



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

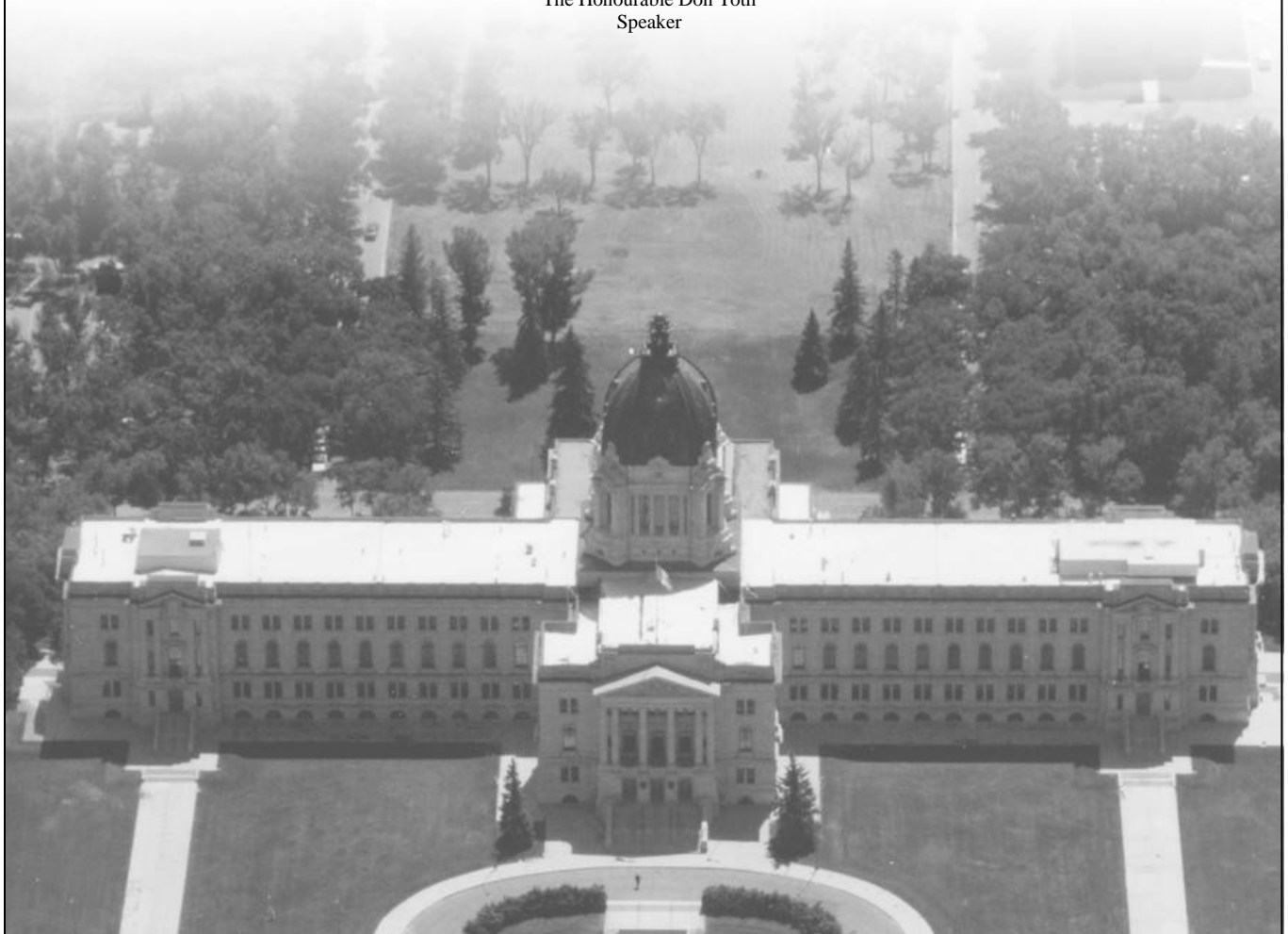
of the

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
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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 13:30.]

Clerk: — Members, I wish to advise you that Mr. Speaker is not present today to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Carlton.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And to you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, I have the privilege this afternoon of introducing seven guests sitting in your gallery, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from Prince Albert. If you could just give a wave when I mention your name, please. Fern Fernie who is the chairperson of the elder abuse prevention committee in Prince Albert; Sandy Pitzel, the coordinator of the elder abuse prevention committee and also she is with the Community Against Family Violence.

We have Sandy's children today with us: Leon, Julianna, and Judson. And I might add Judson was in my wife's class last year in Prince Albert; so he's a very smart student, I'll have you know that. And we have with us today Gail Kentzel-Taylor who is the manager of housing services for the Prince Albert Housing Authority. And last but not least, Julie Pitzel, Sandy's mom, who is the Aboriginal resource officer for the Prince Albert Police Service victim services section, who I had the privilege of working with for the last eight years of my life as a member of the police service.

And today I'd like to tell you that they're here in Regina attending the United Against Elder Abuse seminar. So I'd like to have all members please welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Junor: — I'd like to also welcome our guests to the legislature. I attended this seminar yesterday and heard your presentation and I really learned a lot. And I appreciate the work that you do and wanted to also say congratulations and good work on behalf of the opposition.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the west gallery we have 25 grade 8 students from the fine community of Wymark that I would like to introduce and welcome to their legislature this afternoon. They're accompanied by teachers Amy Satre, Garnet Dyck; chaperones Brent Nelson and Ed Wiebe. I stopped earlier to see

the folks. I didn't have a chance to talk to them, but Brad Gasper is one that usually shows up with the Wymark School, and unfortunately he's not well today and couldn't make the trip.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll be meeting right after question period with this group for a short period of time, and I would ask all members of the Assembly to please welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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. It's my pleasure to introduce to you a group from Douglas Park School from the constituency of — well you guessed it — Regina Douglas Park. Now I know that members always talk about bright, inquisitive students, even though they haven't met with them.

But I met with this particular group and I can tell you this is a group of very bright, inquisitive students, and it was a delight to meet with them. They're grade 3 and 4 students at Regina Douglas Park School, and they're accompanied by their teacher, Joanne Patron, and also two chaperones, Sandy Schick and Leasa Gibbons. Leasa might be known to the members of the Assembly as she was a Page here at one time.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all the members to please join me in extending a very warm welcome to this group of students and their chaperones.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to join with the member for Wood River in welcoming this group from Wymark School. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe there's a few there who reside in the Swift Current constituency and some I know well. And I'll take this opportunity to embarrass Amy Funk who's in the back row there. And I want to just join with the member from Wood River in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am really delighted today to introduce two members of the Thunderchild First Nation. We have with us today councillor Albert Meetoos. Councillor Meetoos's portfolio includes Thunder Employment and Field Services as well as specific claims. And we also have Darryle Weekusk. He's the director of economic development and general manager of Thunder Employment and Field Services.

I am delighted to work in co-operation with the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour to help provide skills and training support at Thunderchild. I ask everyone to please help me in welcoming two gentlemen to their Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to join with the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations and welcome councillor Albert Meetoos and general manager Darryle Weekusk from the Thunderchild First Nation. I want to say Ta wow; welcome to your Legislative Assembly on behalf of the official opposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to present a petition in support of indexing of minimum wage. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all understand that the increases in minimum wage help low-income wage earners be able to maintain the level of earning that they require as the cost of living increases. And the prayer 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 cost of living increases.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon and Regina, and I so submit.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that many of the workers who work for community-based organizations in Saskatchewan have traditionally been underpaid, and many continue to earn poverty-level wages. 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. Deputy Speaker, these folks come from Saskatoon, Martensville, Vanscoy, and Estevan. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to providing safe and affordable water. And 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake, Rosthern, and Saskatoon. I so present. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for students here in Saskatchewan through the necessary 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 a number of health care professionals working here in the province, many who have graduate degrees. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to pave Highway No. 135 that runs through Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by the leadership and community members of Pelican Narrows First Nation, the village of Pelican Narrows and area. Their prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to pave the 7 kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows, as committed on August 24, 2007.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good citizens of Pelican Narrows. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Hospice Palliative Care Week

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, May 3 to 9 is National Hospice Palliative Care Week. The vision of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Association is that all Canadians would have access to quality end-of-life care. This type of care focuses on the whole person and aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of living and dying.

Mr. Speaker, a variety of health professionals are involved in palliative care, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual advisers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, music therapists, and pharmacists. Through a collaborative approach, these care providers are able to care for the whole person during the final stages of life.

Any person who has experienced having a loved one spend time in palliative care is able to speak first-hand of the competence and compassion displayed by the professionals working in this field. For these individuals, their work is not simply a job, but a calling. I know this is the case for my wife who, I'm proud to say, works in the palliative care unit at St. Paul's Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, here at home, palliative caregivers are members of the Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association, a member organization of the national association. At the end of May, the provincial association will be gathering for its annual conference with this year's theme, The Light of Possibility. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in thanking the many professionals who work in the field of palliative care and wish them all the best at their upcoming conference. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Leadership Campaign Issues

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, this morning Deb McDonald of the NDP [New Democratic Party] did an interview on the Dwain Lingenfelter phony membership scandal. She said a couple of pretty troubling things.

First of all, she said, and I quote, "Mr. Lingenfelter indicates

that he has many volunteers. So many volunteers means many eyes would have looked at these things . . . Which also means it wouldn't have been one set of eyes looking at these." That seems to directly contradict Dwain Lingenfelter's story that this was all the work of one overexuberant volunteer.

Secondly, she was asked if she would commit to make Robert Hale's report on this scandal public. Nay, nay, nay. She said, and I quote, "Actually no, we can't."

Mr. Speaker, throughout this session we have heard a lot of sanctimony from the NDP about openness and transparency. But now that the shoe is on the other foot, it's a different story, Mr. Speaker. The NDP is facing a huge scandal that calls into question the very credibility of their leadership race. Mr. Speaker, today we are calling on the NDP to clear the air and release Mr. Hale's report on the Lingenfelter phony-baloney membership scandal.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mother's Day

Ms. Junor: — . . . Deputy Speaker. My first public speaking contest came when I was in grade 5. The topic of my speech was, "What my mother means to me." It was a tear-jerker from a 10-year-old.

Today my gratitude and appreciation of my mother, who is 83 years old, has not diminished one bit. In fact my mother is a treasured friend as well as a great mother. She's a source of strength and inspiration and a formidable political campaigner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know all of my colleagues in this legislature want to acknowledge their mothers this upcoming Mother's Day, May 10.

For those of us who still have our mothers with us, we are the lucky ones. Mr. Deputy Speaker, for those whose mothers are no longer with them, I hope that years of happy memories still make Mother's Day a special day of remembrance. For those of us who are mothers ourselves, I hope we get to spend some time with our children. For those of us who are grandmothers — isn't it wonderful?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Happy Mother's Day to all mothers out there and thank you for all that you do every day, every year, for our children.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Leadership Campaign Issues

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in today's *Leader-Post* there's a stunning quote from an NDP insider about the Dwain Lingenfelter phony membership scandal:

“The thing that surprises [me] isn’t that there was (questionable activities). The thing that surprises me is how ineptly these . . . were done.”

That tells you everything you need to know about the NDP.

The NDP are okay with corruption. In fact, they expect it. They just don’t like getting caught. Just think about the last few years for the NDP — there’s SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], Murdoch Carriere, the NDP caucus fraud scandal. The real problem for the NDP wasn’t that they did these things; the real problem was they got caught. So clearly they’re looking for a leader who is better at getting away with stuff, and they thought they’d found one until now.

And that’s the problem. The Dwain Lingenfelter phony membership scandal really is amateur hour. The whole plan never made any sense in the first place. And now that he got caught, his explanation doesn’t make any sense either. I hope Dwain Lingenfelter does become NDP leader because apparently he’s just as bad at getting away with stuff as the rest of the NDP. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Rising Hockey Star

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About hockey, his stepfather told him, “to break into the league you need to be 10 times better than your opponent — since you’re native.” And his mother worried that hockey was too violent. But Craig McCallum of Canoe Lake was determined.

Talent and a willingness to learn helped Craig to rise above his stepfather’s concerns. Craig slept with his hockey stick and played with anyone, even with the younger boys on the street in front of his house. With his passion for hockey, Craig rose above his mother’s concern.

So at 11 years old, Craig moved to Meadow Lake to live with the family of D.J. King of the St. Louis Blues. Later Craig played for Beardy’s Blackhawks, and with Beardy’s Craig became an all-star and won the league’s Most Valuable Player Award as a top scorer. Today in his second year with the team, Craig has helped the Edmonton Oil Kings make their first-ever playoff berth.

Of course Craig dreams of being drafted by an NHL [National Hockey League] team; however, Craig has also completed a year of university and he’s a member of the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] circle of honour.

I would like to state that for me Craig’s stepfather need not worry about Craig’s success outside of the First Nations community. Craig helps us recognize that we can rise above the fears which divide us. This man is a leader in both worlds and he, along with those like him, will lead us together into a unified, stronger Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Craig and his family — well done. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

Leadership Campaign Issues

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, now Dwain Lingenfelter has gone into hiding. That’s because there’s one big problem with his phony membership story. It just doesn’t make any sense.

According to Lingenfelter, this entire membership scandal is the doing of one mystery volunteer. This one mystery volunteer single-handedly signed up nearly 20 per cent of all memberships the Lingenfelter campaign sold in the entire province. This one mystery volunteer then paid for these memberships by spending 20 per cent of all of the donations the Lingenfelter campaign has collected. And this one mystery volunteer did all this without anyone else in the entire campaign knowing it.

Mr. Speaker, even the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow is questioning the story. She said, and I quote:

I know personally, that if I had a thousand memberships come in in a block and there was an expenditure by my campaign to cover the costs of those memberships, then I would for sure know about it.

Mr. Speaker, Dwain Lingenfelter’s story just doesn’t pass the smell test. It didn’t make any sense when Dwain Lingenfelter said it on Monday and that’s why he went into hiding on Tuesday. Mr. Speaker, both Dwain Lingenfelter and his mystery volunteer need to come out of the witness protection program and start answering some questions. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, recently I was privileged to attend with several legislative colleagues the 2009 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit hosted by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart. The occasion recognized the contributions made by organizations and individuals to encourage literacy and also recognize an outstanding learner.

The Affinity Credit Union received the Corporate Award for its financial support of READ Saskatoon. The recipient of the year award for a literacy program or project was the Saskatoon Literacy Coalition for its work in promoting literacy.

Pauline Daku of Kipling was recognized for decades of teaching literacy and received the award for literacy professional.

Receiving the Cameco Literacy Learner Award and bursary was Mohammed Midhi Abdullah, a young man who comes to us from Afghanistan. His is a remarkable story of personal hardship, perseverance, and determination to succeed in his new country. He is a role model and inspiration to all immigrants who struggle with transition and literacy barriers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to see my constituent, Dr. Stephen Moore, who teaches English at the University of Regina, be recognized as Literacy Volunteer of the Year for working with a couple over the past five years, helping them to improve their English skills and to attain a level of employment worthy of their credentials.

Please join me in recognizing these deserving and remarkable individuals and organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Public-Private Partnerships

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, many Saskatchewan communities are struggling to provide safe, clean, and affordable drinking water for their citizens. Families in Duck Lake are already paying 167 a month for water and there have already been at least 25 disconnections of service. Families in Hepburn face the prospect of monthly water bills of more than \$100, plus over \$10,000 in one-time construction and connection fees for their new system.

But we also know that the Sask Party is studying and promoting P3s [public-private partnership]. Is the Sask Party considering P3s for the municipal projects like water and sewage treatment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the P3 secretariat is looking at various projects. We're still actually in the formative stage for P3s, in that we're taking this very slowly to make sure that we get it right.

But in talking about municipal projects, I believe it was in 2004 when the member from Saskatoon Nutana, along with the member from Saskatoon Meewasin and the member from Regina Douglas Park, were involved in a P3 projects through CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], that they were suggesting that municipal water projects could be one of the avenues for P3s in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So it was under the NDP, Mr. Speaker, that P3s were being looked at for water projects. You know, when you look at the missing parts of this, Mr. Speaker, it's sort of like the missing Dwain Lingenfelter, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that the Sask Party is looking at changing the mandate of SaskWater, and when they are also looking at P3s, it raises many concerns. The Minister of Government Services has claimed that the benefits of P3s is that governments can transfer risk to the private sector, and he appears to believe that governments can just sign on to a P3 contract and wash their hands of any responsibility for protecting the public.

But elsewhere, experience with P3s shows that it simply doesn't work that way. For example, he can look back at the city of Hamilton experience with a P3 for its water and sewage treatment.

So to the minister: is he aware of the Hamilton experience? And if he is aware, why is he still promoting the idea of P3s?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are many examples across the world of P3s. Over 60 countries are using P3s to finance government projects, Mr. Speaker, a large number of them in Great Britain, Mr. Speaker, under Tony Blair and the Labour Party.

But, Mr. Speaker, even in Saskatchewan there have been a number of proposals under the NDP, Mr. Speaker. I have a document here from September 5, 2007 that were talking about P3s. And here is what CIC and the members I mentioned earlier had, potential projects, Mr. Speaker: electricity, build up to a 300-megawatt grid as a potential P3; sewer and water deficit at the municipal level as a P3 project; hospitals required, one in Regina, one in Saskatoon.

I didn't know we needed a new hospital in Regina, but those were potential P3s, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'd appreciate if the minister would table the document that he was reading from, just to give a little more information. But, Mr. Speaker, he didn't answer the question at all.

The Hamilton experience with P3s was an unmitigated disaster. There was sewage spillage into Lake Ontario and the city of Hamilton was forced to take full responsibility for cleaning it up. And there were many other issues as well. Ultimately Hamilton kept the service in public hands after it became clear that continuing with P3s would cost three times the expense of providing the service publicly.

To the minister: given Hamilton's experience with P3s, will the minister admit that it is not so easy for governments to transfer responsibility or the risk to the private sector? And will he move away from promoting P3s?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in British Columbia, who is one of the leading proponents of P3s in Saskatchewan, there have been many successful projects. Mr. Speaker, across Canada, the federal government uses P3 projects. Ontario uses P3 projects. Quebec uses P3 projects, Mr. Speaker. And yes, Alberta uses P3 projects.

So when you talk about tabling documents, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we can get a commitment from potentially the future leader of the NDP Party that she will support tabling the Hale report when it is done on the Lingenfelter membership scandal, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a document that the people of Saskatchewan are very interested to see, Mr. Speaker, to determine just what kind of cover-ups have been going on with the NDP.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has made it clear that their members don't want to be forced into P3s. And in their policy statement on municipal infrastructure stated, and I quote, "Imposing P3s as a pre-condition for funding may hurt results by distorting local decision-making and accountability, and by adding unnecessary red tape and administrative costs."

Mr. Speaker, this has already been a problem with the federal government, which has a pot of money under the Building Canada fund tied directly to P3s.

And to the minister: will the Sask Party make a commitment here today that they will not tie provincial funds for municipal infrastructure to participation in P3s? And will they quit promoting P3s?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can we count on a commitment from that member to ensure that the Lingenfelter membership scandal document from Mr. Hale, the lawyer, is tabled as well, Mr. Speaker, is made public to the media?

Mr. Speaker, if P3s are so wrong, Mr. Speaker, why in the 2004 CIC annual report, describing, Mr. Speaker, some of the divisions of CIC, it reports:

President's office and general council responsible for the overall direction of CIC. It includes the President's Office and General Counsel & Corporate Secretary functions, as well as the Communications, Human Resources, Government Relations, and public-private partnership units.

Mr. Speaker, this is in the CIC document from 2004. What's happened, Mr. Speaker, to the NDP? Have they lost their . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member's time has elapsed. I would like to remind members . . . Order. Order. I would like to remind members that if the tone gets loud enough I'm having difficulty hearing a question or a minister, that is where I will draw the line.

I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Carbon Sequestration Project

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Premier about the Montana-Saskatchewan carbon sequestration project that jumped 58 per cent, from initially in January this year 170 million, to in March 250, and then now \$270 million is the cost.

The Premier had no answer for us in the Chamber. But shortly after, when he was outside doing the media spin, he said the project is bigger because senior governments are now interested. To the Premier: other than Saskatchewan taxpayers, who has committed one thin dime to this Saskatchewan-Montana project?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's always with great pleasure that we talk about carbon capture and sequestration in this Legislative Assembly. Saskatchewan is certainly leading the way in this technology.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we were the first to give the members opposite credit when back in 2000 they embarked on a project, the Weyburn-Midale project with North Dakota. It was one of the first projects in North America. When we were on the other side of the House we said, good job. Keep going; do more. Make Saskatchewan lead the way.

Mr. Speaker, indeed again it's time to do that. The Weyburn-Midale project into North Dakota sequesters some 9000 tonnes a day, Mr. Speaker. What we're going to do is build on that technology, take it to the next step, and negotiate with the Montana government as well as the province of Saskatchewan, the federal government, and yes, the US [United States] Department of Energy. We will do that and we will ensure that the project is . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must have been absent that day, when the Sask Party were giving us praise.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Trew: — The Premier, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has said in the past that the province's share of the project will remain at \$60 million, despite the fact that the project costs have jumped by 58 per cent. The Premier says he's optimistic that the Obama administration in the United States and the Canadian government are both going to kick in \$100 million each. Yet he has no guarantee of either government putting in any money.

My question to the Premier is will he guarantee today that if his federal cousins in Ottawa and the US feds fail to come up with \$100 million each, will he guarantee that the Saskatchewan taxpayers are not on the hook for more than the \$60 million that you've talked about?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well certainly going forward we're in a position here, we're in a position here to invest in the future technology to ensure that Saskatchewan residents benefit from the lowest possible rates going forward, to be on the leading edge of this technology. We will do that by making an investment. We will do that by leading the way, by encouraging other partners.

When the Obama administration says that they have \$3 billion to invest in carbon capture and sequestration, we will say, yes, there's no other place to invest it than right here in Saskatchewan, Canada today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well there's a troubling lack of specificity in any attempted answer. Mr. Speaker, Brady Wiseman, who's a representative of the Montana state legislature, stated earlier today on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] that, "Talk of cost for this project is entirely premature. They're just making it up. They don't know what it's going to cost," Mr. Speaker.

The Premier has announced he's going to go to Swift Current and sign an MOU [memorandum of understanding] with the governor of Montana tomorrow. Is it the Premier's position that he doesn't know the terms of this MOU? That he doesn't know what the price tag's going to be for Saskatchewan taxpayers? That's incredulous.

To the Premier: will he come clean and make the MOU public? Who are the partners, and who's on the hook for how much?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite says his memory was failing here or possibly he was missing in action that day. We have another politician or prospective wannabe politician that's missing in action today, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you, I can tell you as minister in charge of SaskTel that all cell towers are working in the Shaunavon area and communication's . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Communication is a two-way thing. Calls can be received, calls can be made from that area to Regina. And we encourage that because we don't want any politicians to be missing in action in our great province.

More specifically to the question that the member asked, right now we're looking at a \$270 million project: \$100 million from the federal government in the United States, from the Obama administration — we're asking them for that, approximately equivalent of \$120 million Canadian, 150 north of the border — 100 from our federal government . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Awarding of Government Contracts

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about 10 days ago, I asked the Premier a very simple written question. That question was, quote, how many contracts has the company Garven & Associates received since November 2007?

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the government provided the answer to my question. That answer, Mr. Speaker, indicates that Garven & Associates have received a total of five contracts from this government in the amount of something significantly over \$500,000.

My question is to the Premier. Will he confirm today to the House the answer that he provided to me yesterday, that Garven & Associates only received five contracts from his government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we utilized the services of Mr. Garven, obviously in a very formal role, in addition to some of the work that the hon. member's referring to. He served this province very well and will have served this province very well until June 1 as the deputy minister to the Executive Council. He helped put in place this new Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're grateful for the work he's done.

We're also very much looking forward to working with the new deputy minister to the Executive Council, the former deputy

minister of Justice, Doug Moen. We're welcoming the opportunity to work with him as well to continue to move this province forward, to continue to provide good government to the people of the province of Saskatchewan — a government that keeps its promises, Mr. Deputy Speaker; a government that's overseeing the fastest growing economy in the Dominion of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, my question, the written question I submitted 10 days ago, and the answer I received from the Premier yesterday does not refer to Mr. Garnet Garven, the current and soon-to-be former deputy minister to the Premier. It is in reference to Garven & Associates and contracts given to that firm, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday the Premier indicated that for an amount significantly over \$500,000, five contracts had been awarded. My question was, is this the total? Is this the total number of contracts? Is this the total number of dollars? That's what the Premier said to me yesterday.

Now today I find in another answer that the Premier provided to me some weeks ago that in fact Garven & Associates had received another contract worth \$74,000 or thereabouts. My question to the Premier is why was it, that in the information provided to me in this House yesterday, that contract was not included?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education, Labour and Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to highlight that Garven & Associates has been doing work for the Government of Saskatchewan since 2001, Mr. Speaker. It has expertise, Mr. Speaker, in regional planning and program evaluations.

Mr. Speaker, some of these contracts have included the development and delivery of a two-day forum for service providers to support program development and the coordination and mobilization of volunteers. Mr. Speaker, another one, the research and development of a needs assessment template as well as training officers to utilize these tools, Mr. Speaker; to identify English language training and employment needs regarding overcoming barriers, Mr. Speaker. These are just a few of the types of contracts that this firm has been doing within the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, from the Premier's own responses to my questions, we're aware that Garven &

Associates have received six contracts at least worth in total \$640,000. Now the minister of advanced employment and labour just indicated some of those contracts were with his department.

My question is again to the Premier: is the Premier aware that Garven & Associates were awarded a contract for \$320,000 to facilitate meetings for Enterprise Saskatchewan? Will the Premier confirm that figure and that contract?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — This firm has been doing work for the Government of Saskatchewan since 2001, Mr. Speaker.

But regarding questions of accountability, Mr. Speaker, regarding questions of accountability, perhaps it's useful to make reference to Mr. Yens Pedersen's comment. He said, in my view the NDP Lingenfelter membership scandal, "... this has always been a party of integrity and morality. And in my view, for the party to maintain its reputation ... then I think for the good of the party he should step down."

It's for the members opposite to deal with these basic, fundamental questions. The rest of us, we're just asking more simple questions like where is Mr. Lingenfelter and will the members opposite make all the information public, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I'd like to remind the House that the level is rising above my tolerance level, and I would ask all members to respect the answers and the questions. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The taxpayers in Saskatchewan deserve answers from the Premier, from the ministers.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, my question again is to the Premier. Will he confirm that a contract with Garven & Associates was let for \$320,000 to facilitate meetings for Enterprise Saskatchewan? And while he's on his feet answering that question, will he confirm that one of those contracts signed with the minister who was just on his feet, a \$33,000 contract, was for a two-day forum, Mr. Speaker? A two-day forum, that's \$16,000 a day. Will the Premier confirm these numbers?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to confirm that for over \$33,000 for development and delivery of a two-day forum for service providers, as I've just said, to support program development and coordination and mobilization of

volunteers, obviously the preparatory work extended well in front of those two days, Mr. Speaker, as did the follow-up work, Mr. Speaker. So the answer is yes indeed; happy to confirm that, Mr. Speaker.

I just hope the members opposite are willing to help to identify where is Mr. Lingenfelter. Will they make public all the information that they have on the scandal, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite might want to consider themselves more with what's going in their own government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. We are aware from answers that he has provided to me, Mr. Speaker, that \$640,000 of contracts have been offered to Garven & Associates — one of them for \$320,000, and others to Advanced Education and Employment. My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier — to the Premier, and no one else, I believe, can answer this question. Mr. Speaker — my question to the Premier is this: were these contracts all tendered?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and I thank the member for that question. You know, Mr. Speaker, Garven & Associates have been contracted through Enterprise and Innovation to do some work for SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council] and more recently a contract to facilitate the public hearings for the UDP [Uranium Development Partnership] process.

A process that no member of this House is more conflicted on than that one, that member who was a leader, a leader, Mr. Speaker, of the interchurch anti-uranium group in the 1970s and '80s — a radical anti-nuclear group not the least bit interested in the facts of the issue — who protested and marched and said no to any form of nuclear investment. And now in November 2005, he's reported in the *Leader-Post*, Mr. Speaker, as saying these words: "Calvert . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I remind the Premier the question was, have these contracts been tendered or not? But listening to the answer now delivered by the minister leads to a separate, yet separate question. I believe I heard him say to this House

that in fact Garven & Associates have been contracted to do further work or other work around the UDP. Mr. Speaker, that was not included on the list provided by the Premier to me yesterday.

So it's now a twofold question: is there further contracts that we are not aware of? Are there further contracts we are not aware of? And again the question: were these contracts tendered or not?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to finish the previous answer that I ran out of time on. After protesting against nuclear development, that member — that very conflicted member, most conflicted of all those conflicted members, Mr. Speaker — said these words to the *Leader-Post*: "Calvert said the province would consider any business case to establish a reactor or nuclear waste storage facility in the province . . ."

And in a specific answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, Garnet Garven and associates are being used in the facilitation process around the public consultations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government obviously does not want to answer this question. I can report to the House that all of our research, through all of our research we cannot find evidence that these contracts were tendered. We may be wrong, but we can find no evidence on the public website of tendering, that these contracts were ever tendered.

The outstanding question for the Premier today is, were the contracts, \$640,000 worth — \$320,000 for Enterprise Saskatchewan; \$33,000 for a two-day seminar or forum — were these contracts tendered?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, certainly contracts have been tendered in the past. In relation to the public consultations around the UDP process, Mr. Speaker, there was not time for a public tender process on that piece, but on other ones there certainly has been.

Mr. Speaker, you know, we were in opposition too long, clearly, but we got very good at it; a lesson that they ought to learn over there. You know it's unbelievable that they, in the midst of yet another NDP fraud crisis, would ask us about accountability — that makes me laugh, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 94 — *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, immediately.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Minister of Justice has moved that this Bill be read a second time immediately. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Act is to prevent persons convicted of or charged with a designated crime from financially exploiting the notoriety of their crimes, and also to compensate victims of those crimes or their family members and also to support victims of crime.

Mr. Speaker, the recent news that Colin Thatcher planned to write a book prompted much public discussion. A debate arose whether our province should have legislation to prevent criminals from profiting from the notoriety of their crimes. We appreciate and understand the concerns raised in recent weeks, and we are responding with this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Colin Thatcher was convicted of killing his former wife. None of us must ever forget that JoAnn Wilson was a daughter, a wife, and a mother. To allow the man convicted of her murder to earn money from the crime would disrespect her

memory and would reflect very poorly on this government. Accordingly with the co-operation of the opposition, we will pass this Bill next week.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people should be aware that this Bill will be supported by all members of this legislature. In Canada such legislation exists in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. The first jurisdiction to pass such a law was the state of New York. It was sought to prevent the serial killer, David Berkowitz, from reaping the profits from a book about his crimes. The laws are frequently referred to as a Son of Sam law named after David Berkowitz's nickname.

Mr. Speaker, I approach this type of law with caution. It is very easy to say that criminals should not profit from their crimes. It is much more difficult to craft legislation that will stand up to challenge and scrutiny. Anybody drafting criminal notoriety legislation must balance constitutional issues such as avoiding the appearance of adding further punishment on top of the court sentence and the effect on free speech, against victims' interests, and legitimate public expectations.

I also recognize that the Bill being introduced today only addresses a narrow set of circumstances. As such, we intend to continue working towards comprehensive legislation that will be capable of seizing revenue from a variety of sources. We understand that we may have to amend or add to this Bill in the future as a result. That said, I've spent time over the last several days reviewing this Bill with our legislative drafters. I am pleased with their efforts and I thank them for their hard work under a very tight time deadline.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill does not prohibit the recounting of a crime; rather it provides for a process to prevent the financial exploitation of the notoriety from that crime. We are sensitive to and supportive of freedom of expression as a cornerstone of our society. Accordingly this Bill is carefully focused on restricting profit rather than limiting publication. In our view, this is a reasonable and proportionate response to the pressing need to prevent exploitation of criminal notoriety and also to prevent the revictimization that profiting from such crimes would surely cause to Saskatchewan victims and their families.

Mr. Speaker, except as allowed by this Bill, no person shall pay consideration under a contract for the recounting of a crime. That consideration, that money, will be paid to the minister instead. Similarly no person shall accept consideration under a contract for the recounting of a crime. Any money paid or payable to that person must be sent or directed to the minister. Consideration directed to the minister under this Bill will then be provided to victims of that particular crime or alternatively to the Victims Fund.

Under this Bill, contract for the recounting of a crime means a contract entered into before or after the coming into force of this Bill. Under such a contract, a person convicted of or charged with a designated crime provides or agrees to provide a recounting of the designated crime, either directly or indirectly, for compensation.

In turn, recounting is defined to include, first, the recollection and retelling of circumstances relating to a designated crime; an expression of thoughts or feelings about a designated crime; and

also a re-enactment of a designated crime.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, designated crime is defined to mean an indictable offence pursuant to the Criminal Code, for which a maximum penalty is imprisonment for five years or more, and that involves the use or attempted use of violence against another person; or conduct that endangers or is likely to endanger the life or safety of another person; or it inflicts or is likely to inflict severe psychological damage on another person. It also includes corresponding offences from other jurisdictions, as well as a series of specific sexual offences.

As part of the balance we are trying to achieve, the Bill also provides for a process whereby a person may apply to the court to allow consideration to be paid and kept in accordance with the contract. This would be in cases where the court is satisfied that the recounting has a value to society despite the importance of preventing exploitation of criminal notoriety.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill does not apply to any contract for the recounting of a crime that is entered into, firstly, for law enforcement purposes; secondly, in support of crime prevention; or thirdly, in support of victims services programs. In keeping with our commitment to freedom of expression, we recognize the value to society of these forms of expression. Accordingly the Bill will not apply to these types of contracts.

This Bill will apply if the crime was committed in Saskatchewan, or if consideration of the contract is paid or payable to or by a resident of Saskatchewan or to a person serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penitentiary, correctional facility, or other custodial facility located in Saskatchewan.

I would also note, Mr. Speaker, that the Bill also removes profits gained from the sale of memorabilia where that profit is increased by the criminal notoriety of an individual. This includes autographs, personal objects, and objects related to a designated crime.

Mr. Speaker, in passing this legislation we should remember all victims of crime and recognize that this Bill is not a comprehensive or complete answer. It is however an important step in increasing support for victims of crime. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *An Act respecting the Profits of Criminal Notoriety*. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to speak to Bill No. 94, legislation respecting the profits from criminal notoriety. As the minister noted, if there is not unanimity in this House, there is a strong consensus in this House in support of this legislation, certainly in support of the principles and the concept behind this legislation.

But there have been arguments raised, I think, with members

and certainly by columnists and commentators about this Bill that do not support the concept and principles of the legislation on balance. Those arguments are not going to be made by any proponent of them in this House. But they are arguments that, I think, deserve respect and consideration. I'm ultimately not persuaded by them. I don't think they should be dismissed out of hand or ignored.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the thoughtful majority in this House, perhaps the unanimity of this House, should pay due respect to the thoughtful minority, that we have listened and considered but we do not agree. You may be right. You may be proven to be right in the future, but given all the facts and all the circumstances, we have to decide, and we decide to proceed.

I think the arguments that need to be addressed and answered, with respect, are twofold, Mr. Speaker, one perhaps more briefly than the other. The first and I think the most significant is — and the minister referred to this in his remarks — that this is a limitation upon free speech, that this legislation is a limit on free speech and such limits should be few and well considered, narrow, and the defence of them should be well argued in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. The second argument I would call the David Milgaard argument, Mr. Speaker, and I intend to address both these arguments.

It has been said, and I think I may even have said it in discussions with the press in a rush, Mr. Speaker, that this is not an infringement on freedom of speech, that this type of legislation that was then under discussion is indeed a freedom to contract, a limitation of the freedom to contract, and a justifiable one. But in fact, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that that bears much scrutiny.

The legislation and legislation like it across the country, Mr. Speaker, is a limitation on free speech. And if I may just briefly use a couple of examples.

If we said to newspapers, publishers of newspapers, you may publish your newspaper; you may print whatever you want in it; but you can't be paid by subscribers and you can't be paid by advertisers, well the freedom of the press would still be there but the economics of the freedom of the press would not be there.

If we said to journalists, well investigating and trying to uncover the truth and expressing your opinions within these newspapers or on radio or on TV or now on the Internet is a great hobby but nobody can be paid for it, Mr. Speaker, that would obviously be an outrageous infringement on free speech.

The economics of book publishing are somewhat like the economics of publishing newspapers, Mr. Speaker, and when one says, you cannot profit from a book, even a narrow class of books, Mr. Speaker, that is obviously an infringement and a limitation on free speech. And any infringement or limitation on free speech by this Legislative Assembly must be justified, Mr. Speaker.

The real question is this. The question is: is this a limit that is acceptable, an acceptable limit to free speech? We have in this country limitations on free speech. They are few in number and they are, I believe, largely justifiable. One example would be

the limitation on hate speech in provincial human rights legislation and in our Criminal Code.

I think it is arguable that, particularly in the case of our Criminal Code, the limitations on speech might be more concise and might be narrower. That said, the concept of a limitation on speech to incite hatred and particularly violence against an identifiable group is clearly a justifiable limitation. And so the question for us is: does this legislation in principle and in its substance, providing a limit on free speech, provide a justifiable limit? And the real question is: does this legislation, in providing a limit to free speech, provide a limit that is acceptable to this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker?

For too long — for almost a generation now, for over 20 years — politicians, legislators have used the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the courts in our country as alternatively a whipping boy, a scapegoat, and an excuse for not doing their job. Either we cannot do this because there'll be a Charter challenge, the courts won't like it, or we don't have to do this because the courts will already protect that right and the legislature, the parliament does not have to do so.

[14:30]

The most recent example in this Legislative Assembly is the government's trespass legislation. Supreme Court Justice Iacobucci said that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides a bare minimum of rights. And this government declined, in the trespass legislation, to provide the people of Saskatchewan in respect to their right to assemble and express their opinions freely — nothing more than that bare minimum — arguing that the courts will provide that bare minimum right, and that it would be wrong for the Government of Saskatchewan to provide anything else.

That leads to private citizens who are charged under the trespass legislation the responsibility to challenge the legislation, and imposes on the court the duty to actually legislate as to what the right is. But we know the court will legislate no more than the bare minimum.

This Legislative Assembly has, in my view, within its jurisdiction for property and civil rights, the responsibility to strive and to enlarge our citizens' rights and to define those limits and not pretend that is only the responsibility of the courts. Looking into a crystal ball to ask the question what the courts may or may not think about a particular legislation or prospective legislation is not an appropriate replacement for the exercise of consideration and judgment by this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Thatcher may well challenge this legislation. I suspect he has both the resources and the will to do so. The court victory that eluded him in trust law, family law, and criminal law cases may very well finally be his in respect to this legislation. I don't know, Mr. Speaker. But the mere prospect of that does not relieve us of our responsibility to speak as legislators as to what we think are the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the province of Saskatchewan.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to what is called the David Milgaard argument. I call it the David Milgaard

argument because, again, it first occurred to me before I heard it made. Imagine someone wrongfully convicted of murder, not yet exonerated, but famous before his exoneration. And Mr. Milgaard may be the sole example that anybody can think of. And this legislation, I think, would deny the ability of such a person to raise funds by telling his story, to hire private detectives and to hire lawyers to establish that he or she was wrongfully convicted.

Ultimately I'm not persuaded by that argument either, Mr. Speaker. And this is the reason, not only because there hasn't been such a case — with the possible exception of Mr. Milgaard, if he had decided to write his own book — but private detectives and even lawyers aren't the people who have been exonerating the wrongfully convicted. It's been journalists. And as long as there's no restriction on their ability to write stories, that likely source of exoneration will not be gone.

But secondly, Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to deal with wrongful convictions, and I don't think that anybody in this Assembly would argue that it is. The courts here have been far more conservative than I believe they should have been. A number of royal commissions and inquiries have made good, strong recommendations about what type of evidence leads to wrongful convictions, and what type of evidence should be excluded or treated far differently by our courts.

But the courts, which those commissioners were members of at one time in their careers, have been slow to follow any of those recommendations, Mr. Speaker. And so some people argue that the wrongful convictions that have been discovered are only the tip of the iceberg. And perhaps they are, Mr. Speaker.

What this country needs, in my view, is a body independent of the federal Minister of Justice which proactively reviews and investigates these types of convictions, convictions for serious crimes, and seriously reviews the soundness of convictions — not just on a legal basis, which can be dealt with by our courts of appeal, but on a factual basis as well. A model for these types of conviction review commissions exists in England and in Scotland. Allowing the rare victim of a wrongful conviction to receive the proceeds from their book deal is no alternative to serious systemic reform as to how we address the issue of wrongful convictions in the country of Canada.

So, Mr. Speaker, I take the freedom of speech argument seriously. I take the wrongful conviction argument seriously. But ultimately I am not persuaded by either of those arguments, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Thatcher has served his time in prison that our parole system in its judgment thinks is appropriate. But the only people that have or will ever truly pay for his crimes are JoAnn Wilson and the people who loved her.

With respect to those who believe the limitations on free speech should be fewer and not include legislation of this type, I respectfully disagree. I believe that this legislature should not stand silently by while the perpetrators of outrageous crimes profit from those outrages. We in Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition support this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill

No. 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act* now be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that Bill No. 94, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*, be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its seventh report. I move:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the seventh report by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies now be concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its sixth report. I move:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the sixth report by the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 76, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — When shall the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill now be read the third time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 76, the wildlife habitat protection Act, 2008, and the Bill now be read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 76 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)*

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 76 now be passed under its title, now be read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 84, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — When shall this Bill be considered by Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill now be read the third time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 84, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill now be read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 84 — *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 84, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 71, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 71, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act* and it now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 71 — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 71, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act* be read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — On division.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I wish to table answers to questions 360 through 370.

[14:45]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 80 — *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to continue my comments that I had started on April 22 on Bill 80. Continuing along with what I've spoken of so far, Mr. Speaker, I was talking about the fact that the contractors themselves craved these regulations to be in place in terms of having a stable labour environment around the construction industry, and they in fact petitioned for the system originally under the Ross Thatcher government. And the construction industrial labour relations Act has served the industry well and there hasn't been a construction strike since 1982.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to continue on with the submission by Kerry Westcott. He's from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 1985 and he's an organizer as well. And he writes, the construction industrial labour relations Act had a strong apprenticeship system.

The other important reason for province-wide, craft-based collective agreements concerns the apprenticeship system. The apprenticeship system in Saskatchewan is driven by the trade unions and its joint training committees, composed of contractor and trade union representatives. The JTCs find the most apprentices, supply the talent on the trade advisory boards, and do much of the most critical training of our new tradespeople.

The construction industrial labour relations Act was repealed by Devine [Tories] in 1983 and [then] reinstated [again] in 1992 [by Premier Romanow and the NDP.]

So as you can see, we have the contractors themselves petitioning for this system under the Ross Thatcher government. We then have the repeal of the legislation in 1983 under the Devine Tories, and then again reinstated under the Romanow NDP.

What was found through that is that, quote:

During the decade when there was no CILRA or JTCs, the apprenticeship system ground to a halt. As a result, today we have a serious shortage of journeypersons.

He goes on to say:

The repeal of the construction industrial labour relations Act in 1983 was a near death experience for many of the trades. The industry went from 70% to 20% unionized in just a few years.

So we can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how there are some serious concerns that have not been addressed because of the fact that there was no consultation process with these trades or with any of the people that represent the tradespeople prior to the

introduction of this legislation by the Sask Party government — which we are seeing is a typical MO [modus operandi] for the Sask Party government that, we'll put their legislation out there first, then maybe we'll, you know, have some consultative process or maybe not. And even if there are some good amendments that come forward that can be easily justified, that should be seriously looked at or accepted, we're still going to stick with what our agenda was because we have someone to please, obviously.

So anyways, as I was saying, I'll continue on with what Kerry Westcott said:

Some construction locals lost three quarters of their membership. It was a time of recession and wages fell to half of what they had been.

Bill 80 is taking us back to that time. It allows organizing by craft, by company or by project by any union.

A "union" other than a building trades union will be able to solicit "voluntary recognition" from a project owner or his contractor and sign a project collective agreement governing the jobsite. It could be five years in duration.

So the owner or construction manager of any project could sit down with a "union" or with a representative of an "employees association" and they could voluntarily recognize one another and ink a project agreement covering the entire life of the project [Mr. Deputy Speaker].

It could be a craft-based or industrial agreement. It may, or may not, have provisions to facilitate apprenticeship, or make pension contributions or other benefits. And it could be a done deal before the building trades even know there is a project.

Another important change to note is that maintenance work will no longer be covered by the construction industrial labour relations Act. Maintenance provides over half the work of many building trade unions. This is devastating for the building trades.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can see that there are some serious concerns with this legislation and certainly many, many questions that need to be answered. And unfortunately, because none of those discussions took place prior to this legislation being tabled and because none of those discussions have taken place since then, and that we're waiting and hoping that this consultative process that the government talks about entering into will actually bear some fruit in terms of some reasonability in terms of what's being proposed.

But of course, given the history of what the Sask Party government has done so far with respect to the legislation that, the amendments to *The Trade Union Act* or the legislation regarding essential services and the gaping holes that are present in that legislation, we obviously have some serious concerns.

Now Kerry Westcott goes on to say:

Who asked for Bill 80 and why do we need it?

On March 6th, just a few hours before it was introduced in the legislature, the building trades got e-mails from [the] labour minister Rob Norris inviting them to a lock-up meeting to view bill 80.

There had been no prior consultation with the building trades or the unionized contractors' association. In answer to a direct question from Saskatchewan Federation of Labour president Larry Hubich, we were told there had been no consultation with any [other] labour organizations. Only the Christian Labour Association of Canada wanted Bill 80.

So he goes on to say:

Do we need a change in how bargaining works for the building trades?

Like the essential services act, Bill 80 is a solution to a non-existent problem.

Something that the members opposite, the Sask Party government, have yet to articulate. We have still not heard what the problem was, what needed fixing, what exactly was broken. As I said, there are many, many questions that still need to be asked.

The organized building trades only do about 20 per cent of all [the] construction work. Eighty per cent is already non-union or is contested spin off contractor's work. The 20 per cent we do perform tends to be the most complex work. The building trades have the capacity to do large complex jobs and complicated large mill renovations under "shut down" time constraints. What is to be gained by further marginalizing the building trades? What problem is the Sask. Party government trying to fix?

Bill 80 is designed to put the building trades at the far margins of our industry. And we will be unable to influence wages or conditions in our industry. It will be very destabilizing to labour relations and apprenticeships.

He says:

There will be wildcat strikes, jobsite confrontations, neglect of the apprenticeship system and way lower wages for all construction workers, union or not yet union.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we already see some serious concerns about the fact that maintenance work will no longer be covered by the construction industrial labour relations Act and that it provides over half the work of many building trade unions. So as I said, this would be devastating for the building trades and we also know that during the decade when there was no construction labour relations Act or training committees, the apprenticeship system ground to a halt and as a result, today we have a serious shortage of journeypersons.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are some serious concerns when we look at the construction industrial labour relations Act with respect to some of the comments that have been made. It seems as though

— and, you know, perceptions go a long way, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how one conducts business with stakeholder groups — that not only, not only did the Sask Party government not consult the people that are most directly affected by this legislation on the worker side of the equation, it almost seems that they're willing to rub salt in the wounds of the workers that are currently seeing themselves under attack, Mr. Speaker.

And this is something that is becoming quite the pattern for this government, Mr. Speaker, whether it's the introduction of essential services legislation or whether it's the amendments to *The Trade Union Act*, where, as I said, there were no consultations done with again the workers that would be most directly involved and impacted by those pieces of legislation. We're seeing the same pattern again with this legislation with respect to Bill 80.

Now when one looks at the most recent Bill that the Sask Party government has introduced and passed, which is Bill 43, the trespass amendment Act, one has to wonder where this pattern is leading. I mean we already know that the Premier has already declared publicly that he is quite willing to go to war with working people, on a radio show that I won't give any credit to because I'm not necessarily a fan. So one has to wonder, Mr. Speaker, if those words are not now being played out in terms of what's happening.

We're seeing a blatant, blatant disregard for the input of the workers in this province. We're definitely seeing a blatant disregard for improving the lot of workers in this province, when you're attacking these pieces of legislation when it comes to that. And that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, pertains to whether it's wages, whether it's benefits, whether it's occupational health and safety concerns which for me are very, very serious. When we see those being diminished in any way, shape, or form, that's something that people should look at very seriously and should be very concerned about. And clearly the workers in this province are expressing those concerns at this point in time.

Now the assistant deputy minister for the Department of Advanced Education, Employment and Learning confirmed in a stakeholder briefing that the construction and other unions in Saskatchewan did not ask for this legislation respecting Bill 80 and that none were consulted prior to its introduction. So you know, Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder that when legislation directly impacts a stakeholder group in such a significant manner and when you have such a large stakeholder group that would have obviously plenty to say about the issue, whether it's something that, you know, would be fully accepted or partially accepted is for the audience to obviously decide.

But the point is, is one must always be interested in what the stakeholder groups have to say — whether it's something one is in agreement with or not, whether it's something that one accepts as being consequential to the legislation that's being proposed or not. But moreover one wants to be sure that one has all the information possible to be able to make the best decisions possible with respect to any changes that should be made to any piece of legislation. And it's quite concerning, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Sask Party government isn't seeing that and that the Sask Party government most certainly isn't practising that.

We're seeing that in so many ways. I mean one only has to look, for instance, at the Uranium Development Partnership and the absolute contempt, I would have to say, that is being shown to the citizens of Saskatchewan who want some serious input on a very serious matter. So much so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that people across the province have now taken it upon themselves to hold public information meetings with any individuals that they can find with any expertise on the issue so that they can further educate themselves.

Or for instance, you know, I read in one of our Saskatchewan weeklies where a woman simply wrote in to her local newspaper and said, you know, I'm not an expert on the subject of nuclear development and issues around uranium mining and such. But I am a concerned citizen, and I am concerned about the legacy that we are going to be leaving for our future generations. So this woman said, I'm going to take it upon myself to educate myself further and keep writing comments to the weekly, in terms of what she's learning along the way, because she's hoping that that might provide some assistance to other people who don't have the time or ability perhaps to do the research that she's willing to engage in.

[15:00]

So as I said, with respect to Bill 80, one has to wonder why the Sask Party government didn't feel that it was important enough to speak to the stakeholder group, which are the workers that would be affected by this legislation. And moreover, I would have to say, why they didn't have the respect to speak to those workers who are going to be directly affected by this legislation.

It causes a feeling of instability in terms of relations with the government as a potential employer, perhaps on some future projects. And it really causes a feeling of mistrust. And in some cases that might not even need to exist, but because of the fact that there is no consultation, it does then carry a nefarious feeling to it and does cause then people to wonder what is being hidden? Why haven't they spoken to us? Why isn't there a respectful relationship in wanting to make changes to any type of legislation that is being brought forward?

And clearly, we know that there were some consultations done with respect to Bill 80. But they were only done with an employer group out of Alberta . . . I mean, sorry, a representative group out of Alberta called the Christian Labour Association of Canada, which has had some serious concerns brought forward about how that has affected the labour market in Alberta, and especially how that's affected the representation of the workers in Alberta and how that's affected their wages and benefits and protections in their workplaces in Alberta.

So one has to wonder, Mr. Speaker, if this wasn't simply appeasing someone or some people or, you know, a particular group, or if this wasn't just a nasty attack on workers, which was what the Premier had said that he was quite willing to engage in, and of course the deskilling of the trades. There is no question that one has to wonder about that, you know.

And that leads me to another subject, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we talk about the deskilling of the trades because I'm now getting numerous calls about workers that are being brought

over from Germany, for instance, or that some employers would like to bring over from Germany. And I'm being contacted just about language barrier issues and such.

So you know, it's interesting that we're quite interested in bringing over employees, workers from Germany who have amazing skills, training, and amazing protections through that apprenticeship training when they are receiving that, and their education and such. We're quite willing to, you know, embrace that, Mr. Speaker. And yet the Sask Party government through this legislation is quite willing to deskill the trades that we currently have in this province, which is quite confusing, Mr. Speaker. And again, it leads to many, many questions that we, the NDP caucus, and the workers themselves have no responses to, let alone answers.

So one has to wonder what the motivation is, Mr. Speaker, other than as I explained already, simply to appease a few friends that they promised perhaps these changes to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, as one of my colleagues just said, it's a short-sighted piece of legislation. And I have to agree, Mr. Speaker, it's a very short-sighted piece of legislation.

It's no different, Mr. Speaker, than what we saw when the Devine Tories, as I said, repealed this piece of legislation after it was introduced by the Ross Thatcher government, which was done so at the behest of the contractors at that time to stabilize the environment — the work environment and the construction environment.

So at this time of global economic uncertainty, when we certainly want to do everything we can to protect the work environment here in Saskatchewan, it's interesting that it's at this particular time in history that the Sask Party government would want to have such an acrimonious relationship with the workers in this province. It is absolutely unbelievable, not to mention confusing, that this is what the government of the day — the Sask Party government — would choose to do to the workers of this province. This is the time that they want to create this acrimony and this destabilization of the work environment in Saskatchewan.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, if we look at what some of the repercussions of that can be, you have to wonder even more. As we've already talked about, it created a shortage of apprenticeship trainees, and therefore a shortage of journey persons as we see today.

It also leads to wonder if the Sask Party government understands that there are some other unintended consequences that can come with this as well in terms of, again, the dollars that have to be spent in Saskatchewan to encourage these projects then may not necessarily stay in Saskatchewan, in terms of where they're spent and how they're spent, Mr. Speaker. So you know, at a time when there is this destabilization globally with respect to the economy, this is the last time on earth that this should be happening to a destabilization of the workers and the working environment of this province.

You know, Mr. Speaker, every province right now, every premier, everyone is trying to attract the most people possible to their provinces. And in some cases, it's going to be a very

difficult task to do that because of the fact that we're seeing such a high rate of unemployment in some of the provinces. In this province, Mr. Speaker, we have been somewhat buffered by that, but clearly we're not immune to that either.

And we want to make sure that this province stays as attractive as possible to people outside of this province to want to come to this province. Clearly some of those attractions in the past have been the fact that it was the most affordable place to live in the entire country, and having that wonderful, wonderful protection of the lowest cost utility bundle was definitely part of that attractive package, Mr. Speaker.

You know, since the Sask Party government has come to power, we have seen, I mean, obviously a higher cost of living in this province. We've also seen the eradication of the lowest cost utility bundle, which is something that people were very, very, very proud of in this province.

And like I said, it was an attractive part of the package for people to come to this province, especially for people with families, Mr. Speaker. You know, knowing that you're paying the lowest cost utility bundle in the province is certainly something that helps when everyone is trying to eke out a living and, you know, trying to sock away as much savings as possible: you know, trying to maybe perhaps purchase their first home; trying to maybe perhaps purchase their first car so that there's, you know, better mobility issues; or for instance needing to purchase a larger home if there's a growing family. Or you know, it's the simplest things, Mr. Speaker, as being able to enrol their children in extracurricular programs and athletic programs and keeping our children well-rounded in terms of their experiences, whether they be cultural or athletic or otherwise.

So you know, those were all the attractive things that we had to offer in this province and one of those, Mr. Speaker, too was the fact that there were really strong protections for . . . I should say, quite good protections for the workers in this province in terms of occupational health and safety and some other issues.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, when you see the attack by this government on the workers of this province with respect to, for instance, issues around the Labour Relations Board and how those changes were made and like I said, the essential services Act that has some serious problems with it, as the Sask Party government is now seeing, with respect to some of the negotiations that are going on with some of those organizations involved. So I'm sure that there will be amendments coming forward.

It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that they didn't take the advice of the NDP caucus and the stakeholder groups at the time that that legislation was presented to make the amendments at that time, instead of having to go through the added expense that they are now incurring on behalf of this province. Because as you know, Mr. Speaker, the longer those negotiations have to go on with respect to the provision under the essential services Act, the more costs are incurred and those costs, Mr. Speaker, are incurred on behalf of Saskatchewan taxpayers. And so that should be looked at very seriously as well.

Now, you know, it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the

government talks about wanting to make sure that it's doing the best it can for the province, and yet it doesn't seem to want to do the work that needs to be done in order to ensure that that's the case. For instance, like as I spoke of already, not speaking to the stakeholder group of workers prior to introducing this legislation is absolutely unacceptable, and it should be duly noted.

And given that, as I already quoted, the deputy minister for advanced education and learning, Mike Carr saying that the only stakeholder group . . . that none of the stakeholder groups asked for this legislation and none were consulted prior to its introduction, is obviously very concerning. And it's interesting also that we see representatives of the one organization that was enthusiastic about this legislation coming forward, the Christian Labour Association of Canada actually being present in the building on the day that it was announced, Mr. Speaker.

So, you know, as I said, it's the same process that they used for introductions of essential services and *The Trade Union Act*. So it would be better if the Sask Party government actually talked less about transparency and acted more transparently. So, yes, did more delivery of transparency instead of just talking about transparency, Mr. Speaker, because it's pretty easy to stand in this House every day and talk about being open and accountable and talk about being transparent and yet never provide the evidence of that, Mr. Speaker.

You know, it's interesting. We've had a number of groups attend the legislature recently. One of them being, for instance . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask members — there's a few conversations going on — if they want to take them outside or behind the bar. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So it's interesting. We've had some groups in the legislature recently visiting to — everything from school groups to other observers and such, and as well as the public servants who are here as well — and they commented, I had a question. One of the people asked me a question, you know, why do you even bother to ask questions in question period because you're not getting the answers it seems anyways?

And I said, well clearly what we're getting in question period are responses, they're not answers. That is correct. But, you know, it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because the government, Sask Party government likes to talk about being open and accountable and transparent. And yet, like I said, we have very little evidence to that to this point.

Again today, you know, we've seen that, for instance, the tendering process with respect to the questions that the Leader of the Opposition was asking today. We see that the questions were asked today as to whether or not there was a tendering process because unfortunately, through our research and given that we have obviously much limited capabilities in terms of research than, for instance, the government members do, we may not be able to find it.

But given that everything that we can find is something that is

also something that the public of Saskatchewan can find, leads one to question the notion of being open and accountable. If we can't find how they're being open and accountable, if we can't find how they're being transparent, how in God's name can the public of Saskatchewan be expected to find how the Sask Party government is being open and accountable and transparent? It is a giant question mark, Mr. Speaker, that they have yet to answer.

And it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because what we get from the Sask Party government is just a continual barrage, I would have to say, of secrecy and spin — and I mean a constant barrage of secrecy and spin. And even my fellow colleagues across the way have to chuckle at that because quite frankly they know that that's the case, and they have become the masters of secrecy and spin, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

So when one looks at the fact that, like I said, we can't get any answers on the questions that we have, and given that the stakeholder groups that are obviously very, very concerned with this legislation can't get any answers . . . And, you know, in going back to Bill 43, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 43 prohibits the ability for peaceful demonstrations and expression of opinion, shall we say.

And there are some pieces of legislation that are somewhat similar throughout the rest of Canada. But there is one glaring difference, Mr. Speaker, one glaring difference, and that is the notion of having to ask for permission to demonstrate prior to this action taking place.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder why the Sask Party government is so bent on wanting to restrict peaceful demonstration and expression of opinion given that in past years it has been supporters of theirs that have also come to the city of Regina and expressed, for instance, opinions that were different, for instance, from the NDP government and came here to express those opinions.

And, Mr. Speaker, one wants to be respectful of all opinions. And so therefore that was something that they were certainly more than entitled to engage in. And we were able to obviously get a lot of information from some of those demonstrations as well.

Now why is it that the Sask Party government is so nervous, perhaps is the word, about those peaceful demonstrations continuing on in the fashion that they have in the past? One can surmise, I guess — because one cannot get any answers from the Sask Party government — one has to surmise that they want to limit that because they know, they know, Mr. Speaker, that what they're doing is over the top.

It is certainly out of sync with what the rest of the country is doing. It is certainly out of sync, quite frankly, with most developed nations are doing in terms of wanting to make sure that there is a stable environment, that the economy can once again thrive on a global basis versus wanting to destabilize the economy, which is what the Sask Party government is intent on doing through these pieces of legislation.

So of course we want to attract more companies and workers to the province, but we also want to attract more taxpayers. And bringing in a company, you know, from elsewhere and sending the results of our booster shot money out of province is something that, you know, we have some concerns about, Mr. Speaker. Now you know, we want a labour regime that covers Saskatchewan companies and covers Saskatchewan workers. And if there's investment from outside the province, we want to ensure that Saskatchewan residents and not the taxpayers of other provinces are the net beneficiary of that investment that is being made in this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, there is many people on the NDP caucus, opposition side, that have an interest in this Bill and want to speak to this Bill, so unfortunately I'm not able to go on to all the other points that I'd like to deliver.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say that I've been a proud union member for most of my life, Mr. Speaker. In my union work, I came to admire and respect many of the union leaders and their trades in the construction industry. This legislation, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly should be withdrawn immediately and the proper consultative process should be able to take place. And the House should be, you know, spending valuable time on giving the great people in this province the respect they have earned and continue to earn every day they show up at some of our most dangerous work sites to make our society better, Mr. Speaker.

We know there is no rush for this law. We know there is no dire need for this to happen immediately. And we know that the people who actually do this work have never asked for this legislation. We know that this legislation has put this government at serious odds with these leaders, Mr. Speaker. It's time that this government does the right thing as lawmakers. It's time to show the people of this province that their opinions matter, Mr. Speaker, that they're respected and that they will actually be listened to and that they will actually have some input.

Confrontation begins when a government chooses to introduce legislation that affects the lives of thousands of citizens without consulting with them. It continues when a government chooses to ignore the expertise of those citizens who do the work that is going to be affected. And it reaches levels which could be avoided if a government cares about the wages and working conditions of its citizens — cares enough to ask them how to make their lives and the lives of their children better, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 80 is an affront to the hard work, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by the construction trades unions to make our society be one that it is proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as always, it's an honour for me to rise in this House and to enter into a debate on behalf of the fine people of Regina Northeast. I think you've

heard me suggest, Mr. Speaker, in the past that wherever we travel in Saskatchewan, we always experience the opportunity of meeting fine people. And I can assure you there are no finer people in Saskatchewan than the good folks of Regina Northeast.

Normally, Mr. Speaker, when we rise in this House to enter into debate, particularly a debate on a Bill, there's always elements to that Bill that is positive and that we can find that in some small way the passage of that Bill will help improve the lives of Saskatchewan people in some way, manner, shape, or form. And that's usually the case.

And of course, the role of opposition, Mr. Speaker, is to scrutinize Bills closely and to suggest to government ways and means that those Bills could be improved upon. But fundamentally most Bills, when we receive them as the opposition and we look at them, we find elements within those Bills that are positive and we believe, at the end of the day, will have a positive effect on Saskatchewan people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I said most Bills because unfortunately this Bill, Bill No. 80, does not fit anywhere into that category. This Bill represents regressive legislation. Mr. Speaker, this Bill is about changes to the labour relations in this province. And this is an opportunity, I suppose, for us to take a few moments and just look at the history of labour, not only here in Saskatchewan, not only in Canada, but labour right across the North American continent.

Now when we take that look at that history of labour, we note that it is a history of struggle, of working people, ordinary people, the working people of our society. A struggle so that they can receive — for their sweat, their toil, their dedication — fair remuneration, fair compensation, fair enough that they are able to deliver to their families a reasonable, a reasonable lifestyle, a reasonable ability to participate in the society in which they live.

That's all working people have ever asked for. That's all they have ever expected is to be given a fair and equitable share of the profits, of the proceeds, as a result of their endeavours, as a result of their sweat and their toil and their commitment, so that they can provide their families with a fair and reasonable and quality lifestyle.

That, Mr. Speaker, has been and should always be the goal of any government — to look at ways and means to ensure that the ordinary people, the working people, the people of our society who really drive our economy, who really drive our economy, are ensured and protected so that they will on an ongoing basis receive that fair and reasonable compensation.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill takes that away. It takes that away. This Bill does nothing to improve the lot of the working people. In fact it takes away hard-earned benefits that they have received to date. It takes those benefits away that have been worked at, have been negotiated by workers in the past. It takes that away.

Mr. Speaker, this is a series of labour legislation that is probably the most regressive legislation of anywhere in this great country of ours. And I find it starting to reflect in the

comments I'm hearing from people out there and across this great nation. And I had the opportunity last Saturday night to have a young gentleman — young compared to me, young. He's a married person with two children. He and his wife do not live here in Regina; they live in a small community outside of Regina. And he is a non-unionized worker.

To the best of my knowledge — and I've known this young fellow for a number of years now — but to the best of my knowledge, he has never, ever been unionized. He has worked in a retail co-operative that I'm aware of. He has worked in some other labour-related industries. And then he went back to school and got trained as an automotive mechanic and has worked in the automotive industry for a number of years. And like I said, I've known this young fellow since the days that he worked in the retail co-operative.

And last Saturday he come up to me, and because we have a good, long relationship, he was quite honest with me. He said, Ron, I want to tell you something. He said, I really want to confess something to you. I said, well you know, I don't like taking confessions but I said, if you feel the need, I'm here to listen.

He said, well, he said, as you know, he said, in the past I've been a New Democratic supporter, a supporter of the New Democratic Party. But in the last election, he said, I voted for Brad's boys. And he said, I did that because I thought they had some things to offer and he said, I did that with the hopes that they would improve the lot of myself as a working person and the lot of those who I find sharing the same industry with.

He said, but when I see the labour legislation that this government has brought forward and he said, I know that this legislation is targeted at unions and I'm not a union member, he said, but when it hurts labour, it hurts the unions, it's hurting me. And I can assure you, he said, in the next election I will not be voting for the Sask Party. I can assure you that.

Well I find that very telling, Mr. Speaker, because I didn't prompt this. I didn't urge it. And it comes from an individual who I know is genuine, who is not just saying that, who is a very thoughtful person and doesn't make rash decisions but makes decisions after a very thorough thought process. And based on that, Mr. Speaker, I'm seeing that the true colours of the Sask Party, as far as the working people is concerned, is starting to be revealed. And it's starting to support what their leader said when he was in opposition some time ago when he said that, if they ever formed government in this province, they would go to war with the working people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're starting to see that. We're starting to see that. I thought the first piece of legislation, Bills 5 and 6, was something that well perhaps they did that to satisfy their supporters and their backers and their financiers. But then Bill 43 comes along and you start to wonder about the commitment that the government here has to true democracy and to the right of working people, men and women, to be able to express their concerns, their satisfactions — or dissatisfactions in this case.

And then, Mr. Speaker, you see this Bill — a Bill that flies in the face of not only the unionized worker, Mr. Speaker, but it flies in the face of the contractors who first asked for this. This

legislation came into place not under an NDP government. It first came into place under Ross Thatcher, a Liberal government.

And it came into place after — after — the contractors in the industry came forward to the Thatcher government and said, please bring us some legislation that will bring stability to our industry because right now we have an industry that's in turmoil. We have an industry that simply doesn't work because we're spending time fighting ourselves rather than attracting the investment and through that investment creating the opportunity for people in this province. Mr. Speaker, it was the contractors that asked for this legislation, not the union workers.

[15:30]

Mr. Speaker, in the early 1980s, the Saskatchewan construction industry was in a state of turmoil. There was unrest, dissatisfaction, upheaval, and as a result of that, instability that existed within the industry created a number of problems. It created the problems of lack of willingness for investments to be made; investors simply didn't want to invest into an industry and an atmosphere and an economy that was in turmoil. And they wouldn't know, they had no idea, no security at all of a belief that their particular project wouldn't be hit with that turmoil and it would be left standing idle and their investment dollar standing there withering away and not being able to benefit from that investment because the turmoil that existed within the construction industry in Saskatchewan in the 1980s was running rampant.

And during that period of time, several representative employer organizations were in competition to control the Saskatchewan construction industry. Mr. Speaker, that is what happens when you don't have a province-wide collective agreement in place where all the players are addressed, where all the stakeholders are addressed, where both contractors and the unions have sat down and negotiated a collective bargaining agreement. So it doesn't matter whether that project is going on in Estevan or Weyburn or Regina or Saskatoon or Lloydminster; it's all covered by one collective bargaining agreement so that there is no friction between the various contractors. And there is no friction between the various projects as far as compensation to workers, as far as benefits being secured.

Mr. Speaker, during the 1980s, when the turmoil was probably at its highest in the industry, this fight led to the very long strike that virtually brought the construction to a screeching halt in this province, a screeching halt in this province. This in return had a very negative impact upon the provincial economy. Why? People weren't working. Why? They were on strike. Why? Because there was dissatisfaction and turmoil within the industry. There was competition between contractors. There was a desire by some to try to control the industry, to limit the ability of individuals, workers within the industry to be able to secure for themselves and for their family a fair and reasonable compensation for their toil, for their sweat, for their labour that they put into the projects so that they could go home and be able to support their families in a fair and reasonable and quality lifestyle, Mr. Speaker. That was the problems.

As a result of that, the economy slowed. Why? Because the construction industry virtually screeched to a halt. When the

construction industry screeches to the halt, there's no wages being earned, and those wages are not then being redistributed throughout the communities. Contractors are not being able to attract new project and attract new investments to the economy. Why? Because investors, quite frankly, aren't going to put their money into an economy that is stagnant. They're simply not going to enter into construction projects that may never ever get off the ground, or if they do, they will maybe be hijacked halfway through.

So those are the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we had some experiences from the 1980s. And the fight between, Mr. Speaker, in those days, the fight between the REOs, or the representative employer organizations, caused a great deal of instability within the industry. Bill 80 will most certainly have the same negative effect, and the problems of the 1980s will once again become the issue.

And that's the interesting part, Mr. Speaker. We all as individuals have had experiences in the past. We have made decisions. Some of those decisions have been very good decisions, and they have rewarded us. Some of those decisions haven't been quite so good, and we find them as negative decisions, decisions that have perhaps cost us. But, Mr. Speaker, most people, most people in their own lives when they're making those types of decisions will learn from them. They will learn from their mistakes. They will learn from their mistakes of the past and endeavour not to make them again.

It's often been said that those who don't learn from their mistakes are destined to repeat them. And yet, Mr. Speaker, we have a government over here that has been exposed to the history of Saskatchewan, that has the ability to look at the history of this province, to look at the history of the construction industry in this province, and to learn from those mistakes — to learn from those mistakes that were made in the past and not to go down that same road, Mr. Speaker, not to go down that same road that has proven to be the wrong road in the past.

And why do we wish to go down that same road today? Mr. Speaker, that is the question. The question is, why hasn't this government learned from the mistakes of history? Why hasn't this government said look, let's not do that? It didn't work then and it won't work now. Let's move forward in a collective and a positive way so that that's not the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, during the turmoil of the 1980s, many construction contractors moved their operations to other provinces. Many contractors in the 1980s were headquartered right here in Saskatchewan. They were Saskatchewan contractors headquartered here in Saskatchewan. They did work in Saskatchewan. They also did work outside this province. And when they do that, when they are headquartered here and they do work outside the Saskatchewan borders, that profit, those monies, are brought here to Saskatchewan. Their tax is paid in Saskatchewan.

So the workers are working here that are paying their taxes; they're paying them here in Saskatchewan. But so are the contractors, so are the contractors. When they do their income tax, they pay that income tax right here in Saskatchewan. They purchase many of their goods and services right here in

Saskatchewan. They hire clerical staff, the support staff that supports their operation at their head office right here in Saskatchewan. I believe Bird Construction was one of those contractors, Mr. Speaker, who in the 1980s was headquartered right here in Saskatchewan, but because of the turmoil that existed during that period of time in the construction industry, they moved out. They weren't alone. There were others, other large contractors who left Saskatchewan, but they were the one that comes to mind right off the top of my head here.

The construction labour relations Act of 1992 resulted in a very stable construction industry. Strikes were a thing of the past. And collective agreements with all the construction trades were negotiated under a big table scenario, and there was peace in the industry. And under Bill 80 in the 1980s could very well have repeated through the effects of our provincial economy.

Mr. Speaker, when there was a collective bargaining agreement put into place as a result of the construction labour relations Act in 1992, it was done province-wide. All the unions participated. All the contractors, the unionized contractors participated. All the trades participated. And they reached a province-wide collective bargaining agreement so that a project working in Estevan, the worker, whether it be the plumber or the carpenter, would be paid the same there or if they were working on a project in Saskatoon or Lloydminster.

The contractors knew this. There was a level playing field, a level playing field that enabled them to bid. What the contractors also received out of this was quality workmanship. They received a workforce that was professional, a workforce that was well trained, well experienced, a workforce that delivered the product on time, on budget, and with quality work. Mr. Speaker, that was one of the things that certainly was promoted within the construction industry during the last 20 or 25 years, is that not only was it essential that the work be done on time, but it was also essential that there be quality work.

And that was something that the unions policed themselves and insisted upon and were receiving, and the contractors were receiving from the unionized workers, was not only, not only were they receiving workers that basically gave a full day's work for a full day's pay; they got quality. They got quality work. The workers showed up and they worked. But they also produced a quality product. And as a result of that, the contractors would come in on budget and in many cases — and some I can think of fairly recently here — that came in actually under budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, those are the benefits; those were the benefits of having a stable construction industry, an industry where contractors could rely on receiving quality workers. Investors could rely on investing into a project and knowing that whatever time frame that project was set to be completed in, it would be done on time and that their investment would soon start to return profits to them because they knew the length of time of that project. They knew the length of time that that investment would be there in construction before it was in a position to start to return the product that they were looking for.

Mr. Speaker, a unionized construction industry currently provides thousands, thousands of good paying jobs to this province. How important is that, Mr. Speaker? Well I think it's

quite important. I think it's a benefit to the community. It's a benefit to the province. It's a benefit to our economy to have good quality, good paying jobs. Mr. Speaker, a unionized worker, a worker who is receiving — or a non-unionized worker — but a worker who is receiving a fair level of compensation for his efforts, for his sweat, for his toil, and for his dedication to the job benefits the entire economy.

And why is that, Mr. Speaker? Well at the end of the week when the worker comes home with his paycheque in his pocket, the first thing they will likely do, him and his wife and his family, they will sit down and take care of the essential businesses, the bills that have to be paid. They'll pay their power bill, and they'll pay their heat bill and their telephone and so on and so forth. Then usually on a Saturday morning they'll head off to the local grocery store, supermarket, and they will purchase their week's supply of groceries.

And then on their way home, if they've been receiving fair and reasonable compensation for their toil, they'll have a little money left over which they'll be able to share with the community. They do that by perhaps stopping in and buying one of their children an MP3 player or a new Blu-ray video player or maybe even, Mr. Speaker, a big screen TV.

And what does that do? Well that shares the money with the community. That money means that somebody selling that product has a job. Why? Because he sold that product. And if he has a job, that means he has a paycheque, and he then spends it in the community. So it's sort of like a wheel that continues to turn, Mr. Speaker.

So is it an investment in good wages? I think it is. I think the economy benefits when you have a construction industry that has a good return — a fair return and a good return to its employees.

The employer makes money. Don't kid yourself, Mr. Speaker. I have been led to believe and in my conversations with some of the contractors — some of them unionized contractors and some of them not, Mr. Speaker — that there's a pretty standard, I guess you'd say, a form of bidding when the project comes up. And the contractor that I was talking to, Mr. Speaker, the example he used was carpenters.

The particular project that he was looking at bidding on, there was a pretty intensive amount of work for carpenters, at least at the front end of the contract, and he was looking at the number of hours, the number of man-hours that would be involved in this contract for carpenters. And he was looking at what it would cost him to bid on the carpenter per hour, and the number was basically \$60. That's what he came up with. He said in his bid he would be considering the cost of the labour, of carpenter labour at \$60 an hour. That's what he would be bidding it out at.

Does that mean, Mr. Speaker, that he's going to pay the carpenter \$60 an hour? No, it doesn't. No, it doesn't. What it means is that \$60 an hour will cover their wages. It will also cover their benefits, their health programs, and whatever benefit, other programs they may have. And he will build into that a margin of profit.

What he suggested to me was that the margin of profit he'd be looking at for himself out of that \$60 an hour was about \$15. It was about \$15. So he would pay \$45. That would cover the cost of not only the wages, but it'd cover the cost of unemployment insurance and workers' compensation and all the benefits that workers receive, plus he would take \$15 and put it in his pocket.

Well a little later on in a conversation I was having with a non-unionized contractor and we were relating to the same project, I asked him what he would be looking at as far as carpenters was concerned, and as far as the carpenter portion of that labour on that contract he was looking at. And he said, well he would probably bill that out at about \$60 an hour, which would be the same number, the same amount as a unionized contractor.

[15:45]

I said, well that's interesting. I said, now would you break that \$60 an hour down for me? Oh, he said, it's fairly simple. He said, I would take \$45 off of that and put it in my pocket and use the other \$15 to settle my labour costs to my employee. So there, Mr. Speaker, is the difference. There, Mr. Speaker, is the difference.

You have a non-unionized labourer, non-unionized carpenter, who will be forced to work for \$15 an hour and simply find ways and means to be able to pay his bills, his power bill, his heat bill, his telephone bill, and be able to buy groceries, and I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, may not have much disposable income left to buy that MP3 player or Blu-ray player or even that big screen TV.

Well when he can't buy those extra things, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't support the local electronics store. That means the person working in that electronic store doesn't get to sell these products, and that means that if he doesn't sell products, he soon loses his job.

And then the wheel starts to spin out of control perhaps, Mr. Speaker, or it starts to crumble. And what we see then is the economy that suffers because there isn't the economic activity within that economy and within that community. So the community starts to suffer. So it all starts to back up, Mr. Speaker.

So when we see, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation is legislation that is regressive, I wonder why. Why is it that we have a government that wants to dampen the economy? Wants to dampen the economy by taking money out of it, okay? Oh yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that there'll be a handful of their friends that are in the construction industry that are contractors that might benefit from it. But these people for the most part don't spend their money at the local grocery store, don't spend their money at the local electronic shop. They spend their money outside of this community. They spend their money, in most cases, outside of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And that does not help our economy, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, most construction companies who are signators of the CLR [Construction Labour Relations Association of Saskatchewan] have established business offices in our

province.

In addition to paying their taxes here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, they employ clerical staff, engineers, drafting personnel, purchasing agents, truck drivers, management teams, safety representatives. These people all, Mr. Speaker, are from the community. These people all benefit from having a head office operating here, operating here in Saskatchewan — a Saskatchewan-based construction company that operates here.

The spin-offs of that create opportunity for the growing of our economy by having people who are working, receiving fair and reasonable compensation for their work, and are able to take those funds and distribute them for goods and services that they enjoy throughout our economy and throughout our community.

Where practical, these companies need to purchase their supplies from local suppliers plus helping our economy, Mr. Speaker, not only because they have employees working here, but they also need supplies to operate their offices. They need supplies to operate their company. And those supplies are bought where? They're not bought in New York. They're not bought in Seattle or Dallas. They're purchased right here, right here in our local community, right here in our local economy, right here in Saskatchewan, supporting, supporting the Saskatchewan economy, supporting the people here, supporting the business here — in many cases the small businesses here, Mr. Speaker.

But if you look at the facts and figures, and I think Stats Canada will verify this, that if you look at what it is that really drives our economy, it's not the big project. It's not the big corporations, Mr. Speaker. It's the working people and small business.

A few years ago — my numbers could be a little dated here — but a few years ago it was determined that 72 per cent of all the jobs created in Canada were created in shops that employed less than 25 people, Mr. Speaker.

So when you have a head office of a construction company here that has clerical staff, that has engineers, drafting personnel, purchasing agents, truck drivers, management teams, and safety representatives, when they need services, when they need supplies and services to support their operation, they get it locally. When they get it locally, they share the wealth. They share the money. They build the economy. We have a strong economy because we have people working in it, have people receiving a fair and reasonable compensation for their efforts, for their toil, for their sweat. It is a win-win situation, Mr. Speaker.

And that's what exists today, and it exists today because of the experiences of the past of those involved in the construction industry. Their experiences of the past, of turmoil and upheaval, did not work. A destabilized industry did not work. This is why they asked the government of the day, the Ross Thatcher government of the day, to bring in legislation that would bring in stability to the industry so that they would have the ability to bid in a fair and level playing field. There'd be the opportunity for an assurance of jobs and an assurance of fair compensation for those individuals who are working in that industry.

But it also created an atmosphere where investors were willing to invest. They were willing to invest because they knew the industry was stable. They knew they could invest. They knew the length of time that that project would take. They could amortize their investment so that they would be in a position at the end of the project and the project would start to deliver the goods they were looking for. They'd be in a position to start to have a return on that investment. That, Mr. Speaker, was something that was created in this province only through the experiences of the past.

And why is it, why is it that we want to turn away from something that works and try something that history has shown us does not work? Why is it, Mr. Speaker? It is a puzzlement to me, Mr. Speaker. But it's also a puzzlement to many, many people in the industry — both unionized and non-unionized.

As I have said a little earlier about my story about the young lad who told me that he wouldn't be supporting the Sask Party again because of the labour legislation — it's a true story, Mr. Speaker, it happened to me last Saturday night here, Seven Oaks hotel — simply because, simply because, Mr. Speaker, whatever destabilizes the labour industry, whatever destabilizes the construction industry and destabilizes the labour within that, whether it be unionized or non-unionized, it affects everyone.

This legislation though, it targeted unions. This is true. It's very apparent it's targeted at unions. But the non-union sector is going to be caught in the wake also and they're going to get the backlash, Mr. Speaker.

Members of the Saskatchewan construction union, Mr. Speaker, live here. They don't live elsewhere. They live right here in this province. Their families live here. Their children attend school here. They pay their taxes here. They purchase their household supplies here. They purchase their houses here. They purchase their cars and their trucks and their vehicles to support their families right here in our community — the community of this province. And, Mr. Speaker, those are the people that this government should be supporting.

But that's not the case. Through this legislation, Mr. Speaker, this is the very people that they're turning their backs on. And they're saying to them, this government really doesn't care how these folks make a living, how these folks are able to make their way in the world, if they are able to enjoy a reasonable and quality lifestyle because they're able to get reasonable and quality compensation for their efforts, for their work, for their sweat, for their commitment to the job, to the projects, and to the contractors, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 80 amounts to nothing more than an organized union busting. And there is no benefit in this, Mr. Speaker, no benefit in this at all to the provincial economy. It is the provincial economy that, at the end of the day, will suffer. It will suffer because when you enter into a situation where you want to have a race to the bottom for wages, you take away disposable income that is spent into our economy, disposable income that's spent in our communities. You take that away. You cause businesses no longer to be able to survive because they don't have the income to support the staff and to support the costs of running that small business. And all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, you're in a downward spiral. All of this, Mr. Speaker, because

we deny the rights of workers to unite to ensure that through a common voice they're able to negotiate a fair and reasonable compensation package for their efforts, for their sweat, for their toil, their commitment to the projects and the contractors within this great province of ours.

Bill 80 does nothing more than supply construction workers from other provinces who are willing to work for reduced wages. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what you're going to see if Bill 80 comes into effect. You will see unemployed workers from other provinces who are, because they're unemployed, Mr. Speaker, coming into this province. And they will undercut, they will undercut the wage levels set here in Saskatchewan. They will undercut that because contractors from outside will be allowed to bid on jobs. That will undercut the bidding process. They can bid because they will be able to, as a result of Bill 80, be able to pay their workers less money.

And that will simply create a situation where you have Saskatchewan workers — those same workers, Mr. Speaker, who I earlier said are the ones who live in this province, whose families live in this province, whose children attend school here in our communities, who pay their taxes here and purchase their household goods here, Mr. Speaker — they're the ones that'll be forced to accept lower wages or no work.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you have a situation where you have a young family, you have a mortgage on your home, and though maybe you have been used to receiving a fair and reasonable wage and fair and reasonable compensation for the efforts that you put into the projects, you will find yourself now in competition with those from outside the province who are willing to work for less. And they will have no choice but accept that lower wage.

They will have no choice, Mr. Speaker, because they have children to feed, a mortgage to make payments on. And when that happens it starts to backlash on the economy because it starts to dry the economy up, because there aren't the disposable incomes that there were in the past to continue to support the industry, to continue to support the community, the business sector in the community, the small businesses, and they start to go out of business.

So at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, what you see is a downward spiral. And when we enter into this competition for lower wages, you're really entering into a race — a race to the bottom where nobody wins. Nobody wins except perhaps a handful, a handful of contractors. And in some way, Mr. Speaker, I would say greedy contractors, because they're willing to take away from the working people their rights and their ability to live a reasonable quality of life, not only for themselves but for their families. They're taking that away. They're taking away from the economy the opportunity to cause the economy to be strong and prosperous. They're taking that away all to satisfy their own personal greeds by shoving money in their pockets.

And many of them, Mr. Speaker, many of them will come from outside of Saskatchewan so that they don't even pay their income tax here in this province, Mr. Speaker. They spend very little money in this province. Their workers that come here will spend very little money in this province. Because where are

their families? Where are their families? They're not here in Saskatchewan. They're elsewhere. They're in some other province, perhaps even some other country, Mr. Speaker. But they have been imported here simply because they will work for less.

They will work for less. Driving the wages down here, driving the quality of life in this province down, driving the economy of this province down, Mr. Speaker. And that, Mr. Speaker, is something that I find unconscionable.

Construction unions provide pensions and health and welfare benefits to all their members, Mr. Speaker, to all of their members. Everybody is treated equal. Everybody has the opportunity to enjoy those benefits. That, Mr. Speaker, is not going to be the case with contractors from outside of Saskatchewan that are willing to employ workers that will come from outside the borders of Saskatchewan — workers who are willing to work for less, workers who are willing to participate in the great race, the great race to the bottom.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, the construction unions spend millions of dollars annually on training and safety programs. Bill 80 will result in an untrained individual working in a safety-sensitive industry. And if you, Mr. Speaker — and I know you have, I'm sure — paid attention to the Day of Mourning in this great province, you will note that year in and year out we unfortunately are viewing a list of workers who most of them were in the construction industry, finding themselves hurt or killed in the industry. And that's very unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. And that despite the fact that there has been, under the union sector, there has been a real conscious effort at training, at training people to ensure that they are well trained and qualified to do the work, but they also do it under a safety umbrella, under safety programs that they are encouraged to participate in.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this will no longer be the case. When you enter into a situation where you have contractors who are underbidding, who are cutting corners to increase their profits, doing so at the expense of workers, not supplying the workers with the ability to have their time to take the training programs, to have the time to upgrade themselves in the training aspects of their industry, Mr. Speaker — and that, Mr. Speaker, leads to a situation where you have untrained, untrained workers entering into a situation that could very well be dangerous to them. I think we've seen that, Mr. Speaker.

But sadly when you have untrained, unqualified workers working in your construction industry, these are the people who are building the infrastructure for ourselves and our children. Will we feel safe for our children to go to schools that are built with unqualified workers? Will we feel safe for our children and our families to go to libraries that are built with unqualified, untrained, and unskilled workers?

Mr. Speaker, will we as individuals using the public services as they are, feel safe whether we're crossing a bridge on the No. 1 Highway, a bridge that was built by unqualified, inexperienced workers who simply are there because they will work for less money? Not because they're qualified, not because they're experienced at the construction of those bridges, but simply

because they will work for less money. Will we feel safe? Question is, will we be safe?

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that at some point in time in the future, we don't sit down to watch the 6 o'clock news and see of an instance where a busload of elementary children had a misfortunate accident while crossing a bridge on one of our highways that was built by contractors who employed workers who were not qualified to do the work. They employed these workers not for any other reason than the fact that they would work for less and the contractor could enhance his bottom line, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that would not be the case.

Mr. Speaker, we look closely, look closely at Bill No. 80. It brings up a lot of issues; there's no question about that. It brings up the issue of why there wasn't any meaningful consultation with the stakeholders within the industry. Mr. Speaker, it puzzles me why a government introducing legislation that's going to dramatically change the existing legislation and have a dramatic effect on the lives of working people, have a dramatic effect on the economy of this great province of ours would do so, would do so without consulting those on the front line who will be most affected.

There was zero consultation with many of the industry's important stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council. On Bill 80, as far as we know, the only consultation that was done by this government was done with their fundamentalist cousins, the Christian Labour Association of Canada — not a union, Mr. Speaker, not a union by no stretch of the imagination — a smokescreen, a false pretence perhaps, to the workers who are employed by such companies as Ledcor.

But it is certainly nowhere a union that stands up for the rights of their members, that stands up and negotiates a fair and reasonable compensation package, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, negotiates the opportunity for training, the opportunity for safety, the opportunity to have a quality, skilled workforce. Mr. Speaker, what they are more interested in is having a workforce that will work for less. Through Bill 80 you will certainly create an instability and dramatically shift away from the traditional construction unions that have built this great province and have built for the workers' benefits and have built the Saskatchewan community as a whole.

On a construction site in Saskatchewan there has not been a strike in over one quarter of a century. For over 25 years, Mr. Speaker, there has been no strike in Saskatchewan. And why? Why is because we enjoyed a stable industry. We enjoyed an industry where through negotiations, through collective bargaining agreements on a province-wide negotiating table, the issues were addressed. The issues were addressed so that we had a stable industry here. And that stable industry affected who? Not just the workers, not just the contractors, not even just the investors, Mr. Speaker. It affected the entire province because we had a stable industry that was worth billions of dollars in economic activity throughout year in and year out. And that could be done, Mr. Speaker, in a stable atmosphere simply through sitting down and through negotiations.

And yes, through those negotiations, the labour, the working people were able to gain from that fair and reasonable

compensation for their efforts — fair and reasonable compensation for their sweat, for their toil, and for their dedication to the project, and, Mr. Speaker, for their pride in workmanship. Because if you look at the track record of unionized contracts and unionized projects in this province, you will see, Mr. Speaker, that the vast majority of them came in with quality work, came in on time and on budget. And, Mr. Speaker, unionized people are very proud of that. In fact I can think of one or two projects just now off the top of my head that most recently have come in ahead of schedule with the same effective and efficient quality workmanship, and they came in not only ahead of time but came in under budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the apprenticeship programs, the apprenticeship programs that is really the lifeblood of our construction industry is one of the victims of Bill 80 — the apprenticeship programs which is the heart and the soul of the construction industry. Without skilled workers, Mr. Speaker, without skilled workers smart money knows that the construction industry is on life support. If you haven't got the skilled workers, the qualified workers, the skilled workers to do the jobs, the industry is in deep, deep trouble. Like any other workplace, as workers retire they need to be replaced. The plain and simple truth is that the apprenticeship system and the construction industry unions work together to produce that vast majority of skilled workers coming into our workforce.

I'm not saying, Mr. Speaker, that all the workers trained stay with their unions. That's not the case at all. Some stay, some stay with their unions and some go off to work for non-union companies and some go off to work for themselves. But every one of them, Mr. Speaker, if you poll them, every one of them will be the first to admit that they received their skills training, they received their skills training through the unionized sector.

Mr. Speaker, the apprenticeship training and safety is one of the many pillars that are the important elements in the relationships of the construction unions and organized contracting companies. Apprenticeship in an organized environment is locked into a system and when times are lean — and those times will come back, Mr. Speaker; let us not fool ourselves, those times will come back — it is a temptation for some companies at that time to cut corners by manipulating the ratios and reducing the timely classroom studies and training.

Bill 80 as it stands today will eventually decrease the number of people at the top of their skills in this great province of ours. Mr. Speaker, it will take away the quality training that our workers are enjoying today.

And one of the reasons why Saskatchewan workers are really, really in demand worldwide is because we produce quality workers. Why? We have an apprenticeship program that gives them the opportunity at receiving the training that provides them to be top-notch workers that contractors want to employ and, quite frankly, that investors want to have on their projects and on their job sites because they know they're going to get quality work. They're going to get that work done in a timely fashion. And they're going to get that work done, in most cases, on time — many cases, even ahead of time.

So at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, those people who are investing, those investors are looking at those elements that

they receive from qualified workers. And why do they receive that? Because they have that qualification. They have that training. They have that ability to produce a product of superior quality because they have been trained basically to be able to do so.

Am I running out of time here? I see I'm getting the nod, Mr. Speaker. My colleague here suggested perhaps I should be winding up my remarks so I will certainly bow to his greater powers.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we ensure in this great province that we have the ability to continue on with quality work within our construction industry. In order to do that, Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that we have quality, well-trained, skilled people coming into the industry on a regular and ongoing basis.

That, Mr. Speaker, will not happen — will not happen — if Bill 80 sees the light of day in its present form.

That, Mr. Speaker, is probably the fourth piece of regressive legislation that has been presented in this legislature by this government. It's regressive labour legislation, and I think, Mr. Speaker, it is probably the only legislature in this great province that in such a tight, tight time frame has been bombarded with such backward legislation.

It's regressive. It's taking away from the rights of workers — rights that have been earned over decades of negotiations, decades of work, decades of doing quality work on behalf of contractors; and contractors recognizing that and being willing to reward those workers for the quality work being done.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think if you haven't been able to ascertain it by now, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill, Bill No. 80, will not be receiving my support. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased today to enter into debate on Bill No. 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act*, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now this particular piece of legislation is one of the most regressive pieces of legislation that I've seen in my now nine years in the legislature, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members opposite obviously like to call from their seats and not pay attention to the debate on this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

But I think that any piece of legislation should start from a fundamental position of, what problem are you fixing? Mr. Deputy Speaker, before you should put legislation in place, you should have a problem that needs fixing.

And what's being fixed with this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker? That's the question the people of Saskatchewan have. That's the question that the members on this side of the House have, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, that is definitely the question that the members of the building trades in this province have, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:15]

What problem are we trying to fix? Well, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this piece of legislation, and I meet with members of the building trades and I meet with individuals involved in the industry, Mr. Speaker, I don't see anybody asking for this particular piece of legislation. Who asked for this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and what problem are we trying to fix?

I think those are fundamentals that should be answered prior to drafting legislation, prior to going down a course of action, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that does nothing but put working men and women at a disadvantage, takes away benefits that they fought for over the years, Mr. Deputy Speaker — things that they've earned over a considerable period of time.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those things are being taken away from these members of the building trades without any consultation, without any discussion. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it all goes back to that fundamental question, what problem are we fixing? What problem are we fixing with this particular regressive labour legislation?

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members can yell from their seats over there and show disrespect when individuals want to talk and debate reasonably a Bill before this legislature. If the members opposite, members of the government don't want to have a reasonable debate in which the people of this province can listen and hear about what this piece of legislation is about, well then that's really unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what we've seen when we've come, when it's come to dealing with labour legislation from this government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they've not answered the question about what fundamental problem are we fixing with this legislation. They haven't even taken the time to consult with people who'd be affected by the legislation. They first put legislation in place and say, we'll consult later. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that isn't a process that's totally out of appropriate sequence, that totally makes no sense in common logic, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what is.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will tell you what we see before us. We have a Premier that, when he was the leader of the opposition, made it very clear that he'd go to war — go to war with the unions, go to war with the working men and women of this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And what we see today, and what we see today, Mr. Speaker, is this Premier living up to his word to go to war with the working men and women of this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And it's not good enough just to go to war. And it's in the implementation of Bill 5 and 6, one that brings in essential services that doesn't work, that even the technicians in the government today say does not work. That the public sees does not work. That the unionized member sees does not work.

It's not good enough to have Bill 6, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 6 that takes the rights of members to organize, of unions to

organize new unions, make it more difficult, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It didn't end with Bill 43 that could take away the rights to peaceful assembly, the right to demonstrate, the right to exercise their collective rights to strike by having demonstrations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. No, it doesn't end with those three regressive Bills, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now we have Bill 80.

And when's the last time we've seen this type of legislation before the Saskatchewan legislature, legislation that takes away the fundamental rights of the building trades, Mr. Deputy Speaker? We saw that in the 1980s under Grant Devine. We saw it during the 1980s by Grant Devine.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Order. I'm finding some of the comments are getting fairly loud, and I will also mention to members that there will be no discussion if you're not in your seat. I recognize the member for Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now since 1980, since the 1980s, Mr. Speaker, we've seen a consistency in labour legislation application in the province of Saskatchewan. From 1991 forward, we've seen stability in the construction industry, Mr. Speaker, because the previous government, the previous government was very, very sincere in a desire to have stability, stability in our province so growth could occur.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what creates the greatest problems in our province's instability? Not knowing what is coming, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And what we've seen since this new government's come into place is four, now four Bills of aggressive labour legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And those four Bills have undermined some of the fundamentals in this province and have tipped the balance that's been in place for many, many years.

But going back particularly or specifically to Bill No. 80, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill No. 80, The construction labour relations Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker, takes away some fundamental rights that tradespeople in our province have had for many, many years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite can yell across the floor and try to pretend that they know what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker, but if they want to enter into the debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the members want to enter into debate, perhaps they should stand and do so from their seats, Mr. Deputy Speaker, rather than yell across the floor like, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say like little children you'd see in a classroom. If they want to in fact participate in the debate, maybe they should stand from their seat and do it appropriately, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Member: — Hear, Hear!

Mr. Yates: — Maybe they should respect, Mr. Speaker, maybe they should respect this Assembly and respect the rights of individuals to debate, Mr. Speaker, have the right to debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is actually embarrassing to see members of the government yelling during

a debate about a particular piece of legislation. If they want to enter into the debate again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd say they should stand when they have the appropriate time when it's their turn and debate this piece of legislation.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to talk again about Bill No. 80. What does this do? This Bill is a fundamental attack on the rights of the building trades unions in our province, the employees they represent, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the individuals in our province that are afforded the benefits and wages as a result of contracts that have been entered into by these respective unions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these unions have represented these employees based on a craft trade certification for many, many years, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They have province-wide collective agreements that are respected by the employers. And, Mr. Speaker, we have seen, as a result of that, a significant improvement in the apprenticeship standards in our province, the continued education of apprentices in our province, and the development of a skilled labour force that this province very much needs.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, any deterioration of any one of those things undermines the fabric of our construction industry in this province. And that undermining of our construction industry in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not in the interest of the employers. It's not in the interest of the employees, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's certainly not in the interest of the province of Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this particular piece of legislation isn't in the interest of either the employers in the province of Saskatchewan or the building trades unions in the province of Saskatchewan or the employees. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this legislation was put forward without even consulting them. This was put forward because an ideological, an ideological position of the government in power — a government that is trying to undermine the very essence of what those contracts are about, the very protections that employees have in this province in the construction industry.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, once again there is members there saying, oh, this is that; it's that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they haven't gone and consulted with the construction industries. They haven't gone and consulted with the unions, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They talk about this as being choice — giving choice to employees, giving choice to employers, allowing new unions in, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who asked for that? I'll tell you who asked for that — unions that operate outside the province of Saskatchewan, unions that haven't represented employees in the province of Saskatchewan, unions that are classified within the broader context of the labour movement as employer unions, unions that come in and sign an agreement with half a dozen employees on a work site. And then all employees who come to work at that work site have to live by that agreement, and they don't even get a vote on it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

That's what this is about. This is about giving preference to employers to run the industry without having — without having — to deal with the rights of those employees in a way that

provides them with true collective bargaining, the right to vote. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is about taking away rights from individuals that they already had. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's what they intended to do.

They have intended to take away rights from working people just as they did in Bills 5 and Bill 6. And they can deny it and say it's not true, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But if they want to enter into the debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask them to, when it's their turn, stand in their place and talk and explain what their position is. Because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they haven't explained their position to anybody in this province because they haven't consulted with anybody.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what this piece of legislation does is undermines the fundamentals of the contracts that exist between those craft unions across the province, those members of the building trades that are represented on various job sites across this province and allows for a union to come in that hasn't operated in the province of Saskatchewan — one known as CLAC, the Christian Labour Association of Canada — to come in, bring four or five employees to a job site with a new employer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, come to an agreement on a contract with that employer and not even have the employees vote on that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and put a contract in place that will undermine the wages, undermine the benefits and the working conditions of those employees. Not to mention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be a contract across all trades, and all people who work on one job site will be covered by a single collective agreement. So it will undermine the apprenticeship of those particular trades at that work site, potentially.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I go back to the fundamental of what problem are we trying to fix here? Why did we bring forward this legislation? Legislation should be problem driven, Mr. Speaker. It should be there to fix a problem, an amendment to legislation. It should be there to do something that's fundamental, that's required by the industry, that's required by the employers and employees.

But it should happen after consultation with the employers and employees, and that hasn't happened in this case, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is legislation that is brought forward by a government for ideological reasons, to support a union that they want to support with a base outside the province of Saskatchewan called the Christian Labour Association of Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is not the reason we should be bringing forward legislation. If those employees in this province want to have this union, then they should go seek it. We should not be passing legislation that allows the union to come in and do what this legislation does.

Mr. Speaker, we have the assistant deputy minister of Labour admitting that the only organization other than the employer organization who asked for this law was CLAC — Christian Labour Association of Canada. He also acknowledged that he excluded the building trades union from the consultation process. So you guys decide to put legislation in place without consulting with the very people who it'll affect; the people who it will affect have been excluded from any consultation. You put legislation in place and say you'll consult after. You'll

consult after.

Well it shouldn't surprise the members opposite that the members of the building trades in this province, the working men and women of this province, don't support this legislation. It shouldn't surprise anybody. And I think the members opposite, I think the members opposite should go, they should go and do consultations with their unions and their representatives prior to introducing legislation. That's the appropriate way to do consultation — not to make an ideological decision, implement it and then say, we'll talk to you after we're doing it, and if you don't like it, we don't really care. We don't really care.

Because that's the message you're sending to people when you do consultation after you've already done it. You're saying, I don't care what your opinion is. I don't care about your input, and I don't care if it doesn't work for us. I don't care if it takes something away from you, and I don't care if it hurts you. That's the message this government is sending to the working men and women of the building trades in this province. They don't care about them.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members on this side of the House do care. We care about those men and women, and we care about the preservation of a strong, well-educated, well-trained trades sector in our province. And we care about those building trade unions because they provide that training in that sector of employment in our province. And they provide skilled labour, skilled tradespeople for our construction industry in this province. And they go above and beyond the call of their own responsibility to ensure that young people have the opportunity to get the appropriate training in this province so that they undertake their trade in a safe and appropriate manner, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's actually shameful that we would have legislation like this before the House without having consulted those very organizations that in fact work on behalf of these men and women in the province of Saskatchewan, without consultations of their unions, without consultations of them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and without consultations with the people of the province of Saskatchewan prior to the implementation.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the most important things in the construction industry is stability, and there has been stability from the early 1990s until now, the year 2009, in the industry. And we've seen growth in the construction industry. We have seen significant growth in our industry in the last number of years. We've seen many, many projects in the province. We've seen on-time, properly built projects, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:30]

The members of our construction trades are hard-working, Mr. Deputy Speaker, hard-working, diligent workers that deliver a good product. So why are we trying to change that? Why are we trying to undermine the very standards, the very organizations, the very craftspeople who have delivered that work to the people of this province year after year for more than now 20 years, for about 20 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Why are we doing that?

We're doing it because of the ideology of the government, because of an ideological bent to the right that says that employers should have more right, more power. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they did this without even consulting all the employers. They're doing this because an outside organization has come and said, we want to have the right to undermine what's going on today in Saskatchewan — without doing an examination of, it's in the best interests of the industry, the best interest of our tradespeople, the best interest of the province.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that if this opposition is paying attention, it's at this point that many of them are asking themselves about whether or not they should withdraw this legislation. And if they're asking themselves if they should withdraw this legislation, I want to help them by saying, yes, they should. They should withdraw this legislation because it doesn't make sense. This particular piece of legislation does not make sense.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if it doesn't make sense, you don't do it. And one of the things that the people of the province of Saskatchewan want us to do, they want us to make decisions using common sense. They want us to make decisions in the best interests of the people of the province of Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, legislation should make sense to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. It should make sense to the industry in which is being developed and it should make sense to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. When it doesn't, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it doesn't then you should reconsider what you're doing.

You should take a step back, and you should say, do I need to re-examine this? Well the answer is yes, you do. The answer is yes, you do because this particular piece of legislation does not make sense for the working men and women in our building trades in the province of Saskatchewan.

And what problem is it fixing, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The government's failed to define that. This government's failed to tell the people of Saskatchewan, including the members of this legislature, what problem they're fixing. And legislation should be designed to fix a problem, to correct a wrong within our society. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we should not be using the power of legislation to take rights away from people, to take rights away from people without a reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members opposite can chirp from their seats and show a disrespect for the process of this Assembly, and that's what they're doing. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, obviously, obviously if they want to speak to this Bill, there's an opportunity for them to speak as well. And if this Bill takes three years to pass . . .

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much. If all members of this Assembly want to speak to this Bill at length, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this Bill takes three years to pass, I don't think the people of the province of Saskatchewan will care. I don't think the members of the building trades will care. And I don't think the working men and women of this province will care. But I do

think in an appropriate debate, talking and looking and examining the fundamentals of this Bill is appropriate. It needs to look at why is this Bill coming forward, what it is set about to achieve, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and what the end result will be.

And the end result isn't in the favour of the working men and women in the province. It's certainly not in the favour of having strong apprenticeship standards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in our province, having strong apprenticeship practices in our province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as a result I think this has some fundamental flaws, this Bill.

And I think it's important that we have an in-depth examination as to the impact of both the various trades that are involved, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as well as the construction industry in our province — what impact it'll have on the economy as we see the gradual deterioration of the wages and benefits paid to tradespeople in our province and whether or not those tradespeople will continue to work in the province of Saskatchewan. Or will they seek employment elsewhere where they may be compensated better because the very benefits which they have fought for over a number of years may be deteriorated or taken away from them?

Now *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act* was repealed for a period of time under the Devine government and we saw a significant reduction in the number of people who were involved in the trades in our province. And it took some time to get a number, the number of tradespeople back up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the point where we have a very stable construction industry today in the province of Saskatchewan, where we have one of the best — if not the best, Mr. Deputy Speaker — the best industries and representation for the employees in the country of Canada. And we should be proud of that, not trying to deteriorate that or take away from that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

During the decade of the 1980s when *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act* was repealed, there was no construction labour relations Act in place, or training committees, and the apprenticeship system ground to a halt. We saw deterioration of our apprenticeship system in the province. And as a result we saw many, many years with a significant shortage of journeymen in our province — a problem that we still, to some degree, are dealing with today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to talk about a couple of other things that this Bill does before I wrap up my comments in the next few minutes. This Bill also takes away a section of the responsibility that is outlined in the current Act that the building trades in the current construction industry labour relations Act responsibilities are, and it deals with the issue of maintenance. In the previous Act, the maintenance of a project fell within the purview of *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act*. It fell within the purview of the building trades and the tradesmen who worked under those agreements. That's being removed from the Act. And the question is, why?

Again, before you remove something from a piece of legislation or you amend a piece of legislation, you should understand the problem you're trying to fix. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they haven't been able to articulate what they're trying to fix with this amendment or what they're trying to fix with the changes

they're making to this Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if any of the members take the opportunity which they will have to speak to this Bill, I hope that they would take that opportunity to tell those of us in the province of Saskatchewan why they want to remove maintenance from this legislation. It's not good enough to say you want to do something. You should be able and willing to justify your action. You should be willing and able to say why you're doing it. And we should be able to understand it.

An Hon. Member: — We just think all unions should have the right to work in Saskatchewan. We're not anti-union.

Mr. Yates: — And they say they want to have the right to work in Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they can say whatever they want from the chairs, but they haven't explained to the people of Saskatchewan, the members of this legislature, the employees of the building trades or the trade unions or for that matter the employers, what they're trying to fix with this particular piece of legislation.

And why are they removing maintenance from this legislation? To what end? Why? Who requested it? Those are all questions that the members should be prepared and willing to answer. We haven't heard them answer any of these questions to date, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We will have the opportunity, we will have the opportunity later on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps several months from now — I hope several months from now. I hope that all members on that side want to take the opportunity to speak to this Bill.

And if it takes us three years to pass this Bill, I think it's in the best interest of the province of Saskatchewan. Or better yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would even be better, it would even be better if the members opposite looked at this piece of legislation, shook their head and say, why did we do this, and withdrew it. Why would we put forward, why would we put forward a piece of legislation that's so regressive, that wants to take away the rights of men and women in this province, working men and women in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Now they've withdrawn legislation before. They've admitted they've made mistakes, and we've accepted that. In fact we have applauded them; we have applauded them for noticing and understanding when they've done something wrong. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they've even done that when we have pointed this out. We have pointed out on various pieces of legislation that they didn't make sense, and they've withdrawn them.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope once again that they will listen, they will pay attention, they will know that this piece of legislation is not appropriate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they will do the honourable thing — they will re-examine this Bill and say, no, it's not good for the working men and women of the province; no, it's not good for the building trades, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And no, it's not good for the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they say, no, they're not going to do that. Well I believe they're highly unlikely that they will take another look at this Bill, that they will look at it in a manner that would be appropriate and say, this isn't the right thing to do.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why won't they look at it? Because they have made an ideological choice, and that ideological choice is to go to war — to go to war with the unions, go to war with the working men and women of the province. As the Premier has said, as the Premier clearly articulated when he was the leader of the opposition, if he formed the government they would go to war with working men and women.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are going to war with working people. This piece of legislation continues to confirm it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They continue to confirm day after day why the working men and women of this province cannot trust them, why the working men and women of this province should not vote for them, and why the working men and women of this province should not believe, should not believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they will do anything to help the ordinary working people of our province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they respond to special interest groups. They respond to unions from outside the province of Saskatchewan who like to come in here and push aside unions, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But did they consult with the people of our province? Did they consult with the construction unions in our province? No, they didn't. No, they didn't, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and nor do they care. They make that pretty obvious. They don't care.

As in with Bill 5 and 6, they have put in place pieces of legislation we don't believe will work, we believe will hurt the industry. Will they listen to advice? Will they talk about the Bill? Will they debate the Bill? The answer's no. They're going to implement it for ideological reasons with or without, with or without consultations of the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not want to have an open dialogue on this Bill. They don't want to have an open dialogue before they actually implement the Bill or put the Bill into the legislature, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So we'll have, they'll have hearings, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this Bill. But those hearings, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are after. They'll start consulting after they put the Bill in place, after they've already made the decision they're going to pass it. Because when I've asked here whether they'll look at things and really consider it, what I've heard back across is, no, no.

So what good are public hearings if you've already decided what you're going to do? So you'll listen to people but you won't change your mind. So you'll consult with people, but you don't care what they hear. That's what I'm hearing from the members opposite chirp from their seats. They'll say, they'll say, yes, we'll have public hearings. But what they hear from the public makes no difference. They're saying that. They're saying, what the public says about this Bill during public hearings doesn't matter. Because if they won't listen to the people of Saskatchewan, then what difference do those hearings make?

When I've asked them if they'll listen and look at amending the Bill or withdrawing the Bill, they say no. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they won't listen, they won't pay attention, they don't want to debate the Bill, they don't want to consult before, they have public hearings and they say they won't pay attention to what happens there, they won't change their position, they

won't change what they're going to do, then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why, the public hearings become a farce. Why have them?

They want to have them because they want to give the illusion that they care. But if they truly cared, they wouldn't come in with a deadlock, set position and say, I'm going to implement. So why, why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, do we have a government that wants to implement something prior to consultation? Wouldn't it be far more appropriate to do consultation prior to implementation? It would, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But this particular government has on many occasions done exactly what we're seeing here — put a Bill in place and then do consultations after.

So whose interests are they acting upon? That of the people of the province of Saskatchewan or specific stakeholders who, in one way or another, support this government?

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, obviously from my comments I won't be supporting this particular piece of legislation. Many of my colleagues would like to enter into the debate. So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to just end by simply saying and challenging the members opposite to consider withdrawing this Bill, consider doing meaningful consultation with the men and women of this province, the people of this province, the people of the industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And then next fall, if they still feel the same way after they've done consultations, but before locking themselves into a position, to come back with a Bill. Do it right.

[16:45]

So take a step back. Withdraw this Bill. Do the consultations over the summer. Let the committee do the meaningful consultation and then, if they still feel the same way, come back with a Bill later this year.

Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With that, I will allow my colleagues who wish to speak on this Bill have the opportunity to enter into this debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, unfortunately it's difficult to even hear myself speak to this Bill at times when members opposite are yelling from their chairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've taken my time. I will now take my chair and allow other members to enter into the debate.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure and I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak on Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act*. And I appreciate the opportunity, following my colleagues from Regina Dewdney, Walsh Acres, and Regina Northeast.

A lot has been said about the concerns about this Bill. And we have just a few minutes before 5, but I do want to make sure . . . There are some concerns that I have, and I've been getting letters already about what are my points of view. People are concerned about this and really essentially, as my colleagues

have talked about, the style of consultations that have gone on, that have become really the benchmark of this government. You do it first and then you act on . . . You do a bit of consultations to get an okay. But really, where did this come from?

But I have three major concerns with this Bill: the impact it will have on apprenticeship, the impact it will have on our local economies, and really, the whole process around certification of craft unions or trade unions. If it ain't broke, why are you fixing this?

And this is really a huge, huge problem and I think that a Pandora's box that this government has opened. And clearly I don't think they're understanding what they're getting into. And clearly if they had talked to the Building Trades Council, for example, they might know a little bit about the issues they're going to be tackling here. But they didn't. They chose not to. And it will be really unfortunate the kind of things we see in the construction industry in the months and years ahead if this Act goes ahead.

And I agree fully with my colleague from Regina Dewdney who talked about, this government has acknowledged the mistakes they've made in the past, withdrawn legislation. We've seen that this session with the highway traffic amendment Act, with the licence, the super licences they tried, and right away they said, oh we made a mistake. Let's take it back. Let's not do it.

I ask them to consider the same approach with this and realize, gee, we should have done this differently. We should talk to people first. Let's drop it right now, and that's the way it should be. But they're not going to, and they seem to have a particular dislike for talking to people who are in unions and they want to go after them afterwards.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about, you know, last Saturday night . . . And we had a members' statement on the Saskatoon and District Labour Council and its 100th anniversary, 100 years. That's a pretty major milestone that folks in Saskatoon celebrated this year. The impact that organized folks in Saskatoon, whether they be through trade unions or craft unions, the impact they've had on our economy. Well, the impact they've had on Saskatchewan, how they've built this province. And we know and we appreciate, and I've come to really appreciate through my own family members . . . I have a brother who's in a craft union, a trade union, the work that he's been doing. We know the people who are organized really bring a lot to the work site. We know they get their work done on time. We know it's done well, and we know it's done safely.

Now I understand the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, the part-time Minister of Labour . . . He's not the full-time Minister of Labour unfortunately, you know. It's the approach this government's taken. It's talked about Mission: Zero in terms of workplace safety. And clearly when you're on construction sites, and we know . . . Unfortunately we've seen when people have been injured or died in the workplace, this is really, really important. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that organized workplaces are much more safer. They take this very seriously and they train their workers because they don't want to see anybody going home hurt or, in the worst case scenario,

not going home from their workplace, Mr. Speaker. So I really worry about this.

And I worry about this because I see the impact on the apprenticeship programs. We see if we're going to build this economy here in Saskatchewan where people get well-paid wages, and we've talked about that and we've seen in many cases wages going up, particularly in the construction industry, that it's because they bring skill sets to the workplace. But here we see a thrust by this government where they're going to take away the emphasis around skills — in fact might call this de-skilling the workplace — and this worries us because we see what the impact it will have. Not only will the quality of work be questionable, but is it a safe workplace? And we worry about that.

I have to take my hat off to the people in the Building Trades Council and the many trades it represents in terms of the emphasis they place on training people through the apprenticeship programs. And not only in the major urban centres, Mr. Speaker. I know they've gone up North. And we had talks over the last couple years where they've believed the next area they have to really support and organize is in the North. So many people, First Nations and Métis people, have those skills that really makes a difference in their families. And I worry about this because we see an impact on lower wages — could this mean lower wages in our local economies? Not just in Regina or Saskatoon, but I'm talking about in rural areas, particularly in some of the major projects we've been talking about and particularly in the North.

When you talk about the impact it will have on organizing workplaces, particularly around skill sets or trades, this is a huge, huge thing. And so I have concerns. I have great concerns about this. And when I write back to my constituents about that I say I have really . . . I know we're going to have some consultations. The committee will talk about that. But clearly this Bill in its entirety is not well thought out. And I have to ask the government, I think that in the next few days there is an opportunity to do the right thing and withdraw this Bill. I mean, I don't think it makes any sense at all.

And clearly when you start out with excluding one group, one major group from the discussion, you know, about what could we do to improve the construction industry, I think that you should start out by having that scoping — it's often called scoping — conversations where you scope out, where are the problems? Where do you think the problems are that we need to address? Is it in wages? Is it in safety? Is it in apprenticeship? What is it? Are we getting enough workers into the province? What can we do better?

And when you exclude a major factor, major group from those discussions, you have to wonder, what really is this all about? What really is this all about? Does this government understand the impact, the unintended consequences it will have by going forward with this legislation? And again this is why I say, if it ain't broke, why are you fixing this?

Clearly there's enough work, enough things we need to do. And particularly we see, around occupational health and safety, we are still tied with Manitoba with the highest injury rate in Canada. And while we have . . . And I have to say, and I hope

Mission: Zero works. When you have that kind of initiative, you need to have the legislative push behind it. We've seen no amendments to occupational health and safety in the two years and three opportunities this government has had to bring forward changes to occupational health and safety legislation that will have an impact in the workplace. We've not seen that, and we know there's work to be done in that area. Why are they dragging their feet on this and moving forward in this area where, again, I don't think it's broke? I think it's working well.

We have a lot of work to do in the construction industry, but this isn't part of it. We need to get more apprentices working. We need to get more apprentices in from different groups who haven't had the access to having good opportunities. And I know, for example, my colleague from Walsh Acres was talking the other day about how there are 90 courses that the building trades folks offer above what SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] does throughout the province, throughout the province.

So they have access. People throughout this province has access. This Bill, Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act*, puts all of that at risk. Needlessly at risk, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And why? Why is that? And I think that there is some questions that we need to have answered. We'll go through these consultations, but clearly there is a fundamental problem. And I think when you talk to the people who know about building strength in infrastructure, you should be talking to the building tradespeople who know how to build things so they can last. And you don't talk to them, clearly there's going to be some issues down the road.

We know that we've seen this style, where there's Bill 5 and 6, the style that this government, particularly this minister, has. The way he's been working with organized labour. There's some major questions about his real commitment to working with working men and women in this province. And I just have to shake my hand and just say, you know, I have to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . My hand . . . My head! Shake my head. Shake my head. You know I just, when I think about those guys, I just go way off track, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate their listening and caught me on that one. Very good.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shake my head when I think about the kind of work they are doing in this area. I do. I think that they shake their heads too, and I appreciate that, because we do have some grave concerns as we move forward. They've seen some of the things that they've brought forward and they've realized that there've been some mistakes. And while we can have a few laughs in the House about things that we're saying, Mr. Speaker, this is no laughing matter.

Clearly they would prefer to just gloss over this area that they really don't understand, really don't understand. They said in the House . . . And I think, have they been talking to people who work in these industries, who work in these trades, you know, that have such a rich history? And as I say, we know that they take a lot of pride, the men and women who belong to the trades. And whether they be carpenters or plumbers, they are worried about, what does this mean to their families? What kind of impact does this have on their wages? What will you see in the workplaces, the work sites? Will there be job security and a decent wage? We're talking about decent wages, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. And clearly this will be a pressure. There will be chaos in the bidding systems, the bidding processes here. And I share their concerns.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think when the time comes to vote on this, I'll have no choice but to vote against this — even be curious to see what amendments that come forward. But I think the Bill is flawed. It's seriously flawed, fundamentally flawed, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I call on the government to withdraw this legislation in the next week so everybody can have a good season. Everybody can have a good construction season knowing what the rules are like they have had for the past.

And we've seen the economy grow. We've seen the economy boom under the old rules. So I don't know why these folks are so intent on changing them.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time being 5 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hickie	2961
Junor	2961
Huyghebaert	2961
Van Mulligen	2961
Wall	2961
Draude	2961
McCall	2962

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Iwanchuk	2962
Forbes	2962
Morin	2962
Brotten	2962
Vermette	2962

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

National Hospice Palliative Care Week

Brotten	2963
---------------	------

Leadership Campaign Issues

Bradshaw	2963
Huyghebaert	2963
Duncan	2964

Mother's Day

Junor	2963
-------------	------

Rising Hockey Star

Belanger	2964
----------------	------

Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

Van Mulligen	2964
--------------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Public-Private Partnerships

Higgins	2965
D'Autremont	2965

Carbon Sequestration Project

Trew	2966
Cheveldayoff	2966

Awarding of Government Contracts

Calvert	2967
Wall	2967
Norris	2968
Stewart	2969

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 94 — *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*

Morgan	2970
--------------	------

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*

Morgan	2970
Quennell	2971
Morgan (referral to committee)	2973

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Duncan	2973
--------------	------

Standing Committee on the Economy

Huyghebaert	2973
-------------------	------

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 76 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)*

Heppner	2973
---------------	------

Bill No. 84 — *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009*

Stewart	2974
---------------	------

Bill No. 71 — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*

Stewart	2974
---------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Weekes	2974
--------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 80 — *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*

Morin	2975
Harper	2979
Yates	2986
Forbes	2991

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