers of the St. Ann's Annual Spring Gala being held on Sunday April 19. The Spring Gala is a refreshing, exciting day of entertainment, Mr. Speaker, and an important fundraiser for St. Ann's. The funds raised go to support capital projects at St. Ann's, such as room renovations. The Spring Gala is not only a chance for residents, family, friends, and community members to socialize with each other, but it also raises funds to make sure that St. Ann's is able to fulfill its mandate of providing quality housing.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the hard work and dedication of St. Ann's staff and the organizers of the Spring Gala, residents of St. Ann's have much more than just a living space. They have a home. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan legislative internship program is in its eighth year. I'm proud to say that I was one of the first MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to have an intern work with me when the program first started in 2002. Since that time, I've had the enjoyable experience of working with four interns and am currently completing a term with one of the current interns, Ms. Dawn Gibbons.

I must say every experience and every term that I've had an intern working with me has been very productive, very enjoyable, because these young people who sign up for this program are eager. They're bright. They look to expand the members' horizons with new ideas, and they certainly do

whatever is asked of them, Mr. Speaker.

We are currently completing the first term, so those interns who are working with government members will, after Easter, start their term with opposition members, and of course vice versa, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, my experience has been very enjoyable and productive, and I know the member from Saskatchewan Rivers, who has had an intern working with her, has had the same experience.

I would just encourage all members in this Assembly, when asked, to sign up for the intern program because it is a very productive program that does great things for both the member and the interns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Vimy Ridge Day

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, today is Vimy Ridge Day. Ninety-two years ago today, Canadian troops under Canadian leadership engaged the German army entrenched on Vimy Ridge. Four days later, Mr. Speaker, thanks to skilful planning, innovative tactics, determination, and great, great courage, the Canadians prevailed and Vimy Ridge was taken.

It was a pivotal moment in the history of this country, Mr. Speaker. Some say it was the moment that a loose confederation of provinces and territories matured as a country, and we took our place among the nations of the world. And it should then come as no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that Canada has become known as a country that values and defends human freedom, justice, and peace because it was formed in the terrible crucible of a war.

Mr. Speaker, today we honour and remember the Canadian soldiers who fought at Vimy Ridge. There will be ceremonies of tribute and remembrance across the country to honour their memory. And while doing so, we can't help but remember and pay tribute to all the Canadian men and women who down through the years have sacrificed and served in the cause of peace including, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps especially, the Canadian men and women of our armed forces who today are in harm's way. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

NDP Leadership Candidate

Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, with the humour and fun replaced with hypocrisy and opportunism, it's my duty to announce to the House that *That '70s Show* is coming to Saskatchewan. Yes, Mr. Speaker, after eight years of palling around with senior Tories in Cowtown, Calgary big oil lobbyist Dwain Lingenfelter has returned to Saskatchewan preaching a back-to-the-future version of 1970 socialism.

And so far the reviews have been decidedly mixed. *The*

StarPhoenix's Les MacPherson refers to Lingenfelter's recent pronouncements on state expropriation of the potash, oil, and gas industry as "crazy talk" and says, "The supposed freebooting capitalist has transmogrified into something more like a frothing socialist."

But can Lingenfelter actually believe what he says? After all, for the past eight years, he's been collecting paycheques from Nexen energy, one of the most aggressive oil and gas companies in the world, with a gleaming 37-storey headquarters in downtown Calgary that's been described as a shrine to capitalism.

Surely Lingenfelter understands the lunacy of what he's proposing. But what is even more revealing than Lingenfelter's words are what those words reveal about his character. One day, a Calgary big oil lobbyist, happily collecting big paycheques while jetting around the world, and the next, an NDP [New Democratic Party] leadership candidate spouting discredited nonsense and saying anything to get elected.

Mr. Speaker, the people have seen this show before, and they didn't like it the first time. With scenes like this one, it's little wonder that people have changed the channel on the NDP.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Easter Message

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Easter is one of the holiest times of the Christian calendar. While Christmas has evolved to be a larger . . .

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place may start over.

Mr. Broten: — From the top. Mr. Speaker, Easter is one of the holiest times of the Christian calendar. While Christmas has evolved to be a larger cultural celebration, Easter is for many the most important time of the year from a personal and theological perspective. Whatever branch of the Christian faith one belongs to, Catholic, Orthodox, or Protestant, this is a very special time.

For Christians around the world, Easter provides hope through Christ's redemptive work. It is a hope through faith that promises a better tomorrow and motivates better actions today. The Easter story is an example of personal sacrifice for the benefit of many. It is an example that spurs active hope as opposed to passive or accidental hope.

As Jesus stated, there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. Mr. Speaker, regardless of religion or personal beliefs, this is a principle that serves as a guide for many around the world. It's a principle that causes us to consider how we might put aside our own interests to meet the needs of others. I believe it calls us to seek co-operation and collective action over the lure of unbridled self-interest.

In these days of economic uncertainty, many Canadians are

relying on hope. In countries where conflict is the norm, hope is all that keeps people going. Mr. Speaker, as Easter approaches, I encourage all of us to reflect on the spirit of hope and ask how our actions can better reflect the hope we each believe in.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I would like to wish all members and all Saskatchewan people a Happy Easter.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although Christmas is probably the most recognized holiday of the year and is very important as it does celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, many in the Christian community see Easter as the most significant and important event as it is the foundation of the Christian faith.

Today is Holy Thursday, Mr. Speaker, which recognizes the last supper that Jesus shared with the apostles, when he broke bread and shared wine, signifying his body and blood — the basis for communion celebrations of Christians to this day. It also recalls the betrayal of Jesus that would ultimately lead to his death.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Good Friday, when we remember the ultimate sacrifice as God gave up his only Son who faced ridicule and pain and gave his life for the sins of mankind, his true identity confirmed in Matthew 27:51 where it was written:

The earth shook. The sky darkened. The temple curtains tore in two. And the soldiers stated, “Surely then this man was the son of God.”

And, Mr. Speaker, this Sunday symbolizes the third day after Jesus was so brutally tortured and killed. We celebrate Easter Sunday, the day of Christ’s resurrection when he triumphed over death as he said he would when he stated, “Tear down this temple and I will rebuild it in three days.”

As this holiday has to many become a season of candy and bunnies, let us not forget the real, the ultimate sacrifice made by a Son and a Father, who through death created new life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Plans for Regina Stadium

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In December the Premier said that the Sask Party had little interest in investing in the new stadium in Regina saying, “. . . there’s a long list of priorities first.”

Yesterday the Minister of Municipal Affairs revealed that, at

the same time the Premier was saying no, they had no interest in a new stadium, Crown Investments Corporation — apparently the Sask Party’s new source of mad money — was allocating up to \$70,000 to study the concept of a new stadium, something that the Minister of Municipal Affairs himself calls a large, a huge undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why did the Sask Party claim it had no interest in a new stadium at the same time it was allocating \$70,000 of taxpayers’ money to the study?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact that the government has been working on some options, should there be some resources available down the road or some innovative way to achieve changes either to Mosaic Stadium or perhaps something new, shouldn’t come as a surprise to members of this House. In fact, I think on News Year’s Eve, on December 31 in the *Leader-Post* it was reported in Rob Vanstone’s column in the sports section that the government was looking at, was doing a study that considered different options.

Mr. Speaker, our government believes that we need to be prepared for what might be able to be achieved down the road or, you know, depending on the resources of the province, and so work’s been under way. We know that something needs to be done with respect to Mosaic Stadium. Either we need to do some renovations to the stadium itself, as is widely known; there’s the option of perhaps of a new open-air stadium; and there’s potentially the option of an entertainment complex, Mr. Speaker.

The Government of Saskatchewan thinks it’s important for us to be prepared for that eventuality, and so the study’s been happening for some time — quite well known to the public — to explore different options, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Trew: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is very interesting. In December, the Premier — the Premier, in December — claimed no interest in a stadium. He said they had other priorities. When asked again budget day, the Premier said, no, we have other priorities ahead of a stadium.

Now we find out yesterday that there were consultants had been contracted back in December and allowed to spend up to \$70,000 at the same time that this Premier was claiming no interest in a stadium. Amazingly now we find out that the studies prepared by the city’s independent consultants that the province is trying to look at have only recently come into the hands of the province.

We found out yesterday that the province is considering the option of a new open-air stadium. This happens despite the fact that apparently the city is not considering that as an option. To the minister: what exactly are — or to the Premier — what

exactly are the province's consultants studying? Will that report be made public? And why is the Sask Party considering options that the city is not, unless you've already decided what you're going to do?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member says that he found out yesterday that the government was doing some work into the potential down-the-road feasibility of changes to Mosaic or perhaps some other stadium options. He found out yesterday, but it's been in the newspaper now for months.

December 31, Rob Vanstone in his column reported, and I quote:

The provincial government is preparing a report on the stadium issue. Once the report is completed, all parties will be able to consider the options . . . [more clearly].

Some of the options were laid out yesterday for the media by the minister responsible.

Then on February 21 again, secretly hidden in the pages of the *Leader-Post*, were the following quote: "A feasibility study is being conducted by the provincial government — with which the city hopes to partner to pay for any kind of improvements — [or] to . . ."

The Speaker: — The Premier has been recognized. Please allow the Premier to respond.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Hidden in the *Leader-Post* on March 19 were my comments to the media, Mr. Speaker, when asked about the stadium. The media quite rightly said the stadium's clearly not in the budget. I said, no it's not in the budget; neither will any money for any stadium improvements or any other structure for a sports entertainment complex come from infrastructure dollars, ready-for-growth money for the province of Saskatchewan.

But I said very clearly in the media, if there are other innovative partnerships, other ways we can explore to achieve what might be an international-class facility for our province, we'd be prepared to look at those innovative ways. And we are doing that study that has been made clear to the public now for months, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Trew: — Well, Mr. Speaker, speaking of the media, in a popular blog hosted by Rod Pedersen, the voice of the Riders, reported December 23 last year:

. . . I've managed to rub elbows with some significant government officials . . .

I'm sure they would string me up if I divulged the details . . . but suffice it to say that by sound financial planning and management over the next few years, this

stadium/entertainment complex will be paid for.

My question to the Premier is two: why did he deny in December interest in a stadium? Why did he again deny interest budget day in a stadium, and how much money are you going to spend on a stadium?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let me again direct that hon. member to a quote from the newspaper, the *Leader-Post*, the Rob Vanstone column dated December 31 last year, Mr. Speaker, where it says in the newspaper:

The provincial government is preparing a report on the stadium issue [Mr. Speaker]. Once the report is completed, all parties will be able to consider the options . . . [more clearly].

Mr. Speaker, I've said from the very beginning, members of this side of the House have said from the very beginning, that we need to do something about the stadium. We know . . .

The Speaker: — We're only a few hours away from the Easter break. Maybe we could allow the members presenting the question and the ministers the opportunity to respond without interference. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've been saying for some time that this government has other infrastructure priorities, Mr. Speaker. And more than saying it, we've been acting on it. We said a children's hospital was a priority for this government. Mr. Speaker, we acted on it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — We said highways budget, record expenditure on highways is a priority of this government. We've acted on it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Now I want to be very clear. What I said on budget day is precisely what I'll again say, and it's for the public record. We are not going to use ready-for-growth infrastructure dollars for any proposal for any stadium, either the current one or a new one. But if there are some innovative opportunities, some partnerships that we can explore that could achieve some fundamental change that we know will have to be made — that Calgary is doing it; BC is doing it; Winnipeg's announced a new stadium — we'll look at those innovative approaches, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Provincial Sales Tax on Used Equipment

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Well, Mr. Speaker, just like in

opposition, the Sask Party members feel free to say whatever they want on any given day. In opposition, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party ran around the province . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — In opposition they spent a lot of time running around the province promising whatever they wanted without giving any real consideration as to whether or not they could keep those promises. For example, they said if oil prices go too high, we'll reduce the fuel tax. Of course we haven't seen that.

They said that there wouldn't be a Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Of course now we have an even larger one. But one of the things that they were critical of was the PST [provincial sales tax] charged to business owners for used equipment. And so my question is to the Minister of Finance: what is the Sask Party government's position today regarding the PST on used equipment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite would likely know that the current policy of tax on used equipment was introduced by the former government in approximately the year 2000. It is broadly applied, which is one of the main reasons why Saskatchewan has the ability to keep the rate of PST at the lowest rate outside of Alberta in Canada. It's because it's applied on a very broad base.

The second part of it is, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party did make a commitment to remove the PST on used vehicles in strategic categories. That was accomplished the day after the election, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there is still application of PST on used equipment. That, we think, is appropriate following the formula that's been in place for some time. And we certainly believe that that is appropriate, to keep the base broad so that the rates can be as low as possible.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, it wasn't the NDP that was running around the province with respect to the PST on used equipment. It was the Sask Party. The NDP was frankly too busy lowering the sales tax rate to the 5 per cent that the minister speaks of.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, Danny Thompson is a Grenfell man that recently came to Saskatchewan from Alberta. He and his family moved here to start their own business. They bought a grocery store — including its used equipment — but four months after purchasing his business he was presented with

a bill for the PST on the used equipment, although much of it was too old and had to be thrown away, Mr. Speaker.

So the question to the Sask Party government is that they've now had an opportunity to address this issue of taxing used equipment for well over 16 months. Why do they continue to force Saskatchewan businesses to pay the tax on used equipment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am reluctant to get into details and specifics of any individual client of the Finance department or the ministry. But I will say this, Mr. Speaker. There are procedures that are available . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — There are certainly procedures that are available to all clients of provincial sales tax whereby if equipment indeed does not have a value on it as determined by the Department of Finance, there is methodology in order to have that equipment valued at its real, proper current value. There are also the possibilities that some equipment is actually included with the physical premises and that is also possible to mitigate.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that the Ministry of Finance stands ready to meet with the individual involved and to make sure that the application indeed of these taxes are fair and appropriate. And certainly that offer has been extended, and I understand has been accepted. And I would hope that this will work its way through as there is a complete understanding and ability to work with the ministry in terms of the specifics.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Well, Mr. Speaker, saying that you have a tax regime that people ought to know — even while Sask Party MLAs are still making comments to the effect that charging the PST on old equipment is a tax on a tax on a tax and have pointed out that it is “regressive and inhibits small business” — so what is a business owner in Saskatchewan supposed to deduce from all this, Mr. Speaker? My question is: will the minister . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member from Regina Douglas Park can phrase his question.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — My question is: will the minister sit down, undertake to meet with Mr. Danny Thompson with respect to his particular case?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we have attempted on a number of occasions, starting late last year, in order to be fair and appropriate in dealing with any of the clients, have attempted to make sure that we communicated appropriately with the individual involved.

I would be pleased, immediately after question period, to meet with Mr. Thompson, and have some officials to make sure that he completely understands the proper procedures that are available in this issue. I would be more than pleased to meet with him as immediately after question period as is possible.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Regulation of Nuclear Activity

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, the 2009-2010 working plan for the Ministry of Environment includes the following under its list of key actions in the coming year:

Seek to . . . [minimize] provincial regulation of nuclear activity under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act in Saskatchewan through an administrative agreement with [the] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

To the minister: can she confirm that the Sask Party intends to pursue provincial regulation of nuclear activity?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take notice of that question. Thank you.

[10:30]

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

Ms. Morin: — Apparently no one can answer on behalf of the government. The 2003 agreement between Saskatchewan and the federal government was intended to cover uranium mines and mills, and included the Department of Labour. It does not address either a nuclear reactor or nuclear waste storage.

On January 28, 2008 *The StarPhoenix* reported that:

The Saskatchewan Party government is concerned the length of time it takes for new nuclear . . . projects to come on-line in Canada could close the "window of opportunity" it sees opening for the province's uranium supply.

The article goes on to describe the Premier's frustration at all of the difficulties and challenges that are holding Saskatchewan back from being able to develop what he calls "next-generation technology."

To the minister: given that regulation of the nuclear industry is a federal responsibility, will she admit that the Sask Party is pursuing provincial regulation so that it can wrongfully make the decision to endorse a nuclear reactor without federal interference?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the basis for some of those, the quote the hon. member read may have been a speech I gave to the Canadian Nuclear Association in Ottawa earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, where I did point out that we need to make sure we have rigorous regulatory regimes around the uranium industry, around the nuclear industry as well in our country.

But we also need to avoid duplication, Mr. Speaker. And so I've also said outside in the rotunda that I welcome comments from the federal government and from other premiers that we need to work together to make sure we're not duplicating the processes. That's what we're talking about here, while not sacrificing the due diligence that's required in a proper environmental process.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of a non-uranium mine in our country, I think it's about three to five years to get a mine commissioned and operating. It's almost 10 years on the uranium side. And we're simply asking questions of the federal government to make sure that we have as streamlined but as rigorous a process as possible so that we can ensure safety but also see continued development of that sector, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Sask Party provided some insight as to what provincial regulation of the nuclear industry might look like. The Minister of Environment said that the Sask Party's new approach to environmental regulation will be achieved by leaving ". . . the 'how' of regulation to those who run the plants, factories and mines."

The government's response to a consultant's report released Tuesday as well described how this will work. It states that the environmental assessments will be conducted ". . . according to attached proponent developed Draft Project Specific Guidelines."

To the minister or the Premier: is the Sask Party getting ready to conduct an environmental assessment according to the guidelines developed by Bruce Power?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — This is a tough one. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I take notice of that question. Thank you.

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

Export of Nuclear Power

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, according to Bruce Power, according to the UDP [Uranium Development Partnership], and according to this government, the economic viability of a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan is dependent upon export power. In committee on April 7, the minister responsible for this file said that the export grids would be a private company venture. He said, and I quote, “. . . any discussions . . . I’ve ever had with Bruce Power, the risk was always going to be on the private sector for any grid associated with the export of power.”

To the minister: will he confirm that if Bruce Power operates a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan, that Bruce Power will be responsible for 100 per cent of the costs of export grids?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member for that question as well. You know, we have a number of steps to proceed through before any decision will be made as to whether there will ever be a nuclear power generating station built in this province.

But I can confirm that in the few conversations that I’ve had with Bruce Power that there was never any reference to SaskPower or the Government of Saskatchewan building any grid that would be dedicated to the export of power, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Furber: — He said he’s never had the conversation, but he won’t offer the guarantee for the people of Saskatchewan here today. Now he said he’s had conversations with Bruce Power. But Tuesday the Premier told us that his government is having hypothetical conversations with Alberta about buying exported power from Saskatchewan. Tuesday night the minister said he’s having hypothetical conversations with Bruce Power about the private sector being responsible for the cost of export grids.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I invite both the minister and the Premier to join us here in the real world and have real world conversations with both those companies and the people of Saskatchewan about the costs associated with this business.

To the minister: how can he expect the people of Saskatchewan to make a decision on a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan if he can’t tell us there’s a market for export power, and he can’t guarantee that the private sector’s going to be paying for export grids?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member for that question as well, although it sounds very much like the last one. And I’ll reconfirm, Mr. Speaker, that any conversations I’ve had with Bruce Power to this date strictly referred to the private sector being responsible for a grid dedicated to the export of power, if ever that should happen.

And clearly in his reference to is there a . . . I think he asked the question if there’s a market for export power. Clearly there is, Mr. Speaker. Alberta will need at least 4 to 5000 additional megawatts of power by the time a nuclear power plant could be built. The United States is an insatiable market for power, Mr. Speaker. Of course there’s a market. And now I’ve reconfirmed my limited conversations with Bruce Power on the subject.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Public Opinion and Consultation

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In this same committee the other night, as my colleague from Prince Albert Northcote referred to, the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation also admitted that this government is making decisions regarding issues such as nuclear waste storage based on polling. Mr. Speaker, apparently the Sask Party has done some internal polls. When asked if he would make any of this polling information public, the minister said it will not be made public.

To the minister: it begs the question, who paid for the polling that he refers to? Were there any taxpayers’ dollars used in the commission of this poll? And why would this polling not be made public?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. Clearly we’ve been told by the people of Saskatchewan that they’re not ready at this point to consider spent fuel disposal option in the province. And we’re responsive to that, Mr. Speaker. And we’ve said consistently that we’re not interested in that business being pursued in the province at this time, at least until we hear the results of the public consultations. Maybe we’ll be surprised.

And as far as the financing of the poll, that was a Saskatchewan Party endeavour, Mr. Speaker. And, you know, I think I’ll leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to go on and talk about the inconsistencies from that side of the floor, but maybe, maybe if there’s another question.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the government campaigned on a platform of increased transparency and accountability. And so far, Mr. Speaker, they are applauding failure on this campaign promise.

In the last number of days, Mr. Speaker, we've seen blacked-out reports, blacked-out freedom of information requests, a \$70,000 concept review that the government failed to announce, and now a poll that they are making decisions upon that they are failing to make public.

To the minister, Mr. Speaker: what other polls have been conducted and kept secret from the people of Saskatchewan? More importantly, Mr. Speaker, is the government now making decisions on the basis of polling data?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member for that question; I was hoping he would ask it. Mr. Speaker, we have embarked on the most open and accountable public consultation process ever, ever in the history of this province on the subject.

The process began April 3 and will be concluded on June 15 with multiple options for people to respond, including public meetings around the province, Mr. Speaker, but not limited to that. In contrast, Mr. Speaker, previous governments, particularly that one, conducted through SaskPower 17 secret nuclear studies — 17 — without any consultation, Mr. Speaker. None of the results of those studies were ever released to the public until after the election when our government released them all, Mr. Speaker. Not only was there not public consultation, there wasn't even the release of the studies, and there was even denial . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Study of Alternative Energy Sources

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The opposition has been hoping to see a genuine dialogue with the people of the province on the future of energy productions.

Mr. Speaker, we've asked the minister responsible if he was willing to include consultations on alternate energy sources. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of question period today relating to a football stadium in the province of Saskatchewan, the Premier says they're willing to spend money in advance to do the studies, and more importantly, quoting the Premier, "be prepared for that eventuality."

Mr. Speaker, why is this same philosophy not being applied to the idea of alternate energy sources to meet Saskatchewan's future energy needs?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I've answered this question before, and I'm more than happy to do it again.

Mr. Speaker, this government is looking at all methods of energy production in the province, including clean coal in which we're investing the better part of \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker — and, Mr. Speaker, and leveraging \$400 million from the private sector and \$250 million from the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing work on geothermal. There's work being done continually on wind and research into solar, Mr. Speaker. Per capita we have invested and will be investing more money in renewable energy in this province than any other jurisdiction that I'm aware of in North America.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 339 through 342.

The Speaker: — Questions 339 to 342 tabled.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

NDP Leadership Candidates

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to have the opportunity to enter and lead in this debate this morning. Our government is opposed to recent pronouncements from NDP leadership candidates, and in particular comments that would appear to want to take this province back to where they were, instead of to where we want to be.

Perhaps the most appalling recent comments were those made recently by a former member who is rumoured to be the leading candidate that would lead this party in opposition. And that's important, Mr. Speaker, that should that candidate be successful, he may very well lead that party in opposition for a long time.

At a recent leadership forum held in Moose Jaw April 2, Dwain Lingenfelter had the following to say, and I quote. He said, and I quote:

In the Blakeney government, we set up SaskOil, we nationalized the potash industry. What I regret in many ways is that we didn't fight harder the privatization of

some of those things that we did in the Blakeney era . . . [example] allowing the potash corporation to be privatized was a big mistake for the province and a big mistake for the party. We fought it but I think there is a question of whether we fought it hard enough. We allowed the privatization of SaskOil which I think was a big mistake for the province as well. And we should get back to the point of setting up an energy company that does our own drilling and exploration for gas in this province. I'm committed to do that if I'm the Premier.

Something that I find interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that he mentions it would be better for the province. It “. . . was a big mistake for the province and a big mistake for the party.” Now I don't quite understand how, if it was a mistake for the province, why that would be a mistake for the party. Is this a party thing? The nationalization of industries is something that a party takes great pride in? Just a question, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

Quite frankly, these comments are not only appalling, but they're also very confusing. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we should just dismiss these comments coming at a time and a locale in the home community of what some people believe is the base of the only credible potential opposition to Mr. Lingenfelter in this race, and these were ill-advised comments by someone seeking an opportunity to score some points on an opponent's base. Or perhaps we're dealing here just with the comments of simply an opportunist.

Mr. Lingenfelter supported Jim Dinning's bid to become the leader of the Conservative government in Alberta. As we recall, Jim Dinning was the front-runner early in that leadership bid; someone an oil executive in Calgary might want to align himself with. I'd be interested in Jim Dinning's comments regarding Mr. Lingenfelter's recent stand on the changes that he is proposing to the energy industry. Jim Dinning was the lead on privatization in Alberta, and an Albertan who I certainly have enjoyed a friendship and a philosophical understanding.

So, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we're really just dealing with the comments of an opportunist here. Someone who is just playing for the particular crowd that shows up. And the crowd at that meeting on April 2 in Moose Jaw probably is somewhat different than the crowd at the Oilmen's in Calgary. It would be comforting if we could simply dismiss these comments as coming from an opportunist at the spur of the moment, but they are indeed disturbing, Mr. Speaker.

Does this potential leader of the opposition want to go back, go back to the glory days of Saskoil, which was at its best a mediocre operated oil company by all accounts? Do we want to go back to the glory days of the potash industry when it was a very minor industry within this province? He may want to, Mr. Speaker; this province does not wish to go back. And those were not the glory days. As our government proceeds on an agenda of continued growth, I would suggest Mr. Lingenfelter has sent out the wrong message to the corporate sector, the investor sector, and the people sector of Saskatchewan.

A climate of growth need not be veiled with even a hint of nationalization of industry. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Mr.

Lingenfelter is seeking the position of leader of the opposition in this province. And fortunately, Mr. Speaker, his ambitions and statements, albeit confusing and contradictory, will be contained on that side of the Assembly for a long period of time. That will be part of our history that we'll be able to look back on and say was rather insignificant.

Would it be possible that what is driving Mr. Lingenfelter's plans are for himself, for our province? Our province would be able to host a repeat performance. If the potash industry was provincialized, would there be a place once again for Mr. Lingenfelter? Perhaps a head office in a neighbouring province or state or country, a takeover, an amalgamation, perhaps a vice-presidency or a presidency of this new formed company?

We have, Mr. Speaker, other contenders in the ring that are seeking the position of leader of the opposition. Although Mr. Pedersen and I have never met, he does come originally from my constituency, from Cut Knife-Turtleford. And I certainly have encountered his parents in my brief political life. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the constituents of Cut Knife-Turtleford, by and large dismiss this young aspirant on a number of issues. Our constituency, and perhaps less in the Cut Knife area, Mr. Pedersen's home, not only benefits, but is in fact driven by the oil and gas industry. Simply, this province doesn't need or deserve a Yens Pedersen.

The not-long-ago elected president of the NDP party, Mr. Pedersen, seems to be spearheading the initiative to eliminate the uranium mining industry completely in our province. And he may have a revelation like the Lingenfelter revelation, that maybe we could make this all better by provincializing.

Here's the plan: perhaps a new Crown, a new Crown for the uranium industry. An interesting concept for business, Mr. Speaker, but the philosophy fails. A business philosophy of, just for example, we don't like our product, but if you — the rest of the thinking world — are interested, we would very much like to take your money. So, Mr. Speaker, I just don't think that will fly.

Mr. Pedersen, the former NDP candidate and relatively recent party president, has come out with his ideas on our energy sector which includes amalgamation of SaskPower and SaskEnergy before buying up oil and gas wells for domestic production. Mr. Pedersen then wants a Saskatchewan-only pricing structure, apparently by cutting our exports at global prices. Saskatchewan does not need a mini-national energy policy. Our province knows the damage that such a program does to our resource sector.

Mr. Pedersen talks of securing our energy, but what this policy will do is drive out private investment from our province and put thousands of people out of work. The people of Saskatchewan don't want another national energy program. They want a government that creates an environment that is friendly to investment and economic growth.

As we are aware, there are a number of other candidates — or two other candidates — in the race. Mr. Meili's position apparently is that he'd just kind of like to tinker with the royalty rates. Well we saw what happened in Alberta when there was a change in royalty rates, and albeit not that large a change.

But now the other member in the race, the minister who's presently talking, the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, we're not sure about her position on a number of things. So I guess we just won't . . .

An Hon. Member: — What did you have to say about that member?

Mr. Chisholm: — What did I have to say . . . Okay.

In the most recent magazine from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, there's a couple of interesting charts that I noticed just came out yesterday. Population in our province in the third quarter of 2008, Saskatchewan experienced a net increase of 2,064 people from interprovincial migration, combined with 1,200 immigrants and a natural growth of about the same amount to generate the 10th consecutive quarterly population increase.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the charts in this go back to about 2005. And it's very interesting: on all of the charts included in this publication, if we draw a line on November 2007 and carry the future to today's date, in every one of these major sectors, the increases have been dramatic. It includes population, employment and earnings, international merchandise trade, retail sales. Every category that they go through in their analysis shows a dramatic improvement since November 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is by accident, and neither do the people of Saskatchewan. And certainly neither do the people of Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency or my neighbouring Battleford constituency.

There's a couple comments, Mr. Speaker, that have been made by other members regarding the whole issue of the potash industry and the legislation that our government saw come off the books. The minister from The Battlefords, in April 29, 2008 said the minister says he's going to demand a standing vote on this issue. He may be wasting his time. I don't see any reason for the opposition to oppose the legislation. It was put in for a specific purpose. It basically achieved its purpose without ever having needed to have been used. The Act had a role to play. The role has passed. It's not necessary any more. Repealing the legislation is not a problem. I'm happy to stand with the minister on whatever day this comes and vote for a repeal of this legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I see . . . As my time is running out, I would like to present the following motion. I move:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan express its opposition to recent pronouncements from the NDP leadership candidates that would support the renationalization of Saskatchewan's potash and oil industries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm

pleased to rise today to speak on this private member's motion brought forward by the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford, Mr. Speaker, a private member's motion that calls for the expression of opposition to recent statements made by certain candidates for the leadership of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of those who are watching or those who are reading my remarks, the rules of the Assembly call for speeches to be 10 minutes in length, Mr. Speaker, and so I intend to speak to that 10-minute limit, Mr. Speaker. The public should know that in fact, Mr. Speaker, were I to be allowed additional time to speak on this motion, Mr. Speaker, there are quite a few things that I could say.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the member opposite and for those who are watching, why it is that on a day when Stats Canada is announcing that 3,000 jobs have been lost in this province in the last three months, why, Mr. Speaker, is this the motion of priority for the members opposite? Surely to goodness in Cut Knife-Turtleford, Mr. Speaker, there are issues of more importance to the constituents of the member opposite than this issue about what candidates for the leadership of the NDP are saying, Mr. Speaker. Obviously members opposite have got some concerns about where candidates may be taking this province, Mr. Speaker, but the leadership convention has not been held yet. And I'll say a few words about that in a few minutes.

[11:00]

But, Mr. Speaker, by and large with the priorities facing this province, with the worldwide recession surrounding us, Mr. Speaker, and with the challenges that a lot of people are facing in this province. For example in The Battlefords, Mr. Speaker, I have people phoning my office every week about the lack of affordable housing in The Battlefords, and I know that's general across the province.

Mr. Speaker, people in The Battlefords are also phoning my office, Mr. Speaker, about the labour shortages in this province, Mr. Speaker. On saskjobs.ca today in the city of North Battleford, there are 330 jobs listed up for grabs. People can't find housing in The Battlefords to move in, to go to work for these businesses in our community, Mr. Speaker.

This ready for growth agenda that the government announced a year and a half ago, Mr. Speaker, is going by us because we are not prepared, with the support of this government, to even debate or discuss these important priority economic issues, Mr. Speaker. Instead the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford is asking us to oppose comments that are being made in a democratic fashion in the democratic development of policy within a political party, Mr. Speaker.

I realize that the members opposite have difficulty understanding how policy is developed democratically, Mr. Speaker, because virtually never, never does the Sask Party have a convention with massive, open, public debate about policy issues, Mr. Speaker. They don't understand this process. They don't understand how it unfolds or how it works or how you engage people in the province in consultation and discussion. Ideas get expressed, Mr. Speaker. People research

those ideas. They think about them. They talk about them, Mr. Speaker. And then they make collective decisions.

We have seen time and time again, Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber and over the last year and a half, this government legislating and then consulting. Mr. Speaker. They have said on the largest issue facing Saskatchewan people today — this question about do the people of Saskatchewan support or not support a nuclear reactor being built in this province, Mr. Speaker — they have limited, limited consultation with the people of this province to seven meetings in the province over a two-week period of time, Mr. Speaker. We have asked for this consultation period to be expanded to include information distribution on all energy sources.

And we have asked, Mr. Speaker, that this consultation process be extended to at least the end of the year, Mr. Speaker. Because to engage the public, you need the ideas. You need the information. You need the discussion. And then, Mr. Speaker, you reach conclusions. And in this case, Mr. Speaker, consultation means understanding what those conclusions are and how they were reached.

For the opposition to even suggest that a political party withdraw the process of democratically developing policy to oppose the democratic development of policy within a political party, Mr. Speaker, this simply says that the members opposite do not understand it. And for members like the member of Cut Knife-Turtleford, who's got a lot of issues in his constituency, to claim that this is the priority of the government on this particular day in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, this can only be described, Mr. Speaker, as a waste of our time, a waste of our energy.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great respect for this place. And I think that every member knows I've served in the House of Commons, I've served in the municipal city council, Mr. Speaker, and I've now served in this place for more than six years, Mr. Speaker. I have a great deal of respect for the process that members who are elected come together to debate issues of public policy to develop a vision, Mr. Speaker, a vision that takes into account the views of the grassroots in this party.

It has been suggested, Mr. Speaker, that the grassroots of the Sask Party are really the same as Astroturf, Mr. Speaker. There's no real root there; it's just all on the surface, Mr. Speaker. This is another example of what's been called Astroturfing, Mr. Speaker — giving people the idea that the grassroots are there. But there are none, Mr. Speaker, only the views of the members opposite which are very partisan in nature. This is a political party, Mr. Speaker, that has demonstrated time and time again they are more interested in a partisan debate than they are in a debate that involves vision and the long-term future of our province.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have to take the time to start governing this province and stop acting as if they were still in opposition. Every single day, Mr. Speaker, there are examples from members of the government party now, Mr. Speaker, examples that indicate they believe they still sit in the opposition benches. They would rather talk about some of the work that was done by the New Democrats in government than they want to talk about their own vision for the future, Mr.

Speaker.

And a good example of that, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation who on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] radio took credit, took credit for all the wind power generation in the province of Saskatchewan. And when confronted in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, he said, I wasn't speaking for the time that the Sask Party was in the government, Mr. Speaker, I was speaking for the entire history of Saskatchewan.

Well by golly, Mr. Speaker, a good part of that history in Saskatchewan was ideas developed by grassroots New Democrats who had a long-term vision for this province and were not afraid to talk about it in public because of fear of what somebody might say about it.

The members opposite are simply trying to say to the public of Saskatchewan, be afraid of these ideas. Be afraid of these ideas. Well I want the members opposite to dig out the speech by Tommy Douglas about black cats and white cats. Mr. Speaker, they have forgotten the history of this province. A history, Mr. Speaker, that allowed the public to fully understand that because you listen to people doesn't necessarily make it correct. You need to, Mr. Speaker, consult with each other and work through these issues and develop policies.

The black cats, the white cats, the spotted cats over there, Mr. Speaker, are still chattering away but the mice in the province, Mr. Speaker, have got to stop listening to the members over there to talk amongst themselves. And, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the government to start governing — not living, Mr. Speaker, in the policy discussions of other political parties — but to start governing. Make some policies of their own. Create some visions of their own, Mr. Speaker. Package them in a way that provides information to all Saskatchewan people, so we know exactly where we're going to be, exactly where we're going.

New Democrats are not afraid of that. Never have been afraid of it, Mr. Speaker. In fact if New Democrats had been afraid of it and acted like the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, there'd be no hospitalization in Canada. There'd be no medicare in Canada, Mr. Speaker. We'd be living in a world governed like the United States, Mr. Speaker, because that's what the members opposite were looking for in the '60s, Mr. Speaker.

I say this is a waste of time, Mr. Speaker, and I . . .

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in the Assembly this morning and to take part in the debate today to speak on this motion. And we do support this motion. It's a motion that supports our province's continued growth, and our government is committed to moving forward and promoting a strong and steady government.

I believe the NDP leadership candidates supporting the renationalization of Saskatchewan's potash and oil industries is moving backwards. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote Les MacPherson from the *Star Phoenix*, January 12, 1999:

There's no use trying to tell them that Saskatchewan's NDP administration welcomes business. This only invites a painful rehash of ancient political history and the NDP's nationalization of the Saskatchewan potash industry. Never mind that the industry has long since been re-privatized and is prospering in the province as never before.

The issue of nationalization represents possibly what could be characterized as some of the darkest days in terms of development in Saskatchewan. *The Potash Development Act* was brought forward in the mid-'70s under Premier Allan Blakeney's regime. Mr. Speaker, that government said to the resource companies, either you will sell, or we will take it from you.

And what we saw was the legislation passed and the government of the day, to the detriment of the Saskatchewan people, decided to buy up potash companies and put at risk hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars. Mr. Speaker, the consequence of it was really quite shameful. What happened was the companies that looked at investment opportunities in Saskatchewan absolutely recoiled from it.

The Saskatchewan people said, how could we ever trust a government that will use the legislative arm of government to expropriate whatever they see the need to? Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of any other thing you could do as a government to extinguish investor confidence than to do something of that nature. And that's exactly what we saw.

People, our heart and soul of the province, those people left our province in droves. And our children and our grandchildren that could've grown here in the province, they left. And what were we left with? Many can remember during that time frame in history watching our Saskatchewan residents, person after person, absolutely abandoning this province for opportunity elsewhere. And you can just look at the exodus of people that there was to Alberta at that time and to other provinces as well.

The ones that went to Alberta, they went to Calgary; they went to Edmonton, those cities. And those cities were built by the people of Saskatchewan — with our youth, with our children.

So, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan lost opportunities. They lost jobs. Saskatchewan lost our youth, and we lost investment. Saskatchewan lost in many ways that could be considered the heart and soul of this province. The investment community, the entrepreneurial class of people that in a progressive, forward-looking society look at nationalization as a clear signal to leave. So, Mr. Speaker, these Saskatchewan residents left, and we're still feeling the lasting effects of that to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the proof is in the numbers. People left this province in droves. Businesses left this province in droves. Investment left this province in droves. And we've been chained by the ideology of the NDP and nationalization for some 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, our government, our current government, believes the last thing business leaders ever thought would happen in a free and democratic country such as Canada was to see a government come forward and use a piece of legislation that would nationalize an industry. Mr. Speaker, our government is sending a signal to industry that Saskatchewan is now once again going to join the enlightened world in terms of development.

So, Mr. Speaker, the NDP, the members opposite, represent a failed philosophy by a failed government. And it's very clear to me, as the people that I represent from Saskatchewan Rivers, it's very clear to them — it's clear to all the residents of Saskatchewan — that that is indeed the case.

Our government will continue to move steadily forward despite the negativity by the members opposite. Mr. Speaker, the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan is the largest company in Canada, precisely because the NDP philosophy is wrong. We see them flourishing because they understand the free enterprise system. They understand capitalism. They understand the marketplace. They understand entrepreneurial risk and reward. They understand the private sector, and it's not the public sector that has made this industry flourish. In fact it's the opposite of that.

[11:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan, the entrepreneurial class of this province, they were damaged. And they were damaged almost beyond repair by the actions of the NDP, the members opposite. And that has taken some 35 years to repair the damage, to salvage the years of neglect, and to move on with our government's attitude of steady growth which is good for the people of this province.

The NDP is clinging to their nationalization philosophy, and it will be the exact thing that will be the undoing of the New Democratic Party for decades. It will be written down in history for all to read and discuss and to ask, what happened?

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also like to discuss the potash profile with the value of potash sales. And it's currently a very substantial 3.1 billion annually. The potash reserves located in our province are massive, and by conservative estimates Saskatchewan could supply world demand at current levels for several hundred years. Saskatchewan offshore sales are made through a marketing company owned by the Saskatchewan potash industry. It has received numerous export awards and has a record of first-class, dependable service.

Less than 5 per cent of Saskatchewan potash is sold in Canada. And about 45 per cent of Saskatchewan potash exports go to the United States, while most of the remainder of exports is sold to markets in the Pacific Rim and Latin America.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan has an exceptional size and quality of ore reserves, combined with the lowest production costs in the world. So our government, the Saskatchewan Party government, is committed to maintaining a fair and competitive royalty and taxation regime. We want to receive a fair return for our resources while encouraging investment and job creation.

So I see my time is up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I do support the motion, as well as my government. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity to stand and enter this debate. I think it's kind of an odd motion because there's so much that we could be talking about in a world that's changing so rapidly. And the government has a lot on its plate and they could be talking about other things, but they choose to be doing this.

But you know, on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I do thank the opportunity to talk about some of our leadership candidates. In fact I will talk about them all because I think we've got an amazing group of candidates out there talking to people right across this province.

And it's an extended period. You know, some people thought our leadership campaign was a little too long, but they're getting a chance to actually talk to people about issues, compared to the two-week consultation period this government feels is more than adequate to talk about the nuclear reactors. And we know many people in Saskatchewan are very, very concerned.

What are some of the kind of things that this government . . . I'm surprised that they haven't raised this issue. Today we hear there are 3,000 jobs lost in the last three months in Saskatchewan. You would think that would be an issue. In fact I was listening to the previous speaker. She didn't talk about the jobs that potash create or oil creates in this province. She didn't want to talk about the jobs. She's talking about tax and that kind of thing, not the kind of things, bread-and-butter issues, that people in Saskatchewan are very interested in.

We're not talking today about the value of building permits in this province. I understand that it's gone down some 43.5 per cent over the last year. The largest drop in Canada. The largest drop in Canada. We could be talking about that. And we've not had a debate at all about the forestry sector, and I know there's members over there who represent some of the ridings affected by that. They've chosen not to discuss that issue. And of course another major bread-and-butter issue is of course the skyrocketing utility and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] rates. We're not talking about that. We're not talking about water quality in this province and we should be talking about that, an issue that's facing people. Again a bread-and-butter issue that we need to be talking about.

An issue that relates an awful lot to my riding, but I know right across this province, the HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] epidemic. The minister moved quickly to set up a committee that will study this. Unbelievable. He's known about this for several months and he's chosen on that day to meet with some folks. The duty to consult. Why aren't we talking about that? Well, you know, and I could go on and on about poverty issues and an anti-poverty strategy that we need so badly in this province. I may get to that, but clearly we're not talking about

that today.

My colleague, the MLA from Battleford, really said it well. So clearly. He can't understand the government's opposition to democracy where you have a full discussion in public about issues. Why are those people so opposed to that kind of thing? In fact, they bring it up as if it's a bad thing to be talking about issues here in Saskatchewan. We know, you know their leadership race last time was not so great. They only had one person brave enough to step forward. We know the kind of policy conventions they have, where actually — can't really call them policy conventions because they don't really have policy. You know we've heard of conventions where they've had one or two resolutions on some things. You'd wonder, is this really the most important thing we can be doing?

But, Mr. Speaker, I really want to take a minute to talk about our four candidates and I'll have to go through this relatively quickly. I went through their websites today. It's just some fantastic stuff. In fact two of our candidates were in *The StarPhoenix* this morning. I was really proud to hear that my colleague from Moose Jaw . . . And I'll read the headline, and I quote, "NDP leadership hopeful Higgins vows to fight poverty." What a brave, solid idea. Somebody stepping up to the plate in this province saying this is an issue we need to deal with. We've got to hear more of this. And clearly it's responding. We know there are people. We've heard from people right across the province. Why don't we have a strategy? Here I have my colleague and somebody I hope does really well in the race, stepping up to the plate, talking about poverty issues. Not on one-off announcements, but she has a good grasp of the issues right from housing to children's issues to basic wages. Very, very innovative and I'm really glad to hear it. And you know, Mr. Speaker, it's on the website and the government can take a look at that.

And she talks about other issues. She talks about democratic reform. Why aren't we talking about democratic reform? The kind of things that we need to have so that people do get engaged in, well for a policy. And of course she talks about women's issues, and clearly that's a huge issue for people in Saskatchewan. And I hear the government silent on this issue — silent. Only on women's day do they actually come forward and talk about some things. And we know some of the challenges that women face that we have to have a strategy to overcome.

And what does she have to say about nuclear power, Mr. Speaker? And this is on the website. You can actually go and see this very clear. And I quote here:

As leader of the NDP, I believe our time and energy is better spent looking to conservation and clean, renewable sources of energy than on finding ways to make nuclear fit our needs. Wind and solar power are reliable, cost-effective energy supplies that can help us build a cleaner future for our children in the jobs of the future.

Mr. Speaker, this is very well thought out. Really thinking about energy as a whole package, not putting all our eggs in one basket as this government seems intent on doing.

And of course I want to go on to another candidate, Ryan Meili,

who today had an opinion piece in *The StarPhoenix*. And what does he say? I quote:

Saskatchewan has the greatest potential for wind and solar energy . . . in the country. We can obtain all of our energy needs from renewable [energy] sources such as wind, solar, and small-scale hydro, rather than non-renewable technologies such as coal, fossil fuels and nuclear power.

I think it's great that our candidates are stepping up to the plate and having a full discussion about the issues that are facing people here in Saskatchewan. Again, not putting everything in one basket and saying we've got two weeks to talk about it. That's shameful, Mr. Speaker. And I think our candidates are bringing the conversations, hearing and listening to people out in Saskatchewan, talking about ideas that matter to people in Saskatchewan.

He goes on and he's got a piece about environment, about education, about labour. And of course we could talk about labour, Bill 5 and 6, what this government did to working men and women in Saskatchewan, but we're not talking about that. And of course health care, very knowledgeable.

Then of course we have Yens Pedersen. And again, he's out there. He's been out there talking to people. And again, a very good quality candidate who's putting forward some fresh ideas for our party and for our province. And I would really encourage the members opposite to take a look at some of the things he's talking about. Of course he talks about the cornerstones of Saskatchewan, principles for the new direction. I found this very engaging. I think this fellow has put a lot of thought into policy development. We need to be talking about these things right across Saskatchewan.

He's talking about families. He talks about, our family is the most important aspect of our life. And I agree with him on that, Mr. Speaker, because it's clear we see challenges throughout the province. We see challenges that the Minister of Social Services is facing, because we have families that are being challenged by living in the economy that's making it more difficult. The cost of living. Utility rates are going up. Housing is not there. We need to support that.

He goes on, talks about Saskatchewan's economy provides opportunities for innovation, security, and prosperity. He's thinking ahead of the game, not again like this government here putting all their eggs in one basket and going gung-ho on that. He's talking about the environment.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, our fourth candidate — and of course he was the first one in the race — was Dwain Lingenfelter. And of course he has a lot of experience in this province in the oil industry, in agriculture, and of course in government generally.

And if you go to his website, very engaging policy discussions that he has laid out for people in Saskatchewan to take a look at. And I would encourage members opposite to take a look at that and actually read what he has on his website. You know, he talks about gender parity — very, very important. And then he talks about the energy future.

I'm running out of time, Mr. Speaker. I wish I had more time to talk about this. But of course, you know, this week we've heard about how one minister views blue skies. He doesn't like anybody talking blue sky. What we hear now is actually Chicken Little's speech talking about the sky is falling. Not talking about the future, but talking about the past.

Mr. Speaker, there was a Jewish proverb I'd like to quote, "What you don't see with your eyes, don't witness with your mouth." And, Mr. Speaker, I hear that so much from the government, that they're willing to shoot off at the mouth about some ideas. They really need to take some time and get some experience. I will be against this motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it really is concerning when you've got a political party in this province that has an agenda to limit the growth of this province.

We have a slate of candidates that obviously do not understand the potential of this province. They do not understand business. They do not understand wealth creation or forward thinking to move this province forward, Mr. Speaker.

And then in the past 16 month, this government has created more investment opportunities, more jobs, a larger tax base, and tax reduction for the people of this province then ever before. And I think we should be grateful for that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Michelson: — The people of this province deserve better than what the NDP has to offer. Where this province should have been advancing over the past decades, they've had a mindset of a wee province, a mindset that we'll be in and out of equalization and limited vision for the future.

When Dwain Lingenfelter says allowing the privatization of Saskatchewan oil and potash corporation was a big mistake, and that he is committed, he's committed to setting up his own drilling and exploration company if he becomes premier, Mr. Speaker, this is very frightening indeed.

[11:30]

Arguably the front-runner, Dwain Lingenfelter, used the socialist theme to line his pockets with the profits and then went into the private enterprise to do more of that and now is coming back to nationalize the strongest industries that contribute to this provincial revenue. He'll say anything that will benefit himself.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we look at this province and the wealth that it has within its boundaries, Mr. Speaker, almost half the agricultural land — we've got the second-largest oil producer in Canada, the third-largest producer of gas, the largest deposits of uranium in the world, Mr. Speaker, the largest deposit of potash, quality products — the opportunities in this province

are huge indeed.

But history has shown that socialism has restricted our growth. It doesn't work. It didn't work, and it never worked.

Mr. Speaker, if we take this whole concept of socialism, and just for an example, let's put it in the classroom. Let's say we've got our 40-50 per cent students. We've got our 60-70 per cent students and the 80-90 per cent students. If you implement the socialist idea, you'll say, well these 40-50 per cent students need some assistance, so we'll take some points from the 80s and 90s and move it back. And what really happens is the whole class average just diminishes because you haven't got the 40-50 per cent students working like they should, and the 80-90 per cent students will obviously not work as hard because they're not getting the advantage of the efforts that they put into it.

The whole concept of socialism implemented just doesn't work. And, you know, we've got proof of this. In fact we should all have an education, a university diploma in regards to this because this whole lesson cost us over \$200 million to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

They did it because the government was trying to run business — business that they don't know anything about, that they should never have been involved with. And I'll tell you some of the courses in this degree that we should have. Tappedinto.com cost us \$6.7 million. Navigata cost us \$43.3 million. SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] another \$35 million. Like, we should have university degrees for these because there was a lesson we should have learned. But obviously on that side, they have never learned it.

Government cannot and it should not be in business. It lacks the knowledge. It lacks the expertise. It lacks the vision.

Government in business will drive out private investment from our province, and it will put thousands of people out of work. Let business do business. Let government govern. Business needs to know that they will always be able to do business in this province without the threat of being overtaken or being placed in competition with the public purse.

Saskatchewan had another big lesson on this. It was *The Potash Development Act* of the mid-'70s that arguably was the most restrictive legislation ever introduced in this House. The NDP, the power of the day, used this bully tactics to bring into the law *The Potash Development Act* which literally drove business out of the province, and it further discouraged investment in this province

The government of the day got their way. They bought out the potash companies and consequently devastated the investment opportunities in this province. Companies were saying, how could we ever trust a government that will use the legislative arm of government to exploit whatever they want, whenever they want?

People of this province . . . It drove out people of this province. People were absolutely abandoning this province to find opportunities elsewhere, and they did. The NDP nationalized the industry, giving our province the label of being one of the worst places to invest in the country.

In 1989 the government got out of the potash business, and the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan became the largest company in Canada. It became the largest since then because the NDP philosophy just didn't work. It was wrong. This is even noted in *The StarPhoenix* on April 22, 2008: the Potash Corporation leads the pack. Saskatoon-based potash producers most valuable firm on the Toronto exchange.

It went on to say, the market value of the Potash Corporation is now nearly 60 times of the initial worth after nationalization was reversed in the late 1989s. Twenty years and it went up by 60 per cent. It shows you the power of the private investment and what it should be doing for this province.

You know, the member from Coronation Park said in one of the debates regarding the repeal of this Act, “. . . the fact that this repeal of The Potash . . . [Corporation] Act is largely a meaningless gesture” is what he called it, Mr. Speaker. He went on to say, “I don't think it's going to increase their productive . . . [capabilities] by 1 tonne a year.” He went on to say, “I don't think it's going to increase investment by the potash industry or anyone else by a \$1 year.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't know what he's talking about. Last year, \$930 million were in land sales. We set records in every jurisdiction. \$1.5 billion in potash revenue, a huge record. When we talk about expansion investment, the potash industry is planning to spend \$8.5 billion expanding by 2020, increasing productivity by up to 87 per cent. How wrong could that member be?

The same thing could be said about SaskOil. Since 1986 when SaskOil was dissolved, Saskatchewan oil production has gone up from 73.7 per cent . . . 73.7 million barrels annually to 160.9 million barrels in 2008 — well over doubling the production. The oil and gas industry brings with it the expertise, the capital necessary to unlock the resource potential, and does not put taxpayers' money at risk.

Another leader talked about the floating royalty rates. Well let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, this would cripple the industry in Saskatchewan. When Alberta toyed with royalty rates, it sent investment away. Alberta recently proposed this. And while Saskatchewan had a record year in land sales, Alberta land sales were only 25 per cent of their 2006 sales. Saskatchewan and BC benefit by royalty changes to Alberta would be a grave mistake.

Mr. Speaker, business has to run business. They have the expertise, the knowledge, the capital, and are willing to be involved. Let government clear the way for investment and collect the royalties and the taxes and benefit the people of Saskatchewan. That's the way business works. That's the way to create wealth and well-being for the people of Saskatchewan without putting public money at risk. It's been proven that it works.

And we oppose the recent pronouncement from the NDP leadership candidates that would support the nationalization of Saskatchewan's potash and oil industry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that I think it's fairly clear, and certainly I've made it clear to the media and hopefully to the public, that I support Dwain Lingenfelter in his quest to become the leader of the Saskatchewan NDP.

And so at the outset I want to thank the members opposite for the motion they put forward and for focusing attention on the campaign of Dwain Lingenfelter as he pursues the leadership of the Saskatchewan NDP. It's a rare opportunity that the government members of a different political party would help to focus attention on a leadership candidate such as this, so I very much appreciate that.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I might say that the motion is a very timely motion because the deadline for purchasing a membership or for renewing a membership in the Saskatchewan NDP, in order to be able to vote in the leadership contest on June 6, the deadline for renewing a membership or purchasing a membership is April 24. So I want to thank the government members for their timely motion and allowing us to talk about the leadership and our party.

Mr. Speaker, I'm always pleased to speak about leadership in a political sense in Saskatchewan. Always pleased to have an opportunity to contrast and compare the leadership of the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation], which is the precursor of the NDP, and then the NDP in Saskatchewan, as compared to the leadership being offered by the right in Saskatchewan.

We have seen on the part of the CCF and the NDP, whether it's Douglas, Lloyd, Blakeney, Romanow, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, also the member for Saskatoon Riversdale now, that the NDP has had real leadership or vision, competence, and ability for people of Saskatchewan. And I think one of the reasons that the NDP has formed government for much of the last 65 years is because we have been able to put forward competent leadership, and therefore I look forward to Mr. Lingenfelter carrying on with that tradition, Mr. Speaker.

I just note in that vein that since 1944, when the CCF was first elected in Saskatchewan, in a period of about 65 years — 65 years — the CCF-NDP has had five leaders in that period of time, from 1944 through till today. On the other hand, the Saskatchewan Party has had five leaders in 15 years, going back to 1994. And some days we thought they had a monthly revolving door in terms of leadership on the other side. Can't really judge the current leader of the right, of the Sask Party in Saskatchewan; he's only been Premier now for 16 months. It's hard to come to any conclusions, to make any informed judgment on the very little that we've seen so far.

His record in business prior to coming into public life wasn't a particularly great record. It's not one that's played up by the members opposite. Although, you know, it can be said that this was a Premier that took over at a stage in our history when things were going better than they ever had before on all of the indicators. And so he's had a lot of opportunity, has had lots of resources to play with, Mr. Speaker. Their problem over there is

that they sometimes tend to associate coming into good fortune with their ability to manage, Mr. Speaker.

On the news about the mover's comments about differences in the NDP leadership, I just would make the observation that that is so typical of that party opposite. Imagine that, that people running for a leadership would have different opinions, would have different ideas about how this province should be governed. Not to be contrasted of course with the Sask Party opposite. When they had a convention there is no debate. This is a secretive, highly stage-managed convention, Mr. Speaker, where they trot out one or two motions that they debate — no, debate's not the right word — they discussed that they all agreed to, Mr. Speaker. I can't think of a more secretive, stage-managed political party when they are trotted out for the public view than the Saskatchewan Party.

And perhaps one of the reasons that the Saskatchewan NDP has done very well over the years is because we tend to take on the difficult issues that confront them. We debate them. We discuss them in the full light of day so that the public knows where we come from and where it is that we're going, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the issue raised in this motion is one of public ownership. I think the real question here on public ownership is to look at the Saskatchewan Party. I note that one day the member for Swift Current, shortly after his election, comes into the legislature and rails against Crown corporations and Crown ownership, and that's the thing that has held Saskatchewan back over all these years — never mind the fact that within a few years Saskatchewan was turning up and leading the nation in all kinds of indicators — but it's Crown ownership that held Saskatchewan back for so long.

And then, you know, he becomes the Crown critic and then in the subsequent election people figuratively beat them over the head and said, don't touch the Crown corporations. And then he has, you know, an epiphany — an awakening. He says okay, we won't touch the Crown corporations, of course except through the back door, which they try to do at all times.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the ideology on that side has changed. They distrust, don't like, frankly would look for opportunities to divest the Saskatchewan people of the ownership they have in Crown corporations and other public investments, Mr. Speaker.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, all of this raises the question why the Sask Party of the day, then called the PCs [Progressive Conservative], sold off the public's interest in PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.]. Because the motion talks about, I think, or Lingenfelter is supposedly talking about the Potash Corporation.

There is still a question of why it is that the Sask Party of the day, then called the PC Party of Saskatchewan, would sell off the public share in an enterprise and sell it off at a period of record low potash prices, and therefore foist on Saskatchewan people a cost which is just exorbitant rate, selling things off at exactly the wrong time.

Mr. Speaker, to us that was all about ideology, not good common sense, Mr. Speaker, as was the decision, the foolish decision by the Sask Party, then called the PC Party, in 1982-83 to sell off all the equipment owned by the Department of Highways. What a stupid thing that was to do, Mr. Speaker. I can't for the life of me, and Saskatchewan people still can't understand why the right would be so blinded by their ideology that they would sell off the highways equipment from the Department of Highways, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a word about SaskEnergy. Certainly one of the dumbest decisions that's ever been undertaken by the right in Saskatchewan was to successively sell off the government's ownership, the public's ownership of gas reserves in Saskatchewan. Now here you have the situation of, we owned the natural gas — and natural gas is a commodity that's in great demand by people in Saskatchewan — we owned the natural gas in Saskatchewan. They have taken steps over the years to divest us of that ownership, to sell the natural gas to private interests, and then we purchase the natural gas back for our consumers.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there are places in the world where they don't approach things in a straight ideological fashion such as that, and where they have far more enlightened leadership. Even in Alberta, you had the city of Medicine Hat that doesn't take the natural gas they have, sell it to private interests, and then buy it back from them to meet the needs of their customers, Mr. Speaker. No, they access the gas directly, and they maintain the ownership of that.

So what we have here, Mr. Speaker, is a motion that speaks to straight ideology, and all I can say is that the public doesn't care about ideology. All the public wants is good services at low cost. What they don't want, Mr. Speaker, is philosophy lessons, and then paying through the nose. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Time has elapsed on the 65-minute debate. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, no party has displayed such flawed ideological tunnel vision as the Sask Party, its conservative predecessors, its roots in the Canadian Alliance party, and its roots in the Reform Party.

A question to the member from Moose Jaw North: why did his Tory heroes sell PCS at a record low value? Why did his Tory heroes sell highway equipment at fire sale prices? Mr. Speaker, why does his party have such lousy business sense?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, if the records serve me, the upgrader was sold at record low prices just prior to the election. And I would certainly talk about Wascana Energy, and all of those kinds of investments that they had and they sold at record prices. Cameco shares.

That says nothing about SPUDCO and tappedinto, and all those kind of investments that weren't even sold; they were just lost investments from the people of Saskatchewan. And it cost everybody \$200 a piece just for that lesson, for all the investments that that government made when they were in power and lost money on consistently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recent days the big oil lobbyist from Calgary — Dwain Lingenfelter, who's running for the NDP leadership — has said that the privatization of Saskoil was a big mistake for the province. He went on to say that the government should get back to setting up an energy company to do drilling, Mr. Speaker. So I would ask the member for The Battlefords — I believe the opposition's energy critic — with the Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Show coming up in about two months in the city of Weyburn, I was wondering if he would put on the record whether he agrees with leadership candidate Dwain Lingenfelter, that this province should get back into the oil and gas business; and whether or not he would also say that, should he be attending the oil and gas show this year in June, if he would put that on the record, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question of the member opposite. Members may have noticed that I had to duck out of the Chamber for a few minutes when this debate began, Mr. Speaker. And members would be interested to know that I was on the phone with SaskPower, because I wanted to see what was happening in the province, Mr. Speaker, when the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford began his remarks. And SaskPower reports . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And SaskPower reports that power consumption in the province has dropped 20 per cent since this debate started, Mr. Speaker, as television sets all over the province are being turned off. The people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, want to have their government deal with issues that are pertinent — pertinent to the lives of people in this province today.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the invitation of the member from Weyburn to the Weyburn oil and gas show. Mr. Speaker, I have great confidence in the oil and gas sector, and will continue to support the oil and gas sector working in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the member from Moose Jaw North. In his speech he talked a lot about

business savvy and the facts of his expertise in the business world. And we know one of the traits of somebody who's in good in business is thinking outside the box — thinking outside the box. So I'm curious what his views are when it comes to how we develop our economy, especially through the energy sector, and what they often term in business as blue skying?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Thanks to the opposition for the question from the opposite side.

Mr. Speaker, government shouldn't be in business. They've got the power to taxate. They've got the power to regulate. That's what they do. Let the experts who know how to run business come into the province with their capital and investment in here and create jobs. Create jobs and opportunities and no nationalization. It doesn't work. It hasn't worked in the past. It hasn't worked around the world, and it hasn't worked here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much of the province was shocked to hear that NDP leadership front-runner, apparently by a wide margin, Dwain Lingenfelter, has become anti-business with the desire to nationalize the resource industries in Saskatchewan. This announcement by Mr. Lingenfelter must be one of the biggest flip-flops in political history. We all know Mr. Lingenfelter left to work for one of Canada's largest oil companies.

It's also well known that he supported Jim Dinning's attempt to become leader of the Conservative government in Alberta. Jim Dinning was a person who was the lead on privatization in Alberta. Does the member from Regina Douglas Park, who is a public supporter of Mr. Lingenfelter, actually believe that nationalization will make people move to Saskatchewan and start up a business, when the government could eventually take their business from them?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of over-the-top, inflated rhetoric, ideologically based comments that concern Saskatchewan people. You know at the end of the day, Saskatchewan people just want very good services and they want it at the lowest cost possible, and they don't much particularly care as to how that takes place. That's what they want.

The member will know from his own roots in rural municipalities that RM [rural municipality] members don't spend a lot of time wondering about what's the best thing to do. They think about what is the most cost-effective thing to do for their constituents and that's what they set out to do.

I would just make this other observation, Mr. Speaker. In Mr.

Lingenfelter, Saskatchewan NDP will have a leader that has a proven record of competence in business, as opposed to the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The people across the province are absolutely fixated on why the Saskatchewan Party is so fixated on the NDP leadership, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we don't know if this is Lingenfelter envy, Mr. Speaker, or that they simply don't know how to involve the people of the province in the operations of the province. Mr. Speaker, and then they would rather waste time talking about irrelevant things . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member may re-place his question.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we've heard for the last number of weeks repeatedly, either members' statements or motions like this dealing with the NDP leadership. Mr. Speaker, my question for them is, Mr. Speaker, if any of them would like to buy memberships — in particular, the member from Moose Jaw North — we're prepared to sell it after. Would he like to buy an NDP membership?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Michelson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, you know I've been offered this, to buy a membership, before this. One of the party faithfuls for them actually bought a membership from me in the campaign, and I appreciate it because they could see the value of the candidate. They could see the value of the person.

Mr. Speaker, when he talks about the fixation of this side of the House, let me tell you, the fixation on the side of the House by the people on this side of the House are fixated about the future of this province, the advancement of this province, and the betterment for all the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the NDP leadership race, we've heard many interesting comments. But nothing was more surprising than to hear the front-runner calling for the nationalization of the oil industry. This pronouncement shows his clear intentions to renew the NDP's support and desire to return to the 1950s mentality. I wonder what other businesses Mr. Lingenfelter is planning on expropriating.

The question is for the member from The Battlefords. By his silence on these issues, the member must be supporting such regressive measures. Why has he not stood up for

Saskatchewan and denounced this kind of NDP candidate's comments?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the member would say my silence. I think I've been quite vocal today on this subject and others.

Mr. Speaker, New Democrats believe in a mixed economy where the public sector, the private sector, and the co-operative sector work together in the interests of all the people of this province. Mr. Speaker, I stand by the principles of the New Democratic Party and will continue to talk about them, not be silent, for as long as I'm an MLA.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Bill No. 603 — *The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act*

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 603 — *The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand today to take part in the debate on Bill No. 603. Mr. Speaker, on reviewing this Bill, there's a number of issues that I have with the Bill. I don't think the Bill was very well thought out. I think it was put forward by the member from Douglas Park as some fictitious leaning of a personal thing.

And I'd like to comment. I'm going to put some comments on the record, Mr. Speaker. But I do want to just comment a little bit about the member from Douglas Park's comments. And it's very, very clear from his comments he's still living in the '80s. Going through *Hansard* and looking at the numbers of times that he referred to the '80s, he's obviously still living there. And I think, Mr. Speaker, he talked about the '80s to the extent that I might talk about SPUDCO. I think that's only fair that I bring stuff like SPUDCO up equal amounts of time as he brought up the '80s.

[12:00]

I start looking at the member from Douglas Park's speech and he talks about, "Reporting of government activities, finances, results, is a long-held tradition." Insert SPUDCO. How does that ring with the long-held traditions of the NDP for reporting? And that's why I'm going to use SPUDCO, plus others, a few times in my remarks to this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

And you start looking at the "... principle of reporting and

accountability in Saskatchewan's legislative history." These are the member from Douglas Park's words, Mr. Speaker, right out of *Hansard*. So again, looking at reporting and accountability, insert SPUDCO. How can members on that side of the House even address some of the issues when that cloud is hanging over them? It's very, very interesting to hear how hypocritical that those members are, and can be, when they start talking about being accountable and transparent.

Now I could go through a whole a bunch of other issues, but SPUDCO has to be the one that really leads the case from the NDP because, Mr. Speaker, that was covered up for six years. Covered up.

Now we know there's other areas. When you start looking at the Fodey incident, that was covered up, I think, for 12 years or 11 years or 13 years or something like that. So accountability — they do not have a leg to stand on.

When we start going through some of the aspects of his speech, Mr. Speaker, the member from Douglas Park even gets into a little bit of an argument with himself. And, you know, the funny thing about arguing with himself, Mr. Speaker, there wasn't a clear-cut winner. And he gets talking about well, you know, we'd want to see this done, but that's federal jurisdiction. Then he'd say, well the province should do this, but it's federal jurisdiction. And so he doesn't even know where he's going with his own talk on the subject.

Now he also got into the topic of equalization. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that that member is living in the past. Because if you look at what equalization is for, equalization is for have-not provinces, to try and make the country more equitable in terms of services. So if a province is doing extremely well, they pay money to the federal government and into the equalization fund, if you wish. And if the province is not doing as well as others, then they receive equalization from the federal government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my recollection is today that we are a have province. So why would the member from Douglas Park be talking about equalization? He's obviously living in the past again because under the reign of the NDP government, we were a have-not province. For the majority of the time that they were in power, this province was a have-not province, so in fact we were the recipients of equalization.

But for the member to now start talking today, in this day, about equalization when we're a have province, and he's brought that up on a few occasions in his speech, Mr. Speaker. So again very hypocritical, the member living in the past when this province is doing well, especially well when compared to other provinces in our economic downturn at the time.

And ... [inaudible interjection] ... Yes I think we should mention SPUDCO one more time because that was a provincial decision by the government. And did I mention that they covered it up for six years? They actually were not truthful to the people of Saskatchewan for a six-year period on SPUDCO, and yet they want to talk about openness and accountability.

And there's many more cases such as SPUDCO, Mr. Speaker. But in the interests of time, I won't go through all of the cases

that they've messed up in the past.

But I do want to put some comments on record in direct relation to Bill 603. It will basically identify why this Bill . . . I know the member talked a little earlier in the debate about something being silliest and dumbest. Well I think some of that could go along with this Bill, Mr. Speaker. So I do want to enter into the record some issues that we have with the Bill and why I would be unable to support the Bill.

If you look at the administrative side of it, provinces sign hundreds of federal-provincial agreements having financial implications, administered through various provincial and federal ministries. And you would think the member from Douglas Park should know that because he used to be Finance minister. Now it really makes me wonder what he did as Finance minister by not knowing all of these things. It is extremely scary to the province while he was there because if he didn't know all of this stuff, who's running the boat?

While Saskatchewan knows what federal financial resources are allocated to our province, it would not know what other jurisdictions are receiving under their specific bilateral arrangements with Ottawa. And the member should know that. So how could we be accountable for other jurisdictions, what kind of money that they get?

Each province may account for federal payments differently. An example is the way provinces and the federal government accounted for the 2007-2008 federal trust payments. While Saskatchewan recorded these payments as revenue — they were legally available after federal enacting legislation was passed and eligibility requirements were met — other jurisdictions applied different accounting and reporting treatment. This would make interprovincial comparisons very difficult and likely not very useful. Again the member should have known this.

And what's not included, Mr. Speaker? A number of federal payments being invested in Saskatchewan would not be recorded as a federal transfer payment in the General Revenue Fund. Some federal payments flow directly to other parties, such as cities. A decision would have to be reached on how to account for these federal transfers and whether there is consistency between provinces and how these payments are accounted for, significantly increasing complexity and compliance.

Saskatchewan wouldn't know what other jurisdictions have as federal funding agreements that involve other parties like cities. Now you would think, you would think a former Finance minister would know that, Mr. Speaker.

And access — there's no certainty that other jurisdictions would be prepared to share the level of detail being requested under Bill 603. It would require all provinces to report details of federal payments, requiring both significant compliance efforts and potentially the agreement of each province's third parties who benefit from these payments. That basically puts this Bill into the not well thought out category, Mr. Speaker. And for those reasons I will not be able to support this Bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite surprised this morning that the government seems to be so afraid of this Bill. It basically requests that the government provide the legislature with some simple information based on the federal public accounts. And the whole point of the Bill is to have clear information about the federal transfers that come to this province.

Mr. Speaker, when we work here in the province, we end up wanting to understand what kinds of funds are coming from the federal government. Unfortunately we don't always get clear information when it's directed out of the Prime Minister's office or out of the Premier's office.

But, Mr. Speaker, what this particular legislation would do would allow for the Public Accounts Committee to review what the Provincial Auditor assesses, based on working together with the report of the federal Auditor General. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the clear roles of both government and opposition in the legislature is to get clear information that we can all use to develop public policy.

Now we know from a number of different situations over quite a number of decades that it's not always clear what the federal transfers are as far as money coming to the province. I was a bit surprised that the Minister of Finance did not enter into this debate to set out some of the concerns, although I do appreciate the member who did speak, that he identified a couple of areas where there could be some work.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Provincial Auditor, working together with the federal Auditor General, could deal with those kinds of payments that are made by the federal government to cities. It all shows up in the federal legislation. I think that we could also deal with some of the accounting treatment of how payments are made. There is a body of federal provincial auditors and provincial auditors who actually set out the rules so that there is more common reporting across the country.

But frankly, Mr. Speaker, I think that the government is afraid of this Bill because of the defence that they've made of our present Prime Minister and some of the promises that he made to the people of Saskatchewan that he has not kept. And that goes right to the heart of getting clear information to the legislature.

We will continue to push this concept and I encourage the members opposite to carefully look at what this particular legislation does, because what it will do is answer many of the questions that the public are concerned about. And I think that that's a fundamental reason for going forward with legislation.

So I'm speaking in favour of this motion and I look forward to the vote.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Regina Douglas Park that Bill No. 603, *The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the

question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour say Aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the nays have it. Standing vote. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:12 until 12:19.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Regina Douglas Park that Bill No. 603, *The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act* be now read a second time.

Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 14]

| | | |
|-------|------|--------------|
| Junor | Trew | Van Mulligen |
|-------|------|--------------|

The Speaker: — Order.

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---------|
| Nilson | Yates | Higgins |
| Furber | Forbes | Morin |
| Taylor | Quennell | Brotten |
| McCall | Wotherspoon | |

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

[Nays — 35]

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Wall | Stewart | Elhard |
| Bjornerud | Draude | Krawetz |
| Boyd | Eagles | McMorris |
| D'Autremont | Hickie | Cheveldayoff |
| Tell | Gantfoer | Harpauer |
| Norris | Morgan | Hutchinson |
| Huyghebaert | Brkich | Hart |
| Kirsch | Allchurch | Weekes |
| Chisholm | Wilson | Duncan |
| Michelson | LeClerc | Ottenbreit |
| Ross | Reiter | Bradshaw |
| Harrison | McMillan | |

Clerk: — Those in favour of the second reading motion, 14. Those opposed, 35.

The Speaker: — The motion is defeated. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — Prior to placing the motion, I want to extend best wishes for a happy and pleasant Easter weekend and Easter break. I look forward to seeing the members again on April 20.

The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This Assembly stands adjourned until April 20 at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:22.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Huyghebaert | 2737 |
| Van Mulligen | 2737 |

PRESENTING PETITIONS

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Iwanchuk | 2737 |
| Forbes | 2737 |
| Morin | 2737 |
| Taylor | 2737 |
| Brotten | 2738 |

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Huyghebaert | 2738 |
|-------------------|------|

St. Ann's Senior Citizens' Village

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Junor | 2738 |
|-------------|------|

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

| | |
|------------|------|
| Hart | 2738 |
|------------|------|

Vimy Ridge Day

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Yates | 2739 |
|-------------|------|

NDP Leadership Candidate

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Harrison | 2739 |
|----------------|------|

Easter Message

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Brotten | 2739 |
| Ottenbreit | 2740 |

QUESTION PERIOD

Plans for Regina Stadium

| | |
|------------|------|
| Trew | 2740 |
| Wall | 2740 |

Provincial Sales Tax on Used Equipment

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Van Mulligen | 2741 |
| Gantfoer | 2742 |

Regulation of Nuclear Activity

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Morin | 2743 |
| Tell | 2743 |
| Wall | 2743 |

Export of Nuclear Power

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Furber | 2744 |
| Stewart | 2744 |

Public Opinion and Consultation

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Taylor | 2744 |
| Stewart | 2744 |

Study of Alternative Energy Sources

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Taylor | 2745 |
| Stewart | 2745 |

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Weekes | 2745 |
|--------------|------|

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

NDP Leadership Candidates

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Chisholm | 2745 |
| Taylor | 2747, 2754 |
| Wilson | 2748 |
| Forbes | 2750, 2754 |
| Michelson | 2751, 2754 |
| Van Mulligen | 2753, 2755 |
| Brotten | 2754 |
| Duncan | 2754 |
| Reiter | 2755 |
| Yates | 2755 |
| Ross | 2755 |

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Bill No. 603 — *The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act*

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Huyghebaert | 2756 |
| Nilson | 2757 |
| Recorded Division | 2758 |

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

Hon. Bob Bjornerud
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Crown Corporations

Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Minister of Government Services
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and
Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Information
Technology Office

Hon. June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs

Hon. Wayne Elhard
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice
Attorney General

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Workers'
Compensation Board

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Enterprise and Innovation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Capital City Commission