



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

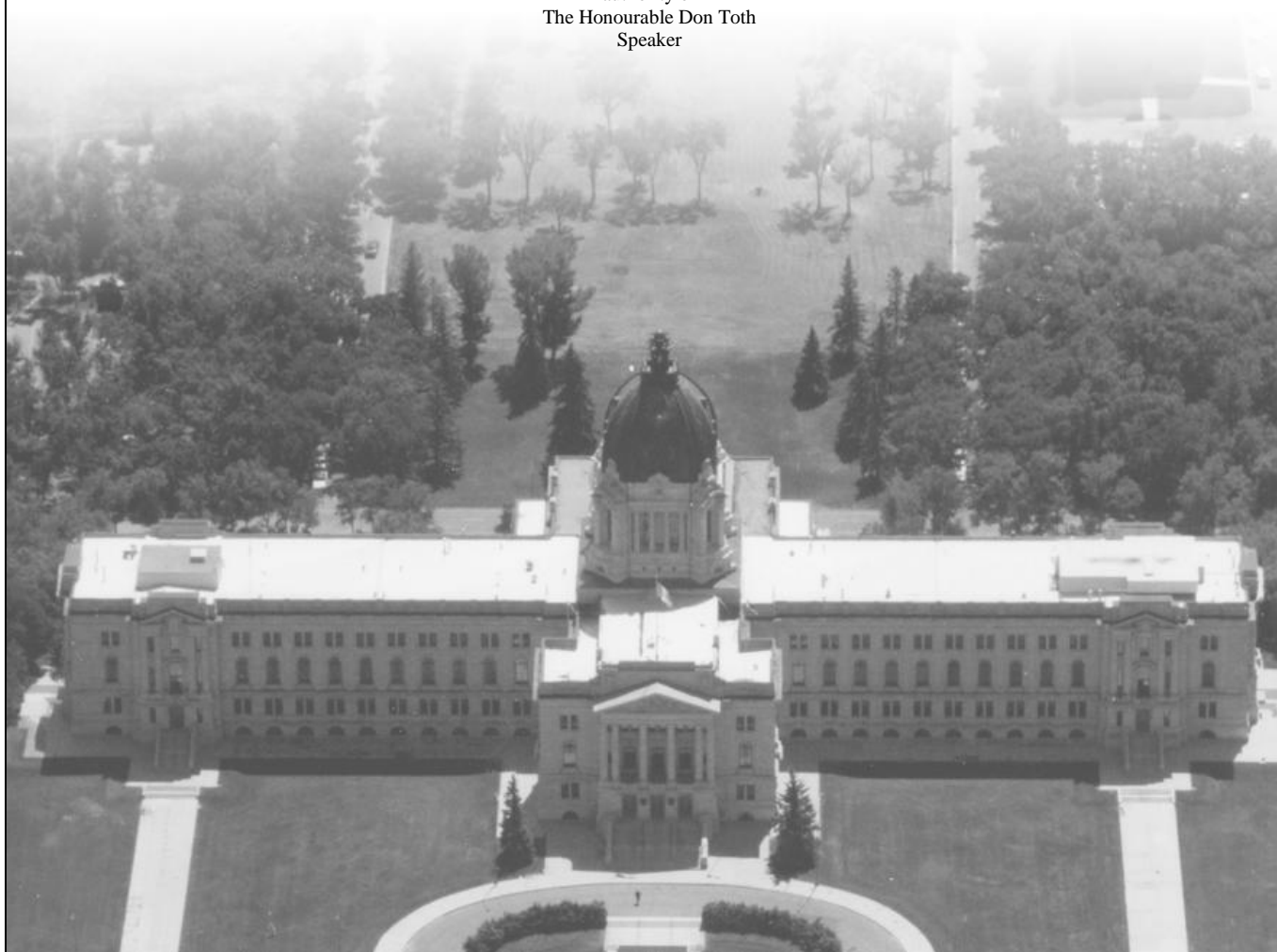
of the

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
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
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Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
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Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantefoer, 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, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. 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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
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McMillan, Hon. 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
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Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
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Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce through you and to you to all members of the legislature today Mrs. Barbara Steuart and her friend, Miss Sandra Dunn, in your gallery. Mrs. Steuart comes from Tisdale and is a daughter-in-law to the late Mr. David Steuart, former member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Prince Albert-Duck Lake.

On behalf of this Assembly, I want to extend my sympathies to you and your family on your loss and to express my gratitude for Mr. Steuart's contribution to his constituency and to the province. I invite all members to join me in welcoming Mrs. Steuart and Miss Dunn to the Legislative Assembly today as we recognize Mr. David Steuart for his commitment to making this province a better place to live and to work for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through to all members of the Assembly an individual seated in your gallery. I speak of Mr. Ray Van Dusen. If you'd please rise, Ray. Ray was a 26-year member of the Regina Police Service. I got to know Ray through his work as the community liaison officer with Regina's North Central community.

Ray has done a tremendous amount of work in through the inner city and is a real friend of neighbourhoods like North Central and Core, and is very fondly thought of there. He did a tremendous amount of work around housing, around community development through projects like the bylaw standards enforcement team, through the youth employment program; for those efforts, in part, won the Saskatchewan Centennial commemorative award medal.

And another work that Ray was heavily involved in, Mr. Speaker, was the work around crime prevention through environmental design. And this past October in Calgary at an international conference, the international association for that approach to police work awarded Ray with a very prestigious plaque, a medal for that great work that he's done in that regard. So it beat out 19 other countries to do that, Mr. Speaker. It's quite an accomplishment.

But it reflects on the work that Ray did through the inner city, and the work that he carries on as a member of the Regina Housing Authority, and work that he continues to do around housing generally and crime prevention through environmental design.

So I wonder if all members could join me in welcoming and thanking a real crime fighter and community builder, Ray Van Dusen.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the conditions of our highways and their steadily deteriorating state. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 310 the people of Saskatchewan so need.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Ituna, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan who support the Saskatchewan Seniors Association that represents 180 seniors' centres throughout the province, the vast majority of them located in rural Saskatchewan. These centres provide much-needed recreation and social activities as well as important health clinics and workshops. They have been facing skyrocketing costs of utilities, insurance, taxes, etc., and there may be as many as a quarter of them close within the next 18 months. The closure of these centres will lead to the deteriorating mental and physical health of seniors, which will lead to additional stress on long-term care facilities and hospitals. The prayer reads as follows:

We in the prayer that reads as follows respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to provide the much-needed funding to assist seniors' recreation centres to remain open and active within their communities.

And this is several dozen petitions, signatures from communities of Anaheim, Denzil, Unity, Estevan, Englefeld, Saskatoon, Liberty, Imperial, and Colonsay. 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 eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. And we know that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right by the United Nations and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security. We know Saskatchewan's income gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in

Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. I'd like to read the prayer:

We in the prayer that reads as follows respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the communities of Lanigan, Saskatoon, and Regina. Thank you so much.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition regarding the need for hospice and palliative care here in Saskatchewan.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that all Saskatchewan people deserve quality end-of-life and bereavement care; that hospice and palliative care is known to enhance the quality of life for those facing advancing illness, death, and bereavement; that a publicly funded and administered hospice and palliative care system including residential hospices would increase end-of-life care options for Saskatchewan people.

We in the prayer that reads as follows respectively request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the provincial government to enhance and increase publicly funded and administered hospice and palliative care services, including in-home hospice services and residential hospices, in order to ensure that all Saskatchewan people have access to high-quality end-of-life care.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the city of Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a government ministry has directed SaskWater cut off supplies of water for domestic use to Furdale customers. The same government ministry has directed that customers may no longer use non-treatable potable water . . . to treat non-potable water using methods approved by SaskHealth.

The Furdale residents, in dealing with good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years, have paid large amounts for their domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment as well as for livestock irrigation lines. And the alternative water supply referred to by the government ministry is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost with no guarantee of quality, quantity, or availability of water. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray 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 Clavet. 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 occupational health and safety. Mr. Speaker, the true cost of human suffering or loss of human life cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Yet the government allows fines levied against companies for violations of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* to be treated as tax deductible expenses, and also the government continues to allow companies to treat such violations and fines levied for them as a cost of doing regular business. Mr. Speaker, the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to amend the laws so companies will not be allowed to get a tax deduction for fines levied against them under *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations, and to remove the existing cap on fines levied against such companies.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petition is signed by people of Major, Prince Albert, and Shellbrook. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to our unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They have huge concerns as it relates to the negative fiscal trend line that we are experiencing — the two consecutive deficit budgets, the \$4.2 billion of debt loading, debt growth that we see under the Sask Party. And 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 today are signed by concerned citizens of Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on the affordability of housing for Saskatchewan senior citizens. The prayer goes as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan's senior citizens.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, seniors have signed this petition, as well as other supporters. And they have signed this petition from all throughout Saskatchewan. I so present. Thank you very much.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs.

An Exciting Weekend of Saskatchewan Football

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the Rider nation was on full display. Rider fans everywhere were cheering their team on to victory. The game was a real battle, a heart-stopper at times. After two overtime possessions, the Riders snatched victory from the mouth of defeat.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the game the players all had the same response when asked, what made the difference? In two words — the fans.

The home field crowd was largely responsible for at least three procedure calls against BC's [British Columbia] offence. The sea of green at Mosaic raised the spirits of the Riders and changed momentum when the Lions were in the lead after the first half.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to congratulate the Riders on their big win.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Hilltops made it a truly great weekend for Saskatchewan football fans. The Toppers were victorious over the Vancouver Island Raiders in the Canadian Bowl, 34 to 23, at PotashCorp Park. Congratulations to Coach Tom Sargeant, his assistant coaches, and all team members on their 14th Canadian championship.

Thank you to the Hilltops, the Riders, and the fans of both these great teams for delivering an exciting weekend of Saskatchewan football. The Hilltops ended their season with a championship and, with the province behind them, the Riders will hopefully end their season at the Grey Cup.

Now let's turn Calgary's McMahon Stadium into a home game this weekend, Mr. Speaker. Go green. Go Riders.

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

Rider Pride

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join with the member from Silver Springs, it was an exhilarating game that launched our beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders to the Western final to battle Calgary next week.

Our team persevered in overtime over the BC Lions at Mosaic Stadium on Taylor Field in yesterday's home playoff game. Overtime heroics came from Regina's hometown boy, Jason Clermont, who clinched the game with his TD [touchdown] reception.

Mr. Speaker, it's fair to say that our Roughriders are a model professional sports franchise in North America. They are a first-class organization from top to bottom, rich with local talent, and have the unprecedented support of our fans province-wide, far and wide, across Canada and abroad. The support and relationship that our team, the green and white, has with our communities and our hearts is unrivalled. It is displayed through the wearing of merchandise and with Rider pride displayed on main streets, in businesses, on homes, on vehicles, and in the discussions that dominate coffee row, our radio talk shows, and across the Internet. In fact during yesterday's game, the word Riders was trending as the most popular phrase worldwide on Twitter.

I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me to congratulate, thank, and wish well our team, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and all of the fans across our fine province. And I remind you, Mr. Speaker, green is the colour. Football is the game. Let's go, Riders.

[13:45]

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

World Diabetes Day

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Assembly, November 14th was World Diabetes Day. According to the World Health Organization, more than 220 million people worldwide are living with diabetes. World Diabetes Day is celebrated on November 14th to mark the birthday of Frederick Banting who, along with Charles Best, was instrumental in the discovery of insulin in 1922, a life-saving treatment for diabetes patients.

Mr. Speaker, this disease is a major health concern for many people in our province. Diabetes affects people of all ages and from all walks of life. This year, while building on the accomplishments achieved last year, the organizers of World Diabetes Day want the campaign to focus on promoting a healthy and an active lifestyle that will help limit the impact of the disease and its complications.

In Saskatchewan a provincial advisory committee was established in 2001 to provide the Ministry of Health with advice on diabetes programs. This advisory body has been instrumental in the development of a number of excellent

diabetes educational materials.

Health promotion and disease prevention programs are already being promoted in Saskatchewan, but there is still more work to be done. New drug therapies are being added periodically, based on the advice of the government's expert drug review committees, assisted by the national common drug review process.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, please join me in officially recognizing World Diabetes Day. Diabetes awareness benefits everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Hilltops Win 14th Canadian Championship

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saskatoon Hilltops, who proved yet again why Saskatchewan is the unquestioned hotbed of amateur football in our country.

Mr. Speaker, the two best junior football clubs in the country battled it out in the national championship game Saturday afternoon in front of an estimated crowd of 2,700 at Griffiths Stadium in Saskatoon.

The Raiders from Victoria, BC were seeking to become the fourth team to join the three-peat club, while the Hilltops were looking to lay claim to their 14th Canadian title.

The hometown team would not be denied. Head Coach Tom Sargeant, or Sarge, as he's commonly known, just completed his 10th year as the bench boss of the Hilltops, and this is his 5th national championship in that 10-year span. The Hilltops defeated the Vancouver Island Raiders 34-23 in the national final.

Congratulations to Hilltop players Donovan Dale, defensive player of the game, and Ian Miller, offensive player of the game.

Having experienced great success in the past, it is a credit to the entire Hilltop organization and is nothing short of a complete team effort. Having assembled another excellent coaching staff, it is an incredible accomplishment for Sarge, taking this talented football team and helping them reach their full potential.

I'd be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't also congratulate Tom's wife, Kris, who is a passionate fan of the Hilltops and is a major contributor to the success of the team.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the 2010 CJFL [Canadian Junior Football League] champions, Saskatoon Hilltops, a proud and successful community organization.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today has been proclaimed Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day in Saskatchewan. This day affords us the opportunity to reflect on our province's pioneers and reflect on the challenges that our forefathers faced.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honour for me to also be able to pay tribute to the people that are still making their living hunting, fishing, and trapping, especially our First Nations and Métis citizens. The hard work and dedication to a trade that takes decades to master shows true Saskatchewan grit.

For generations, Saskatchewan residents have pursued these activities for food, for recreation, for commercial and cultural purposes. A diverse array of natural wildlife is amongst the wonderful natural resources in our province. Our province's bountiful hunting opportunities make us the envy of those who are passionate about outdoor recreation. We have white-tailed deer, our provincial animal; mule deer, antelope, elk, moose, caribou, and bear; birds, such as grouse, partridge, ducks, geese, and even snipes.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has some of the best fishing in the world. The productive lakes to the South and the deep, cold waters of the North have a variety of fish species that provide us with many recreational and economic opportunities.

We also need to recognize those that support and protect our wildlife: the conservation officers, the trappers' associations, the Wildlife Federation, and Ducks Unlimited. I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

50th Anniversary of Yevshan Ensemble

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday evening I, along with the member from Saskatoon Southeast, attended a banquet and dance at TCU Place to celebrate the Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble's 50th anniversary.

They honoured their founder, Nadia Pavlychenko, and we heard from her sister, Lucia Pavlychenko-Sotnikow, who for a time was their artistic director. Myron Kowalsky, former Speaker of this House, spoke of the early days as he was one of the original dancers of Yevshan.

Today, Yevshan is under the guidance of Artistic Director Vitali Sorokotiaguine, and they have reached new heights of excellence in entertainment for not only audiences in Saskatoon, but Canada and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the celebrations, the night previous Yevshan performed a concert accompanied by a live orchestra, the Zaporizhia Kozak Song and Dance Ensemble orchestra from the Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, the name Yevshan comes from a herb which

grows in the steppes of Ukraine, and many mythical powers are attributed to the herb. To Ukrainians, Yevshan is the scent of home. Ukrainian dance allows Ukrainians to take pride in their heritage, a heritage so inextricably bound with dance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize those many unsung heroes, board members, parents, and volunteers committed to Yevshan and Ukrainian dance. And I ask all members here to join me in wishing the best for this amazing organization, its dancers past, present, and future. Thank you.

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

Carrot River Wildcats Win Championship

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great day for Rider fans and players, and the quest continues for the Grey Cup. I have to admit, I was just a touch nervous at halftime, Mr. Speaker, but Saskatchewan has been known to stare adversity down before; example, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the Riders were not the only football team playing on the weekend. Our own Carrot River Wildcats were on the field Saturday afternoon against the Plenty Wildcats, in the provincial 6-Man 1A championship. And, Mr. Speaker, the reason I am standing here speaking and the member from Rosetown-Elrose is not, is self-explanatory. His team lost. Mr. Speaker, it was well played by both teams, with the final score being 44-20 for Carrot River, proving once again that the people in northeast Saskatchewan — namely Carrot River Valley — have a will to win.

Mr. Speaker, my little boy Morgan was on the team the first time the Cats won provincials in 2000. I congratulate the Carrot River Wildcat team on their fourth provincial championship in 10 years. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate head coach Corey Schmaltz, assistants Braidie Koshman, Mike Kochan, and Cameron Doerksen, who deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their untold hours of work and dedication. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it was a good weekend. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Arrangements Regarding Long-Term Care Facilities

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the details of the Amicus deal is a matter between Amicus and the Saskatoon Health Region, and the government had no role — as the government claimed last week — why did the Sask Party government claim a third party interest in my FOI [freedom of information] request and censor most of the relevant information? The real question is, what is the Sask Party hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it certainly is a privilege to answer the question. The deal, the FOI that was put out, was put out by the Saskatoon Health Region. It was their decision to

black out whatever material they chose to black out, along with the . . . also the agreement of Amicus themselves, Mr. Speaker. But I think it's important that we look at this facility in context of what was done under NDP [New Democratic Party] governments' watch.

Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government for 16 years, not a new long-term care bed was ever opened in this province, Mr. Speaker, something that we won't do. They replaced long-term care beds by building new ones for existing facilities, Mr. Speaker, but they didn't put a new long-term care bed. In fact, Mr. Speaker, what they did do was close 136 long-term care beds in this province in the last five years of their watch.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, they've closed 88 this year alone. So, Mr. Speaker, either you're an interested third party or you're not. And it's clear the provincial government's fingerprints are all over this project and have been since the very beginning. When you look through the mostly redacted material, you see that as far back as October 19th, 2009, there was correspondence to the Minister of Health about this deal. And that's just the little bit that we can see.

So to the minister: if the Sask Party did not play a major role in this insider deal, why are they going out of their way to censor the truth, and what are they hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, what we are not hiding is the fact that people are living right now in acute care settings, which is completely inappropriate. We are going to make sure that they have facilities in Saskatoon, around the province, so that they can age at the end of their life in proper facilities, Mr. Speaker, such as Amicus is offering in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to allow seniors to age with their partners, Mr. Speaker, something that was never done under that government. This will be a state of the art facility that will service the seniors of Saskatchewan very, very well, Mr. Speaker. It's a far cry from what was done under the NDP government, when all they did was close hospitals, close long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker — absolutely inappropriate.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I didn't ask the minister, what aren't you hiding? I asked the minister, what are you hiding?

And even the censored material released in response to my FOI request calls into question the government's claim that there is no loan guarantee. An email dated May 12th between the Saskatoon Health Region officials contains an attachment entitled, "Saskatoon Regional Health Authority loan guarantee." This is followed by several pages whose contents were completely censored except for KPMG's letterhead. Yet the government says there's no loan guarantee.

So to the minister: if this is not a loan guarantee, why has it been censored? What is that government hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the Amicus . . . The agreement, Mr. Speaker, with the Catholic Health Ministry . . . The Catholic Health Ministry has offered . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the member to allow the Minister of Health to respond to the question from the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the Catholic Health Ministry has offered health care and provided health care in this province for many, many years, Mr. Speaker — decades — throughout this province, Mr. Speaker, in urban and in rural. They've offered very good service and they provided a great service to this province, Mr. Speaker.

This is just an extension of the service that they have provided in past years, into the future, Mr. Speaker, so that seniors in Saskatoon no longer have to live in acute care setting which is completely inappropriate. They are living, they will be able to live in a facility that is state of the art, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, under the NDP government, what they did do was close long-term care beds — in the last five years, 136. We're the ones that are having to reopen them in a new facility such as Amicus.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — You know, Mr. Speaker, this government continues to hide behind the Catholic Church and the Catholic Health Ministry, and we're not going to let them get away with it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they threw \$159 million out the door, out to various health regions for long-term care facilities, and they clawed that money back by telling them, take that money and use it for your debt. Now they have a new scheme in town. And what they're doing is they're putting that debt onto health regions who have to guarantee these notes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question is this: when this is all said and done, how much debt is going to be added to this province's long-term debt because of these types of insider deals?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I find it absolutely astonishing that that member would stand and accuse the government of hiding behind the Catholic Health Ministry, Mr. Speaker, when the Catholic Health Ministry has offered health care services in this province for decades — in fact, decades when they were in power, Mr. Speaker. What was it then?

Mr. Speaker, Amicus is doing a very good service through the Catholic Health Ministry for citizens of the Saskatoon area, Mr. Speaker. Those seniors will benefit from those services

absolutely, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, under the NDP, I guess they would never enter into an agreement because they'd rather have seniors living in acute care settings, Mr. Speaker . . .

[14:00]

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member from Regina Walsh Acres will have ample opportunity to participate in question period. The Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, they would far rather, instead of constructing new facilities or entering into new agreements, whether it's the Catholic Health Ministry, whether it may be the Lutherans in the future, any third party not-for-profit, Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, these are good agreements. This will be a great agreement for citizens in Saskatoon as we move them out of acute care settings into long-term care settings.

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

Supply of Physicians

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2007 there were 87 physician vacancies in Saskatchewan. Today there are 123 vacancies. That's an increase of 41 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party promised to fix the doctor shortage and they have failed.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he admit it's another broken promise, and he and the Sask Party are failing the people of Saskatchewan, especially in rural areas?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm absolutely amazed at that question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the number of physicians working today in Saskatchewan are far greater than what were working in 2007.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there's more work to do. We have set aggressive goals in the past, Mr. Speaker. I know that party is foreign to setting targets and then trying to meet them. In fact I think it was the member from North Battleford said, there's no use setting a target because we probably just won't meet it. Mr. Speaker, not under this government.

Mr. Speaker, we've set an aggressive target for nurses. We've surpassed it in three years. Now we've turned our attention to physicians. We've got a physician recruitment strategy in place that will be addressing this in the future, Mr. Speaker. We've increased the number of medical seats. We've increased the number of residencies. We're looking at a new assessment process.

Mr. Speaker, we're going a long ways to addressing the physician shortage problem here in Saskatchewan.

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

Support for Resident Physicians

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's going to be amazed again. The resident physicians are upset by the lack of respect they've received from the Sask Party. Residents are telling me, and I quote:

I am deeply upset by the fact that for the entire 20 months that I've been working in the province as a resident, the Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Saskatchewan, PAIRS, has been without a contract. By refusing to recognize the importance of residents within the health care system, you, the Minister of Health, have alienated 300 potential practising physicians in the province.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how does refusing to negotiate a fair and competitive agreement with these 300 resident physicians give them any incentive to stay in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, under our government when we took power in 2007, there were 60 medical seats, far short of what needed to be. There were 60 residency positions, far short of what we needed to be. Under our government, we've increased the number of medical seats. We've increased the number of residency positions. By the end of 2011, there'll be 100 medical seats and 120 resident seats.

Mr. Speaker, we absolutely respect and admire the work that the residents do in the system. We know there are negotiations being conducted between government and PAIRS. Some of those negotiations take time. But what I will say is that the residents of this province have never seen the respect for themselves that they see under our government. They never saw it under that former government, Mr. Speaker, because I've talked to many of them. They're ashamed of the NDP.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan residents are feeling unappreciated and unwanted, and they tell me, "The only thing holding up negotiations is that the Ministry of Health has not provided a counter monetary offer."

Residents staff many of our hospitals 24-7. They're often the first line of health care when a person goes to the hospital. Ontario, Alberta, and the Maritimes have all negotiated resident contracts on time and on schedule for decades, and those are the people we're competing with.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will the minister commit today to negotiating a fair and competitive contract with Saskatchewan's 300 resident physicians, or can he not afford to because of the Sask Party's fiscal mismanagement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, part of the physician recruitment strategy is to have ambassadors embedded within the College of Medicine and the residents, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, they are residents that bring information to us directly.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, when the federal government backed away from a loan guarantee from covering the interest of loans, Mr. Speaker, for residents in Saskatchewan, our government stepped forward, put \$450,000 to ensure the interest would be covered on their student loans, Mr. Speaker — something done in Saskatchewan that isn't done anywhere else in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the residents provide a great service. We've increased the number of positions in the province. We expect them to — because they take their residency position here — to work here, Mr. Speaker. I realize negotiations are in process. It takes a long time for those negotiations to have time to come to an agreement, Mr. Speaker. But I am quite confident that it will be a very positive agreement that will keep those residents here in Saskatchewan.

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

State of the Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, just like the Minister of Health, this Premier has made a habit of making claims about our economy that are simply not supported by the facts. This Premier pretended that our economy began to boom the very moment he took office.

But with the latest information from Statistics Canada, we know now that there was absolutely no economic boom in terms of real GDP [gross domestic product] in 2008. The growth experienced in our nominal GDP was purely price related. That means there wasn't a whole lot more economic activity. Everything was just simply a lot more expensive.

So my question is this: why does this Premier keep pretending that he presided over an economic boom when the truth is that growth in our GDP in 2008 was simply caused by inflation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well let's look at the facts, Mr. Speaker. The facts are, the facts are that the population of Saskatchewan is the highest that it has ever been, 1.045 million people. The province grew, Mr. Speaker, by 16,500 people in the last year, making Saskatchewan the fastest growing province of any in the country, Mr. Speaker.

Just last month, another employment record with 5,200 people more working in Saskatchewan than a year ago, the second lowest . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question from the opposition. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The second lowest unemployment rate in Canada, Mr. Speaker, at 5.1 per cent. There are more than

6,500 jobs today posted on saskjobs.ca. Private and public capital investment's projected at 2010 to a record \$15 billion, Mr. Speaker — double 2004 which was \$7.5 billion — much of which, Mr. Speaker, is in the potash industry because of the work of this government.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, if one were to move beyond the Sask Party spin and actually look at some of the facts, they'd look . . . that unemployed individuals are up by 10,000 people province-wide from when they took office, social assistance are through the roof, EI [employment insurance] recipients are way up, our trade balance is going in the wrong direction, we have two consecutive deficit budgets, and debt is massively on the rise. Those are some facts for that minister, Mr. Speaker.

It's no surprise that this Premier can't manage our provincial finances and is racking up \$4.2 billion of debt by 2014. He's out of touch with reality. Last year under this Premier's leadership, Saskatchewan experienced the third worst decline in real GDP in all of Canada. Only two provinces experienced sharper economic declines than we did. The reality, the facts, and the numbers do not support what this Premier's been selling or pretending. Why is this Premier so intent on not sharing the facts of our economy with Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, all we hear again and again from the NDP is negativity. We hear talking down of the economy from that member, from the Leader of the Opposition particularly. Mr. Speaker, let me read you a quote from *The StarPhoenix* over the weekend, a column by Les MacPherson. And I'm going to quote, Mr. Speaker:

Why Lingenfelter's stock is so low is no great mystery. At a time of unprecedented provincial optimism, he is campaigning as old Mr. Crankypants, the neighbourhood curmudgeon. He's mean, he's grumpy and he is doing for the NDP what a bedbug infestation does for hotel occupancy.

That's the record of the NDP.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I'd hate, Mr. Speaker, for the truth to get in the way of that minister or that Premier, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whether it's the raw data straight from Statistics Canada or it's the analysis contained in the *Sask Trends Monitor*, the truth about our economic performance — and it's not hard to find and it's not flattering of this Premier's record — *Sask Trends* is telling us that there was no boom in terms of real GDP in 2008. It's also revealed that we've had the lowest growth rate of all Western provinces over the past five years as a result of the major contraction under this Premier in 2009.

But when we have a Premier who refuses to acknowledge these

facts, and we have a Premier who says provincial debt is going down when the fact is that he's adding \$4.2 billion of debt by 2014 . . . When will this Premier start acknowledging the truth about Saskatchewan's economy and about our provincial debt?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Again, Mr. Speaker, everybody in the province knows that the economy of this province is moving forward in a way that it has never had in the history of our province. All we hear though from members opposite is negativity. We hear doom and gloom from that member particularly, from the Leader of the Opposition.

Let me read another quote, Mr. Speaker, this one from the November 6th *Leader-Post*. And I'll quote from Murray Mandryk:

Two years of being caught up in petty bickering with his enemies, both real and imaginary, and of his tiresome dogma has put off voters. His no-holds-barred-attack approach and the nastiness he seems to have mentored in his younger Opposition MLAs has created a visceral negative reaction — especially when contrasted to Wall's very evident likability.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read another good one, Mr. Speaker. This one from *The StarPhoenix*, Les MacPherson's column:

Dwain Lingenfelter's ambition to be premier is supported, according to a recent poll, by less than 17 per cent of voters. This compares to 21 per cent of people in the province who are smokers, so it's possible that the NDP might be better off with second-hand smoke as their leader than with Lingenfelter at 17 per cent.

If I've ever seen an indictment of a leader's leadership, that's it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier had been elected at a time when Saskatchewan was at all-time highs in economic growth, economic development under the former NDP and the hard work of Saskatchewan people — something all Saskatchewan people were proud of.

That Premier worked incredibly hard convincing Saskatchewan people that he would take it to new heights. Unfortunately his record has been something else. Saskatchewan business commentator, Paul Martin, pointed out in an interview on Friday that Saskatchewan has been last place of all Western provinces as it relates to growth. It has been dead last of all Western provinces, Mr. Speaker.

How does this Premier reconcile his promises and rhetoric with his record? Last place in economic growth in Western Canada: that's your record, Mr. Premier.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if there was a question in that rant, but what I'm going to do, Mr. Speaker, is apprise the members of the facts. The facts are that the population of this province is the highest that it has ever been at in the history of this province, over 1.045 million people; that we have the second lowest unemployment rate in the entire country right now in the province of Saskatchewan.

Let's contrast that with the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. There's a handful of members that are interfering with the minister's opportunity to respond. I'd ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Let's contrast that positive news and that good news for the people of the province with the NDP record, Mr. Speaker, which was a record of out-migration, massive out-migration of our young people from Saskatchewan — who are now coming back under this government — the worst unemployment rate in the country, the worst job creation record in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, here in Saskatchewan right now, the people out there in the province know that this government is moving forward, that this government is getting the job done when that government didn't.

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

Advertising Campaign

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If the government's new national advertising campaign is not about nothing but politics, then why are the ads running here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, the member needs to do her homework before she comes into question period and asks questions of that sort. The fact is that this ad campaign has been entirely running on networks based outside of the province. It's running nationally. Of course there's going to be splash back into the province, Mr. Speaker, in terms of ads running on national networks. I don't know if the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. The minister responsible.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I'm not sure if the member opposite is suggesting that we put a blackout on advertisements running on TSN [The Sports Network] during the football game. I think that would be somewhat silly, Mr. Speaker. But the fact is that this is a very positive ad campaign that's designed to highlight that Saskatchewan is a wonderful place to live, do business, and work; that Saskatchewan is a growing province; that we have a

fantastic climate for business. We have a great story to tell, Mr. Speaker, and we're telling it. We feel that it's the time that it's necessary. And it's unfortunate that the NDP don't agree.

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

[14:15]

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a very simple question that the minister is avoiding. If the government is saying this is a national advertising campaign . . . And surprise, surprise, they started it just in time for a Roughrider football game — just happened, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, they could have excluded Saskatchewan from the buy.

So, Mr. Speaker, the question is serious. If he is serious that this is a national campaign and not purely politics to bump up the Sask Party, why is he not excluding Saskatchewan from the buy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member again is factually incorrect. The first advertisement actually ran on the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Toronto Argonauts game yesterday. I'm not sure if she watched that game. And the second ad actually ran on the Riders game. And I suspect, like many of her colleagues opposite, they didn't watch that game either, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell them it was a great game with a great outcome.

But the fact is that the ad campaign is designed to highlight Saskatchewan as a wonderful place to live, to do business, to work — something that we here in Saskatchewan all know already. We're advertising that fact and telling that story around the country, Mr. Speaker, in contrast to the NDP, when they ran their Wide Open Future campaign and spent a very, very significant proportion of that advertising campaign right in Saskatchewan.

We know, Mr. Speaker, already, as Saskatchewan people, what a wonderful place this is to live. But they did five and a half million dollars of their \$8 million ad campaign in the 13 months preceding an election, the vast majority of which was spent right here in Saskatchewan. That's not what we're doing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister's having a bit of trouble with facts today, but we'll ignore that for right now. So, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier was in opposition he complained bitterly that the then government was spending on marketing campaigns. Now in the year leading up to an election campaign, he's spending \$1.3 million this year alone on an advertising campaign that includes ads shown here in the province of Saskatchewan. And that's nearly twice as much as been budgeted for the year after the election now. Wishful thinking — he figures he's going to get elected again.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier: if this campaign isn't about politics, why is he spending twice as much in the year before an election as the year after?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well as I indicated, Mr. Speaker, in my previous answer, their Wide Open Future campaign on which they spent \$8 million — a three-year campaign — they spent five and a half million dollars of that \$8 million in the 13 months preceding a general election campaign, a significant proportion of which was spent right here in Saskatchewan. Again that's something that we absolutely are not doing. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we brought in a law such that that sort of advertising campaign would be disallowed six months prior to the campaign.

Let me read a couple of quotes, Mr. Speaker, about what people are saying about this advertising campaign. This is from Steve McLellan from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:

Saskatchewan has an opportunity-rich economy that's open for business investment. This province continues to welcome new business and new residents and we believe that the best way to attract more of both is simply to extend an invitation. This campaign will do that very well.

All we hear from members opposite is negativity, talking down the economy. Not surprising from mister cranky pants.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Last week, the last part of question period, I asked members to be mindful of the rules and the words that they choose to use in the Assembly. And over the years, it's been a long-standing tradition that Speakers and the members themselves have designed rules that have asked members to be mindful of the respect they show to other members. So I'd ask members again to keep that in mind in regards to the comments and the most recent comment that was made by the minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Real Growth, Real Opportunity Campaign

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Real Growth, Real Opportunity — you'll be seeing and hearing those words over the next three years. Today the Premier and I announced a new Government of Saskatchewan campaign to encourage investment and to attract professionals and skilled tradespeople to our province. Our goal, just as our slogan says, reminds people that Saskatchewan is experiencing real growth. Population in the province is at historic levels. Job numbers are among the best in the nation. We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada. Individuals want to live and work here; families want to put down roots here; and businesses want to invest in our robust economy.

As for opportunity, we have what the rest of the world wants — resource from potash to uranium. Saskatchewan also has cutting-edge technology and a thriving manufacturing sector. Whether you want to invest or are looking for a place to launch your career, you'll find it right here in Saskatchewan.

Unlike past provincial government campaigns, this is an external marketing campaign that will run outside of our borders on television, Internet, and print. Saskatchewan people know that our province is a great place to be. Our goal will be to make sure the rest of Canada knows as well.

On the website www.thinksask.ca, you'll find a dashboard that will show the positive economic growth in real time.

Enterprise Saskatchewan will be funding this campaign. Enterprise has budgeted \$1.3 million for the first year and \$700,000 for the second year of the campaign. The budget for the third year will be determined upon evaluation of the success in years one and two.

The Real Growth, Real Opportunity campaign is modest relative to other provincial governments. British Columbia recently spent \$38 million on a campaign, while Alberta is spending \$25 million. While modest, we believe our campaign will be successful. We have the fundamentals right — lower property taxes, lower income taxes, and one of the best business climates in Canada. This is not to mention one of the best lifestyles to raise a family in the nation.

The campaign will be seen on the Business News Network, The Sports Network, and be read in publications such as *The Globe and Mail* and *Report on Business*. The first flight of ads began airing yesterday, Nov. 14, and will run until December the 12th. The second flight will run from February 21st to March 28th, 2011. This campaign will focus on the province's strong business climate. We will show to Canada our record of innovation and entrepreneurship. We'll highlight real stories from real people that have had success right here in Saskatchewan.

The campaign is innovative and exciting. It will tell the world we are open for business and investment and are becoming a destination of choice to live, work, invest, and do business. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the minister for sending across a copy of his statement that he was making today.

Mr. Speaker, when we listen to what the minister has to say in response to a number of the economic questions before the questions on this whole advertising campaign, I guess I have to question a number of issues.

When the minister is talking about, talking nationally how good Saskatchewan is, and it is — we live here; we support the province — but there are issues that need to be dealt with. And if you're going to recruit more people to the province, you need to make sure that the resources are there to provide the services

that those people need. And whether it's housing, that's going to be a big issue for anyone that is moving to the province, Mr. Speaker. You can go to any community right across this province, and you will know that there is a lack of affordable housing and issues with providing housing in all communities. It's pretty commonplace.

My colleague asked questions today on medical residents and problems that they are currently having, not having a signed contract for or agreement in place for the service that they provide. And this is 300 medical residents who have great opportunity here in the province of Saskatchewan, but who will not stay. They will look for other opportunities if they don't have a signed agreement and are able to put down roots in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, we would urge the Minister of Health to really get at this whole agreement and sit down with medical residents and make sure that every effort is put in place to make sure that they stay here in the province because they're needed.

Also child care, housing, child care, medical services — these are all things that people will look at before they move to the province of Saskatchewan — and also opportunities. Unemployment numbers are up. It may still be low compared to or lower than other provinces across Canada, but unemployment rates have increased in Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can also look at some of the other comments that the minister has made about this program. And there are some that are a little more cynical, that would believe that this is nothing purely than a political advertisement and a feel-good campaign in the province of Saskatchewan leading up to the next provincial election. It's been done many times. We've seen the premier of British Columbia do this in BC before the last two elections. So we'll have to see what the substance is of the ads that are being run.

Mr. Speaker, none of us have any problem with promoting Saskatchewan, but we just want to caution the Premier and the government that you need to have the services in place. And, Mr. Speaker, \$1.3 million. Can you imagine what Tourism Saskatchewan could do with \$1.3 million to promote the province of Saskatchewan across Canada and around the world? They have the understanding. They have the knowledge. They have the contacts. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure they are more than capable of running a campaign of this type.

So I wish the Premier had given a little more thought to this before he launched off . . . Well actually, a couple days ago they launched a program and started running commercials shown here in Saskatchewan, and I would assume across the country. But Mr. Speaker, more thought could've been given to address some of the other issues that are attached to this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Any further ministerial statements? I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would request leave of this Assembly for condolence motions, Mr. Speaker. And may I, Mr. Speaker, indulge members to provide leave for all five motions of condolence? Mr. Speaker, there is some that I wish to speak to

specifically over and above the motion as well but, Mr. Speaker, I would request that leave at this time.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to address all of the condolence motions under one motion of leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Darrel Verner Heald, Q.C.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move by leave of the Assembly:

That the Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Darrel Verner Heald, Q.C., who passed away on August 8th, 2010, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1971 representing the Lumsden constituency for the Liberal Party. Mr. Heald served as the attorney general, provincial secretary, and as the minister for Co-operation and Co-operative Development.

Mr. Heald was born in Regina on August the 27th, 1919. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1942 with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law. Following the completion of his post-secondary education, Mr. Heald served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. After the war he began to practise law in a firm that became known as Noonan, Embury, Heald, Molisky and Gritzfeld.

Mr. Heald was active in the Regina community as a Mason, Shriner, and a member of the Kiwanis Club. He was a curler and football fan and was on the executive of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Club. In 1971, he was appointed to the Federal Court of Canada and served as a justice on both the trial and appeal divisions until he retired in 1999.

Mr. Heald is survived by his wife of 59 years, Doris, and their children, Lynn and her partner, Mike; and Brian and his partner, Debra; and niece, Cindy Narum Fischer.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — The Premier has moved that, by leave:

This Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of the former member of the Assembly, Mr. Verner Heald.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader

of the Opposition.

[14:30]

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Premier, and if I may, I'd like to add a few words to the discussion and the words of condolence in the motion for Mr. Darrel Heald, the former member for the constituency of Lumsden who passed away August 8th, 2010.

Mr. Heald was born in Regina, Mr. Speaker, in 1919 and graduated with a B.A. [Bachelor of Arts] and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Saskatchewan in 1942. He then served in the RCAF [Royal Canadian Air Force] during World War II, Mr. Speaker, and the service to his country, the province, and community of course are the hallmark of Mr. Heald's life.

After the war, he put his law degree to work, Mr. Speaker, beginning a successful law practice with the Regina law firm of Gerein, Heald and Molisky which later became Noonan, Embury, Heald, Molisky and Gritzfeld.

In 1964, Darrel successfully ran for public office and was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly representing the people of Lumsden, and he went on to serve as attorney general for the province in the government of Premier Ross Thatcher. In 1971 he was appointed to the Federal Court of Canada in Ottawa and served as a justice on both the trial and appeals division of the Federal Court until his retirement in 1999.

After enjoying the first few years of retirement in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Darrel and Doris moved to British Columbia to be closer to their family. Mr. Speaker, whether in the military or in the legal system or on the floor of this Assembly, Darrel Heald was one of the sought after, and sought to protect the rights and advancement of rights of his fellow citizens. And we owe him a great debt of gratitude for that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer the family, his beloved and loving wife of 59 years, Doris, and their daughter, Lynn, their son, Brian, and also Brian's wife, Debra, and niece, Cindy Fisher, our condolences on the passing of Darrel Heald, a former member of this Assembly and representative of the people of Lumsden.

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

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to add a few words to the condolence for Darrel V. Heald.

I remember Darrel Heald first when he spoke to us at our grade 8 graduation in Pense School in the early days of his political career. His message was one that encouraged us to be the best that we can be in whatever vocation we chose. I remember appreciating the way that he talked with us rather than speaking to us. And I remember thinking that this was a really nice man.

I later learned that he was also a very exceptional man — lawyer, World War II air force veteran, Queen's Counsel, politician, attorney general, Federal Court justice, and active in service clubs and community organizations.

Mr. Heald was my MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] in what was at that time the Lumsden constituency, and at a time when I became active in politics and with the Saskatchewan Liberal Party of the day. Being a rather intense and impatient young man, I recall knocking on his door earlyish one Sunday morning — I thought it was earlyish, yet he later said that it was early — in any event, to inquire as to whether there might be any employment opportunities for me with his department. He was marvellous in putting me in contact with the appropriate individuals and later laughed about the incident and related to my friends, John and Lois Wood, that while my timing may have been inappropriate, he very much appreciated the initiative.

I recall the respect Mr. Heald received from people in my community. And I know that the way he conducted himself and the way that he was regarded by good people, focused my interest on the political process at a very early age. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I add my voice to those expressing thanks to a great man for his contributions to his country, his province, and his community, and add my voice to those expressing sincerest condolences to Doris and the Heald family.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Premier:

That this Assembly records its sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Darrel Verner Heald, expresses grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Alex Gordon Kuziak

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, thank you. And by the earlier leave, I will be moving a motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former Member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency and to the province.

Alex Gordon Kuziak, who passed away on May 14, 2010 at the age of 101, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1948 until 1964, representing the constituency of Canora for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. He served as the minister of Telephones and Telegraphs, the minister in charge of the Government Finance Office, the minister of Natural Resources and the minister of Mineral Resources. Mr. Kuziak was the first person of Ukrainian origin to serve in

a Canadian cabinet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kuziak was born on October 15, 1908 near Donwell, Saskatchewan in his parents' farm home. He attended early schooling in and near Canora and high school in Yorkton and later in Saskatoon. He left Saskatchewan and worked in Detroit and Pontiac as a factory worker and a taxi driver. Upon return to Canada, Mr. Kuziak obtained his teaching certificate at the Moose Jaw Normal School in 1931. He taught in Canora until he met his wife, Ann, and then worked as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Keys. He also operated a real estate and insurance office in Canora and was a senior partner of the Canora Electric and Heating Co. After his years in office, Mr. Kuziak was elected as an alderman for the city of Yorkton in 1971 for one term.

For his contribution to the province, Mr. Kuziak was formally recognized in 1999 with a Nation Builders Award to recognize community contributions of outstanding Ukrainian Canadians.

Mr. Kuziak and his wife, Ann, were married on June 8, 1935. They had four children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Alex is survived and sadly missed by his son, Myron, and his wife, Sara, of Neudorf; son, David, of Yorkton; daughter, Beattie Anne and her husband, Donald, of Theodore; as well as his grandchildren, Natalya, Nicole, Sara, Tanya and their spouses and their children – Alex's great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Alex Gordon Kuziak, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak to the condolence motion introduced by the Premier for Mr. Alex Kuziak, former member for the constituency of Canora and one of the true pioneers of Saskatchewan and one of the major pioneers of the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] and New Democratic Party in this province.

He was born in the area that he would later represent in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, in 1908. He took his early schooling in the Burgis district near Amsterdam north of Canora, and his high school education in Yorkton and in Saskatoon. Having spent a few years out of province, he returned to Saskatchewan in 1930 to attend normal school, and he obtained his teaching certificate in 1931.

He returned to Canora to teach and taught school in Canora

until he married Ann Jarman on June 8th, 1935. And following their marriage, he took a job as secretary-treasurer of the RM [rural municipality] of Keys with its office in Canora.

His public service was diverse, Mr. Speaker, and he served on the Canora school board, Canora Union Hospital board, and on a number of different local co-op boards of directors. Active in the CCF from its formation, he was elected in Canora in 1948 and re-elected in 1952. He was appointed to cabinet as minister of Telephones, in charge of government financial office and holding a number of positions in the Crown corporations in the province. After his re-election in 1956, Alex moved to the Mineral Resources portfolio where he remained until 1964.

And he is also remembered, Mr. Speaker, for how the provincial parks system was expanded significantly under his stewardship, as well as for his instrumental work in the creation of the Saskatchewan fisheries co-operative, which he helped to expand and work with the northern fishery industry for many years in the cabinet of Saskatchewan.

In 1965 Alex ran for, again, for the NDP candidate for the federal riding of Yorkton, but was defeated and was then elected as an alderman for the city of Yorkton in 1971 where he served one term. He became the administrator for the RM of Garry at Jeddburgh until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1973, but then worked as a Saskatchewan investment fund salesman for 10 years after that.

He spoke Ukrainian, Russian, English, and was an excellent orator and used his oratorical skills during many long political debates here in the Assembly. He was also, Mr. Speaker, the first person of Ukraine origin to serve in any Canadian cabinet.

In addition to his long, distinguished career of public and political action, Mr. Speaker, he was involved in several sporting activities throughout his life, including marathon running, golf, curling, boating, fishing. He and his wife Ann travelled often, including car trips across Canada and the US [United States] and Mexico, and also travelled in Europe, Russia, and Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, there is a provincial government building in Yorkton which is now named after Alex Kuziak and serves to remind us of the contributions he made to our province. But it is fitting as well that, with our motion here today we remember Alex Kuziak and everything he has done for our province. And, Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to his extended family and immediate family and also join with the Premier in this motion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add a few words about Mr. Alexander Gordon Kuziak, and indicate that, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have spoken, he was born near the town of Canora and attended a couple of small, one-room schools, Mr. Speaker, like many people at that time. He attended Wexford and Meadowdale, and then of course moved to the Canora Composite High School. He also attended the Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon and then back at the Yorkton Collegiate in of course Yorkton.

Upon completion of his education, Alex travelled to Detroit and worked as a factory worker there, and then moved later to Pontiac, Michigan where he was employed as a taxi driver. After two years he returned to Saskatchewan and obtained his teaching certificate at normal school in Moose Jaw in 1931. Mr. Kuziak taught school in the Canora area for the next four years, but in 1935 Alex changed his profession and began a career as the RM administrator for the rural municipality of Keys with their office located in Canora.

While living in Canora, Alex was an active participant on the Canora school board, the Canora hospital board, and local co-operative boards. Mr. Speaker, during that decade of the '30s, that last half of the decade of the '30s and into the first three-quarters of the '40s, it was a lot of growth in many communities and especially in Canora. And Mr. Kuziak was active in the Canora Union Hospital, the consumer co-operative, the Canora Credit Union, and a number of Canora's recreational facilities that were constructed during that time.

Mr. Kuziak entered the life of provincial politics in 1948 as MLA for the Canora constituency. Alex and his family lived in Canora until 1952, then moving to Regina to accept the appointment to the provincial cabinet, serving as minister of Telephones and Telegraphs and government finance office. Four years later he was appointed minister of Mineral Resources.

During his time as MLA and cabinet minister, he took pride in advances in such areas as highway building, development of the mining and timber industry, fostering rural electrification and gasification, and of course the modern health care system.

After being defeated in the 1964 election, the Kuziak family moved to Yorkton, and Alex returned to his career as RM administrator, this time for the RM of Garry, until his retirement in 1973. Mr. Kuziak remained a resident of Yorkton during his retirement years.

It is interesting to note that two of Mr. Kuziak's children followed their father's footsteps in their career choice of RM administration. Not only that but his son, Jerry, was RM administrator for the RM of Garry from 1974 to 1999 and his daughter, Beattie Anne, was administrator from 2001 to 2006.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of now the Canora-Pelly constituency, which of course included all of what used to be known as the Canora constituency during the time of Mr. Kuziak's tenure there as the MLA, I too want to express my condolences to all family members for the loss of their father, their grandfather, and of course a great person for the role of moving Saskatchewan forward. Thank you.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I want to join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Deputy Premier in extending condolences to the Kuziak family. Although Mr. Alex Gordon Kuziak was the MLA for the Canora constituency, he was a long-time resident of Yorkton and in fact being elected

alderman in 1971. My family was contracted by the city of Yorkton since the mid-'60s for services, so we did have the opportunity to interact with Mr. Kuziak from time to time; more my father than I.

We've heard the details of his long, distinguished career, Mr. Speaker, long-standing career, a very respected member of Canora area and the city of Yorkton.

As we've heard, he fulfilled many ministerial duties with his MLA duties. He did contribute greatly prior to his elected life, and as we've heard, quite a bit after his elected life as well, Mr. Speaker.

As spoken about by, I believe, the opposition, the A.G. Kuziak Building prominently displayed in the middle of Yorkton with his name, is a long-time memory to not only his past career but his legacy to the future, Mr. Speaker.

A close friend of mine actually worked with Mr. Kuziak as a bureaucrat from time to time, being on the odd road trip with him, and had nothing but good stories and good things to say about him: one of the most respected members of any political party that he had the opportunity to work with and work under. That goes a long way in saying the type of man Mr. Kuziak was.

I'd like to extend thank you to the Kuziak family for the sacrifices that we all know a family has to make when they have a loved one serving public office. And on behalf of the city of Yorkton, the constituency of Yorkton, his former constituency of Canora, and the province, condolences on the loss to the family. May God grant you peace and comfort in this time. And I would like to join with the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition in this motion.

The Speaker: — The question before this Assembly is:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Alex Gordon Kuziak, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

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. I recognize the Premier.

David Gordon Stuart

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, if I may just before I move the motion in honour and in memory of Mr. David Stuart — who I'm sure we'll call Davey for the rest of the debate, or Mr. Stuart — Mr. Speaker, I do have a few brief remarks to make.

You know, I think most members in the Assembly would agree

that among the many honours that we have upon election, upon being asked by our constituents to serve, is the swearing-in ceremony that we enjoy usually with family and friends and sometimes with colleagues. Mr. Speaker, part of that swearing-in ceremony involves the signing of a pretty amazing book, the roll of members that have taken their seat in this Legislative Assembly.

And when I had that first, when I first experienced that, I guess the last time I experienced that particular honour and pleasure, Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about all the names that might be in that book ahead of mine and thinking a little bit about the honour that I had, that we all have, to sign it as well, and thought of a few in particular that I knew of through my interest in politics, though maybe some not very directly. And one of them was Davey Steuart.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who's followed politics and been very interested in it for a very long time — a disturbingly long time, some would say — it's hard, if you're interested in Saskatchewan politics, not to learn about and know a little bit about the former deputy premier for the province of Saskatchewan, the former leader of the opposition, a former minister of Natural Resources, a former minister of Finance as well, the provincial treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, his record in terms of serving the people of the province is paralleled by precious few in Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Speaker, both in these files and in Prince Albert itself. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting — and in a moment I'm going to read the motion and note that he represented the constituencies of Prince Albert, Prince Albert West, and Prince Albert-Duck Lake — Mr. Speaker, it speaks to someone's ability to continue to be re-elected; that his constituency, his home town would see its boundaries change and the constituency itself renamed three times. It speaks to a certain amount of longevity, Mr. Speaker, but maybe not to speak to landslides, but it certainly speaks to a hard-working candidate and MLA.

And I happened to be in Prince Albert the Monday after he passed, and I had the honour to speak at a chamber of commerce function there and took an opportunity to say just a few words before I began whatever text I had for that day.

And I also had a chance to visit with a number of people from Prince Albert. And if it's true that you can measure someone, a man or a woman, by the esteem in which they're held by their neighbours, by those that know them best, then nothing commended Mr. Steuart more to me that day than to hear from those in Prince Albert about how they felt about this leader, this very important person in the life and the history of the city of Prince Albert.

Because the comments were glowing, and they were very sincere about his work on behalf of Prince Albert, about his commitment to specific projects some of them would mention, but just generally speaking how proud they were of their voice in Regina. That was Davey Steuart, Mr. Speaker. And this is from a community, this is from a city that's had its share of pretty famous politicians. Three prime ministers — one very notable one from our province's perspective in former prime minister John Diefenbaker — and yet in that pantheon is also

named Mr. Steuart, the deputy premier and the MLA for those constituencies in Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, it strikes me, as we look at the history of this legislature that, and maybe I haven't done a full enough study of other legislatures, but that we may have been disproportionately blessed with great orators in Saskatchewan when you consider the likes of Tommy Douglas, for example, and then when you consider Davey Steuart who was very well known as one who could balance incisive commentary, intellectual debate, and also quite an acerbic wit when he needed that. Mr. Speaker, all of those things actually uplift debate. All of those things help a place like this to function and bring honour to it, to all members. And he did that as well. And we should mark that today that he made this legislature better, not just for the days that he was here, for the years that he was here, the 14 years, but also since then. Because of people like Davey Steuart, this particular legislature is a better place.

I've been told of a few stories that involve Mr. Steuart, one by our MLA for Thunder Creek who I heard on the radio telling the story again about . . . as a young Liberal and someone involved in the party. And if I mess up the story, my apologies to the member for Thunder Creek. But my understanding is that he was at a political function with Mr. Steuart. And though their names are spelled differently, the member for Thunder Creek and Mr. Steuart, and though they weren't related at all, Mr. Steuart, Davey Steuart introduced the MLA for Thunder Creek — a much younger version of the MLA for Thunder Creek — as his sheep-stealing relative from southern Saskatchewan. Pretty interesting introduction and it speaks to someone's ability just to sort of break the ice.

The member for Cannington has reminded me of a joke that Mr. Steuart used to tell to many and I think in the context of speeches as well when he would recount the story of a certain CCF member and himself kibitzing across the way, each of them inviting the other to join their party. And this would go on and on. And Mr. Steuart would ask the CCF member to join the Liberals, and the CCF member would tell Mr. Steuart he belonged with them.

And then sadly, the health of the CCF member took a turn for the worse. And I think it was in a Weyburn hospital, how the story goes, that Davey Steuart went to visit him. And his friend, the CCF member said, all right . . . He wasn't doing very well. It wasn't going very well for the former CCF member. And so he said to Davey, he said, all right, I'll buy the Liberal membership now. And Davey Steuart, quite taken aback said, I can't believe it. After all those years, you're going to finally join the Liberal Party. And the CCF member said, well I would rather that one of you go than one of our party go. Mr. Steuart apparently took quite a delight in this story.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that all of us stand on the shoulders of others who have gone before us. And some have disproportionately served — not because of opportunity; we each have the same opportunity — but because of their ability, because of their ability to draw others to them.

And then, Mr. Speaker, some of them are able to serve disproportionately because they just leave things much better than they found them, that they are leaders in every sense of the

word, and they choose this job — to serve the province — and do so in a very, very powerful way. And we honour such a man today when we pay our respects to Davey Steuart and offer our condolences to his family as well. And so therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour that I would move, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

David Gordon Steuart, who passed away on November 5, 2010, at the age of 94, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1962 until 1976, representing the constituencies of Prince Albert, Prince Albert West and Prince Albert-Duck Lake for the Liberal Party. He served as the minister of Public Health, the minister of Natural Resources . . .

Mr. Speaker, if I may just add parenthetically, not as a part of the motion — and it's important for the House to note this — that right up until he was able to follow the goings-on in the province, he was very much interested in what was going on in terms of our potash industry in the province, from his home in British Columbia, which I think members should note. No doubt he watched it very, very carefully, all of the developments. Back to the motion, Mr. Speaker, also:

provincial treasurer, deputy premier, and the leader of the opposition. Following his retirement from the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, Mr. Steuart served as a senator in Ottawa until his 75th birthday.

Mr. Steuart was born on January 26, 1916, in Regina, educated in Moose Jaw and Regina and later moved to Prince Albert with his family. Mr. Steuart served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1941 to 1945 as a navigator 423 Squadron in the United Kingdom. He was the president of Steuart Enterprises and first served the public as an alderman and then the mayor in the city of Prince Albert. He was first elected to this Assembly in 1962 and re-elected in four subsequent general elections.

Mr. Steuart and his wife, Eunice, were married on October 23, 1946. They had two children. Davey is survived and sadly missed by his daughter Lynne [who joins us today], son Robert and his wife Barbara, and three grandsons.

In recording its own deep loss of bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — The Premier has moved that by leave:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, David Gordon Steuart, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency and to the province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to add a few words to the motion of condolence.

And I appreciated the Premier's words about Davey Steuart because Davey was a character. And while I didn't have the opportunity to serve directly in the Assembly with him, I did get to know Davey both by reputation and also in person on a number of occasions. And I have to say that he was one of the most enjoyable political figures that I met and have ever met in my career in politics.

And I remember, I think it was in about 1998, and at that time we had this habit of holding dinners, business dinners in the city of Regina. And the premier and I competed to see who could get the largest crowds, and Roy always got a couple of hundred extra, but we worked hard.

And at one time Eric Berntson, the member then of the Conservative Party, came and spoke at my fundraiser. And it seems unusual in the era that we have here, but at that time a number of political figures from other political parties spoke at my fundraisers. And we had this idea that we would get a former leader of the Liberal Party, Davey Steuart, to come and speak. And I believe it was in 1998. And sure enough, Davey said, you know, pay for my airfare from British Columbia — I think he was living there at the time — sure, I'd love to come and speak at your fundraiser. And we probably sold an extra 300 tickets as a result of having someone of Davey Steuart's stature. And I'm not so proud I wouldn't take Liberals' dollars in fundraising. And sure enough, we sold to many Liberals in the city who wanted to see their idol and hero.

[15:00]

And I mentioned it to Davey before we're in the back room waiting to go up on the podium. And so as he was thinking and thinking about this, he marched up with us up on the stage, and he was the first speaker. And he looked out over the crowd, and he identified several Liberal lawyer tables in the hall. And I won't mention names, but all of us can imagine the most prominent Liberal law firms in the city. And he looked out over the crowd and he said, you know, when we form government we're going to fire every darn one of you. And he brought the house down.

And of course it was that spirit that Davey brought both to this Assembly and everywhere he went. And in talking with some of his friends, after he retired they indicated he was the most sought-after golf partner because of his stories that would occur while you were out for the four hours or, in many cases, five or six hours that it took because Davey would stop many times to tell stories, and anyone who was part of the foursome would enjoy.

But, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'd like to add a few formal words of condolence to the former member for the constituency of Prince Albert, Prince Albert West, and Prince Albert-Duck Lake who passed away a few days ago on November 5th at the age of 94. And Davey leaves behind, Mr. Speaker, a record of decades of public service at many levels as well as a reputation

as a loyal and dedicated political warrior whose wit was one of the most lethal weapons that he had in his arsenal.

He began his political career, Mr. Speaker, at the civic level in Prince Albert where he served two terms as mayor and also as president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. He dedicated many years of effort, Mr. Speaker, to the Liberal Party that he would one day lead. And he had a very, very close relationship with Premier Ross Thatcher as Davey had helped recruit him as leader, and they travelled the province to rebuild the Liberal Party starting in 1959. And it was Steuart who literally was at the side of the next premier, Ross Thatcher, through many, many miles as they travelled the province.

And later on when they had been elected and were near calling the 1971 election . . . And this is a story. I don't know whether it can be confirmed, but the thought was, Mr. Premier, that at the last cabinet meeting before the call of the 1971 election, Premier Thatcher came into the cabinet room and — Ross could be a difficult individual in cabinet meetings as I understand from other cabinet ministers — and he announced to the cabinet that he was going to call the election immediately, the '71 election.

And Davey put up his hand and said, Mr. Premier, could I speak for a moment on that motion? And Ross indicated there wasn't a motion, that he was going to be calling the election. And Davey said, well I'd like to have a word at any rate. And so Ross allowed him because they were very close friends. And Davey said, can you hold off for another week? And Ross said, why would you wait another week? And Davey said, there's one group left in this province we haven't alienated, but if you give me a week, I'll look after it. And it often reminds me of politics, in our careers, that we should listen to the close advice of our friends.

But he dedicated many years of effort, Mr. Speaker, to the Liberal Party. And though his 1960 bid to win a seat in the Saskatchewan legislature was unsuccessful, he won by-elections two years later and held on to the Prince Albert seat in the election of 1964 which brought his chosen leader to power and to the chair of the premier of the legislature. A trusted minister and ally of Premier Thatcher, Steuart served in a number of different portfolios including Health, Finance, Natural Resources, and he also served as deputy premier.

Returned in opposition in 1971, Mr. Speaker, his party expressed its confidence in Mr. Steuart's leadership by choosing him leader, and he fulfilled that role as leader of the opposition with wit and charm for which he is still remembered by many former NDP opponents, Mr. Speaker. Not long after the '75 election, he was appointed to the Senate and represented Saskatchewan in the Red Chamber until his retirement in '91.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan owe a great deal of debt to Davey Steuart for his decades of service at the civic, provincial, and federal levels of government, and so on behalf, I want to extend to family members and friends who are here today and all of the other family members on the passing of Davey Steuart.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert

Carlton.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with an honour and privilege, as I always say when I stand in this House, that today I get to speak on behalf of the memory of David Gordon "Landslide" Steuart.

I want to acknowledge daughter-in-law Barbara who came to the Legislative Assembly today for a tour. She hadn't been in the building for a number of years, but their good friend, Sandra Dunn, and I was allowed and afforded the time to speak with her over lunch to get a personal perspective of Davey — more than I had back in Prince Albert over the last weekend speaking to some constituents, some good friends, and some former campaign workers with Davey. I've had the honour and privilege to have some of his old workers on my team as well, so I got some insight into Mr. Steuart over the weekend.

But what's paramount from the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition is Mr. Steuart had a commitment to service, to the citizens of Prince Albert, to the province, to the country of Canada — both as a member of the air force but later on as a member of the Senate. And those are the roles that I believe he was destined to fulfill.

We heard that in 1951 he sought and won a seat as a city alderman in Prince Albert at the ripe old age of 35. But before that, he served the citizens of Prince Albert, working in the family business as well, and I'm sure that his spark for politics and political life started at a younger age than that. And I can imagine some of the debates that may have taken place in the family household with his brothers and dad, and I'm sure that they had stories to tell as well they could today.

We look at the fact that when Mr. Steuart did serve in Prince Albert, and later as a mayor, I was told this weekend that he took a very bold initiative. He had an issuance of a debenture in Prince Albert to expand infrastructure. At the time, La Colle Falls was a burden to the taxpayers of Prince Albert, and Davey had the insight — a visionary I'd have to call, understanding how this works now with my current ministerial roles — to look at how infrastructure supports a thriving community, how it can grow based on infrastructure investment.

So in 1955 he did that, and that was a turning point in Prince Albert. Because at the time, if you know Prince Albert, there was a very small strip of pavement and about a block off each side in Prince Albert were sidewalks. Very little pipes and other pavement in the area. And he took it upon himself to begin that adventurous measure to help Prince Albert grow and to make it what it is today, which is a home that I have in Prince Albert. And I truly love my city because of the work of Mr. Steuart. I believe that's made it what it is.

We got to know Davey Steuart in Prince Albert. Not me personally; I wish I would have. There are many people in my life that you look back and think, it would have been a great honour to have time with and spend and talk to, and he's one of them. But a lot of people that I worked with during my campaign three years ago regaled stories and told about the landslide name. And when I was able to win and serve Prince Albert Carlton, they used that name with me. And I said no, that's not fair. It's not fair at all. It truly is Davey Steuart's

name, not mine.

Mr. Steuart was a family man as well. He was very committed to his wife, Eunice, and to Bob, his son, and Lynne, his daughter. And as we all know, this job takes a lot of time away from our families, but he committed as much time as possible to his family; on a regular basis took them on Easter holidays to ensure that they were together. And he gave time back to his family.

There's a bit of a story that I think is interesting that everyone knows about or talks about Mr. Steuart's wit, his quick tongue, and his oratory skills. But Barbara said today that a lot of that came from Eunice; a lot of that wit came from Eunice. As all of us have a great spouse that supports us in this role, she was very quick with those words and there are a couple of times when, as some of us do, we tell our spouses we'll be home at a certain time and we come home later than we should. And she met him at the door and had a couple of words to say to Mr. Davey Steuart, and he realized who the boss was in the family. And he never lost that either.

Later in life we also know that Davey had the opportunity to have grandsons, and he took a very active role in that as he got older. Golf was his game of choice, I understand. So like many of us . . . We take up the game. We leave our spouses at home as golf widows. But he gave back to his grandsons, assuring that as they got older he always was there for them, taking them golfing, buying the golf clubs as they got older, and sharing special times with them. He was very committed to his family on that level as well.

One thing that struck me talking to Barbara at lunchtime today was that Davey took a stance that he was not an important man, very humble in his service to the people of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Canada. He said that he was not an important man. He never saw himself that way. I think that bodes well on how he carried himself, not just in the province but in the Legislative Assembly — how he served his constituents time and time again; that his cause was to a greater being, which was the service to all. And he never looked at that as a way to better himself.

When he worked in this Legislative Assembly — I think some of us will be able to understand this — he talked about . . . The family viewed this as an interesting sideline. That there was the Bugs Bunny cartoon where he, Ralph the sheepdog, and Sam — I think was the coyote — and they walk into work and punch the time clock and say, morning, Ralph. Morning, Sam. Do their job. Punch out. And they go away and they talk. Davey Steuart looked at his job here that way. In this Chamber, it was business for sure. But this was just part of the job.

He left this Chamber and he regaled stories and kept friendships for many, many years after. And that's a message, I think, to all of us that bodes well, that if we can keep that amongst ourselves . . . In here it's a job. Yes, it's business. But outside of here, if we can take that stance and try to be civil and friends with each other, we could do a lot of good work for this province. And I hope I will never forget that. And if I ever do, I think it is time for me to step down, Mr. Speaker.

I guess just in closing, I do want to say that we have to thank

his daughter Lynne, his son Bob, daughter-in-law Barbara, grandsons Matthew and Lisaun, Graham and Kristy, Owen. He's survived by his brother J.W. "Jack" and his wife Betty, and several nieces and nephews. We want to thank them for letting us share that time with Davey as he served Saskatchewan and Prince Albert and the government and the country of Canada.

He has a closing quote I want to say, but there's another story I think should . . . I'd be remiss if I didn't mention it. That one time when he was in service in Prince Albert as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, he got a phone call at home, and Eunice answered the phone. And then someone was complaining about roads and infrastructure, and much as it happens today. Eunice said, call the mayor; it's his responsibility, not Davey's responsibility. So municipal affairs was also one of those things back in the time where municipalities were responsible for roads, and Eunice stood by her man and made sure that he had time alone away from business as well. So that's very important.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I think the quote I'll say here is important for all of us to remember. And I'll take my seat after that.

If everyone does not take it upon himself to work his own special way to make our society a little better, then we have failed not only our country, but ourselves as well.

[15:15]

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to take to my feet today to help in some way to honour Davey Steuart. Davey Steuart moved to Prince Albert from Moose Jaw with his family, was elected to city council in 1951, and later served two terms as mayor. He also served as president of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association]. He was a member of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party executive and helped former MP [Member of Parliament] Ross Thatcher win the Liberal Party's leadership convention in 1959 and later became president of the party.

He failed in his 1960 bid to win a seat in the legislature, but won in a by-election two years later and retained the Prince Albert seat in the 1964 provincial election that brought the Thatcher Liberals to power. Steuart was appointed minister of Health in the provincial cabinet, implementing the government's system for user fees in health care in 1965. Became minister of Natural Resources and deputy premier, and in 1967 became minister of Finance.

Steuart was elected party leader in December of 1971, served as leader of opposition for four years, and was appointed to the Canadian Senate in December of 1975 and served until his retirement in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, his legacy in Prince Albert is almost unbelievable in the fact that no matter which political party you normally support, he has the respect of virtually everybody in that city. And it's something that in today's political climate is very

difficult to do. But, you know, virtually everybody that you'll talk to will speak very openly and glowingly about Mr. Steuart.

Now as a child in Prince Albert of five and six and seven, I used to play at the Dave G. Steuart Arena. And at that time you don't really know why it's named that or too much about it, but it was always my favourite rink. It was a little bit small but a very comfortable place to play. I think that in terms of the way I played in that rink, it's almost as if Mr. Steuart was looking down because I played with a feistiness and was never a very big hockey player, but I've been told that I used my tongue as sharply as my stick. And I'm sure I did Mr. Steuart proud in that rink at times.

It's not until you grow up and years later, you understand legacy and what it means. And again, Mr. Steuart's legacy in Prince Albert is tremendous and it's that way for a number of reasons.

But one is that he was never afraid, on a provincial stage, to defend the interests of the people of Prince Albert. There are many stories of . . . that people will tell you about. No matter where he was in the province, he defended Prince Albert's interests.

He was not afraid of being a Liberal either. He was a strong Liberal when . . . before it was immensely popular. And it was his courage and wisdom and wit that helped bring the Liberal Party to power. Certainly he's exceedingly highly regarded by all.

One of his tremendous legacies is, of course, his wit, and I'm not sure if all members here will remember the quote, but upon the defection of a couple of high-profile members from the Liberal Party to the Progressive Conservatives, he made the very cutting statement that the IQs [intelligence quotient] of each party both went up today. And it's that ability to cut right to the core in a very humorous way that helped make him very popular.

So for so many reasons, I'd like to thank Mr. Steuart for the work that he's done for the province and specifically for the people of Prince Albert. I'd also like to thank his family for the sacrifice that they made while he was as busy as he was on the political stage. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Isn't it an honour for those of us who speak today and those of us who are listening to just reflect on what leadership is about and on Davey Steuart's life? And as we celebrate someone who sat in a different party, led a different party than anyone in here is a part of, and yet we only hear kind words about Davey Steuart. Mr. Speaker, that's because Davey Steuart earned those remarks.

He earned them here. He earned them throughout the Liberal Party, throughout Prince Albert certainly, and throughout all of Saskatchewan. Davey Steuart was a fine leader.

I'm going to be fairly short in my intervention today, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to simply say that I come from an era

when Davey Steuart was, politically, the enemy. I can recall growing up and, as a teenager, listening to Davey Steuart, and I listened with admiration. And I often listened with frustration because he was such an eloquent speaker. He had such a great way of getting his message across, and it wasn't always to the favour of the political party that I've always supported. But the point is Davey Steuart was always adamant that he spoke his truth and, frankly, spoke the truth. He spoke it well and he spoke it with a great deal of passion.

Davey Steuart was so passionate in his speaking that my cousin Harold and I actually crashed the Liberal leadership party, Mr. Speaker, where Davey Steuart got elected to be Liberal leader. We crashed it thinking it would be fun to see. And I've got to tell you there's two things about that Liberal leadership that has stuck with me all these years later. One, it was obvious that Davey Steuart was incredibly well liked by Liberals there. He was incredibly well respected. He was confident and poised in his own ability, and the leadership was his to lose. That was obvious from there. The second thing that I — both my cousin Harold and I — learned at the Liberal leadership convention was the Liberal Party has an awful lot of nice people in it. And it was a good lesson for a then 17-year-old me to learn. The Liberal Party was chock full of just wonderful, thoughtful people.

Obviously I didn't choose to join the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, but I came away from that with a new-found respect for what serving the province was and public service, what that was all about. I owe Davey Steuart — and others, but today it's Davey Steuart — I owe Davey Steuart a debt of gratitude for his part in my political awakening, if you like, and I am grateful for that on a personal level. And I know that our province is a better province by far for the leadership that Mr. Steuart provided. So with that I'll take my place. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question is the motion presented by the Premier in recognition of the life of Mr. Davey Steuart that, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

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. I recognize the Premier.

Frederick John Thompson

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure it'll be an honour for a number of members to join in tribute to former member Fred Thompson who passed away in July of 2010.

Mr. Speaker, when I first had a chance to work in this building, first as a summer student and then as a ministerial assistant, Mr. Thompson was one of the opposition MLAs who participated obviously in question period on a regular basis. And, Mr. Speaker, I can remember with clarity that when it came to northern issues there were certainly few in the legislature that were his match in terms of raising those issues on behalf of the constituents of Athabasca and on behalf of northern Saskatchewan in general, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps he was uniquely qualified for his time in politics on account of his being a three-time provincial boxing champion, Mr. Speaker. But I think it's true that in this case, members on both sides of the House got to know Mr. Thompson very well. A number of members on that side of the House served with Mr. Thompson while he was a member here, as did you, sir.

And, Mr. Speaker, a number of us got to know Mr. Thompson because in later years he remained involved in politics, not in an elected position, but he was involved in helping our party. I think prior to the 1999 election, shortly after the formation of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Thompson felt that there were some ideas here that were worthy of his support and furtherance and got involved with our party.

I remember chatting with him early on as a relatively new MLA. He was attending a golf tournament, a fundraising golf tournament that we were hosting, and at that time, Mr. Speaker, his career had evolved to the point where he was also a golf instructor. He was teaching golfing. And I noticed that he took particular pity on my swing when he saw me at the golf tournament. That gave me a chance to strike up a conversation which I valued greatly because, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned off the top, my only observations of Mr. Thompson was when . . . from one of the galleries or on television when I would be monitoring question period or debate in the Assembly on behalf of my minister, and it was Mr. Thompson that was effectively making a particular case in terms of his shadow cabinet duties or his constituency of Athabasca.

And I think we can all agree that whatever the evolution of his own political views, one thing remained constant — that was his dedication to the people of Athabasca, to northern Saskatchewan in general, and to First Nations and Métis issues, Mr. Speaker, in the province and throughout his careers. I believe he was a champion of those causes and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

And as has been mentioned with respect to the others that we have honoured today, we want to thank the members of Mr. Thompson's family for sharing him with the Legislative Assembly and with the people of Saskatchewan.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I move that by leave of the Assembly:

That the Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Fred John Thompson, who passed away on July 7, 2010, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from

1975 until 1995, representing the constituency of Athabasca for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Thompson was appointed the associate minister of Economic Development in 1995 and served as the caucus critic for the Department of Parks, Saskatchewan Forest Products, and Northern Affairs issues. He was a member of the Public Accounts Committee and spent many years on the Crown Corporations Committee from 1976 to '78 and 1981 until 1991.

Mr. Thompson was born on May 21, 1935, and grew up in Big River, Saskatchewan. He later moved to Buffalo Narrows where he started a mink ranch, fished, and trapped. He met his wife, Therese, here and together they had three children.

Mr. Thompson was a three-time provincial boxing champion and used that experience and knowledge to teach boxing as well. He also coached hockey, baseball, and gymnastics, and at the age of 63 became a professional golf instructor.

Fred is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 49 years, Therese, and their three children, Robert, Thomas, and Rodney.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the Premier to recognize the contribution of Fred John Thompson to this Assembly. That by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise and say a few words on the condolence motion moved by the Premier.

Fred Thompson was elected first in 1975 and I had the opportunity to be elected in 1978. So when I first came to the Legislative Assembly, of course Fred was not in cabinet at that time, and I took a great liking to Fred because he was a northerner, quite isolated from Regina, and of course at that time being from the Shaunavon constituency down on the Montana and Alberta border, I felt some of the isolation as well.

And being a new member, Fred took me under his wing and taught me some of the dos and don'ts in the Legislative Assembly. And as strange as that might seem, we became very close. And during that period, between '78 and 1982, we talked a lot about being in government and the possibility of working in cabinet. But neither of us foresaw the impending doom that

was coming in 1982. And I remember after the defeat of 1982, Fred and I were both re-elected, along with six others. So we went from being a majority government to sitting on this side of the House with only eight members. And Fred was a pillar of support in that caucus.

And I remember that going out in the evenings, because we sat many nights at that time, and Fred Thompson and Allen Engel and Murray Koskie and I would often go and have dinner together. And we usually went to a little restaurant on the way to the airport — it's still there — called The Chimney, and Spiro, the owner, is still there. And we would soothe our hurt of being a small opposition by having a few beverages and have dinner, and then we would have to return to the Assembly at 7 o'clock.

[15:30]

And Murray was a very tough operator and very supportive as well, but when we divvied up the bill every night to pay for our meal, of course we divided it four ways. And Freddy had a very sharp pencil in making sure that the bill was divided exactly in quarters. And what we didn't realize at the time, Murray was a heavy smoker, and he would get Spiro to bring him a package of cigarettes, and that got tucked into the bill somehow. And for two years, we split Murray's cigarettes. And I remember when Fred found out about it, he was horrified that Murray would do that. And he spent the rest of the two years between '82 and '86 figuring out ways to collect his money back from Murray Koskie.

But it tells you of the kind of spirit that there is in a caucus and how close you become, especially when you're a small working group in opposition or in a cabinet where you become very close.

And Fred was also a very good card player and a very good boxer. And at that time we played cards quite often in the evenings, after the House ended, with members of the government and I can remember times that Fred . . . People knew when to respect him, because even though he was small in stature he was a very, very successful boxer, and you could tell by Fred's tone when it was time to back off and let him have his say. And a few members in government will remember Fred for that as well.

But at the end of the day Fred was a very, very compassionate man. He represented his constituency very ably and will be very much missed. And I know at his celebration of his life in Buffalo Narrows a number of our members attended, and I know Therese and the boys will miss Fred very, very much.

So, Mr. Speaker, in rising to say a few words on the motion, I just want to put on the record that Fred Thompson represented the constituency of Athabasca and he passed away on July 7, 2010, and his service of remembrance I had the privilege to attend, along with a number of other friends and fellow colleagues in Buffalo Narrows.

Freddy Thompson was born May 21st, 1935 and was raised in Big River, Saskatchewan. He served, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Legislative Assembly here from 1975 to '95. He was appointed minister of Economic Development in 1995, Mr.

Speaker, and he also served as caucus critic in the department of Parks and Saskatchewan Forest Products.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, when I began my remarks, I had the honour to attend his service in Buffalo Narrows and we travelled along the long road that would faithfully allow Fred to move back and forth between Regina and his constituency of Athabasca. And as we gathered there, Mr. Speaker, along with Doug Anguish, one of his other colleagues who spoke at the celebration, friends and family, and we spent time, Mr. Speaker, giving thanks for Fred's life and his friendship.

And so in closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Premier and others in offering my condolence to Therese, the boys, and the extended family of Fred Thompson.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also join in paying tribute to Fred Thompson who represented Athabasca for 20 years and it gives me great honour and great pride to speak of him. And I want to speak in generally five areas I've known Fred. And certainly some of the attributes and some of the strength he had was of course his family. And one thing that I noticed early in my political career was his class, very classy individual, certainly his endurance as an MLA, his strength, and finally his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Thompson was a very, very strong family man. He loved his family, all of his family. And when your brother calls you his best friend, you know how well he was loved and certainly honoured by his family because he took good care of them.

I spoke to his brother and to his son briefly on the phone and I mentioned the fact that we were going to pay tribute to Fred, and others that passed, in the Assembly today. And his son, Rod Thompson, took a few moments to write a letter. And I'd like to share that letter with the Assembly if I may. And these are Rod Thompson's words:

If Dad were here in the Assembly today, he would say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to represent both the people of Athabasca and the people of Saskatchewan, and for being part of the great democracy and the rich history that is Saskatchewan.

Dad knew early how important the role of government is and how it affects the lives of people, and to be able to be part of that and to represent the great people who call northern Saskatchewan home for so many years, was truly a privilege and an honor.

As his family we are extremely proud of the role that Dad played in government and of the leadership that he provided to so many including ourselves.

Dad was a proud father of three very rambunctious boys and a husband of 49 years.

He was also the oldest brother and a role model of five equally rambunctious boys on a small farm in Big River, Saskatchewan.

Dad served in the Canadian Military and was awarded the prestigious “Cock of the Walk” recognizing him as a top male athlete in the Navy. He was a three-time provincial boxing champion who inspired his brother Ron’s professional boxing career. He was a mink rancher, a commercial fisherman, a trapper and a regular man like so many in the north.

Dad was a natural leader, but had never intended on playing the role that he did in politics, but he came along at a time when the people of northern Saskatchewan needed leadership. And he felt a strong responsibility to represent those who couldn’t represent themselves.

We want to thank this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan for acknowledging Dad’s role and his time spent here. And we hope and pray that those that have passed through this Assembly continue to remind you of the great privilege that is bestowed upon you and inspires all of you to represent the people of Saskatchewan with honor and pride as our father did.

In memory of Fred John Thompson
May 21, 1935 - July 7, 2010.

These are the words of his son, Rodney. And certainly I think some of the words that Rod spoke, no question that we obviously all agree. And certainly as a fellow northerner, I again reiterate Fred’s great love for his family. That was really important to him.

I often spoke of his class as a MLA and as an individual. When I was interviewed upon Fred’s death, that was the first thing that come to my mind, was the fact that Fred was always a class act. As a young man, I remember Fred visiting my father on numerous occasions. And he always came across as a kind and patient and very intent individual that was there to listen to what people had to say, and never to anger and always willing to listen to some of the concerns and points that my father raised and many others around him.

The other thing I mentioned in the interview was the fact that Fred had incredible endurance, because as the MLA from Athabasca, the travel schedule that we have as probably being one of the MLAs that’s the furthest away from the Assembly. At one time I clocked the kilometres from my house to the Assembly steps here, going through Meadow Lake. It came to 806 kilometres, and I’m doing this on paved roads. Fred did it on gravel roads in the early ’70s. And the time that was demanded of him to travel not only here, but to be here the many, many weeks and days and months he was away from his family, it always has an effect, as many other MLAs would know, on not only your heart but certainly your mind as well.

If you’re a strong family man, being away from your family is very, very tough. And that’s one of the things that I also thought of when I was doing the interview, is Fred’s endurance. He travelled many, many miles. And finally on his strength, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that again, when I became the MLA I really wanted to emulate Fred. I wanted to be smart, fair, and strong. And I also wanted to be a boxer, but I got so many lickings, I decided I couldn’t do that. So a lot of people don’t realize that a lot of us younger people looked up to Fred and we

learned off of him. We learned how to be fair and patient and certainly be responsible.

And as I look at his strength as well, my father noticed what I was doing. And he said, Buckley, you’re trying hard, but you can never be a Fred Thompson. So just do your own thing and be your own person because that’s a tough road to travel.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, Fred and my father are very close friends. And they were born in an era where men were men, and Fred had a lot of respect from many, many men. And it wasn’t because, as I learned later, because of his prowess as a boxer, but more so because of his fairness and certainly for his respect and compassion for his fellow northerners.

I would finally point out that when he was ill and in poor health I went to visit him. And I walked into the hospital in Saskatoon and I walked into his room, and he was sitting there in fairly rough shape. And I walked up to him I said, Fred, do you know who I am? And he said, hi Buckley. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, but those were his words. And he put out his hand to shake my hand, in the hospital, and I just told him that he was a good man. That’s all I said. Fred, you’re a good man. I said a prayer and then I left.

And, Mr. Speaker, the reason why it’s important on this final point is to recognize him for his family, his class, his endurance, his strength; it’s also because of his legacy. As a young man I remember the northern mining industry in its infancy. Fred helped build the northern mining industry that today is flourishing and employs many, many people. And it’s changed the lives of many, many families.

I remember the crews working on the roads to bring paved roads to northern Saskatchewan. I remember the schools, Mr. Speaker, that were built. And I remember the bridge at Buffalo Narrows that when I, as the Minister of Highways, wanted to rename the bridge Thompson Bridge in honour of Fred. But the problem was Fred named that bridge the Pioneer Bridge, which was named after the many people that he worked with and lived with and struggled with in his years in northern Saskatchewan. And who am I to take his name off the bridge, even to honour him?

So, Mr. Speaker, I say to his family that it is an honour sharing this chair with Fred Thompson. And I pay tribute to his family, to his class, to his endurance, to his strength. And I’ll finally say to his family on his legacy, which I think every MLA would dearly love to hear, that the work that your father, your brother, and your husband did for the North and his constituency will benefit many, many families for many, many years to come. Thank you.

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

[15:45]

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my honour today to speak about a former colleague of mine, Fred Thompson. Fred served in the . . . I was first elected in 1986, which in many ways is a lifetime ago, Mr. Speaker. Fred was an old hand at politics at being elected at that stage.

But I want to share the first time I met Fred in this building. I was just a nominated candidate, the newly minted candidate for a constituency at the time called Regina North. And I thought it would be a good thing to come and see how the caucus operated for their daily routine. And they generously invited me in and said how I was an equal and I was a colleague with the gang of eight. And I want to say that I shared the party loyalty, but that gang of eight did some incredible work.

And Fred Thompson was a part of that. He was actually chairing the meeting the day that I participated. I participated silently, watching in awe as these eight MLAs spoke in what seemed like code because they had the whole question period and the rest of the day all sorted out in about 10 minutes flat. They just were an incredibly cohesive group by that stage. Of course they'd been three years under the microscope or under the gun or under whatever you want to call it. But at the end of the meeting, Fred Thompson, who was chairing the meeting, turned to me and he said, do you have anything to add? And he called me by name. And of course what do you add to that particular meeting?

Anyway the point is Fred Thompson was a very inclusive gentleman right from the very first time I met him. And I couldn't help but admire Fred. I couldn't help but be pleased to believe that he and I were going to be colleagues in the not-too-distant future. And colleagues we were, having served from '86 to '95 when Fred Thompson chose to retire from politics. That was indeed an honour.

Mr. Speaker, there was one thing that happened that's a little bit . . . I say it with some regret and a bit of a smile. But we were touring the North, and we toured some of the uranium mines up there. Fred was on that tour. I was on that tour and a significant number of our colleagues were as well. And it was a real eye opener and interesting to watch.

And of course the whole nuclear cycle, the uranium mining and nuclear power debate was a big issue. It always or it seems like it always has been in the New Democratic Party. It's been an issue that we choose, we choose to all have our views, but our views are not unanimous on this side of the House, to put it mildly. We run the full gamut from people who are absolutely pro-nuke to people who are absolutely not.

And Fred and I found ourselves on opposite sides of the nuclear fence. And I've got to say, it's the only thing that I know that I just was diametrically opposed in view to Fred Thompson. He was a man that was easy to admire and easy to follow in his basic beliefs. He was a good man.

Anyway after the tour, I did an interview. And I inadvertently or mistakenly made a comment about nuclear power and I said, and even Fred Thompson would agree. And of course Mr. Thompson did not agree. And Fred and I had an exchange of words for which I said I was very sorry, and indeed I was. And I continue to be sorry to this day for having put words in Fred Thompson's mouth because he did not agree with my case there.

But in the spirit of being a colleague and a gentleman, Fred and I shook hands and he never mentioned it again. And I've never mentioned it in Fred's presence. Maybe now if he's watching

from above, he'll know that I've always carried that memory, and it was something that I learned. And I am indeed sorry for having misrepresented and misspoken about what Fred might believe in.

On a happier note, Fred Thompson and I did a parliamentary exchange to Washington, DC [District of Columbia]. And what a great time that was for Fred and I to see what life was like in that great nation south of us in their national capital. And what a difference it is from Regina to Washington, DC, but what a huge, even bigger, greater difference it is to go from Athabasca, from Buffalo Narrows to Washington, DC. And of course we talked about that and our shared experiences, and it was a nice way for me to get to see yet a different side of Fred Thompson, but a very, a very gentlemanly and a very good side.

Mr. Speaker, as I am about to take my place, I can't help but reflect that Fred Thompson was a distinguished Saskatchewan person. He was a very thoughtful person. He was a family person. He was a politician, and he was a gentleman.

I see his picture — I happen to have the obituary here — and I just want to congratulate the family for choosing that particular picture of Fred Thomson with the jacket over his shoulder and the tie. And that's the Fred Thompson that I will always remember — thoughtful, a part of a community, a family person. And I'll remember him with a great deal of fondness for the rest of my life.

It was an honour to serve with Fred, and I know that our Saskatchewan . . . Certainly Athabasca is a better constituency for Fred's service; our province is a better province for Fred's service. And I know that the New Democratic Party is better for his service as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Premier in recognizing the life of Mr. Fred John Thompson.

By leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

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. I recognize the Premier.

John Vern Wall

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to offer a few thoughts on John V. Wall today, the former MLA for Swift Current. Mr. Wall passed away earlier

this year, in April. And, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of ties between he and I, though we're a little different in age obviously, Mr. Speaker. And it goes beyond the name. We're not related, at least for the record, although if you play the Mennonite game long enough, you might indeed find some family ties. But as far as our family is aware, we weren't directly related.

But I benefited much from my relationship with John Wall. He was my principal in grade 8 and 9 at W.A. Beatty Collegiate in Swift Current, a junior high at the time. And, Mr. Speaker, like so many in this Assembly, I can point to a number of teachers and principals who had a very positive influence in my life. Some of those same teachers and principals, maybe Mr. Wall included, may offer the thought that I didn't learn as much from them as I could have. But my recollections and my memory of Mr. Wall as the principal at the junior high are very positive, and so let me begin there.

Mr. Speaker, you will know as someone who served with Mr. Wall that from a physical standpoint, Mr. Wall could be an intimidating person. He was a tall fellow, and when he needed to get your attention, certainly as a principal and no doubt as a debater, although I didn't have any direct experience with him in that regard, he could get at least our attention in terms of from his voice, not just his stature, when he was a principal.

Mr. Speaker, he spent a lifetime educating young people in my hometown of Swift Current. And his family was involved in so many ways in the community, as was Mr. Wall himself. And he spent a number of years as the principal at the junior high where I went, at W.A. Beatty Collegiate — a number of very effective years, if you talk to those who taught with him and on his staff.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to serve on the students council of that particular junior high in a number of different capacities. And I won't get into the details, but some of those capacities I didn't think I was executing as well as others probably thought, certainly as the SRC [student representative council] adviser thought, who happened to be the principal. And Mr. Wall took it on himself to, in a very positive way, offer some correction, offer some constructive suggestions on how I could do a better job in the office for which I had run in the student council elections.

And that's the kind of principal he was. And though he might be at first blush for a grade 8 student coming into junior high — an already intimidating experience — he might have been a little intimidating himself, we soon found out that he had a big heart and a warm way about him, one of a long-time and effective educator, and also a leader in education.

And I admit that I would have lost touch with Mr. Wall, obviously, after moving away from junior high and going to high school in Swift Current at the comp, but there I got to meet his son Jason — Jason, his oldest son, who I proudly count as a friend. Jason now lives with his family in Saskatoon and was good enough to help organize our class reunion not long ago and emcee it. And Jason, not unlike his dad, was well thought of by all the students, well liked and well loved by all his fellow students. And just not very long ago, as a result of that reunion, we've had a chance for some reminiscence.

And I also got to know in later years, I knew Laurie, obviously, his daughter — Gay and John's daughter — and then Jeff as well, another son who's still in Swift Current, very much involved in the city of Swift Current at Elmwood Golf Club, and been involved in various ventures along the way, in businesses. And Jeff too continues in the tradition of John and Gay in giving back to their community.

And I think that's how people remember John. It's part of the reason why John was able to be successful in politics as well, Mr. Speaker. As we know, it's a difficult proposition to gain a nomination, especially in a constituency that's currently held by that party, as was the case for John. It had been ably represented by John Penner, who had to retire for health reasons. And no doubt to get that nomination was not an easy proposition. But John was able to do it, John Wall was able to do it in large measure because of the high regard that he was held in and because he was prepared to do the work.

And then, Mr. Speaker, when I was director of business development for the city of Swift Current, I had the chance to work with his office as the MLA for Swift Current, as did a number at city hall, of course. The constituency of Swift Current is mostly the city, although there's rural areas north and south, but principally the city. And so there is a close relationship, I would say, between the council, the city council, the city administration, and the MLA in terms of their relationship with the provincial government. And John Wall's office was always available to city. More than that, often proactively, John would offer to help on certain issues to the councillors and to the senior administrators at city hall if he felt there was something that the provincial government could be assisting with the city.

And, Mr. Speaker, obviously that speaks very well for any of us. For any of us as MLAs, if we're known as representatives here in Regina to whom constituents can go for help, to whom you can go and easily access some services, that of course is a great reputation to have as an MLA.

John continued to be involved in the life of Swift Current, both before and after his time as an MLA. I would say, Mr. Speaker, notably, that he served with my dad on the Mennonite heritage committee. That was a committee that was established to try to attract or try to bring some heritage buildings, Mennonite heritage buildings, to the city of Swift Current to establish a bit of a tourist attraction, but mostly to make sure that some of that heritage was preserved.

And so John Wall and my dad, who's interestingly also named John Wall — and more on that in a moment — and a number of others, Corny Unger and Mr. Neufeld . . . Well the member for Martensville will know most of the surnames I mentioned, but they worked very hard to, for example, located Sommerfeld church which is now on the site there. They worked very hard to locate a house and a barn in the Mennonite tradition, which was that they would be adjoined together, Mr. Speaker. That was also there as well. And there was also a summer kitchen and a number of other great Mennonite heritage assets.

[16:00]

The reason they are there today for people to enjoy, for people

to learn about the Mennonite heritage, is because of that committee. And I think John V. Wall was one of the founding members of it, as was my dad, John Wall without a middle initial. It was thought by some to be too worldly to have a middle name or initial, and so my dad doesn't have one.

But by them and others, the reason that that asset is there to celebrate and record that history is because John V. Wall was interested in things beyond politics. And he was very much interested in politics, to be sure. He was very much interested in education but when it came to the Mennonite heritage site or when it came to the Prairie Pioneer Kiwanis Club, which is a very important service club in our community, he was a stalwart. I think he served as president of that as well.

And so I also want to say this, is I campaigned against John Wall in the very first election that I ran in, so there were a lot of Wall lawn signs around Swift Current. Different colours, to be sure, but a lot of them. And I remember going to one door in particular, Mr. Speaker, knocking on the door, and a lady came to the door. And I introduced myself and went through my little campaign spiel. And the lady stopped me kind of in the middle of it and said, I can't believe you're running against your own dad.

And I think I had a chance to tell that to Mr. Wall later, to John V. Wall later, and he got a kick out of it because I think he also approached politics in a way that some have remarked here that we should probably all be aspirants to, which is to be able to be engaged in debate in a fairly compelling and maybe even sometimes aggressive way in this place, but then to have a spirit of non-partisanship outside of this Assembly. I think that's an important gift as well that we can recognize from Mr. Wall.

So he was my principal. His kids are friends, certainly acquaintances. And then he was a fellow candidate in an election. And then, after that obviously, Mr. Speaker, a constituent who remained very involved in the community. And again, our community is better for his service, better for his involvement in Swift Current, and I just want to acknowledge that today.

I also want to thank the family, and recognize Gay and Laurie and Jason and Jeff because they shared their dad, in more ways than politics, but through his involvement in the community and education.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would move, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

John Vern Wall, who passed away on April 22, 2010, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1995 until 1999, representing the constituency of Swift Current for the New Democratic Party. Mr. Wall served on the Standing Committee on Non-Controversial Bills from March 1996 until May of 1999.

Mr. Wall was born on March 13th, 1938 in Swift Current,

Saskatchewan. He attended various elementary schools in Swift Current and completed high school at the Swift Current Collegiate Institute. Mr. Wall obtained his teaching certificate at the Moose Jaw Normal School and completed his Bachelor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in 1968. He was an elementary schoolteacher from 1957 to 1967, and a middle years principal from 1967 until he retired from teaching in 1988. He was then elected to the Assembly in 1995.

After this time in the Assembly, John was an active member in many service clubs, community organizations, and served on the board of directors of the then Western Savings Credit Union.

John is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 48 years, Gay; three children, Jason, Laurie, and Jeff, their spouses; eight grandchildren; and his siblings, Vic, Les, Ralph, and Leona and their spouses.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Premier recognizing the life of John Vern Wall. By leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise to say a few words on the condolence motion moved by the Premier. And the former member from the constituency of Swift Current, Mr. John Wall, who passed away on April 22nd of this year . . . Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to speak very long because I know a number of my colleagues are going to add their comments because John of course worked with a number of members of our caucus and also, I think, taught one or two of them.

And it's true that John had a big impact on people, whether it was in the classroom or in the caucus when we attended. And while he was a very jovial, good-natured fellow, you always knew when he was serious. He spoke in a very eloquent, pointed manner in caucus and got his view across and could win many, many debates.

John was born in 1938 in Swift Current, Mr. Speaker, the community that he would later represent here in the Assembly. He pursued a career in education, Mr. Speaker, obtaining his certificate in teaching at Moose Jaw Normal School and walked into the classroom for the first time teaching at the age of 19, and would later complete his education degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1968 with an education degree. He taught elementary school for a decade, Mr. Speaker, from 1957 to '67, and was at W.A. Beatty Junior High for nearly two decades until his retirement from teaching in 1988.

He answered the political call, Mr. Speaker, and was elected to the Assembly in 1995 and served until 1999. After retiring from politics, John remained active in his community and many service clubs and communities and organizations and boards of directors, board of directors of the Western Savings Credit Union. He was also, as an educator and a volunteer and a service club member and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, John Wall served the people of Swift Current and the province of Saskatchewan in many ways.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know at the celebration of his life in Swift Current, the hundreds of people who came out and not only for the service but stayed around to tell stories and reminisce about the life of John Wall, you know that he was successful in more than a political way; he was a true community member and people truly loved him.

So on behalf of the caucus, I want to extend my condolences to his wife, his members of his family, his children, and also to his many grandchildren. And I just want to say that on behalf on the caucus, again, I extend condolences to all and to all the people of Swift Current on the loss of an important resident, a father, a former member of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am truly honoured this afternoon to stand and reflect upon the life and accomplishments of John Wall. I, like the Premier, first met Mr. Wall as a teacher. He was my homeroom teacher in grade 8. He was the principal. He was an individual who truly made a difference in many, many people's lives. I had the experience first-hand to see the difference that he can make as both a teacher and an individual in our community.

Mr. Speaker, as a homeroom teacher, he had the responsibility of meeting with each of the students as they were going through the academic year and talking with students about what they could do better and what they should do better in their various classes, Mr. Speaker. And John Wall was the type of individual who always encouraged everybody to do much better than what they were doing. Mr. Speaker, he was an individual who cared a great deal about every single student he taught, and it was very clear in how he dealt with each and every student. It was very clear in how he brought his enthusiasm for education and his enthusiasm for life to the classroom.

And, Mr. Speaker, he told every single student that you could be anything you wanted to be, you could accomplish anything you wanted to accomplish, and that you were only limited by your willingness to work hard. And, Mr. Speaker, many, many students that had Mr. Wall as a homeroom teacher, as a principal, learned that work ethic was incredibly important if you wanted to achieve things in life and that we all started from different places in life and we all had different skills and abilities and attributes. But at the end of the day, if you worked hard, if you cared, you in fact could accomplish great things and accomplish anything that you wanted to accomplish. And, Mr. Speaker, I think many, many students had the opportunity to learn from Mr. Wall that you had abilities you didn't think you had and that you could accomplish things that you didn't think you could.

John Wall also had an enthusiasm for life that I think very few people ever have. Every single day, he had that enormous smile on his face. He had nothing but positive things to say to those around him. Whether it was to students in the school . . . and Beatty Collegiate was a tough secondary school, had grade 8 and 9 where children were at, in many ways, their years where behaviour wasn't necessarily the most paramount thing on their mind. And in that environment, he always had a smile on his face. He always looked to the positive. He always tried to install . . . instill in others, pardon me, Mr. Speaker, that each day you could do something positive, each day you could do something worthwhile. And if you tried to do that, when all those days added up, you would have success.

He was an individual who . . . If you had him actually teach you a class . . . and I did. I had grade 8 math with John Wall as my instructor and teacher. And he worked very, very hard to ensure that every student enjoyed the class and that your learning experience was more than just an academic experience of sitting in the classroom and learning the basics. He wanted to make sure that you truly enjoyed going to school, that you truly enjoyed your opportunity to learn, and that in doing so you actually had an experience that you enjoyed so that education wasn't something you had to do. It was something you wanted to do.

And I, like many others who had Mr. Wall for a teacher, changed our view of education. Up until grade 8, quite frankly, I wasn't one that cared a great deal about what your marks were or what you accomplished. I didn't care about what those marks might mean as far as your educational opportunities down the road. But he took the time to make sure that we understood that the things we did today could make a difference in your future and that the work ethic you learned today would definitely make a difference in your future. And I can tell you, it made a difference in my attitude towards school, my attitude towards getting good grades, and the importance of working hard in school and the importance of getting that education towards a future.

Now Mr. Wall had that impact on many, many students. And I've talked to many students that had Mr. Wall as a homeroom teacher, years down the road, and seen the success that they've achieved, the success that they've had by having that inspiration that he worked so hard to bring forward to every student in the school, to all those that he had contact with, and that desire that he had. And he stated it many, many times that at the end of our life on this earth that we will have made the world a little better place by our contributions to it and that if we smiled every day and if we worked hard every day we would make a difference whether we thought we would or not.

And he was that type of individual who always wanted you to think about the best, always wanted you to believe that you could achieve those things when many others thought maybe you couldn't, and wanted you to work continually to try to achieve the best outcome for yourself, and in doing so, you would make the world a little better place.

[16:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, the environment at Beatty Collegiate, where he was the principal, was not always the easiest when you have

grade 8 and 9 students and you're in competition with another junior high school. There was always immense competition between Beatty and Irwin, the two junior high schools in the city of Swift Current. And it was in everything from sports to dances to activities throughout the city of Swift Current. And there was tremendous competition. And it was a different age and time than it is today, Mr. Speaker, and that competition sometimes boiled over at sporting events and boiled over at other events.

And so one of the things that the principal had to do is he had to attend all these events. And you would never see a football game or a basketball game or, for that matter, a school dance either at Irwin or at Beatty that the principals of both had to be there. And that was to ensure that the differences of opinion between grade 8 and 9 students didn't boil over into other types of activities, and keep the students in line. Mr. Speaker, I'd have to admit I was among those that he had to keep in line at times. And I'm sure my colleague from the constituency of Swift Current was also there and one of those that had to be kept in line at times as well.

But, Mr. Speaker, the short of it is that John Wall made a significant difference in people's lives, both as an educator and then later when he was elected to this Assembly. I had the honour of being elected for a short six weeks. I was elected in June of 1999 and served with John Wall until the election in September of 1999 — a very short period of time. The House never sat during that period of time. But it was indeed a rare honour for me to sit and serve with somebody that I had such great respect for as an educator, as a person who cared so deeply for those that he attempted to educate over the years, and somebody who cared so much about this province, about the community of Swift Current, and about the people that he represented.

So, Mr. Speaker, John Wall I considered both a teacher, a friend, and a colleague. But above all, John Wall was an individual who was inspired by the concept that each day he could make a difference for somebody else, a positive difference for somebody else, and throughout his life John Wall achieved that. And for those reasons, he was an exemplary individual. His children and family had that benefit on a daily basis, and they turned out to be exemplary children. His family serves him well today, is a credit to him as a father. And, Mr. Speaker, John Wall made a significant difference in this province to many people.

For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and I think many of my other colleagues in giving my condolence to his family, to his friends, and those who knew John Wall as a teacher and as a friend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to join in and be allowed to make a few remarks for the condolence motion for Mr. John Wall.

The Premier explained in his remarks that he isn't related to Mr. Wall, but I in fact am through marriage. My mother-in-law

Colleen is first cousins with Gay, John's wife. Gay's mother, Sina, was a sibling to my wife's grandfather, Sidney Olson, in the Stewart Valley area around Swift Current. And I know representatives from my family were at the funeral, and I too had the privilege to be at the funeral in Swift Current a few months ago.

While I didn't know Mr. Wall personally, attending the funeral gave me a chance to get a snapshot of his life. And from that very large event, when there was so many people — a real cross-section of the Swift Current and area community who were in attendance — it was clear that Mr. Wall was appreciated as an educator, that he had made a significant contribution through many service clubs in the Swift Current area. I know there were many Good Sams who were there. There was a lot of discussion as well about his role as a legislator and the contributions he made to the province and to the Swift Current area.

But what really stands out the most for me, Mr. Speaker, were the remarks that family members made about the type of father and grandparent Mr. Wall was. And there were many stories shared from the grandchildren's perspective about how Mr. Wall loved playing games, his great sense of humour, how he truly treasured his grandchildren, and enjoyed spending time with them as much as he could. And I know, Mr. Speaker, while we may talk about his contributions as an MLA or as a teacher, to the family members what stands out is his contributions as a grandpa and as a dad. And I think that's perhaps the most important thing that any of us would want to be remembered for at the end of the day.

So, Mr. Speaker, my remarks are brief, but I wanted to say, on behalf of the Olson clan around the Stewart Valley area and beyond and on behalf of my family, I'd like to extend condolences to Gay and to the entire John Wall family. And I know that they'll have those precious memories of their grandpa for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I served with John Wall in this very legislature throughout John's entire career. And I was blessed to represent Regina Coronation Park or Regina Albert North as it was called, and he was blessed to represent Swift Current.

I figured it out what happened to our John Wall. I think there was . . . The member for Athabasca won, incidentally, with a record of 91 or 93 per cent of the vote. It was an all-time record for the highest vote for a person with that name. But I think in Swift Current, I think that the Wall vote was more than 93 per cent in that one particular election. Unfortunately the John that represented the NDP got . . . when they counted it, I think they must have mixed the votes a little bit, Mr. Speaker. And any way . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Keep working on it, yes.

Today it is my honour to say a few words in memory of my friend, John Wall: my friend who I knew as a teacher; I knew as a politician; I knew as a very witty, personable person; I knew as a community leader and a person very much caring about his Swift Current and his province.

John Wall, as was pointed out by the member for Regina Dewdney, was a terrific, terrific and caring principal and teacher. And lucky were the students that would have John's smiling, supportive countenance, day after day after day, encouraging them that there is more that they could do and more that they could be. And that life is good, and if you just work hard and seek as much enjoyment as you can in life, things are good, and you'll leave the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to golf a few games with John Wall. He was also a golfer, although both John Wall and myself should never have ever thought of giving up our day jobs to become professional golfers. There were moments when it took not only his sense of good humour but mine as well for us to get through our golf games. But it was always a treat and always a pleasure to spend some time with John Wall.

John had an ability, Mr. Speaker, to get his way, and you didn't even realize he was getting it. John Wall wound up getting the then government caucus to meet in Swift Current. And we all thought it was a great idea. We thought it was a great . . . Of course Swift Current is a nice city; there's no question about that. But there's lots of nice places throughout the province that we could've gone to. But John Wall asked for the caucus meeting to be moved to his fair city, and we went. He had that ability. And I know I remember from many caucus meetings that we shared, whenever John spoke, he had something important to say. He had something to contribute, and he always did it in a very positive way.

Mr. Speaker, I note that my friend and former colleague, John Wall, continues even after his passing to encourage us all to do and to be better. I too want to share in passing on my condolences to Gay and the entire family and friends of my friend, my colleague, John Wall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with colleagues on both sides of the legislature in extending our condolences to Gay Wall and members of her family on the recent passing of her husband and father and grandfather, John Wall. Mr. Speaker, when John Wall came into the Assembly in 1995, he had some pretty big shoes to fill. His predecessor, John Penner, had also been a teacher and a principal for the city of Swift Current. And when John Penner wasn't able to run in the 1995 campaign, there were people in the Swift Current area that went to work and asked John Wall to take a crack at the nomination and represent the people of the city of Swift Current.

When John Wall came to the legislature and came into our caucus, I think there's only a couple of words to describe him. He was a very tall, imposing man who had a smile that would warm the hearts of your worst enemy. He was a jocular man, a kind man, and always had good things to say to people even in the thrust and parry of debate.

What I will remember about John Wall were not all of the debates that took place in this Assembly, but I will remember being the minister of Education from 1995 to 1998 when John Wall was a member of this Assembly. I was the minister. And

he was always interested in advancing public policy in our province. And he was particularly interested in the children's action plan that our government brought into the province in the 1990s, where we were trying to coordinate services to children and young people. And it was something that John Wall was particularly interested in seeing advanced in the province.

Mr. Speaker, when I became the minister of Health in 1998, I think it's fair to say that there were a number of heated issues in the province, least of which was the need to merge 44 or 45 collective agreements into five. This meant taking all of the various nursing collective agreements, creating one collective agreement, taking all of the support staff. They had, I think, three different unions representing the workers — SEIU [Service Employees International Union], SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union], and CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees], and then health sciences. So the job of the Department of Health and the minister of Health was to try and merge these collective agreements. I think it was seen as a pretty daunting task.

John had a particular nickname for me, which I won't share with the House, but I will say this: that he said, you're going to be able to do this. You know, because I wasn't sure that this could be done. He said, you're going to be able to do this; I have no doubt about that. And I just want his family to know that I always appreciated the support that John Wall gave not only myself, but other members of the Romanow cabinet who were trying to advance public policy at a time when we didn't have a lot of money, at a time when we still had to deal with debt, and at a time when, you know, there were various . . . I think at one stage there was a recession in the economy. These were not easy times.

[16:30]

But John Wall always had the interests of his constituents. He was supportive of his colleagues, and he always tried to advance the cause of good public policy, particularly for children and young people. And for that I will always appreciate John Wall's time in this Assembly. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll take my seat.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Premier in recognition of the life of John Vern Wall, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

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. I recognize the Government

House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly I move:

That notwithstanding Rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with a *Hansard* transcript and resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved, by leave of the Assembly:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with the *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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 84 through 99.

The Speaker: — Answers to questions 84 through 99 are tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 144 — *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after my remarks, I will move second reading of *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*.

The Litter Control Act was originally passed in 1973. Its purpose is to provide the provincial government with the legislative authority to address litter-related issues, to create related regulations, and to establish a provincial beverage container collection and recycling program.

In 1988, *The Litter Control Act* was amended to create the program for recycling designated containers. Designated

beverage containers include non-refillable alcohol, wine, beer, soft drink, water, tea, and juice containers. The program imposes the obligation to pay and collect a refundable deposit and an environmental handling charge on any designated beverage container. The money that is collected through the program is the funding source for the beverage container collection and recycling program operated by SARCAN.

Last spring this legislature passed amendments to *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* that will see the incorporation of *The Litter Control Act* into *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*. At this time however, amendments to the existing litter control Act are needed to address a lawsuit related to environmental handling charges.

The claim asserts that the environmental handling charges collected by the province under *The Litter Control Act* are actually a tax and not a fee. The proposed amendments retroactively negate the lawsuit and future lawsuits. But more importantly, the amendments will provide clarity to the original intention of the government regarding environmental handling charges for the purpose for the provincial beverage container program.

On December 31st, 2009, a law firm issued a statement of claim against the province. The statement of claim is seeking to recover the environmental handling charges imposed and collected under authority contained in *The Litter Control Act*. The claim is brought on behalf of a restaurant company that purchased liquor for resale on its premises. The statement of claim contends that the vendor should not be subject to the environmental handling charges because they do not meet the definition of a purchaser as stated in the Act.

In the Act, a purchaser is defined as a person who purchases a beverage in a designated container for one of three purposes. It could be purchased for his or her own consumption. It could be purchased for consumption by other people at the purchaser's expense, or it could be purchased on behalf of or as an agent for a principal who desires to acquire a beverage in the designated container for consumption by the principal or by other people at the principal's expense.

The claim also contends that the rates of the environmental handling charges do not correspond to the costs associated with the collection and recycling of beverage containers. Furthermore, the statement of claim asserts that the beverage container program's environmental handling charges are a legislatively unauthorized tax and an indirect tax.

In 1998 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that a fee must be related to the cost of the service delivered to be constitutionally valid. If this relationship does not exist, the fee is a tax and must be authorized in legislation and not through regulation.

Since 1998, the province has retained surplus environmental handling charges within the General Revenue Fund. The suit is seeking restitution of the environmental handling charges paid and associated damages. This single claim of \$2,200 is not significant in its amount. However if this lawsuit included all vendors who purchased liquor for resale on their premises — bars, casinos, clubs, and restaurants, etc. — the estimated

amount of the claim is substantial. In fact it could be well over \$1 million. A potential financial liability of approximately \$350,000 per year would be at risk every year the legislation is not changed.

The statement of claim was reviewed by lawyers in the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. They are of the opinion that the action has merit, because since 1998 the province has consistently recovered significantly more revenue than was actually required to operate the beverage container recycling program. They are also of the opinion that it is probable a court would consider the environmental handling charges to be a tax.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has concluded that retroactive amendments to *The Litter Control Act* and changes to the relevant sections of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* were required to address the situation. The appropriate changes to *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* were introduced and passed as House amendments in this Assembly last spring. The amendments being proposed in *The Litter Control Amendment Act* would ensure that the environmental handling charges are collected legally and would also clarify who is responsible for paying them.

The original wording of *The Litter Control Act* is unclear as to whether it is the beverage or the container that is the subject of an environmental handling charge. The amendments in this Bill will provide necessary clarity to the original intent by specifying that it is the purchaser of the container who is responsible for paying, not the consumer of the beverage. In addition, a change is needed that establishes the environmental handling charges for specific container types within the Act. By setting out the values of the environmental handling charges in the Act, it ensures that the charges are valid if they are characterized by a court as a tax.

These amendments are required to cover the transition period until the new environmental management and protection Act is proclaimed and *The Litter Control Act* is thereby repealed.

The government's ability to collect environmental handling charges is essential to the operation of the province-wide beverage container recycling program. This is a program that the citizens of this province take full advantage of and which is integral to the protection of our environment. The environmental handling charges are used to fund the work of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres and in particular its recycling division, SARCAN Recycling. SARCAN has been contracted by the government to collect and recycle beverage, designated beverage containers and to provide deposit refund services under the program.

The statement of claim that I described could potentially jeopardize the financial viability and sustainability of the beverage container collection and recycling program, which has been in operation in the province since 1988. A successful claim could have a negative impact on the operation of SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres] and its recycling division.

The proposed amendments to *The Litter Control Act* will not result in changes to the operation of the beverage container

collection and recycling program. Rather they will ensure that the legislative and regulatory intent for the administration and operation of the program is maintained. Businesses that were obligated to collect and remit the environmental handling charges and refundable deposits prior to the implementation of the amendments will remain obligated to do so if the proposed amendments are enacted.

In addition, the proposed amendments will have no effect on consumers as the amount of the environmental handling charges remain the same as they were prior to the amendments. If the proposed amendments are approved, any future revisions to the amount of the environmental handling charges will be achieved through amendments to the Act.

I reiterate, the proposed amendments will not result in a change in policy. They will rather ensure that the original legislative and regulatory intent for the administration and operation of the beverage container collection and recycling program is maintained. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for the Environment has moved that Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thought maybe I was on the wrong Bill for a minute there, but I think I am, by the minister's comments. I want to thank the minister for his comments. He was fairly thorough in making explanation as to what the changes are on Bill 144, and it's important to make sure that the integrity of *The Litter Control Act* and the system of environmental handling charges and refundable deposits is maintained.

I don't think anyone in Saskatchewan hasn't travelled somewhere else. And I remember quite clearly . . . Previously, Mr. Speaker, before being elected, I worked in retail. And if you ever tried to explain to an angry customer environmental handling charges — what they were used for, how they were calculated or how they were collected, and also deposits — it was fairly time consuming many, many times, Mr. Speaker, when the legislation was first put in place and many people didn't understand the importance or maybe didn't appreciate the importance of having the environmental charge and also the deposits attached to containers in the province of Saskatchewan.

But I remember quite clearly being away in a different province which did not have deposits at the time, and there wasn't quite the emphasis that there is nowadays on recycling, and I was shocked by the amount of pop bottles, cans, containers that were overflowing out of garbage cans. It was just something that we very seldom ever saw and see here in Saskatchewan because people are quite conscientious, and there are people that spend time picking up bottles and cans that are discarded. And it's an important part of keeping our province clean and the environment clean and also recycling materials that are without a doubt reusable, and saving landfill and saving the environment.

Mr. Speaker, so it's interesting, the minister's comments on *The*

Litter Control Act and the amendments being proposed.

And I guess when I was first looking at the background information, wondering why environmental handling charges were being left in the legislation but yet deposits . . . Well environmental is moving from regulation into legislation, but the specific recyclables is left in regulation and also the amounts of deposits that are attached to those containers is left within the regulation.

And, Mr. Speaker, we know that the existing legislation allows the government to increase or decrease both the environmental handling charges and the refundable deposits, but that this proposed Bill moves the schedule of environmental handling charges for containers into the legislation and takes away the government's ability to change those in regulation, so it would have to be brought to the legislature. So there was a number of questions as to why that was being done. It does though allow the government to continue to set the refundable deposit by regulation or by cabinet order.

I think the biggest questions that arose out of this piece of legislation when my colleagues and I were having discussion on it was the whole idea of the provision that it introduces which prevents anyone from suing the government to recover environmental handling charges, and that it's retroactive to April 1st, 1998, which is somewhat unusual. And I would have to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is, I think, a fairly serious matter to change the law retroactively and to limit people's rights to take legal action.

[16:45]

Now there could be a very good reason for this, but we need to really look at the legislation in detail and discuss and consider, I think, the implications of this retroactivity provision that's in this piece of legislation. And that's a fairly big red flag when you're talking about retroactivity that goes back 12 years. It's a fair length of time.

Now we had done a bit of supposing and wondering why this may be in place or why the minister is looking at putting it in place, and we felt that it could be the result of a court decision. There was one a number of years ago, and I think the minister referred to it, that went to the Supreme Court that talked about service fees collected for specific purposes could not exceed the cost to government of delivering that service. He also referred to one that was ongoing, a court case that was ongoing.

So all of these need to be considered when we look at this piece of legislation. And I wondered first-hand, I guess, if this was going to be part of the government's new . . . They have talked about a provincial recycling program, and if the changes are necessary for that. But it truly just sounds like the minister is addressing the issue of the court challenge and the legal aspects of the operation of this piece of legislation.

But it is going to be interesting when we see the proposals that are put forward for the provincial multi-material recycling, how that will affect municipalities and how it will affect communities and if it will actually meet the needs of those communities. Because it is a large task, and there are different expectations from different communities and different

municipalities.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's just the first couple of steps have been taken. I'm sure that we will see on this piece of legislation . . . The minister made the comments about *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, which it will be rolled into eventually. So while we're dealing with this issue specifically today, which looks like it does just deal with the legal aspect of the environmental handling charges, I'm sure this Act will be back before this legislature in the not too distant future as we move ahead with other plans and other commitments that the government has signalled that they want.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there . . . My colleagues have a few other comments on this piece of legislation and I'm sure there are other questions that we need to . . . and information gathered and questions for committee. But as of today I'll adjourn debate so other colleagues will have an opportunity to rise and make comment.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 148 — *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2010*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Agriculture minister.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of Bill No. 148, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2010*.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of Saskatchewan livestock producers provide exceptional care for their animals. They recognize that providing feed, water, and shelter is the humane thing to do. In addition, Mr. Speaker, they make their living raising livestock. Properly caring for their animals benefits their bottom line.

While there have been instances of animal abuse, I am pleased to say that these cases are rare. However when animal neglect occurs, it hurts the industry as a whole. It casts a black eye on all farmers and ranchers in Saskatchewan and raises our agriculture profile in a negative way.

In 2009 the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals prepared a report which noted an increase in the number of serious investigations involving livestock neglect. At least seven animal neglect investigations resulted in charges being laid last year. For example, Mr. Speaker, in March of last year, over 200 head of cattle were found deceased, and another 288 head were seized from a farm near Outlook. While the court imposed a fine of \$5,000 to each individual involved in the case and prohibited them from owning livestock for 10 years, this government and the livestock industry believe such extreme cases warrant even further recourse. Other animal neglect cases last year involved other livestock such as horses,

and others involved pets such as dogs.

Mr. Speaker, our government is very concerned every time we hear of a case where animal welfare is threatened. Animal owners have a responsibility to provide adequate care for their animals, and we know that the vast majority of animal owners fulfill this responsibility and do provide the necessary care.

However if there are cases where people can no longer care for their animals, there are options available. They can call the Saskatchewan SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals], or they can often call on neighbours or friends for their support, or they can call our Ministry of Agriculture staff to discuss options. Mr. Speaker, neglect is certainly not an option.

Consequently the Ministry of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Saskatchewan SPCA, have taken a number of steps in order to decrease incidences of animal neglect and abuse. These steps included a review of *The Animal Protection Act, 1999* and consultations with a wide range of livestock groups during the winter of 2009-2010.

Mr. Speaker, the Act was last reviewed 10 years ago. A lot has changed in agriculture in that time, and so we felt it was important to review this legislation. The review and consultations resulted in a clear recommendation to increase the penalties for people convicted of animal neglect.

A further round of consultations took place in 2010. We received written statements from 15 livestock organizations supporting changes to *The Animal Protection Act*. The letters of support were received from the Saskatchewan SPCA, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders' Association, the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, the Saskatchewan Bison Association, Saskatchewan Egg Producers, Saskatchewan Livestock Association, the Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, Sask Pork, the Sask Sheep Development Board, the Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan and the Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan.

While views differed on the amount of maximum fine, all organizations supported the overall concept to increase both the monetary penalty and the maximum prison term that may be imposed by the courts for those convicted of animal neglect. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to maintaining a high standard of animal health and welfare in Saskatchewan.

With respect to protecting animals in comparison to similar legislation in other provincial jurisdictions, Saskatchewan currently has the oldest set of penalty standards among the provinces, places in the lowest quarter regarding the maximum fine available to the courts when sentencing offenders, and ranks as one of the lowest provinces regarding prison terms available to the courts when sentencing convicted offenders.

The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2010 will address these issues. It will create a deterrent in order to reduce incidence of animal neglect and abuse, and it will bring us in line with the regulations in other parts of the country. In fact the new proposed penalties would put Saskatchewan among the leaders

in the country in animal protection.

The proposed changes include increasing the maximum court-imposed fine for contravention of the Act or regulation from \$5,000 for a first offence and \$10,000 for a second offence, and subsequent offences to \$25,000 for each offence. The maximum imprisonment period will also increase from six months to a maximum of two years. Mr. Speaker, as I said, these new penalties are among the strictest in the country. In comparison to our neighbours, both Alberta and Manitoba have maximum fine levels of \$20,000. No other province has higher maximum imprisonment terms than what we are proposing.

In addition to increasing penalties, the new legislation broadens the scope of who can be held accountable under the Act. Currently the Act states, "no person responsible for an animal shall cause or permit that animal to be or to continue to be in distress." We are changing it to state, no person, including any person responsible for an animal, shall cause or permit an animal to be or to continue to be in distress. Mr. Speaker, this proposed amendment is important, as it will ensure in legislation that all people, not just those responsible for the animals, are held accountable if an animal is neglected. The Saskatchewan SPCA has been especially supportive of this amendment.

This legislation also ensures the courts can prohibit convicted offenders from owning animals for any period of time. This includes life. Owning animals, whether livestock or pets, comes with responsibility, and prohibiting these convicted of abuse from owning animals in the future is a potential consequence of ignoring those responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, these proposed amendments are important in addressing the issues of animal neglect and abuse.

We also recognize that animal welfare management is important. The Ministry of Agriculture provides funding to the Saskatchewan SPCA on an annual basis to support the investigation of welfare complaints involving livestock. In order to better help Saskatchewan SPCA support activities directly related to animal welfare management, the Ministry of Agriculture is increasing its annual maximum funding contribution over the remainder of its agreement with the Saskatchewan SPCA.

The ministry will increase its funding to the Saskatchewan SPCA by up to \$90,000 this fiscal year and up to \$150,000 in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. This represents a funding increase of 111 per cent since 2007-2008. It is imperative that the Saskatchewan SPCA is able to respond to animal neglect complaints in a very timely manner. This new funding will help them with the overall resources necessary to effectively investigate these complaints.

Mr. Speaker, our ministry has an excellent working relationship with the SPCA, and we value and appreciate the service they provide. I hope this increased funding will help them carry out the good work that they do.

Mr. Speaker, taking care of our animals is not only the humane thing to do. It is also important in the relation to market access. On a national and international basis, more countries and companies are looking to animal welfare as a factor in market

access and consumer preference. We certainly do not want the few producers who do not take proper care of their animals to restrict access for the majority of producers who do provide adequate feed, water, and shelter. Nor do we want to go easy on individuals guilty of animal neglect.

Mr. Speaker, the agriculture industry and I believe that we need to implement stronger penalties for cases of animal abuse. People that do not take animal welfare seriously need to hear that message. I have already received several emails and phone calls to our office supporting these amendments. One case of animal abuse is too many. And this new legislation will help our industry better prevent cases of animal neglect.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 148, *The Animal Protection Act, 2010* be read a second time. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has moved that Bill 148, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2010* be read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I listened with interest to the minister's second reading speech on Bill No. 148, *The Animal Protection Act* and the amendments that are being proposed. Mr. Speaker, obviously there's a lot more to this Bill than on first glance. When you look at it, it's not even a full page for heaven's sakes.

And the big point is where it used to be the responsibility purely of the owner. But it talks about "no person responsible for an animal shall cause or permit the animal to be or to continue to be in distress." And I think many people are aware of a couple instances that happened across the province — and the minister referred to a couple of them — and whether it was actually the owner or some other person who was responsible for the distress that the animals may have been in. And the really outdated definition that . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The time being 5 o'clock, this House is now recessed until 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

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