



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

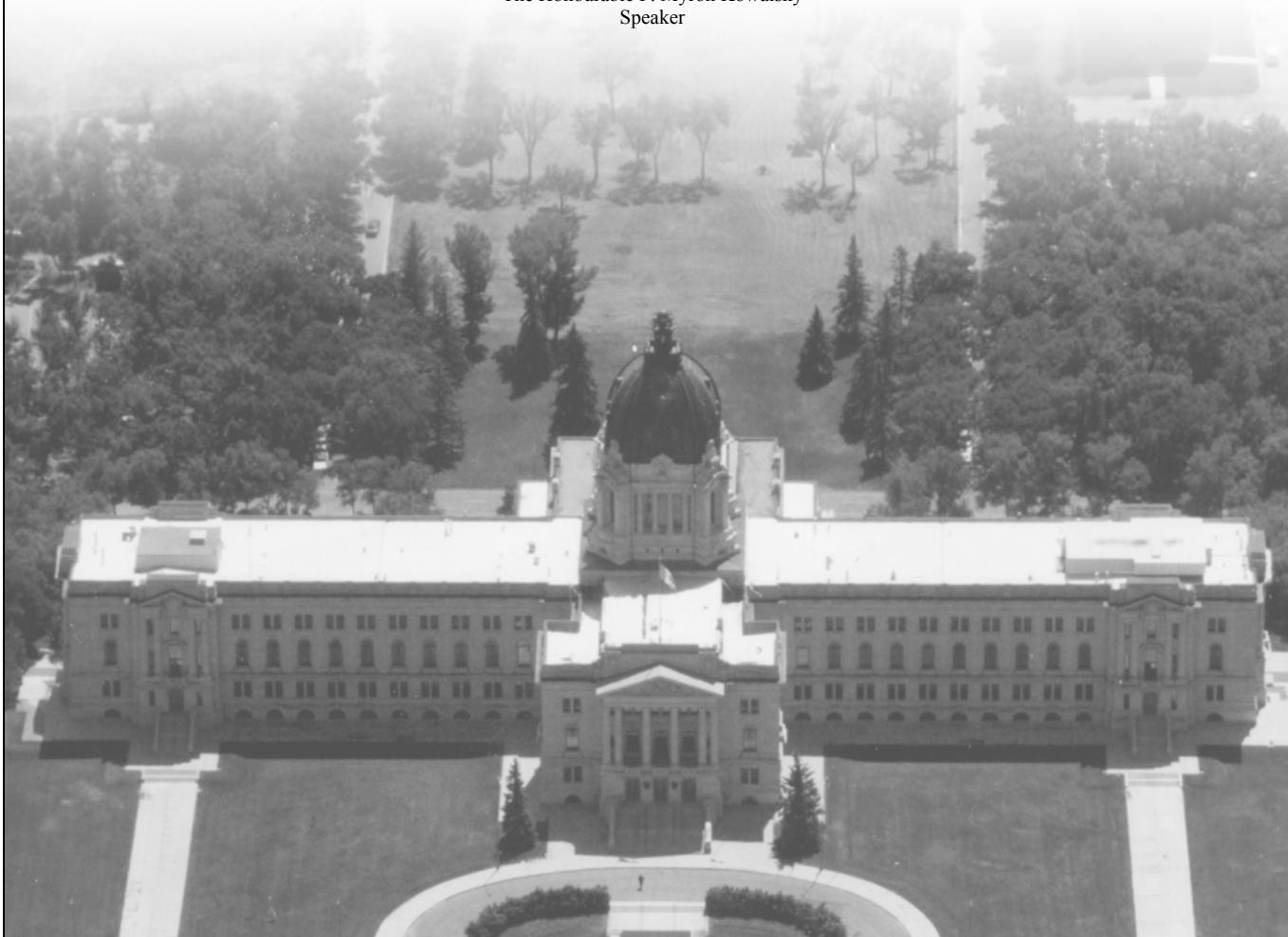
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# **DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

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McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
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Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

**EVENING SITTING**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 1**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 1 — The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Act, Bill No. 1, An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, 1993, and to make consequential amendments to other Acts — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to speak to this Bill.

This Bill allows for summary financial statements in the budgeting process, and by making reference only to up-to-date accounting practices and budgeting and accounting processes that can be changed in future without amending this legislation, which may be a concern when it comes to openness and accountability.

In this Bill, section 7 removes references to what must be included in the financial statements, and refers instead to and I quote:

“ . . . accounting . . . (practice) established by the board”.

We assume this will mean summary financial statements, as is the case in other provinces, and which is recommended by our Provincial Auditor. But there is nothing in this Bill that states that.

In this Bill, Mr. Speaker, section 16 directs that the Provincial Comptroller prepare a summary financial statements in accordance with accounting policies of the Treasury Board. But the legislation, Mr. Speaker, doesn't say what the accounting policies of the Treasury Board are. It's not laid out anywhere in this legislation.

The Bill makes changes that takes away some of the ability of the legislature to provide oversight and question the government prior to passage of the budget.

In this Bill, Mr. Speaker, clause 5 allows for so-called net budgeting in some circumstances — revenues received that relate to the provision of goods or services to pay for the cost of those activities as cost may exceed revenues at the beginning of the year, of a fiscal year. Treasury Board at that time under this legislation may appropriate additional revenues to cover the difference until sufficient revenues are generated.

Interim supply Bills in April may be a thing of the past if clause 6 is implemented. If passed, it's my understanding that one-twelfth of the previous year's estimate for each department will be appropriated on April 1, and that will happen, Mr. Speaker, without any need for an interim supply Bill. It appears

the only thing that might possibly necessitate an interim supply Bill would be new program funding, under this legislation. And this legislation also states that sums appropriated cannot exceed one-twelfth of the previous year's estimate. It appears interim supply may still be necessary in subsequent months. This is unclear, however, in the legislation.

The Bill makes some changes regarding electronic documentation and allows one department to charge another department for a provision of a service.

Mr. Speaker, with the ambiguities that are glaring in this Bill and the need for more clarification, I move to adjourn.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Thunder Creek that debate on Bill No. 1 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 19:10.



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