



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

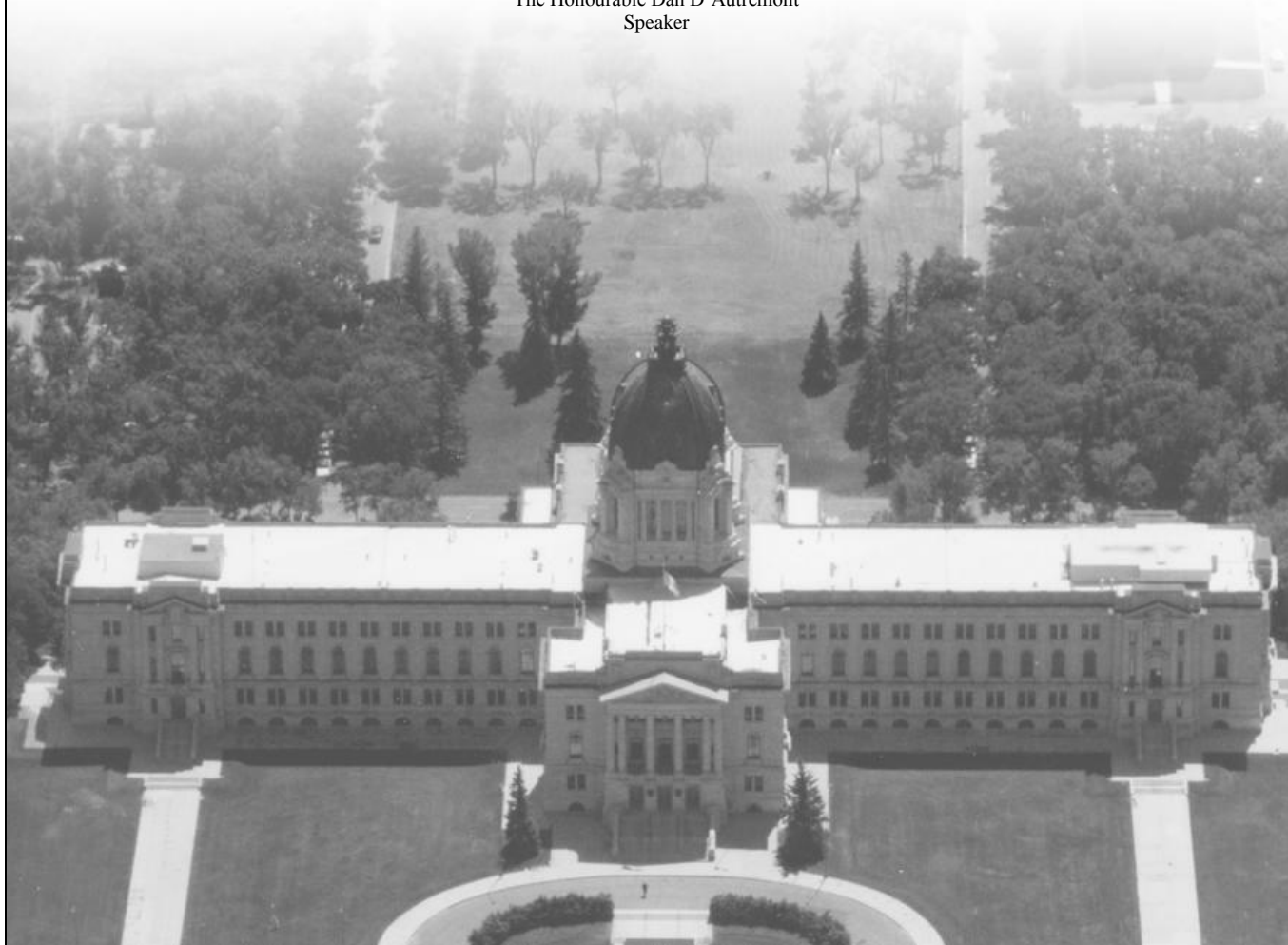
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

The Speaker: — It now being 7 o'clock, debate will resume. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 36 — *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011*** be now read a second time, and on the proposed amendment moved by Mr. Nilson.]

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear the government has had some time to think about things over supper and have come back and have decided that they are going support the opposition's motion, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway all jesting aside here, the motion, what are we talking about here tonight before we broke away for supper? Today we're talking about Bill No. 36, *An Act to amend The Constituency Boundaries Act*, Mr. Speaker. And what we're debating is the motion that this opposition has brought forward encouraging the government to basically, for all intents and purposes, press pause, take a step back, get out of the legislature, and go out for the next six months to our constituents and hear what our constituents have to say because this Bill, Mr. Speaker, came out of absolutely nowhere. It was not in this government's election platform in November, which is . . . It is what it is. But they had an opportunity in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, to talk about it as well, and they skipped that opportunity as well. The first time we heard it was early December, Mr. Speaker.

So again what are we asking again here? We're asking the government to take a step back and do some consultation again. In this House, I'm a huge proponent of consultation, but I believe it needs to be meaningful and connected to people's realities. And I'd like to talk about a good example of consultation. Actually just a couple of years ago this government, after privatizing SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] and feeling some pressure from the public, actually chose to take part in a task force, or actually initiated taking part in a film and TV task force. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? I've heard so much positive feedback from people who took part in that exercise, Mr. Speaker. They felt like they'd been listened to, they . . . A whole group of people came together — big producers, small producers, people from across the piece, Mr. Speaker — as well as different areas of government were represented around this film and TV task force, Mr. Speaker.

But you know what? When this report was presented in October of 2010, this government hasn't implemented a single recommendation. So they took a good piece of consultation — actually probably one of the best ones that this government has

done because they haven't been well-known for their good and meaningful consultation, but this was an opportunity actually where they did do some really great work — and what did they do? It became a completely hollow exercise, Mr. Speaker, a completely hollow exercise. And this government has failed to implement a single recommendation from the film and television task force.

And instead what they've chosen to do is cancel the film employment tax credit, which I know that I'm hearing from hundreds and hundreds of people, and more than 8,000 people have signed a petition in a very short amount of time in support of the film employment tax credit. So they have taken a good piece of consultation and ignored everything about it.

An example of not such a great piece of consultation that this government has done is from last session actually, was *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, for the government had talked about consulting or claimed that they had consulted, but clearly as groups came forward, they in fact hadn't done any consultation.

So I would encourage the government, and the opposition is encouraging the government, in these six months to pass our motion, Mr. Speaker, pass our motion, to take a moment, to take six months and talk to constituents because clearly this idea to add three more MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and to exclude those under 18 from the count when redrawing constituency boundaries has come out of absolutely nowhere. This was not a piece of consultation. It clearly . . . Well who knows where it came from? Perhaps one of the ministers — perhaps we'll call it the inner circle — came up with an idea that they thought was a brilliant idea at the time. But in fact that priority flies completely in the face with priorities of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

I had mentioned earlier in my speech before we had taken a break for supper here, I disagreed with the Premier with respect to him saying that elections are about voters. Mr. Speaker, I believe and we believe on this side of the House that elections are about citizens. Democracy is about citizens, not voters. This democracy is about citizens, not voters, and those under 18 are part of our democracy and deserve to be counted.

The other thing that I actually disagree with with respect to the Premier, with respect to the Premier's comments, I would argue that he is talking out of both sides of his mouth. On one hand, in the fall, he had a newly elected member who had planned on or had thought about continuing on with his previous employment. And actually the Premier gave his blessing to do that, Mr. Speaker. So on one hand we have the Premier saying that yes, it is just fine to work part-time, and then just a short while later saying, oh my goodness, we need more MLAs.

So I'm not sure which it is, Mr. Speaker, but this Premier has talked about his MLAs being able to work part-time, which I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, this is not a part-time job, Mr. Speaker. This is often a seven-day-a-week job. This is not a part-time job. But my point here is that the Premier on one hand has talked about allowing his MLAs to work part-time, giving his blessing, and which would be a huge disservice to our constituents, Mr. Speaker. And on the other hand, he's talked

about the need for more MLAs. So I would ask him, what is he talking about, Mr. Speaker? Well that's a very good question.

So I know that I have other colleagues who are interested in getting into this debate. There's much to say on this topic, Mr. Speaker. And so again I just want to emphasize that I, we very much disagree with the Premier on this side of the House that elections are not just about voters. They are about citizens, and citizens include those who are under 18. And the second piece is, well which is it, Mr. Premier? Is it that MLAs work part-time, or we need more MLAs to do the work? So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass it off. I'm sure my colleagues have much more to say.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with a certain sense of . . . I don't know how it is that we've come to this point in the debate, Mr. Speaker, because I guess the way that I've been brought up in democracy and the way that I understand what the members are about opposite is that these are men and women that have claimed a great deal of pride in saying what they were going to do and then doing what they're going to say.

And certainly from 2000 to 2011, there was hardly a week went by where we didn't have something from the members opposite on the promises kept, promises made and promises kept front, Mr. Speaker. And it's always interesting to see the evolution of a government, the evolution of what it regards as important, what it thinks is a priority, and what, you know, how that relates to their time in power and whether or not that's a certain process of what goes up must come down or, you know . . . [inaudible] . . . or ossification, or what goes on over there, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly this is a government that in 2007 to 2011, after thundering into power with a battle cry of hope trumps fear, well now, Mr. Speaker, we find out what people . . . People had to sort of sift through the details in terms of where they're at with what that government was hoping for and what people should be afraid was actually going to happen. And I guess again, Mr. Speaker, in the last campaign we saw the moving Saskatchewan forward. We saw the Premier and, you know, perhaps we'll get an applause out of this, Mr. Speaker, we saw them talk about how the only day in Saskatchewan better than today was tomorrow.

[Applause]

Mr. McCall: — Yes, there we go. There we go. It's almost Pavlovian over there, Mr. Speaker, in terms of you ring the bell and the dogs start salivating. But certainly the Premier had them well conditioned to applaud that line.

I guess the thing that we wish would have happened in all of that, Mr. Speaker, is if they'd actually talked about what the bottom line was. And I guess in terms of Bill 36, we see this as a show of character on the part of the members opposite. We see this as demonstrative of where those members are at. And again, Mr. Speaker, it's always sort of hard to figure out, you know, who's in the inner, inner circle, who's in the inner circle and who's just along for the ride and there to provide the

volume for the applause lines. But it's pretty clear that on this one, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't the people of Saskatchewan that were invited along for the ride on Bill 36 because of course in the campaign we heard nothing about their plan to introduce three more MLAs.

We heard about being ready for growth, and that was interesting and a fair point to debate, Mr. Speaker. But we didn't hear that the fact was you should be ready for growth in the number of MLAs, and we didn't hear about that from the members opposite. And we didn't hear about the fact that yes, young people, you're important. Young people, you're the future. Young people, won't you come on home? Young people, won't you start your futures right here, and on and on and on.

But when it comes to counting them in to the basic units of our electoral democracy in this province — the constituency — we didn't hear a darn thing from the members opposite when it came to saying that everybody under the 18, despite the practice for the past two decades in the province of Saskatchewan, and despite the practice for our neighbours in Manitoba and our neighbours in Alberta, despite the practice in the majority of provincial jurisdictions in the country of Canada, despite the fact that this is good enough for the feds, Mr. Speaker, despite all those facts, we didn't hear a darn thing from the members opposite when it came to saying that everyone under the age of 18 is going to be eliminated from the count in terms of how we build our basic constituencies in this province.

So you know, there's two strikes Mr. Speaker. One strike, three MLAs, they didn't say a darn thing about it. Two strikes, we've got everybody under the age of 18 is going to be eliminated from the process for building the basic building blocks of our electoral democracy, the constituency. And third strike, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that, again despite a lot of rhetoric otherwise, the fact that these members didn't say a goldarn thing about it in the election campaign.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I guess I grew up with the idea of sins of omission and sins of commission. And I guess I chalk this one up under, you know . . . I'm not sure, you know, where the sin of omission begins and where the sin of commission ends. But I do know this, Mr. Speaker. For people who spend so much time talking about, you know, a promise made is a debt unpaid — to again, you know, borrow from Robert Service — or the fact that the great pride that was taken in way they'd count off the promises made and promises so-called kept. The fact that we're here today debating Bill No. 36, and the fact that members opposite couldn't be bothered to tell the people of Saskatchewan about it when they went to the polls in the November and October of 2011, mere months ago, Mr. Speaker.

The fact that we're here today debating a measure that's been brought forward in times of so-called prosperity or austerity, and the members opposite can't seem to make up their minds as to what that is, but they do know this: that while they've got the money to put three more MLAs into play and they've got the brain power and the wherewithal and the room on their agenda to eliminate everyone under the age of 18 in terms of the purpose of building constituencies, alongside that, though, Mr. Speaker, they've also got energy to make grandma and grandpa

pay more for their prescriptions, and kids as well. They've got the attention and the brain span to go after the film employment tax credit. They've got the wherewithal to get into the Tourism Saskatchewan as a Crown debate, and we'll have a great discussion about that I'm sure in this House, Mr. Speaker.

They had time and energy to do all these different things, but what they didn't have the time and the energy and the decency or the forthrightness was to come forward in the election and say, this is our plan. And you know, on all those other measures that I talked about, Mr. Speaker, in terms of increasing the amount that seniors pay for prescription drugs or the changes that impact the kids in this equation or the fact that, you know, the folks with Highway No. 22, well go on and wait. It's in a rolling five-year plan, and it just hasn't rolled around to you yet. Or the fact that they're going to turn Tourism Saskatchewan into a Crown. You know, they didn't talk about any of those things in the campaign in terms of action or inaction, but that's bad enough. That's bad enough, Mr. Speaker.

But what is worse is when they come forward with something like Bill 36 to get at the very rules by which we conduct our electoral democracy in this province, by which people choose their representatives, by which people say how they're going to be governed in this province. If you're going to be messing around with that, Mr. Speaker, if you've got proposals on changes that relate to our electoral system or to how we conduct democracy in this province, it's usually a pretty good rule or pretty basic fundamental expectation on the part of the citizenry that you're going to ask the people whose lives are going to be changed by this, you're going to ask them whether or not they like it. You're going to ask them whether or not they approve of these changes to how the electoral democracy is going to be conducted in this province. And I guess that the fact that these members didn't leave us wondering on the opposition benches, well how the heck does that work?

[19:15]

How is it that they didn't go to the people and say, look we think it's a great idea to bring forward three more MLAs? We think it's a great idea to eliminate everyone under the age of 18, and what that means for young neighbourhoods like, say, north central Regina or I think Keeseekoosup in Canora-Pelly or White Bear out in the Speaker's neck of the woods, Mr. Speaker, places where they have a young population. But the fact that instead of talking to people about these changes before the election and asking them whether or not they should have a mandate to make these changes, whether or not these changes would be legitimate, whether or not the people want to give the authority to make these changes — you know, all pretty fundamental concepts in our representative democracy, Mr. Speaker — instead of doing that, they said nothing. They said nothing and they had a lot of sound and lights in terms of the campaign and a lot of flashy, flashy smoke and lights, I guess, Mr. Speaker.

But when it comes to the fire around which people are going to warm themselves, it has to do with basic gumption, Mr. Speaker. And the fact that these members didn't have the decency to talk to people about a very fundamental change that was in the offing for the way that elections are conducted in this

province, that they didn't have the decency to do that, Mr. Speaker, makes me wonder, well why is that? And one, it's not hard to figure out. It's not hard to figure out — three more MLAs. And going around the province, you know, any number of their normal spear carriers in the media, Mr. Speaker, or out there in the pundit class, they're not carrying the water for them on this. And they think in some cases that this is in fact, to quote, the "stupidest idea" that this government has come up with.

And there are different people that have come forward. And I think even John Gormley was weighing in today saying, that three MLAs business, I don't know if I'm there — Gormley, even John Gormley, Mr. Speaker.

So it's sort of indicative of where these members are at, at this and we think, you know, they're a bit out to sea on this. They're out to sea on the prairies here, Mr. Speaker. But it's indicative of a government that I think has grown self-interested, that's more interested in the Sask Party interest as opposed to the Saskatchewan people's interest. I think it's about, you know, who does this benefit? Is it this government looking for how this benefits the great, great number of people in the province and, you know, making the case out there in communities that are young and old and around? They didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. They didn't say a goldarn thing about this.

And I know very well, having spent some time in this House, Mr. Speaker, how members opposite would have reacted if this had been brought forward by other men and women. They would call it for what it is. They would say that if you don't have, if you haven't taken it to the people and you haven't got a mandate for it, then that's wrong. And if you do something like that, not just in terms of what your platform said or didn't say, if you do something like that when it comes to the basic rules of our elections, then that is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. And I can only imagine the kind of pyrotechnics and gymnastics that we'd see on the part of the members opposite.

And I guess this is part of what makes people so cynical about this, about politics, Mr. Speaker, is because there's a certain amount of this that they're counting on in terms of people's basic disdain for the system, that it's just a bunch of politicians being a bunch of politicians. And that's so sad, Mr. Speaker, because it's not only sad in terms of what those members had laid claim to in 2007 and 2011 in the campaigns, but it's sad because the people that we should be serving to speak and that are further disenfranchised by this action, Mr. Speaker, it drives them further away from the system. And I guess maybe, maybe that's a kind of cynicism that members opposite are counting on. And if that's the case, it's a sad, sad thing, Mr. Speaker.

We should be figuring out how to open those gates wide to bring people in to our democratic system. We should be figuring out how to engage people in their society. We should be figuring out how not to just go and help serve a spaghetti dinner but how to make sure that we're laying the way open for those people to participate in their democratic system. We should be thinking about how it is, when men and women come to their legislature, we welcome them to their Legislative Assembly, and how we're not here because, I'm not here as the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre because I own this seat or this is my seat. It is given to me by the people of Regina

Elphinstone-Centre, as it is with every chair in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, including yours.

And again, Mr. Speaker, if the terms on which you occupy these benches, if you haven't been forthright with the people, if you haven't been straight up about the terms on which you're seeking to operate those, to take responsibility for this very great privilege in this society of ours, if you're not straight with the people about how that works, Mr. Speaker, I think people hopefully will remember.

On the other side again, Mr. Speaker, I think that members opposite are counting on a certain amount of cynicism, and I think they're counting on short memories on the part of the people, Mr. Speaker. But my hope is this. You know, sometimes there's different analogies for what happens when you're in government, Mr. Speaker, but you know, certainly one of the analogies I've heard a number of times is that if you're in government, you've got a backpack and, you know, each day in different ways you get a stone placed in that backpack. And some days they're pebbles, Mr. Speaker, and some days they're bricks. And at some point the weight of those stones and the weight of the decisions made that shouldn't have been made and the compromises that shouldn't have been made and all of that, sooner or later that weight will become irresistible and it will send you back down the mountain, off to think about how things go in opposition or perhaps, you know, what the political future of the province holds for your particular contribution or your party's particular contribution.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of decisions that I've seen made in this House, I've seen certainly the party that I am a member of and a proud member of, I've seen us make some decisions, Mr. Speaker, that some of them were pebbles and some of them were bricks. And I've certainly seen members opposite make some decisions — some of them being pebbles and some of them being bricks. But I think, Mr. Speaker, this one is a brick of a decision.

It's a brick of a decision because rarely do you see something that is so nakedly, so patently in their own self-interest on the part of a governing party. And rarely do you see something brought forward with such unseemly haste after an election when they've just talked to the people. And instead, you know, of talking to people about it, instead of being straight up about what was in their platform, instead we see them keep their peace through the election, and then whoever the in group is over there bringing this forward, and then everybody else over there gets to catch up.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a power structure over there. I know that there's an in group and an out group and we can see that in different ways, Mr. Speaker. But one thing that we're pretty certain of, one thing that we're pretty certain of, Mr. Speaker, we've given them a chance to press pause on this course of action. We've given them a chance to give this a bit of a think. We've given them a chance to say, you know, time out; maybe we got this one wrong. And of course they've not availed themselves of that, Mr. Speaker, in terms of their treatment of the recent amendment. It is pretty clear that all members were on hand for that decision.

So again whatever sort of hopes we had for the backbench in this, Mr. Speaker, whatever sort of expectations we had of the values that we think propel different members over there into power, when push comes to shove, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear what side those members are on. Are they there because they're whipped and because it's a matter of Sask Party self-interest, or are they there for the people, Mr. Speaker? Are they there because they've got a mandate to do these things to the electoral system in this province from the people they seek to govern, Mr. Speaker? Are they there because of that? Well no they're not, Mr. Speaker. We've given them one chance on the reasoned amendment to show who's got some gumption when it comes to feeling some concern about what they've got a mandate to do in this government and what they don't, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess, Mr. Speaker, we've put forward the hoist in the hopes that members opposite will avail themselves of this opportunity to go out and talk to the people of Saskatchewan and say, look, we've got this great idea. We've got this great idea for three more MLAs, and we want to eliminate everybody under the age of 18 in terms of how our constituencies are constructed.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? If at the end of six months they're able to come back and make a convincing case that they had consulted and that the people thought this was a tremendous idea, then that is something that, I think, that would give us a lot of pause for thought, Mr. Speaker. That would say to us that here's a government that's serious about getting a mandate for the things that they do. Here's a government that's serious about keeping their promises and talking about what they're going to do and getting consent from the people they seek to govern. And if that was the case, Mr. Speaker, then that would be fair enough. There are things the members opposite do in terms of their legislative agenda or in terms of their budgetary agenda, but bottom line is that, you know, when they went to the people, both sides put forward their platforms. Other entities put forward platforms. And they've got a mandate to govern, Mr. Speaker.

And that is the bottom line in our representative democracy, and that is fair enough. And it's up to us to work and to make sure that we do a better job of listening and a better job of responding to the hopes and dreams and aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan.

But I keep coming back to it, Mr. Speaker. This was nowhere in terms of their platform. This is nowhere in terms of that bundle of actions that they have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to carry forward. And something that is so fundamental to our electoral system and to our democracy as we practise it, Mr. Speaker, is that consent from the governed to be governed. And if you don't have that consent and if you don't have that mandate, Mr. Speaker, then your actions can be judged to be illegitimate. They can be judged to be suspect. They can be judged to be wrong. They can be judged as counter against the people that sent you to the legislature in the first place. And this Bill fits that criteria in so many different ways, Mr. Speaker.

We, myself and the member from Rosemont and a number of members opposite, had the opportunity to stop by the North

Central Family Centre. And it's an organization that I know has long-standing ties and support from both sides of this House. And again, Mr. Speaker, North Central Family Centre is in the middle of North Central, which is the youngest neighbourhood in the city of Regina by a long shot, Mr. Speaker. And all those kids in the last census, they were counted in this past census. And in terms of the last boundary redistribution, they were counted and they went into what's made up Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Mr. Speaker. And they helped to build that basic building block of our electoral democracy in this province, the constituency.

And Regina Elphinstone-Centre in that particular boundary redistribution, Mr. Committee Chair, or Mr. Speaker — there we go; all right, we'll just stick with that — in that last boundary redistribution, Mr. Speaker, Regina Elphinstone-Centre clocked in at, I think, the fourth or fifth most populous constituency in all of Saskatchewan. And again, it's such a fascinating place in so many ways, Mr. Speaker. And it's my home, and it's got its great things and its bad things, and it's a place that I love and love dearly.

But one of the things that I find endlessly hopeful about the place, and one of the things that I find also to be a challenge is the great number of young people in that constituency, and the fact that they are in fact the future of, not just North Central or Elphinstone-Centre, but the future of Saskatchewan, and how if we're not making the right decisions in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, how decisions made and affect and ripple out over not just days and months, but years and decades, and how decisions that we make around housing and decisions that we make around education and decisions that we make around the economy and decisions that we make around community safety, how all of these things will hopefully positively impact the people that we seek to represent. And that's so true in spades, Mr. Speaker, for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

So the thing I don't understand is that, given the way that children and youth play such a huge part of life in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, given the fact that they've been part of the warp and woof of the way we've built constituencies for the past decade, given the fact that they are so important to not just the proclaimed agenda of the members opposite in terms of different legislative items or different budgetary items, but given the way that, you know, tonight we see members opposite interacting with their kids. And it's clear that those kids are important, and it's clear when the young people come to this legislature and they're welcomed to their Legislative Assembly and there's a lot of words put forward about how important they are.

[19:30]

If those words are to be judged as true, Mr. Speaker, if kids are in fact going to matter to this government or if they're going to matter to this agenda, then how is it that in one of the most fundamental structures in the things that we have to do within this Legislative Assembly, the electoral system, how is it that after including them in the process and making sure that our constituencies have them built right into the picture, and by extension, their concerns, Mr. Speaker, how is it that after two decades of doing that, members opposite now will seek to turn back the clock?

And we've heard from the Children's Advocate, Mr. Speaker. And we've heard again this is a bit of a pattern that's pretty clear with this government in terms of the way that independent officers have had to step in and step up at times, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to a government that is — I don't know if it's arrogance or if it's thoughtlessness or self-interest or what precisely propels the members opposite in terms of their actions — but from time to time, Mr. Speaker, we've seen the independent officers step up. So it was with definite interest that we looked on the intervention from the Children's Advocate.

And again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pringle is a past member of this Legislative Assembly, did tremendous work at the Saskatoon Food Bank, was called upon by government to perform any number of functions, be it through the CBO [community-based organization] summit or as the Co-Chair of the then Merriman-Pringle task force on housing or the work that was done that, even to this day, we are hearing referenced around the child welfare system and the review that was undertaken there.

And again, Mr. Speaker, so I think Mr. Pringle has demonstrated himself as someone who just through the contribution he's made to the public affairs of Saskatchewan, he's somebody that, when he speaks, people would do well to listen. And that that authoritative quality to what Mr. Pringle has to say about affairs in Saskatchewan, that that was upgraded to the Office of the Children's Advocate. Again, Mr. Speaker, it only enhances the authority that that individual brings when making comment on the affairs of this province.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I've seen instances in the past when different independent officers of the day weigh in on different affairs of the government. And for any government, that's a big deal to be condemned or to have your actions questioned by one of the independent officers. That's a big deal. And certainly that's why those individuals were put in those places to begin with. And be it the Ombudsman or the Chief Electoral Officer or the Privacy Commissioner, these are individuals that were put there to provide a safeguard, to provide an ally for the public interest over and above narrow political self-interest that all governments fall prey to from time to time.

So when the Children's Advocate weighs in and says that this government is wrong, that it has opened itself up to possible legal action under the Charter, when he talks about his concern for this action and what it says to First Nations people in this province, almost half of whom are under the age of 18 and who should be a valued part of this province, a valued treasure for this province, a valued opportunity for this province, when the Children's Advocate weighs in and says that it's wrong on these different points, you'd think that that government would stand up and say, okay, that's your job. You're there to do that job and we value what you have to say. And they have said some of that, Mr. Speaker. But then they follow it up with, well I guess we'll just have to agree to disagree.

And again, Mr. Speaker, this is in a couple of different movies we've seen with this government, one with labour legislation where the labour legislation is brought forward as fair and balanced, and then it's condemned by the International Labour Organization. And members opposite just say, oh well it's just

big labour bellyaching or whatever, you know, passed for debate from the members opposite. But then they get taken to court. And then Justice Dennis Ball comes back and says that, you know, it's not just a matter of debate; it's a matter of law — that what you have done is unconstitutional. And there's a tremendous amount of time and effort that's gone into the thing to date, and of course they've appealed it. And we'll see where this winds up yet, Mr. Speaker. But again this is a symptom of a government that is out of touch or that thinks it knows best. And, you know, to heck with the people that have been tasked as the advocates for the province of Saskatchewan. We've got a mandate from the general election. We know best.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we'll see how it works out with the labour legislation, but it hasn't been a pretty venture to date. And there's been a lot of time and effort and frustration plowed into something that's been I think a destructive exercise for this province instead of something that builds and brings people together. And I think we're seeing another movie like that unfold with Bill 36, Mr. Speaker, as regards what's happening with bringing people together and bringing people into the system.

And on this one, Mr. Speaker, again on different actions of the government, you look to those independent officers of this Assembly to provide that advice, to provide that sober second thought, to borrow an attribute that's normally attributed to the Senate, Mr. Speaker. But certainly in the checks and balances that we have in this Assembly and the checks and balances that we have in this province of ours, the independent officers are hugely critical to that effort.

And it brings to mind another effort, Mr. Speaker, in the way that games got played with the previous Chief Electoral Officer in this province and the way that those members opposite made changes to the elections identification regime in this province and the way that they got shut down at the eleventh hour by the Acting Chief Electoral Officer who took the, you know, highly unusual step of standing up and saying what they're doing on this is wrong. This is what the federal government does. This is what worked relatively well in the system previously. And attestations for on-reserve First Nations should be upheld and should be allowed to be used in the election.

And thank goodness that members opposite decided to stand down on that. But again it's the time and effort and energy and the way that it had led up to that point, Mr. Speaker, was kind of sad to see in this province of ours where we need ways to bring people together instead of ways to wedge or drive people apart. And again, you know, the people have their own defence in the ballot box. But in that case I was very glad to see the Acting Chief Electoral Officer step in to make sure that we didn't have election law in this province or an election practice in this province that was so retrograde as to ask any number of questions about its motivation and the way that it singled out a particular group in this province.

Well again, Mr. Speaker, we have a circumstance in the case of Bill No. 36 where something like 40-plus per cent of First Nations in this province are under the age of 18. And different times, Mr. Speaker, the argument is made that, in some cases, the future in Saskatchewan is young and Aboriginal. And again, Mr. Speaker, I was reminded of that as recently as this supper

hour going to the North Central Family Centre and seeing all of those young kids and all of those young First Nations kids that have such a great future in front of them, or should have such a great future in front of them, and who, on so many other fronts, are rhetorically hugged and welcomed by this government in terms of saying that, yes, your issues are important to us. But when it comes to two decades of electoral practice in this province, when it comes to what is the law of the land in the great majority of other provincial jurisdictions and which is good enough for the federal government, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the fact of including people under the age of 18 in the construction of the basic building blocks of our democracy and when it comes to putting deed to the word that we hear from the members opposite as to the importance of children and youth to this province, we find out just where that sentiment ends and where the Sask Party self-interest really begins. Because they've been written out in this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And again I don't know what it is about this government that makes them so scared of kids, or makes them hold such an animus towards kids and youth in terms of what has been the case for the past two decades and their inclusion in the basic building blocks of this democracy that we practice here in Saskatchewan. Is it because a young neighbourhood like north central generally doesn't vote for the Sask Party? Is that why they're being singled out in this fashion, Mr. Speaker? I think it is. Is it because a lot of the younger constituencies in this province, you know, who have highly populous numbers when it comes to the redistribution that was done after the 2001 census, is it because those constituencies don't traditionally vote for the Sask Party?

Well I guess this is what we're finding out, Mr. Speaker. We're finding out the gap that exists between what is said by members opposite and what is done in this Legislative Chamber when it comes to safeguarding and securing the future of those young people, and considering them in the most basic of ways when it comes to the way that we practice our elections here in Saskatchewan. And it's a sad thing, Mr. Speaker.

I guess the other thing that we've talked a lot about in this Chamber is the whole question of three more MLAs, and my colleagues have done a good job of talking about how out of whack, how much of a gap this would place between us and the rest of the provincial jurisdictions in terms of the per capita representation.

And I guess the one thing I want to add to that, Mr. Speaker, the one thing I want to add to that is we had a lot of doors that I knocked on in the election, Mr. Speaker. I knocked on a lot of doors and I had the pleasure of going out and doing some door knocking last Sunday, Mr. Speaker. And in all the doors I knocked on in the campaign, all the doors I knocked on in Cathedral village, all the doors I knocked on in my home neighbourhood of north central, all the doors I knocked on in downtown, all the doors I knocked on in Heritage, all the doors I knocked on in Regent Park, and all the doors I knocked on in the old warehouse district, you know what, Mr. Speaker? Not a single person raised the issue of more MLAs and how we need more MLAs in this province with me on the doorstep.

And I guess this is as it should be, Mr. Speaker, because you know, who the heck expects something like that when a

government says it's ready for growth or it's ready for this, that, or the other thing? But you expect them to make investments in infrastructure, in health care, in education. You expect that to be the gist of ready for growth, Mr. Speaker. But that of course is not what those members opposite meant when it came to ready for growth. What as it turns out they meant was three more MLAs, and this year, Mr. Speaker, was legislation that was just in time for Christmas, because of course nothing set off the Christmas hearth just so much as news of three more MLAs coming and coming soon. Thank you to the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

You know, can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, if you'd gone home with news of that as like, honey, kids, Merry Christmas — we're bringing home three more MLAs. I think they'd send you back to the store, Mr. Speaker. I think they'd say, what the heck are you thinking? And what did we do so badly over the year to deserve that as our Christmas gift? But that's, of course, what we saw this government bringing forward just, you know, in the Christmas season — word of three more MLAs soon to be coming upon the land.

And again, Mr. Speaker, if they'd gotten a mandate, if they'd gotten some marching orders from the people of Saskatchewan about how this was a concern or a priority for the people of Saskatchewan and this is what the people needed addressed in the agenda of their government, that would be one thing. But of course they didn't say that, Mr. Speaker.

They weren't on doorsteps in the Trianon seniors' high-rise, Mr. Speaker. They weren't on doorsteps there saying, yes, you've got concerns about the way that your housing is tight and the way that your rent keeps on going up and you have a hard time making ends meet and you have a hard time paying the bills; and yes, these are your golden years; and yes, all these things that you thought would be getting easier seem to keep getting more difficult. Yes to all those things. But don't worry. The Sask Party has three more MLAs coming on down the line. You know, I certainly didn't see anything like that, Mr. Speaker.

For all the doorsteps I stood on and talked to people about housing, and the way that they were having a hard time keeping up to the rent and the way that this had propelled them into using the food bank for the first time, in the case of one woman I talked to over just off Pasqua, and the way that she was worried about keeping body and soul together despite the fact you're working a full-time, just above minimum wage job. And the way that she was worried about providing for her daughter, who is in elementary school at Sacred Heart, and for her son who's going to start, had just started that fall at O'Neill. And the way that she was worried as a mother that here she was, what should be, you know, a happy time of her life, where if you told her 10 years before that that it was going to be this tough, she would have said, no, you've got to be kidding me. But the way that she was finding it so hard to make ends meet and so worrisome about ensuring that her kids had that some of the good things in life and a shot at making a good life for themselves, and the way that this weighed on her heart and on her mind so heavily.

[19:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, I certainly didn't have anything to say about there was three more MLAs coming. And I know for a certainty that my Sask Party opponent didn't have anything to say about, well, for all these kind of concerns you're facing around cost of living or housing, you know, here are the different measures that we're bringing in. And oh, by the way, a ready-for-growth government is going to bring in three more MLAs.

They didn't say that, Mr. Speaker, because people would have thrown them off their doorsteps. They would have thrown them away from their kitchen table if they had the decency to bring that up. So why didn't they bring it up, Mr. Speaker? Well it's pretty plain why they didn't bring that up. But now that it's after the election and they think it's to their strategic advantage that they think this works for them, that they think this is in their narrow self-interest, well, of course we see the real agenda emerge.

I think about the folks that I talk to, working people out on Avonhurst Drive in poll no. 3, and, you know, one of them had a kid with a disability and the way that that was a challenge in their life and the sort of struggles that they were having paying the bills.

I think about the pioneers that built our province that I talk to in Davis Mews or Trianon or Renaissance or in Palliser Place and the way that they were finding it tough to make ends meet in their golden age and at what should have been a good time for these people, Mr. Speaker, but the way that they found it increasingly hard to make ends meet.

I think about different health care providers I talk to, that one had a concern around how Alzheimer's patients are dealt with in this province and the kind of dementia issues that are being faced in places like Santa Maria care home.

I think about kids that were worried about all this that they'd heard about Scott Collegiate and whether or not that was going to show up as a renewed, revitalized institution for the neighbourhood, Mr. Speaker, in terms of that critical role that a high school should play in a neighbourhood, but the way that, you know, they'd heard a lot of good news and then it just kept going on and on and on in terms of no action being shown.

I think about people that live across the street from Herchmer School and the way that they were concerned about how fast that school was torn down and what would happen with Wascana and Herchmer and, you know, what was going to be combined and was there going to be a possibility for housing in all this. And I think about all those different sort of hopes and dreams that people had, Mr. Speaker.

And I think again, you know, not one of them said, you know, and by the way, what I'd really hope to see that government give in at the tail end of the sitting when you go back after the election is that three MLA plank from their platform. You know, nobody was talking about that because of course the Sask Party wasn't talking about that.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it's a point that we're trying to impress upon members opposite. And you know, we're coming up a vote on the hoist. And maybe they'll see it in their hearts and

see it in their minds to realize that this is a bad idea and that this is a brick that they're going to put in their backpack. And maybe they've got a chance to just step away from the brick, just lay it down and step away from it and go back to the drawing board.

Or at least have the decency to talk to people about something like this before they do it, Mr. Speaker, at least have the common courtesy to go talk to people and say that, you know, we think this is part of the deal in a growing province and this is worthy of consideration, and this business about everyone under the 18, under the age of 18, we want to discount them from the electoral system in terms of the construction of the constituencies, and go have that conversation with the people that they seek to govern, Mr. Speaker. Go have that conversation with the people that they seek to represent in this Legislative Assembly. And if the people say, yes, that's a great idea — you've got my support; go ahead; do it — then fair enough, Mr. Speaker.

But that's not what happened in this past fall. That's not what happened in the election when you're supposed to go to people and make that bargain, that covenant with the voters in terms of what your platform is, what your ideas are, and how people support that or they don't. They didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. They did not do that.

And I guess what we think there will be is a day of reckoning on that, Mr. Speaker. We think again, you know, if they insist upon throwing the old brick in the backpack, we think that they may look back at this day, they may look at this Bill and think, yes, that was all about us. That was all about the Sask Party. That wasn't about the Saskatchewan people, which is supposed to be what it's about, and we got it wrong. And I guess the thing is, Mr. Speaker, it's not too late to do that.

And again, you know, it's clear that they've got unanimous support over there in terms of going ahead on this. But this is one last thing where they can take that time, go — to borrow a phrase from the Minister of Justice, the member from Saskatoon Southeast — go out and look the voter in the eye and say that this is a good idea. This is a what we're running on. This the policy we want to make into practice. This is an idea we want to make real. And they can go out to the people and look them in the eye, Mr. Speaker, and have that conversation. And if people come back and say, great — that's a wonderful idea; you know, glad you thought of it, Sask Party; how helpful; how thoughtful — if they can come back with something that demonstrates that, then fair enough because that's how it works in a democracy, Mr. Speaker.

And that's how it should work in particular when you're doing something to the basic rules of the game, when you're trying to change the way that people get elected in this province, when you're trying to change the electoral democracy in this province. But again if you're not doing that, Mr. Speaker, then you got to wonder about the motives. You got to wonder about the reasons why. And if that's how it's playing for members opposite, Mr. Speaker, then well, I certainly hope the people of Saskatchewan expect better from their legislators.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I think what these members are counting on is cynicism and disenchantment on the part of the

electorate to slide them through on this one. But I expect better and I hope for better from the people of Saskatchewan. I hope people remember this and remember it well that, when it came time for that first round of action on the part of members opposite, when it came to being stewards of something that was so fundamental to our electoral democracy in this province, that they didn't have the decency, they weren't forthright with their plans for changing the number of MLAs — increasing it by three in this province — and they weren't forthright about the elimination of people under the age of 18 from the way we build our basic building blocks in this democracy.

And you can go through the, you can go through the map. You can go through the issues. You can go through any number of things, Mr. Speaker, where this is such a no-brainer. It's a, you know, why would you do something about that and you're not doing something about — as my colleague from Rosemont was talking about — do something for Highway 22, you know, that the Sask Park certainly had a lot to say about, not just before the 2011 campaign, Mr. Speaker, but before the 2007 campaign, Mr. Speaker, you know.

Again this is a government that's got the wherewithal to bring forward three more MLAs, to eliminate everybody under the age of 18 from the count, and not bother to talk to people about it in the campaign. But when it comes to any number of other issues, the members opposite didn't have the intestinal fortitude or the decency to talk to the people of Saskatchewan about their plans.

So again, one of the things that we have out in front of us, Mr. Speaker, is to try and hold the government, this government to account, to try to demand accountability from the members opposite, to try and make them live up to their claim that they would be the most open, accountable, and transparent government in the history of the province. And again, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty interesting that on such a fundamental test as this, so soon out of the gates after the last election, that this government is failing so badly. We are trying to give them a chance to do the right thing here, Mr. Speaker, and they keep arrogantly passing that by. And I guess, Mr. Speaker, the way that . . . the final sort of accountability on this will be exacted by the people themselves.

But I do have hope for the people, Mr. Speaker. I do believe in the people, and I do believe in the people's wisdom. And I do believe in the people's ability to understand when they've been sold a bill of goods, when they haven't been dealt with fairly by a political party, and when they haven't been dealt with forthrightly by a political party. And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that this government has conducted itself on this piece of legislation, I think the people are going to mark this and mark it well.

They're going to mark it as, you know, when they're interested in tuition issues, when they're interested in kids getting the trades so they can get the good jobs to make the good bucks for their family, start a family in some cases. When they're interested in the cost of housing, Mr. Speaker, when they're interested in the cost of living, when they're interested in making sure that grandma and grandpa can afford to pay their meds, when they're interested in whether or not they have make up their bills by going to the food bank at the end of the month,

Mr. Speaker. When they're interested in making sure that schools are taken care of, that health care is taken care of, that the basic sort of infrastructure is there to take care of. When they're interested in paying a fair tax dollar, Mr. Speaker, when they're interested in making sure that the economy is working, and not just for the few but for the many.

When people are interested in those things, it's interesting that this government's response is to bring something forward in this regard, to bring something forward that they didn't talk about on the hustings, that they didn't talk to the people of Saskatchewan about to get a mandate, that they didn't have in their platform, that they didn't have in their Throne Speech, that they didn't say, you know, we seek to govern you, people of Saskatchewan, and here is one of the changes that we'd like to make to the fundamental way that we run elections in this province. Here's a change that we think is worthy of your consideration.

They didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. They don't have a mandate for this action. This action is illegitimate. This action is something that, if it was somebody else doing it, they would be decrying it to no end. This is something that they're relying on cynicism and short memories to carry them through on. But, Mr. Speaker, I think when people come time to evaluate their next platform, when people come to say, you know, that nice young leader of yours from Swift Current, he had all the talk about the promises made and the promises kept, well one of the things he didn't tell us in this last election was about all the promises that you weren't making but all the things that you were going to do.

And when it comes time to reckon those out, Mr. Speaker, again there are different policy choices that have been made by members opposite that again, that they, you know, mere months after a general election, feel compelled to step forward with trying to kill the film industry in this province via the action on the film employment tax credit. That they feel compelled to roll Tourism Saskatchewan — a very successful, long-standing partnership with industry and front-line operators in this province — that they feel compelled to take that over because they're coveting the ad budget, Mr. Speaker. And it's interesting to see that the only thing that apparently trumps their disdain for Crown corporations is their desire to take over the ad budget, Mr. Speaker.

When people are evaluating those kind of actions, when they evaluate the fact that mere months after the election, when they shined up seniors to no end but come budget time they want to increase the price of their prescription drugs, they didn't say anything about any of those things in the election, Mr. Speaker. And again that's bad enough. And people will pay, you know, whatever price they will for that. But when it comes to the fundamental rules of our democracy, when it comes to how we practise elections in this province, a fundamental rule of the thing is that, if you're going to make a change to that, you should seek the permission of those governed, the people of this province.

So again, Mr. Speaker, did they come forward in the election and say, you know, stop the presses? We've got a great idea here. Let's have three more MLAs and let's eliminate everyone under the age of 18 in terms of the way that we build

constituencies in this province. They did not. They did not, Mr. Speaker. And we've given them a chance to press pause on this thing with the reasoned amendments, and the reasons for that are very clear.

They have not done that, Mr. Speaker. We've given them a chance to avail themselves of demonstrating whether or not there are any independent thinkers over there or whether or not the in-group will rule on this. And that's everybody who didn't campaign on this, and they might have some misgivings about it, but they're along for the ride anyway. Well there's a chance here, Mr. Speaker, to get off. There's a chance for members opposite to stand up for what they went door to door talking to people about. And they didn't go door to door talking about three more MLAs and to eliminate everyone under the age of 18 when it comes to the basic building blocks of our democracy. They didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. And we know what their opinion is of their chance to stand down on that.

[20:00]

Well, Mr. Speaker, the last sort of chance they've got here is to avail themselves of the pause that is afforded to the Legislative Assembly under the rules in terms of putting a pause on this legislation for six months. And if those members can go out to the public and, you know, maybe some of them can tour pundits around their ridings, Mr. Speaker, or whatever sort of plans they have for it. But if they can go out and gather together and scrape together and scratch together some kind of a mandate, something that resembles a mandate, something that demonstrates that they actually talked to people outside of the walls of their caucus room, Mr. Speaker, if they can do that and come back with something that's convincing, then fair enough. That's the way it goes in the system. That's the way it goes in our representative democracy. If you're seeking to represent people in this democracy, Mr. Speaker, you should tell them what's going to get done in their name. They didn't do that, Mr. Speaker, and for so very many reasons.

And I know that this played out in doorstep after doorstep in places like Pelican Narrows and places like the west side, places like the east side of Saskatoon, places right around this province. They didn't get that mandate, Mr. Speaker, and this gives them a chance to go out and at least address some of the wrong that they've created in this. But my hope is this, Mr. Speaker, that should they refuse to avail themselves of this opportunity to demonstrate that yes, they're human and to err is human and that they're not perfect, but that they do take it seriously when it comes to asking people about what their mandate should be and what they should be doing, this hoist will give them that opportunity, and I hope to goodness that they take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Again for every school group that comes to this legislature and they're welcomed to their Legislative Assembly, for every time we hear this rhetoric about the importance of young people to our system and how their future isn't just the important thing but right now matters as well, any time we talk about looking beyond the horizons of these years to make decisions in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, we should remember today. And we should remember that if we couldn't be bothered to carry on with a practice that included those under the age of 18 for two decades previous in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, if they

couldn't be bothered to do that and — worse — couldn't be bothered to talk to the people to get a mandate to do that, if they couldn't be bothered to talk about how they wanted to bring forward three MLAs but, you know, take all these bad actions or take wrong action or sit back with inaction on different issues, Mr. Speaker, if they couldn't do those things, then again I think the day of reckoning will come. And my hope is that the people remember how shabbily their democratic system was treated by those who purport to represent them and to govern them.

I know that there are many other members in this debate that want to talk about the concept of the hoist in particular. I believe that they're ready to go at this time, Mr. Speaker, and with that I will say this: Bill 36 is wrong. It should be pulled. That this government brought forward three more MLAs, that it seeks to eliminate everyone under the age of 18 from our electoral process and that, worst of all, Mr. Speaker, that they did not seek the mandate from the people to do these things in their name — it's wrong for all those reasons. And this government should have the decency to pull this legislation and to go talk to the people whose name they seek to govern in in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up this evening and talk a bit about the amendment that we put forward this afternoon, the hoist, because I think it's an important time for the government to take a few months, six months particularly, to reflect on this Bill, do a poll, do something, get some feedback. We have not heard from them who have they been consulting with that thought this was a great idea. It would be very interesting. We've not seen any polling, and this government tends to like its polls and tends to spend money on it. Clearly they must have done some work in that area. Who is thinking this is a good idea?

So we put together this amendment this afternoon, and it's called a hoist. The idea is to press pause for six months, come back in six months, and we'll give the second reading vote, and I'm sure they'd win it then. But tonight we're thinking, hey we should take some time and reflect on this Bill before us because it's a significant Bill. These are one of those kind of Bills that we debate in the House probably, you know, as an MLA, maybe once in a lifetime. I'm not sure if others were here in '92 and '93. I think there two others that were here — the Speaker and another member who were elected — during that debate in the early '90s when Premier Romanow, at the time, had put forward some significant changes. Only two other people have been able to go through this kind of change. And I think it's significant.

Many of us in this House will not be asked to reflect on this again, just because these are so fundamental. You know, we talked about earlier today about, you know, we knew the population's coming, so the idea that every 10 years we have a Boundaries Commission to correct any of the imbalances. And the Minister of Justice has spent time at length, at length, pointing out how different some of the ridings are. I think he should recognize that — we all recognize that — and move on

to the next topic which is there is more to life than just this issue.

There is a way of correcting it. We know, we know that there is some imbalances, but we know that there is a process for correcting it. We know there's a process for correcting it. But we think the idea of adding three more MLAs without consultation is just wrong. It's just wrong, and it's foolish, and it's not the way to be spending taxpayers' dollars.

There's so many other priorities that we could be using. You know, we talked earlier about whether it's highways, and Highway 22 came up as a suggestion, that one, that idea. Health care, the drug plans, the tuition fees — I'm sure many of us have ideas of how we could spend those dollars. Now the government says it's worked hard to save dollars. Well that's a good thing. But does it mean that they then get to say other things don't cost money? They do. That's foolish to say increases in MLAs don't cost money. How can they possibly say that with a straight face? I don't understand it. Of course they cost money, of course they cost money.

An Hon. Member: — They cost millions.

Mr. Forbes: — They cost millions. They cost millions. So how can they possibly say that?

So I think tonight is the night that we should press pause and really think about what are we doing here? And is this what they campaigned on? You know, as my colleague said, you know, say what you're going to do. Have the courage of conviction. When you get on a doorstep and you knock on the door, say what you're going to do.

This government takes a lot of pride on delivering on promises. Now it's ironic that they seem to be also delivering on promises they didn't tell anybody about. Here's a promise that nobody knew about. And I'm sure they're probably going to check this one off as a promise kept but nobody knew that that promise was made and so . . .

An Hon. Member: — Nobody?

Mr. Forbes: — Nobody knew this promise was made. And with promises made like this, you know, I think we can do without. So, Mr. Speaker, we have some real, real problems with this. We need to really think through some of these things. We need to think about the unintended consequences of adding three more MLAs and choices, choices this government has made. And clearly when you make a choice like this, you're saying yes to MLAs, and you're saying no to something else. And that's a simple, basic process of government when you make choices and you set priorities and you plan it out. So you can't say yes to everything; you have some difficult choices to make.

So clearly there was some choices made here, and we're saying, hey let's take some time. Let's take six months, put it on pause. Clearly the government spoke this afternoon when they voted down the reasoned amendment. I think they were unreasonable in voting down that amendment. I thought it was a reasonable thing to do, but clearly they see it as it must go through.

Well let's take six months and reflect on this over the summer months, talk to the people. When we go back, we can talk to the people and see what they think. In my own riding, I've been out talking to people about it, and they have concerns. They have concerns, particularly around the not counting youth. They have concerns of, what does this mean? Does this mean that they're going to lose the representation that they feel that they deserve, that they have valued? I think this is a real, real concern, and particularly when we have it pointed out continually that Saskatoon Centre is a small riding. But, Mr. Speaker, if you come to my riding, you'll find out that it's not a small riding, that in fact there is a lot of people there, and they're from all over the world and many of them are very young and cannot vote. They cannot vote yet simply because they're not 18. So why are they being disqualified? Why are they being disqualified?

And you know actually, interestingly, Mr. Speaker, I'd be curious . . . I don't know this, but I think it would be interesting to know how many people are 16 or 17 living by themselves in my riding, who work in my riding. I would suspect that it's tens if not hundreds of young people who are 16 or 17, renting an apartment or sharing with someone else, who are working at a convenience store or a store, a retail outlet. Some of them may even have children. This wouldn't be unusual. And I know in my riding we have many of those folks, and they're just going to be disqualified even though in many ways they're living an adult life. They're working or they may be going to school, but they're on their own. They're responsible for themselves.

So I think this is a big issue. So you know, Mr. Speaker, in many ways, you know, a government that operates well is a government that has no surprises. You know, when you elect a government, you think the one thing I'm going to count on is there should not be any surprises. And you should be able to say when you elect a government, a party, you're going to know what they're all about. You're going to know what they're all about. But not so much with this government.

Clearly this is a surprise to a lot of people, and even people who, even people who have supported them in the past. I'm thinking of radio personalities like John Gormley, the papers, you know. And I know the media has been not always on their side, but boy we've sure heard from the editorialists, the columnists, that this is wrong-headed. This is clearly wrong-headed and probably the most foolish thing, the most foolish thing that this government has ever done. And for why? And for why? We just have not heard it articulated at all, and I think that this government is going to rue the day that it decided to have the bright idea that what we really needed was three more MLAs.

You know, we've talked about this, that in other provinces the population is growing and they've decided to check it out with their, with their constituents. We know federally that there will be more seats. There will be more seats in Alberta and British Columbia and Ontario. We aren't getting any more seats federally in Saskatchewan because the government — federal government — obviously thought even with the population increase it's just not worth adding any more seats because we are below the federal average. And likewise when we come to MLAs: we are below the average when you look across Canada. So why are we rushing out to have three more seats?

I have talked at length about the British Columbia experience where they thought they would add more MLAs, but clearly the public spoke loud and clear: no more MLAs. We want services. We want services. And you know, British Columbia is a pretty good province. And I think they have in many ways things that we think, we look at and we say, look at the Olympics, an exciting place. But sometimes they show a little common sense and they listen to the people. This is one where we have to say, who's listening to who? And that's a simple question. We have not heard where did this come from, you know, and what is the drive? Actually this kind of thing should have been happening a couple of years ago.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I know other members of our caucus here want to speak on this. And I think that they're anxious, they're anxious to get up. They want to say a lot. They want to say an awful lot because they have much to say. They want to review how important it is that this hoist is like a press pause, and it's very important. And so, Mr. Speaker, that's the key premise: let's push pause tonight and vote for the hoist amendment. Thank you very much.

[20:15]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in and I guess reflect on . . . My colleagues have expressed concern, not only from the members of the opposition, official opposition, but I guess clearly from constituents, people signing letters. We're talking to the media. You're seeing different areas where people are concerned and very concerned in light of a government who's made some decisions. And based on information, their party has decided, and as the governing of our province, the people did give that mandate to the Sask Party. And they said, here you go — govern. And I think the record of the current government, the people are going to be truly looking at it and they're going to be wondering.

When we have a province that's supposed to be doing so wonderful and when good things are happening in the province, it's good to say to the government too, you know, you make policies that are good. You do some programs that are good and help people. That's a good thing. There's nothing wrong with saying that. But you know what? When you have legislation that this government's introducing in light of the cuts, in light of what they have done to our seniors, the cost to seniors, but I think the big issue, Mr. Deputy Speaker, comes down to this. It's the way it's being done.

And the way it's being done is to eliminate, in the boundaries, to eliminate anyone under 18. And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm very concerned when you look at the numbers of young people that would be ruled out. And I know my colleagues have expressed and we've tried to say, explain to the government, rethink this. Stop before you go ahead with this and push it. They've asked very clearly. Very clearly they have said, rethink this.

What they've asked is for the government to, whether it's a pause. We've done different things. We've thrown in, you know, an amendment to the motion. We've tried to get the

government to take a pause. We know now we're moving forward with a hoist motion amendment. So trying to get the government to stop and take a pause and to really be sure that they go back and they consult with the people of the province who are saying, no more politicians. We have enough.

We've talked about the numbers. We've expressed it very well. We've shared it with the public. The media has picked it up. It seems like so many different organizations, so many groups, so many individuals, whether it's signing the online petition, the petition that's on paper as well, letters, phone calls, comments, just conversations with people saying, why do we need more MLAs? And people are frustrated. They're very frustrated and wondering why. What's behind all this if everything was going good?

A very short period of time ago we had an election and the people spoke. We have to respect that. And they gave the government the number of seats that they have. But they asked them very clearly. They didn't express we want more politicians, we want more MLAs. You know, that will cost millions and it's a frustration to hear members opposite say it isn't going to cost anything. Well take any three MLAs in a period of four years and see what it costs to have them sitting in this House with all the services they provide in here, the CAs [constituency assistant] and everything else.

But we've asked for them to stop, pause, And I think we've expressed that very well. The public has expressed that. Some have been very clear. They feel that we have enough MLAs, that 58 is enough to take care of our province. And it is a beautiful province, and I think some MLAs do an excellent job. I don't know how all the MLAs operate. The ones I know do an excellent job representing their communities and they try to do it. And having said that, some are bigger. Some have more population.

But to remove the children 18 and under, just give you an example, even within my own family. My oldest grandson is 18. My youngest grandchild is six months. There's 14 of them. Half are First Nations; half are Métis. They live some in First Nations communities. Some live in the North; some live down south. But having said that, should they be included in the boundary? Yes, because some of them are going to be, in 2016 will be, will be allowed to vote. They will have that right to vote. But in the boundaries, in the formula that you're proposing, they will not be used in the formula, but yet they will get a chance to vote. So here's an opportunity for the government to rethink this, pause, to pause and really think this out. Is this what the public wants? Is this what the people of our province want?

Who's pushing this? Who asked for this? And I mean you go in to the different programs, and I don't want to talk about the cuts, but seniors were asked to put out a little money. Yes, and I know they say, well it's only \$5. To some people that may . . . say \$5 per prescription may be a small amount, but to seniors on fixed income who are barely making ends meet, it is huge to them. So they would prefer to actually probably say, if you gave them a choice, say, would you remove the \$5 increase if we had less MLAs? They probably would say yes. Don't get the MLAs, three more MLAs, and use that money in a better way.

And that's just one way I'm talking about. And we're hearing that stuff. We're making it very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're asking this government . . . And the Premier made it very clear, he has a government that's going to be humble, who'll be accountable, who will listen to the people. Well that was fine and dandy before. A short period of time after when the people did give you a strong mandate and they said, here you go. You're not consulting. You're not talking with the people, and you didn't talk to them when you were campaigning.

I'm curious to see what the answers would've been at the doorstep had the members of the Sask Party of the government gone and say, oh by the way, we're going to introduce legislation for three more politicians. And we're going to get rid of this and we're going to get rid of that and we're going to do this. And what do you think of that? I'd like to see the changes that would be in this House.

But no, we don't want to talk about that. All we're doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is giving them a chance to pause, to think and really think this through with making sure that they consult the people that will be impacted, anyone under 18, do they want to be included in the boundaries or not? And I know there's a Boundary Commission, we'll put that forward, but we're going to develop the rules how the Boundary Commission will work. And if you tighten up the rules and you put them in a little box, well you limit what they can do. So here's one area where we're going to limit what they can do, anyone under 18 will not be used.

So it's very concerning to a lot people, and I think we've shown by the amount of debate that we have discussed in this House, in this Chamber, trying to make sure the government hears. And you talk about a free vote, and I'm hoping members opposite will get their free vote, that there's certain motions that they're going to have a free . . . I hope, and we've seen in question period today very clearly it was put forward to have their free vote. And let's see how many of them, maybe not all the members in government and the backbenchers agree that this is a time. This is a time, a time to pause; to pause, to think this thing through. What's the purpose of it? Who's asked for it? Why so quickly? And some people have their own conclusions why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why this is happening.

You know what? Clearly, clearly, you know, clearly, clearly we're saying to the government, take a pause. Think this thing through. It's so important, the cost. Listen to the people. And I think over the last few weeks and the opportunities that my colleagues have expressed their concern, we have gone through a process to explain to the government. We have brought in some amendments to make sure the government realizes here's why: it just isn't because this is, oh, we think it's a bad idea. We're giving a chance to the government to take a pause and to think this thing through, truly think it through, weigh out the pros and cons. And at the end of the day, if that's what they decide to do because they do have the majority, they will push it through.

That's fine. We understand that. But I think the way this legislation was introduced, shortly after the election, they must have known that they were going to do this, and they wanted to do this. Why didn't they share that? And that's what the public is saying. So I think, at the end of the day, people will have to

answer to that. MLAs, in your own constituency, you will have to answer to that. It's like anything you've done, whether it's the film tax credit cuts; the programs that are being affected, cut; whether it's highways, you have to answer to it. You've had five years as a government. You will have to answer to some of that.

And I think clearly the people will say, we gave you a strong mandate. Yes we did. We asked you to bring in legislation that works for our province, works for the people, and legislation that helps people in our province. This is legislation where it's spending millions, and the people don't want it. I don't know how much clearer the public, the media, the official opposition, people have to express themselves, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to get the government to listen.

And we talk about humble. Are they listening? And sometimes, you know, it's very concerning when you see a government . . . And you know, they talk about being humbled. Well the jokes that they make, it's fine. It's acceptable, you know, forty-nine, nine over here. That's all right. That's all right. We've been asked, and we have an honour to do as nine MLAs over here.

The people have asked us, you're Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. We ask you to do a lot. We expect you to make sure you hold the government to account, and you have to. It's not easy filling the role, but the people have spoken. And when the people speak, we have no choice, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but to respond. And they did. And there's 49 members over there, and they say they're humble. But I don't think so, at the end of the day.

So there's a chance today to vote on a hoist motion, and I hope that the members opposite will support that and say, maybe we should stop and have a pause. We're hearing concerns. And it's a chance for the members opposite to truly stop and think this thing through. It's a time out. I use that with my grandkids. We'll give you guys a time out to stop and think about this, really think it through. And you know, it's okay to have a time out and think things through. Take a break. Pause. We've said that. There's no apology. You haven't done anything yet, but you can stop and really think this thing through before you move ahead.

So you know, I know my colleagues want to join in on the debate and want to share their ideas, their concern . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You want me to carry on? Okay. Very good. I would like to just carry on.

You know, when you see what's going on . . . Now that we have the Speaker in here, I want to go over everything I shared with the Deputy Speaker. I want to share it with the Speaker so he hears it.

But you know, when you look at the people . . . It's nice to see the Speaker in here. Good to see Mr. Speaker, and you know, very clearly now . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, oh. Anyway I think we're tried to express our concern, and we've raised it. And we've had a lot of time to talk it out and a time to ask the government to pause and think this thing through in light of all the concerns, whether it's the media, whether it's organizations, whether it's the public, whether it's constituents or their family members, young people under 18 years of age, a

lot of Aboriginal people. And like my colleague said, 40 per cent of First Nations and the Métis, their population, 40 per cent is under the age of 18. They will not be included in the boundary, and that, that is shameful.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, the child advocacy, they get to weigh in on it and give their opinion. And we've heard that very clearly, what they've expressed. And I think that we should be paying attention. The government should be paying attention, Mr. Speaker. Clearly that is a position that's been respected and should be respected. And when they give their opinion, the government . . . These are independent bodies and they make a decision, a recommendation. They try to work with the government, make the government understand that there's certain things.

And I think clearly we have heard that from the different agencies. We've heard that from the child advocacy. We've heard that from many other groups, the media. And I think a lot of the official opposition has expressed concerns from constituents, from people that are truly concerned about the way this was introduced, the way it's being handled, and the way the government is not listening to the people. You will be held accountable and if you think over time that the people will forget, the people will not forget the trust they have given you. They handed you trust and they asked you to do something for them. And they will, they will judge you on it. And at the end of the day we will see how that works out.

[20:30]

At this time I'm prepared to finish on my comments that I wanted to at this time, and I know my colleagues would like to join in and want to get in on the debate. So at this time I will take my chair.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in on debate here this evening with a matter that should have been resolved a long time ago. This Bill should have been withdrawn. It should have been pulled. That's the reasonable thing to do. It's what Saskatchewan people expect of this government with respect to a Bill that's been put forward that certainly isn't in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

But we put forward a motion again here today, a hoist motion calling on this government to do the right thing and to pull this legislation, to not spend the millions of dollars needlessly that this Bill sets out to do, and to serve Saskatchewan people's best interests.

I know we've spoken about it regularly. We just heard about it from the member from Cumberland. But nobody, nobody voted for this, Mr. Speaker. When we went before the voters in the fall as parties, and as that party went before voters in the fall, this certainly wasn't in their election platform, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't part of what they proposed to Saskatchewan people.

What this government did put forward or this party put forward, Mr. Speaker, was a lot of fine talking points, feel-good sort of

statements, Mr. Speaker, but not a mention that they were going to spend millions of dollars to increase the number of politicians in Saskatchewan to only serve their own political best interests, Mr. Speaker, to discount the voice of youth all across this province by not counting them into the constituencies all across this province, taking away that important focus that we need to have in this province, being putting youth first and understanding policy and placing resources that serves their needs, Mr. Speaker.

So, so disappointed on so many fronts by this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. We are going to have a chance to vote on this here again here tonight. We've put forward a very reasonable motion here today and that's that we pull this legislation for six months, Mr. Speaker. That'll allow this government time to consult, to listen to Saskatchewan people. They haven't done that to date. They never once were straight with Saskatchewan people with their true intentions in this last election. They weren't straightforward in their Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, and this will provide an opportunity finally for this government to do the rightful thing and to do that consultation.

In so doing, they'll certainly recognize and hear from all across Saskatchewan that this isn't what Saskatchewan people desire. Saskatchewan people are not calling for more politicians. They don't see it as a proper expenditure of dollars. They don't see how that connects to their best interests, Mr. Speaker, and quite frankly, we don't either.

And when we look at the constituency sizes all across the country, Mr. Speaker, here in Saskatchewan we in fact have the smallest constituencies that we serve: British Columbia, two and a half or three times larger than our constituencies; Alberta, which is having an election here tonight, Mr. Speaker, two and a half times larger than we have here in Saskatchewan; in Ontario, six times larger, Mr. Speaker. And just, quite frankly, it's not warranted to increase the number of politicians.

To put this in the broader context, they're doing this at the same point in time, Mr. Speaker, as they're increasing costs for seniors in this province, for everyday families across this province. They're doing that through things like prescription drugs, Mr. Speaker. And I know members opposite often try to minimize this, say, well it's just \$5 here or \$5 there, Mr. Speaker, but what members opposite fail to identify with or recognize is this is hundreds of dollars out of the pockets of seniors and families all across this province, Mr. Speaker, and dollars that certainly don't serve Saskatchewan people.

We see the expenditure of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, at a time where people are losing their jobs in this province through job cuts in the civil service, Mr. Speaker, front-line service delivery jobs. We see it as a time where tuition is being hiked, a time where we're supposed to be doing well as a province, Mr. Speaker, and somehow this government has its priorities in a manner that aren't consistent with Saskatchewan people, and in fact are choosing to spend millions on the number of politicians, but certainly nothing to, nothing to support accessible education to students here in Saskatchewan.

What's really disappointing as well is that this government's failing, certainly, to listen to Saskatchewan people on this front,

but also our Children's Advocate, who's been clear that this may even breach the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Mr. Speaker, something that's disappointing. We've seen this government go down the route of putting forward unconstitutional legislation in the past. That has consequences for Saskatchewan people and we urge this government to withdraw this sort of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at the priorities of Saskatchewan people, we see the health care needs across Saskatchewan. We see highways. Here in Saskatchewan we see Highway 22, for example, Mr. Speaker, that's in great disrepair, something that certainly requires action, has been promised many times by this government, but no action on it, Mr. Speaker. We see specifically Highway 48, Mr. Speaker, down through the southeast, a highway that needs action, Mr. Speaker, and we see no action on that front, Mr. Speaker.

So on so many fronts we see a government that's choosing to spend millions on more politicians instead of choosing to serve the best interests of Saskatchewan people. We call on this government to withdraw this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. It's not in the best interests of Saskatchewan people. We already have the smallest ridings in all of Canada. Saskatchewan people are a common sense people, and they expect us simply to be able to step up to the plate, to work a little harder, and to serve their best interest, something that we certainly, on this side of the House, are more than prepared to do, Mr. Speaker.

I know that columnist Murray Mandryk said, I quote, "It's the stupidest decision and stupidest justification I've heard from the Brad Wall government so far." Mr. Speaker, he goes on in a radio interview: "There is no justification for it, population-wise or otherwise." Mr. Speaker, we agree. This isn't something that Saskatchewan people have called for. I haven't heard it from Saskatchewan people other than members opposite who are thinking that we need to needlessly spend millions on more politicians at a time when they're making cuts in education and in health care and bringing about significant increases to the cost of living for everyday families, young families all across Saskatchewan, and certainly seniors, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm so disappointed that this government hasn't simply done the right thing by withdrawing this piece of legislation and focusing their attention and their priorities on Saskatchewan people and on the kinds of expenses that we . . . on the kinds of priorities that we speak of.

When we talk about discounting the voice of youth, which is a consequence of this legislation, of marginalizing that voice, Mr. Speaker, it's exactly the wrong direction that we should be going. What we need to be doing is enabling and engaging that voice of youth in our democratic process. We need to be reaching out and finding ways to both involve youth in the policy decisions of today, in the budgetary decisions of today but also in the democratic decisions that govern them, not just at election time but between elections as well.

Mr. Speaker, this terrible message that youth don't count in this province by way of this legislation is counter to what we need to do on that front. It's a terrible message to the very youth for

whom we need to reach out to, for whom we need to seek engagement, for youth that we need to involve in this process, Mr. Speaker, and quite simply youth that we need to serve the interests of, Mr. Speaker, youth that we need to make certain that we're making decisions today, whether they're decisions that impact the provision and accessibility of child care all across this province, Mr. Speaker, whether it's as it impacts to tuition and the significant skyrocketing of tuition that we've seen under this government at a time of purported prosperity, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at youth and the importance and that recognition of the generation ahead and many generations forward and then, of course, the need for that environmental protection and sustainability, Mr. Speaker, and it's that generation, Mr. Speaker — youth — that are sometimes looking at the long game, Mr. Speaker. They're looking at the immediate in their lives as well, but they're also looking, well, what's our province going to look like and what are our communities going to be like, Mr. Speaker, 10 and 20 and 30 and 40 and 50 years down the road, Mr. Speaker? And these are the kinds of individuals and minds that we need to be involving in this process. And for the government to be moving forward in a process that doesn't listen to Saskatchewan people and then very forcibly marginalizes that voice, Mr. Speaker, is entirely wrong. What we need to be doing is spending our efforts and our energy on policy decisions that serve youth in the next generation and ensuring that bright future, but we also need to be spending our energies in figuring out ways and analyzing how we best engage youth across this province in the democratic process.

This is a massive step backwards on that front, Mr. Speaker. It serves only one purpose and that's the best political interests of a party, Mr. Speaker. That's disappointing. This is a government that . . . a party that earned a large mandate from voters, Mr. Speaker, and I respect that. What I respect is that voters made a choice. This party put some messaging out there. They put a few platform items out there, Mr. Speaker. And then Saskatchewan people gave them a mandate, and they have a large majority.

What's disappointing, Mr. Speaker, is they haven't taken that majority; they haven't taken that victory and then come into the legislature and rolled their sleeves up and done the hard work for Saskatchewan people delivering that mandate. They failed to do that, Mr. Speaker. What they have done, Mr. Speaker, is in fact they've deviated significantly from what they said they would do. Nobody voted for more politicians in the fall, Mr. Speaker — nobody. I've never heard from somebody calling for more politicians. And when I say nobody voted for that in the fall, Mr. Speaker, this party opposite, if you can imagine, never even mentioned it, Mr. Speaker, in the fall election.

Now, it's a matter of being straightforward with people, Mr. Speaker. It's a question of the integrity of the decisions that we make, Mr. Speaker. And it's incredibly disappointing and disheartening, Mr. Speaker, to see a government earn a significant majority, a significant mandate, and instead of move forward in a humble fashion, rolling up their sleeves, doing the hard work for Saskatchewan people, the hard work that Saskatchewan people deserve, Mr. Speaker, they see a government move forward in a fashion that is only about them, Mr. Speaker, nothing about Saskatchewan people. It's all about

them, Mr. Speaker, and their own political interests, and actually spending millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, to backstop and to try to manufacture and architect future electoral successes, Mr. Speaker.

Of course we speak to the concerns that have been raised around gerrymandering, Mr. Speaker, and the purpose of the changes that are put forward. And that's so disappointing, Mr. Speaker. At one point in time, Saskatchewan . . . and in various point in times, we've been held up as a place of a pretty healthy, functioning democracy, Mr. Speaker. It's sad days in Saskatchewan. We have a government that's less interested in serving seniors, less interested in building economies, less interested in building out and addressing the needs of Saskatchewan people, and more interested in playing games with our electoral system, Mr. Speaker.

We see all the shenanigans, Mr. Speaker, in the intervention, political intervention into the independent Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Speaker, something that this government should be brought to task for, Mr. Speaker. And as well we see the changes, Mr. Speaker, around things like voter ID [identification] that were never recommended by any independent panel, Mr. Speaker, or by the Chief Electoral Officer or not supported by academic research or not called upon by Saskatchewan people, but simply put forward to allow the Sask Party to play with our electoral system, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, Saskatchewan people and Canadians have worked hard to build a healthy, well-functioning democracy, Mr. Speaker. In fact I think that our province has punched well above its weight when we've looked to international affairs in sending Saskatchewan people who have chosen to serve in countries all over this world to build out democratic systems, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we know that to be the case for those veterans from the Second World War and that have served from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And what's so disheartening is at a point in time, Mr. Speaker, here we are in the modern times we live, Mr. Speaker, to be forgetting it seems all of that, Mr. Speaker, all of that service, all of that sacrifice in the name of democracy. Mr. Speaker, to now see a government that's unilaterally moving and making decisions and spending millions of dollars only to manufacture circumstances that serve their political best interests, Mr. Speaker, not to be allocating dollars and making decisions, Mr. Speaker, that serve Saskatchewan people's best interests.

And I know when we go across this province, when I'm up in Arm River-Watrous, Mr. Speaker, I know what I hear there. They don't want us to be spending millions of dollars on more politicians in Arm River-Watrous. They'd like us to keep that school open, Mr. Speaker. They'd like us to keep Nokomis open because we have a phenomenal opportunity by way of the Jansen mine, Mr. Speaker, that's in a good position to build and grow and expand, Mr. Speaker. And those workers are going to be looking for a place to live, Mr. Speaker. And I think that if the member from Arm River-Watrous stands up and votes tonight and doesn't vote to put this on ice, put this plan on ice, Mr. Speaker, the expenditure of millions for politicians, it says a lot about that member's choices, Mr. Speaker, about his priorities, Mr. Speaker. And that's disappointing, Mr. Speaker.

Just the same, Mr. Speaker, I think it's disappointing that when we look at highways across this province, Mr. Speaker, and I think of Highway 361, that highway needs our attention. And where's the Highways minister on this front? Where is this in his five-year plans that take 10 years to discuss, Mr. Speaker? We don't know where it is, Mr. Speaker, and it's disappointing to see a government spending dollars. Highway 361 is but one example of the many highways all across this province that are both important for commerce, but also put at risk right now so many young families and people all across this province that are working and living in communities and utilizing that highway's infrastructure.

[20:45]

The list goes on. I see my good friend from Last Mountain-Touchwood, Mr. Speaker. I know what his constituents desire, Mr. Speaker. I know they desire to see Highway 22 repaired, Mr. Speaker. What they're tired of is more promises from this government, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to see the Premier out on that broken pavement any more making campaign announcements, Mr. Speaker. He's done that enough. He's done that more than once, and he's failed to deliver, Mr. Speaker.

And so the constituents in Last Mountain-Touchwood, Mr. Speaker, what they want to see is their member stand up tonight and simply do something reasonable, something common sense, Mr. Speaker, which says, let's put this plan on ice, Mr. Speaker. Let's put this plan on ice so that we can focus our attention to the issues that matter to Saskatchewan people and that we can make those decisions that make a direct impact into Saskatchewan people's lives.

Enough of these games, Mr. Speaker, where you see this Sask Party come before voters in the fall and give all these cheery messages and talk about, you know, slogans and slick brochures, but now do something that's entirely different. What they've done, Mr. Speaker, of course they've hiked up the cost of living, they've hiked up prescriptions for seniors all across this province. That'll cost hundreds of dollars a year, having those, Mr. Speaker, the pioneers of the province digging deeper and deeper into their pockets, Mr. Speaker, many of them not in a position to do so, many of them on a fixed income, and certainly compromising the dignity that those members of our society deserve to have, the seniors in our province. We see the same with young people and young families all across this province, Mr. Speaker, where our government is making choices that certainly aren't in their best interests.

We didn't see any of that in the fall. We didn't hear they were going to hike up tuition, Mr. Speaker. And now the member from Nutana's agreeing here that she never heard and I'm looking to members in this Assembly have, you know, whether or not we've ever heard someone call for the number of politicians. Not one. I look to my colleagues here and not one.

We knocked on thousands and thousands of doors, we sit in community meetings all across this province, and I look to my colleagues and I see them identifying right now they've never heard that once, Mr. Speaker, other than a few of the members opposite who are trying to serve their own political best interest.

The Sask Party MLAs, Mr. Speaker, spend millions of dollars on more politicians at the same time as they're asking Saskatchewan people to pay more and expect less, Mr. Speaker. You know, I know I suspect that members on the . . . you know, I've heard discussions around tuition, I suspect members have heard discussion around child care or of housing, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I found it interesting, I was up in Nipawin on Friday for a regional planning session. And the region up there, Mr. Speaker, is of course planning for the mine expansion there and serving the needs of those communities and surrounding areas. And community leaders came together, Mr. Speaker, and it was sort of displaying that community spirit that we have as a province and how we come together to address challenges, Mr. Speaker.

I heard lots of good discussion. I heard lots of optimism about what we need to work towards. I also heard some challenges that need to be addressed by way of infrastructure, by way of housing, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can keep this economy strong, Mr. Speaker, make sure that we see the investment continue, but make sure that people's lives are continuing to improve alongside that.

So for all these reasons, we call on this government to support the common sense, reasoned position we put forward today to hoist this piece of legislation; put it on ice. Let the member from Arm River-Watrous go tend to Nokomis School and keep it open. Let the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood go out there and keep, fix up that Highway 22. Let the member from Moosomin work on Highway 48, Mr. Speaker. Let all of the members opposite work towards making sure that we're addressing some of the housing pressures across our communities and putting the ear to the ground that is so obvious. Mr. Speaker, that isn't going on with a government that we're hearing is seeming to be out of touch and out of step with Saskatchewan people on many fronts, Mr. Speaker.

So we certainly don't support the legislation put before us. We're going to be looking for members opposite to vote to support this very reasonable position we put forward today to hoist this piece of legislation, withdraw this piece of legislation. Allow us to do the work that we should, as legislators serving Saskatchewan people's best interests, not the political best interests of the governing party, Mr. Speaker.

That being said, I certainly support the hoist that we put forward today. We're going to keep fighting for Saskatchewan people all across this province. We're receiving the petitions. We're getting the phone calls all across this province whether it's Moose Jaw, whether it's Nipawin, whether it's Strasbourg, Mr. Speaker, whether it's Rosetown. All across this province, we're getting that urging. We're proud to do that work. We're proud to push for this Bill to be scrapped. We're proud to stand up for the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

At this point in time I know I have many colleagues that would like to speak to this piece of legislation, to the motion we put forward here today, and I will pass the torch to my honourable colleague from Nutana.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's with some anticipation, I think, that I speak to this, a motion to hoist the Bill 36 because I'm hoping that this last effort that we are making to convince the government to at least take pause and think about the implications in this Bill, think about the ramifications that may arise in court, and certainly doing the right thing as far as democracy goes, we're hoping that this might actually work, Mr. Speaker.

And just want to make a few more comments about this Bill and why it's not a good idea and why in fact it's being referred to as a rather stupid idea. And basically the first thing I want to address is the whole notion of the democratic process here.

In terms of the timeline for this Bill, as you know we had an election campaign last fall. Each of the parties put forward their platform. It was a reasoned platform each party put forward. And we went out on the doorsteps, and we talked to people. And not one mention of this idea came out at the time of the election. Certainly the Premier knew that the census was completed and that we would be looking at the boundaries and the Boundary Commission would be struck. That was clear. The state of the law was clear.

So he knew at the beginning of the election campaign this was coming. He certainly . . . Everybody knew. There's no notice required for this. This is the law. The census is conducted. After the census, we strike a commission. The commission takes a good look at the changes in population and changes in demographics, and that commission then has the responsibility to make sure that the allocation of voters is fair. The law is plain and clear, simple, uncomplicated. We have our two northern boundaries, and then we have the other constituencies, 58 constituencies, and it just was working.

So there was no discussion. There was no indication from the voting public. Certainly none of the people that I talked to, of the many that I talked to, said that they thought that we should look at the number of MLAs and that we should rearrange the way our population counts are established in the electoral boundaries Act.

So we didn't hear about it on the doorsteps. The election came. The election went. We had a Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. So you would think that in the Throne Speech, now that the Premier has had time to think about it, that maybe this would show up in the Throne Speech. And we listened to the Throne Speech, no mention of this whatsoever. Certainly no indication from the public or anybody in the media that there was a need for more politicians or that the way the boundaries should be established and the way that the counts were established should be changed. We still had a perfectly good Bill, the boundary commission Act, and that was looking after the way population changes would be dealt with.

And then all of a sudden, right near the end of the fall session, in comes Bill 36, the last Bill introduced in the fall session. There was a full 35 other Bills that seemed to take precedence to this. And bang, we have Bill 36. Where did this come from? Nobody knows. Obviously the opportunity to talk about it arose much, much sooner and should have been discussed with the people because, as we see from the comments we're getting, no one was consulted. It was an idea that came out of . . . We're

still trying to figure where it came from. And it certainly doesn't make any sense, common sense. And it seems to really only serve the interests of this government, so that's something that's of concern I think to everybody, particularly the children of this province.

The way the Bill is currently structured is that anyone who is under 18 won't be considered for the population count, and yet a large number of those people will be voting in the next election. They will be voters, Mr. Speaker. My son is 16. He will be voting in the next election and yet when this commission is struck, they're not allowed to count him as one of the people that should be counted for the establishment of the boundary. And I find that offensive and he finds it offensive. This is something that is clearly discriminatory to him based on his age. He will be a voter in that election, and he's not going to be counted in the boundaries.

And I think one of the main concerns that everyone should be worried about here is that we do have a Charter in this country, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As we know, it just turned 30 years old. And we have a Children's Advocate who's pointing out that section 3 of the Charter is violated here. And I'll just . . . For the benefit of the record and the people that are listening, I'm just going to share with you the text of that clause. So clause 3 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms says:

Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.

Well the whole exercise of that vote is based on representation. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Children's Advocate had this to say about section 3 of the Charter in this Bill 36 and he said:

Leaving children, youth, out of the population count to calculate the boundaries will have a significant effect on the political representation of Aboriginal people and new immigrants due to their much younger demographics.

This just isn't about the children, Mr. Speaker. It's about those families and the families who have more children are going to be effectively represented less in this Chamber. And that simply is not acceptable. And it's sad to think that again we have a government who is passing laws that may not meet the requirements of the Charter.

Also, of course, section 15 of the Charter comes in to play. And that is a very important, probably the most important section of the Charter, and that's the equality rights, Mr. Speaker. And section 15 says that "every individual." It doesn't say every adult or every voter, but it says:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law . . .

And again, we're talking about everyone, not people who are over 18 and not people who are over 18 and aren't even citizens of our country. They're counted in the count, but not our children. The equal benefit of the law, and again I'll continue to

quote from the section. In fact I'll start over again. Section 15.(1) of the Charter reads:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and in particular, without discrimination based on race.

Right here we have the Children's Advocate telling us this could be discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin. And again the Children's Advocate is concerned that this may not be . . . this might be a violation of the section — colour, religion, sex, age. And right there again, Mr. Speaker, we have another potential violation on the equality rights of our children and the families of this province. And it just is a really dangerous, dangerous thing to think that this government has no regard for those provisions of the Charter and is going to blast on through and pass this Bill into law. That's the aspects of the Bill related to youth, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly the concerns that have been raised about population rising, we've given many, many reasons where our average count in our constituencies is well below that of other provinces that are over one million in population. So there's lots of room to catch up to those other provinces before we add more politicians and more constituencies, and of course, Mr. Speaker, the costs associated with that. There's been many times that we have spoken to concerns about the additional costs. We are seeing millions of dollars and the government has the temerity to say that, well we'll find savings elsewhere. They should be finding those savings regardless, Mr. Speaker. It's got nothing to do with the addition of more MLAs and more politicians. If they can find those savings elsewhere, they should do so immediately regardless of whether there are more politicians added to the mix.

What we see is that these extra costs are being presented to the population of Saskatchewan at a time when seniors are paying more for prescription drugs, when we're hearing about horrible highway conditions, when there's considerable cuts to the public service which is no longer able to ensure adequate monitoring and compliance of the regulations that exist. So then we see a dumbing down of the regulations. It's just a nasty little downward spiral that seems to be going on, Mr. Speaker.

And so, I think just to close off, I don't want to take a whole lot of time tonight, and certainly my thoughts have been expressed here before. But I do have a few quotes that we're getting from the people — the ones that weren't consulted, the ones that weren't talking about this on the doorstep, the ones that didn't hear about this in the platform for this government, and they certainly didn't hear about it in the Throne Speech.

For example, a quote from an individual on the no extra MLAs Twitter feed. It says:

I call on the Legislative Assembly to not increase the number of politicians in Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and to continue including those individuals under the age of 18 in the determination of constituency boundaries.

So I'm hoping that the members opposite are thinking about the

people that are expressing their opinions here, and certainly it seems to be that that's the majority of people that are expressing views on this Bill.

[21:00]

Another quote: "We need proportional representation, not more MLAs." Another quote: "In comparison to Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, we already have far fewer constituents per politician. We don't need more politicians. We need more professional public service employees providing services." Another quote from yet another ordinary citizen who's concerned about this Bill: "Amazing how the Sask Party can cut so many social issues and jobs but turn around and give themselves raises and add more positions. Sickening," is that quote. Another quote: "The youth of this province are our future, and deserve to be counted." Another quote:

Legislators represent all the people in a constituency, not just those who can vote. Overly partisan and divisive politics is the result of focusing too much on those who vote and not enough on who needs representation. Boundaries need to be determined by the number of constituents, and as close to equal in number as possible needs to be understood as equal in number of those represented, not only those who can vote. I don't understand how anyone could possibly think otherwise.

Another quote: "Remember that you serve all people of Saskatchewan, especially the youth who will have to live far longer than others with your decisions. Do the right thing and reconsider now this short-sighted idea that you're proposing." Another quote: "This is a disgraceful bid to gerrymander for more conservative seats. Shame."

And, Mr. Speaker, there's the hundreds of these that have been delivered on the Twitter feed, and there's certainly hundreds of people signing petitions. We have tried a reasoned amendment to convince this government that this Bill is definitely not a good idea, not in the interests of democracy, not in the interests of youth, and certainly not in the interests of the Charter, and that hasn't worked. And so at this point, we are doing a final effort to convince this government to at least stop and think about it, to talk to people, to talk to youth, to talk to their constituents, to talk to the people that are concerned about democracy and hold it dear to their heart, to talk to people who care about the Charter, who care about equality rights and about the right to representation in chambers such as this.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think there are others of my colleagues who are prepared to speak to this at this moment, and I want to afford them the time that they deserve to make their comments as well. So I'm going to take my leave at this point, and we'll let my colleague carry on from here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again very pleased to re-enter the debate. And obviously this is going to be on the hoisting motion, Mr. Speaker. And at the end of the day, I think one of the biggest and most resounding messages, I think, the people of Saskatchewan want to say to the Saskatchewan Party, the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker,

is that this is an incredible waste of money, an incredible waste of resources, and an incredible waste of time getting more politicians in the Assembly when it could easily use that money in many other different ways, Mr. Speaker.

And that's one of the most important things that the people of Saskatchewan want to say, that this Bill No. 36 is an absolute waste of money. It's an absolute waste of time, Mr. Speaker. And every single person in Saskatchewan has advised this government of that in many ways, shapes, and forms, and yet this government still, this government still wants to continue to pushing their agenda to add more, three more MLAs so they can gerrymander the process to try and benefit as a political party, Mr. Speaker. And people in Saskatchewan are yelling a collective, we've had enough of that old-style, conservative politics, Mr. Speaker. Let's just simply deal with the issues, deal with the issues that the people are going to want dealt with, such as highways, health care, housing, and the work goes on, Mr. Speaker, and the list goes on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that on Bill No. 36, on this hoisting motion, what we are trying to do as an opposition is we're trying to have and give the Saskatchewan Party, the Sask Party, the opportunity to go back to the public. And what this motion does, that's before the Assembly today, it delays the Bill for six months so the Saskatchewan Party, the Sask Party, can do the right thing, the common sense thing, and go back to the people and ask them for permission to move forward with this Bill No. 36, to add more politicians. This hoisting motion, this motion would give a six-month reprieve to the Sask Party to go back and ask for that mandate, Mr. Speaker. And they don't have the confidence to go back, Mr. Speaker, because we will see by evidence of their vote exactly what they think, the Saskatchewan people, in terms of a mandate when it comes to adding more politicians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know, we know that a lot of the backbench, you know, as they . . . Some will have the opportunity sooner than later, but when they're getting to their age where they're — and there's quite a few of them at that stage right now, but some of them aren't all at that stage — but after a number of years, maybe five years, maybe ten years, and they'll be sitting in their rocking chair at their homes, Mr. Speaker. And whether they're a grandpa or grandma or grand-uncle — they'll be grand something anyway, Mr. Speaker — and they'll be sitting in their home and their rocking chair and one of the grandkids will come up, and they'll say to him or to her, grandma or grandpa, could you once again tell us, what is the first thing that you done when you were a politician? Because we were told that you're a politician, grandma or grandpa. What's one of the first things that you did? And notice the young children, bright-eyed, you know, and they really fancy, you know, their family, young kids, you know. They'll say, grandma or grandpa, did you bring in a seniors' health Bill of Rights when you were a politician? And of course the Sask Party former MLAs will say, well no, no, we didn't do that. We had to raise the prescription rate because it was not affordable. And then the young child would say, well, grandpa or grandma, wasn't that a time of prosperity? Yes, for some, but it was not for all, you know.

And the next thing they'll say, well, grandma or grandpa, did you help the poor people? Did you help the poor people? Which

is something that young kids admire — right? — if their grandpa or grandma was helping the poor people. And they'll say, well actually, we took them off the income tax roll. So the young child will say, what does that mean? Oh about \$20 a year savings for them.

And then the young child will be confused and say, well let's change the channel, grandma or grandpa. Did you help slay a debt? We had a huge debt then. And grandma would say, well we were told, we were told to say we have a balanced budget. So we don't know, we don't know what that means when it comes to the debt. We're not sure. We understood we were going to do that, but ask another question there young man or young lady. That's what the grandpa or grandma would say.

And then they'd say, grandma or grandpa or grandnephew or grandma or grandpa, did you guys help champion the protection of the environment? And what will the Sask Party elder say at that? Oh no, no, no, no. We had to make sure we protected the economy. In fact we made things so efficient that the federal government told us what to do. We just simply followed them.

So there they are, rocking away in their rocking chair, rocking away in their rocking chair. What other question did you have for me young child? And they said, did you plan, did you plan for the long-term prosperity of our province, grandma or grandpa? And they'll sit back and they'll say, well no, we didn't because we gave everything away for nothing. Because at that time, we weren't thinking. At the time there, young child, we simply wanted to make sure we got re-elected in 2011. So we never took no principal stand to have a long-term sustainable future for you and other children, but that's just how we do business, my girl or my boy. You have to understand that.

And then they'd say, well what did you do, grandma or grandpa? Tell us what you really . . . What's the first thing that you've done? As you're rocking, as you're rocking in your rocking chair by the fire and your young grandchild asks you what did you do — especially to the backbench — what did you do besides sing the old tunes of, we have a balanced budget, which you're told to say, or it's about the economy, what you're told to say. Everybody in Western Canada and Saskatchewan gets that you should balance your budget and you should have a booming economy. Those are things we say every day, Mr. Speaker. You need to get some innovative thinking going on within the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, and all we have is a bunch of political drones.

And again my point, Mr. Speaker, is you've got to have a backbench with a backbone, Mr. Speaker, and they haven't done anything that we have addressed. Some of the issues here about a seniors' bill of rights, about long-term vision for our prosperity, about sharing all the resources, of protecting our interests, not one thing have they done, Mr. Speaker, to be able to claim credit to that.

So as they're rocking back and forth in their aged years and a young child asks again, well what did you do, grandma or grandpa or grand-uncle or grand-aunt, what did you do? And they're going to have to say, well I think the first thing I remember, the first big Bill we fought was Bill 36. And you know Bill 36, you know what that bought us, young lad or

young lady? It bought us more politicians. It bought us more politicians, that's what I done. And then the young kid is going to be totally confused by then because obviously they had great aspirations. They had great beliefs that grandma or grandpa or grand-uncle or grand-auntie actually done something of significance in their political lives, and they're going to start to realize that the feeling of disappointment is starting to creep in.

And then what all those backbenchers will have to do is they'll have to lean over and they'll say, but the only problem we had, we brought more politicians into Bill 36. Through Bill 36, you brought more politicians. But you know what, little pumpkin? You know what, little pumpkin — and they'll tap that young child on the head — we couldn't count you in that process. We didn't want to count little people. And of course the young child is going to say, well why not? I'm here. And we didn't want to count you, little pumpkin, because that would really mess up our political agenda. And the child is saying, what, what's this political agenda? What's more politicians to the mix? Well why didn't I count? All these things you're going to ask.

So as you sit in that rocking chair and reflect on Bill 36, that's about what your legacy is going to be, Mr. Speaker, as a result of this session and as a result of this Bill. That's a colossal waste of time. It's a colossal waste of money. It's a colossal waste of opportunity to really build on the things that we New Democrats feel are really important to build, such as a seniors' bill of rights.

Now my last point, Mr. Speaker, I want to make, and this is what I want to really watch. The Sask Party says, where do you get millions of dollars from? Well, Mr. Speaker, what we done was we met, we used the member from Regina Northeast, you know. And this is what they do, the Sask Party. They go out, identify their connections and their friends and their old colleagues, and they use the Crowns as their halfway house.

So what they do, Mr. Speaker, is come on down here from wherever you're at right now. We know Saskatchewan's having a tough old time and you scooted off to greener pastures. But come on down, come on down here, and we'll give you a cushy job for two or three years, oh maybe at 200,000 a pop. And then after a few years you're there, we'll slide you into an MLA position, and then we'll slide you into a minister's position.

And, Mr. Speaker, you times that by three, and you know that over a process of a year you can see that the Crowns are becoming halfway houses for some of their old buddies, Mr. Speaker, so they can bring them back with the political process. And you add that matrix to three more MLAs, this is where we get millions of dollars from.

So as a young lad sitting there, looking up as the confused child, looking up at their grandparent or their grand-uncle or grand-aunt saying, well geez, I had all these aspirations for you; I really believed in you. And the grandpa or grandpa goes to say, well I'm sorry I didn't count you there, pumpkin, but that's just how it is, you know? And you'll understand as you get older.

And I can see that young child get up and say, well, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to go vote NDP [New Democratic Party],

Mr. Speaker. That's what that young child's going to say, Mr. Speaker, because this Bill is a colossal waste of money. It's a colossal waste of time. It's a colossal waste of opportunity as we mentioned, Mr. Speaker, and not one person in Saskatchewan supports this in any way, shape, or form, and shame on them.

And the final question that young child would ask, the final question that young child would ask that grandparent is they'd say, well grandma or grandpa or grand-uncle or grand-aunt, during all this, who actually supported this Bill to gerrymander the elections? Was it a minister of politics? And the sad reality, Mr. Speaker, it's going to be: it was the Minister of Justice. It was the Minister of Justice that promoted this Bill. That's the sad reality, Mr. Speaker, and that's an absolute crying shame in this day and age, Mr. Speaker, to have that Bill supported and promoted and put forward through the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Speaker. That is not right. That is not fair and not proper in any way, shape, or form.

So my final point I would make to the Sask Party, I would support this motion because we have said our piece on Bill 36. We have said our piece on Bill 36. This government has its opportunity on this motion to go and do what they should have done in the first place, and that is to get a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to add more politicians, something they never, ever campaigned on last fall, Mr. Speaker. And will they have the guts to do that, Mr. Speaker? I don't think so. And that's the challenge we have from the NDP, Mr. Speaker, to vote on this hoisting motion, and I want to see where they stand. Thank you.

[21:15]

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the proposed motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time and the proposed amendment thereto, moved by the Leader of the Opposition:

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

Bill No. 36 — *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011*, be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — On the amendment. All in favour of the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members. Recorded division.

[The division bells rang from 21:16 until 21:46.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the amendment on Bill 36. All those in favour, please rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the amendment, please rise.

[Nays — 44]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Norris
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Toth	Bradshaw
Reiter	Duncan	Ross
McMillan	Harpauer	Harrison
Wyant	Hickie	Elhard
Hart	Parent	Brkich
Ottenbreit	Weekes	Campeau
Heppner	Wilson	Michelson
Kirsch	Merriman	Doke
Cox	Makowsky	Jurgens
Steinley	Doherty	Lawrence
Tochor	Moe	Marchuk
Phillips	Docherty	

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 9; those opposed, 44.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment defeated. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the proposed motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

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

Recorded division.

[The division bells rang from 21:49 until 21:53.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the main motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 44]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Norris
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Toth	Bradshaw
Reiter	Duncan	Ross
McMillan	Harpauer	Harrison
Wyant	Hickie	Elhard
Hart	Parent	Brkich
Ottenbreit	Weekes	Campeau
Heppner	Wilson	Michelson
Kirsch	Merriman	Doke
Cox	Makowsky	Jurgens
Steinley	Doherty	Lawrence
Tochor	Moe	Marchuk
Phillips	Docherty	

The Speaker: — All those opposed, please rise.

[Nays — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the second reading motion, 44; those opposed, 9.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. Second reading on this . . . Okay. To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill will be assigned to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being near the time of adjournment, I move that 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: — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 21:57.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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President of the Executive Council
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Hon. Bob Bjornerud
Minister of Agriculture
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Gaming Corporation

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Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

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Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan
Minister Responsible for Crown
Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for Information
Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education,
Employment and Immigration
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium
Development Partnership

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Government Services