



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

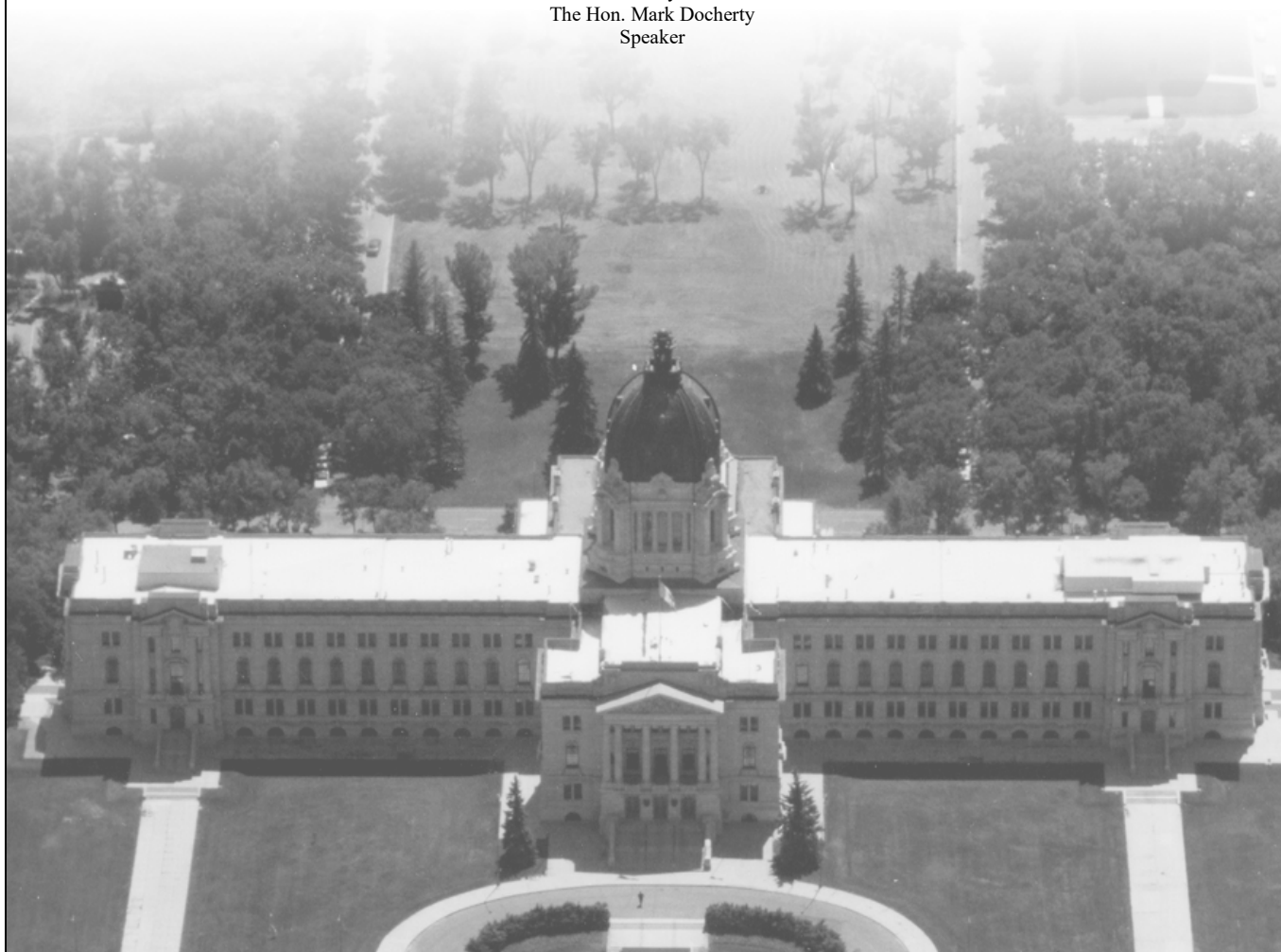
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
4th Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Mark Docherty
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

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Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar-Sask Valley.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Biggar and Wilkie. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of La Ronge, Air Ronge, and Lac La Ronge Indian Band, who are concerned about safety along the stretch of highway that connects all three communities.

Residents regularly walk, bike, and run along the shoulder of a busy, fast-paced, 60-kilometre-per-hour highway to get from community to community. Many people have been hit and some have been killed as they walk or bike along the stretch of highway from Far Reserve Road to the Co-op Marketplace.

A properly engineered, well-lit bike path walkway with benches would create safety from being struck by vehicles, especially impaired or distracted drivers. This walkway would improve residents' physical and mental health by integrating safe exercises into their daily routines and also lower our local carbon emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to work with the tri-communities to invest in a public walkway that is well lit, paved, and safe from the motor vehicles on Highway No. 2.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good residents of the tri-community. I so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a

petition calling on the Sask Party government to properly resource our classrooms. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to a number of points. It's that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students who need a little extra help; that the Sask Party government cuts leave educators without the resources that they need to support student learning; and that the Sask Party is ignoring overcrowding in our classrooms by refusing to track and report on classroom sizes.

Mr. Speaker, we have classrooms with 30 and 40 and 50 students in a single classroom. We have buses with three to a seat. And we have dozens of schools over 120 per cent capacity. This was an issue before the pandemic, Mr. Speaker. This is definitely going to be an issue when schools resume in the fall.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by properly funding the most important investment that we can make, and that is in our children.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in La Ronge, Air Ronge, Battleford, and North Battleford. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition calling for a moratorium on logging in the Nesslin Lake area. There's over 150 people that have signed this petition I'm presenting today, Mr. Speaker, and the people who are signing this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: that Nesslin Lake, Ness Lake, and Zig Zag Bay campgrounds bring thousands of tourists to the area annually. It is also the prime recreational area for the residents of Big River and surrounding area. The Ness Creek site alone brings thousands of tourists to the area through its numerous events and activities, resulting in an additional 25,000 visitor days annually.

Portions of the forest in the Nesslin Lake area are slated for logging as early as September 2020, which will negatively impact tourism, traditional and recreational use, and the untapped economic potential of the area. A moratorium on logging in this area is critical as, if the logging proceeds, it will cause irreparable harm to the economic potential of the area for decades.

Mr. Speaker, local area residents and businesses need more time to ensure a more sustainable economic plan is put in place. I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker. The people who have signed the petition are from the communities of Saskatoon, Big River, Regina, Battleford, Lac-Vert, Elbow, Melfort, Langham, Watrous, Martensville, Imperial, Liberty, Yorkton, and Ponteix.

And the prayer reads as follows:

We request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to place a moratorium on all proposed logging in the area between Nesslin Lake and the Ness Creek site, as well as

immediately north of Nesslin Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Tribute to the Snowbirds

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For over 40 years, the Canadian Forces Snowbirds have inspired and entertained citizens from coast to coast to coast. With the arrival of COVID-19 in our country, the Snowbirds took flight in hopes to raise spirits across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Inspiration was a unique mission and was meant to be a cross-country flight to salute Canadians for doing their part to fight the spread of COVID-19. The mission featured the team's signature nine-jet formation with trailing white smoke leaving a mark on our skies. However, Operation Inspiration came to a tragic halt on May 17th when a jet crashed near Kamloops, seriously injuring Captain Richard MacDougall and taking the life of Captain Jenn Casey.

Captain Casey enlisted in the Canadian Forces in 2014 and joined the Snowbirds in November of '18. She served as the Snowbirds' public affairs officer and was deeply loved and respected by her community.

Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the feeling of hope that Operation Inspiration gave us as it flew across our prairie and we thank Captain Casey and the many Snowbirds involved for their efforts. We sent our deepest condolences to Captain Casey's family and wish Captain Richard MacDougall well in his recovery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Student Creates Works of Art

Ms. Sarauer: — Boothill in Regina Douglas Park is a beautiful neighbourhood, in part thanks to 18-year-old Zoe Stradeski who has been creating breathtaking sidewalk art during this pandemic. These aren't your run-of-the-mill chalk drawings and can be easily described as remarkable works of art. They included everything from tropical sunsets, Disney characters, thank yous, and birthday wishes for neighbours. Many of us had the privilege of seeing her tribute to George Floyd on the steps of this legislature.

Zoe is a remarkable young woman. She graduated from Miller High School last year where she received 20 academic awards over her high school career. She received the top award for Top Academic for all four years, as well as the Catholic Leadership Award. She performed in musicals. She was liturgical leader, Red Cross blood ambassador, and helped recreate a group called the Difference Makers, which encouraged students to take part in different community service projects like garbage picking and serving in soup kitchens.

Zoe has just completed her first year at the University of Regina in the Faculty of Science and aspires to one day create a charity to help children who are sexually abused. Zoe is truly community minded, and just one manifestation of her kind spirit is through the sidewalk art she has been creating. Words do not do this art justice. I encourage all members to join me in congratulating and thanking Zoe for all she has done for her community.

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

Support for Seniors During Pandemic

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Harbour Landing Village is a private, locally owned seniors' home here in Regina. When the pandemic arrived, many staff knew that the best option to keep the residents safe was to simply become their neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, staff, including the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the village, set up their own suites and stayed 55 days to ensure their residents' physical and mental health would remain a number one priority. The residents truly appreciated this as it gave them reassurance that they would be able to be taken care of during this unprecedented time.

Mr. Speaker, by moving into the facility, the residents were not the only ones receiving care and support. This was also very important for the staff to spend time together and provide support for each other. By living in the village, the staff were able to get to know each other and their residents on a deeper level, truly making the village a community. Though they missed their families deeply, they knew the decision to move into their own suites was definitely the right call.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in thanking Janson Anderson, Tracy Thompson, and the entire staff of Harbour Landing Village for going above and beyond for their residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past fall, the Premier announced he was hiring Stephen Harper for \$240,000, to give him economic advice on his new so-called growth plan. Instead Mr. Harper may be providing advice on their plans for cuts and for increases in taxes for working families in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

This government that has presided over the largest tax hike in the history of the province may not need that advice, but that seems to be what Mr. Harper has in mind. He said in *The Wall Street Journal*, and I quote, "... a crisis, as bad as it seems at the time, is actually the easy part for those in public office." He goes on in that same article to refer to tax hikes and cuts to public services as, and again I quote, "inevitable."

Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister has refused repeatedly to provide the public with her plans any further out than the end of this year and to rule out any future cuts or tax hikes. Mr. Speaker,

will the Premier make it clear today whether he agrees with his Finance minister and his economic advisor, Mr. Harper, on the inevitability of coming cuts and hikes? Will he come clean about his plans for future cuts to the services that Saskatchewan people depend upon?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we have indicated that we are taking a very aggressive stance with respect to our international engagement that we have, Mr. Speaker. We are an exporting province. We export to over 150 countries each and every year. It is essentially the source of our wealth in this province, as we sell things like agri-food products, potash, uranium to places to make nuclear power, Mr. Speaker, the cleanest source of power.

Mr. Speaker, we most certainly are reliant on those international relationships. So we procure services in the US [United States], Mr. Speaker. We are actively opening up offices, in addition to our office in China, in three other markets. We're going to go further than that, Mr. Speaker. And we have procured Harper & Associates to help us with some of the relationships, to leverage some of the relationships that the former prime minister has had around the world, Mr. Speaker.

Most notably we have had some challenges in China for a number of reasons, and we have exported traditionally a significant amount of raw product to China, Mr. Speaker. India is a market of interest for us, as is the European Union, Mr. Speaker. One of the architects of the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, the CETA [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement] agreement in the European Union was under the Harper administration. Mr. Speaker, we're up drastically in that market. That is a good thing for Saskatchewan agri-food producers.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to use every opportunity and every option we have to increase the export opportunities that we have around the world on behalf of the hard-working people of this province.

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

Provincial Economy and Status of Crown Corporations

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of course you'll have noticed, the Premier chose not to answer the question about the inevitable cuts ahead that were described by Mr. Harper and that are in the plans of this government, Mr. Speaker. But not answering the question seems to be a tradition with this government.

[13:45]

Why just last night, Mr. Speaker, in response to questions from our member from Regina Rosemont, the Finance minister refused three times — she refused three times — to rule out selling off Crowns to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker. She said, and I quote, "I would love to have that kind of power but I don't."

Now it's not entirely clear exactly what she meant, if she meant she'd like to have the kind of power to sell off the Crowns or the

kind of power to be straightforward with people about her plans, Mr. Speaker. But the fact of the matter is people need to know. If the Finance minister won't rule out selling the Crowns, will the Premier?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the first part of that question with some of the comments that Mr. Harper has made, he's referencing the federal government with the estimated between 250, \$300 billion that has been estimated by the Parliamentary Budget Officer to be rolled out due to the . . . in the COVID response, Mr. Speaker. There's some concerns and I think many in this province, including myself, share those concerns with respect as to how we are going to pay this as part of this nation of Canada. How are we going to pay for the incurring debt that is ultimately coming?

Mr. Speaker, we're in a very different situation when you look at the per capita situation here in Saskatchewan. And much of that is due to the work of the Finance minister and her caucus colleagues as well as the hard-working officials at the Ministry of Finance.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that work is most evident here this past week with the introduction of the budget, the first budget post COVID to be introduced in this nation to fully account for our COVID response from a health care perspective but also to fully account for our COVID response and how it impacts the province's finances.

We've put that before this legislature for review. No other jurisdiction, including the federal government, has done such a thing. We would hope they would in the days and weeks ahead, Mr. Speaker, as other provinces will as they have the opportunity as we reopen our provinces, reopen our economy, and ultimately reopen our communities across this province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Wow, Mr. Speaker. The question was clear. The Finance minister wouldn't answer it last night, three times, and now the Premier didn't either. Will the Premier unequivocally state that he will not sell off Saskatchewan Crowns, or will he tell us which Crown he plans to sell off first?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — There's legislation in place that both of these parties have agreed to, Mr. Speaker. As long as that legislation is in place, this is government that will be following that legislation as well as other rules across . . . as well as the other pieces of legislation that have been introduced, supported by this government, Mr. Speaker, and the laws of the land.

When it comes to the finances of this province, Mr. Speaker, and how we have responded to the challenge that we have all faced in how we're responding to COVID, I'm very proud of the budget that the Minister of Finance introduced earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, a budget that once again increased our health care funding.

Of particular importance in there was the increase to the mental

health and addictions funding, Mr. Speaker. We look at the education budget, once again the largest education budget on record, ensuring that we are fully funding the teachers' collective bargaining contract that is in place, Mr. Speaker. We look at our social services funding, yet again up, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our society, Mr. Speaker.

On top of that we put in a booster shot, an injection, Mr. Speaker, a capital injection of \$2 billion to ensure that we can foster the recovery of the economy in Saskatchewan, get people back to work in these communities, and get back to some semblance of normalcy, Mr. Speaker, a growing and prosperous economy, adding jobs and adding people to the province like we have for the last dozen years.

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

Mr. Meili: — As long as the legislation stays in place, Mr. Speaker? What does that mean? We have the Deputy Premier here who brought in Bill 40, who had his two-step plan to sell off SaskTel and other Crowns. They used that to get rid of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. How stupid does the Premier think the people of Saskatchewan are that they would believe this one more time? Brad Wall lied to the people of Saskatchewan about Crown . . .

The Speaker: — Remind the Leader of the Opposition, dangerously close. This is an honourable place. Don't refer to people of this province as stupid. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — I think the people of Saskatchewan are smart enough to not trust this Premier with the Crown corporations. Because once again, a straightforward question, he refuses to say anything but as long as the legislation lasts, as though people in this room don't understand that that legislation can be changed. Mr. Speaker, can we get a straight answer from the Premier for once?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a government that I think approaches the people of this province with great respect and great humility, as we have the honour of representing the vast majority of the people in the province if you look at the makeup of the House. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to listen to the people that we represent as well as all of the people across Saskatchewan, like we did in the case of Bill 40. We listened to the people of Saskatchewan. We took their direction and we made the appropriate changes.

Mr. Speaker, we've done the very same listening procedure throughout how we have responded to the global pandemic and the spread of the COVID-19 virus, both with the restrictions that went into place, Mr. Speaker, also with the resources that this government provided to the people of the province. And most notably and most recently was with how quickly and how urgently and how safely we were able to reopen not only the economic drivers of our communities, but also open up the communities themselves so that people can go out to the parks, and their children can use the playgrounds, so that people can get to the lake, so that they can go on the beach, Mr. Speaker.

We most certainly, most certainly will be — in particular in the next number of months — continuing to approach the people of this province with the humility and the respect that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to asking them for their support very, very shortly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's amazing that this Premier can make Elwin Hermanson look like a faithful defender of the Crowns. As long as the legislation is in place. Brad Wall lied to the people of Saskatchewan and sold off STC, brought in Bill 40 and his two-step plan. Members on this side . . . Members in this room met with buyers for SaskTel, but this Premier won't give us a straight answer because he doesn't want people to know his plans. Which Crown does the Premier plan to sell off first?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — None of them.

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

New Addictions Treatment Services in Estevan

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that people will be inspired by that vigorous defence, an absolute refusal to make it clear that Crowns are not for sale.

Mr. Speaker, even in times like these, even in times like these when this government is plotting serious cuts to services, is plotting the sale of Crowns, Mr. Speaker, as they're having to, according to them, take those austerity measures, they're still going to find a way, we know they'll still find a way to funnel public money to their friends and donors, Mr. Speaker. That's how they operate, over and over again, Mr. Speaker.

Today we've got some breaking bad news regarding how the proponent was chosen to run the new crystal meth rehabilitation centre in Estevan, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier tell us, can the Premier tell us whether he had any meetings or any role in selection or whether he took any meetings related to this centre?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the meeting that I had in relation to the crystal meth beds that are being reopened in this budget, being funded in this budget, entails one meeting. It occurred in Estevan with the CEO of the affiliate health care entity that we work with there, Mr. Speaker. I believe his name is Mr. Greg Hoffer. We had a meeting. We toured the facility. He showed me where the facility would, could, and had operated until the NDP [New Democratic Party] had closed it a number of years ago.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just six months ago Grant Devine emailed a proposal for a for-profit addictions treatment centre to, among others, Brad Wall's former chief of staff. The email reads, and I quote . . . And I'm happy to table this email, Mr. Speaker, but I quote, "Our objective is to present a well-documented model to Premier Moe in the new year."

Here we are just six months later, and there's \$1.4 million in the budget with programming coming online by September with the services to be run by the company that Grant Devine was lobbying for, Mr. Speaker. This is a deal for what Grant Devine refers to in that email as a profitable business model, Mr. Speaker.

We badly need more spaces for Saskatchewan people to seek treatment for their addictions, but this isn't how you do it. It's so important that it be done right, Mr. Speaker. Why was a contract for these services not tendered?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the first I heard of this matter was when the critic raised it last night in estimates. I had no idea what she was talking about, Mr. Speaker. It was the same kind of innuendoes that the Leader of the Opposition is throwing around.

So after estimates last night, Mr. Speaker, I phoned Greg Hoffort, the CEO of St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's is an affiliate, an affiliate that also runs the hospital in Estevan, runs a long-term care facility in Estevan, and did under the former government as well. Mr. Speaker, he had no idea what I was talking about. Mr. Speaker, he's assured me that as much as they love to taint Grant Devine, he's had absolutely no role in this whatsoever.

And the member opposite would be pleased to know he did tell me how the St. Joseph's folks arrived at contacting Cedars in BC [British Columbia] for the addictions treatment advice, Mr. Speaker. It was because they talked to Dr. Wendy Gore-Hickman and she recommended it to them, someone that I'm sure the member opposite's familiar with.

Mr. Speaker, let's put this in context. Mr. Speaker, they're saying, without it being tendered. Would we re-tender . . . would we do a tender if we added a diagnostic or a surgical initiative in St. Paul's Hospital? It's an extension of services, Mr. Speaker. And as the Premier just mentioned before, we should also point out that those originally were addictions treatment beds until the 1990s, when they were closed under the watch of the NDP.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, a for-profit addictions treatment centre, the first for-profit facility in the province, being introduced into a facility that has no addictions treatment at this time. Of course any reasonable, responsible government would tender that, Mr. Speaker. Of course they would. But not under this government, not under this government.

We were told in committee last night, Mr. Speaker, that this facility is going to open in September. What a quick turnaround at a time where everything else has slowed to a crawl, where the waiting lists for surgery are through the roof. But now this suddenly gets the green light, Mr. Speaker. We know the need for crystal meth treatment is important, but it should be done with public dollars and available to everyone who needs it, Mr. Speaker.

And it's very striking, it's very striking that after call after call in this House, call after call from our addictions critic, call after call from folks advocating in the province for addictions centres for

crystal meth treatment, nothing. But when Grant Devine asks for 20 beds, Grant Devine gets 20 beds. This is very concerning, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the Premier: did Grant Devine or the former Premier Wall's chief of staff have any contact with the Premier in the lead-up to this contract being granted? What communication took place between the Premier and the proponents of this arrangement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the CEO of St. Joseph's, Greg Hoffort, has assured me that Grant Devine had absolutely no role in this. Mr. Speaker, this is very clear. I think the member should get his facts straight, talking about it being a for-profit. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be publicly funded and clients will not be charged to attend. It's going to be a totally publicly funded facility. What St. Joseph's is doing, an affiliate with long standing in this province, what they're doing is they're calling on this company, who have a long history in addictions treatment. They're calling on them for their advice and using them in that capacity.

The government had no role in soliciting that, Mr. Speaker. The role of government is to fund the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health will fund the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority]. They'll enter into the agreement with St. Joseph's as they do for all other medical services, Mr. Speaker. What that member is doing is absolutely despicable. He knows better than this. He knows it's not based in fact and he should apologize to this House.

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

Mr. Meili: — Well the email's right here, Mr. Speaker. The email is right here. Mr. Devine was shopping this project around for months and months. It says right here in the email that his plan was to bring the project to Moe, that that was his . . . to Premier Moe. That's what the email says, and I quote. That was his plan.

The question was clear. To the Premier: did you have any contact with Mr. Devine or with any other proponents of this project? Because it sure smells funny when everyone else advocates for crystal meth support but when Grant Devine advocates for 20 beds, 6 months later, there's 20 beds.

The Speaker: — I'll remind the members the use of the word "despicable" is unparliamentary. So it's a caution. I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I'd spoken with respect to the conversations and meetings that I had with respect to the addictions beds in this community of Estevan. They essentially amounted to one meeting, one meeting where I was in Estevan, toured the existing facility run by the affiliate, toured the beds that the NDP had closed a number of years, Mr. Speaker. That's the only meeting that I'd had. There's no meeting, no consultation that I had with Mr. Devine or anyone else, outside of the Minister of Health and the affiliate themselves, with

respect to these beds.

We're very pleased, Mr. Speaker. We're very pleased to be opening these beds on behalf of the people in the southeastern portion of this province. Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing here today is very concerning. We are seeing the Leader of the Opposition trying to drag some names through the mud if you will, quite frankly, on an email that he has not yet tabled. I would ask him to table the email, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the people of this province, the people of this House, there's no meetings between myself, Mr. Devine on this issue, Mr. Speaker. There's no meetings between myself outside of the affiliate when I toured the facility and the Minister of Health.

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

Resumption of In-Classroom Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sask Party's cut-and-paste budget is a recipe for more cuts to the classrooms and at a time when our kids can least afford it.

The Saskatoon Public School Board just passed a budget which notes that provincial funding "does not allow the school division to address projected enrolment growth and inflation for operating costs." Mr. Speaker, they are short \$2 million.

This government had more than three months to plan a budget that would meet the needs of kids and staff and teachers in the province, and prepare a response to COVID-19. Will this minister admit that he has once again failed our kids?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this budget shows a \$42 million increase in operating for school divisions across this province. And I'll remind the member opposite that . . . [inaudible] . . . since we've had the privilege of forming government, enrolment in our schools is up 14 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Our per-student funding is up 23 per cent. Thirty-seven per cent increase in operating funds to our school divisions.

Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan, the school divisions enjoy one of the highest per-pupil funding rates in the entire country. Mr. Speaker, we listened to the school boards. We understand what the needs in the classrooms are and we try to address those needs. We will continue to provide support to the school divisions in this province, Mr. Speaker. The highest education budget in the history of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and we're very proud of that.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, no one in the classroom or near a classroom is using the same numbers that that minister is, and he ought to know better.

Parents and teachers and children were expecting to see provincial funding that took this pandemic seriously. They needed to see that funding. Instead they have an operating budget that has not changed since the province took their first kick at the can in February of this year. Because of COVID-19, a plan for

schools to safely open in the fall is non-negotiable, a plan that puts an end to classes of 40 or more kids in a classroom. Mr. Speaker, that would make social distancing impossible.

The Saskatoon Public School Board states that funding levels "will allow class size ratios to remain at the same levels as in previous years."

To the minister: does he recognize that a pandemic year requires a level of response that is wholly different than that of previous years? Where is the plan to reduce class sizes and make our schools safer in September?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the guiding principle that continues to guide the Ministry of Education and the Government of Saskatchewan is the wellness and the safety of our children when they return in the fall.

We've had many conversations with our partners in education. I'm very pleased to report that the good conversations we're having with the response planning team, Mr. Speaker, and with individuals at Public Health, Dr. Shahab, to make sure that the plan that is in place for children going back to school in the fall ensures that they are going to be going back to school in a safe and responsible way, Mr. Speaker.

I wish members opposite would stop instilling panic in the parents of this province. Mr. Speaker, the guiding principle of this government from the beginning of the pandemic is to ensure the safety and security of the people of this province, and no one is more important than the children that are going back to school in the fall. We will make sure that the plan is safe, Mr. Speaker, and we'll make sure that we understand and we put protocols in place to ensure the safety of our children in the fall.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, how dare the minister insinuate that it is instilling panic to bring the questions that parents have with regard to their children's safety to the floor of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we know that the provincial response planning team is doing good work.

But you know what they want to know? Who is going to come up with the money? Because under this government, they no longer have the ability to raise their own funds, Mr. Speaker, so it is solely in that minister's court to provide that funding to our classrooms.

I'm going to quote again from the Saskatoon Public School Board: "Our division's growing demands are far outpacing provincial funding. Our board will continue to lobby for the resources our students need to be successful." Mr. Speaker, we are hearing the same thing from division after division.

We are hearing from parents who are not sure about sending their children back, and they want these questions answered. Our kids need and they deserve funding that will keep them safe. And it is not enough, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Finance to tell parents that COVID-19 doesn't affect kids too harshly. Where is the plan to make schools safe, Mr. Speaker, and where is the

funding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, the guiding principle, as I've said, is to ensure the safety and security of our kids in the classroom, our teachers, and other professional staff. Now if the member would have paid attention when my good friend, the Hon. Finance minister, stood in her place, she would have known that there's a \$200 million contingency fund in this budget to deal with the consequences of COVID-19, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for me to say at the present time what additional resources are going to be needed in the fall. Many things can change between now and when children go back to school in the fall, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker, we will ensure that the resourcing in the classroom, the instruction in the classroom is not going to be affected by COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. We will have a safe plan. If the member waits till tomorrow, we will be releasing the details of the plan with respect to children going back to school, Mr. Speaker. A plan that's been worked on by Public Health, the Ministry of Education, and the resource planning team. We're very comfortable with where we're at with the plan, Mr. Speaker. We can assure the parents of this province that their children will be safe in schools.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Nutana on her feet?

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to move a motion under rule 61.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 209 — *The Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Exports.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 209, *The Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 209 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Sproule: — Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — You needed to give the Speaker's office notice for a point of privilege.

Ms. Sproule: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — What's your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 61, when the member asks or requests to move the motion, there is to be an opportunity for the member to actually read the motion before the Assembly decides whether they support the motion or not.

The Speaker: — The member will have another opportunity at orders of the day, the correct spot for it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS (continued)

Bill No. 210 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 210, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2020* be now introduced and read for a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 210 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 211 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 211, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2020* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 211 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 212 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 212, *The Police Amendment Act, 2020* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 212 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 621 — *The Workers' Compensation (COVID-19) Amendment Act*

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 621, *The Workers' Compensation (COVID-19) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 621 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Mr. Forbes: — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 180, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and that the bill now be read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on the bill and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 180 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019*

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I move that the bill now be read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

[14:15]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Saskatoon Nutana on her feet?

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to move a motion under rule 61.

The Speaker: — Will the member briefly state the purpose of the motion and read the text of the motion?

MOTION UNDER RULE 61**Action to Resolve Labour Dispute**

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As you know, there's a call for fair collective bargaining for Saskatchewan workers. We see in the Unifor-FCL [Federated Co-operatives Ltd.] dispute that it needs to be brought to an end. Our leader and our party have repeatedly called on the Premier to recall the legislature to pass legislation that would force an end to the lockout and a final resolution through binding arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, this lockout has gone on far too long. The special mediator should have been appointed sooner, and when it became clear there would be no negotiated solution after Vince Ready's report, the Sask Party should then have imposed binding arbitration. This shows a lack of leadership, and the impasse continues with negative impacts on our province, the city of Regina, and those hundreds of families. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we should call for a debate in this Assembly to talk about moving forward with binding arbitration legislation and get those workers back to work.

So I would like to read the following motion. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, if given leave:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce legislation to end the lockout between Federated Co-operatives Ltd. and Unifor Local 594 and impose binding arbitration on the parties.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Nutana has requested leave to move without notice a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave has not been granted. Next item of business.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**Question of Privilege**

The Speaker: — Today at 10:56 a.m. I received a letter from the Government House Leader in which he raised a question of privilege asserting that the member from Nutana was attempting to influence the Speaker's decision on a priority of debate motion request by publicly releasing the letter of that request prior to the Speaker addressing the matter in the Assembly. I've reviewed the case and I will now rule on the case brought forward by the Government House Leader.

The first matter I will address is the release of the priority of debate request to the public via social media yesterday, June 16, 2020. Your request was received in my office at 10:51 a.m. It was subsequently put in the public domain at approximately 11:43 a.m., well before the start of the daily sitting on June 16.

The case is an internal matter for consideration of the Speaker and its public release was highly improper, both as a matter of

order and as an interference in the Speaker's consideration of the matter. The member's public release of this letter is analogous to what is stated on page 265 in the 24th edition of Erskine May: "... it would be a contempt, when Members are acting in a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity ... to attempt, by letters, anonymous or other, to influence them in the discharge of their duties."

Erskine May more directly states:

Conduct not amounting to a direct attempt improperly to influence Members in the discharge of their duties *but* having a tendency to impair their independence in the future performance of their duty may be treated as a contempt.

It is my conclusion that the release of the letter into the public domain was meant to pressure the Speaker into making a decision favourable to the member. Moreover the member's letter was phrased in such a way as to imply that part of the Speaker's decision is based on the merit of the public policy decision.

The member is well aware that the Speaker's view of a public policy matter is irrelevant and is never a factor in a decision. The member is fully aware that the Speaker bases decisions on the provisions of the rule and not whether he shares the public policy view of the member. This, in conjunction with the release of the letter to the public, injected the Speaker into a public policy debate, which is inappropriate.

I find that the actions of the Opposition House Leader amounted to an attempt to influence by public pressure the Speaker's decision to rule on the priority debate request. The actions also amounted to an attempt to improperly influence the Speaker in making a decision based on the importance of the public policy issue rather than the terms of the standing order.

For these reasons I find that the Government House Leader has established a *prima facie* case for the matter to be considered as a question of privilege by the Assembly.

I'd also like to advise the Assembly that in accordance with rule 12(6) there are time limits on debate on the question of privilege motion:

The mover of the motion shall speak for not more than one hour, and is permitted 15 minutes to close debate; and

No other Member shall speak for more than 45 minutes.

Further, that the question will be called at 10 minutes before adjournment unless sooner concluded.

I recognize the Government House Leader to move his motion.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I listened with gravity to your comments and your ruling on the establishment of a *prima facie* case of privilege in this matter.

This is, as members know on this side, one of the most serious issues that we can deal with in this Chamber and that has to do with the privileges of members, the privileges of the institution, and the dignity and position of the Speaker in that institution. And I would note, Mr. Speaker, that this is now the second time

in a handful of years where the Opposition House Leader has been found to be in contempt of the Assembly.

These are matters that I don't relish speaking on, and we would prefer to not have to deal with, Mr. Speaker, but we are. And perhaps for those who are watching and listening, I'll provide some of the background as to why we are at where we are at today.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, as you noted, the Opposition submitted a priority of debate motion. The Opposition House Leader posted that priority of debate motion to her social media account prior to it being considered by yourself as the Speaker and prior to it being in possession of the House. And we felt strongly that that was an attempt to strong-arm the decision of the Speaker and influence and direct the Speaker to take a particular position on that section 28 motion.

Mr. Speaker, I will quote from *Beauchesne's* paragraph 167, which speaks to the unique role of your role in both parliamentary convention and in academic text. And I'll quote:

The Presiding Officer, while but a servant of the House, is entitled on all occasions to be treated with the greatest attention and respect by the individual Members because the office embodies the power, dignity, and honour of the House itself.

In order to preside over the activities of this Assembly, as you well know and have carried out with great dignity, Mr. Speaker, the impartiality of the Chair must not be put into question. And I'll quote from *Beauchesne's* 168(1):

Confidence in the impartiality of the Speaker is an indispensable condition of the successful working of procedure, and many conventions exist which have as their object, not only to ensure the impartiality of the Speaker but also, to ensure that there is a general recognition of the Speaker's impartiality.

To maintain the impartiality of the Speaker and give due respect to the role:

The Speaker should be protected against reflections on . . . [their] actions.

And that's *Beauchesne's* paragraph 71. And such reflections may be punished as breaches of privilege. This includes both commenting on past and future rulings and decisions of the Speaker. A prima facie case of privilege has been established on that basis because of the member's actions. And I would submit that the Opposition House Leader's actions of publicly posting her letter on June 16th, 2020 to you before the Assembly had met was an attempt to strong-arm and influence the upcoming ruling of the Speaker on the priority of debate motion.

Moreover I would note, Mr. Speaker, which you also noted in your ruling on the priority of debate motion itself yesterday, that the opposition had other legislative avenues to bring this issue to the floor of the Assembly, including, which they did today, section 61. But also, Mr. Speaker, they could have brought this matter to the floor of the Assembly on Friday. They had that opportunity. They could have submitted their priority of debate

for Friday on private members' day, and they specifically chose not to do that. They were invited to make that application, and the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition House Leader specifically chose to raise another item in priority to the matter that they were discussing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to be clear for those listening in, for the members of the Chamber, why this is important. The Speaker does not and cannot play a partisan role. The Speaker is precluded because of his role from defending himself in a partisan way. So when members opposite launch a partisan attack on the office and the person of the Speaker, that is why we have the rules in place that we do to protect that office and protect that individual, whoever it is, occupying the Speaker's Chair. And that's why this is a big deal, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I am prepared to move the appropriate motion:

That the actions of the member for Saskatoon Nutana on June 16th, 2020 constitute a breach of privilege of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan by attempting to influence a ruling of the Speaker; and further,

That the member for Saskatoon Nutana remove all offending social media posts and apologize to the Speaker and Assembly for her actions.

I so move.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have an opportunity to rise and make some comments on these proceedings. I think one of the things I want to say right off the bat is that the labour dispute with Unifor that we see outside this building every day for hours and hours on end, it's been going on for months and months on end. And, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that that be actually . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member for Cannington on his feet?

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, the motion before the House is not about a labour dispute that is taking place in the province. It's about a breach of privilege of the Speaker by the member opposite. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what she's talking about, but it's not relevant to this debate.

The Speaker: — I'll recognize the member for Nutana, but I'll remind you to stick to the motion in place here.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this labour dispute is at the heart of this motion, and it is at the heart of our intentions as the official opposition to bring forward this important issue on the table. We had the Government House Leader speaking at length about options that were available to us. I'd like to address that as well. And I would like the members opposite to allow me to have a chance to explain my actions, Mr. Speaker.

So I don't know if you're going to recognize him again or not, but I think this is clearly abusing my ability to speak to this motion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — A point of order, Mr. Speaker. Clearly my first point of order was that the member speaking must speak to the motion, not to something else. And the member opposite is clearly not speaking to the motion, and I ask that you rule that she must speak to the motion and not to other issues.

The Speaker: — I'd agree and I'm going to remind the member again, speak to the motion.

[14:30]

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, at issue here and the heart of this motion was my intentions yesterday when I posted a social media tweet regarding a letter that I had delivered to your office. And the intention of my actions is the heart of this motion, and therefore it is imperative that I have an opportunity to address this Assembly and the members present to make it clear what my intentions were because the intentions that are alleged against me by that member, Mr. Speaker, are not the intentions that I had.

So I think that I should have an opportunity to speak to my intentions because my intentions are at the heart of this matter, and they are very much involved with the labour dispute that is occurring in this city, in this province, Mr. Speaker. So I would like to take the opportunity to fully explain my intentions because my intentions are what's being maligned and impugned here, Mr. Speaker.

So again I want to reiterate the importance of this debate in this Assembly and that my intentions yesterday were to, as a member of the Legislative Assembly . . .

The Speaker: — This debate is about the motion specifically. That's it.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I can speak to the motion. It's easy, and that's what I have been doing. The actions of my . . . What's being maligned here is that the actions that I . . . of my actions yesterday constitute a breach of privilege by attempting to influence the ruling of the Speaker. There was no such attempt from my perspective, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously you have had the advice of the Clerk's table, and you've looked at some of the rulings of the past in relation to letters that other members have . . . or other rulings that have come in from other jurisdictions. Obviously none of these rulings had anything to do with a tweet. That letter was public the minute it hit your desk, Mr. Speaker, and therefore my intention was that that be . . . We've seen the Premier release letters in the past, Mr. Speaker.

And this is a very important debate. It's very important to the official opposition that we get this debate on the floor of the Assembly. And you suggested yesterday, Mr. Speaker, there were other ways to go around it, although you didn't exactly rule on rule 28. Now we've tried again under rule 61, Mr. Speaker.

And I think what really needs to be brought to the fore here is what is the essence of the dispute and what the public needs to know about what's going on in this Assembly as a result of the failure of this government to bring binding arbitration

legislation . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again the point of order is that the member needs to talk about this motion, not the success or failure of the motion she presented yesterday, which is irrelevant, Mr. Speaker, to this debate today. It is about the privilege of the Speaker based on her actions prior to debate in the House yesterday, Mr. Speaker. It's not about any other issue but the actions and the breach of privilege of the Speaker, Mr. Speaker. So again I ask that the member opposite be restricted to discussing this motion and none other, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Member for Saskatoon Centre, come to order. The point of order, member from Cannington, is well taken. You will stick to the motion and not bring anything else into debate.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I have been sticking to the motion. The motion is about attempting to influence, and I think as a member of this Assembly I have every right to make it clear that there was no attempt on my part to influence any decision that you were making. And you know that, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's a shameful thing when the arrogance of members like the member from Cannington get in the way of meaningful debate on the floor of this Assembly.

We let the member, the House Leader, give his speech. And now, Mr. Speaker, they are attempting to shut down this debate by continually raising issues and distorting the motion itself, Mr. Speaker. It was about whether or not I attempted to influence your decision. I had no intention — and I want that clear on the record — I had absolutely no intention to influence your actions. If you were influenced by them, Mr. Speaker, and that's what you found, then that is your choice, Mr. Speaker, but it was certainly not my intention.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday we had one opportunity under the sessional orders to bring forward a vote, to bring forward a vote on something that is critically important to the people of Saskatchewan, and that is on the importance of a proper suicide prevention strategy, Mr. Speaker. To suggest that this should replace that is what the Government House Leader suggested and I think as well yourself in your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

It is not something that this opposition is prepared to do because suicide prevention is one of the most critical and important pieces that we have debated in this Assembly. And our member from Cumberland deserves the right to get these members to tell us whether they support that bill or not, Mr. Speaker, and that's very important to the official opposition. It's very important to the people of Saskatchewan and it is critically important to the people of the North and whether or not they feel represented by this government, Mr. Speaker. So it is important for that to go forward. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing under the sessional orders that said that there would be no debate allowed under section 29, Mr. Speaker.

So those are some of the things I think that need to be on the record to ensure that the Government House Leader's rather

grand words were . . . at least that there be a reflection of the reality that exists on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

So again, Mr. Speaker, this is a labour dispute that is hurting the local economy and my intentions as part of . . . My intentions in bringing this forward were in no way meant to influence your decision, Mr. Speaker. You are impartial and you are the one who makes those decisions. There was no attempt on the part of myself to influence you. My goal is to ensure that this very important debate happen on the floor of this Assembly. We tried to use the section 29. We've tried 61. We have other . . . But if this government is afraid to debate this issue on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, well it's shame on them, Mr. Speaker.

And again, I assert that my intentions were never in any way whatsoever to influence you as Speaker of the Assembly. None of that was intended, Mr. Speaker, and I'm just telling you that that is the case. So, Mr. Speaker, I think at this point in time I would like to apologize for the actions and I will remove those social media posts.

The Speaker: — Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in agreement with the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — The ayes have it. In the middle of the debate, the member did apologize so that ends the issue, ends the debate. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees, both this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — Moved by the Government House Leader that the Assembly now adjourn. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:39.]

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Premier

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Minister of Advanced Education

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Central Services

Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Environment

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave

Minister of Crown Investments

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Government Insurance

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

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Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of Trade and Export Development

Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Gene Makowsky

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority

Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit

Minister of Agriculture

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman

Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan

Workers' Compensation Board

Minister Responsible for The Global

Transportation Hub Authority

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Water Security Agency

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Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Corrections and Policing

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Deputy Premier

Minister of Education

Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan