



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

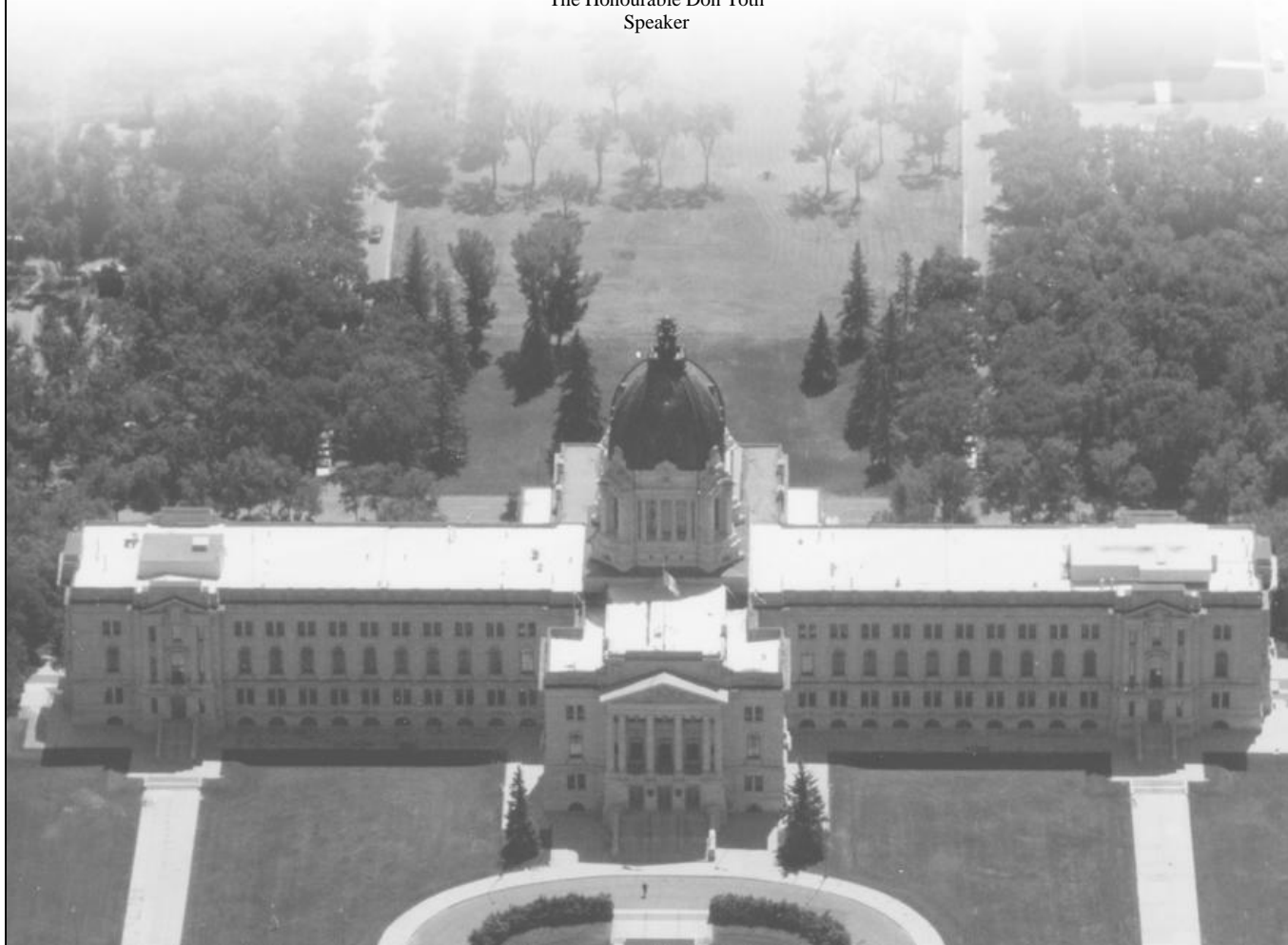
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	Ind.	Saskatoon Northwest
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly resumed at 13:30.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: — It now being 1:30, the House will resume with routine proceedings. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With request for leave to make a statement relating to the National Day of Mourning.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave to make a statement in regards to the National Day of Mourning, related to the National Day of Mourning. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With flags at half-mast across the country and pins on display in this Assembly today, we recognize the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. On this solemn occasion, our thoughts and condolences go to all of the family, friends, and co-workers of those who have lost their lives.

On behalf of our government and the people of this province, I am honoured to recognize the families of the late Jason Schwindt, Michael Peters, and James Gallenger who are honouring us with their presence today in your gallery.

Mr. Speaker, each year this one special day, solemn and sombre as it is, is set aside for Canadians to mourn those killed in the workplace. Sadly, here in Saskatchewan 34 people have lost their lives as a result of work-related incidents and injuries. However, the pain goes well beyond these victims. The lives of the families, friends, and colleagues of these 34 have been altered forever.

However, out of this tragedy hope can be born. Understandably misfortune can embitter, but it can also inspire. In his inaugural address as president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela spoke of how the pain his country had experienced could embolden citizens to create a better future. He said, “Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster . . . must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.”

With that spirit in mind, let us reflect on the importance of occupational health and safety in the workplace and redouble our shared commitment to protect Saskatchewan workers from needless illness, injury, and death. Together let us resolve to prevent the loss of life and the tragic toll that loss takes on families and across communities.

Mr. Speaker, with the reading of the names into the official

record of Saskatchewan, we make permanent our recognition of the women and the men who have lost their lives at work. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to please rise as I read the names of the deceased. They are:

Denis Belair	Shawn Berg
Eberhard Bordt	Ron Burrige
John Carrier	Darcy Delorme
Billy Francis	James Gallenger
Phillip Hoffman	Joseph Holten
Wayne Huget	John Kalyn
Robert Leslie	John Loch
Dale Loucks	Wayne McClean
Wade McEwen	Robert McKillican
Thomas Merritt	Guy Ouellette
Mervyn Paproski	Jennifer Peel
Michael Peters	Lionell Pillar
Abram Reimer	Harvey Riehl
Danny Rist	Elmer Sarauer
Jason Schwindt	Adrian Scott
Harvey Sigfusson	Yanfeng Tian
Mark Wilson	Evan Yost

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of this province, I express our most sincere condolences to these workers' families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members now observe a moment of silence in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

The Speaker: — Thank you members and guests. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — I ask leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I too want to make a statement on the Day of Mourning, Mr. Speaker, and to welcome the families here today. Mr. Speaker, today we remember those workers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We remember their labour, the labour that benefitted their families, and the labour that created the standard of living that we all share.

Our thoughts also turn to the families. We reach out to them. We try to understand their pain. Today we honour and remember those fallen heroes who were killed at work.

Mr. Speaker, in 1984, the Canadian Labour Congress began to observe April 28th as a day of mourning. In 1991, after much lobbying by the occupational health and safety activists, the Parliament of Canada passed the *Workers Mourning Day Act*, initially recognizing April 28th as a day to remember workers who gave their lives or were injured just because they went to

work.

Mr. Speaker, the canary in a cage has become a symbol of occupational health and safety groups and April 28th. At one time, Mr. Speaker, canaries were the only safeguard underground miners had against dangers in their workplaces. When the canary died, it was time for workers to evacuate the mines. Mr. Speaker, I remind everyone today of this because in some ways we have come a long way, but not far enough, not enough for the 34 workers whose names were read into the record today by the minister. Today we pause. We pause, we honour, and we remember.

Mr. Speaker, unions have always been at the forefront of fighting for safe standards in the workplace. And today I want to read into the record a statement from Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress and the statement is as follows:

Over the past twenty-five years, successive governments have pledged their support to workers and their unions. They announced new workplace health and safety laws and regulations — some of the best in the world. Unfortunately, they have failed to provide the resources needed to enforce those new laws.

Over the last twenty-five years, the number of Canadians who die every year because of something that happened to them at work has been steadily growing. We know that hundreds more deaths occur due to exposures to carcinogens and toxins in the workplace, but they are never identified or accepted as work-related by Workers' Compensation Boards.

The slogan for the CLC National Day of Mourning, "Is today the day you die at work?" asks, why is it that so many Canadians unjustly lose their life?

Sadly, for 2008, the most recent year for which we have statistics, 1,036 Canadians lost their lives because of their work.

This is the reason why Canada's workplaces claim a growing number of lives every year; the laws are not enforced, so reckless employers are allowed to carry on without consequence.

It's time for the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments to appoint special prosecutors to lay charges under the Criminal Code against employers when their actions cause death or serious injury. More inspectors must be hired to ensure employers comply with the law. Government regulators must be held accountable for this carnage that seems to go unchecked.

As we take time today, April 28th, to remember those who have lost their lives, been injured or became ill, due to their work, I ask you to do no more than reflect on the importance of health and safety. I ask you to think of those who are closest to you, your child, your spouse, your sibling, your parent, your best friend. Consider the role they play in your life and your family's lives. Imagine if their life was taken from them. Every single

one of those 1,036 lives that ended in 2008 had dreams, had a mom and had people who loved and continue to love and miss them.

Signed, Ken Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Congress.

Mr. Speaker, these workplace injuries and deaths won't stop on their own. It takes commitment. It takes tougher laws and resources and better enforcement of those laws before we will see the day where no more names are being read into *Hansard*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — We have a number of guests in our Chamber today that we will be recognizing, and rather than every member asking to ask for leave to respond or to express their wishes, I'm just going to ask the Assembly if we would allow for a blanket leave to acknowledge that. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. Thank you.

Members, it's my pleasure today to introduce to the Assembly someone who needs no introduction, especially to members of this Assembly. And in a moment, I will invite him and his wife and family to stand when I introduce them.

With us today, we have Mr. Fred Wendel, the Provincial Auditor, who is retiring as of April 30th after 10 years of service as an officer of the Assembly. Mr. Wendel has worked as a professional auditor for 40 years in both the private and public sectors; 39 of those years were in the Saskatchewan public sector.

Today we want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Wendel. So I would invite Mr. Wendel to stand. Mr. Wendel is accompanied by his wife today of 46 years, Dianne, and his family. We have his daughter, Janie and her husband, Dale Markewich and their children, Daniel, Katherine, Julianne, and Thomas. His son, Jeff and his wife, Erin Wendel and their children, Dylan, Ethan, and Nolan. Daughter, Jeana and her husband, Jeff Craigen and their children, Kaitlyn and Caroline.

We're also privileged, I believe, to have guests from the Provincial Auditor's office. For the past number of years, members have had the privilege of sitting there around a table with the auditor as he has explained his report to the members. And so I would like to invite, at this time, members to express their appreciation by extending a warm welcome to Mr. Wendel and his family and staff who have joined us today.

I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont, the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you it's my pleasure to join with you to introduce, seated in your gallery, and to welcome Mr. Fred Wendel, his wife Dianne and their family to their Assembly. Later today we will be recognizing Mr. Wendel's contributions to our province, providing thanks, and wishing Mr. Wendel well with his

retirement.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and on behalf of all my colleagues, present and past, I am honoured to offer our gratitude to Mr. Fred Wendel for his great service to our province. Mr. Wendel has served with integrity, integrity, and dedication. I would be remiss not to thank Mrs. Dianne Wendel and their family for their many years supporting Mr. Wendel's service, respectively sharing a husband, a father, and a grandfather with our province.

At the next meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, I will move a motion of appreciation and support, a formal and recorded thank you. On behalf of my colleagues, it is my honour to simply say, thank you, Fred Wendel. We wish you and Dianne a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement. It is well deserved. I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in showing our gratitude.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford, the Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the comments from my colleague and member for Regina Rosemont, on behalf of the government, I would also like to thank Mr. Wendel for his years of service in the auditing profession, for those many hours of number crunching but more, Mr. Speaker, for his recommendations to the governments of the day for practical, best-practice solutions to assure accountable and transparent governments for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the role of auditing and reporting on past transactions, Fred and his office provide invaluable recommendation for future planning for our ministries and our government in areas such as succession planning, emergency preparedness, security, and so on. We wish you, Fred and Dianne, all the best in your retirement. Thank you.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, earlier today there was a very special function, a special ceremony at Government House honouring this year's recipients of the Volunteer Medal — the 15th such installation. And, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to provide just a general introduction to those very special people who are seated on the floor of the legislature today, and they will of course be introduced much more specifically as we go through this afternoon.

Just before I do that, I would want to say as well, on behalf of the Executive Council, thank you to Fred for his good work on behalf of various governments in the province of Saskatchewan, frankly on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, to make sure, as members had pointed out, that government is transparent and accountable. And to Dianne, thank you for sharing him with us, with members of the Assembly, with the people of the province. And we wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, for 15 years now we have been

honouring volunteers. It was a great idea implemented by the Romanow administration, and it's a highlight every spring. As we hear the citations of the volunteer recipients, we are reminded of what is absolutely the best of our province and of our communities.

And we are reminded that without people, the likes of which that we celebrate today, there would be no soup kitchens, Mr. Speaker, for those who need it. There would be no charity in this province; the Salvation Army kettle bells would be silent. Our history would not be told, Mr. Speaker. Sporting activities for kids wouldn't be available; neither would musical activities. Neither would, in some cases, the basic necessities of life that are provided in our urban centres and also in rural Saskatchewan by volunteers, Mr. Speaker. There would be no summer arts festivals. There would be no World Junior Hockey Championships to celebrate as we did yesterday.

All of that is provided for us by our volunteers. It's made possible by them. And today we celebrated some very special people and, Mr. Speaker, as I said I think it was a highlight for all of us there. I only wish the whole province could be here every spring or through some other medium to be able to hear the citations read of all of these people. They would know what a great inspiration they are.

There are two things that happen on every occasion such as this, as my predecessor would point out quite aptly and properly. The two certainties of the Volunteer Medal presentation is the modesty of the recipients, Mr. Speaker, who will deflect and defer to others and give credit to family members and others for their good work. That's one certainty. And the other is that the rest of us are inspired, hopefully to do what they have done by example.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I would just welcome them here to their Legislative Assembly. And we look forward to meeting them more directly just in a few minutes. Mr. Speaker, this year's recipients of Saskatchewan's Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Premier in welcoming to the great Assembly of Saskatchewan 10 very important recipients — and honoured today — of the Volunteer Medals that were given out by the Lieutenant Governor. And also to thank the government for carrying on this fine tradition, and to the Premier for being there and sponsoring the event and the great luncheon we had together.

When the description of the work that these individuals do and have done in their past, it was really heartwarming to know that they are the people who make our communities the great places they are to live. But in addition to that, I think it's fair to say that not only these individuals, but their families because I know that the members involved in gaining these awards today have many family members who sacrificed as well, either by joining them in their endeavour or by staying at home and looking after things at home to make sure everything was working out.

And I just want to join the Premier in saying welcome today, and very special congratulations to you, your families, and your community on a job well done.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Jack Ambler. Jack is from the constituency of Regina South, who today received the Volunteer Medal. Thank you very much, Jack, for all your work that you make our community a better place to live. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honour to introduce Mr. Dennis Bleier from the constituency of Prince Albert Northcote who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Sergeant Keith Briant from the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today and want to say to you and through you to Mr. Speaker and recognize a very important individual from my riding. And it's a privilege to introduce to you Mrs. Judy Lyons from the constituency of Regina Douglas Park who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southeast, the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce Mr. Sidney Katzman from the constituency of Saskatoon Southeast who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose, the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce Mrs. Marie Knutson from the constituency of Rosetown-Elrose who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce Mr. Denis Chisholm from the constituency of Regina Douglas Park who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Wood River, the

Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed my privilege to introduce Ms. Thelma Poirier from the constituency of Wood River who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn, the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Mrs. April Sampson from the constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great privilege to introduce Mrs. Vaughn Schofield from the constituency of Thunder Creek who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena, the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments, the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's a great pleasure today to introduce 13 employees who are here today to take part in the parliamentary program for public service. They're seated in the west gallery.

The participants are from six different ministries: Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; Agriculture; Environment; Health; Social Services; Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. We also have employees from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and office of the Legislative Assembly. And today their program is going include an in-depth tour of our Legislative Building, briefings by the Legislative Library, by the Legislative Assembly Office of the Clerk, Executive Council, and observing the House proceedings. And today they also had acknowledged some of the important work we're doing here today, acknowledging the Day of Mourning and our Volunteer Medal recipients.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in the Assembly knows that we do not do the work of the people by ourselves. We do it with the good work with the people in the Public Service Commission. So I'm extremely looking forward to meeting with you later and discussing the important work that we do together. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I too would like to welcome the members from the public service that are here with us today. We all recognize, as members of this Assembly, the very valuable work they do on behalf of all the people of Saskatchewan on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. So on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome a group of students from the Douglas Park School. They're seated in the east gallery. There's 26 students. I wonder if they'd just give us a wave. They're here with their teacher Joe Filson, and Lois Maeland.

Now Douglas Park School is well-known for the home of the Lions, their sports team. And I know that all members will want to join with me in welcoming the students here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you someone who's no stranger to this Assembly, or really pretty much every corner of the province, a former member of the Legislative Assembly, someone who has contributed much to the province, both in business, through his charitable activities, and then of course in public service. We welcome back to the Legislative Assembly former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Ted Merriman.

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

Ms. Chartier: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce in the west gallery, Heather Malek. Can you give us a little wave, Heather.

Heather is a film and television producer here, in Regina. She moved here from Alberta and has been working hard to help the government understand the error of their ways with the closure of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] Matters. So I'd like all members to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce some people in the Speaker's gallery. With my wife, Heather are friends of ours, Harry and Yvonne Sugimoto from Lethbridge.

Harry and I lived on the same floor in residence a couple of years ago, our first two years of university. Harry graduated with a degree in agriculture, majoring in poultry science. And, Mr. Speaker, if you're having any problems with your chickens, this might be your man. I would like the Assembly to welcome our guests. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the safety of our highways. This petition pertains to Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of No. 1. This particular

portion of highway, Mr. Speaker, serves three major grain inland terminals as well as it is the major artery of commerce to northeastern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government of Saskatchewan to construct passing lanes on Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of No. 1 in order to improve the safety for Saskatchewan's motoring public.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Fillmore, Regina, Fort Qu'Appelle, and Cupar, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands. And, Mr. Speaker, it's presented on behalf of concerned citizens who understand that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands, or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in their natural state, and that repealing the schedule of listing of these designated lands by the proposed amendments — in the amendments before, currently before the House — will endanger protection and designation of these lands. And:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the provincial government to immediately and without delay recognize the importance of the protection of wildlife habitat lands and immediately withdraw proposed amendments that will negatively affect the protection of wildlife habitat lands;

And in so doing, cause the provincial government to commit to meaningful and adequate consultation with all stakeholders that will be affected by future legislative changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Melville, Estevan, Broadview, Wapella, and Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition from people who are concerned that many Saskatchewan seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse, and that many of the seniors believe that they have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty, and that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We in the prayer that reads as follows respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a

Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

And this petition is signed by citizens from Choceland and Melfort. I so present.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants in the province. The petition indicates that children have a right to learn in a supportive and stress-free environment, that the government's data shows a growing number of students that require additional support to succeed, and that there was a document published by the Ministry of Education which substantially would reduce the number of educational assistants in the province. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Cause the government to provide funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide special needs students with the support they need and maintain a positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

And this petition is signed by people from Saskatoon, Wapella, Regina, Moosomin, Humboldt, Lanigan, and Wynyard. I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of affordable rents in housing in Saskatoon. And we know that the vacancy rate for rental accommodation in Saskatoon continues to be low, but yet the price, the cost of the rental accommodation is increasing, sometimes at an alarming rate. 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 call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to more people in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, and that the government also implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

And Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 135. The petition addresses the concerns of the community of Pelican Narrows. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to pave the 7 kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows as committed on August 24th, 2007.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Pelican Narrows. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of financial assistance for the town of Duck Lake water project. The petition is signed because the town of Duck Lake has been shorted for their water system, and they're being charged an exorbitant amount on their monthly bills for upwards of \$200 a month. And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by folks from the town of Duck Lake. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition supporting an exemption for Furdale from ministry's directives, with respect to having to have a new water treatment system or different water lines brought into the community. The government ministry has directed that customers can no longer use their non-potable methods, which were approved by Sask Health, and that they've done so for over 30 years and have paid a considerable amount of money for this in-home treatment equipment. The alternative water supply that's being referred to them by the government ministry is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost, with no guarantee of quality, quantity, and availability of water. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its order to cut off non-potable water to the residents of the hamlet of Furdale, causing great hardship with no suitable alternatives, to exempt the hamlet of Furdale from further water service cut-offs by granting a grandfather clause under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*, and *The Water Regulations, 2002*, and that this government fulfills its promises to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Saskatoon and Furdale. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of protecting Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, we heard today that 34 people were killed in workplaces in Saskatchewan in 2010. Mr. Speaker, the working people of Saskatchewan should never be expected to put their lives at risk when doing their jobs.

And we, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the government to immediately recognize the important of creating a safe and healthy working environment for all people of Saskatchewan;

And in so doing, cause the government to support the hard work and integrity of occupational health and safety officers and respect their authority by supporting them in their performance of their duties;

And in so doing, create a culture and atmosphere of respect for working people by upholding the high standards of occupational health and safety and by honouring those workers who have been killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan.

The petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon, Colonsay and Warman. And I so present.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today with a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about this government's continuing disregard for legal, constitutional, and human rights. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to direct marriage commissioners to uphold the law and the equality rights of all Saskatchewan couples and to withdraw the reference to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that would allow marriage commissioners to opt out of their legal obligation to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented

mismangement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficits put forward by the Sask Party and the billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party the past two years. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned residents of Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased again today to rise to present a petition in support of the film and television industry here in Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by residents concerned this government has let the film and television industry languish for two and a half years and then has made a very poor decision with the closure of SCN, which has basically kicked the industry to the curb. 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 provincial government to make changes to the film employment tax credit that will allow the Saskatchewan film industry to be more competitive with other provinces and to reverse its decision to shut down the Saskatchewan Communications Network and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

National Day of Mourning

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The National Day of Mourning is a day to honour the men and women who have lost their lives or have been injured on the job. It's also a day for everyone to join together to renew our commitment to preventing workplace injuries, illness, and death. Workplaces across the country will observe this solemn day through moments of silence, candle lighting, and donning ribbons or black armbands. Workplace deaths are preventable tragedies that bring grief and sorrow to the people throughout Saskatchewan and across this land.

Mr. Speaker, because of a terrible workplace death in January of 2009, new legislation came into effect on July 1st last year. These legislative changes were suggested by Sharon Gallenger. Sharon's husband, Jim, a Ministry of Highways snowplow operator since 1984, was tragically killed while in the aid of a stranded motorist on the highway near Belle Plaine. The new legislation was put into place so that hopefully no one else will have to go through what Mrs. Gallenger did.

The opposition member from Regina Coronation Park introduced the new legislation on behalf of Mrs. Gallenger. This legislation is an example of government and opposition members working together when the safety of Saskatchewan workers is at risk. MLAs came together to try and ensure that tragedies like this are avoided at all cost. Together we can prevent the loss of life and the tragic toll it takes on our families and communities.

Let's all embrace health and safety in our daily lives and make getting home safely the most important part of our work day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, today marks a Day of Mourning, a day for all of us to honour workers who have been injured or lost their lives on the job. A Day of Mourning was introduced by the Canadian Labour Congress in 1984, and in 1988 the Saskatchewan legislature became the first jurisdiction in Canada to make April 28th a day of mourning for people who were killed or injured on the job. Now it has spread to 80 countries around the world.

While we have certainly made progress since the first Day of Mourning in 1984, we have not gone far enough. The number of people killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan in 2009, according to the Workers' Compensation Board, was a shocking 34. And, Mr. Speaker, even one person killed in the workplace is one too many.

The annual observance of this day will strengthen the resolve to establish safe conditions in the workplace for all. It is as much a day of remembering those who have died in the workplace as it is a call to protect the living. But it will take respect, commitment, and fundamental change before we can create a culture of the utmost respect for workers and their safety.

I ask all members to join with me today and every day in honouring those workers, their families, who lost their lives in the workplace. In their memory, may we continue to fight to ensure that the workplace deaths come to an end.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Saskatchewan Volunteer Week

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no better place in Canada to see the power of volunteerism at work than right here in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan's spirit of volunteerism is renowned far beyond our borders. We are recognized for our extraordinary high rate of volunteering. Those visiting Saskatchewan have been astounded by the volunteer-driven events we have hosted.

Mr. Speaker, our province's successful events include the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Brier, the Grey Cup, and of course our most recent event, the World Junior Hockey Championship. Volunteers are active at all Saskatchewan communities. Many of our sports coaches are volunteers. Our neighbours who shovel senior's walks or help them buy their groceries are volunteers. Saskatchewan's volunteers help to raise millions of dollars a year for worthwhile causes.

Mr. Speaker, when fires or flood force people from their homes, volunteers help distribute food, blankets, and arrange for shelter. Volunteer Week highlights these contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this House to take this week to say a heartfelt thank you to our many volunteers. You are truly making Saskatchewan a greater province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Community Association Opens Toy Library

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. City Park is a neighbourhood in my constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin. In early February, the community association of City Park opened a toy library. The toy library is a volunteer-run lending library of toys housed in a room of City Park Collegiate. With this new library, parents can access a variety of toys that help their children develop a wide range of motor skills and cognitive ability, including imaginative play.

Moreover, the library can assist parents in pinpointing particular toys that are most suited to their child. As importantly, neighbourhood families can share toys instead of individually buying them and then wondering what to do with them when their child outgrows or becomes tired of the toy.

Since opening just a couple of months ago, the toy library has been receiving donations of toys from neighbourhood residents and already has over 150 toys available for loan. The toy library will accept donations on an ongoing basis in order to build its inventory significantly.

The toy library is a valuable asset to the City Park community. I encourage members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating both the City Park Community Association for launching this innovative neighbourhood project and City Park Collegiate for providing space for it.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Regina Residents Fight Hunger and Poverty

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently residents of Regina took part in an annual 30-hour famine. Through this event every individual has the power to fight hunger, poverty, and injustice.

Mr. Speaker, there is a story of a young child named Rachel.

Rachel is an example of one of these types of situations these impoverished people find themselves mirrored in. Rachel walked a week from her home to Goma, an internally displaced person's camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her mother was shot and killed by rebels, and she lost her father in this displacement. She's one of 160 orphans who lived in the camp. Food can be scarce and diseases like diarrhea and malaria are widespread.

When one participates in the famine, in only 30 hours they will make a difference in the lives of children like Rachel and communities around the world. During the famine, groups take part in a variety of activities — some of them small, some of them involving participants from across Canada — to help create awareness about hunger and have fun in the process. As well, due to the recent earthquake that has struck Haiti, the money raised will also go towards supporting the relief efforts that are needed in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, while fasting for this cause, we remember there are so many people who are not as fortunate as we are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Conservatives

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are finding out who the real conservatives are in this province. The dictionary tells us conservatives are, “characterized by a tendency to preserve or keep intact or unchanged.” Sounds like conservatives like to hold onto things, Mr. Speaker.

But the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, has a plan to let go some of the 3 million acres of Crown land currently protected by *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. So much for that government's tendency to preserve the environment, Mr. Speaker — not very conservative.

Now in politics, Mr. Speaker, people often tie the name conservative to sound fiscal management, but that government is now running a \$1.3 billion deficit after they let go of a \$2.3 billion surplus left behind by the fiscally conservative NDP [New Democratic Party]. So much for keeping the province's finances intact, Mr. Speaker — not very conservative.

If they can't hold on to a \$2.3 billion surplus or a 3 million acre Crown jewel, what are the so-called conservatives holding on to over there, Mr. Speaker? Well there's one thing they've got a firm grip on. In fact they're holding on to it for dear life — \$3 million that belongs to another political party. That's right, Mr. Speaker. They may hold Sask Party cards, but the PC [Progressive Conservative] fund trustees and others named in the court documents pretend they're more conservatives than the Conservatives to hold onto power.

No matter, Mr. Speaker. However many pseudo-conservatives the Assembly holds today, the people of Saskatchewan will ensure that it holds a lot fewer come November 11th. And that estimate, Mr. Speaker, is a conservative one.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan

Rivers.

National Kids Help Phone Week

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our children are the most important people in our lives. Every parent wants to be there to support their children at all times. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there are certain instances that a parent may not be able to help. It is at these times such as this when it's important to have an organization — the Kids Help Phone.

Mr. Speaker, April 26th to May 2nd marks National Kids Help Phone Week. The Kids Help Phone line is an organization which makes it their mission to improve the well-being of Canadian children. They provide anonymous, confidential, professional counselling, referrals, and pertinent information. They offer immediate bilingual professional counselling to children 24 hours a day. Every day Kids Help Phone counsellors answer calls and online questions from across Canada. Counsellors are there to provide immediate and caring support and information to the children that reach out to them.

In the last year, Mr. Speaker, they helped Canadian children in need. Well over 2 million times, the phone and online counselling services were used. I would like all members of this Assembly to recognize the efforts of the hard-working counsellors of the Kids Help Phone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Interprovincial Agreement

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Assembly I asked the Premier about the new trade deal with British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan and asked when the deal would be signed. And the Premier said . . . I asked if it would be signed soon and he said no. Today I have a media advisory which we received a few moments ago that says on this Friday at 12:30 p.m. there will be the signing of the new partnership, new West partnership agreement.

My question to the Premier is this: when will he become open and transparent on this issue? And my question is, when will the public be consulted on this trade deal?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I don't have *Hansard* in front of me, but I believe yesterday the member said, will this government be signing a new trade deal/TILMA [Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement]? The answer was no because we are not signing TILMA.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier said there was no need for public consultation because there had been consultation with TILMA. Then later the Premier said, but this isn't TILMA; this is a new agreement. How is it that the consultation on the old deal was okay when he's signing a new deal? When will the public see either one of them and have an

opinion, and when will this be shared with the public of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, in opposition and through the last election campaign, the Saskatchewan Party said we would not sign TILMA, that we were interested in removing barriers to trade between the provinces, that we were interested in potential trade deals with other provinces. But a couple of things bothered us, Mr. Speaker, with respect to treatment of the municipalities, subsidiary Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, if those can be dealt with, then we are very much interested in being part of the new West, being part of the largest economic force in the country.

And in the meantime, from September 2009, Mr. Speaker, is when consultations have happened since we signed the MOU [memorandum of understanding], including with our commercial Crowns, the big city mayors. In October, city managers, Saskatchewan urban municipalities, SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], the Association of Health Organizations, our two universities. Then in November, health regions, Sask Association of School Business Officials, SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of consultation.

And, Mr. Speaker, we welcome the questions. We welcome the debate. We know the NDP are opposed to these, to improved trade between the provinces. They know they're opposed to the new West, but it will be happening soon, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, what the public is opposed to and what the opposition's opposed to is this Premier saying one thing and doing another. That's what we're opposed to.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the Premier not being open, but the Deputy Premier, in a letter to the *Leader-Post* on March 10th, 2007, the member for Canora-Pelly said, and I quote:

Given the impact of TILMA across the province, we also believe the provincial government has an obligation to consult with stakeholders and the public prior to accepting or rejecting Saskatchewan's participation in TILMA.

Now he's saying, it isn't TILMA; it's a new agreement. Is the Deputy Premier saying that because it's a deal they're signing, it doesn't need consultation, but anyone else's deal does? Is that what the Premier's saying?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the province of Alberta and the province of British Columbia on a new West partnership that may include a trade deal, that may include us co-operating on marketing internationally, that may include us co-operating on an innovation agenda.

And let me be very clear about this for the hon. member. I'll slow it down. Subsequent to that MOU . . .

[Interjections]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well he's saying, where is it? If he would just stop talking and listen, I'll tell him. Since we signed the memorandum of understanding, we have consulted with all of those groups. September '09, October '09, November '09 . . . The member says, which groups? I just read them, Mr. Speaker. I will happily table them and send them over. We'll increase the font and we'll highlight them. Soon he will get it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can laugh about consulting with the public. He has a chosen 10, chosen 10 groups, but we will bring him many hundreds of people who have not been consulted with — labour groups, First Nations, Métis, many others; municipal governments who have called our office asking for consultation.

He can laugh at those people if he likes but I want to say to the Premier: when is he going to become open and transparent about this important arrangement and let the public see it, talk about it, debate it, so they know whether it's in their best interests or not? What is he afraid of?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the hon. member would know a little bit about saying one thing and doing another, Mr. Speaker. He was a part of a government that campaigned to improve rural health care. He closed down 51, 52 hospitals, Mr. Speaker. His party campaigned on no tax increase in '04 and months later they increased the PST [provincial sales tax], Mr. Speaker.

His party campaigned on open and transparent government and he gave us Channel Lake and he gave us SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], Mr. Speaker.

If the hon. member knew the former agreement, knew TILMA, which we are not signing, but if he knew what the consultation was about, he would know the areas that were exempt from that agreement, Mr. Speaker, like First Nations policy, Mr. Speaker — exempt. If there's to be another agreement I would expect exemptions like that to continue, Mr. Speaker.

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

Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, on March 8th the Minister of Environment claimed that she consulted with environmental organizations like Nature Saskatchewan and the Wildlife Federation before introducing far-reaching changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, changes that removed 3 million acres from the Act. But Gary Seib with Nature Saskatchewan wrote to the opposition yesterday stating, "We can assure you that no meaningful consultation regarding the sale of Crown

lands has occurred with Nature Saskatchewan.”

To the minister: why did she claim she consulted with these organizations when she clearly did not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, consultation . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, consultation took place between my ministry and various organizations — I have a list of them here — on the changes that we are proposing to WHPA [*The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*] land in this province, Mr. Speaker. We believe that the people who are . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I would ask the members to allow the minister to respond. But I would also ask members not to be casting aspersions about the character of individuals from their chair. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, included on the list of people that we consulted with is the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I noted yesterday about the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association, the Stock Growers Association are urging us to get this Bill passed, Mr. Speaker. They are using this land. They are managing this land well. They want to be able to own this land, Mr. Speaker. We don’t have a problem with land ownership. Apparently the NDP do.

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

Ms. Morin: — Well, Mr. Speaker, her version of consultations is clearly different than other organizations that say they weren’t consulted at all.

Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife Federation is calling the minister’s actions a betrayal, noting that she assured people last year that land under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* would continue to be protected. Last June, in response to concerns about the sale of Crown land, the minister stated in a letter, “The Act prevents the sale of designated land and is therefore not eligible for sale.”

To the minister: how can she claim that people were adequately consulted when in fact she told them that wildlife habitat lands were not eligible for sale?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is

apparently quite easy for the members opposite to be selective in the information they’re presenting to the Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

The letter that was sent out was in response to the sale of agricultural land last year. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Agriculture announced that there was going to be ag land for sale, we were inundated with requests for that sale, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the requests were for wildlife habitat protection land because people who were using it for grazing and ranching purposes had been leasing this land and wanted to purchase it, Mr. Speaker.

That land sale through the Ministry of Agriculture was for land outside of WHPA, Mr. Speaker. So when people were asking to buy this land, the letter that was sent out was for verification that that land sale was for ag land. That WHPA land was not involved in the ag land sale, Mr. Speaker. That’s what the letter clarified.

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

Ms. Morin: — It’s amazing, Mr. Speaker, that absolutely no one in this province, including the opposition, can understand what the government is trying to say or do at any given point in time.

Mr. Speaker, the minister claims she consulted with Ducks Unlimited about the process she’s using to decide which lands can be sold off. But Brent Kennedy of Ducks Unlimited told the *Leader-Post*, “We’re not convinced that they have the means to be able to accurately define which lands have greater or which lands have lesser ecological value.”

[14:30]

In other words, the minister is taking 3 million acres out from under the Act and will now base future decision on which lands will be sold off on a process that wildlife experts believe is flawed. And she won’t listen to the concerns of the people she claims to be consulting.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why won’t she listen? Why is she barging ahead with a plan that so many people feel is flawed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the men and women within the Ministry of Environment have been working on the science-based modelling for the ecological assessment of Crown land within my ministry for many, many months, Mr. Speaker.

I have met with them. The Minister of Agriculture and I have both met with them to go over this modelling, Mr. Speaker. They have done an amazing job. These are professional people who are trying to do their job, Mr. Speaker. They are in charge of the science-based modelling, Mr. Speaker, because that’s what they do. They’re biologists and agrologists, and Mr. Speaker, they understand how to do these sorts of things.

And if people want further information on the modelling that was used, I'm sure that we will be happy to provide that information, Mr. Speaker. But I would like to commend the men and women within my ministry who worked so very hard to put this in place.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, there's a wonderful quote that I heard the other day. And it's a quote: "Whenever there's a conflict between humans and wildlife, wildlife gets the silver medal." Mr. Speaker, this quote was by someone by the name of Colin Maxwell. And it seems like the environment under this government is only getting the silver medal and not the gold.

Mr. Speaker, even the PC minister who brought in the Act thinks the government is on the wrong track. Colin Maxwell says, "Without habitat there is no wildlife. It's that simple." And while the government justifies its decision by the fact that the current lessees of the land have been good stewards, Maxwell points out:

The problem is the same stewards may not be there 10, 20, or 50 years from now. Somebody else might be. Who knows what the new owners might decide to do with that land.

Mr. Speaker, you'd think the opposition from the minister who brought in the Act would convince the government to reconsider. But the minister said the government still intends to pass this Bill in this legislative session. Will she pull back the Bill and give people with real concerns an opportunity to be heard?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to restate the fact that under these proposed changes, the vast majority of land will still continue to be protected. Mr. Speaker, a large chunk will be under wildlife habitat protection Act. A large chunk will be under *The Conservation Easements Act*, Mr. Speaker. There is only a very small percentage that would be sold without protection at all, Mr. Speaker, because the ecological values have changed.

But, Mr. Speaker, well over 90 per cent of this land will remain under protection. And I think it's important that when the members opposite are out talking to people that they remind them of that, Mr. Speaker, that it is over 90 per cent of land that would be under protection, Mr. Speaker.

The conservation easements are a very important tool. Organizations like the Nature Conservancy of Canada use them all the time. The Leader of the Opposition was the board Chair of that organization, Mr. Speaker. He understands how they work. Mr. Speaker, we have increased the penalties for individuals from \$2,000 to \$100,000, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I find it totally inappropriate that the member who asked the question interfered and didn't even give the minister to actually respond clearly. Next question.

I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Revenue Sharing with Municipalities

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Regina City Council passed their budget last night and Regina residents will pay 4 per cent more for their property tax this year, more than double the rate of inflation.

Mr. Speaker, why is the minister hiding behind his broken promise, which is nothing more than a backdoor tax increase, and forcing Regina residents to pay more in property tax?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the question and the opportunity to talk about what this government has done on revenue sharing, which is to increase revenue sharing by 43 per cent over the last two years, Mr. Speaker. The city of Regina has received in the last two years \$26 million this year for revenue sharing, an increase of \$10 million from when we first formed government, Mr. Speaker. The city of Regina and municipalities across this province are doing very, very well under this government.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, according to a story on NewsTalk this morning, and the quote was, "Ward 9's Terry Hincks says the province is solely to blame for the property tax increase, insisting it failed to stick to its revenue-sharing formula." It's the province's fault this year and we're already hearing promises they're going to make next year. But as Sean Shaw says, and I quote:

... as the City learned all too well this year when the Province broke that very same promise, they should be very wary about including money they don't have in the bank — Provincial election year, or not.

To the minister: how can Saskatchewan families have any shred of trust that this government will live up to their promise to municipalities next year when they broke their promise this year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite can quote NDP bloggers if she wants, but let me read her a quote from February 1st, 2010 on NewsTalk. Mr. Speaker, let me read this quote. "Whether we were going . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, let me read a quote from February 1st, 2010, on NewsTalk, and this quote says:

Whether we were going to get an increase in revenue sharing or not, there was going to be a property increase. I think I made that perfectly clear.

That quote, Mr. Speaker, was from Mayor Pat Fiacco.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this government has off-loaded expenses and responsibilities to municipalities every chance they get, whether it's municipal revenue sharing, whether it's Dutch elm, whether it's the mosquito program, doctor recruitment, and the list goes on and on.

And now, to no one's surprise, municipalities are forced to increase their property tax. Residents of Weyburn, Tisdale, Swift Current, North Battleford are all facing at least a 4 per cent increase. In Prince Albert on the municipal side, they're looking at a 7.35 per cent and the city will also be cutting funding to maintenance, construction, and affordable housing.

To the minister: when will this government offer municipalities more than off-loading expenses, broken promises, and tax increases?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, I think we need to get the facts straight with regard to revenue sharing. Over the past two years, this government has increased revenue sharing by 43 per cent, Mr. Speaker, 43 per cent over the course of the last two years that we have . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — And the NDP record, Mr. Speaker, is to have clawed back \$600 million of revenue sharing over the 16 years of that term. That member voted to claw back \$20 million from her own city, Mr. Speaker. How they can have the gall to stand up and claim that this party isn't supporting municipalities is . . . I can't believe it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants a lesson in facts, well maybe he better listen to a few of these.

They signed the agreement on revenue sharing. They made a promise, attached it to PST because PST doesn't fluctuate like resource revenues, Mr. Speaker. Except when the government can't calculate their own budget, mismanages the potash projections, and then scrambles — keeps spending the money, Mr. Speaker, by the way, even though it isn't coming in — and then they have to scramble to cover their own behinds because they failed to budget and manage the provincial finances. Mr. Speaker, the facts show clearly this government has broken promises and downloaded on municipalities. And when will the

minister keep his promise?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that that party clawed back \$600 million from municipalities over the course of the last, over the course of their 16 years in government. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We heard it again, the members opposite running down the province of Saskatchewan, running down the economy of this province, which is poised again to lead the country, Mr. Speaker — the lowest unemployment rate in the country, Mr. Speaker, the highest population total in Canada and growing, Mr. Speaker. They should be applauding this government.

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

Financial Management of Crown Corporations

Mr. Yates: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to talk about the Sask Party business logic. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister Responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation claimed in this Assembly that increasing the debt to equity ratios in our Crowns will somehow add to their overall value.

To the minister: is that the logic behind the Premier's decision to drive up Crown debt by 95 per cent in the next four years, to increase the value of the Crowns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased today to table the annual report of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] that talked about their work in the last year. They successfully met the challenge of increasing the demands that we had in 2009, and at the same time we have positive earnings. And they increased, they have a dividend for our treasury as well.

Mr. Speaker, there is actually, the earnings from ongoing operations last year was \$15.9 million higher than it was in 2008. As far as the actual creating value in the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to know that this year we're going to be spending \$1.4 billion in capital expenditures in the Crowns, and with this expenditure, the total value of the Crowns are going to increase by 21 per cent since we took power.

Mr. Speaker, how much did the NDP increase the value of the Crowns in their last three years? Eight per cent, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad she's sticking to her script today. It's a little better. Mr. Speaker, if the minister's incompetence wasn't weakening our Crowns and driving up the cost of living for Saskatchewan people, it would be laughable.

The Premier and his government have destabilized our Crowns by stripping 100 per cent of their revenues. According to the *Leader-Post*, "Rarely has a Crown corporation been required to provide a dividend equal to 100 per cent of its profit." But, Mr. Speaker, that's the Premier's new agenda.

To the minister: why has the Sask Party government turned a rare practice into standard operating procedure for their government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the questions from the member opposite really are laughable as well. I wonder if they remember in 2003 when the NDP government took a dividend from SaskPower that was based on the paper foreign exchange gains. That was equity stripping, Mr. Speaker. We're not managing the Crowns like that. Crowns like SaskPower are not paying a dividend.

I wonder if the members opposite remember when in 1990 when SaskTel and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] paid more than twice their earnings in dividends.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's fairly obvious that this Premier and his minister learned a great deal from Grant Devine and the operation of Crown corporations during the 1980s. Mr. Speaker, there are so many similarities between what Grant Devine did to our Crowns and what the current Premier is doing to them that it's unbelievable.

In the dying days of his government, Grant Devine took more money from the Crowns than they actually earned. According to the *Leader-Post*, "A CIC official said in 1990 the cash-strapped government of the day required some corporations to pay dividends that actually exceeded earnings."

To the minister: is this why the Premier has tabled in this House legislation to raise the borrowing limits of one Crown corporation so he can take even more than 100 per cent of Crown revenues?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite would like to talk about Grant Devine.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would anticipate the opposition would like to hear the response to the question. So I'd ask the members to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — I know that the members opposite would like to talk about Grant Devine because then they would be able to talk about . . . They wouldn't have to talk about their leader and the fact that their leader is 30 points behind our leader.

Mr. Speaker, right now our Crowns are well positioned to pay a high dividend. SaskTel has the lowest debt to equity ratio of any of the telecoms. SGI has no need . . . It has minimal infrastructure. SaskEnergy's debt to ratio equity is comparable to all the industries.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the members opposite would like to talk about some of the companies that we have in Canada. Canada's most indebted companies are companies like Enbridge, companies like Encana, companies like Royal Bank. There actually is a need to have some debt in companies, Mr. Speaker, and our Crowns are doing very well.

[14:45]

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize . . . Order. Order. I would ask the members to come to order so that we can proceed with the orders and the reports from standing and special committees. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 125, *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, yes, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Energy and Resources has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 125, *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 125 — *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I move this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources has moved that Bill No. 125, *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in committee? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may move to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 107 — *The Weed Control Act*

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act* without amendment be now moved and read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* without amendment.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask members to come to order. If members want to discuss things together, it would be . . . it would certainly facilitate hearing the Chairs and the ministers as they move and as the Speaker calls the questions before the Assembly.

When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that this Bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Enterprise has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 106 — *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act*

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill now be read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Enterprise that Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am

instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* with amendment, that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 129 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that the amendments be now read a first and second 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 and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 129 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* with amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment, that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 130 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of this Bill and that the Bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act* without amendment and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 135 — *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by

the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 98 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,551 through 1,554.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,551 through 1,554 are tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 138 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2010 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that amendments were introduced last spring to *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* to make beneficiary designations in tax-free savings account, or TFSA's, effective. These amendments came into force on May 14th, 2009. The changes responded to the TFSA's [tax-free savings account] provisions in the *Income Tax Act* of Canada that came into force on January 1st, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to introduce amendments to *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* to specify that beneficiary designations are made in accordance with tax-free savings accounts instead of referring to the *Income Tax Act* of Canada.

The provision that was added to *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* last spring provides that where the holder of a TFSA designates his successor, holder, or beneficiary and the original holder dies, the amount in the account can be paid to the designated person rather than being considered an asset of the holder's estate. Without that amendment, the amount in the account would have been distributed according to the will. If there is no will, the rules of intestacy would apply.

Mr. Speaker, two Canadian financial institutions have taken the position that the Saskatchewan legislation should have been worded differently. Consequently these institutions are not allowing clients to make these beneficiary designations. Although we are confident that our approach is correct, these financial institutions have refused to change their position, and thus their customers are unable to make beneficiary designations in their TFSA's.

Mr. Speaker, most financial institutions in Saskatchewan do allow TFSA holders to make beneficiary designations. However efforts to persuade these two banks to change their approach has been unsuccessful. It appears that the prudent thing to do for the sake of the customers of these banks in Saskatchewan is to amend our legislation. We recognize that amendments have also been made to the TFSA legislation in Nova Scotia and the Yukon, and we are also prepared to take this step to ensure that all Saskatchewan customers have the benefit of TFSA's and being able to designate beneficiaries.

Accordingly this Bill will amend the new provision of *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* to substitute wording that all banks and financial institutions will accept as satisfactory. The institutions concerned have reviewed the proposed legislation and their representatives are satisfied that it responds to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the original TFSA provision passed last spring received second and third reading on the same day without going to committee. The opposition recognized that it was for the benefit of purchasers of TFSA's. For the same reason I would hope that the opposition would support the timely

passage of these changes.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My comments I think will be brief. The history of the legislation was accurately described as far as it went by the minister in his second reading remarks.

[15:00]

Sometimes, sometimes, quite often members of the government seem to be concerned with the amount of time that opposition members speak to legislation, feeling or at least saying that they feel that the opposition is impeding the passage of legislation in the House. And as a matter of fact, today we are still operating under hours unilaterally extended by the government majority because of this alleged concern.

This legislation may be a case of where the opposition was too co-operative. If you needed evidence — I'm not sure you did — that you could be too co-operative in facilitating the government with legislation, this may be an example of that.

My experience with this legislation, Mr. Speaker, was that a constituent of an opposition member raised the issue with his MLA who forwarded it to me as Justice critic. And I wrote to the minister and explained that we had come to believe that there was a gap in the legislation, that the ability of people to designate beneficiaries for the purposes of the Registered Retirement Savings Plan was not there for tax-free savings accounts, that it should be there, that it was a parallel piece of legislation and program on the part of the federal government, and that the provisions in *The Queen's Bench Act* should be parallel as well.

The government brought forward the original legislation that now the government proposes to amend, and I believe that — and the minister may have referenced this at the end of his second reading speech; I didn't quite catch it — I believe that we waived even sending it to committee in that circumstance, that the legislation went straight through the legislature without going to committee and being subject to some questions in committee as to for example consultation with financial institutions.

Perhaps if the opposition, even to the irritation of government members, had been more diligent in asking questions, perhaps the original legislation would have sufficed and we wouldn't be here today because two significant institutions, significant in size . . . And I believe I mentioned which ones I understand them to be when commenting on some other matter on my feet in the House. There was, I believe, the Royal Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce — not financial institutions of insignificant size and with a number of customers, I would think, in the province of Saskatchewan.

And although every other financial institution operating in the province may accept the wording that's in the legislation, they have not. And we failed to ensure as legislators that the understanding of the intent of the legislation would be sufficiently understood by all financial institutions operating tax-free savings accounts.

And so, Mr. Speaker, again we supported the legislation. We called for the legislation. We continue to support the legislation. Of course we want changes to be made so that all financial institutions will acknowledge the legislation and allow for the designation of beneficiary. We have no wish to hold the legislation up, and that's why my remarks will probably be the only remarks made by an opposition member in the House. And upon sitting down, we will gladly see this go to committee.

We don't want to waive committee in this case, Mr. Speaker. Once burned, twice shy. But I expect its time in committee will also be very short, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 139 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a Bill that will amend several statutes. These amendments will eliminate boards, commissions, and foundations that are either no longer operational or whose duties can be transferred to another committee, board, or foundation. Mr. Speaker, this Bill will ensure that the province's resources are used in the most cost-effective way.

The Bill will eliminate the Co-operative Securities Board, the Geographic Names Board, the Saskatchewan Heritage Advisory Board, the Saskatchewan Heritage Property Review Board. The powers and duties of these boards will go to other pre-existing organizations so as to avoid duplication of duties. The Bill will eliminate in their entirety the Educational Boundaries Commission and the farm support review committee since these bodies are no longer operational.

In order to achieve the purpose outlined above, the following statutes will be amended. Firstly, *The Agricultural Safety Net Act*, *The Credit Union Act, 1998*, *The Heritage Property Act*, *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Act*, *The Education Regulations, 1986*. In addition, *The Geographic Names Board Act* and *The Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Act* will be repealed.

Similar amendments regarding bilingual statutes are currently being addressed in *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill will amend *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Act* to transfer the powers of the Co-operative Securities Board to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. The Co-operative Securities Board performs an important function as a financial marketplace regulator by approving and reviewing the issuance of securities by co-operatives. However, duties of the board can be transferred to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission which is the primary securities regulator in Saskatchewan.

The substance of the provisions of *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* will not change. The SFSC [Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission] will also take on the powers that were previously assigned to the Co-operative Securities Board under *The Credit Union Act, 1998* and *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*. These Acts also consider the issuance of securities and approval and review of those securities by the Co-operative Securities Board. The powers, duties, and requirements under each Act will not change but will now be undertaken by the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill will also amend *The Agricultural Safety Net Act* to eliminate the farm support review committee. Membership to the committee has been terminated and the committee is no longer needed. The committee's duties can now be undertaken by Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will also repeal the Geographic Names Board and *The Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Act* and transfer the powers and duties of each to *The Heritage Property Act*. *The Heritage Property Act* considers heritage property and allows for the preservation, interpretation, and development of certain aspects of heritage property. The Bill will establish *The Heritage Property Act* as the main Act in relation to heritage matters.

Under *The Heritage Property Act*, the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation will be continued. The foundation will, through the use of committees made up of board members, take up the duties and powers of the advisory board and Heritage Property Review Board that presently exist under *The Heritage Property*

Act, and will also take on the role of the Geographic Names Board. Where currently four separate bodies take on overlapping roles, the Bill will ensure that all powers are now undertaken by one oversight body.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, currently an education boundaries commission may provide recommendations to the Minister of Education with respect to school division boundary changes. However boundary changes can be determined by the Ministry of Education with the minister, as now, retaining the ultimate authority for determining if boundaries need to be altered. As the commission will be eliminated in the companion Bill, this Bill will amend *The Education Regulations, 1996*, to remove reference to the commission.

Mr. Speaker, this consolidation of various statutes is consistent with this government's movement towards reducing the footprint of government. Also by eliminating boards and commissions that are no longer required and by having pre-existing boards take on more than one role, this government is encouraging cost saving and multi-tasking.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*. Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Yates: — I rise on a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: — Okay. Will the member continue on his point of order.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order today on the issue of written questions. Mr. Speaker, we received replies for written question 1,552, 1,553, and 1,554. Mr. Speaker, in written questions the government has three options: to either answer the question; to convert to debates returnable, Mr. Speaker, and change the question; or to order the question unanswered for 180 days.

But the government owes respect to the members of this Assembly to answer the question or order it, if they don't want to answer for 180 days, or to convert it. Mr. Speaker, what we have today, and I'm going to read into the record answers to questions that show a great disrespect to the members of this Assembly:

The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act is currently before the Assembly, detailed questions regarding this bill are better directed to the minister in the committee stage as per the regular legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, it's not up to a minister to determine how members of this Assembly should ask questions. Under the rules of this Assembly and the Parliament of Canada, you have three options. The option of putting forward an answer saying, we don't have a right to have the answer unless we ask it someplace else, is not an answer and shows a blatant disrespect to the members of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, a government who doesn't want to answer a question has other means not to answer a question. But to show that level of disrespect, Mr. Speaker, is unacceptable.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe what the member opposite is referring to is legislation that is currently before this Assembly for consideration and, Mr. Speaker, because that legislation is here before the Assembly for consideration, that is the appropriate venue, Mr. Speaker, to deal with those kind of questions.

The Deputy Speaker: — I will have to take time to look at the written questions, to look at the answers, and review the rules on procedures in this House. So with indulgence of the House, I will come back later with a ruling. We will carry on with second reading of Bill No. 139.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll maybe be progressively briefer as the second reading debate goes on, on the Minister of Justice's Bills.

In respect to the streamlining legislation that the minister spoke to just a few moments ago, it is well understood that institutions are created, agencies are created by government to perform certain functions, that they do so for some period of time. Legislation changes, practice changes, other institutions are created to engage in those functions, and no one much worries, quite often, as to whether the original boards or agencies, other types of institutions are actually doing anything any more, Mr. Speaker.

Their existence is not a footprint of government, I would suggest, because they're not active. They're not costing money. They may not be, they may not be staffed. They may not have any individuals appointed to them, Mr. Speaker. In all probability, that is the case.

That's not a reason for maintaining their existence, Mr. Speaker. But I hope the minister didn't mean to suggest the cost of government's going to be reduced by these measures. I expect it won't be reduced a penny by these measures. But boards, agencies, commissions that no longer exist should not be referred to in law.

At some point this type of housekeeping — and this is almost literally housekeeping legislation, Mr. Speaker — is required to clean up outdated references to organizations that have served their purpose and whose function is being taken somewhere else.

[15:15]

But also I think there is some active reorganization of government in this Bill and there may be some questions of members of the Legislative Assembly, certainly members of the appropriate committee, as to the effect of that reorganization. I noted that even government members of the intergovernmental and justice committee have had questions about legislation

recently, based upon their reading of the legislation or their experiences with the area.

And so I believe that, although there may not be much cause for debate on second reading in the Legislative Chamber, there may very well be lines of inquiry that we need to pursue in committee and, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that that is where this legislation now proceed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this be referred? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill. No. 140 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2) / Loi corrective (rationalisation administrative) n° 2 de 2010*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce a Bill that will amend two bilingual statutes to eliminate the Co-operative Securities Board and the Educational Boundaries Commission. Similar amendments are concurrently being addressed in *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill will amend *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* to eliminate the Co-operative Securities Board and transfer the powers of the board to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. The Co-operative Securities Board performs an important function as a financial marketplace regulator to approve and review the issuance of securities by co-operators. However, this function can be transferred to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. The substance of the provisions in *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* will not change.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill will also amend *The Education Act, 1995* to eliminate the Educational Boundaries Commission. Under the Act, the commission may provide recommendations to the Minister of Education with respect to school division boundary changes. However, a commission is no longer needed to provide recommendations to the minister who will continue to retain the ultimate authority for determining if boundaries need to be altered.

Mr. Speaker, as with the English Bill, this Bill will ensure that various bodies are not performing similar tasks that can be performed by a pre-existing entity and that organizations that are no longer needed are eliminated from legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I think my response to the second reading speeches would become briefer as they go on. This Bill, of course, is only required as a companion piece to the previous Bill and only in respect to legislation that is in the bilingual form. What these Bills remind me of is how little of our legislation has been translated into French, or how much is left to be translated into French.

Of the number of Bills that were being amended by the previous Bill that we discussed, I think only two are being amended because of the bilingual version by this Bill. It is appropriate that this Bill travel in companion with its sister, and for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I don't imagine there would be any more debate on this Bill than on the predecessor, referring to the Bills that are only unilingual version or are in a bilingual version.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I think the appropriate thing to do is to refer this matter to committee where any questions that would be asked, I would think, of the first Bill would apply to this companion piece as well.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 123

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 123 — *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When we left off, I was going through a number of the questions that had been raised by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm getting a little help from the member opposite. Which one was it again?

An Hon. Member: — 91.

Mr. McCall: — 91. There we go.

I guess what I'll do at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I've made the point in terms of the great number of questions that the FSIN has concerning legislation that has been brought forward by this government under the guise of, you know, consultation proclaimed, but anything but consultation actually having taken place. It's almost getting to the place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where you can do sort of a reverse code of this thing. If they say that consultation has been done, you can almost bet that it hasn't. And that's certainly the case as regards First Nations and Bills 121, 122, and 123.

And again, there are a great number of questions have been brought forward by the FSIN in terms of these pieces of legislation. And I guess what that would seem to signal to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is again, if you go back through my remarks in the earlier part of this intervention, the length and breadth of the concerns raised by First Nations in terms of what this government is doing and their need to get things in black and white because they can't get a straight answer out of the government otherwise, it's fairly alarming, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so I guess we'll be, we'll certainly be submitting these questions in written form to see if we can elicit some kind of a direct answer on the part of the government in this regard.

But I think this is part of a relationship that should be working well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. For all the times that we get

members opposite proclaiming that we are in fact all treaty people, you'd think that it would be more than just a slogan, that it would be treated with some respect and with some substance.

And what we see coming forward in the case of Bills 121, 122, and 123 is that there isn't that respect, and there isn't that substance in terms of trying to work in partnership and to move things forward together.

So the minister in the second reading speech on December 2nd, 2009, would say something to . . . and would say, and I quote:

We continue to work with First Nation and Métis people to find meaningful approaches to incorporate their interests as we move forward on a results-based environmental regulatory system.

You know, we find that, we find that almost sort of sad, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of what we now know has gone on behind the scenes, in terms of a process that wasn't served in good faith, in terms of engagement with First Nations that did not take place, in terms of a system that would seem to be, or an approach on the part of the Ministry of the Environment and the Minister of the Environment that is at best confusing. And at worst, I don't know if I've got a parliamentary word for it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But again, and to wrap up, I mean, the February 25th, saw a letter and a submission because of course the FSI was trying to get answers — as they should, as doing work on behalf of their member First Nations, in trying to get a straight answer out of this government — and that letter of course, closes off . . . It's from Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish, February 25th, 2010. It closes off:

Minister Heppner, while I have not received a response from you with respect to my previous request for a meeting to move forward with such consultation process, I repeat this request today.

I look forward to receiving the Crown's response and working together with the Ministry of Environment to ensure that First Nations Treaty rights are protected, for present and future generations.

Then of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, more than a month passes and the next that the FSIN hears from the ministry on this point is by phone call on budget day. Not addressing the concerns raised around Bills 121, 122, 123, though it's very hard not to link the two things in some kind of causal connection, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but again in this letter, from Vice-chief Whitefish, he states:

Firstly, I must express serious concern that you did not provide due consideration and respect to my office by contacting me personally to discuss this decision prior to such decision being made.

Secondly, I am extremely disappointed with your actions as a Minister of the provincial Crown, particularly in breaching the terms within our Partnership Agreement.

Later in the letter it says:

As you can surely appreciate, such above-noted telephone conversation took me by complete surprise. The decision by the Ministry of Environment to terminate funding essentially terminates our agreement. At no time have either you, or representatives of the Ministry, indicated that any major decisions regarding our agreement were being contemplated. As such, I would have expected your office to respect our long standing relationship by at the very least, engaging the FSIN in discussions.

We go on a little further in the one letter that other of my colleagues have quoted at length. The Vice-chief states:

The telephone call on March 24, 2010, advising that your Ministry will no longer provide funding illustrates insensitivity and lack of appreciation of First Nations people in Saskatchewan. We see it as a clear indication that the Ministry of Environment has no regard for the Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations people in Saskatchewan . . .

Further on in the letter it says:

The message you are sending to First Nations leadership is that the Ministry would prefer an adversarial approach on dealing with matters between First Nations and the provincial crown.

That again, these members opposite in that Ministry of Environment can't seem to run a straight consultation process, that where you have clearly understood objectives, you have a clearly outlined process. And you've got this, instead you've got this process that has led to confusion and, you know, seems to reward legitimate questions being answered by the revoking and the removal of funding. I think says a lot about the approach of the members opposite to consultation in general, and consultation with First Nations and Métis people in particular, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At the end of the letter it says:

My previous experience in working with provincial Ministers and Ministries has been very different than what has occurred in this situation. I am therefore dismayed with your Ministry's actions, which brings into question whether First Nations can trust the Ministry of Environment to live up to its commitments. This is illustrated in the unilateral action to terminate a sixteen (16) year relationship.

And I should add — and you know perhaps this isn't, this isn't the most popular thing to do — but he's not just talking about ministers in previous governments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of who he's had a productive, respectful, co-operative working relationship. He's actually talking about ministerial colleagues of the member opposite in terms of the Minister of the Environment, in terms of other ministers who the relationship has been very different and in terms of being more productive and more co-operative.

So in terms of the important role of the Ministry of the Environment though, in terms of the duty to consult and accommodate, and in terms of the management of environment

and to lands and resources in this province, the Ministry of the Environment obviously has a critical role to play.

[15:30]

So that minister is unable to pursue a functional, productive relationship with a very key stakeholder in this regard, and not just a key stakeholder because it's the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations or First Nations in particular, but these are things that are mandated by a Supreme Court decision, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And again, when they talk about if you'd rather pursue an adversarial approach, what they're talking about is of course the fact that either we can do this, you know, without compunction through the courts — and no small amount of effort, time, and resources expended like that — or they'll take it through the courts. And in other jurisdictions, of course, there have been different cases taken through the courts which has built up the body of case law that has become the duty to consult and accommodate groups of decisions in the Supreme Court rulings.

And that so, sort of, in such a wanton fashion, Mr. Speaker, that this ministry seems to want to proceed in a way that is so disrespectful and dysfunctional with what should be a key stakeholder in the future of this province and the management of the environment and lands and resources. And you know, that is not just a key stakeholder just by virtue of being a large part of our population and a rich part of our heritage and society and economy here in Saskatchewan, but by the fact that we are indeed all treaty people, and that from those treaties flow responsibilities under the duty of the Crown and the honour of the Crown to live up to those treaty undertakings.

And that you've got a ministry that with these Bills and with its actions, seems to have such disdain and disrespect for that responsibility as it regards First Nations, we find hard to understand on this side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know that other of my colleagues have a desire to participate in this debate, and certainly others have preceded me. And at this time I will conclude my remarks and cede the floor to other of my colleagues on this Bill.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't intend on speaking for a long period of time on this piece of legislation, the forest management Act, Bill 123, but I did want to put some remarks on the record, and in particular I wanted to say this. You know, it was practically 40 years ago that the province of Saskatchewan introduced the first Department of the Environment. And since that time, the department's name has certainly changed title on many, many occasions, but fundamentally the objectives and purposes of the Department of the Environment or the Ministry of the Environment remains fundamentally the same as it was when it was first established in 1972.

Fundamentally the job of the ministry is to coordinate, develop, promote, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the environment and they're to do this in a manner that

promotes the physical, economic, and social well-being of the people of our province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister when she introduced this particular Bill, she said in the House that this was part of a whole suite of legislation that she was introducing that was to encourage streamlining of regulation and it was to encourage innovation.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there are some Bills that are significant, and the significant piece is this: that in the province of Saskatchewan, we have *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, which is the primary piece of environmental legislation in the province. And then built around that Act, we have *The Wildlife Act*, *The Environmental Assessment Act*, the forest management Act, the watershed authority Act, *The Parks Act*, and then we have a number of other pieces of legislation that are smaller in statute, but nevertheless important when it comes to complementing the environment and the legislation that's in our province to protect the environment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I read the minister's remarks for all of her pieces of legislation and it seems to me that there's a bit of doublespeak going on. There's a bit of doublespeak. On the one hand the minister talks about sustaining our environment, and on the other hand she talks about industry.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that, you know, I've always believed that one of the roles of government is to ensure that we have a vibrant economy, that we have good social programs in place to support vulnerable citizens, and that the public good needs to trump private interests. The public good needs to trump private interests on some occasions.

And Mr. Speaker, I think one of the occasions that the public good should trump the private, a few private interests, is when it comes to the environment. And I think all of us have started to think, certainly as post-war baby boomers start to look around and see what's happening to some of our friends and family — some environmental illnesses, degradation, climate change, these kinds of things — we start to think that maybe unbridled consumption isn't necessarily the way it needs to be and that we need to think more about the future than we think about ourselves at this particular moment in time.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I look at the minister's words, she's talking about deregulation, in many respects. She's talking about moving towards a result-based environmental regulatory system that is controlled not by the public, but by industry. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that we need to think long and hard about whether or not this is the way we want to go. And is this really, is this really our vision for the future of Saskatchewan?

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister on this particular piece of legislation says that over half of our province is forest, and that is true. Over half of our province is forest. And this particular piece of legislation, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act*, up until now, has regulated our forest, how we treat our forest, what we do with our forest. And, Mr. Speaker, as the minister said, this is one piece of legislation, of many pieces of legislation, that is about streamlining how we treat the environment.

And, Mr. Speaker, if we had some sense of a vision for the environment and some sense of a vision for our province, I think this would be easier legislation to understand because when she talks about the forest, she talks about adapting the forest industry in order to meet competitive pressures. Well is that private interests or public interests?

And, Mr. Speaker, I thought as legislators, when we were elected to represent our constituents, we came here for the public interest, the public good, and not on a few, for a few private interests.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what does a results-based regulatory approach mean? Apparently the changes are going to place greater emphasis on using expertise of our forestry professionals. But our forestry professionals that work on behalf of the public good or our forestry professionals that work on behalf of private interests? And this really isn't clearly defined.

Now apparently the licensing requirements are going to be streamlined in a variety of way. Well, Mr. Speaker, streamline to me often signals weakened. Mr. Speaker, the minister also tells us that these amendments have been developed following extensive discussions with industry, both large and small.

Now, Mr. Speaker, once again my colleague, the critic for First Nations and Métis people, has pointed out very succinctly some of the issues that have been raised by First Nations people. And First Nations people, Mr. Speaker, certainly live in our forest area and forest fringe. And I think that they might have something to say about this, but they feel as though they have not been spoken to and spoken with on this legislation in a meaningful way.

So now, Mr. Speaker, here is what is worrisome. What the minister says is that the legislation's going to enable a regulatory system that moves away from controlling activities with permits, to requiring the regulated bodies to meet defined objectives which are to be established in an environmental code. But we don't know what that environmental code will be. And the minister tells us that there's going to be reliance on audits to ensure that licensees are achieving environmental performance objectives — but we don't know what that means — and therefore compliance.

And, Mr. Speaker, if you've looked at government in say the last 20 years, government fundamentally all over the globe has moved to more of a deregulated environment. And when I say environment, I'm speaking about government generally. And that, of course, can lead to some pretty significant issues for citizens because deregulation often is about private interests and not public interests.

Mr. Speaker, the minister — and this is the piece of legislation we're going to talk about tomorrow — but the minister has also indicated that she is going to move on behalf of her government over 3.4 million acres of Crown land out of legislation and into regulation.

And I know I'll get to speak about this tomorrow, but one of the things that troubles me about that is, once again, it's about some private interests and not public interests. And that's one of the things that a former colleague of mine, the minister in the Grant

Devine government that introduced the legislation in the late '80s, he talked about this morning on the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation]. He talked about public interest and private interest, and I think that's what we need to put the lens on when we look at legislation like this. Is this about the public, our citizens, the overall good of the province, or is this about some people, a few people? And that's what we need to consider.

And we need to consider that when we consider all of these pieces of legislation that the Minister of the Environment has put forward, is it about the Environment minister or is it about some private interests? And is it about the public interest or is it about some private interests, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we had a piece of forestry legislation that was about the entire forest. And if I recall, I believe there are nine provincial forests in the province that are covered by this particular piece of legislation. And those nine provincial forests represent, in terms of land mass, over half of the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, what this legislation has done in the past, those forests have been protected by and designated by this piece of legislation, *The Forest Resources Management Act*. And then, of course, out of the Act came forest management agreements. And the forest management agreements in the past have been negotiated between various private interests and the provincial forest service, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that the Sask Party has a record at the moment that is spotty when it comes to the forestry industry. There doesn't appear to be a plan for forestry other than at the moment it looks as though the government is intent on deregulating the forestry industry by these result-based indicators, a result-based regulatory approach. But it looks as though it's going to be controlled by the forestry industry.

This is a government that had appointed a task force that was headed by the MLA from Batoche. He was to come up with a series of recommendations, but those recommendations have never been made public.

Mr. Speaker, we have a government that doesn't seem to work well with First Nations and Métis people and northerners when it comes to strengthening the forest industry. And it's very interesting that we have Big River — and it's an area of the province that I am familiar with, Mr. Speaker — but here we have an area of the province that, if I recall, voted for the Sask Party in the last provincial election. And this is one area of the province where they have fundamentally left out the people of Big River when it comes to forest allocation and the whole notion of getting their mill up and running again.

And, Mr. Speaker, even when you look at the federal government money, when the province, which had some involvement in it, when it came to the allocation of the federal Community Development Trust, I note that Hudson Bay got \$3.2 million for water supply improvements and refurbishment of a warehouse. Carrot River got \$1.1 million to build an access

road to the peat plant and to fund a feasibility study for a regional park and an industrial park. Air Ronge got over 300,000 for a regional information centre. Big River got \$55,000 for asset mapping and a community development plan. I can tell you the Big River people aren't that pleased about that.

Beauval got 50,000 for an economic development plan. Green Lake got \$75,000 for an economic development plan. And P.A. [Prince Albert] got \$100,000 to study viability of green energy products. And I don't think Meadow Lake has gotten anything thus far.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the former government was putting together the forestry strategy, it was about an integrated forestry approach. The entire forestry industry was about integration, in order that there would be cost benefits along the way as various functions were provided by various components of the forestry industry. And, Mr. Speaker, when the pulp plant went out of P.A., that created some very significant difficulties for the industry. And it was because the industry was so dependent upon each other in terms of its processes and sustainability, in a sense.

And so, Mr. Speaker, you know it's interesting, the government, the Sask Party government didn't like the deal that we had with Domtar. But I have to tell you that since the deal which they did not honour has come to pass, they presided over the closure of the Hudson Bay OSB [oriented strand board] plant or mill and three other mills — two in Meadow Lake and then one in La Ronge. And that represents a lot of jobs, and not to mention all of the indirect jobs.

Now I know that they formed the Sask Enterprise forestry sector team, and they did this a year after coming into government, so they've been on the job for close a year and a half. I note that they've changed the name of the forestry centre in P.A., so I know they've got new letterhead, but it hasn't meant a new job in the forestry industry.

I know that they commissioned the Montreal-based FPInnovations in April of '09 — so that's about a year ago — to analyze best matches between Saskatchewan's existing and potential wood products and the demands in the global markets. I'm not sure whether or not FPInnovations has made any recommendations, but certainly as legislators, we haven't seen those recommendations because it's about how do we have a more integrated approach to forestry, I presume.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is about changing our approach to the forestry industry in order to — because the minister has said this — in order to make forestry more competitive, I guess . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And they say I'm right. Okay. But the question is, and I think this is an important public question: how is this legislation going to protect the forest for future generations? I think that's an important question. How is this legislation going to protect the forest, which you know some people say are the lungs of our environment. How is it going to protect the lungs of our environment for future generations? How are we going to ensure that the forests are managed in the province of Saskatchewan in the public interests and not just the interests of a few?

And, Mr. Speaker, the minister needs to . . . she talked about transparency in her remarks in second reading. This is about transparency but it feels as though this is about deregulation, Mr. Speaker. It feels as though this is about putting the forest in the hands of private interests and not in the hands of the public.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move this Bill to committee in order that we will have an opportunity to challenge the minister to be much more transparent when she provides questions to the committee. And I would say to the minister this other point: that when members of the opposition ask written questions, I think it's incumbent upon the minister to not be too cute and too funny, but to answer those questions. And if she doesn't want to do that, she knows that she can convert them or she knows that she can amend them.

And I think in terms of having, trying to have a more respectful workplace — if that's what we want to call this place — it would be important that the minister treat, treat those written questions with some rigour when she's answering them, in order that the opposition can do its work on behalf of the public and in the public interest.

So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that this Bill will go to the appropriate committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Environment that Bill No. 123, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — Which committee shall this be referred to? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 123, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 126

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 126 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To rise and participate in this debate concerning Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*, it's with a certain sense of irony that I rise to participate in this debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A certain sense of skepticism.

Because of course I think, as I've said in other debates, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course in the 2007 election, it's a very busy time. All of us have different responsibilities in terms of the campaigning. And one of those responsibilities for myself saw me participate in a debate at the University of Regina with a number of candidates from other political parties, including the member from Martensville, the current Minister of the Environment.

And one of those questions that was raised by the young people in that debate, who took a great deal of interest in the proceedings and the election, who were participating out of the Political Science Students' Association, obviously people that were very engaged . . . And they were working for one of the professors there, Professor Tina Beaudry-Mellor who does a great job of engaging students and getting them interested in current affairs and into the political and social systems around us that affect our daily lives.

And so, you know, every now and then we hear about young people being cynical concerning the political process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I can assure you that these were not those young people. These were young people that were intelligent, that were articulate, that were very much interested in the debates and the comings and goings in the election, and that really had a passion for the issues that they were demanding questions and explanations from the various candidates at the debate.

So of course there was myself, obviously, Mr. Deputy Speaker, participating in the debate. There was a fellow named Mark Lloyd who was the Liberal candidate in Regina South, a sharp fellow, and there was a Green Party candidate, Vicki Nelson who again, very intelligent young person. And there was the member from Martensville, the then Environment critic for her party, I believe, and of course now the Environment minister.

And in that debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the students took us through a range of topics, were very incisive in their questions, and thoughtful in their formulation. And one of the questions of course concerned the different environmental platforms of the respective parties. And of course there was a mix of viewpoints being presented, Mr. Speaker, but of course one of the central planks in the platform of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party was that we were standing for a 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

And for the Liberals, they sort of took a different tack. They, you know, had a few different things to say about that. For the Greens of course it wasn't enough. But again, I think, in terms of trying to balance off the competing interests, but recognize that if you don't have a . . . If you screw up Mother Earth to the point where you've got the violent swings in the climate change and that you poison your atmosphere and your environment to the extent that it's no longer habitable, well then trying to balance that with economic development doesn't do you a whole lot of good, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that's something

that we've tried to pursue, is that balance between the environment and economic development, but with the recognition that if you lose your environment, then it's no good to anyone.

But one of the planks in our platform that we put forward and had different measures and, you know, cash on the table to back it up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was the plank around the 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. And it was most interesting that of course the Sask Party, as represented by the member from Martensville, the now Minister of the Environment, in that debate their position as regarded greenhouse gas reductions was, well the NDP position is our position, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And it sounded kind of phony-baloney at the time. I'll have to say that, Mr. Speaker. But you know it's always kind of interesting that if somebody is willing to get up in front of a crowd of young people and say whatever they think they want to hear, and then once they get elected and do something completely opposite. When I referenced the young people that get cynical or that aren't engaged in the process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there are a lot of different people that are disengaged with our system. A lot of that has to do with the fact that there is the stereotype of politicians who will say anything to get elected, who will get up and tell you whatever you want to hear. But come getting elected then, you know, it's a different story entirely.

[16:00]

And in terms of typifying that kind of behaviour that drives people out of the process in droves and that should be met at the ballot box with a certain answer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, well that's the kind of behaviour that we now clearly realize is on display by the member of Martensville. So when asked about their greenhouse gas reduction targets, the member from Martensville said, we're with the NDP; we think that's a reachable target. Thank you very much, next question. And it wasn't months after the election, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where of course the real truth came out and we got into this race to the bottom, in terms of what their actual targets would be.

So it was good enough during the election. And they take great pride in putting up promises on their website, in terms of a promise made is a promise kept. And even in those cases, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've seen promises that are up on that list that are pretty suspect in terms of, well who says it's been kept. Because, you know, I know for example, in terms of the promise that was made around strengthening the relationship with First Nations and Métis people, I know a lot of First Nations and Métis people that would take exception with the notion that that's somehow a promise kept by that government opposite, Mr. Speaker.

So when it comes to something that they've very blatantly broken, in terms of the promise around greenhouse gas reduction targets, well it wasn't months after the election — where in the election they promised a 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 — then last May and again last December, they reduced it to 20 per cent. And you know, again very interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But as of today, as far as we understand what the members opposite are saying — and again, you'll forgive us if we have some trouble, some challenge in following the bouncing ball of the way things proceed over there — Mr. Deputy Speaker, what's the target today as far as we understand it? It's 17 per cent. So 32 per cent promised in the election and 17 per cent as of today.

So the members opposite, in terms of . . . And I'm sure that there were other members that got up on platforms throughout the province and talked to people that were concerned about the environment and concerned about green issues. And they said, yes we're in for that 32 per cent reduction for the 2020, just like the NDP. Nothing to see here, please move along. Just, you know, close your eyes and think about this, hope trumps fear, and a brand new government coming in. And isn't our leader witty and all of this. But of course the substance has been a very different thing, Mr. Speaker.

So it went from 32 per cent come election time and what the people over there had to say on platforms across this province and what they had to say in their election platform itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which . . . You know, you hear the Premier say different, fancy things about what that is and how that should be a covenant with people. Well if this was the old times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the Old Testament, I think somebody would be coming down the mountain to tell them what they'd done with that covenant. So today's target, now 17 per cent.

And the very start of the minister's remarks, as kicked off in the introduction of this legislation on December 2nd, 2009, in this debate in the introduction of this, the third sentence in her comments at that time is, "Our government is committed to taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet our national-international obligations." Let me repeat that again just to, you know, drive the point home: "Our government is committed to taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet our national-international obligations."

Well how can you believe them on that, Mr. Speaker, if they can't even meet the obligation that they set out on their platform and that they stood on stages throughout this province at election time and said, you know, 32 per cent reduction by 2020, we're on board. So if you can't even get that right, Mr. Speaker, how is it that, you know, somehow the national-international obligations are going to be met?

And again we've seen from this government, you know, in terms of international obligations, we've seen what's happened with the International Labour Organization coming forward to say that what this government is doing is bad for workers, to condemn actions of that government opposite. And you know, mark my words, Mr. Speaker. In the days and weeks and months ahead, we'll see other decisions come forward that say what this government has been doing on different sectors is not just bad for workers or bad for a certain segment of the population but is also contrary to law. And we'll see them paying a price for that.

But the problem is of course, as with many other things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they'll make the mistake, and it'll be the people that pay the price through court fees, through the damage done to the good name of Saskatchewan, and to the

setting back of progress in this province, to marching the state of affairs backward.

So you know, from the very second line in the legislation that's being brought forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker — "Our government is committed to taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet our national-international obligations" — well I heard something very similar at this debate in 2007, heard the words come out of the now minister's mouth that yes, we're in it for the 32 per cent reduction by 2020. And that was worth the hot air that was expended in making that statement apparently, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So if you can't believe them at that time, when they've got all this other fancy language about how their election platform is their covenant with the people and how they're the people about hope and, you know, keeping their word, and we're not politicians all like the others . . . You know I think that's the worst kind of politics, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to knowingly stand up on that stage and to just tell people what they wanted to hear to get through the debate and then have something very different clearly in mind come immediately after the election.

So I know that other of my colleagues are very interested in participating in this debate and that they will have an opportunity to do so, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But again, if the masthead of this legislation is how we're going to meet our national-international commitments when we've seen so very clearly on this file in particular, Mr. Speaker — let alone the sort of general disregard for keeping their word, Mr. Deputy Speaker — for their disregard for consultation and working in genuine partnership with different parts of our economy and our society, the fact that when they say consultation you can almost count on the opposite having taken place, when that's the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we see that . . . You know, they say they're committed. Well that's the first place we get nervous, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of them being able to keep their word to the people of Saskatchewan because we've seen this. And it's not been a terribly long period that these members opposite have been in government. But to rack up the kind of record they have off the bat in terms of this blatant disregard for keeping their word, it's some kind of record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some kind of record.

So in the interests of allowing other of my colleagues to participate in this debate at this time, I will cede the floor on this, the Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. It is a pleasure to stand and enter the debate on Bill No. 95, *An Act respecting the Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases and Adaptation to Climate Change*, a very interesting Bill. And it really is sort of the symbol, the metaphor for how this government's been managing since it's come to power. It's a record of broken promises. It's a record of introduction of Bills at the last minute, and a real betrayal of the trust that the people of Saskatchewan has placed in those who are supposed to be representing them as the government of the people. And we have some serious questions about this Bill and its intent and its

structure.

And earlier today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke a bit about the sea change that's happening in Environment in this province, where it's being market driven. And clearly, if there's ever any example of a Bill that's being driven by the marketplace, this is an example of this.

And this should be done much better, much better by the ministry than the kind of work that's put forward here. I take a look at the press release from December 1st, 2009. This is our final days of the winter session. And the Government of Saskatchewan . . . and it is sort of par for the course for this minister to introduce her Bills right towards the end of the session and then say it was introduced in the fall. And I'll read from it. "Government re-introduces climate change legislation." And that is true because of the problems with its first introduction. So they had to reintroduce it:

Today, the Government of Saskatchewan re-introduced its climate change legislation that establishes the framework for how the province will meet its target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 . . . by 2020 and foster innovation in low-carbon technologies.

Now it goes on to quote the Environment minister:

"Saskatchewan is offering real solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through this legislation," Environment minister [and this is in the quote] Nancy Heppner said. "We are making strides to reduce our emissions while supporting the development of technologies that can be used around the world to . . . meet reduction targets."

Oh I can just hear the staff saying, real or is it really? It sort of like reminds me of the *Saturday Night Live* news. Really? Really? You're really going to do this, really? I just have to say I don't think I can quite believe it. Now this minister has not asked that her quote be withdrawn and that she was misspoke in her own press release, like other ministers have. We have seen this would be a trend in the ministers over there, to say that they were misspoken in their own press releases. But this is something, when she says real solutions — real solutions. I have to tell you, all I can say is, really? I have to wait and see this because 2020 if we see reduction of 20 per cent from the 2006 levels . . .

And I'll go on. I mean, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is quite, quite the piece of work this. And it's not a prop. It's the work that we do in this House. This is the Bill that was introduced. So I'm not suggesting that it is a prop. But boy, some people might consider it a prop here.

When I take a look at this Bill, Bill 126, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we're talking about greenhouse gases, and I'm going to make sure I'm quoting from the right thing here. And yes, the Sask Party climate change promise, climate change plan, if it can be called that, is a confirmation of a broken promise. They promised a 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Then last May and again last December, they said it was 20 per cent. And what's today's target? 17 per cent. Yet

another way the Sask Party wants to race to the very bottom.

Now this Bill 126, in Bill 126, here it is, *An Act respecting The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases and Adaptation to Climate Change*. And here we talk about Part II, "Emission Baseline, Emission Targets, Monitoring and Reporting". And we talk about section 4, "Greenhouse gas emission baseline". And this is really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the part that I find kind of shocking because, if you read the press release, when it talks about the reduction, they have real targets. And section 4 says, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may establish [and I think that's an operative word may] establish a greenhouse gas emission baseline for Saskatchewan for a year selected by the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

Well that's got real teeth. That's got real teeth. I can't believe that. That's really something. This is really binding legislation. You "may establish a greenhouse gas emission baseline for Saskatchewan." Wow. That's got to be . . . They worked very hard on that one. Now who wrote that? Who wrote that? Who wrote that? Who wrote that? "For a year, selected by the Lieutenant Governor in Council." Wow. We picked the years and we pick the baseline and we may get around to it. We may get around to it.

Now here's the next part, where they say in their press release . . . Now the minister wasn't misquoted here because she didn't really actually say it. It was her writers who talked about 20 per cent from 2006 by 2020. Section 5: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall establish a greenhouse gas emission reduction target for Saskatchewan for a year or years selected by the Lieutenant Governor in Council." So real teeth.

[16:15]

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I have to say that I am a little concerned about the headline, the quote offering real solutions . . . Well I tell you, if people have some concerns about how much faith or trust they can have in this government, when they see the legislation as weak as that . . . Here we have a government, a government who wants to talk about real targets. But there are no real targets in this, so real baselines and there are no baselines. We have some real problems. So I have some questions about that.

And of course there's lots in this Act too that I can go on and talk about, some of the other things in here. I wanted to talk about this one section about the emitters, section 17, establishment of baseline emission levels. In 17 it says:

Every regulated emitter shall:

- (a) establish a baseline emission level for each facility owned or operated by that regulated emitter; or
- (b) in the case of a regulated emitter that is a member of a prescribed class of regulated emitters, establish a baseline emission level for some or all facilities owned or operated by that regulated emitter in any [any] prescribed manner.

Now I got to say that doesn't sound like real teeth either when you say any prescribed manner. We would hope at least it was

prescribed by the Executive Council or the minister, but here it's saying any prescribed manner. But we have some real questions about that because here you have a group of regulated emitters who really get to set out how they put their information forward in a prescribed manner, any prescribed manner.

The questions we have is, how are they going to establish the amount of emissions, CO₂ emissions or greenhouse gas emissions, when several of these emitters may have facilities throughout the province? And if they're doing it facility by facility, are they getting under the baseline or the line that the minister would like to see as a base, as a standard for these regulated emitters or can they . . . Is it an aggregate of how much CO₂ is emitted in the province? So we have a question about that. So what does that really mean? We have some real, real concerns about that.

And of course we have some concerns about the number of organizations that are set up here. It's going to be quite a thing actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we get to see the outcome of this Bill, you know. And we hope . . . Well in some ways I hope it's real quick, in some ways not. I mean we do hope the reduction of greenhouse gases happens very quickly and we want to see that as soon as possible. But when I take a look at these three different groups that are being set up — this Sask Climate Research and Development Corporation, the Sask Climate Change Foundation, and the Environment Corporation, and each one has a board and each board, I understand, is about 11 people. And each one, each of the three boards is set up by the government, appointed by orders in council, I understand.

So there's some 33 people who are now involved in this, but there's no, no mention of any groups. Or who are these people? Who are they representing? Are they friends of the government? Do they bring expertise?

And we know this minister talks a lot about bringing capacity to the table, but yet we have a question. When you're bringing 33 people to the table to talk about greenhouse gases, what kind of people will be brought to the table? And, you know, especially this group over here, the government, when we've seen such a checkered background in terms of science and how they feel about climate change science. It will be very interesting to see who's at the table, who's directing these three organizations when it's all said and done.

So it's going to be quite a bureaucracy. It's going to be quite something in the . . . You know, one I understand is a charity; one is not. How do they function together?

Here we have . . . And the support. As we see this government do a reduction in terms of staffing, we see the minister's committed to hitting the staff and reduction targets that they've set out — some 16 per cent or more in her ministry. And yet she's creating more demand for infrastructure here. So will they have the human resources to support these organizations? So we have some real questions here.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have some real concerns, and I want to say that when it comes to *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* that there is an awful lot of work here that causes some real concern.

Now I want to get on the record here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course, that we are talking about Bill No. 126, *An Act respecting the Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases and Adaptation to Climate Change*, one that is very, very important. And we are looking for important things, good work out of this government, but I do have to say that some of the things that have happened, we have some concerns.

And I just have to reflect back on several articles, several articles. It's been quite a year when it's come to CO₂ emissions and the kind of things that have been happening around the world. Of course we've had the Copenhagen conference in December and of course the minister went. And we did not see the kind of results that we had hoped to. In the end, they did come to some decisions and there is a framework moving forward, but we were hoping for so much more. So many people had high hopes that things could happen and that Canada and the provinces would play a real leadership role in this.

And so we have, we have hopes. We want to see the best thing done here in this province, but we have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the track record of this government, this Premier, and particularly this minister and the broken promises around this and not making the kind of commitment that needs to happen to follow through . . . And of course we have to say about the Premier's commitment to environment, when we've seen a government cut a budget in Environment by so much and then ask so much of those people in the ministry, that we have some serious concerns, some serious concerns.

And I want to say that when we take a look at some of the comments that have been made, and we've gone into this and we know . . . And it's not my intention to repeat all the things that were said in the fall, particularly in November when we were talking about the Copenhagen conference, that we were hoping that this government would have more.

But I do want to say, and I do think it's interesting to quote an article from . . . Actually this is from the *Leader-Post*. This was done in May 2009 and an article by Murray Mandryk, and it's "Saskatchewan adopts Harper's hot-air plan." And this looks . . . It is amazing how we see déjà vu, déjà vu all over again. And he goes on and he writes, and I just want to quote, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

. . . the least understandable aspects of the highly complex greenhouse gas emission strategy and legislation unveiled by the Saskatchewan Party government is its reasoning for going with the federal government's 20-per-cent-reduction-by-2020 target.

Even if one accepts the Sask. Party's premise that its own 2007 campaign promise of a 32-per-cent reduction in greenhouse gases was just too costly to the provincial economy (and more in a moment on how the Environment Ministry sounds far too much like an economic development ministry), why did it have to be 20 per cent? Why not a 25-per-cent reduction?

He goes on, and I quote:

Well the only magical thing about a 20-per-cent emission reduction target is that it happens to be the same as the

federal Conservative government's, which takes us to the biggest problem with this supposed "made-in-Saskatchewan" strategy: It's really a "made-in-Ottawa" strategy.

It's [not] bad enough [and I'm quoting here] Premier Brad Wall's government now has to break its own election promise to appease the federal government, but Wall must also again deal with the perception his government is too closely tied to that of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. And about the last area in which the Saskatchewan Party should want to be tied to the federal Tories is the environment and greenhouse gas emissions.

And of course it's so true, so true, and I just have to agree with that. And then we did see the signing of this agreement with the federal government and with Jim Prentice, the Environment minister. And we had talked about this earlier, the deep, deep concern about how closely this government is tying itself to the federal government. I have some deep concerns about this. And so we need to make sure that this plan really, truly is a made-in-Saskatchewan plan. And so I have some real deep concerns about this.

And we know that, as we take a look at this, that we are concerned that these targets are not nearly good enough. We had much more aggressive targets and we actually had money to back this up and we had some \$300 million set aside for that. But we know that this government has taken that money and actually spent it on other things. And this could be a real problem.

Yes. And so we have some concerns and we know this government is just not credible, just not credible at all when it comes to the environmental issues. And we see that just in the last two days, and whether you talk about *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* and its consequential amendments, the conservation easements where we're asking stock growers and landowners to assume much more responsibility, and this government is off-loading those responsibilities, really, much in a cash grab . . . So we hear that the minister's willing to sell up to 10 per cent of the land at first go. At first go she's saying 10 per cent, and so that's a fairly significant amount of land that we wonder, what's the purpose of selling it? What is the purpose?

And of course we see a government that is mired in financial problems and we know that they're looking for ways to raise funds. And so when they had a plan, when they had something that was working, now they're dismantling it. And so we wonder why. They wonder why they are just not credible and why people are not trusting them when it comes to environmental issues. So we have some concerns. We have some concerns, Mr. Speaker, that in many ways this may, this will let the major industrial emitters off the hook for various violations of the federal environmental law.

And of course the minister's gone on at great lengths to talk about the equivalency agreement with the federal government, and we understand that's the cornerstone of this plan. And really it's just . . . They've had a signing agreement. We all heard that. We all understood that happened, but we have some deep concerns that there's not much to it other than a signing

announcement and nothing more is coming from that.

So we see a federal government that continues to lower its standards and we wonder if this is the same thing that this government intends to do, is continue to lower its standards. Of course to be fair, Mr. Speaker, we've actually not seen the standards. We've not seen the baseline and, as I said with the legislation where I pointed out that there are some significant holes, some significant problems about what really is in the Act.

And again we are seeing a government that is saying, trust us; we will have the information later; we will get it to you later. You know, and this government, Mr. Speaker, is nearing the three-quarter anniversary. The third anniversary is coming right up in November and we've seen very little action, very little action from this government in terms of really anything meaningful on climate change except the announcement that they intend to break their promise. And so if they were serious about these targets and really wanted to send a message, they would put those targets in legislation. But they haven't. And it's clear that they want to go on. They want the freedom to go on to make promises and not to keep them and to actually not tackle the problem at hand, not tackle the problem at hand that we know needs to be tackled.

[16:30]

You know, I find it somewhat ironic that the minister would take a trip to Europe, to Copenhagen, and spend significant time there, and do media and all of that. But really, we have to say, is her heart in this? And is there really going to be movement on this when we see such a weak plan? And I know that she has her work that needs to be done, and people are expecting more, much more from this.

And we saw the last-moment effort last spring when they introduced Bill 95, the first version of this Act. And now today we're talking about Bill 126. But still we have some questions. And we still see — and we get this information from written questions, and of course this is a government's getting to be known for not answering written questions — we understand from written questions that most of their consultation was in fact with industry. And the list of the groups consulted, including mining companies and oil and gas producers such as Viterra and Evraz, all of them legitimate people to consult with, legitimate, but no opportunity for organizations like Saskatchewan Environmental Society to put their thoughts together for further input.

And we have some concerns about that because we know these groups would have pushed for binding targets because that's what they want to see. That's what everybody wants to see. And there's absolutely no reason why those targets couldn't be in legislation and make them debatable in the House.

We are seeing a ministry that wants to do more and more of their work through regulation and not through the House. We find that shameful. We believe that is a step backwards, and if they're not going to consult with the public or NGOs [non-governmental organization] then at the very least they could have the things upfront right in this House. So we have some real concerns.

Well we know what this Premier has said, and we have some concerns about the Premier's real commitment to the environment when we see a budget like this. The Premier told business audiences in Washington, when he thought no one was listening, that he believes North America and Saskatchewan should rag the puck. Well shame, shame on that. Shame for thinking that we should just rag the puck. And in fact actually we need to get down to work and get things done. We need to get things done.

This is a government that's famous for ragging the puck. So as I said, when we have 33 people who are going onto these boards, who are they going to put on the boards? We know, as I said earlier, the folks over there have a checkered history of some of the comments they have on record, about what do they believe about climate change. And we know that the member for Thunder Creek, member for Estevan, Wood River, Last Mountain-Touchwood have all made comments, and you would have to question about how deeply are they committed to climate change.

And so when we see three boards being set up of 11 people each, 33 people, and we don't know where they're going to come from, and they're not accountable to the public because who knows, they're not being selected by any NGOs, it's going to be an interesting time as we move forward here, as this government moves things out of the arena of the legislature, out of the arena of public input and into their own private groups where . . . We have some real questions about that.

So we believe that we are really risking our economic future. We thought that there was a way that we could put a plan forward, a green strategy where in fact we embrace change. We in fact embrace the fact that we have to think of a new way of how we do things in Saskatchewan. But we don't think that's an impediment, in fact we think that's a positive. We think that's a positive.

And so when we see the challenges in front of us, we see sectors that need to be fully engaged, sectors such as agriculture. And I am not sure if agriculture is part of this. We think that clearly we know, for example the folks who've done work around soil, the Saskatchewan soil group that do things around . . . They started in the '80s and they were doing . . .

An Hon. Member: — Soil conservation group.

Mr. Forbes: — Soil conservation group. Fantastic group. The kind of work that they've done in terms of the impacts of CO₂ emissions, and of course they deal with other things, not just CO₂. They're dealing with methane. They're dealing with the other greenhouse gases that actually come much more through agricultural production. And we think we should be embracing the kind of things that they're talking about. Will they be part of this plan forward? We've not heard that, Mr. Speaker. And I know they do very, very good work. And it's a shame. It's a shame that we're not counting agriculture for example as one sector that should be at the table talking more about this.

We've not heard much from the other sectors. We know that oil and natural gas is very much a key part. But as I said, I hope that we have a way of regulating those folks so that it's seen as a landscape issue, much more holistic; not as a one-off, not on

one facility by one facility, and then it doesn't look like an awful lot. But actually that their emissions are considered in the aggregate, and that actually we can have some real, real work done and make some real accomplishments.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we see a Bill before us that we feel is much too late, much too late. And so we're anxious to see this go forward. But even in the fact that it's late, doesn't set real targets, doesn't set targets. And as I said earlier, when I looked at section 4 and 5, it's a real emission, you know — omission I guess is the word, omission — that they don't actually set the years selected and actually use the word "may". And I'll read it again because I feel like this is a record. It's a short line, but where it says:

Greenhouse gas emission baseline

4 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may establish a greenhouse gas emission baseline for Saskatchewan for a year selected by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Now that might be old language. It might have been in some other Bills or whatever, but the fact is that we're late. We're late right now, and we should be moving forward. So that research should have been done and put into legislation that we could all rally around.

But when it's in regulations, who knows when the regulations will happen. And of course, we see the greenhouse gas reduction target. Interesting that they've shifted the language here: ". . . shall establish a greenhouse gas emission reduction target [so that's good, but] . . . for a year." So we don't know whether it's the 2006 that the minister said in her press release.

I have to say just in closing, and I know that others do want to talk, that actually this Act comes into force on proclamation. So if we were to move on this, and I understand that most likely we may be moving on this in the next few weeks ahead, that actually this will become law pretty quickly. But it's a meaningless, meaningless piece of law unless we know what those two pieces are. What's the baseline? And what year are they talking about? What's the baseline?

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know many other people do want to take their feet, and I will be taking my seat to allow other people to speak for a bit on this issue. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I do have some concerns. I look forward to hearing more about this in committee, and we get into that kind of debate. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in on debate here this evening, this afternoon, as it relates to Bill 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

And what we have before us is something that's representative of the Sask Party on so many other fronts, and that's a significant and substantial broken promise, Mr. Speaker, and on an issue that is of huge importance to, not only Saskatchewan, but our country and certainly our world, Mr. Speaker.

Something that's intended to set out and to address climate change, an issue that many would argue, and I think very fairly, that may be the largest issue facing our generation, Mr. Speaker, and something that if not addressed adequately and properly we have significant, significant changes to the detriment of our quality of life, our well-being, and our natural environments, Mr. Speaker.

What's disappointing on this front, Mr. Speaker, is that we had a Sask Party that on the hustings during an election of 2007 were out there making statements that in fact they had no intention of following through with, Mr. Speaker. We had the Sask Party at that point in time, and I know many debates during that time and in many different communities and many different forums, the Sask Party made statements that they were committed to what was at the time the New Democrat's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by 2020, Mr. Speaker.

And I know I can cite the specific example of when the member from Regina Elphinstone was in fact sharing a podium with the now-Environment minister, Mr. Speaker. And the Environment minister, at that point in time an opposition MLA, made the very, very clear and distinct and strong message that her government, the Sask Party, would in fact keep the plan of the day of the NDP, being 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases. And that wasn't just the member from Martensville that was making that promise. It was the Premier, the now-Premier, the then-leader of the opposition, that was making those kinds of promises, Mr. Speaker.

Now it doesn't come as a large surprise to Saskatchewan people, municipalities, organizations, taxpayers, or businesses that the Sask Party would break this promise, Mr. Speaker, because it's really endemic of the kind of behaviour that the Sask Party has exhibited in their two and a half short years in office, Mr. Speaker. Their long list of broken promises, of abandonment of former commitments in campaign promises is growing by the day, and it's substantial, Mr. Speaker, in causing grief to Saskatchewan people.

So it's of no surprise, Mr. Speaker, to the people of this province that this government's willing to break its climate change plan, its greenhouse gas emission targets. And what they're saying out there is, why should we expect anything different on this front than we have in health care for example, Mr. Speaker, where we've seen the Sask Party completely abandon a plan at one point, where they offered great promise to address the rural doctor shortage that has exacerbated in so many of our communities and a huge issue for communities and for families and economic development, Mr. Speaker. And what we've seen is them completely abandon, the Sask Party completely abandon their promises on this front and go in the opposite direction, Mr. Speaker. And what we know is that the vacancies for doctors within this province has grown by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in the past two years underneath the lack of leadership of the Saskatchewan Party government of the day, Mr. Speaker, and this Premier.

And so when people . . . When you're out meeting with community after community and they recognize that broken promise, Mr. Speaker, what they say is, well it doesn't surprise them, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party's now breaking another

important promise.

And I think the Sask Party takes the environment incredibly lightly, Mr. Speaker. They don't see it as something serious, Mr. Speaker, something important to address. I know that they've got many individuals on that side there that in fact deny climate change, Mr. Speaker, that don't believe in the scientific evidence and the scientific community and the case that's been put forward. So we know that there's deniers of the good science and objective data that's been put forward, Mr. Speaker, in a global community and certainly within our province as well.

So the fact that the Sask Party is willing to break campaign promises such as rural doctor shortages and health care simply leads many to say, well of course they're not going to deliver on promises that they never even intended to keep as the suggestion . . . as it relates to important matters in environment.

And it gets down to this matter of trust, Mr. Speaker, and it's a broken trust. And it's a disappointment because many individuals across this province, Mr. Speaker, had a lot of hope in the new government two years ago, the Sask Party. Many people lent them their vote and their trust, Mr. Speaker, and they voted for the message of the Sask Party at that point in time and the commitments and promises that were made.

What we're hearing now is that there's a huge dismay and disappointment across Saskatchewan in many, many communities across this province and in rural Saskatchewan and in our small urban centres and in even our large urban centres, Regina and Saskatoon. In large, large ways there's huge disappointment, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the huge consequences as a result of the broken promises, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

And we talk about the importance of promises that are made, for example as it relates to doctor shortages and the needs of communities to have those important health services provided, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's willing to abandon that sort of a promise.

Certainly we see the Sask Party willing to abandon promises on a financial front. They put forward a spending plan in a spending program inside their campaign literature that this year, if we followed that spending plan — in fact I have a copy of it here — we'd be spending this year basically \$9 billion. What we know is the reality is that the Sask Party's spending \$10 billion, Mr. Speaker. And we've challenged this Sask Party from day one as it relates to their out-of-control spending, Mr. Speaker, and the unsustainability of that program and the huge consequences that now many other programs are bearing the brunt of the lack of management on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

So we see abandonment of promises as relates to health care. We see it certainly in financial management, Mr. Speaker. We see it as it relates to surgical wait times and the fact that in many, many regions wait-lists are getting far longer, Mr. Speaker, not shorter. And this is simply completely contrary to the promises made by the Sask Party just a couple short years ago.

We see broken promises as it relates to our labour legislation, our labour environment. In fact now we find ourselves, because of the irresponsible legislation put forward by the Sask Party, we see ourselves in contravention of United Nations conventions, Mr. Speaker. And that's a real black eye for our province, Mr. Speaker, to be at this point in time in contravention of a convention that's upheld at the United Nations, Mr. Speaker.

And we see the broken promises across the front of First Nations and Métis across the province, specifically as it relates to the duty to consult. There was at one point put forward a big concept that was much trumpeted to be the round table put forward by the Sask Party. We don't hear much about it any more because it simply became the round and round and round and round table, Mr. Speaker, that never got anywhere, Mr. Speaker, and offered huge disrespect and disgrace to the First Peoples of our land, Mr. Speaker.

So we see it in health care. We see it in finance. We see it in cost of living, Mr. Speaker. So what Saskatchewan people are saying is, why should we expect anything different as it relates to the environment, Mr. Speaker, when many of the members of the Sask Party and likely the Sask Party caucus as a whole, Mr. Speaker, don't even validate or affirm their belief in climate change and the scientific and objective data that's put forward, Mr. Speaker?

And what we're watching here right now is the fact that of course in 2007, the promise was that greenhouse gas emissions under the Sask Party — this was the promise of the Sask Party — would be stabilized by 2010, Mr. Speaker. And the reality is they haven't even tried, Mr. Speaker.

It would be one thing had they dug in, put the hard work into it, Mr. Speaker, put forward some legislation, and then had realized that due to certain consequences or circumstances, they weren't able to meet their desired target. But the fact is that this government sat in idle, Mr. Speaker, at a time where we were requiring action. And the result of this, Mr. Speaker, is that just in 2007, when they were suggesting, when this Premier or then the opposition leader was suggesting that they would stabilize greenhouse gases by 2010, and now we're here and they haven't even put forward any, any actions to set out to meet those goals, and of course greenhouse gas emissions have increased significantly in the past couple of years and have grown significantly, Mr. Speaker.

What we see is a huge broken promise and really representative of the broken trust with Saskatchewan people. We know at a time where many people, civil servants, are losing jobs or we see cuts across the province as it relates to important programs that are important to many individuals. I can think specifically, we've highlighted the broken agreement with municipalities, Mr. Speaker, and the dollars that have been taken away to protecting our Dutch elm, for example, or the risk that is related to mosquitoes and West Nile virus, Mr. Speaker, seeing those budgets completely cut, Mr. Speaker.

But at the same time the budget that hasn't been cut one bit, Mr. Speaker, is the expensive contract that this Premier and his office keep with an American and, might I say, a Republican firm, Mr. Speaker, to get this Premier good press and good

appointments and meetings down in the United States, Mr. Speaker. And so he uses these junkets, Mr. Speaker, on the taxpayers' dime to head down into the United States and to have fancy meals with dignitaries, Mr. Speaker.

But to have meetings of no substance, Mr. Speaker, and to pay big money, Mr. Speaker, to a Republican firm at a time where we have a Democrat as a president in the United States, Mr. Speaker, to simply try to spin good press for a Premier, Mr. Speaker, that we know has ambitions beyond this office, Mr. Speaker. We know that this Premier has desires to be leading the federal Conservatives, Mr. Speaker. I know now there's many, many federal Conservatives and current MPs [Member of Parliament] who don't like this prospect at all. They don't see in him the kind of leadership that they would want, Mr. Speaker. They point to the failed business record, Mr. Speaker, and they point to the anything but fiscal management of this — conservative fiscal management — of this Premier, Mr. Speaker.

But the point being that in paying all of this money to go down for these expensive junkets on taxpayers' dimes at times where you're asking many, many in this province to get by with less and to pay more because of your own mismanagement, Mr. Speaker . . . This Premier goes down and has meetings, expensive meetings on taxpayers' dollars, of no substance — the meetings have no substance — and have put forward messages where, I believe he thought he was sharing comments privately, but that we should rag the puck, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to environmental action.

And this is where this directs completely or connects completely to Bill 126, Mr. Speaker, where we basically see a piece of legislation put forward that does just that, Mr. Speaker. It rags the puck. It's representative of what the Premier was sharing down there on these expensive, taxpayer-funded junkets, Mr. Speaker, and he's simply ragging the puck on this piece of legislation.

And it might be, Mr. Speaker, that, because we know there's many, many individuals on that side of the Assembly that don't believe in climate change, Mr. Speaker, that don't recognize the scientific community's research on this front, Mr. Speaker. But as such, Mr. Speaker, they're failing to address what I would argue is possibly the biggest issue before us as legislators at this point in time in every jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker.

And I think we're failing to take leadership, Mr. Speaker, in this jurisdiction, in our province, Mr. Speaker, where we should be, Mr. Speaker, because it's important to us. Because if we simply let others make decisions on this front and we don't provide any leadership, if we don't address these issues, we're going to fail, Mr. Speaker. We're going to fail to protect the environment. That is something that's so, so cherished within our province, Mr. Speaker, something that's relied upon by the producers across our province, by our farmers, by our ranchers, Mr. Speaker, by our sportsmen, by our hunters, by our fishers, by our trappers, Mr. Speaker.

And when we look at our watersheds that of course connect to other jurisdictions . . . And it's a real major question, Mr. Speaker, as to how we're going to go at this issue, Mr. Speaker, when we have a Sask Party that continues to run away from its

promises, rip up agreements, and treat any sort of environmental action with disdain, Mr. Speaker, when we need to be moving forward in a very objective-minded fashion, listening to the best data as it relates to our . . . the scientific community and our economic information, Mr. Speaker.

And we as a resource-based economy, Mr. Speaker, need to make sure we take a lead on this front, Mr. Speaker, make sure that we lead and demonstrate how we can still be an economic powerhouse. Saskatchewan people have grown accustomed to, Mr. Speaker, in the last decade which is something of pride, Mr. Speaker, built through the hard work of Saskatchewan people, the good policies of New Democrats, the fine entrepreneurs and businesses within our province. An economic engine that's been thriving in Saskatchewan for many years, Mr. Speaker, provides us the opportunity to make the meaningful changes and address within climate change, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the environment and also do so in a way that demonstrates leadership within our economy. What a perfect opportunity.

And the question would be, Mr. Speaker, at a time of relative strength within our economy, Mr. Speaker, if this isn't the time to move forward with environmental legislation and to be a leader and be consistent with other jurisdictions, then we're really failing to take action when we should be, Mr. Speaker. Because I'd argue that there's no better time to do so.

And when we've seen the changes in the promises, of course, we've seen the Sask Party come out and they offered up a promise that they were going to adhere to the NDP's promise of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by 2020, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party came out in 2007 and they said to the Saskatchewan people that, yes that's something we'll commit to. Saskatchewan people voted for that commitment, Mr. Speaker, when they voted for the Sask Party. And since then, Mr. Speaker, they've done absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing on this very important file and this very important front, Mr. Speaker, and the only thing that they have done is they've completely retreated from their position during the election, Mr. Speaker, as they have, Mr. Speaker, on so many other fronts.

But they've completely retreated and it was announced just a while ago, Mr. Speaker, that they no longer were, their promise was no longer 32 per cent, Mr. Speaker, that they were going to ratchet that down, Mr. Speaker, to 20 per cent, Mr. Speaker, by 2020, Mr. Speaker. So I'm wondering with more time passing and here we are today, Mr. Speaker, on April 28th, my question is, I wonder where we're at here now. Because we had started out at 32 per cent; now we're down to 20 per cent. We know we can't take this government at their word. What's the real target that they're trying to achieve right now, Mr. Speaker, in 2020?

Now the huge concern, Mr. Speaker, is that without the legislation and without any action which we haven't seen from this government, that we're in fact going to exacerbate an issue that's already a significant problem, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to start to see the consequences of that, Mr. Speaker, but we were at . . . The promise was 32 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party ripped up that promise that was, that they made to Saskatchewan people in 2007. It was down to 20 per cent, Mr. Speaker. But the question is, where's it at here now, Mr. Speaker?

And I don't know. I mean maybe at . . . Publicly they're still going to go out and pretend that 20 per cent is still their target, which certainly isn't high enough, Mr. Speaker. We need to set the bar higher, Mr. Speaker, and provide environmental and economic leadership from our province at a time where we have economic strength, and to do so, Mr. Speaker. But the question is: are they going to still just continue to pretend that 20 per cent is their number and go about their plan, I suppose, behind closed doors?

But the problem is we all are aware of the consequences of this kind of irresponsibility, Mr. Speaker, these kinds of broken promises. We are all aware of the consequences, as do our fellow neighbours, Mr. Speaker, in neighbouring jurisdictions and of course when we are talking about watersheds or the air itself, Mr. Speaker, and the movement of it, we're talking about making an impact and something that impacts many, many, many people worldwide, Mr. Speaker.

So quite simply the targets that the Sask Party has now put forward, even if they, even if these are the targets that they are going to set out to achieve — and I don't believe they're going to do even that, Mr. Speaker — but even at that, the 20 per cent just simply isn't enough, Mr. Speaker. We expect more from this Sask Party government who's offered up nothing more than a retreat from their campaign promise, Mr. Speaker.

And we've seen this, of course, on so many other fronts: in health care where they made promises about addressing the rural doctor shortage and of course that's gotten way worse, Mr. Speaker. They made promises about surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker; of course that's gotten worse. We know that at one time this government, the Sask Party, pretended that they would balance the books, Mr. Speaker, and the Assembly almost laughs at that notion at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, because of course we've seen anything but responsible financial management, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen complete mismanagement, unsustainable spending programs, huge debt growth, huge deficits, Mr. Speaker. And these have huge consequences for Saskatchewan people as we move forward.

When you start to compile the broken promises and failures to deliver of this Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to environmental inactivity and retreat from promises and the compounded effect of that into the future, Mr. Speaker, and you then compile that with the damage going on within our health care system right now, Mr. Speaker, the economic devastation going on within our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and the financial mismanagement creating debt and burden for generations to come, Mr. Speaker.

[17:00]

We have a Sask Party who says one thing and tries to keep a positive message, Mr. Speaker, but if you look at the direction that they're actually going in, Mr. Speaker, it's very, very negative. It's very, very backwards, Mr. Speaker. And we need to be able to call a spade a spade, Mr. Speaker, and be able to address these circumstances and talk about truly moving forward as a province as opposed to the sort of irresponsible management that we've seen to date, Mr. Speaker.

Last spring I know it was mentioned by one of the members, the Minister of Environment, I believe, that the reason that they weren't going to be moving forward with meeting their promise, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to 32 per cent, was because of an impact on power rates, Mr. Speaker. But what we realize, and actually from their own reports and from their own studies, Mr. Speaker, is that the actual impact on rates as it relates to 32 per cent or a 20 per cent target for greenhouse gases and protecting our environment, Mr. Speaker, our watersheds, our air, our natural environment, in fact, is marginal, Mr. Speaker.

But what we know of course, if we do the financial analysis of what the impacts of different actions are, Mr. Speaker, we know that what is driving huge, huge costs up for Saskatchewan Power ratepayers paying for power as it relates to on the farm or in your business or at your home, Mr. Speaker, and the huge increases under the Sask Party, that's a direct connect, Mr. Speaker, not to anything related to greenhouse gas legislation, but it's a direct connect, Mr. Speaker, to the financial mismanagement of this government who has responded to their own mismanagement by stripping all equity from the Crown Investments Corporation, Mr. Speaker, and by taking all dividends from many of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, actually all of the Crowns except for one of them, Mr. Speaker, and simply not a sustainable position, Mr. Speaker.

I know I look over opposite, Mr. Speaker, and I actually see two of the members there that actually are, you know, I believe engaged in this discussion, Mr. Speaker, and it's worthwhile, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it's two of the most decent individuals on that side of the Assembly — two individuals who in fact I think are two very good individuals, Mr. Speaker.

But I am dismayed by the fact that these two individuals don't have elbows at the cabinet table, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think that they would be allowing this kind of inaction and these kinds of broken promises to exist if they had elbows at that table, Mr. Speaker. I suspect that those two hon. members on that side — fine fellows, Mr. Speaker — would be pushing harder, Mr. Speaker. It's too bad obviously that they can't push at the caucus table there.

And I'm sure it's difficult because of course we're meeting regularly in many of the constituencies and I know of course it's not easy to be down in Cypress Hills right now, Mr. Speaker, and be talking about health care, Mr. Speaker, because . . . And to try to then, try to say, yes, I know we promised that two years ago, Mr. Speaker. I know we said we were going to address rural health care problems, Mr. Speaker.

And then people are saying, but the reality is it's become much worse. And they say, well I'm not . . . I don't know. Maybe he says, I'm not at the cabinet table. But it must be a difficult position, Mr. Speaker, for that member — a good member — to hear from his constituents on many, many fronts that said, well I thought you said you were going to have . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I have a feeling the member may recognize that the debate is getting actually fairly, extremely far away, distant from the Bill before the Assembly, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*. So I'd

ask the member to try and work his way back to Bill No. 126.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, and of course we're talking about Bill 126 here today, Mr. Speaker, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*, Mr. Speaker. And what we see on display here today with the tabling of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is a major broken promise of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. And of course that's representative, Mr. Speaker, of the many, many, many broken promises of the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

And I was mentioning just before that it probably, I know it dismays the constituents and former supporters of many of the members, Mr. Speaker, to have so many of the broken promises put forward, Mr. Speaker, things that were so important and vital to individuals and communities. Many of them shared, many of the broken promises are things that were shared by constituents as it relates to cost of living or health care or financial management or environment.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, might be one issue for a constituent, Mr. Speaker, that stands out as the big issue that was the broken promise, Mr. Speaker. And I know that's the case for many of my constituents and for all of our constituents, is that not every individual is going to have the same perspective on every front and not everything's going to be as important to each one of them. And there's certain priorities that are important to individuals.

But I can be certain, Mr. Speaker, that many, many, many individuals across this province expect their government to put forward thoughtful legislation, Mr. Speaker, that addresses and protects our environment, Mr. Speaker. And they expect to be able to take the Premier at his word, Mr. Speaker. And this is a prime example, Mr. Speaker, that you can't trust this Premier's word. Because just before the last election this Premier came out and said, well we're going to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. We're going to have the same plan as the New Democrats of the day, Mr. Speaker.

And then of course he becomes elected based on putting forward those kinds of promises and been given trust by Saskatchewan people. And what does he do shortly thereafter, Mr. Speaker? He comes out and says, well we weren't serious on this front. Or we were just joking there. He says, I'm sorry on this, and puts forward excuse after excuse after front after front, Mr. Speaker, about why he's no longer going to keep his promises, Mr. Speaker.

But it gets to a point, Mr. Speaker, where people say, I can't trust the Sask Party Premier. They say, I simply can't trust him. And I hear it everywhere, Mr. Speaker. I hear it sometimes even when you're just filling up gas for example, Mr. Speaker, down in places like Carlyle, Mr. Speaker, where people say, well what the heck about this issue here? That Premier said that he was going to do this and now this is what is actually happening, Mr. Speaker.

And I could basically take that and submit the different broken promises into that, Mr. Speaker. And specifically as it relates to Bill No. 126, Mr. Speaker, I can place directly in the environment, Mr. Speaker, and the environmental promises put forward by that Premier, Mr. Speaker, a Premier that

Saskatchewan people are realizing that they can't trust when he gives them their word on something.

When he says, we're going to reduce the challenges as it relates to doctor shortage in rural Saskatchewan, can't buy that. People know that now because they've seen the reality as it relates to surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker. Can't buy it.

And specifically we have a Premier now who's put forward environment commitments, Mr. Speaker, and then put forward legislation that in no way is going to address the objectives, Mr. Speaker. And people are saying, we don't trust this Premier as it relates to the environment, Mr. Speaker. We don't trust him because he says one thing at the election time, Mr. Speaker, he says another thing afterwards in Saskatchewan. But then he sneaks off on expensive, taxpayer-funded junkets to the United States and expensive dinners, Mr. Speaker, and then he says something else. And he says, we should rag the puck, Mr. Speaker. We should rag the puck and delay anything from happening.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've never been very good at ragging the puck in hockey because I just wasn't that talented, Mr. Speaker. I was never the best stickhandler. I moved around all right on the ice, but I was more of a, you know, straightforward, up and back, dig in the corners, a few checks here and there, Mr. Speaker. But I never had the abilities in hockey to rag the puck, Mr. Speaker. Just so that people back home understand the concept of ragging the puck, you might do that, Mr. Speaker, in a game to delay time and to take time to, while things develop, and try to hold on to something.

And it directly relates to this legislation of Bill No. 126 here. It directly relates back to the environmental inaction that we've seen from this government, from this government, Mr. Speaker. And it's representative on so many other fronts. But we see a Premier who then comes out and says, well we can't address it because it's going to make power rates go up, Mr. Speaker. But yet their own independent study says, no, that has a marginal impact on power rates.

But we know when we do the financial analysis on these fronts, Mr. Speaker, when we make sure we understand the business case of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, what does have a great big impact on power rates going up, Mr. Speaker, is grabbing all of the cash out of the Crown corporations — over \$1 billion last year, Mr. Speaker. Last year alone, Mr. Speaker, stripped every single last dollar pretty much from Crown Investments Corporation, Mr. Speaker. And now going and cranking up dividend rates to 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker — this is simply not sustainable.

And when you take away all the capital that you have to invest as equity into these corporations that require good stewardship and need to be run like companies, Mr. Speaker, the consequence of that is there's only one other place to go, Mr. Speaker. And you know where that is, Mr. Speaker. It's our pockets, Mr. Speaker — pockets of our constituents; the bottom lines of the businesses across this province, Mr. Speaker; the bottom lines of farm operations across this province, Mr. Speaker. There's only one other place to go.

So it's completely disingenuous, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier

would pretend that he's not going to advance on meaningful climate change legislation because he states that it's going to have an impact on power rates, Mr. Speaker. Yet when his very own independent study, Mr. Speaker, when it's made public to us — which it now has been — shows that there's a marginal impact, Mr. Speaker, so it's simply a stall tactic, Mr. Speaker, that this Premier's put forward. And a stall tactic on a file, Mr. Speaker, that the public can't afford to wait on, Saskatchewan people can't afford to wait on, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government that was elected at a time where environmental regulations and legislation and action is top of mind and required, Mr. Speaker, as we've learned through the scientific community, through objective information that's put together, and world and community leaders, Mr. Speaker — and we have many of those leaders in this province right here, Mr. Speaker. But we have a Premier and the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, that have no willingness to move forward and put any sort of a plan forward on this front. We see raids on our Crown corporation that are simply increasing the cost of our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, nothing else.

And the member from Estevan's doing a bit of heckling here, Mr. Speaker. But I would urge the member from Estevan who . . . And I like that member, Mr. Speaker — one nice person, Mr. Speaker. But instead of heckling me, Mr. Speaker, while I'm providing a speech as it relates to the meaningful environmental changes that need to go on, Mr. Speaker, she needs to be looking in her own backyard with those coalfields that exist there, Mr. Speaker, and advancing and providing leadership to those projects, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to clean coal, Mr. Speaker. Because it would appear right now that, unfortunately for that member, the Premier simply uses the words clean coal as some sort of fanfare that he gets to throw out at expensive dinners paid for by Saskatchewan taxpayers down in the United States. But yet when he comes back home, we don't see any action on that front, Mr. Speaker, no action.

We see a delay in a potential even start-up date, Mr. Speaker, and we see no action and no plan, Mr. Speaker, on that front. And we understand that there's going to be a go or no go decision on clean coal, and I know that's a very important decision for the member from Estevan, Mr. Speaker. And it must be dismaying for that member, Mr. Speaker, to have a Premier that's simply going to deliver the sound bites that he thinks are politically expedient in the United States, Mr. Speaker, and then to come back home and to do something completely different.

So to pretend, as the Premier does, that he's doing something significant as it relates to the environment by citing his clean coal, supposed clean coal project, Mr. Speaker, which doesn't exist, Mr. Speaker. They've done a little bit of research on this thing, but they haven't delivered a single thing on this, Mr. Speaker, and the community of Estevan is waiting. Those Crown employees down in SaskPower, Mr. Speaker, are waiting to deliver that technology, Mr. Speaker.

And it not only concerns those individuals in Estevan, Mr. Speaker, that the very industry and resource, Mr. Speaker, that they have built an economy in their community on, Mr. Speaker, is threatened. But they're concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the company, Mr. Speaker, the company that has provided a

huge piece of their economic development and a huge piece of their economic backbone, being SaskPower, is being eroded by the day, Mr. Speaker. This is of huge concern to Saskatchewan people.

And I know the good member, a very nice member from Estevan, must be incredibly dismayed and frustrated, Mr. Speaker, by the Premier's empty rhetoric on this front. And it must grow old, Mr. Speaker, to hear it. And I'm sure, you know, at some point some of these members are going to call him on it at caucus meetings, Mr. Speaker. Some of those cabinet ministers, I hope, at some point are going to call him on it.

But I know something else, Mr. Speaker, is that November 7th of 2011, Saskatchewan people from across this province and community after community are going to call him on it, Mr. Speaker, call him on his empty rhetoric, his empty fanfare, Mr. Speaker. And they're going to say, we want someone who's going to be able to deliver something, Mr. Speaker — not all this empty rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, these polished up speeches. We want action on the fronts that are important to us. Very simple, Mr. Speaker.

You know, he can take his polished up speeches and he can take them somewhere else, Mr. Speaker, but the point is they want action. They want action as it relates to the environment, Mr. Speaker. They want action as it relates to agriculture. They want action as it relates to health care and rural health care, Mr. Speaker. They want action as it relates to financial management and in this case, under the Sask Party, mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. And they want action, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the cost of living and subsequent effects on quality of life, Mr. Speaker.

[17:15]

And these are the things that Saskatchewan people are going to call that Premier on the next election. And I know after that, Mr. Speaker, then of course he can go and do his thing. And I know that much of the money that he spends at the taxpayers' dime to go out and profile himself in very friendly environments in the United States are simply to sort of build a profile for his campaign to be the leader of the federal Conservatives, Mr. Speaker. But what we're hearing from so many federal Conservatives, Mr. Speaker, is they don't want him anywhere near their party.

And now the member, the Deputy House Leader, the member from Meadow Lake says, I don't hear that; I'm going to run his campaign, Mr. Speaker. I think the member from Meadow Lake is organizing the campaign. And good for him, you know. And that would be an interesting little Saskatchewan story.

But we understand, Mr. Speaker, that many, many within that party don't want, don't share the Premier's interest in . . . Because we know the Premier has interest to take over the federal Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker. But we hear many, many of those MPs say, well why would we want a guy who can't run a business? Why would we want a guy who can't balance a budget? Why do we want a guy who can't do anything with environmental . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I find it interesting that given the Bill that we have before us, Bill 126, that the member would be actually discussing so many other issues. And I'm concerned that down the road there might be a claim of not having enough time to address the issue. So I'd ask the member to move to addressing Bill 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh back in on Bill No. 126, Mr. Speaker, of course a Bill and a broken promise that's simply representative of the many broken promises of this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And I guess when we get to this Bill and we look at it, Mr. Speaker, we have a government putting it forward — the Sask Party and this Sask Party Premier — that simply aren't credible, Mr. Speaker, on this file. Simply aren't credible, Mr. Speaker, as the executive government of this province, but certainly not credible on this file, Mr. Speaker.

And when we talk about rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, what makes something empty is the fact that it can't in fact bind future changes, Mr. Speaker. So we see the Premier put forward this legislation, Mr. Speaker, yet he isn't willing to legislate any of the actual changes in here, Mr. Speaker. He says, well we'll leave those things up to regulations.

Well we know what happens when you leave things up to regulations, Mr. Speaker, is that those changes can be made without the legislative debate and scrutiny in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. You lose the accountability to the people for whom you've been elected and the promises that you've put forward, Mr. Speaker. So we simply don't see the credibility there.

We question basically the . . . We hear the Premier talking lots, as he does, about clean coal while he does nothing about it, Mr. Speaker. We hear him talking about his equivalency agreement with the federal government, Mr. Speaker, but there is no federal equivalency agreement — not one, Mr. Speaker. So every time, Mr. Speaker, that we hear this Premier talking about an equivalency agreement, it doesn't exist. There isn't one. And now I know he's going to be convincing because he polishes up those speeches, but it's simply not true, Mr. Speaker. There is no equivalency agreement.

There is an agreement to at some point make an agreement, Mr. Speaker, but that's really not what Saskatchewan people are looking for and it's certainly not meaningful, Mr. Speaker. It simply allows for political spin and empty rhetoric.

We need to be leaders on this front, Mr. Speaker, as we look at our environment, greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Speaker, we need to take our resource-based economy and be leaders, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that has put forward no commitment to the targets they've put forward. We've seen the broken promises, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that has failed to consult, Mr. Speaker, in the broad spectrum that they need to with the objective and scientific community and across all sectors. We've seen a government only consult with one specific group, Mr. Speaker, in this case a group that needs to be consulted with, very important group in this, being industry, Mr. Speaker.

But you can't just simply meet with one part of the equation, Mr. Speaker. You have to meet across the board with the scientific community, the experts, with industry, and with the environmental leaders, Mr. Speaker. We see failed, failed action on this front, Mr. Speaker. I know Saskatchewan people are going to call the Premier on this and his many other broken promises at the next election, Mr. Speaker. I know that the trust that has been broken on the many, many broken promises and ripped-up agreements by this Sask Party Premier is irreparable, Mr. Speaker, irreparable.

So as it relates to Bill No. 126, Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure we don't risk our economic future. We need to make sure we are in the driver's seat on this front. We need to be able to take leadership. We need to make sure we're not sacrificing our watersheds, our air quality, our natural environment, our habitat, Mr. Speaker, that of course is relied upon both by our wildlife and then subsequently our hunters, fishers, and trappers and our agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers, Mr. Speaker. And we need to do what Saskatchewan people expect Saskatchewan governments to do and that's to lead, Mr. Speaker.

So enough of the empty talk from that side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Enough putting forward legislation that doesn't mean anything. Enough with the broken promises, Mr. Speaker. But we've got many, many, many questions for this Bill at the committee table, Mr. Speaker. We've had consultations across the many sectors, Mr. Speaker, for whom should be consulted and should have been by this government, Mr. Speaker. We're going to bring those to the table. We're going to bring those groups' concerns forward and we're going to try to urge this government to get it right.

The simple fact is that the broken promise moving from a 32 per cent target to a 20 per cent target, a broken agreement, a broken promise is simply not going to address the challenges before us, Mr. Speaker. Doesn't address the challenges for these, our subsequent generations, Mr. Speaker, and this is something that's important to both the vitality and longevity of our communities and our families, Mr. Speaker.

But not just in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We need to be taking a lead here in Saskatchewan and working in conjunction with jurisdictions across our nation and around the globe, Mr. Speaker. And we see nothing but failed action on this front by the Sask Party.

At this point in time, with many, many, many, many, many questions remaining on this Bill, I now refer this Bill to committee, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion presented by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill stand referred? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 105

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 105 — *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in on this Bill here at this point in time, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 105, *An Act to amend The SaskEnergy Act*, Mr. Speaker, a Crown corporation that has served Saskatchewan people incredibly well, Mr. Speaker. And of course, our Crown corporations in general have served Saskatchewan people and our economy so incredibly well, Mr. Speaker, for such a period of time.

And we see this huge decay, Mr. Speaker, under the Sask Party on this front, and it's of huge concern to Saskatchewan people across this province as it relates to the costs they pay for the important services Crown corporations provide — our utilities, our cost of living. But it's a huge impact, Mr. Speaker, on our economy. And the fact that we see abandoning best practice within our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and poor management of those Crown corporations, puts at risk thousands of jobs across this province, Mr. Speaker, and a huge portion of our GDP [gross domestic product], Mr. Speaker.

And I know there's . . . You know, I'm elected here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. But our Crown corporations, they play such an important role of our economy here in Regina, but certainly province-wide, Mr. Speaker. And I know one of the biggest, biggest impediments, Mr. Speaker, to business — and we hear it all the time from independent business — is that the cost of utilities is one of the biggest impediments and barriers and challenges for small business, Mr. Speaker. And when we have our Crown corporations that are managed well, Mr. Speaker, and providing those services, those important utilities to Saskatchewan people — businesses, farmers, ranchers — Mr. Speaker, we know that they're doing their job, Mr. Speaker.

I find it absolutely astounding, Mr. Speaker, that the members from Regina and across this province, Mr. Speaker, from the Sask Party don't stand up at their caucus table or at the cabinet table, Mr. Speaker, and assert themselves on this front and ask, why are we letting the Crown corporations decay the way they

are under the Sask Party? Why are we doing deliberate things to hurt the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker?

And I know the member from Regina Qu'Appelle was listening in there right now, and I know so many of the individuals in her constituency are reliant on strong, healthy Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. She'd have many employees of Crown corporations within her constituency. I know that, Mr. Speaker. She'd have many, many, many exceptional entrepreneurs and small-business people, Mr. Speaker, in her constituency, Mr. Speaker, who rely on a strong economy, Mr. Speaker, rely on their neighbour having an extra dollar in their pocket to be able to invest in their company for whatever services they provide and be able to make our economy turn, Mr. Speaker.

And I know here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, the economic impact in our province of our Crown corporations is significant. As a Regina member I focus specifically for a moment just on the impact here in Regina. Of course we see these multi-billion Crown corporations or businesses, Mr. Speaker, that have their head offices right here in our provincial capital, Mr. Speaker. This is something very significant to the economy and well-being of our communities, Mr. Speaker.

And of course so many of those individuals who have been employed with those Crown corporations are huge community leaders, Mr. Speaker. They purchase homes within our communities. They buy their goods here. They support the small businesses, Mr. Speaker, that exist. They basically keep commerce flowing and are a big part of that, Mr. Speaker.

And when you see a government that's so quickly and so deliberately eroding and attacking the health of those Crown corporations, subsequently reducing those jobs and getting those Crown corporation head offices out of Regina and out of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the impact is huge. And we should be focused, Mr. Speaker, not on attacking the head offices and the Crown corporations that we have here, Mr. Speaker, right now that play such a vital role. We should be looking at, how do we attract other industries, other businesses to come and to locate here in our fine province, Mr. Speaker. And in fact to that front, I do think that our Crown corporations play a very vital part of that as well as it relates to being able to provide the affordable utilities that put businesses, Mr. Speaker, in such a competitive position to go either provide locally here, or to go worldwide right here from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And we need to get away from the ideological approaches of some members opposite, Mr. Speaker. I know the Sask Party sometimes pretends that they're going to kind of tolerate the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. But we need a lot more than that, Mr. Speaker. We need them to be able to enhance and to grow and make sure they're as vibrant, as strong as they should be, Mr. Speaker, in playing the vital role they should within our economy.

And the reality is that many members on that side of the House would like to get rid of the Crown corporations. We know that. Many members in that party want to get rid of the Crown corporations. And what we are very concerned is that we're seeing basically a backdoor way to get there, Mr. Speaker, and that's to attack their viability, Mr. Speaker, to burden them with debt, to make them unpopular with Saskatchewan people by

poor management, and then placing on to Saskatchewan people the consequences of that poor management, the higher costs in their utilities and in other areas, Mr. Speaker, and take away some of the social capital that those Crown corporations have within our communities.

But I think the Premier and the Sask Party are foolish on this front, Mr. Speaker. I think that Saskatchewan people aren't going to be tricked by their undermining of our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, the burdening of debt that is a direct consequence of the financial mismanagement of this government, Mr. Speaker. And they'll see through the, again, empty rhetoric of this Premier on this front, Mr. Speaker.

We see in this Bill here, Bill No. 105, Mr. Speaker, a Bill that is basically asking for legislative permission to raise the borrowing in Sask Energy specifically, Mr. Speaker. And we're likely to see this sort of legislation passed in for many of our other Crown corporations as well, Mr. Speaker, because what we realize is that a huge burden of debt is being placed on to our Crown corporations that are being used, Mr. Speaker, to simply fund the unsustainable spending of the Sask Party and this Premier, Mr. Speaker, who can't balance the books.

And so we know last year, Mr. Speaker, in last year's budget, the Sask Party put forward one of the, arguably, the most irresponsible budget in the province's history, Mr. Speaker, and we saw the consequences of that, Mr. Speaker. But we haven't all felt those consequences yet, Mr. Speaker. That will come as we move forward.

But what we saw as a direct result was a basic, complete stripping of all equity within Crown Investments Corporation, Mr. Speaker, basically all cash on hand at CIC, Mr. Speaker. Over \$1 billion has been drained — drained for one purpose, Mr. Speaker, for one purpose. Not for some sort of a one-time project, Mr. Speaker, but to fund the overspending of this government and to backfill for the \$1 billion deficit created by the mismanagement of this government.

[17:30]

So they take all of that money out of there, Mr. Speaker, at the same very time they go and they crank up the dividend formula on Crown corporations to 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker, taking it from 90 per cent to 100 per cent, in essence, and completely taking all money, Mr. Speaker, from those Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, such as SaskEnergy. And that's a completely unsustainable position, Mr. Speaker. You're saying to the very important businesses and corporations, the Crown corporations within our province, that they can't invest any of their equity back into their business, Mr. Speaker.

Now we know that the Premier has a very terrible record at running businesses, Mr. Speaker. But we need him to get the advice that's needed on this front, Mr. Speaker, because it's completely not sustainable, Mr. Speaker, to run a corporation, Mr. Speaker, and to take all of their profits, Mr. Speaker, 100 per cent, to not allow them to put a single dollar back into their corporation.

And I know the member from Thunder Creek could explain this to the Premier because I know he would get this principle. I

know it because he's kind of a straight shooting kind of a guy, and he could explain to the Premier that, listen, Premier, you can't take 100 per cent of a company's profits. They need to have the ability to reinvest some of that money back into their own business, Mr. Speaker. And I urge that member, who's been kicked out of the cabinet, Mr. Speaker, to bend the ear of the Premier and say, this isn't on; we're jeopardizing the well-being of our economy and our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

And as a result, Mr. Speaker, we're passing the buck to ratepayers across this province, Mr. Speaker, those ratepayers in this case, Mr. Speaker, who are reliant on heat and energy, Mr. Speaker. Those ratepayers, as it relates to, in his constituency, many business people, many, many producers, many farmers, some ranchers, Mr. Speaker, and individuals and families, Mr. Speaker. And I would urge the member from Thunder Creek to bend the ear of the Premier and to say, you know, listen; I know you don't know how to do business. That's okay. I'm going to help you with this. I'm going to tell you, you can't do it this way because it's simply not the way you do it, Mr. Speaker.

Businesses need to make sure that they can reinvest some of that profits back into their company, Mr. Speaker, because what we've seen is we've seen the holding company, CIC, all of that money grabbed by this Sask Party to pay for its irresponsible financial mismanagement, to pay for its deficit, Mr. Speaker. All of that money taken out so now basically any sort of expansion or any plans by these Crown corporations, they now need to go to one place, Mr. Speaker.

They can't make sure that they can get that . . . They can't get their capital from the holding company. There's only one other place, Mr. Speaker. That's you. That's me. That's our constituents. That's the business people across this province. It's the farmers across this province, Mr. Speaker.

And we know full well, Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about this, we're talking about something that's absolutely critical to many, many individuals and families, Mr. Speaker. It affects the quality of life and cost of living, Mr. Speaker. And many, many individuals are simply asking, why do I have to pay for the Sask Party government and this Premier's mismanagement, Mr. Speaker, or incompetence, Mr. Speaker? Why should I, as a family, have to pay for it, Mr. Speaker? And many, many across this province, Mr. Speaker, are having huge trouble getting by, Mr. Speaker.

And unfortunately what this Premier is doing is off-loading to so many different individuals and organizations. We see that on the municipalities, Mr. Speaker. But I know in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, many, many individuals are burdened by their cost of utilities and in fact aren't able to balance their budgets as a result of that, Mr. Speaker. And they're incurring the difficult and challenging decisions of where do they cut back as it relates to the necessities of life, Mr. Speaker, and then potentially debt growth, Mr. Speaker, as a direct result of the higher utility rates and cranking up of cost of living under this Premier and this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And it's not acceptable.

We know when we meet with small business, Mr. Speaker, that utility costs are one of the biggest issues as an impediment, Mr. Speaker, for small business. And we see the Crown

corporations as being such an essential ingredient in being able to make sure Saskatchewan's competitive on this point and making sure that we have the kind of robust economy that's been built in this province. And we need to make sure that we can continue to move forward with that, Mr. Speaker.

But the direction that the Sask Party is taking our Crown corporations and subsequently our economy, Mr. Speaker, is the wrong direction, wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. To burden them with debt, Mr. Speaker, that has to get laid at the feet and out of the pockets and in the credit cards and in the loans and credit lines of Saskatchewan people and businesses isn't appropriate, Mr. Speaker. Nor is it appropriate to undermine the viability of those Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and to burden them with debt to equity ratios that are unsustainable and unrealistic, Mr. Speaker, and then puts them at risk, Mr. Speaker.

And what we're getting to, Mr. Speaker, is that we're putting at risk many, many, many thousands of jobs, Mr. Speaker, and a huge percentage of our GDP, Mr. Speaker. And what this government should quit doing is . . . Because there's a few ideologues over there, many ideologues who want to kill the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, what we should be urging this government to do is to enhance and protect and ensure that those Crown corporations are a big piece of our economic and social fabric. And they should be going out, Mr. Speaker, to find new industries and new head offices and new pieces to our economy to add to what we have, not take chunks away, Mr. Speaker, important, important pieces. And that's a concern to people across this province.

And I know it falls into the category of broken promises, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to financial mismanagement, because at one point, the Sask Party during the last election, they had made statements that they were going to balance the books. And they said they were going to be financially responsible. Of course the exact opposite's been true, Mr. Speaker. It's been an absolute case of mismanagement from the moment this government's taken office, a runaway spending program that wasn't sustainable. And now we find ourselves in deep deficit, and we find this government willing to just simply grab out of the Crown corporations any time they can, Mr. Speaker.

This doesn't put those Crown corporations in the kind of position that they should be to provide the services to Saskatchewan people and businesses that we expect them to, and it doesn't put the many, many thousands of workers across this province in the kind of position that they should when they say that this is where I want to build my career, and I want to move vertically when they realize that what they're seeing is a direct attack on the viability of the corporation they're working for, Mr. Speaker.

We see ideological decisions by this government, Mr. Speaker, that include . . . And get this, Mr. Speaker. Get this. And, you know, I'd like your perspective on this, but I just don't get it, Mr. Speaker. A government that goes and ties the hands of the biggest corporations in our province, who says no, you can't invest outside your boundaries. You can't divest the risk, Mr. Speaker, that you have as a corporation.

And we see subsequent to that the result — the sale of, an example being, Heritage Gas, a highly profitable company

owned by SaskEnergy and the people of this province that was bringing a big return to Saskatchewan people. Now we sold it for a massive increase, Mr. Speaker, a big increase — an investment of SaskEnergy under the New Democrat policies, Mr. Speaker, and a big windfall back into SaskEnergy. These are the kind of things that SaskEnergy should not have its hands tied from doing, Mr. Speaker.

They should be sound business decisions that the individuals leading these corporations should be allowed to make sure, that like any other corporation or any other multi-billion dollar corporation or business, have the ability to divest that risk, and to act in the best interest of their shareholder, Mr. Speaker, in this case, the shareholder being the people of Saskatchewan. The fact that the Premier has a different motive on this front, Mr. Speaker, and is preventing the Crown corporations from fulfilling their duty and their job in operating the kind of latitude that a multi-billion dollar corporation should be, Mr. Speaker, is disgraceful, simply disgraceful, Mr. Speaker.

Poor policy after poor policy put forward by this government, the mismanagement in our finances, Mr. Speaker, that we have witnessed since they've taken office have completely drained our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. And the result of that is simply going to be massive rate increases year after year for many years into the future, Mr. Speaker, under a Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And we've got challenges that are going to need to be addressed. I know this year alone in Crown corporations we're borrowing \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker, close to \$1 billion in the Crowns this year, the borrowing.

And we need to make sure we're understanding what that debt is for, Mr. Speaker, because debt certainly plays a part of any business and any corporation, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that we manage those debt to capital or debt to equity ratios, Mr. Speaker, with keeping in mind best practice and industry standards, Mr. Speaker.

And what I've always been proud about our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, is that they are right in line with private sector companies, Mr. Speaker. They adhere to a standard beyond what many, many companies do across the globe, Mr. Speaker. And really we're talking about big, multi-billion dollar companies here. And we have had some of the best administration and management within those companies, Mr. Speaker. We see a massive change on that. We see, as direct result of the mismanagement of this government, the deficits that it's creating and the fact that it goes directly to the Crown corporations to fund those deficits, to fund those budgetary shortfalls, Mr. Speaker.

We see now, coming to this legislature, legislation that asks for another \$400 million, Mr. Speaker, to be borrowed by SaskEnergy, Mr. Speaker. We see this at a time where we know SaskEnergy's hands have been tied, and they're no longer allowed to hold on to profitable assets, Mr. Speaker, and divest risk. They're forced to operate in a way that's certainly not businesslike, as such, Mr. Speaker. What we need to be able to do is enable these organizations, empower these organizations, these corporations, and allow them to play the important role that they should be within our economy and have for years past, Mr. Speaker.

And the consequences of the increased borrowing, the mismanagement, the poor policies put forward by the Sask Party and this Premier, Mr. Speaker, are laid directly at the feet and out of the pocketbooks of my constituents, your constituents, every single one of ours across this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, across this province, Mr. Speaker — ranchers, farmers, business people, families. And it comes out of one place, Mr. Speaker. It comes out of the competitiveness in our economy. It comes out of the quality of life, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan people deserve and expect.

And what this accounts to, Mr. Speaker, is a piece of broken trust because we have a Sask Party government that once said — and members are laughing now because I know it is laughable — they once said that they would manage the books, that they'd balance the books, that they'd be financially responsible. And nothing has been further from the truth. And of course we all laugh on this side, and many of the members on that side laughing here now too, because they know what an embarrassment, Mr. Speaker, their financial management has been.

But we see the impact of that, Mr. Speaker, on another promise that this government put forward. This Sask Party Premier and this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, once said that they believed in the Crown corporations. Now we know they just say that, Mr. Speaker, because we know the members of their party, and many caucus members, want to get rid of the Crown corporations. That's been a position of that crew for many, many, many years. They had to say something else to get elected, Mr. Speaker.

Now in a very deceitful way, they're going about their attack on the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and to the detriment of Saskatchewan business, Saskatchewan producers, Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. And this is a huge disappointment.

Mr. Speaker, I know there's so many questions that need to be asked about this. What we know is that we see a ballooning of debt under the Sask Party like we haven't seen since Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker. We haven't seen since Grant Devine. We see it in the budgetary books of this government. We see them run a \$1 billion deficit this year. It's argued that this year the budgetary deficit could be in the same range, Mr. Speaker. And what we do see is a debt growth through the entire forecast of this government, Mr. Speaker. We see debt to GDP, Mr. Speaker, a trend of decline. A trend of bettering our circumstance for the past decade, Mr. Speaker, we see that reversed. And we see debt to GDP, Mr. Speaker, going the other way, Mr. Speaker, going the other way.

And this is a huge shame to Saskatchewan people who have been complete partners in bettering our province and putting forward the powerful economy that we're all proud of, Mr. Speaker, only to have poor policies kicking out what we truly could be here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Should I go till five to or . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. And, Mr. Speaker, you know, many people watching at home, just had to check to see where we're going here, if we were going to have another speaker.

But there's so many things I have to say about this piece of

legislation that it's important for me to . . .

An Hon. Member: — You have a song in your heart.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I have the song in my heart on this issue because the Crown corporations are so vital to my constituency, to Regina, and to the province as a whole.

So we see these kind of untruthful statements put forward, Mr. Speaker. We see the Sask Party say that they support the Crown corporations, but every one of their actions says something else, Mr. Speaker. They undermine the Crown corporations. They tie the hands of the Crown corporations. They reduce the social acceptance of the Crown corporations by passing on increases in cost that shouldn't be being passed along to Saskatchewan people. It's direct backdoor taxation, Mr. Speaker, backdoor taxation, Mr. Speaker, to cover off for the mismanagement of this government.

So you can't believe what this government's saying, Mr. Speaker. You can't believe what this government's saying. I know here today and in question period today as it relates to not being able to believe what government members say, the Minister for Municipal Affairs actually said here today in question period, Mr. Speaker, that one of our honourable councillors here in Regina, Mr. Terry Hincks, he called him an NDP blogger, Mr. Speaker, here in question period today. Now nothing, Mr. Speaker, could be further from the truth.

[17:45]

Now I'm quite certain that nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker, because Mr. Hincks, I'm quite certain he's not an NDP blogger, Mr. Speaker. And nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. In fact Mr. Hincks, a good man, a good councillor, and he's been a football leader and community leader within our city, and certainly a good business man within our province. But I'm quite certain, Mr. Speaker, that he's not an NDP blogger.

And for members to suggest otherwise is really disingenuous, Mr. Speaker, just as it is for members opposite to suggest that they believe in our Crown corporations. Yet at the same time, they go and basically undermine them in every other capacity, Mr. Speaker.

It's just as disingenuous, Mr. Speaker, as when the Sask Party was out on the election hustings in 2007. And they went out and they said, well we're going to balance the books. We're going to be good financial managers. We're going to be good financial stewards. These are the things that the Sask Party was saying in the last election, Mr. Speaker.

And then what do we see? Well we see the actions of the Sask Party don't meet their words. We see broken promise after broken promise, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that was content and willing to come in, Mr. Speaker, and run some of the most reckless budgets this province has ever seen. They were willing to come over, to come in and be content, Mr. Speaker, with being anything but fiscally prudent, anything but fiscally responsible, and anything but fiscally conservative, Mr. Speaker.

And I chat with lots of conservatives, Mr. Speaker, that are incredibly dismayed and frustrated, Mr. Speaker, because they were hopeful that the Sask Party would, I guess, break the record of terrible financial mismanagement of conservative governments in this province, Mr. Speaker. And they've been disappointed, Mr. Speaker, that that hasn't happened because of course they recount back to the days of Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker, and they count that mismanagement as something historic that set back this province probably a decade or more, Mr. Speaker, had huge consequences for our future.

We're still paying for that here right now, Mr. Speaker, just the same as the kind of irresponsible financial management, the kind of irresponsible policies that we see the Sask Party putting forward right now are going to have consequences for many, many years into the future, Mr. Speaker. And we need to address these. We need to call it what it is, Mr. Speaker. We need to call a spade a spade, Mr. Speaker. We need to expect more from this Premier and this Sask Party government.

And at the very least, Mr. Speaker, we need to get this Sask Party government out of the government benches in 2011 and restore fiscal order to the province of Saskatchewan and restore the health and vitality of our Crown corporations which are so instrumental to our economy here in Saskatchewan and specifically in Regina, Mr. Speaker.

I find it absolutely astounding, Mr. Speaker, that Regina members of that Sask Party caucus, Mr. Speaker, are so willing to let our Crown corporations get attacked the way that they are, Mr. Speaker, to be undermined the way that they are, to tie the hands of those corporations, Mr. Speaker. Here we have multi-billion dollar corporations headquartered in our province and in Regina, Mr. Speaker, and we see a government and members that are willing to let those die or dwindle or be bought off, Mr. Speaker, be privatized in the long run, Mr. Speaker.

And I can tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker: we shouldn't be moving in that direction. We should be strengthening those Crown corporations and ensuring their health and vitality and, Mr. Speaker, what we should be focusing on is the economic development of what other corporations, what other head offices can we bring into this province, Mr. Speaker. But the exact opposite is happening. It's kind of like going, you know, a couple of steps forward, Mr. Speaker, and then many steps backwards.

And it's a frustrating endeavour for Saskatchewan people who held out lots of hope, Mr. Speaker. And they did, for that Premier, Mr. Speaker, for that Premier who's broken promise after promise after promise, Mr. Speaker. They held out hope because the kind of message that he was offering was something that they were looking to see action on, Mr. Speaker. They wanted to see some improvements as it related to health care, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to rural doctor challenges and surgical wait times. And what they've seen is they've seen that Premier not go forward, Mr. Speaker, but they've seen that Premier go backwards, Mr. Speaker.

They've seen wait-lists grow across this province for many families that are waiting as we speak and listening to this telecast here today, Mr. Speaker. Many of those individuals are

waiting and languishing on wait times, Mr. Speaker, that are getting longer under this Premier's watch, under the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. And the part that becomes such a challenge on this is this Premier said he was going to fix this. That was one of his big pieces, Mr. Speaker, and it's gone backwards. Same thing as it relates to rural health care, Mr. Speaker. That Premier has gone backwards as it relates to rural health care — specifically the doctor shortages, Mr. Speaker.

And across this province, Mr. Speaker, we see the result of the broken promises and what we see is many communities, Mr. Speaker, that are in huge challenge to find the health care services that they rightfully deserve, Mr. Speaker — access to a doctor, Mr. Speaker, and they need that for their families, Mr. Speaker. The communities need it for their economic well-being, Mr. Speaker.

If we don't address this, Mr. Speaker, we're going to exacerbate some of the challenges in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Instead of taking a lead, addressing some circumstances and moving forward with good policy, we see a Premier that was willing to offer up a bunch of candy, Mr. Speaker, as it related to promises but then take it all back, Mr. Speaker, take it all back, Mr. Speaker.

So many individuals are out there, Mr. Speaker, knowing that their health care isn't what it should be because it's gone backwards under the Sask Party Premier, Mr. Speaker. What they're saying, Mr. Speaker, is why am I paying more for my utilities? Why am I paying more for my utilities? Why am I paying, Mr. Speaker, for the mismanagement, the mismanagement of this Premier, Mr. Speaker?

And I know I see the member from Regina Wascana Plains try to heckle a little bit here, Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina Wascana Plains, and talk about that people of Saskatchewan are whining, Mr. Speaker. What I would say, Mr. Speaker, is the many leaders in her constituency who are leaders in our Crown sector, Mr. Speaker, and some of the business people in her constituency that are reliant on a strong economy, a balanced economy where the Crown corporations are a vital part of that, aren't whining, Mr. Speaker. They're saying, we want to continue to move forward economically from our business. We want to make sure our people have an extra dollar in their pocket to spend in our community, Mr. Speaker, and our Crown corporations are a vital part of that.

Many of those business people in her constituency are saying, we don't want to pay any more for power, specifically not power or gas, Mr. Speaker, and heat. That's a direct consequence of financial mismanagement. They might be willing to pay modestly more for new generation, Mr. Speaker, that's a direct pass-along cost of that power, Mr. Speaker, but they're not going to pay for this Premier's mistakes.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've got job after job after job at risk, Mr. Speaker, thousands across this province and here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, if you take out the Crown corporations and the head offices, as the Premier and the Sask Party are moving towards, Mr. Speaker. We're losing a huge piece of our economy province-wide and in our city here, Mr. Speaker, in our Queen City, Mr. Speaker.

So we shouldn't be focused on trying to advance ideological, poor, ill-advised policy that the Sask Party Premier wants to move forward. What we should be doing is looking about how we continue to diversify and grow and develop our economy, Mr. Speaker. And fundamental to that and critical to that and a huge tool to do so are our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, and we need to support those Crown corporations.

And I hear one of the members suggest that to maybe highlight some of the other points that are here, and I appreciate doing so. What we can't handle is that when we see a government driving debt to GDP in this province the wrong way, Mr. Speaker, increasing debt and increasing it by the billions, Mr. Speaker, as a direct result of the financial mismanagement of this government, might I say, Mr. Speaker, at a time when there's more revenues flowing into that government's pockets than ever before, they can't balance the books.

And where do they look to it, Mr. Speaker? They look to the Crown corporations. How do they get it, Mr. Speaker? They get it a couple of ways, Mr. Speaker. They grab every single last bit of dollars from CIC that they had on hand — \$1 billion, more than \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker — and they pull that in to pay for their mismanaged, overspending budget, Mr. Speaker, to cover off for their budgetary shortfall. Where else do they get it, Mr. Speaker? They go and they take 100 per cent. They ratchet up the dividend coming back from the Crown corporations to 100 per cent, not leaving a single cent within the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

And with Saskatchewan people and business people, and I know within the chambers of commerce and the business leaders across this province, what they know, Mr. Speaker, is you can't do that, that when you take a portion of your profits you need to be able to reinvest that in your company, Mr. Speaker, in your corporation, in your business, Mr. Speaker, and what has been done is simply unsustainable and damaging, Mr. Speaker. And there's only one other place to go to pay for this, Mr. Speaker, and that's the pockets of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And I know the . . . I just noticed the member from Prince Albert Carlton area. I think he'd knocked over his water there. And I think it probably dawned on him, Mr. Speaker, that, you know, the NDP are right on this. You can't take 100 per cent from a Crown corporation. You can't take 100 per cent from the business. And I noticed all of a sudden he kind of had a aha moment and knocked over his water, and realized. So I hope what that member tomorrow does in caucus is says, we can't do this, Premier. We can't do this. This is bad business sense, Mr. Speaker.

And I urge the member from P.A. Carlton to inch his elbows into that caucus table and say, this is bad business policy and it doesn't treat our Crown corporations the way that it should. And he can go at it in a nice, cautious way. He can go at it humbly. He can say to the Premier, you know, he doesn't have to be too assertive, but he's going to have to say you know, I know, Premier, you don't know how to run businesses. Because I know the businesses you did run ran into the ground, Mr. Speaker. So I'm going to give you some advice here, Mr. Speaker. And that's what I'd expect the member from P.A. Carlton . . . In fact the member from Wascana Plains would be

in a good position to give advice on this front here as well and I hope that they do, Mr. Speaker.

Because where we are going right now is backwards, Mr. Speaker. It's costing Saskatchewan people more. It has negative consequences for our economy. We can't afford to go through another period as we did through the Devine period and see massive debt growth, Mr. Speaker, because you and I and our constituents and the business of our province are the ones that pay for that, Mr. Speaker.

I have to check with our hon. House leaders here, Mr. Speaker, to see at this point where we are going with this Bill. And it's important to address the pieces that we have here today. What we know is that in our Crown corporations they're borrowing \$1 billion here this year. We know that we've taken all, that the Sask Party's taken out all of the equity in these Crown corporations. We know that Saskatchewan people, municipalities are paying for it, Mr. Speaker. We know that the local hockey rinks, Mr. Speaker, trying to keep those ice plants operating and the Zambonis moving, Mr. Speaker, they're paying for it.

We know that the recreation facilities, the swimming pools across this province, we know that they're paying for it, Mr. Speaker. We know that business people across this province, the farmers and producers within our province, the exceptional entrepreneurs that we have across our province, Mr. Speaker, we know that they're paying for it. They're paying out of a drop in competitiveness, Mr. Speaker. And it's a concern to Saskatchewan people.

We have many questions to ask on this Bill. At this point in time I adjourn debate on Bill No. 105, *An Act to amend The SaskEnergy Act*.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd like to move adjournment of the House for committees to commence at 7 p.m.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Pursuant to order, this Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:58.]

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