



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

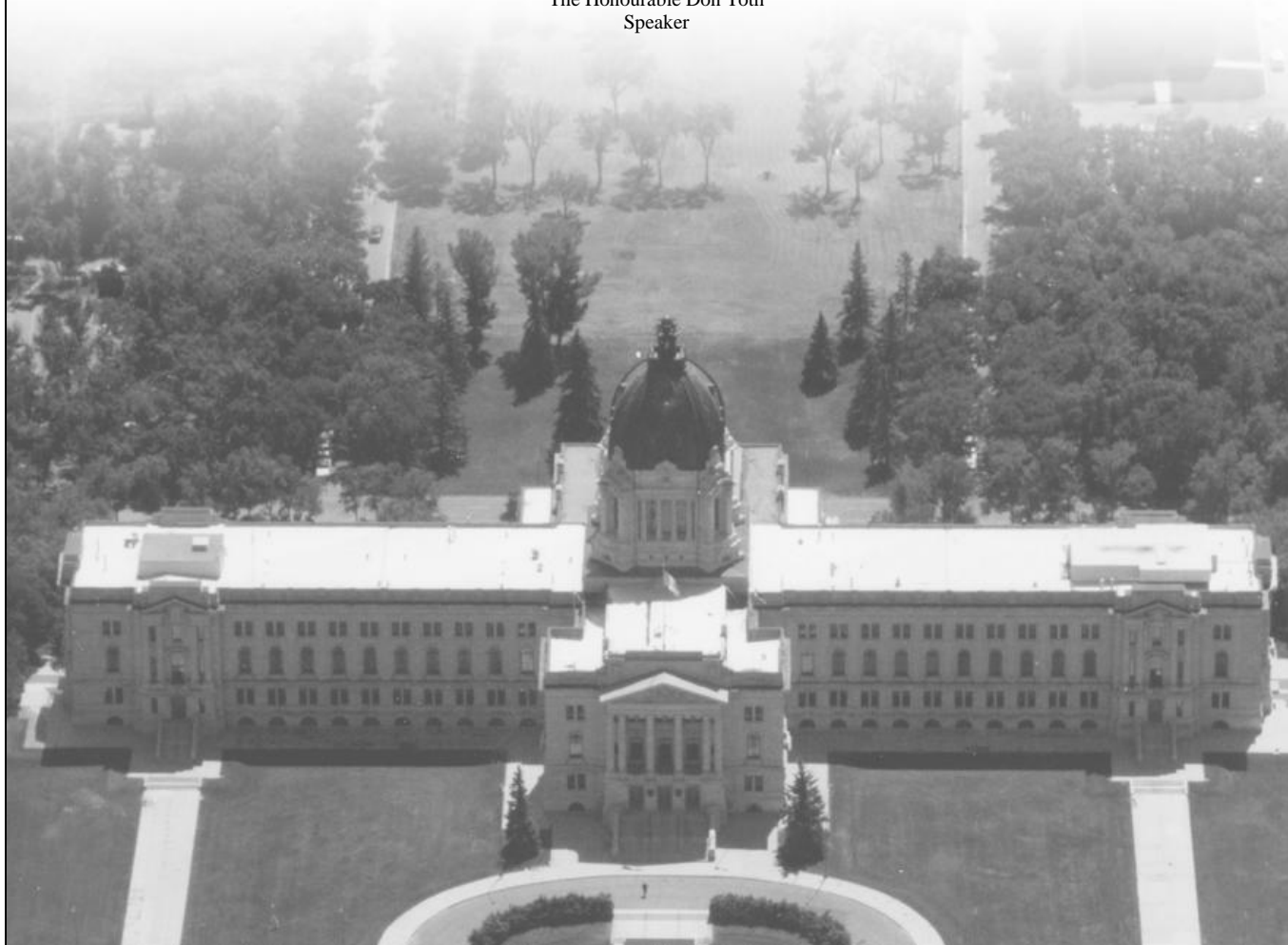
of the

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

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 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

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Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure, to you and through you to the House this afternoon, to introduce in your gallery Representative George Eskridge from the state of Idaho, George and his wife Jenise. George is a past president of the Pacific North West Economic Region and is in our city to spend the next two or three days with us in our PNWER summit. He was so excited he came a day early. So, Mr. Speaker, we welcome you to our Assembly.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce some iron workers who contribute greatly to our province. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery now Bert Royer, business manager Ironworkers Local 771, Wayne Worrall, business agent Ironworkers Local 771, and Jason Dielschneider, member of Ironworkers Local 771. I ask all members to welcome these iron workers to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt, the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in your gallery we are joined by representatives of the program implementation advisory team for the province's new Saskatchewan assured income for disability program. The program's implementation advisory team, comprised of members of the disability community, has been established to provide advice to the Ministry of Social Services on the implementation and development of this important new initiative for Saskatchewan people with disabilities.

So joining us today, Mr. Speaker, are the team Chair, Mr. Merv Bender, Mr. Dave Nelson, and Mr. Michael Richter. So if everyone could please join me in welcoming these very, very, very hard-working gentlemen to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too on behalf of the opposition would like to join in with the minister in welcoming these folks. They've done some incredible work over the past year, and I too want to welcome Merv Bender, Dave Nelson, and Mike Richter too.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Wascana Plains, the Minister Responsible for Government Services.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to welcome to the Legislative Assembly, sitting in your gallery here this afternoon, Greg D'Avignon and Bryan Cox. They're both from the national Brewers Association. If you gentlemen could please stand for a minute. They were here this morning meeting with myself, and I understand that they had a great reception yesterday. And so if all members could join me in welcoming them to the Saskatchewan legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned citizens in Saskatchewan who are concerned about the safety of Highway 22. They are concerned as the highway has a potential safety hazard to the residents who drive on that highway, and it is clear that Highway 22 is in dire need of an upgrade. And I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 22 that the people of Saskatchewan need.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Earl Grey, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present yet another petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know that these workers in community-based organizations throughout the province have traditionally been underpaid, and many continue to earn poverty level wages. And this results in high staff turnover, and the subsequent lack of caregiver continuity has a negative impact on the quality of care that clients receive. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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.

And these petitioners come from the good cities of Regina and Saskatoon. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of La Ronge and area, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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 that signed this petition are residents from a variety of communities here in Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — 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 honourable 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.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand and present a petition today in support of the withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, we all understand the benefits of a stable labour relations environment which provides for equality work and safe construction sites. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*, which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in the province, creates instability in the labour market, and it impacts the quality of training required for workers before entering the workforce.

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

The petition is signed by residents of Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Strasbourg, and Prince Albert. I so present.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for The Battlefords. The petitioners note that rent increases of about 40 per cent have been received by residents of The Battlefords and that the vacancy rate for rental accommodation is very low:

The petitioners pray that your Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to a greater number of people throughout The Battlefords, and that will implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford and the town of Battleford. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and present petitions on behalf of concerned residents of Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of their finances by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to start managing our provincial finances responsibly and prudently to ensure that it does not continue its trend of massive budgetary shortfalls, runaway and unsustainable spending, equity stripping from our Crowns, and irresponsible revenue setting.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned citizens in Swift Current and Regina. I so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we have been joined in the legislature by members of the program implementation advisory team for the province's new Saskatchewan assured income for disability program, also known by its acronym as SAID.

On this occasion I would like to provide the House with a brief update on the implementation of this program initiative, which will ensure that Saskatchewan people with significant long-term disabilities no longer have to rely on social assistance for their basic living expenses. As requested by the disability community, the new Saskatchewan assured income for disability program is separate from social assistance, has fewer reporting requirements, and will be less intrusive.

The disability community has waited a long time for their voice to be heard and I'm happy to say that, under our government, their voice has been heard. Implementation of this historic new program is now well under way. Although participation in the new program is voluntary, more than 2,000 people have already enrolled with more applications being processed daily. Over time our government hopes to expand enrolment to the new program to as many as 8 to 10,000 Saskatchewan people with significant long-term disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, SAID is designed in complete collaboration with the members of the disability community. They told us what they wanted — an income program for people with significant long-term disabilities that was separate from social assistance. We have delivered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Our Children Are Precious

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our children are precious. We need to do all that we can to keep them safe. I want all members of the Legislative Assembly to know that I was very much moved by the September visit to Saskatchewan of Rodney Stafford of Woodstock, Ontario. Rodney is the father of Victoria Stafford, a sparkling eight-year-old girl who earlier this year went missing and later was found to have been abducted and murdered. Rodney, in this time of tremendous grief, was cycling across Canada to raise awareness of child safety and the plight of missing children.

Every citizen and community leader needs to take to heart the message of Rodney Stafford and Child Find, the organization helping him with his Kilometres for Kids campaign. What Rodney Stafford is telling us is that his tragedy could happen to anyone. As parents, teachers, neighbours, friends, we need to keep our eyes open. We need to talk to our kids. We need to look out for them. We need to rely on each other to keep our kids safe.

As community leaders, we should make the issue of child safety a priority, and we should in all ways support Child Find Saskatchewan as they work to provide preventative education and awareness programs to decrease the number of children who go missing every year in our province. As the organization says, together we can work towards the goal of bringing our

missing children home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Food Drive Shows That Moose Jaw Cares

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very successful food drive was held on Saturday organized by members of the Hillcrest Church in Moose Jaw. This, the fourth annual food drive, collected about 21 tonnes of food to assist the needs of the Moose Jaw Food Bank. The food drive is one of the most charitable events in the city. Pre-circulated bags were filled and ready to be picked up by most residents. If residents were going out for the evening, they simply left the bag on the front steps for volunteers.

As the city canvass takes place, other volunteers start the sorting process. Pastas, foods, and canned goods and everything else is sorted into particular categories, then boxed on pallets, ready to be delivered to the food bank. This year food donations exceeded their box inventory and about 10 p.m. a call went out to all open businesses in Moose Jaw for more boxes. It was a great problem to have. And at the end of the evening, much of the product had to be stacked until more boxes could be found to complete the packing process.

The food drive presents an overwhelming feeling of goodwill for the 350-plus volunteers. At the end of the evening, the tired workers cleaned up the church auditorium and made their way home with a feeling of compassion and caring for some of the underprivileged in our community. I'd like to acknowledge the volunteers and the donors for giving so generously. Your effort shows that Moose Jaw is a caring community. Thank you.

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

Multicultural Event in Prince Albert

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending Tapestrama in Prince Albert. This event is held every year and is organized by the Prince Albert Multicultural Council under the direction and guidance of its executive director, Marge Nainaar.

Mr. Speaker, Tapestrama has been held every year since . . .

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

[13:45]

Mr. Furber: — From the beginning, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending Tapestrama in Prince Albert. This event is held every year and is organized by the Prince Albert Multicultural Council under the direction and guidance of executive director Marge Nainaar.

Mr. Speaker, Tapestrama has been held every year since 1965 and is held over two days. It provides an opportunity for people to experience food, music, and culture from all over the world. This year's Tapestrama boasted participation from Africa,

South America, Europe, Asia, as well as North America.

Each year Prince Albert welcomes more and more newcomers to our city that bring with them new customs, traditions, foods, and culture. All of these cultures are celebrated at Tapestrama. The event attracts many people from Prince Albert and surrounding area who want to experience the different foods and entertainment provided. And at one point Marge Nainaar asked the crowd to raise their hands if they had rubbed shoulders with somebody from a different culture that day. Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, almost everyone raised their hand.

This is exactly why the multicultural council holds this event, to promote knowledge and understanding of all cultures. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating Marge Nainaar and her volunteers of the Prince Albert Multicultural Council in holding another very successful Tapestrama.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River-Watrous.

Watrous Wins Celebration Tour Competition

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer I had two towns in my constituency, the towns of Watrous and Wynyard, going head-to-head bidding on the Kraft-TSN [The Sports Network] 10 towns in 10 days Celebration Tour. Both towns put on an excellent bid, and both towns had said that it brought the community together for local sports. And both towns did an excellent job. I know TSN had a very hard time picking between the two.

In the very end, they picked the town of Watrous. The focus of the Watrous committee was on the many and varied uses of the Watrous Centennial Arena and the need to get much-needed repairs done to this 42-year-old facility. The Watrous Centennial Arena also plays host to all ages of minor hockey as well as the senior hockey team, the Watrous Winterhawks, who compete in the LLHL [Long Lake Hockey League] and have won several league and provincial titles.

Indeed the community of Watrous is a very progressive, growing place, and a town where Saskatchewan spirit is always on display. It is this level of commitment and enthusiasm that in the end convinced the TSN award panel judges to grant the town of Watrous 25,000 which the community is putting into their arena. Later this summer, TSN landed its *SportsCentre* cast and crew in Watrous for a live one-on-one broadcast to promote the community of Watrous and talk to the area residents about their town and the sports fans.

I want to personally congratulate the people of Watrous and also the people of Wynyard for putting in bids in TSN, and I would ask that all members of the House join me in congratulating both towns for The Sports Network 10 in 10 award of 2009.

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

Saskatchewan Women Compete in Softball Championships

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this past summer, many of our provincial women's softball teams competed in championship games in Ontario. I am proud to extend my congratulations to the success of these teams.

At the junior women's Canadian championships, the Saskatoon Outlaws placed fifth. At the bantam nationals, the Regina Lasers also placed fifth. From that team, Megan Gurski was named the all-star pitcher of the championships, and her teammate Alex Baylak was named as all-star outfielder.

At the midget girls' championships, the Quill Plains Blazers finished eighth, and the Regina Gold finished 16th. At the senior women's championships, DBJ Leasing placed fifth in the country. Heather Bourdon was named the all-star second baseman with a batting average of .462 and a perfect fielding percentage. Her teammate Carrie Britton was named all-star outfielder of the entire tournament.

In addition to these outstanding athletes, several Saskatchewan umpires were chosen to officiate at the championships. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, our province is well represented by these teams and these athletes.

Unfortunately, I was disappointed to hear that when the Ontario Women's Softball Association requested a Saskatchewan flag from the Sask Party government to display at their tournament, their request was denied. I am honoured to have provided a flag to the association on behalf of the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to join with me in recognizing Saskatchewan's women softball teams and their accomplishments.

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

Saskatchewan Population Numbers

Mr. LeClerc: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always considered myself a glass . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. LeClerc: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've always considered myself a glass-half-full kind of person. The benefits of having a positive attitude are undisputed. Positive people live longer, are less stressed, and are just generally happier about their lot in life. It's a good way to live, Mr. Speaker.

But there are times, with like anything, you can take it too far. Optimism has to be tempered with a dose of pragmatism — a reality check, if you will. You have to take off the rose-coloured glasses from time to time, Mr. Speaker. There's optimism and then there's blind optimism.

With that in mind, let's go back to March 2003, when the members opposite put out a news release bragging about how

out-migration numbers were the lowest in four years. Say what? Let me get this straight, it's okay for people to leave Saskatchewan as long as they're not leaving that quickly. Mr. Speaker, when I read that, I actually got dizzy.

Well I'm happy to tell the members opposite that for the first time in many years, there are more people coming to Saskatchewan than are leaving — over 30,000 in-migration since November 2007. That puts a big smile on my face, Mr. Speaker. I hope the members opposite can join me and turn those frowns upside down and be happy.

The Speaker: — Order.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Workplace Safety Issues

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the government's failure to enforce occupational health and safety rules in Saskatchewan, even when that failure to act endangers the lives of Saskatchewan workers. Can the minister explain how a crane, which routinely is lifting 10 tonnes of steel over the heads of ironworkers who are erecting the Regina perishable distribution centre, has been allowed to operate unsafely since July, when the contractor's own safety coordinator said the crane was in need of critical repairs, did not meet the minimum safety standards required by Saskatchewan law, and should not be allowed on the construction site?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, this government, like the people of this province, take workplace safety, we take it very seriously. And that's one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we've increased our work in a number of areas. For example, the number of workplace inspections between 2007-08: 3,658. We increased that to . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Regarding work stop orders, in 2007-08, there were just 317. In 2008-09: 775 — an increase of 269 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We take occupational health and safety very seriously. That's why we've gone forward with occupational health committees where we've increased training and we've increased the number of people by 20 per cent to ensure that our workplaces are increasingly safe. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the minister should know that under Saskatchewan occupational health and safety regulations, any crane of this size must have a logbook that details all the previous maintenance, inspections, and hours of operations

since its last maintenance and inspection, as well as any repairs that have been made to the machine.

Can the minister explain how a crane operated by X-Act Contracting Ltd. of Ontario got onto this construction site without anyone producing a logbook that complied with the occupational health and safety laws, and after the contractor's own safety coordinator informed both the contractor and his department that the crane was in need of critical repairs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Again, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to reinforce that this government, like the people of this province, takes occupational health and safety very seriously, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if there's a case where additional information can be gathered, I welcome that from the opposition.

But I would like to highlight it's one of the reasons that we've moved forward with WorkSafe Saskatchewan. That is a membership, that's a partnership between the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. That's one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we continue to make progress as it relates to workplace safety.

That's why in 2002 it was 4.95 per cent, Mr. Speaker, that we had problems. That was reduced and, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to say that in 2008 it's 3.7. There's certainly room for improvement. It's one of the reasons that we've come forward with Mission: Zero, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we're making workplaces more safe for the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, there are two cranes working on this huge construction site. The other crane, owned by Giesbrecht & Son Cranes of Saskatchewan, has a logbook, has been inspected, and has been certified as safe by a professional engineer.

The out-of-province crane has met none of these legal requirements. If the minister thinks this out-of-province crane is safe to be moving tonnes of steel over the heads of Saskatchewan ironworkers, perhaps he can explain why the operator of the Giesbrecht crane has been told by his company to refuse to do tandem lifts with this out-of-province crane until it has been properly certified and is safe.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to reiterate for this government, like the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, occupational health and safety is a key priority of this government. It's one of the reasons that we can look at the issuing of contraventions including cessations of work, notices, and compliance assurance. It's gone up by 28 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every day we have 80 full-time

equivalents, Mr. Speaker, out working on occupational health and safety . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I think the members are aware of the fact that it's . . . They probably heard from visitors that attended that it's difficult to hear when there's a lot of interruptions. And if . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Order. The member will come to order.

The member has been given the right to ask a question. Members have the right and the public have the right to hear the answer. I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With 80 full-time equivalents taking care of occupational health and safety in this province, Mr. Speaker, we can see that this is a key priority. It's one of the reasons that we've put forward the memorandum of understanding between the WCB, Mr. Speaker, and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Is there more to do, Mr. Speaker? Certainly there is. We are making progress; we can demonstrate that empirically, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, workplace safety is a key priority for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on September 14th, the minister received this email from Victor Haire, the president of a safety consulting company that had been hired by the general contractor to serve as safety coordinator for the construction project.

Mr. Haire informed the minister that he had withdrawn his services because the company had continued to use an unsafe crane at the construction site, in violation of Saskatchewan law. The minister took three weeks to respond and then referred Mr. Haire back to the occupational health and safety officer who ignored these violations in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, when is this government going to start taking its responsibilities seriously and to act to protect the lives of Saskatchewan workers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again to reiterate, this government, like the people of this province, take occupational health and safety very seriously, Mr. Speaker. We can demonstrate that with the number of workplace inspections that have increased. We can demonstrate that for work stop orders, Mr. Speaker.

What I'm surprised by, Mr. Speaker, is reference to one of our officials, Mr. Speaker. If the members opposite have information that they'd like to share, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to receive that. But, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as we return that, as we return that letter as the work continues, Mr. Speaker,

it continues to be a priority to ensure that occupational health and safety is a key . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. There are a number of members who continue to interject or interfere. And I do not want to cast aspersions on all members, but it's a handful. I remind members of the responsibility to pay attention and to give both the individual asking the question and the minister responding the opportunity to be heard. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Occupational health and safety continues to be a priority. That strong public support, it's in this Assembly, it's across the province. And, Mr. Speaker, that's why there's been a 25 per cent reduction in the injury rate between 2003 and 2008. There's more to do, Mr. Speaker, but I'm happy to say that progress is being made. Thank you, sir.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it's somewhat disconcerting to have that minister say that he's unaware of this when he received the email and then answered back. But Mr. Speaker, there's more.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the same day the minister received Mr. Haire's email, the occupational health and safety officer filed a report — this report — which suggested this out-of-province crane is inspected by a company called Morrison Inspection Services of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, the principal of Morrison Inspection Services is one Mike Morrison, who happens to also be an employee of the contractor who owns the unsafe crane — not exactly an arms-length relationship, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, was the minister's staff aware of this relationship when they used this inspection to suggest that the crane had been safely inspected and certified? And does he agree that this report confirms that his OH & S [occupational health and safety] officer was violating Saskatchewan law by allowing this crane to continue to operate?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, in May 2008, we came out with a Mission: Zero initiative. And that goal, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that we continue to make progress in ensuring that occupational health and safety is a key priority, Mr. Speaker. It's one of the reasons that we continue to make progress, Mr. Speaker, and we can demonstrate that.

Is there more work to do on occupational health and safety? Of course there is, but we can see that through occupational health committee and supervisor training programs which have increased by 10 per cent. The occupational health committee and supervisor training participants, those participants have increased by 20 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Is there more to do? Yes. But there are more people engaged in more safety activities in Saskatchewan today than when we came into office. Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to make progress here.

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

Options to Expedite Surgical Procedures

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister of Health was asked questions about buying surgeries from BC [British Columbia], it became clear that the minister was so far out of the loop that the Premier had to step up and take over. So I'll direct my questions to the Premier.

The Premier says Saskatchewan will not be paying a premium for these surgeries, while the BC Health minister says Saskatchewan approached BC to buy the surgeries and said, well look, we will pay you and pay you a premium to deal with some of our people.

To the Premier: who's got it right — the Premier or the BC Health minister? Is Saskatchewan going to pay a premium or not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I've said before and I'll say again — I'm very proud of the goal that our government set to reduce the wait times down to three months over the next four years. It's going to take a lot of work, and it's going to take a lot of looking at different procedures outside the country, Mr. Speaker, on how other countries have met this goal.

Mr. Speaker, we're not eliminating anything at this time. The Premier talked to the Premier from British Columbia and my officials have talked to them, Mr. Speaker, about 400 procedures.

Now that's kind of an interesting number, Mr. Speaker, because I know they're against that, but let me recapture what they did in the last four years when they were in government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from 2003 to 2007, there were 366 hip and knee operations purchased by the NDP [New Democratic Party] government.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier says the discussion he had with the BC Premier was simply about capacity, no talk of costs or premiums, and that sending people to BC for surgery is a last resort. The BC Health minister is telling a completely different story. He's saying . . .

[Interjections]

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The BC Health

minister is telling a completely different story. He's saying we approached them, put forward the 400 surgeries as a target number, and said we would pay a premium. The BC Health minister also says:

. . . the two provinces are close to signing a memorandum of understanding that would have 400 orthopaedic surgeries done for people from Saskatchewan in British Columbia's public hospitals over [the next] two years.

To the Premier: are the two provinces close to signing an MOU [memorandum of understanding] as the BC Health minister suggests?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we're looking at all options. It is a very preliminary discussion. Our ministry phoned to see if there was any capacity in other provinces. I would expect that those members would know there's capacity in other provinces because in the last four years of their mandate, they purchased out-of-province hips and knees, Mr. Speaker, for 366 citizens from Saskatchewan, out of province.

And then we pursue it further. Did they pay for the travel expenses? No, they didn't, Mr. Speaker. For some reason, if we did, it's two-tier health care; but when they do it, it's perfectly fine.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a nice diversion, but it isn't going to work.

It's interesting that the Minister of Health and the Premier say they know little about the pending deal with BC to buy the surgeries, and yet BC says the two provinces are close to signing an MOU. Not only is the BC Health minister saying the two provinces are close to signing an MOU, he also says Saskatchewan approached BC, saying Saskatchewan doesn't have the money it takes to make the massive investments in the kind of surgical facilities and expertise they have in BC. And that Saskatchewan said, you know what? We don't want to have to make the huge upfront investments that you've made in British Columbia.

To the Premier: how can buying surgeries in BC be a last resort when BC is being told that the Saskatchewan government doesn't want to invest in surgical expertise and facilities here at home? When did the Premier's last resort become his first resort?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that they continue to talk about wait-lists. And I can understand that because under 16 years of NDP government, the wait-list did nothing but increase and increase. In fact in 1999, the election campaign for the Saskatchewan New Democrats, which were elected on this promise — this was the promise by the NDP in 1999 — that we would cut waiting lists by 30 per cent.

You know what happened? They increased by 61 per cent, 61 per cent, even though they were buying operations all over Canada, Mr. Speaker. And they weren't covering the travel expenses. I guess there's two tiers, Mr. Speaker. Tier number one is what they say; tier number two is what they do.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I think that the people are tired of this minister hiding behind what we did or didn't do. He is now responsible for what he is not doing or what he is doing.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Premier admits that he approached Premier Campbell in June of this year and had a discussion with him about sending Saskatchewan people to BC for surgeries. Then on October 16th, the Premier and his government cut funding to the Regina surgical centre, which would have performed the surgeries the Premier is now negotiating to buy from BC.

To the Premier, if buying surgeries really is a last resort, why did the Premier and his government cut funding to a surgical care centre that could have done many of the surgeries he is now going to send people to BC to have?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we are looking at certainly reducing the number of people waiting on our wait-list. Twenty-seven thousand is absolutely unacceptable. And so in the next four years, we're going to look at every option that's available to our government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, is capacity within our province. Mr. Speaker, if it's a private deliver within a public system, publicly funded, no queue jumping, Mr. Speaker, we'll look at that. And in the last option, Mr. Speaker, would be looking at capacity outside the province.

Now I don't know where they're at on this, Mr. Speaker. I just don't know where they're at. They're saying that's absolutely unacceptable. But under their watch they did it — 366 times in four years, Mr. Speaker. They bought procedures, just hips and knees, out of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. How does that square, when they think that it's just absolutely terrible if another party does it, but it's perfectly fine if it's under the socialist NDP?

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Forestry Sector Issues

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, the government has sent out news releases on possible plans to redevelop the Prince Albert pulp and paper mill, the Big River mill, and the mill in Hudson Bay, Carrot River. So far no concrete announcement have actually been made. But they've been silent on the future of the Wapawekka saw mill near Prince Albert.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a liquidation list for the assets of Wapawekka saw mill with a deadline of October 2nd,

2009 — over a month ago. The question to the minister, can he tell us what's happening with Wapawekka saw mill?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the forestry sector in Saskatchewan is a troubled sector without question. It's like that all across Canada. I note in British Columbia there was another mill closed last week as a result of the downturn in the housing starts in the US [United States]. It's a tough time in that industry.

We are working with big forestry companies, with small forestry companies, with independents, with Métis and First Nations folks as well, to look at changes in the forest management agreement. We are working towards an agreement that I think will serve them very well in the future. They're all expecting that we will see at some point an upturn in housing starts in the US market, which is where all these lumber supplies go.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, we're told that one of the reasons that Wapawekka mill is being shut down for good is that the government won't guarantee possible buyers a wood timber supply. Naturally no one would want to buy it under these circumstances. Now that the equipment in the mill — expensive, state-of-the-art equipment — has been sold off by the receiver, the mill is likely to close forever. To the minister: why didn't he even try to save the Wapawekka saw mill?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the forest management system that we are looking at is a co-managed system that will allow large companies, smaller companies, independents, First Nations, and Métis to participate in this agreement, Mr. Speaker. I would remind the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, that the Wapawekka facility closed under the NDP watch.

And just prior to the last election, the former Premier tried to revive it by putting \$100 million of taxpayers' money on the table, and people at the time said it simply wouldn't work. It was only an NDP ploy to try and get more votes for them. It didn't work then, and it won't work now.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — I'm actually surprised, Mr. Speaker, the minister knows the word forestry. Mr. Speaker, we now know that the former employees of Wapawekka saw mill have no jobs to go back to, and we still have no confirmation on what's happening in other forest communities. Now these communities are being made to pay for this government's fiscal mismanagement.

Two weeks ago the Minister of Finance announced that he was holding back 1.5 million of the Community Development Trust — money intended to help forestry communities. To the minister: why are forestry workers, their families, being made

to pay for this government's mismanagement of the finances?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the history of this facility is, is one that has been plagued by a lot of problems over the years. The NDP closed that facility as a part of the Weyerhaeuser closure that happened under their watch. After that, then they tried to revive it just prior to the election of 2007, putting \$100 million of taxpayers' money at risk. And on April 2nd of 2008, when asked by the media about the deal, Weyerhaeuser said that they thought that there was nothing that could be done. And then they . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then the member from Prince Albert Northcote, his quote with respect to the opening of it said, well I guess it's true then. Nothing can be done. That was the NDP's response.

We're working with industry today, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to work towards a positive solution for the forestry sector in our province.

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

Public Safety Procedures

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the policy to deal with the escape or release in error of a level 1 dangerous offender is clear. The public is made aware of the incident immediately, unless the relevant police service objects to the issuance of the media advisory.

To the minister: which police force objected to making the public aware that a dangerous sex offender was unlawfully at large?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, our first concern is for public safety. And in order to ensure public safety, we have to run our corrections system in an orderly and disciplined way.

If a correction worker has concerns about public safety, there's a right way and a wrong way to express those concerns. The right way would have been for a worker to speak to a senior official in the ministry. The wrong way is for an employee to improperly take a confidential inmate file and then breach his oath of office by giving it to a member of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I've asked my deputy to reassure all correction employees that if they have concerns about public safety, they're always welcome to raise those concerns with senior

officials within the ministry. But it is never appropriate for them to breach their oath and improperly disclose confidential inmate files.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the minister doesn't want to tell us which police force told him not to make it public because there was no such indication by a police force. Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the minister is more concerned with finding out who informed the public of a dangerous sex offender's release than he is in finding out where his system broke down.

To the minister: what message is the minister sending to the people of Saskatchewan about what is more important — protecting the public from danger, or protecting the minister from his own incompetence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, speaking about concern, this morning I received an email from Scott Taylor, a corrections worker at the Regina Correctional Centre. And I would like to quote from that email. I quote:

It has come to my attention that the document Mr. Yates received through unknown sources regarding inmate Brock Wiebe had my name and another corrections staff name shown on the document.

I have worked as a Corrections Worker for 11 years now and I believe that I have a good reputation.

I feel my name being left unblacked out on a document that Mr. Yates should never have received is offensive . . . because people will infer that I had something to do with Mr. Wiebe's release.

Mr. Taylor has also emailed the member for Regina Dewdney asking for an apology, but he has had no response. Is the member from Regina Dewdney going to apologize to these correction workers, and is he going to return the documents?

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member from Athabasca will come to order.

Before orders of the day, I received a letter from the member from Regina Dewdney. If the member from Regina Dewdney would like to . . . I'll recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

PRIVILEGE

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. As required by the standing orders of this Assembly, yesterday I delivered to you, Mr. Speaker, notice that I would be rising on a motion of privilege.

I asked Mr. Speaker to review the *Hansard* from October 29th, Thursday of last week, on page 3320. And you will find the

series of questions from myself to the Minister of Public Safety, Corrections and Policing, as well as the answers provided by the minister.

I would like first to draw attention to the first question and the answer. And, Mr. Speaker, in those questions and answers, I asked a very direct question. I asked the minister if he had knowledge of an incident and the answer was no. Later in the conversation or in his answers, Mr. Speaker, not only did he clearly indicate that he had knowledge, but extensive knowledge of the incident before the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister whether or not he was the one who released the information to the public. The minister said he clearly was the one responsible for releasing the information. Then he goes out, Mr. Speaker, in the same day, goes out into the rotunda and foyer and says that he wasn't responsible for making the decision. In fact, his deputy minister was.

Mr. Speaker, there's a long-standing tradition in this Assembly, as indicated in the paper that I handed to you, Mr. Speaker, about this issue, that the members of this Legislative Assembly and ministers must answer honestly. They should not mislead this House. And, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is exactly what occurred. And, Mr. Speaker, we ask you to review the issue and the motion that was put before you at that time that said:

Be it resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges be instructed to examine the issue of the statements made to this Assembly by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing on October 29th, 2009 and report back to the Assembly; and that until such time that the committee reports, the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing shall be removed from his position as a minister.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to take the opportunity to respond to the point of privilege raised by the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege is a very serious matter, and it relates to the fact that the privileges of a member have been violated, either by incomplete information or misleading information, that the member has misled his or her colleagues. And it's very serious.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure when you review the transcript of the questions, you will recognize that the initial question that was posed to the minister was deliberately vague of any specifics. And the minister in *Hansard* said clearly that he was not aware based on this information, and asked that the member from Dewdney would provide him with additional information.

By the third question, the member from Dewdney did indeed provide additional details so that the minister could know specifically what incident that the member was referring to, and provided as complete an answer as he was able to, once he was aware of that information.

Mr. Speaker, on the other point, the minister said that "one of

the reasons that we decided and I decided not to make a public announcement . . ." I think it's very clear that the we and I refers to the minister and ministry officials that make the decision in a proper protocol relationship. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to also note that in ruling in the House on June 7th, 2002 in the Assembly, the Speaker made the following ruling:

. . . I would like to say that with respect to the evidence the member gives about statements that happened outside of the Assembly, the Speaker will not rule on any statements that are made or any action that is taken outside of the Assembly.

I would therefore rule that the prima facie case is not established.

Mr. Speaker, I believe for these reasons that the prima facie case indeed has not been established.

The Speaker: — I thank the Opposition House Leader and the Government House Leader for their comments this afternoon. As was mentioned yesterday, the Opposition House Leader gave notice of the question of privilege, and the notice concerned responses by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, as the member has outlined, made during the oral question period of October 29th, 2009.

The notice and details of the subject matter were in writing, and the proposed motion of remedy was received at least two hours prior to the regular opening of the Assembly, in accordance with the requirements of rule 12. The Opposition House Leader's case is that the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing breached the privileges of this Assembly by his responses during the oral question period.

To begin with, I want to outline for all members the parliamentary issue that is raised by the Opposition House Leader's question of privilege. The allegation of the member is that the Minister of Public Safety, Corrections and Policing was, and I quote, "attempting to mislead the House." An allegation of attempting to mislead the House is equal to a charge that a member has wilfully and deliberately misled the Assembly.

I think all members are familiar with the rule that prohibits the making of a personal charge or accusation against another member in the normal course of debate. The charge that a member has made deliberately misleading statements, if well-founded, is treated as contempt of parliament. Accusations and personal charges against a member must be made directly by substantive motion or by raising a question of privilege.

I remind all members that it is not the role of the Speaker to decide if a breach of privilege or contempt has been committed. This is a question that only the Assembly can decide. It is the Speaker's role to decide whether a prima facie case has been established. What that means is, the Speaker is to judge whether there is sufficient evidence to merit setting aside the regular business of the Assembly to debate the matter. If the Speaker finds the prima facie case has been established, then the question is put to the Assembly in the form of the motion included as part of the Opposition House Leader's case.

Yesterday I deferred my ruling on the case in order to carefully review the evidence put forward by the Opposition House Leader, the authorities, and the relevant precedents. And I thank the Opposition House Leader and the Government House Leader for their comments today. And I'm now prepared to rule on the case.

First of all, I want to outline the parliamentary practices of the Houses of Commons in Ottawa and Westminster when allegations are made against a member for deliberately making a false statement. I do this because both Ottawa and Westminster practice are cited in the case and because Saskatchewan practice differs somewhat.

At Ottawa and Westminster, the primary threshold of proof that a member deliberately misled the House is the member's own admission of guilt. The Opposition House Leader cites a House of Commons case in Ottawa which he states is virtually identical to his case against the Minister of Public Safety, Corrections and Policing. He quotes the Speaker, who cites House of Commons practice by quoting from Erskine May as follows:

The Commons may treat the making of a deliberately misleading statement as contempt. In 1963 the House resolved that in making a personal statement which contained words which he later admitted not to be true, a former Member had been guilty of a grave contempt.

The quoted passage can be found at page 132 of the Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 23rd Edition, where the Profumo case is cited as the guiding precedent. In that case, Profumo, a minister of the Crown, confessed that he had misled the House and lied in testimony elsewhere.

Similarly, although not mentioned by the Opposition House Leader, in the Ottawa case, the minister of Defence admitted to the media that he had misled the House. This is why the Speaker quoted the 1963 Westminster case.

In the case before us, there is no admission by the Minister of Public Safety, Corrections and Policing that he had deliberately misled this Assembly in question period on October 29. Therefore the Ottawa situation is not virtually identical and does not support the Opposition House Leader's case.

In Saskatchewan, however, a contempt charge does not necessarily require an admission of guilt. Contempt has been found on the basis of evidence. On November 18, 1975 the Speaker ruled that unless evidence can be produced that demonstrates, and I quote, "... knowing and deliberate deception of the Assembly, there is no question of privilege."

Such was the case on July 13, 1982, when a prima facie case was established that a minister had deliberately and wilfully misled the Assembly when a letter proved that he had personally been involved with the dismissal of an employee, after having denied the fact in question period. In the absence of a confession, the Speaker must review the details provided by the Opposition House Leader for evidence to determine if the minister did commit a knowing and deliberate deception of the Assembly.

I first deal with the exchange in question period of October 29, which is where the Opposition House Leader begins his case. The Opposition House Leader has quoted in the first instance the minister did say he had no knowledge that a dangerous sex offender is unlawfully at large. What isn't quoted is that the minister then said, and I quote, "If the member would like to pass some information over to me, I will definitely look into it." After another exchange about government policy, the minister asked for details on the specifics of the case. The Opposition House Leader then provided the specifics, which the minister addressed.

It is clear, and I don't think disputed, that the minister did provide the information sought by the member. What is under review is whether the minister had, by this evidence, deliberately attempted to mislead the Assembly.

It is apparent that after further questions, the minister did know that the person in question was at large. The Opposition House Leader claims that if the initial answer had been allowed to stand, then "the minister would have misled this Assembly without anyone being the wiser." Their operative words are "would have misled." If the record had not been corrected, the member might have a case if it could be proved that the minister did knowingly mislead the Assembly. The fact of the matter is that the minister did not allow his initial answer to stand, and he corrected the record after more information was supplied by the member.

For this reason, I find that the Opposition House Leader has not provided proof that the minister did knowingly and wilfully attempt to mislead the Assembly. Nor has the Opposition House Leader provided evidence that the exchange in question period had in any way obstructed or impeded the Opposition House Leader or any other member in the performance of their duties.

[14:30]

I will now deal with the claim that the minister said one thing in the Assembly about his responsibility and another thing outside the Assembly in the media. Generally the Speaker is not concerned with what is said outside this Chamber unless it has some bearing on it or connection to the rights and privileges of the Assembly and its members.

In this case, the Opposition House Leader alleges that what was said outside by the minister to the media is evidence that he deliberately misled the Assembly. In the Assembly the minister stated, and I quote, "... we decided and I decided not to make a public announcement."

It is common and required in this Assembly for ministers to take responsibility for their administrative and policy decisions of the ministries regardless of who actually committed an action. The Opposition House Leader has not provided any evidence that the minister attempted to deceive or mislead the Assembly in this regard.

For these reasons, I find that the Opposition House Leader has not produced the evidence necessary for the Speaker to find that a prima facie case of contempt has been established.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 143 through 204.

The Speaker: — Questions 143 to 204 tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Question 205 is ordered.

The Speaker: — 205 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — I wish to table the answers to questions 206 through 270.

The Speaker: — Questions 206 through 270 tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Answers to questions 271 through 274 are ordered.

The Speaker: — 271 through 274 ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — I wish to table the answers to questions 275 through 277.

The Speaker: — 275 through 277 tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — The answer to question 278 is ordered.

The Speaker: — 278 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — I wish to table the answers to questions 279 and 280.

The Speaker: — 279 and 280 are tabled.

SPECIAL ORDER**ADJOURNED DEBATES****ADDRESS IN REPLY**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by the Hon. Mr. McMorris, seconded by Ms. Ross.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. It's an honour for me to be able to rise with this team of women and men on the government side of the House, members of the Saskatchewan Party government, and engage in the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into any substantive discussion of what the Speech from the Throne and the vision that the government has laid out, I would like to make a few acknowledgements, if I may. I'd like to first and foremost thank Tami and our family, our kids back at home for their continued, well some might call it endurance of this vocation that I have pursued. And I want to acknowledge her love and support at home in Swift Current and on the road as she seeks to carry out her duties around the province at different charitable events and different meetings and causes that she has taken up.

I would also like to thank our kids, Megan and Colter and Faith, for their patience with the fact that I'm not at home as often as I would like to be. And I'm not at home as often, at least, as I would like to think that they would want me to be but, Mr. Speaker, they're obviously the very, very most important things that I have in my life. And I'm grateful for their support and partnership.

Mr. Speaker, our family, like most families, had a busy summer in Saskatchewan. We wish the weather would've been a little better for camping in July, but it was great to be about the province in the summertime.

And fall, it's been busy. You know, in Saskatchewan fall signals obviously a return to many things, a return to a more, I guess, regular order of business for families and for businesses themselves, even for this legislature. And that was true in our household, with music lessons that start up and school begins in earnest.

And football begins, Mr. Speaker. And I know some members in this House hate the fact that people in Saskatchewan like football. They get grumpy about the fact that people support football, that they like cheering for the Riders, that they even may on Sundays watch what they call, what some members call American football, but others in 2009 call the NFL [National Football League]. But that's part of the household activities that we enjoy, Mr. Speaker.

I also have the great privilege of volunteering to coach a little bit of minor football in Swift Current. And I'm happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps in my last year of minor league coaching, because I've been at it for four years and my son's now going to move on to high school ball and actually was playing on the high school team already as well as minor . . . And the team that I helped coach on the defence, the Stark & Marsh Chartered Accountant Vikings, we defeated the Swift Current Steel Steelers — we've got to work on shortening the names in our minor league, Mr. Speaker — who had in turn defeated the Fabro Fabricating Ltd. Falcons.

We defeated them though, Mr. Speaker, and we won the championship, Mr. Speaker. And some would credit good coaching for that, but it had nothing to do with it really, Mr. Speaker. It was a great team. We had great young people and just a great season of football and family time we've had this fall. So again I want to acknowledge them.

I want to thank some people back in the constituency as well. I just recently had an annual general meeting for our constituency, and soon we're going to have a nomination. Mr. Speaker, I have decided — and I thought I would announce at

the start of the speech — I have decided to seek the nomination again for the Saskatchewan Party in Swift Current.

And we'll get to that here I think, actually later this fall. You'll be hearing from our party, Mr. Speaker, actually, as we nominate in a number of ridings around this province, both in the ones that are incumbent and then in the months that follow in incumbent or what we would call target ridings, Mr. Speaker, as we look to two years from now when we're going to work very, very hard to earn the support and trust of Saskatchewan people and hopefully, in a growing province, grow this side of the House a little bit, Mr. Speaker.

But there are people at home that are a great help to me, and I want to acknowledge them as well. We have a new constituency assistant in Swift Current, as our former constituency assistant has joined the Minister of Health's excellent team in trying to provide service to the people of the province. And so I want to welcome Nola Smith who just started here in the last week or so. And she may be tuned in to the proceedings here in Swift Current. I want to thank Nola for her excellent start already and for the work that she's going to do on behalf of myself, but most importantly on behalf of our landlords, the people of the constituency of Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of the Speech from the Throne was "Moving Forward." That was the theme or the name of the Speech from the Throne. And we began the Speech from the Throne with a quote from Albert Einstein, and I'll just paraphrase it. Obviously the quote is fairly brief. He talked about the importance of maintaining your balance if you're going to continue to move forward, and the analogy he used was riding a bicycle. He talked about the importance of not just momentum going forward, but keeping your balance in order to stay moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, throughout the Speech from the Throne document there were a number of examples that were provided of how this province has been moving forward over the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker. And I'll touch on some of them, but first I'd like to talk a little bit about some very recent examples that may have been referenced in the Speech from the Throne, but maybe were not — good examples of this province moving forward.

I note today, Mr. Speaker, in *The StarPhoenix* of this date, a headline that reads as follows: "\$150-million refinery to be built near Langham." Mr. Speaker, it's a hydrometallurgical processing facility — and I challenge members to say that five times very quickly. That's the facility that's been announced by Fortune Minerals Ltd. The facility will process about 80 000 tonnes of product from Nico, a mining operation in the Northwest Territories. Each year they expect to employ about 85 people in specialty jobs, and that production is going to happen over the next 15 to 20 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, think about this for a minute. What we have seen, if you've watched BNN, the Business News Network that some have called lately the bad news network, what we've seen in the pages in the national papers that are dedicated to reporting on the economy and business, what we've seen on television and what we've heard on radio for the last year or so is just a litany of bad news from around the country that nobody

takes any pleasure in.

We have seen layoffs. We have seen obviously recessionary growth numbers — in other words, gross domestic product backing up in jurisdiction after jurisdiction. We've seen reports of layoffs and employment reductions. We've seen reports, Mr. Speaker, of population out-migration from certain jurisdictions as people are looking for a little bit of hope and looking for some opportunity.

What's been happening in the province of Saskatchewan during that time? Well you could make the case that unfortunately for much of this country and North America and the world, things have been moving backward.

What's been happening over the last year or so in Saskatchewan? We've chosen to go in another direction. We've chosen to move forward, and when I say we, I don't mean the government. Hopefully the government can get some things right, get the basics right so that it creates the fundamentals for growth and momentum. But we know the credit belongs to the great blessing of resources that we have. It belongs to our people, and it belongs to the business women and men of this province and to a growing corporate sector.

But whatever the reason, our economy has been moving forward, and in the midst of a recession, though we see the signs of growth coming. That this headline would appear, not just that we are holding our own in Saskatchewan — and we have been with the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the lowest unemployment rate for cities in Saskatoon and second lowest in Regina, the fastest rate of population growth in the middle of a bash-your-teeth-in recession in 50 years in the province of Saskatchewan — it isn't just that we've been holding our own, but we've been moving forward. But then to see in the paper today, a company say, you know, we could be in a lot of places to do business, to do this processing, to create these jobs, to add value to this mineral processing. But this company's saying, we choose Saskatchewan. This company's saying, we're going to choose to be very near Saskatoon.

It's a good example of what the Speech from the Throne was talking about. We are continuing to move forward into a time of growth and prosperity in the province, Mr. Speaker.

But this side of the House, as much as we prize announcements like this, announcements like this new refinery in Langham, as much as we welcome them and as much as we want to talk about them and promote the fact that investment's still happening in this province where it may not be happening elsewhere, this is not the end game for our government. Never has been.

We didn't run, Mr. Speaker, simply to grow the economy of the province. We didn't run in the elections that our party has contested simply to see the population grow or that jobs would be created or that we would be a have province permanently within the Confederation. Those were all objectives, Mr. Speaker. They were objectives and they remain the objectives of this government, but they're not the end game. They're not the goal.

The goal of the government, Mr. Speaker, has simply been this:

that we could create the environment that would ensure the development and the expansion of our economy, that we would create and foster the kind of environment that would see the expansion of a tax base — that does what? That provides the very best quality of life in the Dominion of Canada.

That's the end game. When we're moving forward, that's the destination that we're moving forward to. We want to have better health care for people — more on that in a moment. We want to have a place where you don't wait 19 months in excruciating agony because you can't get an operation on your back. We want to live in a province, Mr. Speaker, where if you're fighting colorectal cancer, you can get support from your government because the drug is funded, Mr. Speaker. We want growth so we can fund new nursing positions so emergency rooms in rural Saskatchewan don't close at 5 o'clock on Friday and stay closed until Monday at 9 o'clock. Because that's where we have been, Mr. Speaker, when members opposite ran this place. We're going to work very hard that we not return to those days. That's the end game that we seek, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

And so I think today's announcement, today's invitation by the Minister of Social Services and by the words of the member for Yorkton are particularly important as we look to examples of how this province is moving forward. Because as much as I love this announcement in *The StarPhoenix* from this company about this investment that they're making and the jobs they're creating, I'm most interested in the things that they're going to be able to pay for, what will be supported by the tithes they bring, if you will, Mr. Speaker, to the province of Saskatchewan.

Because earlier this day we met some people who have been working for a very long time in Saskatchewan. The acronym of their organization is SAID. They are the disability community in our province. They have been working toward some important program changes that would provide for greater independence, some investments. But even more important than that, they've been looking for a government that would simply say, you know, we want to acknowledge the fact that those in the disability community have been saying for years, we don't want to collect social assistance. For those who are in the long-term and permanently disabled, they want to be a part of an income plan, an income plan that can be supplemented in many cases by the work they do. Mr. Speaker, other provinces have done this for a very long time. They have provided the right investments and they've characterized it in the right way.

My brother and his family moved some years ago now to Alberta from here. And we miss them, but they're enjoying life in Alberta. And I've asked permission from my sister-in-law and my brother to use my young nephew as an example, and they've agreed to that. My young nephew, he's a great young man. He's 18 years old now. I can hardly believe it. He has Williams syndrome. Mr. Speaker, it's an intellectual and a physical disability, and it's a permanent disability. He is . . . I hate the word high functioning. It sounds too bureaucratic. He's a great guy and he has a lot to contribute.

For a long time in Alberta . . . And I'm not saying any other province gets everything right, but here's something Alberta has

had right. For a long time in that province, they made this distinction where someone like my nephew wasn't on — after he got to be 18 and maybe was even doing some work — wasn't on welfare or social assistance, as important as that is for some. But rather he was on an income plan. He was under an income supplement. And there was a recognition under that government's programs that this would be important for those individuals who were still ready and willing and able to work.

And he does that today. He works in a greenhouse not far from Lethbridge, Saskatchewan. He lives with a roommate in a mobile home, and he takes a great deal of pride in his work, Mr. Speaker, and he should. And his family and, I believe, Darren has a great sense of pride about the value that he brings to the place he works and the value that his province, his home, places on him.

And, Mr. Speaker, today we were reaffirmed of an announcement our government made a long time ago, that in addition to a number of investments we've made for those who are most vulnerable among us, for those who are disabled, we gave them that same value and that same recognition. And they were here in the gallery to say thank you for that.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we pursue announcements like this, this \$150 million refinery in Langham, so we can acknowledge and do the right thing for people like my nephew, Darren, who now, if they were living in this province, can receive that same recognition, that same value, and that same dignity. They've been asking for it for a long time, Mr. Speaker, the disability community. It's happened today in the province, and that's how we're moving Saskatchewan forward.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of elements in the Speech from the Throne — I'll touch on a few of them — that I think are examples of our government's intent on moving forward, moving the province forward. But I don't think there are any as poignant, as compelling as in health care. Many would argue, I think, that was the centrepiece of the Speech from the Throne. And of the many items mentioned with respect to health care, the wait times commitment that we've made obviously was the most important of those.

Mr. Speaker, you will know this. The Minister of Health mentioned it earlier today in question period. You will know that 27,000 Saskatchewan people today are waiting for surgery of some sort. You will know that 4,000 or so have been waiting for more than 12 months. Can you imagine that? Imagine that.

I invite every member in this House, including those who want to debate the process of this, who oppose any use of any private clinics or private doctors even in a public system if we need to do that, even without queue jumping. I challenge those members who would rather focus on process and ideology to think about 4,000 fellow citizens — people that sign our cheques in this Assembly — that have an expectation and a right that we would deliver in the most timely way possible appropriate health care.

I want members of this House on both sides and anyone listening to think about those perhaps who have gone through excruciating back pain or . . . Let's pick on back pain for example. It's an example close to my house literally, in Swift

Current, literally, thankfully not in my house but next door not very far down the street.

For those members who refuse to look at every single option in a public system to try to deal with these wait times, I challenge them to consider excruciating pain for 12 months. What were we doing on the 3rd of November 2008? I don't know. I don't know exactly what I was doing. But I know it was a long time ago. I know it is an especially long time ago if I had been suffering or any member of this House had been suffering from debilitating back pain, the kind of pain that makes you sell your business that you've had for 30 years, the kind of pain that makes it hard to get out of bed, the kind of pain where you have to be loaded up on so many drugs that you're not even yourself anymore. Not a week, not a month, not six months, but twelve months, Mr. Speaker.

And those people that have been waiting for those treatments, some longer than that, 4,000 today and more in the past, they've seen some lip service paid to their issue by governments previous. And here, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be a little bit partisan because there's a record here that we are going to expose. And you have to sometimes, to contrast the fact that we're moving forward, you have to look at what we've done in the past.

What those people who are suffering from back pain for a very long time heard from member's opposite when they were the government, when they were campaigning for re-election is, they heard promises. The Minister of Health exposed one of them today in question period, the promise that was given to Saskatchewan people when the current Leader of the Opposition was the deputy leader of his party and no doubt signed off on that platform document in 1999 said, we, our government will cut wait times by 30 per cent. That's what it said.

The result today, the result at the end of their term, not even today, wait times increased. Wait-lists, sorry, increased by 60 per cent, Mr. Speaker. You see, you can't just have words. You've got to back it up with a plan and some resources. You've got to be open to some things that maybe we haven't been open to in the past. You've got to look at some innovation from around the world and find out how can we bring that to bear in the province. What resources are needed so that we can deliver the health care that people have an expectation to receive? And, Mr. Speaker, again I ask people to think about what you were doing last November. Can you imagine from then until now being in excruciating, debilitating pain and getting from your government brochures and words and empty promises?

Mr. Speaker, I say this very clearly, as clearly as I can in this Assembly, this government, as highlighted in the Speech from the Throne, intends to move forward with action. We are going to look at expanding capacity, using existing capacity in the province of Saskatchewan as it exists, using existing orthopedic surgeons and other surgeons as they already exist in the province. But we'll also be open to bringing in potentially private clinics to set up on a temporary basis or private doctors to come in and to deliver the service. And if we have to, we're going to be prepared to look at out-of-province options as has been the case for years, and more on that in a moment.

The bottom line is this, Mr. Speaker. Those members are, the NDP are going to give the people of Saskatchewan more rhetoric and more reasons why it can't be done based on ideology, based on matters of process. We are going to deliver on this. We're going to provide people and keep a promise of a three-month wait time for any surgery in this province within four years because what people deserve is less debate and rhetoric and more action. And that's what they're going to get from this side of the House.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the new Leader of the Opposition I think has portrayed himself as a bit of a political strategist. And so I think he has seen in this commitment in the Speech from the Throne some sort of political opportunity perhaps. I think he has seen for himself some sort of chance to resurrect something that people in Saskatchewan know quite well as medicare. It has had many manifestations in the past.

I've seen it first-hand. I've seen an NDP party say that if you vote a certain way in a by-election, then all five hospitals in a riding will be closed.

An Hon. Member: — What happened to those hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, the member for Cannington asks more than a rhetorical question. He just asked a question: what did happen to those hospitals? Well they did all close. You know who closed them, Mr. Speaker? It was the NDP government that was elected thereafter.

We've seen this medicare manifest itself in many ways, and we know that this new Leader of the Opposition has decided that it is on this wait times where he going to attempt to scare the people of the province. But it's not going to work, Mr. Speaker. Here's why it's not going to work. Because everyone in Saskatchewan knows someone in that cohort, that group of 4,000 who have been waiting over a year. And if they don't know someone in that 4,000, they know someone I think in the 11,000 that have been waiting more than four months. And if they don't know someone in that group, they know someone who had been waiting and finally did get their surgery, but only after waiting for far too long.

And the people of this province have said to pollsters and politicians that would care to listen to what they're saying, our number one concern is health care. We worry about professionals, doctors and nurses in rural Saskatchewan and elsewhere. And that goes directly to treatment and to care. We're worried about wait-lists.

Why in the birthplace of medicare would we stand to be so near the bottom of all the provinces, Mr. Speaker? Well that was their willingness. It's not ours on this side of the House.

I look forward to the debate and potentially a campaign in two years because, Mr. Speaker, we'll have been about the business of getting people surgery that they need by that point of time. And I can't wait to campaign on this plan to move forward that we have unveiled versus what they would advocate, which is back to the past, back to wait-lists increasing by 60 per cent, back to a time when we had 800 fewer nurses than we needed, back to a time when hospitals were being closed in rural Saskatchewan. We welcome that debate now, and we're looking

forward to it happening when the next election happens, Mr. Speaker.

You see, because the members opposite — who will vote against this commitment in the Speech from the Throne, I expect — they have, Mr. Speaker, not only a record to deal with in terms of what happened to wait times, but amazingly they have their own practices that they're going to have to deal with.

What an interesting question period it was today, when the member for — what's her seat again — Saskatoon Eastview, the Health critic, when she stands up and is going to ask some questions of me and whoever would get up, maybe the Health minister, about our plan for wait times. Because we've said as a last resort we're going to look at getting people the care they need, we may have to look at the capacity in other provinces. And the NDP have decried this now, remember.

Now in this legislature and outside in the scrums they've been indignant. Why would you send people for hip and knee surgeries outside the province instead of doing them all in the province? That's what they've asked. That's been the question in this House and outside, and it relates directly to the Speech from the Throne. Why would you do that? Why would you send people who need hips and knee surgeries outside of the province of Saskatchewan, they said.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? I was reading the newspaper just this morning from February the 4th, 2005, because we do that on this side of the House. We get done this paper and then we go back and we read some other papers, especially when we're trying to compare what it is they say on that side of the House and what it is they do. And so this is an interesting article from the *Leader-Post*, February 4, 2005, headline, "One man's needless wait for surgery." And it details what was happening to an individual who was waiting for, I think, a hip surgery is what it was. It was a right hip he needed to be replaced.

Responding to . . . And I'm going to quote this, Mr. Speaker, so we're going to name a member, but here's a quote. Remember now, members opposite, including the member for Lakeview who's going to feature prominently in this next little bit right here, including the member for Lakeview, Regina Lakeview, have said today they oppose any notion that we would use capacity outside the province for — say — hips or knees for example. Here's the quote: "Responding to Ritson in January, Health Minister John Nilson told him . . ." Ritson, by the way, I'm sorry, was the patient that was looking for a hip treatment, Mr. Speaker:

Responding to Ritson in January, Health Minister John Nilson told him most out-of-province treatments are covered, with the exceptions of MRIs [covered by the government, he's saying with the exception of MRIs], cataract surgery and other select services. However, Sask. Health does not cover costs for travel, meals and accommodation when patients access out-of-province services, he said.

Meaning the minister at the time, the current member for Lakeview. But then he goes on to say, the member who now opposes and says they oppose using capacity outside of the province for hip and knee surgery, at the end of the article it

says he, meaning that member, the member for Lakeview, "He acknowledged that the province is short of orthopedic surgeons so patients should ask family physicians about out-of-province options."

[15:00]

He acknowledged that the province is short of orthopedic surgeons, so patients should ask family physicians about out-of-province options. Well could it be then, Mr. Speaker, that under the NDP who now decry the notion that hips and knee surgeries would happen outside the province, could it have happened under them when they were the government? I wonder. Well as we found out today in the legislature — and I think much to the member for Saskatoon Eastview's disappointment — that has happened. And over four years of their government, Mr. Speaker, we're talking hip and knee replacements exclusively, never mind all the other treatments.

And we know in southwest Saskatchewan about the reciprocal health care that goes on between the community of Medicine Hat and the rest of the province. It just is a fact of life and has been under the NDP and under any government in the province. But under their term, in terms of hip and knee replacements, Mr. Speaker, 366 surgeries. That number is powerfully close to 400 which is the number that's been bandied about, that our ministry would have said, hypothetically, look, if we need the hip and knee surgeries, you have capacity for 400. Three hundred and sixty-six — is there any wonder, Mr. Speaker, is there any wonder that when it comes to health care, when it comes to the economy, when it comes to just integrity in debate and discussion even in this legislature, that members opposite just simply are lacking?

They are found lacking by the people of the province of Saskatchewan. You simply can't say that you oppose the thing you were doing two years ago, and doing in numbers exactly as been proposed by officials of the Minister of Health. It's absolutely amazing, Mr. Speaker, both those quotes and the fact of the matter and the reality of the record.

Mr. Speaker, we've been working very hard to move Saskatchewan forward in terms of a number of areas. I know members opposite have dealt a lot with and members on our side have dealt with the issue of affordability. And I don't want to repeat everything that's been said in the debate but, Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to read a list of things that we have worked on in terms of affordability issues.

One of the challenges of a growing economy is that there are increasing costs. That's one of the challenges of an economy that grows in any jurisdiction, and we're not immune to that, Mr. Speaker. I think we're all grateful that our economy's growing. Better that than the alternative that's being experienced all over the world today, all over the world.

But we have some challenges because there are those low-income people — seniors in some cases, young people in other cases — that are vulnerable to the increasing costs. So our government said, look, we've got some resources. What could we do with those resources?

Well, Mr. Speaker, our government has implemented the largest

single-year income tax reduction in the province's history. And 80,000 people — you know, think about this number, Mr. Speaker — 80,000 low-income people no longer pay any provincial income tax at all. The cut was so dramatic, the cut was so dramatic that that is in fact the number: 80,000 low-income people are no longer on the tax rolls of the province of Saskatchewan.

And the rhetorical question has been asked by members opposite: where has the money gone? Well some of the money went there, back into the pockets of those who need it the most, by the way, of whose money it is in the first place.

You see, it's interesting — and I'll get to my list in a moment because it's a great list — but it's interesting that they would ask this question over and over again. And it speaks to a bit of a mentality in terms of where the money went, implying, where is the government's money? It goes to a mentality that we saw when they were government, especially towards the end, Mr. Speaker, when increasingly they were tired and old and out of touch. And every once in a while there'd be that slip that you'd see from members opposite. They'd start talking in the possessive about our money, the government's money, the government's resources.

Mr. Speaker, that was when it was pretty clear things were over for that government. That was the beginning of, I think, the end for the government is when that mentality seemed to take hold across members opposite. And it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because you'd think two years in opposition, after a fairly sound defeat at the polls, they might have learned. But they haven't. You hear that in the tone of questions. You hear that in that rhetorical question we're talking about.

On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we're working very, very hard to make sure we begin each day with a reminder that we're just tenants on this side of the House. There are landlords that are there to evict us if they ever see fit to do so. Hopefully they give us a few more opportunities.

An Hon. Member: — Couple decades.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Couple decades, the member for Kindersley says. And I hope that he's got the stamina for that.

Mr. Speaker, there's something else we try to remind ourselves every day on this side of the House. The resources of the government are the people's resources; this isn't our money. You know, there's \$800 million still in a savings account. We've got it in a savings account. It's cash now, mind you. After all the things I'm about to read and debt reduction and infrastructure investments — I'll get into that in a bit — there's \$800 million still in the bank. That's also part of the answer to their question, where it went.

But you know, that's not the government's money even though it's in the bank. And it's there hopefully for, well potentially for a rainy day. We hope never to have to use it. But it's there today, and it's not the government's money. It belongs to the people of the province of Saskatchewan, as does every single dollar that is collected by government on behalf of the people of the province and then invested back into Saskatchewan, whether we reduce the debt or cut taxes or deliver services.

So, Mr. Speaker, though, one of the priorities of our government, to take a look at the money that belonged to the people of Saskatchewan, is to make sure those who are most vulnerable, those who are at the low income, are sharing in the prosperity. So there is the income tax cut I've already talked about. There's the largest education tax cut in the history of the province. Certainly some of those low-income people, people who are vulnerable, seniors, have a real concern about property taxes, and so they share in the largest education property tax reduction in the history of the province. Saskatchewan families now earn more tax-free money here than anywhere in Canada, anywhere in the country. Saskatchewan families earn more here tax free than anywhere else in the nation.

By the way, maybe that's one of the reasons that that company said, you know, we can be anywhere in the world — that refining company that announced today for Saskatoon — but we choose Saskatchewan.

We doubled the Saskatchewan low-income tax credit, doubled the Saskatchewan Income Plan, maximizing benefit for seniors, and made 10,000 more seniors eligible for the program. We've increased the Saskatchewan employment supplement by \$2 million. That benefited 6,000 working families.

Mr. Speaker, we moved to index so many of the allowances, especially the housing allowances that are available. We want to index them to inflation because we know housing is key and housing prices move up with the economy. And so rather than waiting on the special dispensation and the good graces of any government, we've said, let's just tie it to inflation. And more than that, let's be innovative. Let's determine inflation in a region because real estate inflation in Saskatoon might be greater than it is in Invermay. So let's just make sure that the reality of the inflation in the area where people need those housing supplements is hard-wired into the program, that no petitions need to be presented, no letters need to be sent to politicians, that it just happens because it's the right thing to do.

And that's how you reinvest . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker, again if you're talking about moving forward, you're implying that we're moving forward from somewhere. And so where were we before on the issue of affordability? Mr. Speaker, when the NDP had a revenue shortfall in their budget prior to the . . . well it was exposed just after the '04 election, but it was obviously occurring prior to that, what did they do, Mr. Speaker?

They had a revenue shortfall. What the government is experiencing today with respect to potash isn't anything new. The scope of it's significant, but it's happened to governments in the past. It happened to the NDP just after the '04 election. What did they decide to do to make up the shortfall?

Mr. Speaker, did they make any — first year of their new government — did they make any cuts? Did they do any belt tightening? Did they stop the \$25 million every year they were investing through Investment Saskatchewan into companies, picking winners and losers? Did they stop the madness around SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], the \$33 million lost? Did they stop pouring money into SaskTel in projects like Navigata that wound up losing 90 million taxpayers' dollars? Was that on their list of choices to

deal with a revenue shortfall, Mr. Speaker?

No. They increased taxes, you see, because it belonged to them, the government, the revenue and the tax structure in government.

So after campaigning on no tax hike, immediately after that election, after the '04 election, they increased the PST [provincial sales tax] by a per cent.

And I remember what the minister of Finance said, the former member for Regina Douglas Park. The former minister of Finance said this when asked about it: well of course we're not going to talk about a tax hike during an election. That's what he said, Mr. Speaker.

It's a bit of a digression, but I want to make this commitment as well, and I think it is part of a government moving forward. I think for any government to make the case to its citizens that it's moving forward, it perhaps has to keep in mind this most important imperative: you should probably keep your promises. You should probably do the things that you said you would do, and you should not do the things that you said that you wouldn't do.

And this example, Mr. Speaker, of what they did with respect to the PST is doing something precisely the opposite. And who can afford a consumption tax the least, by the way, on the issue of affordability? Low-income people. People on fixed incomes are hurt most when we increase consumption taxes.

They never acted on the education property tax in a long-term way. They never increased, they never increased the caregiver tax credit in 16 years. The NDP did not raise the Saskatchewan Income Plan for seniors for 16 years. And general living allowances — Mr. Speaker, get this — general living allowances for those who need help the most, from 1992 to 2005 . . . And for some of those years there was growth happening, to be sure. For that period of time, 1992 to 2005, general living allowances were never increased for those who were most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, if you're going to talk about moving forward, you need to consider where you've come from. And I think when it comes to the record of this side of the House in government in terms of investment in people, in terms of help for those who are low-income, in terms of tax cuts for those who are low-income — dropping them from the tax rolls versus a lot of rhetoric but inaction from that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we are moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what about agriculture? You know, I think for a long time in this province, people have felt — certainly under the previous government — that agriculture just wasn't at the top of the priority list for the government. So if an area of the government's been neglected in particular, I think a measure of any commitment or promise in a Speech from the Throne or any other document that you're moving forward, one of the measures is going to be how are you doing in terms of agriculture. Because it has waited a long time, a very, very long time as a sector to get the attention of whoever the duly elected government here in Regina was.

Mr. Speaker, we know there's more work to be done. And we know in agriculture there are so many issues that require principally the federal government — trade issues, for example; the national suite of agricultural programs, for example. But there are a few things that the provincial government and every single capital in this nation can do to stand with farmers. There are a few things that governments can do. One of them is the education property tax. Maybe the very, very biggest thing that a provincial government can do for agriculture is do something about the education property tax.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne highlighted that we are moving forward on this issue. We announced in this last budget a provincial mill rate. We announced in this last budget the largest property tax reduction, land property tax reduction in the history of the province of Saskatchewan — phase 1 last year, phase 2 to come next year. Mr. Speaker, we campaigned on property tax relief, not just for agricultural land but for the whole province. And once again we delivered.

And I want to contrast that with the members opposite. They also campaigned on the property tax issue, if you remember. It was in their platform. They said they would do something about property tax. Were they going to do anything more for farmers? No, they weren't. They were expressly excluded from their plan. Expressly excluded from the NDP's plan were farmers and ranchers in terms of property tax relief, where arguably the problem is most acute because it's every single quarter after quarter after quarter, this capital tax on such an important business sector in the province of Saskatchewan. And again their record previous was some rebates, some progress, but no long-term plan.

We needed to move forward, Mr. Speaker. It's an area that the province has some control of. And we have done that, Mr. Speaker, with the leadership of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture and, frankly, rural members of this caucus, who day in and day out speak up for farmers and agriculture in the government caucus. And more than talking about things, they get things done for their constituents and farmers.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, there's another thing that provincial governments can do that impact on agriculture significantly — not only provincially, but we're a big part of it — and that's crop insurance. Now the federal government obviously is a big player in crop insurance as well. But the province, if it's prepared to play a leadership role, the province can make changes for the better.

And I remember in opposition our party would, prior to my time as leader and after that, our party and our rural members would get up in question period and work in committees and say, you know, one line of defence, in addition to whatever federal program there may or may not be, is crop insurance. But what we've seen over the years is the erosion of coverage and the increase of premiums.

What we've seen is a government seemingly happy to see crop insurance or directing that crop insurance just retreat from the front line, retreat from its role as a partner with producers. And

I remember members of this House very passionately saying, that's got to stop. I mean we should be a leader in terms of crop insurance delivery and policy development in Canada. We have half of the arable acres in the country.

And so you know what, Mr. Speaker? We campaigned on improvements. We campaigned on something different. We campaigned on crop insurance that was stronger. We campaigned on crop insurance that had realistic premiums but coverage that was also realistic, coverage that was fair, Mr. Speaker, for the producers and for the crops that they were growing, for prices at the time.

Mr. Speaker, those changes were part of a review; we kept our promise about it. And here again I think is the difference between our government moving forward and the previous government. When the review of crop insurance was done, the Minister of Agriculture took a radical approach. He acted on the recommendations of the review and improved crop insurance, much as we did with the report from the member for Rosetown on land taxes, on property taxes. We reviewed these two key issues in agriculture, and then we acted on those two key issues in agriculture.

And I have noted with interest the comments from the member for Regina Douglas Park prior to him becoming a member and soon after — well actually when he was running for the campaign and soon after now that he's the Leader of the Opposition — saying, we are going to make agriculture a top priority. We are going to be asking a lot of questions in that legislature on behalf of farmers because the farmers are unhappy with the government.

By the way, I'm sure there are some producers that aren't happy with everything, but in terms of those that are unhappy with the government, I have not met a lot, Mr. Speaker. And I have been travelling the province. And the MLAs report and the minister reports that while there is work to do in terms of what this government has done, the promises it has kept, this government enjoys the support of agriculture because finally they have a government that's serious about their issues and backs it up with action.

But I've noticed this, Mr. Speaker, that notwithstanding the promises by the new Leader of the Opposition that he was going to be all over agriculture, I have noticed that maybe there's been one question in question period.

An Hon. Member: — Not one.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Has there been . . . There's been none, members tell me. Not one question, and the Minister of Agriculture is probably saying thanks a lot; they're probably coming tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that I think the members opposite understand that not in the last 20 years in Saskatchewan has there been a government that is more determined to deal with the issues in agriculture. And by the way, it's not just crop insurance and property tax. It's roads. It's rural infrastructure. It's partnering with SARM, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities who've been waiting for a long time just for a government that's willing to

partner, knowing that we can't deal with the entire infrastructure deficit left behind by members opposite in two years or in three or four years. But they just wanted to see a government earnest and sincere about rural issues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to them, through you and through this Assembly and through the Speech from the Throne, when it comes to rural Saskatchewan, when it comes to agriculture, we understand the importance to the economy. We understand the importance to the fabric of life in this province. When it comes to agriculture and rural Saskatchewan, we will move forward together.

Mr. Speaker, there were many other elements mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, many examples of the government's interest in moving forward. One of the important references in this Speech from the Throne — and I'm not going to list all of them, but I'm going to finish with this one — is energy. Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne talks about the importance of us moving forward as a province in terms of developing energy supply in a sustainable way and making sure that costs are affordable for people right across our province and for industry down into the future. It speaks about the importance of Saskatchewan dealing with a carbon footprint that's significant.

We know there is a post-carbon economy coming. Some aren't particularly happy about it, but it's coming. It's coming. And so in that kind of a post-carbon economy, our government has already been working very hard to make sure Saskatchewan's not just ready, but that we can be a leader in terms of our energy sources and potentially in new technologies that the world is going to be interested in.

Mr. Speaker, an important part of the energy question too is non-carbon sources of electrons or energy, and of course we can think about wind. We're actually going to be doubling our current portfolio of wind, announcement recently made by the Minister Responsible for SaskPower.

In fact this is interesting because I think the NDP were, the opposition critics were critical of the announcement by the Minister of SaskPower that he was going to . . . that our government would be doubling our wind energy, adding 175 to 200 megawatts of wind generated electricity. And so the Minister of Energy, of SaskPower happened to have, by coincidence, a copy of their platform that they ran on, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP ran on. This same group that was complaining about 200 new megawatts of wind power campaigned on 100 new megawatts of wind power.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to things like wait times, when it comes to things like their commitments on SaskPower, members should maybe check what they said in their platform, maybe peruse what they said in *Hansard* before they make pronouncements either in the rotunda or in this Assembly. But certainly wind is part of our plan for the future.

In terms of non-carbon-emitting sources of energy, we've also had the discussion in this province recently around uranium and nuclear power. You know, Mr. Speaker, it's been an interesting, it's been a very interesting debate in Saskatchewan to see the changes that have occurred in the province as we've had the discussion, to see the changes occur in gymnastic style, frankly,

in the position of the Leader of the Opposition on nuclear power.

But I just want to say, I just want to say this. It's well known that Saskatchewan mines 26 per cent of the world's uranium. It's well known. And it's well known in this Assembly that the next ounce of yellowcake that we add any value to at all will be the first, the very first . . . decades of mining uranium, a world leader, with world-class uranium companies that themselves are vertically in agreement.

Cameco and AREVA are principally located, in terms of their Canadian operations, in our province because this is where the uranium is. Both of those companies are vertically integrated. The member for Thunder Creek knows very well this file, has met with them. The current Minister of Energy, the Minister of Enterprise today, members on this side of the House know how vertically integrated they are. They don't just mine it; they are involved in other things elsewhere in the world.

But why not here in the province? Why do we not add any value here? Whether you want to make electrons or not, and power, but what about all the other things like refining it or conversion or fuel or science? What about all of that? They're involved in all of those things, Mr. Speaker, for the most part. Why not here?

Did it have anything to do with the government that we've had for a very long time, I wonder. Did it have anything to do with the government that we had, an NDP government whose operatives, whose volunteers literally chased out the only chance we've ever had to do something other than mine the ore but refine it at a project in Warman? In fact the former minister of the Crown that was responsible for much of this file led the charge. It was a charge that was joined by a number of others who made an appearance at a number of public meetings that we had in the province here over the last number of months. And that's fine. That's why we had the public meetings.

But, Mr. Speaker, could it have anything to do with the fact that on the issue of uranium, that party opposite is simply incapable of deciding to move forward, of doing something with our uranium other than just mining? Mr. Speaker, I think that was the case. I think that was the problem because we have the evidence of members opposite who would drive those value-added initiatives out of Saskatchewan.

And we also have this glaring reality in our province that we did once add value in the most spectacular way to uranium because the very first cobalt-60, I think, the very first cobalt-60 treatment happened where? At Rochester? At MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]? It happened at the University of Saskatchewan, and a woman battling cervical cancer won her battle. She was 40 at the time, 41 at the time. I think she lived to be over 80. She won her battle, and the world of medicine has never been the same since.

Mr. Speaker, that was the record of Saskatchewan, not of any political party, but that's what was happening in the province of Saskatchewan. That was the opportunity that existed.

Now we have spent decades wasting that opportunity because of the ideology, for the most part, of the government of the day.

And so what this government has said is this. We are going to for the first time, for the first time in the history of the province, we're going to have a consultation process, involve all of the province of Saskatchewan. It's called the Uranium Development Partnership. We're going to get some work done by those who know best about what opportunities are there. They'll make some recommendations, and we'll turn it over to the people of Saskatchewan.

I think it's passing strange, by the way, in a province that mines 26 per cent of the world's uranium, a province whose uranium actually fires 6 per cent of the electricity in all of the United States, I find it passing strange that that province has never yet, up until now, up until our government's initiative, had never asked people what they think.

And we heard from members opposite. It wasn't enough, and the consultation was all wrong, and the government had it wrong. Not once in all their years of government, since the '50s when mining started, not once, Mr. Speaker, did they deign, did they bother to ask the people of the province of Saskatchewan what they would like to see done with their resource, Mr. Speaker, going back to that mentality that I talked about earlier. Not once.

We did, Mr. Speaker. We went through a process. It was imperfect. Every public consultation process is going to be imperfect. And we asked the question, not just about nuclear power, we asked about science. And we asked about medical isotopes, and we asked about refining and even what do we do with mining. And Mr. Speaker, we've received the report of the government.

And then in addition to that, under the leadership of the member for Lloydminster, the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies committee of legislature, we are going out again to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. We're inviting their input in narrowing the focus on the energy needs of the province, the electricity needs of the province.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker? First time that's ever happened, first time any government has bothered to stop in the process and ask people what they think about the most important economic issue 20, 30, and 40 years down the road and that is, how will we affordably and environmentally sustainably keep the lights on and keep businesses growing in the province of Saskatchewan? First time ever.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to act on what we hear from Saskatchewan people. We're going to act on that public consultation process. We're going to lead the world, Mr. Speaker, I think, in a number of energy-related technologies. Carbon capture is chief among them but not limited to that. We're going to increase our wind envelope. We're going to look at natural gas, at its prices now to help us get through this time of this lack of technology, the next big technology, Mr. Speaker. We're going to work to ensure that we have a cleaner coal alternative which will be good news to the people of southeast Saskatchewan and the industries that are down there.

Mr. Speaker, and we'll have done it after widespread consultation with the people who own the utility in the first place and whose resources that fire that electricity in that utility

... it is in the first place the people of the province of Saskatchewan. One of those options may be a nuclear reactor.

Mr. Speaker, nobody will be surprised in this House when they find out that this is not the first time a nuclear reactor alternative has been considered in the province. It was considered previously in the province — we know that; we've seen the documents — by the previous government.

The previous government, Mr. Speaker, the previous government, the NDP government, looked at the nuclear option. Did they tell anybody? Was there a public meeting held? Did they come to Meadow Lake or did they go to Swift Current or did they go to Saskatoon? Did they go anywhere in the province and say, you know what, we're looking at the potential, anyway, of nuclear power, which would be a sea change in the province of Saskatchewan. We're looking at this option. Maybe we better check with the people of the province and see what they think. No they didn't, Mr. Speaker.

I heard the member from Regina Douglas Park, the Leader of the Opposition, use the word hypocrisy in his Speech from the Throne. It's in *Hansard*. I wonder. We should look very carefully at what the definition of that word is when it comes to the issue of nuclear power, with how he in government acted as minister responsible for all the Crowns, what he has said since then in terms of promoting nuclear power, and now what he's saying referencing the government's plan for either public consultation or to explore all the options.

[15:30]

I think, Mr. Speaker, he has a lot of explaining to do to the people of the province of Saskatchewan on his position with respect to energy and any number of other issues. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? I'm not going to get into them this afternoon. Other members have done that.

Oh, well this is interesting though. I will add this. I will add this. It's on one of the yellow pages that's sent over from the Minister of the Environment, I think. It says this. This is a quote from the member for Regina Douglas Park. It speaks to what I'm saying here about a debate. In order to move forward, we need to have veracity in debate. There needs to be some consistency in debate. And the member for Athabasca can laugh but he knows it's the truth.

Here's what the member said, the member for Regina Douglas Park, the new Leader of the Opposition said, who now opposes any proposal for nuclear power. He said, "I think it's immoral to say, 'I want to mine uranium but I don't want to make power from it.'" That's what he said December '08. It's not like this was years ago.

An Hon. Member: — Like in the '70s.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Like in the '70s, the member for Cypress Hills says. He says, "I think it's immoral to say, 'I want to mine uranium but I don't want to make power from it,'" Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Not even a year ago.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — This is just not even a year ago, as the

Deputy Premier has said. It's not like from the time when he was in the oil towers of Calgary coming into Saskatchewan to lecture everybody about why we're not building nuclear power reactors. I remember those days. Those days were preceding the days when he'd come and try to lobby members in this House to change legislation so the head office of the oil company that he got a job with — it used to be a Crown corporation — could take their head office jobs out of the province of Saskatchewan. It wasn't at that time either.

An Hon. Member: — It was a safe landing.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Right. Well that was a safe landing, but I'm saying that's not when he said those things. He said them less than a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess that brings me to a conclusion. There are a number of other things in the Speech from the Throne that we could talk about in terms of examples of this government working hard to move the province forward. But I want this Assembly to understand, and the people that may be watching, that we understand in government we have been able to, in partnership with the people, achieve a lot. But we understand we have also been blessed by providence, and there's been a lot of good fortune for this new government. I have readily admitted that.

I think it's incumbent on a government, by the way, faced with that good fortune, to do the right things with it, to be able to answer that question: what have you done with the resources? I think that's important for a government to be able to do. I think it's important for that government to be able to say, you know what? We've rebuilt our highways that were in a sad state. We've invested record levels in those highways in rural Saskatchewan. All over this province we've invested in municipal infrastructure in record numbers.

We've invested in health care infrastructure with those resources, with that good fortune. We have, Mr. Speaker, invested in people in ways I've just mentioned, in adding drugs to the formulary that literally give life, extend the life of those who might be fighting cancer. That's what we've done with those resources.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard to fix the roofs on countless schools across this province that couldn't get any attention from the previous government. We've announced new schools that would be built to accommodate a growing province and more students. That's what we've done with the resources.

Mr. Speaker, we've cut taxes for Saskatchewan people. We put their money back in their pocket in record levels in income tax. We've finally done something about the property tax, Mr. Speaker. That's where the resources have gone. And most importantly of all, Mr. Speaker, we have reduced the debt of Saskatchewan by 40 per cent, Mr. Speaker, and there's \$800 million in the bank. That's where it's gone.

Mr. Speaker, were the election tomorrow ... And you know, Mr. Speaker, I'd be tempted to call one but we can't because we kept the promise to set elections, Mr. Speaker. But were there one tomorrow, I'd campaign on that record. I'd do so happily because of what we've been working to achieve, in partnership with the people of the province.

We would campaign in humility. We would acknowledge the fact that we've been blessed by all of these things, that there's more work to be done. We'd campaign with an air of optimism about the future of the province of Saskatchewan because, you know, again I could go down the list of accolades from economists and from the business news organizations around this country who just keep singling out Saskatchewan as a leader in almost every category through this recession. We'd campaign in that way, with optimism and hope, Mr. Speaker.

There won't be a campaign obviously but that's how we're going to conduct the next two years of our government. That's how we'll finish off this next bit of work we've got mapped out in the Speech from the Throne. That's how we're going to move forward. And I invite people to consider that approach, to hold us accountable, to hold me accountable for what I've just said.

I invite people to consider that approach from what they'll see from members opposite. And the Leader of the Opposition in the Speech from the Throne said that the economy of Saskatchewan was in a "free fall." I think that was a direct quote. There are so many, example and example of just negativity coming from members opposite despite the fact that Saskatchewan has not seen a better run ever in the history of the province, despite the fact our population is growing faster than it ever has in 50 years.

You hear a lot of gloom and doom and negativity. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, they're grumpy. Why would they be grumpy, Mr. Speaker? The Riders have a home playoff game. The economy is leading the country. People are sharing in the benefits of the . . . Well there you have it maybe, Mr. Speaker. Maybe that is why they're grumpy over there because they realize that if this continues — and we're going to move heaven and earth to ensure that it does — that when that next election comes around, the people of this province might just say, we like this moving forward. We like this government. We're going to hire them on again for another four years. Maybe that's why he's grumpy, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, maybe that's the reason. All I know is this, that we're going to work very hard. As a government we're going to keep doing what we're doing.

I'm very fortunate to have such a great team of women and men to work with both here in the Assembly and those that back us up in offices in this building. And I want to be grateful to the civil service and express our appreciation to our civil service. They helped to develop the Speech from the Throne. They helped develop policies that will execute it after the government provides that direction. I certainly want to acknowledge them today.

And I want to acknowledge the work of the House Leader and the House leadership team as we go through this session as well. Typically he gets a chance to thank everybody at the end and I don't. Let me just say what a pleasure it is to work with such a group on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I will be enthusiastically, enthusiastically supporting the Speech from the Throne and I encourage members opposite, I encourage members opposite to take a look

at this document, to take a look at what's there just in terms of health care, for no other reason, just to provide people's surgeries within four months, to just set aside the grumpiness for the time it takes for a vote and support the Speech from the Throne and support this province that we love, moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Indian Head-Milestone, seconded by the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for his gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

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

[The division bells rang from 15:39 until 15:51.]

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 35]

Wall	Stewart	Elhard
Bjornerud	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
D'Autremont	Hickie	Heppner
Harpauer	Gantefoer	Kirsch
Norris	Morgan	Hutchinson
Huyghebaert	Brkich	Hart
Reiter	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Duncan
Michelson	LeClerc	Ottenbreit

Ross
Harrison

Chisholm
McMillan

Bradshaw

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

[Nays — 20]

Lingenfelter
Harper
Junor
Forbes
Furber
Iwanchuk
Wotherspoon

McCall
Trew
Atkinson
Vermette
Morin
Taylor
Chartier

Belanger
Higgins
Nilson
Brotten
Yates
Quennell

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 35; those opposed, 20.

The Speaker: — Motion carries. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:54.]

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Premier
President of the Executive Council

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

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium Development
Partnership
Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Research Council

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. June Draude
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments
Corporation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport

Hon. Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance
Government House Leader

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
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Hon. Nancy Heppner
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Water Corporation

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
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Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert
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Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Hon. Christine Tell
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Capital Commission