



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

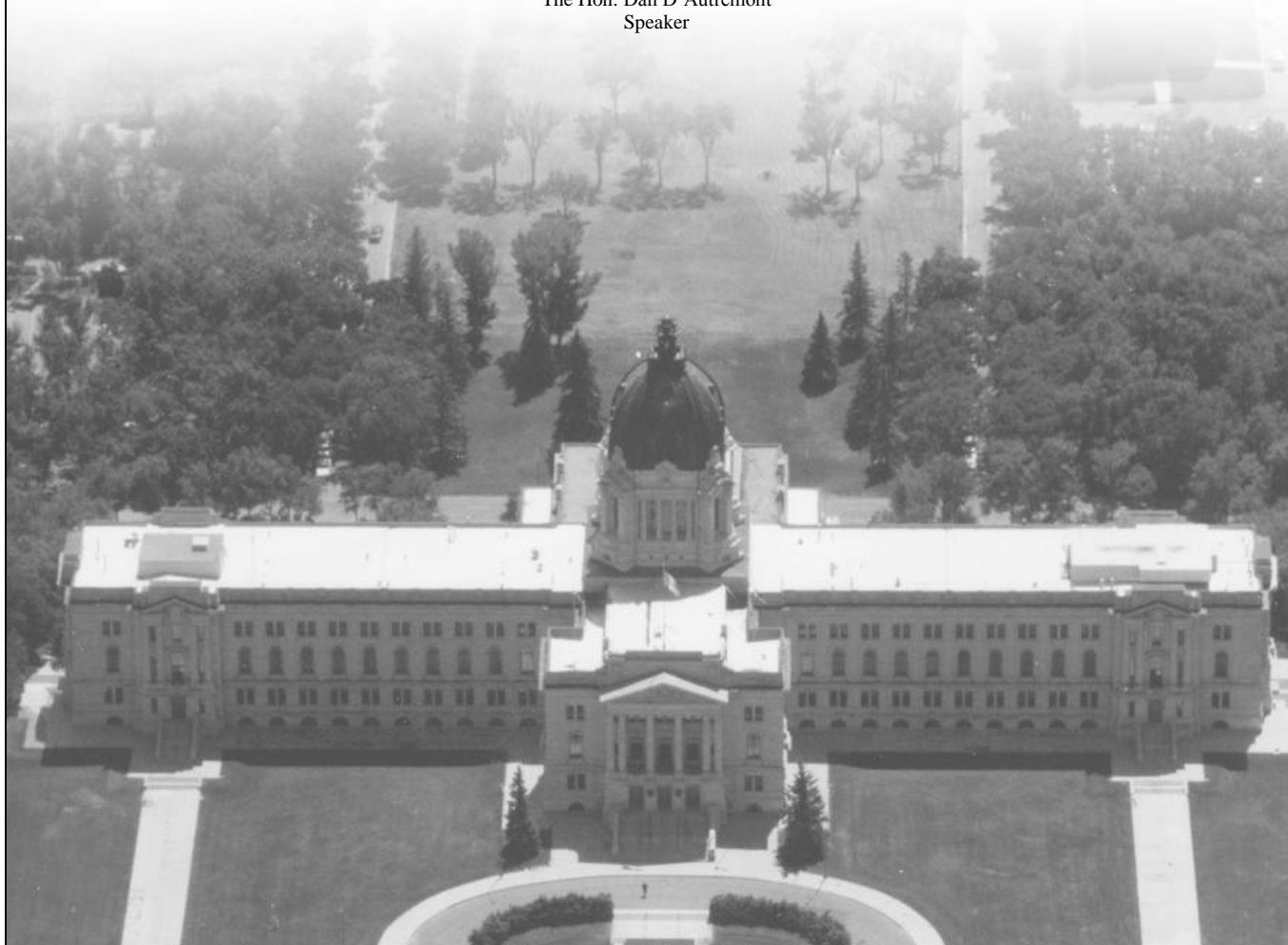
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. 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, 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, Hon. 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, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, 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, Hon. 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, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. 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, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the House, I would like to introduce 19 grade 11 and 12 students from Lake Lenore high school. Give us a wave, gang. There we go. They're sitting in your west gallery. Accompanying them is Lindsey Korte and Curtis Strueby. And chaperones, we have Rachel Voz, Sherri Schemenauer, Naomi Prodahl, and Scott Lessmeister.

And thank you all for being here. We are going to get a tour, and then we'll spend some time together. And I'm raising the bar for other MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. Usually it's drink boxes, but from Batoche, we've raised the bar to Dilly Bars from Dairy Queen, guys. That's the challenge, gentlemen. Dilly Bars for my class. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, it's my pleasure to introduce two remarkable young students that are with us here today. These two students are grade 11's at Campbell Collegiate. And they're Nasra Moumin and Areeb Salim. These two young individuals are in fact not just Saskatchewan's best debaters, they're Canada's best debaters. And they actually are now taking their game to the international stage. Mr. Speaker, before they leave here today, I'm hopeful they might give myself a little bit of advice on how to refine my own debate skills. I know the other side wouldn't disagree.

They're also joined by somebody that's very important to them and very important to improving the life of students here in Regina, Ms. Janessa Weir who teaches with the Huda School and works as well with the Saskatchewan elocution and debate society and supports these two students and their success in a very significant way. And I know their success is very important to her as well. So please join with me in welcoming these very successful students and Janessa Weir to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today to present a petition on cellphone coverage. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure that SaskTel delivers cell service to the Canoe Lake First Nation, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nation, also known as Dillon,

and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation along with the community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in the northwest part of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Dillon, but the petition has been signed from all throughout the land. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the finances of our province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to provide Saskatchewan people with the fair, true state of our finances by providing appropriate summary financial accounting and reporting that is in line with the rest of Canada, in compliance with public sector accounting standards, and following the Provincial Auditor's recommendations; and also to begin to provide responsible, sustainable, and trustworthy financial management as deserved by Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Swift Current and Success. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's with a heavy heart that I join many across the world on the International Transgender Day of Remembrance. On this day, we remember many people who were murdered based solely on the fact that they were transgendered.

Since 2008, 816 transgender murder cases were reported in 55 countries worldwide. That number continues to increase with every year that passes. In 2008, 141 murders were reported. In 2011, that number rose to 248 — over 100 more people. Unfortunately these disturbingly high numbers only speak to murders that have actually been reported.

This past Sunday here in Regina a vigil was held at St. James United Church to remember all victims. At the event there was a guest panel of speakers, a video presentation, and a reading of names of individuals who passed away this year.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of hatred is unacceptable. It is only

through compassion and acceptance that we can begin to help transgendered people feel safe in their communities. I deeply appreciate the continual efforts by St. James affirming committee and the OneSong Transgender Support Services for their commitment to equality. My heart goes out to the many victims' families and friends, and together I hope that we can strive towards creating a world where this kind of violence does not exist any more. Thank you.

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

National Child Day

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in this House to remind all members that today is National Child Day. In recognition of children's rights and the incredible potential of our home-grown youth, our government is joining today with the rest of Canada to celebrate National Child Day.

Mr. Speaker, National Child Day is celebrated on November 20th of each year. This date marks the occasion when Canada adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, outlining the basic human rights for children and youth.

In the very same spirit of this important UN [United Nations] convention, the Government of Saskatchewan is working hard to make life better for Saskatchewan children. Through the cabinet committee on children and youth and the Saskatchewan child and youth agenda, our government is working to ensure that children get a good start in life, youth are prepared for their future, families are stronger, and communities are supportive.

Mr. Speaker, our children represent the future of this great province, and as such they deserve the best possible start in life that we can provide them. This is why it is imperative that we provide our most vulnerable and valuable citizens with the supports they need to reach their full potential and to live healthy, productive lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Campbell Collegiate Students Win Debating Honours

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to recognize the outstanding efforts of two Campbell Collegiate students, Nasra Moumin and Areeb Salim, who have become two of Canada's best debaters.

I personally watched this duo in action as they won the 2011 junior nationals. Their performance was truly impressive. This year they placed second at senior nationals, where Nasra and Areeb faced off against members of Team Canada, beating them soundly. They have proved to debaters and coaches across the country that they are a force to be reckoned with. They make our province proud.

Nasra and Areeb are members of the Saskatchewan elocution and debate society and are supported by coach Ms. Janessa Weir. I understand that Nasra and Areeb individually strive to do their best with fierce competition between them. And as a team, they support and help each other, an important culture,

supporting success.

They are competing this weekend in the North American Debate Championships. Nasra has been training with Team Canada, and she will head to Turkey in January to compete for Team Canada, and in Thailand in 2014. The support and sacrifices made by their family must also be recognized. Nasra and Areeb represent leaders in our province today and I'm certain into our future.

I ask this Assembly to join with me in congratulations to these two leaders as well as thanks to their parents, their coaches — specifically Ms. Janessa Weir — for their support of these two young talents, and to extend our best wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Carlton.

Saskatchewan Addictions Awareness Week

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, November 19th to the 25th is Saskatchewan Addictions Awareness Week, which coincides with the National Addictions Awareness Week. Saskatchewan Addictions Awareness Week, or SAAW, aims to draw public attention to the associated harms of alcohol and drug misuse, and it also promotes available resources in Saskatchewan which support healthy lifestyles. Mr. Speaker, addictions affects many lives in Saskatchewan. It is a serious health issue that has tremendous impact on individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

Mr. Speaker, our government supports those who are dealing with addictions. On September 13th, the Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre in Prince Albert opened its doors. This 15-bed facility provides a six-week residential treatment program to Saskatchewan youth ages 12 to 17.

Looking into the near future, we can expect an eight-unit provincial family treatment facility up and running in Prince Albert in early 2013. It will primarily serve women who experience difficulty in providing care to their young children due to addictions. Our government wants to support these vulnerable individuals on their healing journey. We believe they deserve help to get their lives back on track.

During SAAW, the community partners have planned a variety of activities that promote healthy lifestyle choices, educate people about substance use, misuse, and signs of an addiction, and let people know where to go for help.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the tremendous work that is happening across Saskatchewan. Our government wants to thank those who work in the addictions field and the SAAW advisory group for their ongoing efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Greystone.

Reclaiming Our Community

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to bring attention to an important and impressive initiative in the community of Pinehouse Lake, a community that I had the opportunity, with the Minister of Government Relations, to visit this summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Pinehouse Reclaiming Our Community group strives to improve the community of Pinehouse Lake. For 22 years Pinehouse has been active in the National Addictions Awareness Week, and this year the Reclaiming Our Community group made the decision to offer a one-month challenge rather than the usual week of events.

Mr. Speaker, the Reclaiming Our Community group and an elders group co-operated to spearhead a challenge that asked the community to go 30 days without alcohol. Mr. Speaker, the groups went house-to-house, challenging community members to forgo alcohol for the month of November, and more than 100 houses agreed to display the poster: We Joined the Challenge, Alcohol Free. High school students also signed on and put up posters throughout the school.

Mr. Speaker, abstaining from alcohol for a month can be a challenge. So to help the community succeed, the community group built a calendar of alcohol-free events for the month of November and they have planned and organized a month of events for people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the community of Pinehouse in this wonderful prevention initiative and wishing them all the best throughout the rest of the month and well beyond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Coronation Park Arts and Crafts Sale

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend the Coronation Park Community Association will be holding their 26th annual arts and crafts sale. This year's event will be held at O'Neill High School and will feature over 80 tables of homemade art and craft creations from local artists, including home baking and fresh fudge, painting, handmade jewellery, and hand-knitted blankets.

Mr. Speaker, the annual arts and crafts sale is a great opportunity to get in some early Christmas shopping or to stock up on decorations for the holiday season. The cost of admission is only \$2 and all proceeds from the event go to helping local Girl Guide organizations. Last year's Coronation Park art and craft sale attracted over 600 attendees and the association is hoping to get an even bigger turnout this year.

If you're out and about this weekend, I encourage you to come check out some of the amazing handmade crafts at this year's Coronation Park Community Association art and craft sale. The event runs this Friday 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 to 5. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing the Coronation Park Community Association the best of luck with this year's craft sale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip Observe 65th Anniversary

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to congratulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

On November 20th, 1947, Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, as they then were, were married in London's Westminster Abbey. It was the first royal festivity since the end of the Second World War. Mr. Speaker, today the Queen will be the first monarch to celebrate a blue sapphire wedding anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, for 60 years Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip have been the face of the British monarchy. They have represented the Commonwealth with grace, dignity, and compassion. Her Majesty has visited Canada 22 times, often accompanied by her husband. The royal couple's appreciation and fondness for Canada are well known.

Mr. Speaker, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip have dedicated their entire lives to the service of others, and Canadians have always held them in the highest regard. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on their 65th wedding anniversary, and I ask all members to join me in thanking them for their service and dedication to our country. God save the Queen.

[13:45]

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Information Services Corporation

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has finally revealed their true colours regarding their privatization ideology. Yesterday, when asked why the Sask Party was silent on privatization in the last election, the minister told the people of Saskatchewan to look at page 44 of his party's platform. Well what people found there is this vague statement: "Support for public ownership of the Crowns has been reconfirmed over the last four years." Privatizing ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] is the exact opposite of their platform statement. It's a surprise that no one has voted for.

And on the front page of today's *Leader Post* he says, "In what will be its first privatization of a Crown corporation, the Saskatchewan Party government is planning to sell off 60 per cent of Information Services Corp."

To the minister: if today he's selling ISC, what's tomorrow? What else on page 44 of his platform is for sale? Which Crown is next?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, let's go back a number of years when the NDP [New Democratic Party] . . .

[Interjections]

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, at the rate they're going, we're going to have to go back an awful lot of years before they ever form government.

Mr. Speaker, we go back to when they were government, Mr. Speaker. They passed a piece of legislation that was called the Crown protection Act. The Crown protection Act was supported by this party when we sat on that side. Mr. Speaker, we said that we would not act on any of the Crowns that were under the Crown protection Act. That was very clear in the '07 election, and it was very clear in the 2011 election, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and our party was very clear that we would not, Mr. Speaker, affect any of the Crowns that were protected by the Crown protection Act.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, that they're so worried about ISC because why didn't they include it in the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker? It was in and then taken out. Mr. Speaker, our policy has been very clear. Crowns that are in the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker, will not be affected. They took ISC out deliberately to sell it, Mr. Speaker. We've acted on it.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party says it would like to see the ISC head office jobs stay in the province. And now they say they would prefer it if Saskatchewan residents own the shares of ISC after they privatize it. Well, Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if the Sask Party should simply keep ISC as it already is, where there is a guarantee of the head office jobs staying in the province and the people of Saskatchewan own every share, not just some of them.

Clearly the public and shareholders have done very well with ISC. The Crown paid \$15 million in dividends to the people of Saskatchewan last year alone and a total of nearly 60 million in dividends in the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, why is the Sask Party walking away from all of the positive benefits of ISC? Why are they pursuing an ideological, nonsensical privatization agenda?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I will agree with the member on one part of her question, that ISC is servicing the province very, very well. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly why ISC needs the opportunity to expand outside the borders.

Mr. Speaker, the possibility of ISC growing within the borders of Saskatchewan are very small. There could be an increase in corporations on the corporations side, Mr. Speaker, maybe more land transactions, Mr. Speaker, but if we want to increase the total size of ISC, it needs to be able to operate outside the province. We believe, Mr. Speaker, and obviously the members

opposite believed that too when they were government, Mr. Speaker. That's why we are allowing ISC to be in a better position to move into the private sector to offer its goods around the world.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, one thing is clear, Mr. Speaker: the only reason the Sask Party is privatizing the Crowns, starting with ISC, is that they like to put ideology ahead of common sense. It's common sense to keep a company that pays great dividends and provides great services. It's common sense to encourage that company to do even more, especially since the Sask Party has moved more and more functions of governments over to ISC over the years. And it is common sense to reject a plan that doesn't turn a single cent over to ISC when it is sold. The proceeds will be spent because Sask Party can't balance the books.

Mr. Speaker, since the Sask Party is so keen on privatization, why didn't they run on a platform that clearly said exactly that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, this government comes from five balanced budgets, Mr. Speaker, and that will continue into the future. Mr. Speaker, this has absolutely nothing to do, Mr. Speaker, with the financial situation of the province, which is strong, and we'll hear more of that from the Minister of Finance in the near future.

But, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that there is one difference that we are experiencing in this province that never happened under the NDP, and that is growth and that is the need for infrastructure throughout this whole province, Mr. Speaker, whether it's highways, hospitals, or post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, under the NDP, for years and years and years, we saw a declining population. Mr. Speaker, the money that we will see realized from ISC, and only selling 60 per cent of that, will go directly into infrastructure such as legacy projects like the children's hospital, \$200 million into that, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to further announcements as to what this money will be used for into the future that will benefit all of Saskatchewan.

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

State of Provincial Finances

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that government's rationale for the privatization of ISC has been debunked solidly by our critic, Mr. Speaker. Everything that that government spins about why it's privatizing ISC simply doesn't hold water. It certainly doesn't respect the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

The real reason for this government's actions are clear. They're trying to prop up tight finances. Mr. Speaker, the budget's off-track. There are promises to pay for, and that government's

on the hunt for cash. To the Minister of Finance: in his hunt for cash, did he instruct the review and privatization of ISC? What exactly was his role?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of government and part of cabinet, of course I play a role. I play a role in decisions that are made, and the decision that we reviewed was a decision that was put forward by the Minister Responsible for ISC.

Mr. Speaker, the interesting comment by the members opposite, the critic who commented that the need was for balancing a budget, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that is the furthest from the truth, Mr. Speaker. We have provided the people of Saskatchewan a balanced budget on both summary financial statements, Mr. Speaker, and the General Revenue Fund, Mr. Speaker. And as I indicated to the member opposite who asked me yesterday, Mr. Speaker, stay tuned, the mid-year report will be a report that he will look forward to.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the motivation of the privatization of ISC is pretty clear: the tight finances that this government's in and the hunt for money. This is described in plain language in the valuation for ISC that was done by RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] that spells out the Sask Party is looking for "an attractive path to liquidity."

This government has been on the hunt for cash and they found some in ISC. This represents a short-sighted sell-off for all the wrong reasons — expensive, costly budgetary spin. Why won't this government be straight with Saskatchewan people about the true state of our finances and the real reason for the privatization of ISC?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this government has been very straightforward with the people of Saskatchewan. To the tune, Mr. Speaker, that is why, that is why in the last five years, Mr. Speaker, the population of Saskatchewan has grown by 80,000 people, unlike, unlike that group over there, Mr. Speaker. That group over there was government at a time when Saskatchewan was losing 3,500 students in our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system each year. Mr. Speaker, this year for the first time, we're seeing a growth of over 1,600.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best quotes, one of the best quotes that has been put in front of all the people in Canada is from the Conference Board of Canada, November 19th, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

For the most part, Western Canadian provinces have been relatively shielded from the fiscal and economic troubles lingering in external markets. The economies of Saskatchewan and Alberta in particular have performed strongly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's not so much the economy people are questioning; it's his management of the finances in that strong economy, Mr. Speaker. At budget, potash was projected at \$705 million. We called that into question on budget day. We did as well at the financial first quarter. But this government dug its heels in, engaged in spin instead of providing straight talk and real action.

The evidence suggests something other than what the Sask Party suggested, based on layoffs and current market demand, yet this government hasn't provided any update, including in the financial first quarter, on how far off they are on their flawed potash projection. Will the minister either table something here today to support their numbers or admit the government's mistake and lay out the real numbers to Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, what I won't table today is an NDP plan, an NDP plan in the last election that called for \$5 billion worth of spend, Mr. Speaker. That's what I won't be tabling.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we're proud of the fact that we have a balanced budget. And we are the only balanced budget in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to what I indicated from the Conference Board of Canada, and I quote again, it says:

The economies of Saskatchewan and Alberta in particular have performed strongly, and their near-term prospects are more favourable than those for the rest of the country. For both provinces, real economic growth will remain at or above three per cent through 2014.

That's positive information about Saskatchewan. That's a province that's moving forward. And that's a province that's going to rely on growth, Mr. Speaker, not decline as under the NDP.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I didn't hear any reference to the flawed potash number. That was the question to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

The reality of our finances couldn't be clearer, and instead of owning up and putting forward a plan, this government has engaged in expensive spin. The reality, revenues are off-track and government is scrambling to hold up its public relations line stated on its expensive billboards. Now they're selling off assets, ISC, land, taking a no-money-down private approach to infrastructure that's far costlier over the long run, draining another \$200 million from the rainy day fund and making cuts. Saskatchewan people are common sense. They expect good management and their government to be straight with them.

Instead of sell-offs, cuts, manipulation, and spin, when will this

minister own up to the poor state that he's placed these finances in?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the member yesterday, I believe, when he asked me when the mid-year will be released, that mid-year will be released next year. It's going through the process . . . Next week, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, next week. Next week, as we are in budgetary plans for next year, we are going to release the mid-year. It is through the process that the governments follow, in that it'll be a Treasury Board. It'll go through cabinet.

And as I indicated already to members of the press, the last week of November is when that mid-year will be released. And the member opposite will be pleasantly surprised.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Provincial Roads and Prince Albert Bridge

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rural and city as well as northern residents know that this time of the year, one has to be very careful on the highways in our province because the Sask Party can't seem to get the job done and fix the roads.

In the spring, the CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] held a vote which road in rural Saskatchewan would be the top goat path in the province, Mr. Speaker. That campaign drew attention on how terrible a record the Sask Party has had on fixing our highways. They spent on rebranding pot holes instead of actually filling them, Mr. Speaker.

Now the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has weighed in. SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] delegates want to see this government to actually do something about the goat paths in Saskatchewan that the Sask Party is watching over. SARM wants to see \$160 million in new funding go to rural roads in the next four years, but the government has yet to answer this question. Mr. Speaker, will the minister recognize the need for better rural roads, or is he saying absolutely no to SARM?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I didn't see that question coming from the former Highways minister. That one surprised me, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, especially when you look at our record since 2008: \$3.1 billion spent on highways, Mr. Speaker, a record amount. This year \$361 million spent, the second highest amount ever in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, rural Saskatchewan could've only wished the NDP would've spent a fraction of that out in rural Saskatchewan because they certainly didn't. And I think it's pretty reflective of who's sitting on those benches right now, Mr. Speaker, not many people from rural Saskatchewan. We are continuing to work with SARM and will continue to work with SARM into the future. We've got programs that are

directly, directed right at SARM to fix some of their concerns of the municipal roadways. We are working on all of our provincial highways to make sure that they're up to standard, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you we had a long pothole to climb out of after 16 years of NDP government.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, that government brags about the amount of money that they have in highways, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan are saying, show me that roads. That's what they're saying to the people of the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

The more hot air that this minister has, the less energy he'll be able to actually put something into getting done on our highways, Mr. Speaker. SARM delegates also weighed in about building a second bridge in Prince Albert and passed a motion of support without any further debate. The P.A. [Prince Albert] Chamber of Commerce says all the work on Diefenbaker Bridge has cost the local economy more than \$12 million, Mr. Speaker.

The city and the region need that bridge because without it, it's costing residents and business in the city some serious money. Mr. Speaker, the city council, the RMs [rural municipality], the chamber of commerce, and people from all over the Prince Albert area know the importance of building that second bridge. Why does the minister doubt that the Prince Albert community needs that second bridge?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In part of the question he asked, show me the roads that were fixed. We'll have a long list sent over to him. Mr. Speaker, when you spend \$631 million in one year, we have a long list of highways that we repaired. Mr. Speaker, we'll be glad to forward that over the member opposite.

Mr. Speaker, in fact we've been hearing concerns on this side, Mr. Speaker, through the summer months, that it was tough to travel anywhere because there was so much construction on the roadways.

He referenced the bridge in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, we are doing a report in conjunction with the two RMs around Prince Albert and the city of Prince Albert. The work is complete. There still needs to be some adjustments to the final report, Mr. Speaker, that is agreed upon by all members. And the member laughs. Obviously they didn't do any studies, Mr. Speaker, or he had no idea of what happens when you do do a study, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very aware of the situation around Prince Albert. As I said in previous answers, the two members from Prince Albert and MLAs from around Prince Albert have raised the concerns, Mr. Speaker, on the time it's taken to fix Diefenbaker Bridge. But I will tell you that, Mr. Speaker, unlike the NDP, our government is fully behind those repairs

even though they weren't originally our responsibility. We're fully behind those repairs. We're paying over \$3 million to make sure that bridge is fixed, not like the NDP when they were in power when they fixed part of it and then expected the city to cap it.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, he speaks about the adjustments in highway spending, Mr. Speaker. The people of Prince Albert need a bridge. They don't need an adjustment, Mr. Speaker, and that's an important message we want to give to the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

And don't take our words for it. The roads in rural Saskatchewan are getting worse, according to CAA members. SARM delegates want more invested in the highways because they are crumbling under the Sask Party's watch. And a key infrastructure project like a second bridge for Prince Albert are nowhere to be found in the Sask Party's little booklet they call a plan, Mr. Speaker.

The Sask Party can't build highways. They can't build bridges, and they spend money on rebranding potholes rather than to fix them, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with so much economic potential in rural Saskatchewan — so much, Mr. Speaker — why is the Sask Party neglecting the highways that lead to that growth, a vital part of our Saskatchewan economy, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth as far as neglecting, Mr. Speaker, that area. Mr. Speaker, when the member opposite was minister of Highways, I asked him how much work did he do on 914, did they get any sort of agreement with Cameco to extend that piece of, stretch of road, and provincial responsibility will roughly be \$30 million. How much work was done in that area, Mr. Speaker, when they were government? Absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker.

Under this government, we have agreement to fix 914, which will increase economic development in the North, Mr. Speaker, will be a huge asset for companies like Cameco and other uranium mining companies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we realize that the northern part of our province has a great benefit for all of us in this province. Mr. Speaker, that's why we're investing infrastructure in northern Saskatchewan.

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

Financial Support for Universities

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Advanced Education tried to hide behind the autonomy of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and suggest that his government wasn't responsible for the situation that the U of S finds itself in financially.

Well it's not just the U of S that's facing closures and cuts. Yesterday there was a town hall meeting, Mr. Speaker, at the

University of Regina, a time for students and administration to come together and face and talk about the future of the University of Regina. At the meeting, Mr. Speaker, students expressed concern about programs and services being cut and asked why new faculty members are not being hired to replace retiring professors.

My question to the minister: if everything is wonderful and perfect at our universities, as the minister would like us to believe, why is it that both campuses are facing cuts and closures?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that I do respect the academic freedom and I do respect the freedom of and autonomy of those institutions. We are of course, as citizens and as the province, concerned about everything that takes place at those things. We ask a lot of questions and we receive a lot of information.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the University of Regina has conducted a significant academic review. The program review started in 2009 when they adopted a new strategic plan that called for a comprehensive academic program review. We support that type of renewal at all post-secondary facilities to make sure that they operate in an efficient and effective manner.

I can advise, Mr. Speaker, that there were some programs they decided they were not continuing. Those were a BFA [Bachelor of Fine Arts] in acting; a BFA in design and stage management; a BFA in theatre studies; and then there was a consolidated program, a B.A. [Bachelor of Arts] in theatre performance. Mr. Speaker, we will work with them on those programs.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today at the University of Saskatchewan there was a second town hall meeting to discuss the financial situation on campus. Community members are concerned with the financial situation on campus because of the \$100 million of debt that was forced onto the university's books when the Sask Party government walked away from its promise.

At the meeting, Mr. Speaker, community members expressed concerns about program delivery as well as layoffs, and layoffs are a concern because it's these individuals who provide services to students on campus. Surely the minister has been briefed on this matter. Can the minister inform the House what is the projection for the number of layoffs at the University of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want the member opposite to know that the U of R [University of Regina], which was the first question that he asked about, has indicated and have reassured people that current students will

be able to finish out their degrees. Only new admissions have been suspended. Mr. Speaker, that was the decision made without any budget cuts or without any of the horror stories that they're creating across the way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to use some figures again. Mr. Speaker, the budget of the University of Regina is \$100.9 million, a 38 per cent increase from 2007 when it was \$73.2 million. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite ought to go back and look at what their history is for funding post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, those things take place within those institutions. And, Mr. Speaker, if he wants to talk about layoffs, cut-offs, and further his leadership bid doing it that way, we want no part of it. Scaremongering does not belong in something like post-secondary education.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, that answer is insulting to the many university faculty members, the many university students, the many university staff that care about their institutions. And for the minister just to dismiss this and say, everything is fine, that does not add up.

Why, Mr. Speaker, if everything is perfect, if the Sask Party is living up to its so-called commitment to fund our universities, why are both campuses facing huge closures and cuts to programs? Why are there town hall meetings on both campuses to discuss what the future will look like, to discuss what layoffs will in fact be happening? Mr. Speaker, we haven't even touched on the topic of tuition and what the implications will be for tuition in the coming year.

My question to the minister: will he stop hiding behind the autonomy of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina and admit that the financial situation that both campuses find themselves in is a result of his actions?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the admission ought to come from the members opposite that they did a pretty poor job when they were in government. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raised the issue of tuition. Mr. Speaker, under the NDP from 1994 to 2007, there were some substantial tuition increases. At the University of Regina during that period of time, tuition increased 88.6 per cent. University of Saskatchewan tuition increased 99.2 per cent. SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] tuition increased 263 per cent. And he wants to talk about what's going . . . [inaudible] . . . when we've had the largest increases in the history of the province. That member ought to apologize for even having asked the question.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 70 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 70, *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 70, *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* now be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 71 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 71, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012* be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation that Bill No. 71, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 67 — *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government

Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the existing community planning profession Act in order to update the Act to standards consistent with other self-regulated professions legislation in Saskatchewan.

The bill also proposes consequential amendments to various sections of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*, and *The Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act*, to replace references to professional community planner with registered professional planner.

Mr. Speaker, key changes requested by the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan, which we'll refer to as the association, are reflected in the new Act, and include changing the name of the association to the Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute, replacing the term professional community planner with registered professional planner, which is a term that has been adopted by all professional planning associations across Canada, and clarifying the composition and role of the association's professional conduct and discipline committees. This will include a requirement that the majority of the members of the professional conduct and discipline committees are licensed members and enhance disciplinary authority by allowing the committee to inform the employer of a member found guilty of professional misconduct or incompetence.

[14:15]

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the ministry and association have identified some amendments to ensure the Act fully complies with labour mobility obligations under the Agreement on Internal Trade and the New West Partnership agreement. This includes placing the administration of examinations for members with the association, and through them the national association, the Canadian Institute of Planners or the CIP instead of with the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan fully supports this change and has provided a letter to that effect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out here that beyond this change both the new Act and the existing Act currently recognize labour mobility and are compliant with the province's labour mobility obligations and commitments. Professional planning associations across Canada, including the association, have been working towards unfettered labour mobility in conjunction with their national association, the CIP. The provisions in the new Act represent fine tuning in terms of labour mobility as opposed to removing barriers.

Mr. Speaker, this Act does not establish the scope of practice of planners or restrict persons from calling themselves planners or require that only members can do planning. It simply recognizes the association or institute, once the new Act is proclaimed, as the professional association that regulates professional planners in the province and provides for protection of the title of registered professional planner.

Mr. Speaker, the current Act dates back to 1963. The remainder of the provisions generally follow the province's current template for professions Acts and include a number of significant updates. They are: providing for public appointees to the association's council; standardizing administrative and regulatory bylaw powers of the institute; providing for ministerial bylaws if necessary; and standardizing provisions related to professional conduct and discipline committees' investigations, hearings, and consequences. The ministry has worked out any outstanding issues with the association regarding these provisions.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed new Act continues government's practice to consult with regulated professions to refine and update legislation, ensuring it meets the needs of the profession, the association, and the public. The Ministry of Government Relations also intends to continue working with the association to ensure that in the near future clear and appropriate bylaws for the community planning profession are established. So, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am again pleased to stand on behalf of the official opposition to give our basic position on Bill 67. And, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of interest in this bill because there's been so many different discussions from so many different groups that our caucus has been involved with that really talks about the concept of smart growth. You obviously hear the NDP speak about this concept at great lengths, Mr. Speaker, and it's something that really ties to Bill 67. And I think it's important that people in Saskatchewan know that there is a significant difference from what the Sask Party is doing versus what the NDP are proposing under the concept of smart growth, Mr. Speaker.

You can see that some of the challenges we have in the province . . . Obviously when you have a province and economy that's moving as Saskatchewan's is, we want to make sure that we do this very smart, Mr. Speaker. We know that when you inherit . . . A good example I would use is that when you inherit, as a young lad or young lady, in many instances if you have a rich family and they leave you a bunch of money, unless you have a plan of action on how you're going to actually manage that money, some of these people that do get the inheritance sometimes don't do very well in managing that particular estate or the finances of it.

And that's what we see evidence of with the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. They inherited \$2.5 billion from the NDP. They inherited a booming economy, Mr. Speaker. They inherited a province that was growing in population. They inherited a plan that was really starting to move forward in a number of different areas, Mr. Speaker.

And what happened was when the Saskatchewan Party got government, they said, what do we do with all these assets? And quite frankly we knew that these guys were very poorly prepared and, Mr. Speaker, they didn't have any action plan.

Their objective at the time was just to simply criticize the NDP. And sometimes the people of Saskatchewan ought to be told that the NDP are a party that's very proud of its history and that we're very proud of the economy that we built. Now, Mr. Speaker, we built that alongside the people of Saskatchewan. That's one of the things that's really important that I announce as well.

So how does this Bill 67 fit into what we think is important, and one important step towards making sure that we have that smart growth, Mr. Speaker? And there's such an incredible challenge that we understand when the people of Saskatchewan tell us we have this growth.

The vast majority of the people of Saskatchewan knew this economic boom was going to come. They knew it was going to continue on and for a lot of people they said, well let's try a party that seemed to know what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker. So they tried the Saskatchewan Party, and what happened, Mr. Speaker, is they're vastly disappointed. They saw a government that took an opportunity like a booming economy, growing population, money in the bank, and they squandered every opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

And the economy of Saskatchewan is moving ahead. The economy of Saskatchewan is moving ahead in spite of the bungling of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. That's how strong that economy is, Mr. Speaker. And we in the NDP want to make sure that we embrace that economy under the auspices of our plan called the smart growth plan. Now, Mr. Speaker, the smart growth plan is quite frankly something that has to occur if Saskatchewan's going to reach its full potential.

Now what does that smart growth plan mean? Obviously there's a number of components to it, a number of pillars to this plan, and part of the plan could be to ensure that the environment is not sacrificed in any way, shape, or form. We are seeing evidence of that right, left, and centre from the party across the way, Mr. Speaker. We see that kind of activity happening with the federal government as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is something that is very important for our position as a party within Saskatchewan is that the economy and the environment have to be balanced, that there doesn't make any logical sense, it doesn't make any sense in any way, shape, or form that you have to sacrifice your environment for the sake of the economy. And that's what the federal Tories are trying to tell the people of the country. And that's what their provincial cousins called the Saskatchewan Party, the Saskatchewan conservatives, are also trying to tell the people of Saskatchewan that same myth, Mr. Speaker.

From our perspective, Mr. Speaker, the environment has got to be protected because what is the economy worth, Mr. Speaker, if you have very poor water, very poor air quality, and of course your land is arid and dry, Mr. Speaker. It goes without saying that one of the pillars of our smart growth strategy is clearly to make sure that we make the environmental protection an integral part of our plan, Mr. Speaker.

Now the second thing that's really important, Mr. Speaker, is the labour force of our province, the men and women and students that come to work for the province and for the industry

in general, Mr. Speaker. That's another pillar of our plan, Mr. Speaker. And obviously there is going to be a war between the Sask Party and organized labour. And we within the NDP don't see how that is a smart development plan for the province at all. Why would you want to go to war with working men and women? It doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't make any sense whatsoever.

So that's another pillar that's really important to the smart growth plan, Mr. Speaker, is to embrace the men and women that want to earn a living for their families, that want to be able to pay their mortgages, Mr. Speaker. They want to be able to enjoy some of the comforts of their lives and of their work. And yet they're finding out that you're seeing a number of massive cuts under the Sask Party rule, Mr. Speaker, that they have intentionally gone to war with all the organized workers. And I'm not just talking about government employees, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about organized labour, the people that have, the electrician, the plumber, you know, the technicians, and many of the people that work in our health care system, Mr. Speaker. Their target is huge, and their plan is quite frankly trying to make sure that they go to war with every possible working man and woman in this province, Mr. Speaker. And that's a crying shame. That's not smart growth at all, Mr. Speaker.

Now when I look at some of the . . . The challenge that they will face on that front is organized labour's not going to sit back and let the Sask Party push them around, Mr. Speaker. They're going to make sure that they . . .

An Hon. Member: — Point of order.

The Speaker: — What is the member's point of order?

Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is ostensibly speaking to Bill 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act*, and I haven't heard any reference to the bill.

The Speaker: — We have a fair latitude in discussion of bills traditionally in this House, but I would encourage the member to make his references to the bill. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In Bill 67, Mr. Speaker — I'll explain to the member from Meadow Lake in case he doesn't get it, Mr. Speaker — the bottom line is that we're talking about a registered community planner, a community planner, Mr. Speaker. That's really important to the growth of Saskatchewan, really important that you plan your community out, that you look at your infrastructure needs, you look at your labour needs, you look at all these different plans that some of these communities may have.

And the member from Meadow Lake will know very quickly that it's all connected, Mr. Speaker. So on Bill 67, if the member from Meadow Lake would just sit and listen, I'll explain how it's all connected, Mr. Speaker. I'll explain how it all fits nice and perfect under the NDP plan, Mr. Speaker. So for the member to get up and complain that it's not relevant to the bill I'm speaking about, Mr. Speaker, I'll walk very slowly with him and I'll talk very slowly with him so that he's able to connect the dots, Mr. Speaker.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is community planners. Community planners are an integral part of a smart growth strategy, Mr. Speaker. That's the point. And when I talk about smart growth, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we explain the entire concept to the people of Saskatchewan and to the member from Meadow Lake so he understands, and we'll go slow. But the bottom line is that it's all connected. So when I talk about environmental integrity, when I talk about stopping going to war with men and women that build this province, Mr. Speaker, organized labour and those that work for industry, and then I talk about the role of government which is really, it involves Bill 67 which is the registered planning bill, they all connect, Mr. Speaker.

And then we also point out that from a New Democratic Party caucus — and I would certainly want to make that challenge to the Sask Party on this — every time the economy of Saskatchewan is moving forward, it's building up steam, it's really coming along really well, Mr. Speaker, in the history of Saskatchewan politics, in the history of Saskatchewan politics, every time that the economy is growing and people are optimistic and things are happening, Mr. Speaker, check the record. It was an NDP government that was in charge at the time, not the right wingers across the way, Mr. Speaker. Because people of Saskatchewan understand the balance between the economy, the labour force, and of course the environment, something that we all on this side of the Assembly value as building blocks for a great new province. And I think it's something that people out there understand fully.

So I'll say it again. Every single time that the economy of Saskatchewan has been on the upswing and things are happening, Mr. Speaker, it has been the NDP that has been in charge, not the right wing people across the way who claim that they have the solution to the economic building of our province, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely not. The Saskatchewan Party are massively confused, Mr. Speaker. They're massively confused because on one hand you talk about public planning, and on the other hand they say, well how is a public planning process going to help with smart growth?

Well again, as I mentioned earlier, the member from Meadow Lake was complaining about the fact that I need to make my arguments relevant to this bill. It's all connected, Mr. Speaker. So I think it's really important that the people of Saskatchewan know that it was not the right wing parties like the Saskatchewan conservative party across the way that built the economy, but the people of Saskatchewan, alongside an NDP government, that valued the environment, that valued working people, that valued industry as well, Mr. Speaker, that valued industry. And of course all these processes and all these principles fit neatly under what we call a smart growth strategy, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on Bill 67, I know that from some of the discussions we've had with some of the groups, when you talk about a community planner and some of the changes that the minister is alluding to, as opposed to just having a community planner title, that is going to actually ensure that some of these community planners are registered with their proper association so that . . . [inaudible] . . . to a registered community planner. These are some of the smaller matters that I think people are

hoping that it would help the process along.

However, Mr. Speaker, what's really important is that these community planners also have to know where they fit in the scheme of things because we have development happening all around some of our communities and our cities. And, Mr. Speaker, that's really important that, you know, we applaud that and we support that and we helped build that, so obviously why would we work against that?

[14:30]

So it's important that we put the proper processes in place, we put the proper people in place to make sure that that expansion to our economy, the people coming to our community, that it's really a smart growth strategy that we employ to make sure that we are able to accommodate the growth and to keep the people here. That's another thing that's really important, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen some of the examples of the Sask Party with the Irish workers where they had to go back home and some of the other people that came to Saskatchewan to work, of how they dropped the ball. And those young students that came here to come to the university, how they were holed up in a church and the Sask Party didn't do anything about it. The Minister Responsible for Immigration, the member from Kindersley, sat on his hands and saying well, why didn't you guys do something about it? Well news flash — you're the government; you should be figuring these things out.

So the big thing, Mr. Speaker, is that that's the kind of irresponsible, don't-blame-me attitude that the Sask Party has when it comes to building this economy and, Mr. Speaker, if we want people to come to Saskatchewan, we've got to make sure that we have the values that'll keep them here, Mr. Speaker, the values that'll keep the growing population staying here. Because what we don't want to see happen is we don't want to see these guys head out after a few months and not really participate in making Saskatchewan their long-term home and participate in building our province.

So it's really important that people know that when the NDP talk about smart growth, these are the values, these are the ideals, and these are some of things that we need to work on. And we're seeing the Saskatchewan Party miss the mark on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker.

And now we're hearing about their financial mismanagement. We're hearing about their P3s [public-private partnership] concept. We're hearing about the fact they're selling the Crown corporations, and now we're hearing the cutbacks. The universities are suffering. Oh my goodness, Mr. Speaker, now we're finding out the real truth after the last election, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan just absolutely cannot handle somebody betraying their trust like that. And there's going to be a price to pay, Mr. Speaker. There's going to be a price to pay for those 49 members across the way, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan are just about fed up with the way that they're doing business, Mr. Speaker.

And this is another example of how Bill 67 in its small process, in its small way trying to make things work but really in truth, it's the bigger issues that the Saskatchewan Party are really

messing up on. And sometimes these bills, Bill 67 as an example, they simply are a little effort to a huge bungling of the economy of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I think it's important we offer our original comments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think when we talk with the growth strategy for Saskatchewan — I'll give you a good example — but the real estate industry itself, of course they want to see the continuing growth in building for our province. That's something that they certainly want to see happening, that the realtors are an industry that's very helpful in movement of homes and selling and purchasing of homes, and that's something that I think that we all are happy that is happening.

So the realtors themselves are people that really want to see things happen and quite frankly want to make sure that there is a smart growth strategy attached to anything that the government does. And I can tell the realtors' association that you're going to be severely disappointed with the actions of the Sask Party because quite frankly the Sask Party don't know what they're doing. You, the realtors, probably have a fairly good idea what needs to be done, and the disappointment is that your senior government is massively confused, not only their financial file but how do we have a smart growth strategy that really embraces the notion of building for the future, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to point out that from the realtors' perspective when they talk about development and community planning, of course they want to have a professional process attached to anything that the community may want to plan out. And this bill is really relevant to some of those things that they raise.

When you look at an example of Vancouver as an example, where we have a community planner, and they look at what options they have, they've got the mountains on one side and they've got the sea on the other side. So it's only a very confined space that you can actually plan out the community. But the problem is, the community planners in BC [British Columbia] area, well they kind of figured out the only way that we can grow now is grow up, is build upwards. So you see a lot of the skyscrapers and the condominium development and so on and so forth happening in BC.

And, Mr. Speaker, those are some of the . . . I want to do the contrast between BC and Saskatchewan to really drive home the point of our plan, entitled the smart growth plan, that how it's important that we realize the differences and the opportunities we have in the province. So while you look at BC as an example of how community planners are saying, the only way we can build is to build straight up because we don't have the land space or we're blocked in by the mountains on one side and the sea on the other, what's going to happen in Saskatchewan? If you look around, Mr. Speaker, you see a vast expanse of land, so it should be easier, right? It should be a lot more easily done in terms of getting a proper community plan in place and to actually get the community building and growing. And that's exactly what every party in the province wants, including the NDP.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there is something of a problem between the community planning process in the expansion of our communities and the realtors' role. And so how are we

going to figure out the differences? Because you want to do this right. That's the bottom line. We want to do this right, Mr. Speaker, and there's a lot of confusion, I think, between the players. And some of the groups are not as confused as others, I'll grant them that. However there's got to be a concerted effort by the government itself to figure out how we do this right. How do we do this right? How do we community plan out our communities so we can see a continual growth, a sustained growth, and that we are able to actually see communities expand as opposed to what some people are talking about concentrating populations in one particular area?

As an example I would use is that perhaps they're looking at ways that they can build in a parking lot, build a condo in a parking lot that has the water and sewer and power hookup. Some cities are going that route because it's a concentration of services. It's probably less costly as opposed to building on the outskirts of the city. These are some of the dynamics that the realtors' association often witness. And I think what's important here, Mr. Speaker, is that they are saying, can we at least have some kind of process, some kind of common effort between all the parties to figure out how we could possibly plan out our community logically, with a long-term view, but at the least cost possible? And the values continue, Mr. Speaker.

Now at the realtors' association, Mr. Speaker, obviously I can't speak for them, but from some of the information that I've received from them, community planning is a critical part of the work that they do. Now what I would hope happens, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister just simply doesn't dabble in the Act and say, we're going to change the name of a community planner to a registered community planner and not worry about the global issues that impact the growth of Saskatchewan.

That's the important part, Mr. Speaker, is that that's the plan that we have under the smart growth strategy, Mr. Speaker. It all connects. It all connects. It all makes sense. And about the only group that doesn't get it in Saskatchewan are those 49 souls over there, Mr. Speaker, called the Saskatchewan Party. They are simply on this train wreck that's going to happen fairly soon. And they simply don't realize that there are people out there that have a very intelligent plan that could actually help facilitate that growth. And I would suggest that the realtors' association is one of them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you look at some of the communities and some of the developers and some of the planners that are out there, you're going to find a vast difference. Some of their training may be the same, Mr. Speaker, but a planner from Melfort may be radically different from the planner from Aberdeen or a planner from northern Saskatchewan. They have a totally different view of the world as a planner from Saskatoon.

So you look at the different planners that are out there, and then you look at the different players, and you see the growth that is wanting to continue and build and strengthen. And then you see the Saskatchewan Party which is massively confused on this file, Mr. Speaker. That's where the frustration is.

So when you talk about a community planner's role, the community planner's role has some radical repercussions on the growth of Saskatchewan if they don't do it right. And that's

why, Mr. Speaker, it's more important to provide the staff and the resources and I would even say the matrix of how some of these community planners will operate under, Mr. Speaker. If they had the right team, if they had the right team and they had the right partnerships and they had the right government to be able to put all of this neatly under one package, Mr. Speaker, then you can see evidence that smart growth does work. And that's something that's advocated by the NDP. But on that side, Mr. Speaker, all they get is massive confusion and a little adjustment here and a little adjustment there as the Minister of Highways was speaking about today.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't do anything radically different. It doesn't do anything earth-shattering. And that to me, Mr. Speaker, it reminds me of a party that's bankrupt of ideas, a party that simply has survived this long on some of the NDP savings fund that we've left them, and quite frankly on the goodwill of the people of Saskatchewan. But both are running out, Mr. Speaker. The goodwill of the people of Saskatchewan are running out, and the NDP savings account is now running out, Mr. Speaker.

So now we sit back and we say, okay, let's see what these guys are made of, Mr. Speaker. And one by one on every file, Mr. Speaker, whether it's university spending or highway spending or some of the health care challenges, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has failed miserably on all those fronts, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why we pay special attention to Bill 67 because we're hoping somewhere amongst the midst of the 49 of them that somebody out there can figure out what the smart growth strategy's all about and start putting these pieces together, Mr. Speaker. And quite frankly they have not done any of that work, nor did they realize that work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker.

So the NDP's smart growth plan is quite clear. There's a lot of work that needs to be done on it to refine it for the next election, and that's some of the work that we will do. We will do that work, Mr. Speaker.

However, what's important is that people of Saskatchewan will have the opportunity to put the NDP's smart growth strategy versus the Premier's — what's that vision for the future document called? — the Premier's vision plan there. And you can see, Mr. Speaker, that it lacks any kind of clarity. It's really just a bunch of words and words that are spun out constantly by the government. And people of Saskatchewan are starting to yawn, and they're starting to get bored with this tired, old, six-year government, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's really important that the people of Saskatchewan know that there is a party and that there is a strategy called smart growth under the NDP that really capitalized on what we need to do as a province to go to the next level with our next leader to ensure that Saskatchewan is represented well, Mr. Speaker. That's the important thing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's really important as well, I wanted to add, is that as I mentioned earlier about the realtors' role and the city leaders and the engineers and the community planners, these are people that we need to engage more and more, and to say, what can we do and what can we do right? We don't need a

band-aid. We need to take the time to do this properly. Because obviously, Mr. Speaker, if we can do it properly, then the plan here is to keep as many of the people that are moving here to stay here and make this their long-term home.

And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, if we do this right, and we accommodate the growth right, and we do the growth smartly as a province, then and only then will the people of Saskatchewan realize that it is the NDP that ought to be given that opportunity, and that it is the NDP that is going to provide that opportunity to the people of Saskatchewan alongside the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite clear that this bill is something that we would want to pay very close attention to as a party, because it does have ramifications to our smart growth strategy because it's something that's really, really important that we pay attention to this. So that's one of the reasons why I hope me and my colleagues will take the time to reach out to some of the groups that are out there — the realtors association, the community planners association, some of the architectural firms, and many other groups out there that may have some advice on this.

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, I can go on for a number of hours on this particular bill because it all connects to our smart growth strategy. It all connects. It all makes sense. It all makes sense as we share this vision. And everything is really important that it relies on the central message that the government has to know what the role is, when they fulfill that role, and who fulfills that role, Mr. Speaker. And unfortunately the Sask Party hasn't even got that part figured out, Mr. Speaker. But certainly from our perspective on the NDP side, we have. We have it figured out, Mr. Speaker.

So I think we have a lot more work to do on that front, and we're going to have a lot more debate on this particular bill. The community planners are a central, important, integral part of our smart growth plan, Mr. Speaker, and we want to make sure that we do this right. So if it's just a little tinkering here and there by, you know, by the Sask Party government and by this minister, I say, shame on them. Because obviously there's much more expectations out there of them.

But, Mr. Speaker, if they can't provide that leadership, then I would suggest they step off the way and the NDP will certainly provide that leadership and make sure Saskatchewan continues being a growing, sustainable province, a province that attracts new people and keeps new people. That's the key thing, Mr. Speaker. That is the key point I want to make.

So on this note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 67.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[14:45]

Bill No. 69 — *The Information Services Corporation Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, my colleagues. It is my pleasure to rise today and move second reading of Bill No. 69, *An Act respecting Information Services Corporation*. Mr. Speaker, this bill describes an arrangement that will allow for the sale of 60 per cent of shares of ISC. But what it is really about is opening up Saskatchewan for new opportunities and economic growth.

ISC is a successful company that has made great strides over the past 12 years. As you know, its role is to provide for the operations of land titles, personal property, vital statistics, land survey, and corporate registries, but it has also developed some particular capacity and skills that could make its services attractive to other jurisdictions. ISC has experience that includes building registries from the ground up to modernizing outdated systems. These are skills that can be marketed not just within Canada but perhaps internationally as well. A number of these jurisdictions could use the kind of services that ISC provides. It's a big market and there are few, if any, competitors today creating a window of opportunity.

With the improvements ISC has made in its systems and the customer service in the past 10 years, we believe there is a great potential for this company. It has the technology, the know-how, and the employee expertise to become a strong, more successful private company. That could mean more jobs at home and a larger contribution to the economic growth the province now enjoys. The opportunity for this is now, and we believe ISC is uniquely positioned to use this advantage to grow.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we indicated some time ago that the government has asked to have an evaluation or a valuation of the company complete. That evaluation is complete. It shows that the sale of 60 per cent of the company would yield a return between 90 million and 120 million. It's also worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that RBC Capital Markets agrees with our view of the opportunities that exist.

We have released a summary of the evaluation so that the public can better understand the issues involved. Let me just quote a bit from the report. It says that, and I quote:

RBC believes that as a publicly traded company ISC will enhance its ability to grow its business and operations within the province of Saskatchewan as well as in other jurisdictions outside of the province of Saskatchewan.

So they agree that there is an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for this company. It's an opportunity that does not exist to the same degree for a Crown corporation. Governments tend not to want to buy from other governments, Mr. Speaker. We're not alone in thinking this though, Mr. Speaker. RBC agrees with us on that point as well. In the report RBC says the following about that, and I quote: "As a business managed independently of the province, ISC may be perceived more valuable by the

prospective customers."

There will be other benefits as well. RBC found that its share issue will provide ISC with increased access to capital to fund new growth initiatives and to support the ongoing future growth of the company. It will also give the company an increased public profile that will enhance its visibility in the marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide authority for the sale of shares in the company next year. We envision selling approximately 60 per cent of the company through a share sale while government will retain the other 40 per cent. Both the employees and other Saskatchewan residents will have the opportunity to take part in this public offering. Five per cent of the shares sold will be allocated to employees if they choose to participate in the share sale. Another 45 per cent will be allocated to Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the contribution our employees have made to the success of ISC to date, and we want them to stay with the company. From the government's perspective, we want to ensure that the province continues to benefit from ISC's corporate presence, Mr. Speaker. This bill will grant a golden share in the company which will not only maintain the company's head office in Saskatchewan but will also give the government the right to decide on any proposed change of control or corporate restructuring. These will be negotiated in a transparent process that is fair to both the customer and the company; however, they will also be linked to the consumer price index to ensure any increases remain reasonable.

We are also mindful about the importance of the security of personal information, Mr. Speaker. That is why vital statistics will be transferred from the ISC back into executive government to ensure that the private information remains confidential.

This legislation is just the first step in this process. Implementation legislation will also be required in the spring session of the legislature that will set out the relationship between the new company and the government and to deal with the mechanics of the transaction. An initial public offering, or IPO, of shares will be made sometime after that.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that Information Services Corp is ready for the next step in its evolution. This initiative will give the opportunity to become a bigger, stronger company that will make an even larger contribution to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 69, *An Act respecting Information Services Corporation*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 69, *The Information Services Corporation Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, this Bill 69, the first step of Saskatchewan Party's many steps to privatize our Crowns right across the province, Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very sad day for the people of Saskatchewan and the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. And let me tell you the people of Saskatchewan are absolutely upset

with this government on this file and on this front, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly they felt that the Saskatchewan Party betrayed the trust of the people of Saskatchewan when they said they would not privatize any Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. And today marks their first step on that journey, Mr. Speaker, which makes no sense for the people of Saskatchewan, what makes no sense from the financial perspective, Mr. Speaker, and makes no sense whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

All that we can say, from the NDP's perspective, Mr. Speaker, is that they're tied to their ideology that they should have less government, less Crown corporation; let the private sector own everything and have everything, Mr. Speaker, that's of value in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't make any sense, any common sense to the people of Saskatchewan.

And right across the board, from Yorkton to Moose Jaw to Ile-a-la-Crosse, people are concerned and they are proud of their Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. Make no two bones about that because they are. They want to defend the Crown corporations and they'll continue defending the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

But I tell the people of Saskatchewan that today the Sask Party said no to the people of Saskatchewan, that your values on the Crown corporations are not something we value. We are tied to our ideology, not to the people's interest when it comes to the future of our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and this is evidenced under Bill 69 being proposed by that minister, the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that the people of Saskatchewan know that this Premier and this Saskatchewan Party are embarking on this journey, and the people of Saskatchewan have got to stand up and stand in their way by saying, no way did we vote for this in 2011, Mr. Speaker. No way did we vote for this in 2007. So why are you doing this now? The people of Saskatchewan want to know now, and they want to know why, Mr. Speaker.

So this bill that's coming forward, we tell them from the NDP perspective is, why would they do this, Mr. Speaker? Where does it make sense? Why would you sell an asset that's generating revenues for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? Why would they do this? The big question is, why? And the people of Saskatchewan are asking, why are you doing this? What is the logic behind selling a Crown corporation like investment services, the corporation, or Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker?

Why would they be doing that, Mr. Speaker? Why would they be doing that when this entity generates millions of dollars for the people of Saskatchewan? Those millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, go to helping with some of the costs of operating government and helping the province prosper and build, Mr. Speaker. Why would they then turn around and sell it? It just doesn't make any sense whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. And that's what's really important for the people of Saskatchewan to understand.

Now I think one of the points that the people of the province are going to certainly come back and they're going to argue with, Mr. Speaker, is that the Saskatchewan Party blindsided them on

this one. They blindsided them tremendously.

And I'll give you another example of what the Sask Party is trying to do when it comes to the Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, they are justifying as an example of most recently not just ISC, but the liquor board stores, Mr. Speaker. Across the way when we were talking about that issue, they were yelling across that you guys would rather build liquor stores than hospitals. Well, Mr. Speaker, the problem is they knew that that's not the truth, Mr. Speaker.

SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], the Saskatchewan liquor and gaming commission, they generate close to half a billion dollars a year from VLT [video lottery terminal] revenues and from liquor sales. And that half a billion dollars a year, guess where that goes? It goes to schools and goes to the hospitals. It goes to services, Mr. Speaker. That's half a billion dollars a year, Mr. Speaker, that is generated through that entity.

Now what these guys are saying, well, that's way too much money for the people of Saskatchewan. So as opposed to us turning around and defending that particular industry that gives us good money, we're going to give it to the private sector. So guess what happens, Mr. Speaker? Any new liquor store that is going to be built is going to be owned by the private sector. So who gets that profit, Mr. Speaker? The private sector. And that's the weakness of their argument when they come along and they talk about why they wouldn't, why they're not going to build any more new liquor stores under SLGA, Mr. Speaker.

Of course from our perspective, from the NDP perspective, if you're going to have those particular activities in the province, then the people of Saskatchewan ought to derive a benefit from it, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we tax with what we call sin taxes. We tax liquor sales and we also tax alcohol sales and we tax cigarette sales, Mr. Speaker.

So it's all throughout the province that this tax is put in place. And that tax being generated, guess what? It's being used for the good of the people of Saskatchewan. So when you see the infantile argument from the Saskatchewan Party that this is not what the people of Saskatchewan want, they need to turn around and understand what half a billion dollars a year generates for the people of Saskatchewan through the SLGA operation, Mr. Speaker. And that's why on this side of the Assembly, we as the NDP are telling people that it's important that people know that some of these entities are generating revenues, a great amount of revenues, for the good of all the people. And then when you give away those revenues to the private Saskatchewan Party corporate friends, guess what, Mr. Speaker? That means less for you and I. It means less for the families, and it means less for the people of Saskatchewan overall.

So once again, they're at it again, Mr. Speaker. Now it's the Information Services Corporation that we invested, time and time again, we invested some serious money as a party and as a government to build up this service. And there's nobody out there that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker, that is supporting this move. Why doesn't the Sask Party go out there and solicit some views from some of the impacted communities, from some of the impacted organizations? No, Mr. Speaker, they didn't even

do that.

And the sad reality about how the Sask Party operates and this agenda of slowly and with some stealth try and privatize our Crowns, Mr. Speaker, is that they didn't even bring it to the Assembly first. We heard this through a tweet of one of their Sask Party supporters. And, Mr. Speaker, how did he, how did this individual know? How did this individual know, Mr. Speaker? It's because they share information with their private supporters, their close supporters, and they keep the Assembly in the dark and they keep the people of Saskatchewan in the dark till it's too late.

And once they sell ISC, then they bring it forward and they justify it by saying, well we'll make sure they don't charge any extra fees for the service that we're enjoying now. And, Mr. Speaker, the problem is once you sell Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker, once you sell ISC, guess what? The new owner ain't going to listen to the Sask Party when they talk about their rates, Mr. Speaker. They ain't going to listen to them about that, Mr. Speaker. And guess what? The Sask Party's not going to have no control over this corporation that they sell Information Services to. They're going to have no control whatsoever.

[15:00]

So when they use the word, we'll negotiate softer fees; we'll look at the long-term benefit; you know, you can take those words because they don't mean anything to us nor the people of Saskatchewan because you already went back on your word that you'd protect the Crowns. And the people of Saskatchewan are absolutely upset over this one, Mr. Speaker. And they're going to see some repercussions, not just to the front bench but to the backbench as well, Mr. Speaker. And I look at the backbench, you know, the caucus of the Sask Party and ask, why didn't you guys speak up? Why didn't the members from Moose Jaw speak up, you know, when Valley View was being threatened?

And once again on ISC, they're not speaking up, Mr. Speaker. They're sitting there saying, well we hope, we hope, we hope they know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker, so we'll blindly follow them. The members from P.A. don't have a bridge, but Information Services Corp, well we hope they know what the front bench is doing so we will blindly follow them. Why don't you guys stand up and speak up? Speak up for your constituents. You know, don't just stand there and hope that the Premier and his front bench have it figured out because news flash: they don't have it figured out. They don't know what they're doing. So why follow these folks? Blind faith doesn't get you anywhere. You should have faith as a party member over there, but you shouldn't have blind faith. You've got to figure it out because you've got to justify to the people in Moose Jaw how in the heck did you allow the Valley View closure to happen without a long-term and a good plan in place. Then you've got to justify to your P.A. members how come you have no bridge even though you campaigned on it. And you campaigned on beating up on the NDP when in reality you didn't have no plan of your own.

And, Mr. Speaker, now they're selling Crowns. Now they're selling Crowns. And I can almost guarantee that 40 per cent of

their backbench are probably tapping their hands on their desks saying, well I didn't get involved for politics for this reason. I wanted to build bridges. I wanted to keep services open. I wanted to build hope. Now all you see, Mr. Speaker, is institutions being shut down with no plan to replace those services. You see no bridge being built in Prince Albert. You don't see no highways being built in northern Saskatchewan.

Like my goodness, we need a backbench with a backbone to get up and tell the front bench, you guys don't have this figured out. I think what they should do is they should move the entire front bench, put them in the back, put the backbench in the front. Then maybe we'll have some semblance of sanity over there, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly, they don't know what they're doing. It's almost bizarre what this front bench is doing, Mr. Speaker. So we turn around and we ask ourselves as an official opposition, how in the heck, how in the heck would those guys mess up all that great opportunity left to them by the NDP and the people of Saskatchewan?

Well, Mr. Speaker, they found a way. They found a way to squander that two a half billion dollars left in the bank. They have found a way to discourage people from moving to Saskatchewan. And now, and now they're broke. And now they're broke, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan understand they're in . . . As much as the Minister of Finance stands up and, you know, it's not every day you see the Minister of Finance stand up and turn red with embarrassment, Mr. Speaker, on how he's bungling the finances of the province. But now we know why that they're trying to sell Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker. Because they're broke. Because they're absolutely broke, Mr. Speaker. And that's a sad reality.

And the people of Saskatchewan stand up and they say, oh my goodness, now they're selling assets. They're selling assets to cover some of their mismanagement. And I dare anybody, I dare anybody over there to complain that they're not broke, Mr. Speaker. Not one word from opposite. You know why, Mr. Speaker? Because how do you justify selling a Crown corporation that's making money for you if you're not broke? So they say, oh we're not broke. Well don't sell it. Well we're broke. Well why don't you say you're broke instead of telling everybody you have this balanced budget and then you talk about this growth plan?

We figured it out, Mr. Speaker. That's why they're not fixing roads. That's why they're shutting down Valley View with no plan in place. That's why they're not building a second bridge. That's why they're not doing anything to stimulate the forestry sector, Mr. Speaker. That's why they're firing people left, right, and centre. They're cutting programs, Mr. Speaker. Their highways plan that they brag about is in shambles.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are going to quickly realize that the Sask Party messed up a great opportunity. And half their backbench is sitting on their hands, not saying a word to defend their constituents, and they should not forget that's who brought them to the dance was the constituents of each of their particular ridings, Mr. Speaker. And they sit here and sit on their hands while great damage is being done to our economy and great damage is being done to their relevant constituencies.

So I think it's really important. I think it's really important that I instruct the caucus of the Sask Party to stand up, to get up and fight back on Bill 69 to privatize and sell off Information Services Corporation. Stand up and stand up and fight for what you think is right. Don't sit on your hands and hope that the front bench have it figured out because they don't have it figured it out. They don't have it figured out.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think the most important thing is that they yell and they laugh in the background right now, but why don't they yell and speak loudly in caucus or in cabinet, Mr. Speaker? Why are they loud in the Assembly, but they're pretty quiet, you can almost hear a pin drop in their caucus meetings? Because they're told to be quiet, told about the party line, and just talk about this so-called growth plan. And we'll get through this. We'll get through this.

I can tell them right now, Mr. Speaker, if that's the attitude they take, there'll be a lot of one-term wonders over there, one-term wonders, Mr. Speaker, because the people of Saskatchewan don't want to see somebody come here to sit on their hands and get up every six weeks to make a member's statement. They want to see contribution. They want to see contribution. They want you to protect their ideals, the people of Saskatchewan's ideals. They want you to participate in this great hall of democracy, not simply follow a song sheet.

And that's the bottom line, Mr. Speaker. I think that the backbench over there need to stand up and tell the people of Saskatchewan why they haven't spoken up, why they're so glad to get to this Assembly and that's it. If their aspiration is they come to this Assembly and sit here and be part of the Assembly and that's it, Mr. Speaker, then not only they fool themselves, but they fool their constituency as well. Because you ought to come here and you ought to defend the people that send you here, first of all, and you ought to be able to defend their qualities and their values that the people send you here for. And you ought to stand up and speak your mind instead of being told what to say, when to say, and how to say it, Mr. Speaker. That's not team, that's not teamwork. That's not teamwork. That's manipulation, Mr. Speaker.

Within the NDP, we've had our arguments in caucus. There's been some great debates and great fights. I can tell the people of Saskatchewan, from my experience, there's been some great debates and great fights, Mr. Speaker. And there's been some solid arguments and there's been some concessions. There has been some build-out of other values that were incorporated in a plan that didn't have them at first. But that debate and that argument took place in our caucus, Mr. Speaker, and we had those debates. And sometimes you won and sometimes you lost and sometimes you agreed and sometimes you didn't agree, but the NDP didn't squander the rights of anybody to express their free opinion on how certain things operate within the government. Nobody squandered the right to speak freely at some of these meetings, Mr. Speaker.

And I can see from the backbench today, the Sask Party, that all evidence are showing that they're simply standing, they're simply sitting on their hands, hoping that the people of Saskatchewan will forget about this selling of Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker. They have two and a half years to go before the next election. And, Mr. Speaker, people

won't forget. People will not forget this at all. They will not forget the war that they've organized against our working men and women, Mr. Speaker. They won't forget about the debt that they're going to put this province in. And they won't forget about the P3s that they're touting as the solution to paying off some of the bills that our grandchildren have to pay off. We don't see the bills today, but we'll see them down the road, Mr. Speaker, and we've seen that kind of activity happening by the former Conservative government.

The former Conservative government under Grant Devine, of whose bills we're still paying today, 2012, Mr. Speaker, 2012, we're still paying some of those debts, and that's exactly what the people across the way want to do. They want to make sure that Saskatchewan's saddled with debts for the next 20, 30, 40 years, Mr. Speaker, and that's a crying shame for a party that people trusted would bring their values, would bring their principles, would bring their beliefs here, and to make sure that they didn't sell our Crowns. They manage their money well and they kept the economy going, Mr. Speaker. A big fat F on all three fronts for the Sask Party and the Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. People are absolutely upset over this. They don't like it. And the Sask Party's 49 members over there that didn't get the memo, that didn't get the memo that the people of Saskatchewan didn't want our Crown corporations privatized, they didn't get the memo, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan don't like selling off assets that generate revenues for us. They don't like selling off assets to corporations that live halfway across the world or in Eastern Canada or somewhere in the States, where we start paying those bills and sending that money out of the country or out of province, Mr. Speaker.

We see evidence of that with Northland's power deal in North Battleford. SaskPower could've built their own plants. But what did the Sask Party do, Mr. Speaker? They got a company out of Eastern Canada to come along and build a power station here in North Battleford, and we'll guarantee you the same price for your gas rates for the next 20 years.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? Guess who's paying those rates with no guarantees — the people of Saskatchewan, the power customers of the North Battleford and Saskatchewan areas, Mr. Speaker. They're the ones that are going to pay the piper. And guess what? The Sask Party didn't give them no guarantees on those rates.

So the minister stands up and talks about Bill 69 and says, we're going to talk to them about guaranteeing the rates, the Information Services Corporation. I say to him, good luck because that ain't on. That ain't on at all, because as soon as you give away ownership of a certain Crown corporation, whether it's SaskPower or ISC, you do not control what the new owners do with that resource or with that company. They will tell you what rates they're going to charge.

And, Mr. Speaker, everyone knows, everyone knows that if you have a company and you own it, you can set the rates exactly how you want them. And who's going to stop you? It ain't going to be the Sask Party. They're not going to stand up for the people of Saskatchewan because they're so bent on their ideology to sell anything that generates revenues, to give it away, Mr. Speaker.

And in the future, what is Saskatchewan left with? With nothing. How could we rebuild? How could we rebuild our province if we do have a financial mess that's created by the Sask Party in the future, if we don't have assets — if we don't have Information Services Corporation generating millions of dollars each year or if you don't have SLGA generating half a billion dollars a year or if you don't have working people paying taxes in their communities or buying goods in the community like the working men and women of our province?

What the Sask Party's doing is handcuffing the people of Saskatchewan for years to come through things like the P3 partnership concepts, Mr. Speaker. The list goes on as to what they're doing wrong. And the people of Saskatchewan, I'm urging them to stand up and tell the Sask Party to get it right or get out of office.

That, I think, is the two most important lessons that they ought to learn, Mr. Speaker, because there's no question in my mind, they know what they're doing wrong.

And the big question on our side is, why aren't the backbench speaking up and telling the Premier and his front cabinet colleagues, why in the heck are you doing this or for what reason? What can I tell my constituents in P.A. or Melfort or Moose Jaw or Weyburn, what can I tell them to justify why we're selling this Crown? What's the logical answer? I can't say we're broke because that goes against our Minister of Finance's plan that says we have a balanced budget. We know it's not balanced. We know it's not balanced, Mr. Speaker. Does he say, do they say, well we're using the money to build a bridge in Prince Albert? He's not building no bridge in Prince Albert. So the question you got to ask is why are you selling this asset? Why are you selling this asset?

And I'll tell you, when the NDP rebuilt the province . . . Because everybody knows the history of Grant Devine and the Conservatives. There are a lot of conservatives over there, Mr. Speaker. They're pretty quiet now. They say, oh we're not conservatives; we're Sask Party. Okay, whatever — that's what I say to them. The bottom line is that when Saskatchewan had to be rebuilt, the people of Saskatchewan took a lot of sacrifices. Yes, the NDP were in charge. And yes, the NDP had to make some very tough choices, very tough choices to slay the debt and the deficit left behind by the Conservatives over there. Okay, and a lot of them are pretty quiet now, Mr. Speaker. They're pretty quiet.

And, Mr. Speaker, when you're paying 2 or \$3 million a day, between 2 and \$3 million a day just to pay your interest and make a payment on your debt, that's what the NDP had to do. Mr. Speaker, 2 to \$3 million every single day. Mr. Speaker, every single day of the year — Christmas time, even Halloween — every single day we paid 2 to \$3 million in debt or interest, Mr. Speaker, left behind by the conservatives.

But you know the relevant point I'm trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that a lot of young people don't know that because many of them weren't born at that time, and now they're beginning to look and research the history. But the problem was, when the NDP took over, that huge, that huge hole, that huge hole of debt and interest, debt and interest. I can tell you that one of the tools that they used, one of the tools that they

used to bring back Saskatchewan from the brink of bankruptcy, Mr. Speaker, was they used the Crown corporations to try and get some of the revenues back — SLGA, SaskPower, SaskTel, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

They had to revamp absolutely every asset that they had to generate revenues to pay down the debt left by the Conservatives across the way, Mr. Speaker. And they had no choice. They had to tax the people more and they had to generate revenues through the Crowns.

[15:15]

Now what happens now, Mr. Speaker? What happens now, if we move forward within the next three to five to seven years and Saskatchewan's facing the same predicament that we have to find ways to generate revenues? The only source that we could go to, at the rate that the Saskatchewan Party is selling our Crowns, is they tax the people more because you don't have those assets that generate revenues such as Information Services Corporation. We don't have those assets anymore that could generate revenues to repay debt that may be left behind or to repay a P3 note, Mr. Speaker, or to repay some other bill that the Sask Party's left the people of Saskatchewan. Well we don't have these assets out there to help us pay down some of their bills.

So what happens is they're taking care of Saskatchewan by really handcuffing the future of Saskatchewan by selling these profitable Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And the answer is, for what? For what reason? For what reason are they selling our Crowns? Whether it's a Northlands Power deal in North Battleford or whether it's this Information Services Corporation today or some of the liquor outlets, as I mentioned at the outset, for what reasons, Mr. Speaker, are they selling these Crowns? I cannot understand nor can the people of Saskatchewan nor our entire caucus can understand why are you doing this?

And the worst part of this all, Mr. Speaker, is the backbenchers who are new. They're rookies. They're fresh to this place. My message to them is, you've got to learn to speak up. You've got to learn to speak up, otherwise you don't speak up and you don't bring your values here, then you're not going to get that bridge in P.A. You're not going to have that process in place for Valley View residents. You're not going to have support for your rural Saskatchewan. You're not going to have the ability to defend some of the decisions of the government because you don't know what's going on and what you're doing here.

So my argument, you need to speak up and speak out and speak loud. And speak loud and tell the people in the front bench, you're making a mistake. Don't sell our Crowns. Don't sell our Crowns. That's what the people of Saskatchewan are saying — don't sell the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And that's the important message, Mr. Speaker, is that some people over there just don't get it, just don't get it.

And when you start seeing the debt of Saskatchewan moving forward, the debt of Saskatchewan moving forward, Mr. Speaker, and getting bigger and bigger and we have less assets in the future to deal with these problems, Mr. Speaker, I want every one of those Saskatchewan Party members to stand up when they're quite older than now and say, oh yeah, I was part

of that. Mr. Speaker, they won't stand up. They'd be embarrassed to admit that, Mr. Speaker. So don't . . . Save yourself the embarrassment in your old age by speaking up today that some of these, some of these problems are very wrong. Some of these problems that we're creating are very wrong for the future. They're wrong for us. They're wrong for my family. They're wrong for my area, Mr. Speaker.

And that's the problem that the people of Saskatchewan, just asking the Sask Party to do is to admit that they made a mistake. And the problem: the people of Saskatchewan are not getting that honesty in terms of admitting that there's a huge mistake.

Mr. Speaker, where is the push coming from from the Sask Party government to sell Information Services Corporation? We asked why? We don't have an answer. Why are you selling it?

Now the second point I want to make is who is actually asking for the sale of Information Services Corporation? Who is it? Is it the front bench or is it one of your corporate buddies in the backroom somewhere you don't even know where they exist? Are they asking to buy this? Is there a buyer already lined up? Well I bet if you had interviewed any of the backbenchers they'd say, well we don't know but if we sell this asset it'll go down towards a bridge in P.A. Well that ain't going to happen. You know, so the question I've got to ask is, why are you selling it and who is pushing the agenda to sell this Information Services Corporation? Can you give me a name or a couple of names of who is actually selling this?

Now the minister is saying, well, I'm selling it. The Minister of Highways is saying, I'm selling it. Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that in reality somebody's pushing their buttons from far away to try and get as many of our Crown corporations under private ownership as possible. And that's why I say today, who is asking, who is asking to sell this? I know it's not the backbench.

You remember this, Mr. Speaker? It's not the backbench, it's not the backbench, Mr. Speaker. They don't know who is actually advocating for the sale of this. And that's the point that I would raise too, Mr. Speaker, is that in the bottom line is that they don't know why they're selling it and who wants to buy it. And that's the problem, Mr. Speaker. That's the huge problem.

Now the member from — I don't know what area he's from — speaking about Saskoil, Mr. Speaker. You know when we talked about Saskoil . . . I don't know, I think he worked for one of our Crown corporations. Now the problem we had is that when he came to work for, I think it was SaskPower, now when he came to work for SaskPower we were probably paying him triple figures. I don't want to take a guess because I don't want to be totally wrong, but we were probably paying him triple figures to get him back here. So once he came back here, then he decided to run for the Sask Party. So not only does he now take the benefits of the Crown by getting a salary from the Crown, a triple-figure salary from the Crown, then he jumps into politics. And now he's part of the government that wants to sell the Crown. Now, Mr. Speaker, what the heck is all that about?

How could you use the Crown to get back to Saskatchewan,

join politics, and then try and sell the Crown? Because we know, we know that you're not going to be . . . your long-term interest isn't the benefit of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, because I can almost guarantee you that half of them will head out of province as soon as they lose the next election, Mr. Speaker. They're going to go back to their comfort zone, wherever they come from. And the most important thing is that we stop them from doing as much damage to the province as they want to because, Mr. Speaker, they broke us in the '90s, Mr. Speaker, and some of them come back to finish off the job. Some had come out to finish off the job.

Why, Mr. Speaker? I just don't know. But all the evidence and all the activity would suggest as such, Mr. Speaker. And that's why Information Services Corporation . . . Our caucus, our group, our group of nine people are going to stand up for the people of Saskatchewan. We're going to hold the Sask Party to account, and we're going to take on the Sask Party on the record when it comes to the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

And don't worry about it. They can laugh at it now because they've got 49 members. Don't worry about it, Mr. Speaker. They ain't going to hold those numbers. We know that. But this is one mistake, this is one mistake that they know they've made. In the pit of their stomach and in their hearts, they know they made a mistake on this one. And half the backbench ought to stand up and say, yes, we made a mistake. We made a big mistake on this one because that's not what the people of Saskatchewan wanted.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's going to be a lot more fights on this front. And I know Christmas is coming, but we've got a session this spring. There's going to be three months to be able to bring groups in and talk to people and keep the pressure on these guys.

And we're really curious right now, the opposition is, is who are the potential buyers? We're going to pay a lot of attention to who the potential buyers are of Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker. We're going to see which one of their friends get this corporation. And it's a great amount of money, Mr. Speaker, that they generate, and we're going to find out, we're going to find out, Mr. Speaker, we're going to find out where the money goes after they sold it. And then once we find who the buyer is, once we find who the buyer is, then, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to tell the people of Saskatchewan these are the people that push the buttons in the background to get the Information Services Corporation in their own private hands.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned very quickly the history of how the Saskatchewan Party actually stopped the debt from building, and they also started paying down debt. The Sask Party complain about 16 years, and we retort right back that it took us 14 of the 16 years to clean up your last mess. It took us 14 of the 16 years to clean up that conservative mess left by those guys.

So then they twist around and now they say, oh, you left us with the infrastructure deficit. Well guess what, you guys? You have no money because you have a financial crisis and a financial debt load of fifteen and a half billion dollars left by the conservatives. Guess what? We can't fix our roads. And if you sold the Highways equipment to your buddies, guess what?

We don't have Highways equipment to fix the roads. And if you squandered every bit of cash we had, guess what? We can't repair water and sewer projects for some of these communities. So your infrastructure argument simply doesn't work because the people of Saskatchewan know that that infrastructure challenge was created by the fact that we had a financial mess left to us by the conservatives across the way, Mr. Speaker. And that is the history lesson, very quickly, to the people of Saskatchewan.

But you know, I watch very carefully what they do and say, Mr. Speaker. And the people of Saskatchewan, they insult, the Sask Party insults the people of Saskatchewan's intelligence because people in Saskatchewan know. They know two things. They know about the Grant Devine problem that we had and we're still paying for today. And they know the economy that's building, what's going to happen. And the Sask Party had absolutely nothing to do with it, and they'll continue moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

We all had a collective laugh here one day when the member from Kindersley, the minister for industry, when he said there was 70,000 people waiting at the borders of Saskatchewan, that as soon as we went, they all come flooding in. You know, and we sat in the caucus, and we couldn't believe he said that. I said, my goodness, you guys actually believe that?

So that's why I go back to my point to the backbench: don't listen to your front bench. My goodness, this guy's . . . They're not rocket scientists, you know; they're politicians, Mr. Speaker. They are people that are going to do a thing that'll help their friends, so that whole notion is that you've got to come here and you've got to speak up. You've got to speak up.

I don't want to be able to say . . . And I stand here today and tell some of these backbenchers, if you want to be a one-term wonder, continue doing what you're doing. Sit on your hands. Sit on your hands, sit on your hands and hope it gets better. Or you can stand up, or you can stand up and be proud how you got here and all the commitments you made to your constituents back home.

And the values you bought there, they're not for sale. They're not for negotiations. You're going to stand close, you want to stand solid, and you're going to tell them, you don't want to sell Information Services Corporation. You don't want to weaken our Crown corporations like SaskPower under the Northland Power deal. And, Mr. Speaker, there's tons of other examples that we would share with you today, Mr. Speaker, and don't forget that there are people watching very, very, very closely on the future of our Crowns.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's an organization called Save Our Saskatchewan Crowns. They have a website and I'm going to get that website for people to go onto the website of this group that's organizing the information of what the Sask Party's doing to hurt our Crown corporations. And I'm going to ask one of my colleagues to get that website. And I'm going to ask people to go on that website and see exactly what the Sask Party and the Premier is doing.

And what's going to happen, Mr. Speaker? They're going to get a bunch of billboards. They're going to get a bunch of

billboards. They'll put all these billboards all over the place, and the billboards are not going to say why we sold it or who's going to get it and where's the money going. They're going to say, oh, we want to continue building for the future. You know, and people of Saskatchewan are saying, enough with the billboards. We actually took a count between here and Blaine Lake. There's about 30 billboards. And if you put them end to end, we figure you could probably put those billboards on some of the roads, on some of the roads, and you'd actually have smoother roads, Mr. Speaker. But instead of spending money on your billboards, you should actually spend it on actual highways. If you insist on bragging about the money you have spent in highways, then maybe you should take those billboards off the sign, lay them flat on the road surface, and maybe have some semblance of a highway. But all we see, Mr. Speaker, off these guys is spin, billboards, and confusing messages to the public. And that's exactly what they want the public to be — confused as their backbench, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why I say today on this particular bill, the people of Saskatchewan are pretty, pretty upset at the fact that they are starting this first step towards privatizing a Crown corporation. They are not happy at all. They are not happy at all, and people are going to start expressing that opinion and expressing that opinion by way of votes very soon, Mr. Speaker. Because we know that their numbers of 49 that they cannot sustain and that those people sitting in the backbench today, that if ever comes a day where you look at the history of your role and you didn't speak up, you didn't speak up, you allowed it to happen, then I wish you have at least one sleepless night. Because I'm encouraging you today to go home with your conscience, go home with your heart and your beliefs intact and stand up and say to your front bench, we don't think that's a good idea to start selling our Crown corporations.

And you'd think that this Information Services Corporation is a corporation that's not making money. It's making money, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to share, I want to share with the people of Saskatchewan. There is a site, soscrowns.ca. So if you want to go onto Crowns to make sure, to make sure exactly what's going on with the Crown corporations . . . Don't take our word for it, Mr. Speaker. Don't take our word for it. Go to this organization's website and see exactly what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. So again to the people of Saskatchewan: soscrowns.ca. Go on their website and you'll see evidence galore of how the Sask Party's privatizing the Crown. And here once again we have another example of what they're doing.

[15:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the things that I want to point out to people is that during the last campaign, the minister alluded to section 44 of their booklet or the page, page 44. And we looked at it, and it didn't say anything. So he thought, the minister thought he was going to be a rather dashing minister and get up and say, look on page 44, and then he sat down. Well we looked at page 44, and it didn't say anything, like the rest of the document didn't say anything, Mr. Speaker. So where is it on page 44 that said you weren't going to sell the Crowns, or you were going to sell them? That was the argument. Well nothing on page 44 indicated that in any way,

Mr. Speaker. So then we looked through that book, and then we found one part where they say and I want to point out: “The Saskatchewan Party would divest non-core Crown investments, such as shares in meat packing plants, hog barns, movie company, and potato businesses, with all proceeds used to pay down the provincial debt.” That was in their booklet.

So we’re trying to see where was Information Services Corporation? Was it a meat packing plant? No, it wasn’t that. Was it a hog barn? No, there’s a lot of manure around, but . . . [inaudible] . . . a hog barn. Was it a movie company? No, it wasn’t a movie company. Was it a potato business? I don’t think it grew potatoes. So, Mr. Speaker, where in this category would we put Information Services Corporation as a non-core Crown entity?

So, Mr. Speaker, you see as admission of their own document that they never told the people of Saskatchewan that. They absolutely betrayed the trust of the people of Saskatchewan when they were told that you will not sell the Crowns. You will not sell the Crowns.

And what I think happened, Mr. Speaker, is somebody along the line, and I don’t think it’s anybody in the backbench or anybody in cabinet, they told one of their . . . One of their connections told them, why don’t you guys put it up for sale and we’ll buy it. You know, and then all of a sudden this thing comes forward. And the poor backbench sitting there saying, what happened here? What’s going on? Well we’re going to sell Information Services Corporation. And the poor backbench sits there saying, well, you know, is that good for us or what?

And the problem is, Mr. Speaker, is they never took the time, they never took the time to fill their backbench with the proper information and give their backbench the opportunity to vote nay or yea in favour of this. This came from three or four of their front bench and everybody in the backbench had no choice but to follow. And I say shame on that process, Mr. Speaker. I say shame on that process. That backbench has got to stand up, has got to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and they’ve got to tell the front bench, you guys ought to be a bit more respectful to us and our values and what we represent and what you told the people of Saskatchewan before the last election. That’s what you got to represent to your front bench, Mr. Speaker.

So somewhere along the line somebody wanted Information Services Corporation, one of their buddies. I don’t know who. But we’ll find out as the sale proceeds, Mr. Speaker. It’ll become evident as soon as the sale proceeds, Mr. Speaker. So we’re going to pay very close attention to that process and that file.

And I’ll say today again, Mr. Speaker, the backbench, I’ll tell you right now, I wouldn’t want your job because you simply cannot, you simply could not defend this nor could you explain it because you’re never given the information, and you weren’t given the mandate by the people that sent you here to sell it. So you’re in a tough spot — and, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective, we completely understand what you’re going through — but don’t say a word, otherwise you’ll be banished to the sideline and then you’ll never, ever have the opportunity to be in cabinet. But a news flash — some of you will never have the opportunity to be in cabinet, period. So I think you

should stand up, stand up and talk and speak on behalf of your constituents and defend against the sale, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you look at the process that’s unfolding here, this is what really upset a lot of people as well. When the Sask Party insider or a supporter of theirs tweeted that the legislation was coming forward, that the legislation to sell Information Services Corporation was going to be proposed at the end of the week, Mr. Speaker, how did that person get that information? And yet and yet we come along here . . . They come along here and we are told, you cannot talk about that because we’re going to give you information that’s embargoed.

So as legislators, Mr. Speaker, we sit here and we say, well if information is given to us in a process that we have to respect, it’s embargoed till after . . . Well, what time are we going to do this? It’s going to be after question period. Well that doesn’t give us any time to ask questions on the process. So you put it after question period, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to the morning where we’d have ample opportunity to bring forward questions that day. But, Mr. Speaker, we simply followed what we think is important in the process here, and we followed the rule. And the rule is if you get embargoed information, then you don’t share it. You don’t speak about it. And above all else, you don’t tweet about it. So we followed that process.

But guess what, Mr. Speaker? One of their insiders, one of their party supporters tweeted that this thing was coming forward. He shared with the world that this legislation was coming forward. The media didn’t know about it. We didn’t know about it. And I can guarantee you 99 per cent of the people of Saskatchewan didn’t know about it until that person tweeted. Now how did that person get that information, Mr. Speaker? How did he get that information? Well I’ll tell you how he got that information: he was told by other people in there. And I can almost guarantee you, I can almost guarantee you that the Information Services Corporation information was shared with that insider that tweeted the information before the backbench, Mr. Speaker. So I think there’s some significant problems over there, Mr. Speaker, with the lack of communication, the lack of respect to their backbench.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I look at all these different issues that are facing Saskatchewan people. And again about the only reference they made to any Crown corporation that they wanted to sell, they said they would divest non-core Crown investments such as shares in meat packing plants, and hog barns, movie companies, and potato businesses with all proceeds used to pay down the provincial debt. And it didn’t say anything about Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker. It didn’t say nothing about that, Mr. Speaker, at all.

So when I sit here and I look at page 44 as the minister alluded to, you couldn’t see nothing there — more confusing than ever. And about the only reference that we can see from the Sask Party booklet, last election, was that section there. But these guys . . . I don’t think Information Services Corporation sells potatoes. They’re not in the movie business. They don’t get involved with the hog barns. So where does it fit in the scheme of things?

So, Mr. Speaker, there’s a lot of things that are at play here, and there’s a lot of emotions out there. And the people of

Saskatchewan are not going to be happy with this. And I urge all them people that are listening to go on soscrowns.ca and, Mr. Speaker, the acronym simply means Save Our Saskatchewan Crowns. So soscrowns.ca and you will find evidence of how the Sask Party by stealth has been hiding a lot of their privatization agenda from the people of Saskatchewan, whether it's simple things like the 411 services in SaskTel or major things like investment services, or Information Services Corporation. They are doing this on a regular, consistent basis.

Because, Mr. Speaker, the people over there on the backbench simply are not speaking up. You know, and the sad reality is, is that they're being taken advantage of. Because if you're a first-time MLA, you want to be part of the team. You want to prove your value as an MLA. You want to prove your value as a team member. But boy, I'll tell you, after a few of these shenanigans, you begin to wonder, are you a part of their team? Because obviously you don't count when it comes to sharing information and confidential information. Obviously your opinion on the Crowns don't count. So the question starts creeping in your mind as a backbencher: if my role is to defend everything that these guys are doing, then at the very least I should be an integral part of the decision-making process and that I should actually have a yea or nay say on whether I want some of these issues moving forward.

And I can almost guarantee you that 90 per cent of the backbench didn't even know this was happening, Mr. Speaker. And now they've got to go back home, and they've got to tell their constituents why they're doing this to an asset that generates revenues, to a process that they said they wouldn't do, and to the benefits as to where those benefits are going. And that's a tough one, Mr. Speaker. We know. We know it's a tough one. Because how did they decide who's going to buy it, for how much, and where does the money go? And I can almost guarantee it's not going to go to the bridge in Prince Albert because those members have been quiet long enough, and I doubt that if they spoke up now, if anybody will listen, Mr. Speaker.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, is that if it's not going to go to the Moose Jaw Valley View transition process, Mr. Speaker, because those members from Moose Jaw have sat on their hands long enough and are just content to be quiet, happy backbenchers, Mr. Speaker. And it's not going towards working on some of the roads for some of the constituents out there, like SARM wanted, Mr. Speaker, because half the backbenchers are content to sit on their hands and not say or do anything.

And I say to them that you should stand up. You should stand up, and you should speak out because if you keep doing this on something as important as the future of our Crown corporations, your future in politics will be limited. Because they have already got you under control, and they've also got you exactly where they want you — a little, small part of their team that they'll engage now and then, that they will engage now and then, and not full engagement but they'll engage now and then. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the sad reality that I see today.

And in something as fundamental, something as fundamental as protecting the Crown corporations, I think, I think that every single Sask Party member should have had the opportunity to

vote on whether they wanted to see this happening or not. And furthermore, I think they would have agreed that it should be a public process. It should be a public process, Mr. Speaker, that they should have asked the public, what do you think of this? And then the public would have given the information. But they were too arrogant to even ask the public for their input, Mr. Speaker.

So it falls upon us as the official opposition to expose the Sask Party for the betraying of the people's trust on this file because it's exactly what they've done. They betrayed the people of Saskatchewan's trust when they entrusted them to take care of our Crowns. They entrusted them to take care of our Crowns, Mr. Speaker, and they simply failed miserably at that. And not only did they fail miserably, they actually advocated for the selling of more of our Crowns. And that's the sad reality today, Mr. Speaker. That is the sad reality today. And the unfortunate thing is half the backbenchers are still sitting around on their hands wondering what happened and what do we say and where do we go from here.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the reasons why, as opposition, we know we've got to stand up and talk to the people of Saskatchewan and explain how they're doing the damage to our Crowns. And this is another example, another nail in the coffin of Saskatchewan Crowns, another nail in the coffin of our Saskatchewan Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And yet people out there are still not aware of what the Sask Party is doing. But I can tell you that as we proceed down the path of this particular bill, we're going to let people know. We're going to let people know, Mr. Speaker. We're going to absolutely let them know.

And I think the most important thing is that you sit here and listen to some of their catcalls, Mr. Speaker. There's going to be catcalls in their own communities. Don't worry, we see people coming forward. We see people coming forward that are going to start telling the Sask Party exactly what they think of their government, exactly what they think their actions are on the Crown front, Mr. Speaker.

So I think there's an important lesson to learn here, Mr. Speaker, that if you look at the process that the Sask Party does, and I look at this from the perspective of sitting here for a bit, is that on the financial perspective when a minister said that some of his projections were off, well they blame the banks. They say the banks predicted this and that's why we're in this predicament. And then he turns around today and says, oh the banks said this is a good idea to sell investment services or Information Services Corporation.

Well how could you blame the banks for your financial mismanagement and then praise the banks for your effort to try and sell the Crown? You can't do one without the other, Mr. Speaker. You got to be able to decide whether you're going to qualify the banks or condemn the banks when they hurt you on one front. And that's why I go, Mr. Speaker, to my argument is, why are you using the banks to justify the sale of ISC? At the same time you criticize them and condemn them for being wrong on their predictions for your budget now is out of whack.

So, Mr. Speaker, you can't do both. You can't do both. And we've seen the Finance minister do that on numerous occasions. There's not one person across the front bench there

across the way that'll say, yes it was our fault. Not one Sask Party guy's going to say, yes we made the mistake. Instead, Mr. Speaker, they blame the banks. They blame the universities. They blame some of the corporations out there. They blame some of the local leadership on some of these fronts. They blame absolutely everybody. And then if they really get stuck for an answer, they turn around and they blame the NDP. That's exactly what they do, Mr. Speaker.

And then all of a sudden we see they start sparking up again and they start clapping a bit louder. And to me, I sit there and say, oh these guys had better grow up pretty soon and start acting like a government. Because you can't survive on blaming other people for your inability to govern. Mr. Speaker. You simply cannot survive that long blaming other people on your inability to govern. And when you start doing things that betray the trust of the people of Saskatchewan, like selling a really important Crown corporation, Mr. Speaker, that's when you know; that's exactly when you know that not only these guys are broke, but they're willing to sell anything to stay in power. And that's why, on this side of the Assembly, we keep telling people there's a wall-to-wall sale.

And I had a chance to watch a commercial on TV and I kind of found that absolutely amazing. There was so many similarities, Mr. Speaker. I sit here and I listen to how they justify selling Crowns and then I watched this. I think it was a carpet advertisement, and the guy said, wall-to-wall to sale on everything in the store, no money down, don't pay for months event. And then you come here and you listen to some of their P3 answers or their financial answers or justifying why they're selling our Crowns. It's nothing but a slick sales job that the people of Saskatchewan will see right through, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

So we sit down and we say, yes, no money down. And that's sort of when I started calling them the no money down, wall-to-wall, don't pay a cent event party, Mr. Speaker, because that's exactly what they're doing. They're selling the people of Saskatchewan short. They're selling the people of Saskatchewan short, and they're selling our Crowns at will — for what? For what purposes? And who wants the Crowns? Those are the two questions that fundamentally we still have not been able to figure out: for what reason are you selling them, and who you're selling them to, Mr. Speaker.

And we're going to find that information out, and then we can see whether the member from Melfort's willing to stand up and chirp from his chair once he finds out the connection. Then we're going to see whether the member from Melfort can stand up and say, yes, we got something from that sale and this is what we got, Mr. Speaker. Or I want to see if the member from Melfort will chirp up again and say, well we're broke now, but we don't have any ways of generating new revenues because we sold all our Crowns. And, Mr. Speaker, the member from Melfort will be long gone from this Assembly before that day comes to answer those questions, and that's exactly what he's counting on. So he's allowed to chirp today because he's not going to be around, because he's not going to be around to pay the price down the road, Mr. Speaker. And I understand that and I expect that of him, Mr. Speaker, because once a Tory, always a Tory, Mr. Speaker.

I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, that we have a lot, a lot to say on this bill. This bill in many ways, in many ways reinvigorated the NDP. People don't realize across the way that this particular Bill 69 was actually a godsend to us because we've been saying this to the media all the time. We've been saying to the media that these guys are privatizing our Crowns by stealth, and the media just wasn't buying it and neither was the people of Saskatchewan.

But now as we continue down this path, we're seeing that they are doing that. And now we're seeing, okay, here's exhibit A. Here's exhibit B, and here's exhibit C. And now we're all . . . we've got about 10 exhibits in front of the people of Saskatchewan to prove our case, to prove our case that the Sask Party is selling the Crowns. And their short-term gain, their short-term gain's about all they're after, Mr. Speaker, and that's what makes them a really weak government. Like the member from Melfort there, his short-term gain is, what do I care what happens 8, 10 years from now? I just want to do what's important right now.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the point that I would make is the long-term pain created by that party and by those backbench members are something that the people of Saskatchewan have fixed up in the past. And I would warn them now today to stop these guys so that we don't have to fix up any more of their financial messes in the future, Mr. Speaker. We can see it as plain as day because we've been there, done that, in the sense of seeing how these guys have really hurt, hurt the Saskatchewan people, hurt the Saskatchewan economy for years to come. And this whole notion of we created this economy; we got all the people moving here. The big message to you guys is, you inherited all that. The conservatives didn't build any of that. You inherited all that. And all we asked you is one simple thing: don't mess it up. That's all we asked the member from Melfort, the member from Moose Jaw. Don't mess it up because it's really important to keep it going.

We left you the money. We left you the booming economy. We left you the population growth. We left you optimism. We left you hope. And we said one simple thing that the NDP asked of the Sask Party: please don't mess it up. One simple message. One simple message.

So what did they do? They put a bunch of billboards all over the place instead of building highways. They put a bunch of radio ads instead of managing the economy right. And, Mr. Speaker, they've become so good at spin that they're blaming the banks for their mismanagement. The banks don't manage. The Minister of Finance manages the finances, not some bank manager. So, Mr. Speaker, that's all we asked.

They sit here and they chirp from their chairs, from their right wing chairs, saying, oh everything's going good because we built this. The bottom line is you didn't build it. You didn't build it, you guys. Get the message. You didn't build it; you inherited it. You inherited money. You inherited a population growth. You inherited a lot of good things. And all we asked is don't mess it up. That's all we asked. Don't mess it up.

But, Mr. Speaker, what are they doing now? They're messing it up. They're selling the Crowns. They're now going into deficit. They're not fixing roads, and they're messing with our

universities, and the list goes on. And you know, all they've got to do is just one simple thing. One simple thing is don't mess it up. That's all we asked them to do.

Yes, you know, the NDP needed a break. We got our break, Mr. Speaker, after 16 years of building, 16 years of working, 16 years of slaying that deficit, 16 years of doing what we can given the resources that we had. And the people of Saskatchewan decided the NDP needed to have a break. And the NDP will take their break, Mr. Speaker. The NDP will take their break, but they'll be back in full force, Mr. Speaker. They'll be back in full force in due time and they'll have the smart growth technology. And then I'm going to see the chirps from across the way. It'll be probably a couple little birds over there chirping. That'll be about what's left of the Sask Party by the time we're done with them, Mr. Speaker.

What's important, what's important, Mr. Speaker, is that the next round, when the NDP don't have this huge deficit to have hanging over their heads, and then, Mr. Speaker, then we can show the people of Saskatchewan the next phase of having a good NDP government, and that's to make sure that there's a smart growth strategy to everything we're doing. And part of that smart growth and part of that insurance for the future is to protect the Crowns, to protect the Crowns like no other party can. Only the NDP can protect the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, not the Sask Party.

So when I sit here, when I sit here and I say to myself, all they said they were going to do, they were going to get rid of their shares in meat packing plants . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's not a meat packing plant? It's not. Is it a hog barn? Is it a movie company, or is it a potato business? No. I don't think Information Services Corporation fits in any of those categories, Mr. Speaker.

Now maybe Information Services Corporation may have plotted out a potato field, maybe somewhere. Maybe that's the connection. Maybe that's the connection, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think about that. Or maybe they may have a process that's titled to a hog barn. That might be the connection there, Mr. Speaker. Heaven forbid.

I hope SaskPower didn't provide power to any of these entities or they might sell SaskPower because they're connected to these entities. You just never know, Mr. Speaker, how the Sask Party thinks. So soscrows.ca, there's some great information on that website about what these guys are doing. It's a great exposé, Mr. Speaker. I think it's really important that the people of Saskatchewan go on it.

And let's look at another example, SaskTel. SaskTel's another example, Mr. Speaker, where they said they were going to take 8,000 customers from rural Saskatchewan, get them off this broadband service where you are able to access the Internet, wireless Internet service. And they said, well we couldn't get the frequencies from Industry Canada. We lost those frequencies is what SaskTel, well the minister, said at the time.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they lost them because they didn't defend them. They didn't defend those frequencies that SaskTel used so people are able to access the Internet, the wireless Internet service. And they're going to in fact impact 8,000 rural people

— 8,000 customers were what was at risk. And what did the minister do? Well he said, Industry Canada didn't help us out. Well there he goes again. He blames Industry Canada for their lack of performance. And, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we brought the issue up. We brought the issue up and we hit the media, and the media were the ones that really went after the government. And guess what happened, Mr. Speaker? Two or three days later, miraculously Industry Canada got the frequencies back. So the service was restored.

So, Mr. Speaker, my point being is that they're not protecting the Crowns, to a point where they're simply making our Crowns less effective. They're getting people angry at our Crowns and they're hampering our Crowns from growth.

So not only do they do that activity on one side, Mr. Speaker, they also do it by selling off the Crowns. Now whether it's SaskTel's wireless Internet services or whether it's the Northland Power deal in North Battleford and now Information Services Corporation bill to sell off ISC and some of the other services that they've sold off, and SaskTel, SaskPower, the list goes on, Mr. Speaker, as to what the Sask Party's doing.

And you know, last election, if they had any integrity they should've got up and said, we are going to sell some Crowns because we need the money. We'll make sure the money goes to this. And they never did. They skirted the issue. They didn't talk about it. They didn't make any commitments in their platform except for a potato business. They didn't do any of that, Mr. Speaker.

So today I'm sitting here . . . I don't think the people of Saskatchewan gave the Sask Party the mandate to sell any Crowns. I absolutely believe that 100 per cent because they didn't campaign on it, nor did they get elected on that, Mr. Speaker. So before they do this I think they should go back to the people and ask for the people's opinion and advice on selling this very important Crown.

Information Services Corporation generates what — 17, \$18 million a year? That money goes to fund health care. It goes to highways. It goes to all kinds of different aspects of government. And, Mr. Speaker, that 17 or \$18 million will be gone after they sell it. There'll be a one-time purchase. We don't know who's going to buy it and for what. That remains to be seen. But that's a one-time income for the people of Saskatchewan. Ten years from now, we won't have that income and this whole notion of the minister saying, we will negotiate any fee hike . . . we had a collective laugh on this side. You'll not negotiate anything. That corporation that buys that Information Services Corporation off the Sask Party will not listen to what the Sask Party has to say about rates.

Guess what? You sell your company, you're not going to dictate what they start charging people for fees. That's absolutely not on. So this whole notion of them negotiating . . . why did they even mention that when we know that the people of Saskatchewan do a collective, yes, right. Whatever that company says and does for their profit line, they will do without Sask Party's blessing, because once they sell that asset, they have no control over anything that company does. And I think they all understand that. So why say it? Why say it if you can't do it? That's the same principle, the same principle behind

why sell it? We never got the mandate to sell it from the people of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, today, as long as I sit in this desk for however the good Lord allows me to sit on this desk and the constituents of Athabasca allow me to sit on this desk, I'm going to look across the way and I can say, those guys got government based on foolishness. They got government on not telling the people the truth about their Crown, their intentions behind the Crown, and sooner or later, it's going to catch up to them. And, Mr. Speaker, the sooner the better because they absolutely have betrayed the trust the people of Saskatchewan have had in extending to them the opportunity to be government a second term, under the knowledge that they will not sell the Crowns. And, Mr. Speaker, they're well on their way. And if the people of Saskatchewan find out, and there are not many that watch this channel, but eventually if they find out, there will be, there will be some great anger, Mr. Speaker, from a lot of places because Saskatchewan people value their Crowns. They value the roles of their Crowns, and the people of Saskatchewan, the people of Saskatchewan want to see their Crowns protected.

And I was actually kind of amused today when my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, when she mentioned that the minister was trying to negotiate keeping many of the head office jobs here, was what the comment was, because that's what the minister said. Then of course our critic gets up and says, well you can keep all the employees here if you don't sell it. You can keep all the profits here if you don't sell it, and you can keep all the shares under Saskatchewan people's ownership if you don't sell it. So don't try and justify you're trying to protect jobs downtown here when in fact you can guarantee them all by keeping ownership of Information Services Corporation.

So, Mr. Speaker, the logic is very simple. The logic is very simple. You never campaigned on selling the Crowns, and if you proceed with this plan to sell Information Services Corporation, we want to know why you're doing this, and we want to know who is asking for it. Which one of your corporate buddies from some different place wants to buy that company?

And don't feed us the notion or the silliness that you're portraying to the public that you can control what prices they charge after they buy it. They're going to do what they want with their company, and no Saskatchewan Party government is going to tell them what rates to set. We know that. In the corporate world, no government's going to go around telling anybody to set what rate for any privately held company. And those guys across the way should know it much more so than anybody else. And, Mr. Speaker, for them to even mention that was absolute silliness on the minister's part. And on this side of the Assembly, we sincerely, we sincerely were quite shocked that he would offer that because he knows better, Mr. Speaker.

So I think quite frankly that there's a lot of debate on this particular bill. People are going to be getting wind of this bill as time will permit us between the fall sitting and the spring sitting.

And we know across the way that the conservatives are happier than anything because they're getting rid of their Crowns. The liberals are confused, and the backbench is even more confused.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can't understand how the makeup of that party works and functions because you have those three dynamics, and then you have confusing, conflicting information, and then you have broken promises left, right, and centre. And they sit there and say, how could they continue to function? Their operations are bizarre, Mr. Speaker. Their operations are bizarre. I can't understand the dynamic of the Sask Party. It's just totally confusing to me. But we see, we see a lot of cracks over there, Mr. Speaker.

[16:00]

But they continue to spend. They continue to spend, and the Premier continues trying to be a salesman, but sooner or later that sales pitch sounds hollow and the promises sound weak. And the actions, Mr. Speaker, is where we will get the Saskatchewan Party back where they should be, and that's a small opposition in the future. But their actions, Mr. Speaker, of selling our Crowns is something that the people of Saskatchewan are going to take a huge issue with, and they're going to make them pay a price for that, Mr. Speaker. They're going to make them pay a political price.

Now our only argument here today, Mr. Speaker, is that I want to make sure, I want to make sure that the people of Saskatchewan know we need to rally behind this bill to make sure that it doesn't proceed. We need to have people writing letters. We need petitions. We need to see presentations in the Assembly. We need to see friendly demonstrations to tell the government that this is wrong. We need delegations. We need associations. We need people out there to speak up because the backbench won't. And above all else, Mr. Speaker, we've got to tell the people of Saskatchewan that the Sask Party is privatizing your Crowns. What's next? Privatizing health care? The list can go on as to what we're worried about, Mr. Speaker.

Once you sell it, once you sell it then you can't determine what the rates are. Because the minister alluded to that today, and we're telling him in a really nice way, in the most parliamentary way possible, that's not going to happen. That's not going to happen at all. But, Mr. Speaker, once this company is sold, the chances of the people of Saskatchewan ever owning this company again is between remote and slim, and slim just rode out of town.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the most important thing is that this is a final deal, a final deal for Information Services Corporation. And these guys are making light of it. They're making fun of it across the way. And the big problem we have, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, the people of Saskatchewan are going to know about it. We're going to tell the people of Saskatchewan that.

And I have seen the future. They're going to have trouble, a lot of trouble. And we sit here and say, it's too bad that the Information Services Corporation is going to . . . We're going to lose ownership of it. But that's the price that these guys are willing to pay on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. Then I tell the people of Saskatchewan they should make them pay the price for making that silly choice.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we . . . There's a lot of people that want to talk about this particular bill, and I move that we

adjourn debate on Bill 69.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 69, *The Information Services Corporation Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — That's carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 52

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 52 — *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to wade into the debate on Bill No. 52, *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what this Act does, it actually follows Bill No. 51 which is *The Public Inquiries Act* which we'll be speaking to later today. I'm not quite sure which one us, but it will be up later today for debate. But Bill 51, the previous Act, is about public inquiries commissions and actually repeals and institutes a new Act. And public inquiries commissions are temporary bodies that are created by order in council to review and investigate a specific incident or matter.

And this Bill No. 52, the consequential amendments Act, what it does is it makes consequential amendments to 45 English Acts and one English regulation and adopts the powers given to a commissioner according to *The Public Inquiries Act* which is Bill 51. So the amendments make a change to refer to the provisions of the new Act that correspond with the powers under the current Act that has yet to be repealed.

So of these 45 different English Acts, it's interesting when you go through them. There's a few that jump out at me that I just would like to chat a little bit about. Some of the changes will take place . . .

Section 40 of *The Amusement Ride Safety Act* . . . [will be] **amended by striking out** "of commissioners appointed pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act*" **and substituting** "conferred on a commission by sections 11, 15 and 25 of *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*".

So this is about *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*.

One thing you might not know about me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that I actually was a carny at one point in my life, so this is interesting to me. Yes. I don't think too many people knew that.

But following the completion of journalism school, I came home that summer and had yet to find a full-time reporting job, so a friend of mine actually had just purchased a food booth actually that she was going to be taking around to various carnivals and exhibitions in Saskatchewan and Alberta. So she asked me if I was interested in being her employee. So this woman, Bernie, and I hit the carnival circuit that summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is a very interesting experience — long hours, not dissimilar to this job actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the long hours, long days, on the road a lot.

There are things that I never thought that I would do when I worked on the carnival circuit. I bungee jumped, which I never thought I would do. I have to say I didn't do it alone. I had to have someone bungee jump with me. There was no way I was propelling myself off a platform over a little tub of water, basically.

I got a tattoo which . . . much to my mother's chagrin. That was not a popular decision in the Chartier household, but I was 22. And I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I do . . . With an almost 15-year-old child, I'm not encouraging her to get a tattoo. I have to say my tattoo . . . When you get a tattoo on the carnival circuit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not a good idea, not a good place to get a tattoo. Just if I would be advising my children, that would be the advice that I would give them. And unfortunately it's on my ankle and it was a really painful place to get a tattoo. So it's a painful place to have it repaired or changed or removed. So I have this lasting legacy of a really bad carnival tattoo on my ankle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and can do nothing about it.

But when it comes to amusement park rides, I think the one thing that I learned this summer or in the summer that I was on the road throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta was that — quite amazing — you tear down in one location one night and have to be set up sometimes the next day in the next location. So carnival safety and amusement park ride safety is something that I became very well aware of.

I know that people are often . . . The people who are doing the work are very skilled and know what they're doing, but sometimes you're doing it under duress and tight timelines and not easy conditions. But I'm glad that there haven't been incidents here in Saskatchewan, at least none that I can recall in recent history of accidents on the exhibition or carnival circuit. And this particular Act, *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*, and *The Public Inquiries Act*, if there's something did happen, that is where that, if a complaint or a review was launched, that Bill No. 51 actually would be responsible for that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You think about though, with amusement park rides in Edmonton, and I can't remember what year that was but when the roller coaster in Edmonton, when some cars jumped the tracks and some people lost their lives. These are very . . . Amusement park rides are lots of fun. Actually I would disagree. I'm not an amusement park ride person myself, but I know many people find amusement park rides lots of fun. But it's important that standards be maintained and that high standards be maintained and that we ensure that public safety is foremost when it comes to something like that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So you learned a little bit about me today that I bet

you never knew.

The other thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and flipping through some of . . . This is Bill No. 52, so it's many consequential amendments. One of the other Acts that is mentioned in this is *The Heritage Property Act*. And it's amended by striking out the words "that are conferred on commissioners pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act*" and that's substituting "conferred on a commission by sections 11, 15 and 25 of *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*."

So it's interesting when we think about *The Heritage Property Act*. Actually just a couple years ago with the botched merger with Carlton Trail Regional College and St. Peter's College in Muenster, one of the consequences of that, aside from costing taxpayers a great deal of money, was the loss of St. Peter's College as a heritage site. In that fiasco, we lost one of our heritage properties. The minister was asked to dedesignate St. Peter's as a heritage property, and I believe — I could be mistaken about this — but I believe it was the 100th year of St. Peter's Abbey that year. I could be mistaken, so I just want put that in the record that I'm not unequivocal about that, but I do believe it was the 100th year.

So what had happened there is some of the renovations that were happening. And obviously when you have a heritage property, you have to be very mindful of and sensitive to any changes that you make to the building that is a heritage property. And I know that summer, the summer of 2009, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that the renovations . . . There'd been some advice given to St. Peter's and to the people doing the work that in order to maintain the windows . . . and that there needed to be some special work done. But you know what had happened? By December of that year, when some of the heritage folks came back — so December of 2009 — there was an elevator added. And the elevator, I wouldn't dispute that the elevator's necessary, but I would argue that you can do heritage . . . You can do renovations and restorations in a sensitive fashion. We see it in many other places in Canada. Unfortunately here in Saskatchewan, that has not been our strength.

So despite the fact, the board people had been told that you can do the renovations, but you need the support of people who know what you're doing, or what they're doing. And they went ahead and made some of these changes. So they are told in July not . . . or to be mindful of the changes and come back a few short months later and the building is . . . The work has proceeded and it wasn't great. So just a few short months later in this whole Carlton Trail, St. Peter's College merger fiasco, one of the things that had happened is the board of St. Peter's, to make the merger easier and more smooth, had asked for the dedesignation of St. Peter's as a heritage property.

But the minister actually has in his powers under *The Heritage Property Act* the opportunity to sign off quickly on that, which is exactly what happened. So the request came in in March, I believe, of 2010 and by April of 2010 St. Peter's College was dedesignated as a heritage site. So we lost a heritage property in Saskatchewan. And the minister though, at his disposal, his other tool was an opportunity to take this out to the public, to take this out to the community and find out how they felt about the dedesignation. But the option that was chosen was instead

to quickly sign off on it, which was indicative of the haste and the poor way about which the minister of Culture in this case and the minister of Advanced Education had gone about this whole merger fiasco.

So under this, under *The Public Inquiries Act*, what could happen here is perhaps someone from the area could have made a complaint or . . . And I don't know if a commission would have been called, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but that, from my understanding, that would have been in the realm of possibilities.

I think when we think about that whole, the fiasco around the merger, we think about the Sask Party's \$1,000 Enterprise Club where you were buying access or people were buying access to some of the Sask Party ministers or Sask Party . . . the Premier for that matter. So I'm glad to see that that's come to an end. But I know that at that point the CEO [chief executive officer], I believe, had purchased that membership, or the board had purchased that membership for the CEO, in hopes, I'm not quite sure in hopes of what. But clearly it was not a good example of accountability and transparency, something that this government has said that it will be stellar in that regard, and it has not.

So I think it's an incredible shame that we lost a heritage property in April of 2010, which did not have to happen. We had a building, a beautiful building, that lost some of its integrity with the addition of an elevator. And the elevator was necessary but could have been done in a heritage-sensitive manner. The windows were changed and the windows were . . . They chose to go a much more inexpensive route rather than the route of, rather than doing what should have been done, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:15]

So as we flip through here, some of different bills that are going to be, some of the 45 different bills that have been amended or that are going to be amended, one that we find here is *The Police Act* as well. Well and it's interesting because *The Police Act*, we know that in recent years . . . Actually I believe it was in 2003, in 2003-2004, unfortunately there was a public commission called in the death of Neil Stonechild, a young Saskatoon man who had been . . . Neil Stonechild had lost his life, had frozen to death in Saskatoon. And there was some concerns. There was some concerns about how he met his end. And so there was an inquiry called in 2003, and I'm not actually sure that it was under *The Police Act* but it was a public inquiry, so I'm sure it's one of these 45 Acts that are being amended. So we have an example of Neil Stonechild. We have an example of the Milgaard Commission into the death of . . . pardon me, into the wrongful conviction of David Milgaard.

And the one thing, Mr. Speaker, I come from a policing family. My father was a police officer. My dad was a police officer for the city. He was a police officer for 30 years. My brother was a police officer for more than a decade. My daughter's father is still a police officer, Mr. Speaker. And so policing is near and dear to my heart.

I grew up in a household . . . You think about, you think about the Stonechild Inquiry and the thing that jumps into my mind is

in my household, my dad was one of the hugest proponents of community-based policing, that policing is all about the prevention of crime and about relationship building. So I grew up in a household where, for my dad, everything boils down to building relationships, fostering good, strong relationships. And he believed that that was very much what policing, that was very much what policing was about.

He tells stories about wearing the big buffalo coats and walking down 20th Street in Saskatoon. And everybody knew . . . You knew everybody. You knew the good guys. You knew the people who had some struggles and challenges by name. You'd go into coffee shops and you fostered relationships with people and that was the best way to prevent crime, Mr. Speaker.

Interesting too: my dad who is almost 80, who's been retired for, well since 1988 . . . My dad retired in 1988 actually to run as mayor of Saskatoon. He was very interested in getting the issue of community policing on the agenda. And I think he did a very fine job at that. So my first election actually when I turned 18, I got to vote for my dad in the municipal election, which was pretty cool.

But policing is very much about relationship building. And actually it's interesting. I'm probably the only kid who grew up knowing what Sir Robert Peel's nine principles of policing were. And you know, I'd actually like to read them into the record because I am still . . . As I said, I grew up in this household where policing is very much about building relationships and that's the best way to prevent crime — making sure people have what they need and you know what's going on in your community.

So my dad had always argued that an ethical police service . . . And I'm just going back here to the Stonechild Inquiry and recognizing that there have been major changes in policing since that inquiry. But some of them, you take it back to Sir Robert Peel's nine principles of policing. And so what should a modern police service look like? I don't want to call it a force. I know so many people still call police services forces, but the reality is they are a service that serve the public. And names — what's the difference between a service and a force, Mr. Speaker? Well I think words are important and names matter. And the city of Saskatoon Police Service changed its name probably more than a decade ago, actually probably closer to two decades ago, to reflect that notion that they are there to serve.

But just for interest's sake, Sir Robert Peel's nine principles — and this is what policing should be about. And this came about from actually the former, I believe he was the prime minister in the UK [United Kingdom] in the 1800s. But what did Sir Robert Peel believe? And this I learned growing up. My dad actually had a little . . . My parents have very interesting little quotes and cards pinned up all over their house that my dad or my mom find interesting. So Sir Robert Peel's nine principles of policing:

1. The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.

3. Police must secure the willing co-operation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public.

4. The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force.

5. Police seek and preserve public favour not by catering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.

6. Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice, and warning is found to be insufficient.

7. Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.

8. Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.

9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.

So that, Mr. Speaker, those are the Peel's nine principles of policing, and that informs what we call today community policing or community-based policing. That is what it's all about. Community policing is not something that appears on a flow chart that can be cut. Community policing is a philosophy of how you interact with the public and how you interact with each other as a police service and I think it's . . .

And I know our current chief in Saskatoon, Chief Weighill, actually ascribes to these principles, and since the Stonechild Inquiry there were many recommendations. What the Stonechild Inquiry found was . . . Well I'm going to tell you what the . . . It absolutely shook up policing in Saskatoon or in the province for that matter. And the conclusion was that this young man, Neil Stonechild, had been picked up by the police shortly before he died on the outskirts of the city. The report also concluded that relations between the police and First Nations were problematic. And that's a bit of an understatement, Mr. Speaker. The inquiry also found at the time of Neil Stonechild's death, the police investigation was not adequate to conclude what the circumstances were surrounding Neil Stonechild's death.

So that was a public commission here that happened here in Saskatchewan in 2003 and wrapped up in 2004. And I think one of the ways in which the police service in Saskatoon has tried to tackle some of the issues that arose out of that, and recognized that there is a huge disconnect between First Nations and Métis people in Saskatoon and the police service, and that there are some not positive perceptions that community-based policing

was a way to tackle this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know the chief believes and has reaffirmed that commitment to community policing. But my dad, who is a bit of an idealist — and so I come by that fairly honestly — but for my dad, there is no middle ground. You need to pursue absolute ideals of community-based policing. So I know when I speak to Rusty that there is always more — not unlike this current government. There's more work to do, Mr. Speaker.

But actually the opposition just, we're actually considering getting T-shirts made up for government members: there's more work to do, Mr. Speaker. So I think maybe they can expect something like that under their Christmas tree this year, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, the Bill No. 52, *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Public Inquiries Act, 2012* — we will be speaking to Bill No. 51 a little bit later today, as I said, which sort of puts things out of order a bit, Mr. Speaker — but I know that my colleagues will have a few more things to add about Bill No. 52 at which time they have the opportunity to speak. But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 53

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 53** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into discussion here this afternoon and to debate as it relates to Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*.

Looking through and observing the pieces of legislation that are being repealed or the statutes that are being repealed, I've read the minister's comments on each of those and also done some reflection back to, reflected back to where they began and also where they ended. When you think and in thinking of where some of these would have been brought forward, what the purpose was, and I guess that would have been the beginning and then in many ways looking through as well to see the life of the Act, the purpose that it fulfilled, and the utilization, and then in this case here, the repealing which I guess would be the end, Mr. Speaker, of the Act or the purpose to the people of Saskatchewan, and those are being important.

Now the one thing I will say is that it seems that it is a fair comment that most of the Acts that have been put forward are

in fact no longer relevant to our province and haven't been exercised or utilized for many years. Certainly there's a lot of history that's reflected in these Acts as well, whether we're talking about the upgrader or the refinery, Mr. Speaker, whether we're talking about the agricultural sector or we're talking about the borrowing that occurred by way of some of these Acts that are being repealed that tell a very important story and an important part of our history here in Saskatchewan about how, in many ways, how we have overcome some of the challenges of our past and some of the mechanisms that were put in place to address some of those challenges.

I guess I would speak first off to one of the pieces that's being repealed, and this is *The Crown Foundations Act*. And this was, as I understand, a mechanism that was put in place that allowed universities to develop foundations to support their activities and provide them some strength and institutional strength and flexibility. And there's changes that have been made, subsequent to this, that no longer is this legislation necessary. But I don't believe the actual certainty has been provided to those autonomous organizations, to our universities, by way of providing them security and certainty by way of their finances.

And I think of the current debates that are going on, on the floor of this Assembly and in our post-secondary institutions as we speak, where we have a government that's acted in a deliberate sense to put and punt \$100 million of debt that was supposed to be financed by the province of Saskatchewan and has placed that on to the books of universities. And now we're squeezing their operations, squeezing their operations and are causing a harm on those institutions, Mr. Speaker.

So although when we look at *The Crown Foundations Act*, Mr. Speaker, we look at it through this historical lens of how it played some role in providing certainty and stability to those universities. It's interesting in many ways how times may change but the problems don't go away. And right now I know there's a lot of stress and concern for students and faculty and administration at our universities at a time where they've been provided a budget that's been less than adequate in allowing those institutions to do what they should in being able to enrich and support the next generation of workers, the next generation of students, and also allow some level of affordability to be addressed, something that has significantly deteriorated in this very province.

So I'm listening here. I'll stop. I'll just listen here quickly to the minister's comment . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, I'm glad the minister has verified a question that was had before by one of the reporters, Mr. Speaker, and well, we'll follow up that discussion, we'll follow up that discussion at another point.

[16:30]

But as I'm speaking right now about the challenges and pressures that our post-secondary institutions are facing, I just find it's interesting. We're repealing an Act that was there at one point that enabled our universities to go out and provide some stability to their financial circumstance. But here we are in 2012, with a government that boasts of growth and touts record prosperity but yet is actively putting debt onto universities and causing cuts and constraint for our post-secondary institutions all across this province.

I look at the next piece here and it gets into *The Vegetable, Fruit and Honey Sales Act*, Mr. Speaker. And this Act was brought forward in 1947. And what I find interesting on this front is in many ways that it tells some of the history of this province and speaks to what policy-makers were addressing at a different time, a different place, for a different economy. And at that point in time, *The Vegetable, Fruit and Honey Sales Act* had an important role in providing food safety and certainty in allowing our product here to be exported and to be consumed locally as well and to build a strong local economy for those producers, Mr. Speaker.

But again, as I say, it's interesting how as much as times change, things stay the same. Because here we're just at a different time and a different place, and we still have questions around food security and food safety.

And currently we've actually had a federal government that has reneged from responsibilities of providing Canadians the kind of protection and certainty that they deserve around the food that hits their table on a nightly basis but also providing producers in this province the kind of certainty and protection that they deserve. Producers, I'd say, that have worked through some pretty tough years, Mr. Speaker, and are now being limited on the kind of return that they should be able to realize by way of actions of a federal Conservative government that's deregulated and made cuts and now has made all these other decisions by way of reducing the role of our Canadian Food Inspection Agency and specifically has reduced that role here in our province right now and has our provincial government in fact now scrambling to try to put together some pieces of protection and make sure that our number one priority of providing safe food and protection to people is in place, but also that we're protecting our agricultural economy and our producers and making sure that we're putting our product in an environment that will allow us to take it to the world with the kind of pride that I know our producers deserve.

As well, this speaks to some of the more local agricultural food production, and certainly we still see some of that in this province, and it's something we should be continually supporting and enhancing. And I know the great pride that exists from so many of those producers of local products all across this province, Mr. Speaker, and the pride of a region around those products. And certainly proper oversight, proper legislation, proper protection of that food is important for its own reputation as well.

An Hon. Member: — But where does it end? But where does it end?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, and the question from the member from Nutana again is, you know, where does it start and where does it end? And I guess in this piece of legislation it started in 1947. And it now ends this year, Mr. Speaker, in 2012, at a time where it was seen as no longer relevant, and it's revealing, Mr. Speaker.

But we'll move along, Mr. Speaker, looking at some of the other changes that have been put forward. We see changes around repealing *The Saskatchewan Development Fund Act* and this gets into looking at some of the investments that were placed by a board of directors. I guess some of the questions

that we may have is just making sure there is proper transparency, oversight, and protection of those dollars by looking for some of the public reporting that should be deserved to Saskatchewan people to make sure that the dollars that were in place have been dealt with in a proper way.

I believe this also speaks to some of the dollars that flow in through the provinces by way of the federal government through immigrant investor funds, Mr. Speaker. And I know one of the pieces that I've been critical of the current government is in fact they're utilizing these immigrant investor dollars right now to borrow money to developers, Mr. Speaker, to build houses that the majority can't afford. Sort of questionable policy purposes of this government, and certainly not the best utilization of those dollars if our end goal is to try to make housing more affordable or bring housing options to the table that address the challenges and shortfalls that are there for so many families.

And certainly I think this is an area we really do need to be aggressive on in making sure that we are making the improvements as it relates to housing, not just tinkering around with market affordability as the current government is and supplying loans to developers to build houses that very few can afford but actually going at it with a true social and affordable housing plan and also including the role of co-operatives, Mr. Speaker.

I know as well that there's a repeal of legislation, *The Cut Knife Reference Act*. This is very practical in the changes that the name before was one word. The community is two words and that's been changed to reflect that.

I recognize the changes that have been made to repeal *The NewGrade Energy Inc Act* and that of course reflects the fact that that's no longer required, that Crown corporations has divested themselves of that holding. But it does speak back to a different time where governments were interested in some value-add and in refining capacity — upgrading capacity and then refining capacity — in this province and in this country. And this is an important discussion for us to continue to have because far too often we continue simply to export our raw goods, as opposed to providing the discussion and the tools and the emphasis on adding value here in our country and in our province, and adding jobs and strength to our local economy in doing so.

So that's something that I urge, when we're looking at this Act that's being repealed, that it does reflect a time where governments were willing to be active in promoting the kinds of changes that it believes supports a stronger local economy and supports a resource economy to be stronger than just simply shipping that raw product in all cases.

We look as well at some of the other pieces that have been repealed. And I see some of *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act* and this takes us back, I believe, all the way back to 1915, Mr. Speaker. And in many ways it reflects the province's history of how our municipalities were able to acquire the financing required to invest and build our province; if you will, build our municipalities, Mr. Speaker.

And in some ways, as I say, the more things change, the more

they stay the same is certainly true on this one as well. We're going through a time where we have some growth. We have population growth that's going on. And in fact we have demands that are placed upon our municipalities all across this province — smaller communities, small towns, smaller urban centres, and our larger cities alike. And yet we continue to hear in fact that the infrastructure and the support that they're receiving is inadequate to be able to address that pressure, the pressures of some of that growth.

So it's interesting to look back and go back to see back in 1915, the tool that was brought into place was this Act here which allowed I guess municipalities to borrow, in essence. And it's a current, it's a current issue here in this province as well about how do our small communities, our towns, our cities, go out and secure the financing they require to provide the kinds of improvements to our infrastructure that we require.

I know, I believe going back in that history there we have, I think it was Prince Albert at the time that had a bit of a notable distinction that it had gone bankrupt as a municipality, and I believe it was an investment in a dam that never ended up producing any power. I highlight that more as an anecdotal piece, but it's part of our history. And in some ways we do need to continue to have that discussion with our municipal partners in making sure that we're meeting their needs and making sure we're able to meet the needs of Saskatchewan residents, where I believe many of our municipalities are really in a hard-pressed environment to address some of the infrastructure challenges that they're facing — whether it be water and waste water, whether it's our physical infrastructure by way of roads and sewers, and so much more recreational facilities, health facilities and schools.

But if you go to so many communities across this province, you're looking at some really dated infrastructure by way of waste water and water treatment facilities, all coming with capacity pressures as well around how much capacity they have. And it's a challenge that government needs to be active and working with our municipal partners, small towns and larger cities alike, to bring forward the sort of solutions that will address this challenge for the next generation, recognizing that the Act that we're repealing here today probably provides some of that, provided some of those tools to the generation prior and has built the infrastructure that we witness across this province and in many ways that we're still relying upon across this province.

A couple of the other Acts that have been put forward speak to municipalities as well and speak to that they're programs that no longer being exercised, that they're obsolete. But they do speak back to a time in our history where, in many ways I think, what I've taken out of it is that a time of active government, Mr. Speaker, where municipalities and provincial governments alike worked together to address some of the challenges that they were facing and certainly have built the modern province that we see here today, something that's important to us all.

So I guess as I look through this repeal, this Act that's repealing many pieces of legislation that have become obsolete or are no longer relevant, as stated by the minister, it's important for us to say that we're going to be doing proper scrutiny with our stakeholders, with those that are impacted, those that

understand the intricacies and the histories of these files very closely to make sure that when the minister suggests that, and in fact an Act is now obsolete or no longer required, that that is the sentiment and feel by the stakeholders who are impacted. But it also does give us a nice window back into our history as a province and how we came together and how communities formed and how we took on the challenges and opportunities of different times and places — whether it be the financial tools for universities, whether it be the financial tools that provided stability for our municipalities, whether it's some of the food protection measures for our local food producers, Mr. Speaker, or whether it was the active role that government once took to actually add value to our local economy and to our resources here in this province.

There's many aspects that highlight this theme of that the more things change, the more they stay the same, and that we have challenges that we're facing in many of these other areas, whether it's food protection, as we speak, with the cuts that I've spoken of with the federal government, and the importance to our producers, the importance to consumers, to our kitchen tables all across this province, across our country, and around the world, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the importance of our strong, proud local food economies and products that we can share with the world with pride and distinction that not only allow commerce to flow, but also pride of place for many communities who have been renowned with certain food products that are developed at a local level.

And then simply looking as well that, you know, as we look at, you know, this is changing some of the structures that had been put in place for universities. Now they may no longer be relevant and the tools that were in place, but what are the new sets of tools? What's the new commitment? What's the new partnerships with our universities, with our post-secondary institutions to make sure that they're able to deliver an enriched education that allows us to address the challenges and opportunities of the next generation? And just the same be able to do so in providing and improving affordability, something so important to students all across this province.

So it's been my pleasure to enter into discussion as it relates to this bill. I know there'll be many other members that will look forward to looking through, examining, having discussion and consultation with respective stakeholders on this bill, making sure that in fact the purpose and intended consequences put forward and suggested by the minister are in fact the reality for stakeholders, and also making sure that there's not any unintended consequences by way of this legislation.

[16:45]

I also recognize that when I saw the repeal Act here — I know that my friend, the member from Saskatoon Centre, and I were looking right away to see it — we were hopeful that there'd be some labour legislation, Mr. Speaker included in this repeal Act. The kind of . . . You know, we're thinking Bills 5, 6, 43, and 80, Mr. Speaker, would be sort of helpful ones. We didn't see those bills in here, Mr. Speaker.

And then we thought maybe this government, after repealing those pieces of legislation, one of which has been found as an embarrassment to this province as unconstitutional, Mr.

Speaker, that in fact we then could seek to enter into a relationship with the working people of this province in a way that's fair and balanced, that reflects true consultation, and derives legislation that's truly necessary, Mr. Speaker, that's not intended simply to take away the rights of working men and women in this province.

So as I say, I've gone through the repeal Act here, Mr. Speaker. Many of these pieces were brought forward at different places and times, such as 1915 when we brought forward, there was mechanisms brought forward from municipalities. There's other legislation that was being pulled away that was brought forward for the vegetable, fruit, and honey sales or honey producers of this province in 1947. We also see that there are some changes here to those tools for the universities.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I can say to Saskatchewan people is that I recognize that it doesn't have within this repeal legislation the pieces of damaging, destructive labour legislation that's been brought forward by government opposite, something that would strengthen workers' rights and something that would strengthen our local economy.

So I guess in final closing, Mr. Speaker, this tells a little bit of the history of Saskatchewan. This shapes in many ways who we are. It reflects that some of the challenges we were facing in certain sectors are some of the similar challenges we're facing now. But when I also look at these pieces of repealed legislation, it also gives me a sense of hope, Mr. Speaker. A sense of hope, Mr. Speaker, that, working together with Saskatchewan people and communities all across this province, that one day too we can put forward a repeal Act that will include that destructive labour legislation that's been brought forward by the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker, and bring forward a level of fairness to Saskatchewan workers, something that they deserve.

So that's something that one day we'll work towards. We'll continue to urge this government to do the right thing, but certainly we look forward to being able to repeal legislation that has hurt our local economy, that has hurt workers and threatens our future, and that'll be something we can all work together, at least on this side of the Assembly, and a growing team along with Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

But at this point in time as it relates to Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012*, I move adjournment of debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 54

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 54 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a

second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to enter into the debate around Bill No. 54, *An Act to amend The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009*. And I know it's been a few years since the original bill's been introduced, but clearly there needed to be some more work done. And this is an important bill for the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to dealing with criminal property and how it's been used in the commission of a crime or as a result of criminal activity. And I'm thinking this is one that we could spend some time on because clearly it's an important bill that we get right.

You know, when you have bills that come forward as this one did in 2009, and here we are in 2012, just a few years later, and they have learned a few things about how to be much more effective when it comes to this, I think it's important that we take the time, and we take the time during debate and take the time during the committee to examine fully the implications of the bill so that there are no unintended consequences, that we get it right, and that we take a look around the world — and I will be talking about other experiences in Canada, in the States, in the United Kingdom — about some background on this because I think it's important as MLAs that we are brought up to speed on what it means when we talk about the seizure and the forfeiture of criminal property.

And so I think that that's clearly our task ahead of us right now and perhaps into the evening as well. So Bill No. 54 just really talks about, it looks like essentially nine amendments, and while they seem to be relatively straightforward, I want to give some background on that. We look at the original Act, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009*. And that was passed and became effective July 1st, 2009. And it really has seven sections. One talks about the preliminary matters. The second one talks about the forfeiture of property, how, what they're going to do in terms of how to apply this law, notice of applications about real property, about personal property, interim orders, forfeiture orders, protection orders, and that type of thing, and then how do you do the proceedings.

The third section talks about the conduct of proceedings, standard of proof. And that's a big one, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the implications here, the amendments that are brought forward, and the proof of offences, disclosure of interests, presumption re proceeds of unlawful activity, presumption from members of criminal organization, presumption for instruments of unlawful activity, and presumption re criminal organization offences.

So that's straightforward. How you can appeal, because we want to make sure at the end of the day that we all have our basic civil rights, that we are protected by the courts of law. But at the same time, this is a difficult one so there has to be some sort of sense of how do we make sure that you can appeal the orders, and then the decision by Court of Appeal and then no further appeal. And so that's very important.

It talks about the administration, director appointed, so forth, that type of thing. It talks about establishing the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund and how that's working. And we

probably will have some questions about how is that fund operating. How many applications to it have been made? How the funds, what are the uses of the fund and how that's going. And then just general other aspects that need to be taken into account.

So a very thorough, very thorough original bill but as it appears, some of the areas need to be taken a look at. For example, section 2 was looked at, section 3, section 6, and section 12, and so on and so forth. So we have some time to talk about these because it's, as I said, one that's very critical.

I just want to take a minute or two to review what the minister had set out. Again, you know, Mr. Speaker, it would be helpful if the ministers did give us a little bit more information around the bills, because if we are to do our work here in the House effectively and to make sure that we understand fully and are able to scrutinize the legislation, we do really count on the ministers to have a full and complete speech in the second reading. And so with that, I think I need to just reflect on some of the points that he made in his speech so that we can understand what the intent of the bill is.

So he talks about what the original Act:

The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009 provided the authority for the provincial government to take responsibility for the seizure of criminal property processed from the police services.

And while he talks about while there's been successful seizures under this legislation since the Act came into play, counsel and operation staff have identified a series of changes to make the seizure process more efficient and effective.

So clearly there's been lessons learned over the last two or three, two and a half years, that they think they need to make amendments for this legislation. So we understand that and quite often that's the case where we want to, we have to get the bill out in front. We have to get the Act actually happening and then we see how the wheels are running. And clearly this is a case of where they want to make some amendments to make this bill work.

So the bill will amend the definition of instrument of unlawful activity. He says:

The change will make it clear that property used to engage in unlawful activity but that has not yet resulted in the acquisition or production of property may be still subject to forfeiture.

So there you go. So that the property used to engage in unlawful activity, but that has not yet resulted in the acquisition or production of property, may be still subject to forfeiture. So I guess this must be something that they're discovering that, I think that's thinking ahead of the game here and I think that may be appropriate. Again these are kind of the questions that we'll ask in committee. What does this really mean?

Forfeiture could proceed if there is evidence of the likelihood that the activity will result in the acquisition or production of property or evidence of an intention on the

part of the respondent to attain such property.

You know, I need to, I need to reflect a little bit on what my colleague, the member from Athabasca says, that talking about that you really, this is really in many ways legal language. And myself not being a lawyer, we would've appreciated some plain English here. Because clearly while the minister is a lawyer as well and this is specific, anybody reading this may feel that it's not really, they're not getting the full gist of it. So this is why we have committee proceedings and we'll be talking more about that in committee. But I think it's important that we understand that really we're talking about property that can be either used in the commission of a crime or as a result of a crime, and so when we have these kind of changes, I do think it's important for the people at home to really particularly watch committee meetings, hearings, when we get into that because we'll have specific questions about, what do you really mean by that? How does that play out in the legislation? That's very important.

As well, Mr. Speaker, he goes on to say the bill "will also specifically authorize the director to make an application to the courts by statement of claim in addition to the existing ability to proceed by notice of motion." It deals with the challenges of proof of ownership. And I understand that is a challenge, because clearly you want to make sure that you have the right property, that it doesn't belong to somebody else. But we know this is a grey area, especially when you have criminal issues at hand. What's really happening and who really owns the property and what is the rightful process here and what should we be doing?

So it talks about dealing with "the challenges of proof of ownership by removing the requirement to name the owner of the property as a party to an application in all cases and extend the period from 30 to 60 days during which time the director can request an order to prevent the sale, transfer of property prior to bringing a forfeiture application." So I assume what that really means is, it extends the period of time that the director has so that they can make a solid case in terms of whose property it is before it gets sold or changes hands, and then you have a problem because it's no longer the property that was acquired either through the crime, either as part of the crime or as a result of the crime.

So this is, this is very important. And, "This change will also provide the authority for the court to extend a restraining order for any further period the courts view as appropriate." So that's very, very important. And so it's really important. The bill also makes "... procedural changes to provide for a sealing order regarding the respondents' affidavits, provided that evidence of a person that was not charged with an offense that is [relevant or] not relevant in making a finding of fact in an application under the Act."

So it's important that we take a look at these very specific comments made by the minister, and what does it really mean in terms of ordinary people understanding this? Because people should have confidence in the justice system, and clearly more and more around the world, we're seeing this as an important component of the justice system, the forfeiture or the seizure of criminal property.

The Speaker: — It now being at the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed to 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
Kirsch.....	2043
Wotherspoon.....	2043
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Belanger.....	2043
Wotherspoon.....	2043
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Transgender Day of Remembrance	
Nilson.....	2043
National Child Day	
Tochor.....	2044
Campbell Collegiate Students Win Debating Honours	
Wotherspoon.....	2044
Saskatchewan Addictions Awareness Week	
Hickie.....	2044
Reclaiming Our Community	
Norris.....	2044
Regina Coronation Park Arts and Crafts Sale	
Docherty.....	2045
Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip Observe 65th Anniversary	
Wyant.....	2045
QUESTION PERIOD	
Information Services Corporation	
Sproule.....	2045
McMorris.....	2045
State of Provincial Finances	
Wotherspoon.....	2046
Krawetz.....	2047
Provincial Roads and Prince Albert Bridge	
Belanger.....	2048
McMorris.....	2048
Financial Support for Universities	
Brotten.....	2049
Morgan.....	2049
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 70 — <i>The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation</i>	
Marchuk.....	2050
Bill No. 71 — <i>The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard</i>	
Harpauer.....	2050
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 67 — <i>The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012</i>	
Reiter.....	2051
Belanger.....	2051
Harrison (point of order).....	2052
The Speaker (point of order).....	2052
Bill No. 69 — <i>The Information Services Corporation Act</i>	
McMorris.....	2056
Belanger.....	2056
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 52 — <i>The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012</i>	
Chartier.....	2068
Bill No. 53 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)</i>	
Wotherspoon.....	2071
Bill No. 54 — <i>The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012</i>	
Forbes.....	2074

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Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
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Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

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Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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