

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Second Session — Thirteenth Legislature
30th Day

Wednesday, March 26, 1958

The House met at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Before the Orders of the Day:

Mr. E.I. Wood (Swift Current): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to draw your attention to a slight error in the report of this morning's 'Leader-Post'. The figure quoted here for the amount of debentures by the Provincial Government of school debentures is 15.1 per cent, as quoted by the paper. It is quite possible that I mumble slightly in my beard, and it is quite possible that the acoustics of this House are not too clear, but the actual figures for the amount of school debentures purchased by the Provincial Government is 28.1 per cent.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. John J. Harrop (Athabasca): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I beg to ask the House for leave of absence next week. There is no plane out on Tuesday, and it would be impossible for me to get back until Thursday morning, and it is a long way to come for just one day's sitting.

(Agreed)

CORRECTION OF PRESS REPORT

Mr. F.E. Foley (Turtleford): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to an article which appeared in yesterday's 'Leader-Post' entitled: "Action Urged to House Collection of Paintings." It is my opinion that this article conveys many erroneous impressions of what I consider to be an extremely fine and worthwhile Art Gallery. It attributes to myself several derogatory remarks which I never made, and which I feel have misrepresented the true picture of the studio and its contents. In the first place, some hon. member described it as 'an old barn'. Unfortunately, this remark

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was attributed to myself in the 'Leader-Post' article, and I must categorically deny having made it, and defend the studio. It certainly is far from being an old barn. The truth of the matter is, it is a large stuccoed hall with many large windows; and it is decorated on the outside with many of Mr. Imhoff's own murals and frescos. It is true the exterior is faded, but many of the murals can still be seen.

In the second place, I never suggested that the studio be moved elsewhere. I believe it was the hon. member for Regina (Mrs. Cooper) or the member for The Battlefords (Mr. Kramer), who may have suggested that; and I want to dissociate myself from that statement also. I am confident that the Imhoff family and the people of St. Walburg want the studio maintained at its present site, as a permanent memorial to the greatness of the late Mr. Berthold Imhoff, the famous painter.

The statement that the gallery and its paintings are rotting and deteriorating fast, which also unfortunately appears in this article, was made, I believe, by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Nollet), and not by myself.

Hon. Mr. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, I did not say the paintings were rotting; I said there is some deterioration through lack of proper care, and the family recognizes that, too.

Mr. Foley: — I appreciate that, sir. I merely felt that the wording as it appeared in the 'Leader-Post' article was unfortunate to say the least, and does put the studio and the people who have cared for and guarded it these many years in a rather unfortunate light. In regard to the condition of the paintings, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to quote a very short article here . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order! I think the hon. member is trying to dissociate himself with a matter on which he did not agree.

Mr. Foley: — I would just like to say that an art critic from Winnipeg describes the conditions of the paintings as extremely good, in spite of the number of years they have been housed there.

My main purpose in drawing this to the attention of the Minister of Tourist Affairs was to emphasize its importance, not only as a tourist attraction, but also as a monument to the achievements of Mr. Imhoff, and I would urge the Tourist Branch to give all possible recognition to this famous man by assisting in the maintenance and preservation of the studio and its contents at its present site.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 o'clock p.m.