

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Third Session — Fourteenth Legislature
8th Day

Monday, March 5, 1962

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

ON ORDERS OF THE DAY

QUESTION: RE ACCESS ROADS

Mr. W.R. Thatcher (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Highways. In view of the extreme hardship being caused by business men on the new limited access road on No. 1 highway east, has the government given any consideration to permitting additional crossroads or access roads?

Hon. Mr. Willis (Minister of Highways): — We have given consideration Mr. Speaker, but we haven't seen fit to allow any additional access roads as yet.

Mr. McDonald (Moosomin): — In view of the minister's answer, I would like to ask him if he is aware of the fact that one international concern, who were contemplating building a \$3 million spread on the south side of the Trans Canada Highway, if this wouldn't be an incentive for the minister to change his attitude?

Hon. Mr. Willis: — Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such development taking place here.

STATEMENT: RE CONDITION OF NO. 16 HIGHWAY

Mr. D.T. McFarlane (Qu'Appelle-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I would like to direct the Minister of Highways attention to a very treacherous piece of highway and I refer of course to that piece of highway on No. 16 between

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the towns of Candiatic and Montmartre. There have been a great many accidents there within the last two weeks, due to severe icing conditions. This matter was brought to my attention over the weekend and I would like to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Highways and ask if something couldn't be done immediately to fix up that stretch of highway. It requires sanding in the worst way and especially one curve has caused a great deal of trouble.

Hon. Mr. Willis: — I am glad to have the information, Mr. Speaker, and we will do what we can to fix this stretch of highway.

NEWSPAPER CORRECTION

Hon. Mr. Blakeney (Provincial Treasurer): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are proceeded with I would like to take the opportunity to correct the report which appeared in the Leader-Post of, I believe, Saturday last, entitled, "The Air Will Be Blue", and suggesting that in some way the license plates and the holes in the license plates had been changed in a way which would cause inconvenience to motorists. I have to advise the house that the plates which will be issued in the forthcoming year will be precisely the same in size, dimension and dimension of holes as the plates of the previous year and that this report and the story based upon it is wholly erroneous.

QUESTION: RE ACCESS ROADS

Mr. W.R. Thatcher (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to one I asked earlier to the Minister of Highways, referring again to this access highway going east. Does the minister know that there have been a number of businesses which have been forced to close their doors as a result of this highway? In view of that fact, would his department not give consideration once again, to allowing one or two access roads so that people can get into these places of business?

Hon. Mr. Willis: — Mr. Speaker, we know one business which has closed. We have given consideration to more access roads — we turned

them down because of the safety of the travelling public. We think that the road is hazardous enough now, and we would hate to do anything to make it more so. In the past we have given this full consideration and we haven't been able to come up with any further accesses to No. 1 highway.

QUESTION: RE SALES TAX

Mr. W.R. Thatcher (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I would like to direct a question to the Provincial Treasurer. Has the minister received any representations from border area merchants to the effect that the 5 per cent sales tax is causing them great hardship, and losing them business to other provinces? If so, what steps if any has his department taken to alleviate the situation?

Hon. Mr. Blakeney (Provincial Treasurer): — Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member can place his question on the order paper. I don't see that this is a matter of urgent public business, and if he will, I will attempt to answer it according to the rules of the house.

Mr. Speaker: — The hon. Provincial Treasurer has a point well taken.

Mr. Thatcher: — Could I speak to the point before you rule, Mr. Speaker? My point is that if this keeps on some of these merchants are going to be out of business. This matter is therefore urgent, I would say. It is a legitimate question on orders of the day. If the minister is going to do something let him tell the house what action he contemplates.

Premier Lloyd: — On a point of order Mr. Speaker. Surely the use of this particular period of time is restricted to answering questions which have some degree of urgency or relevancy which means that they can be better asked at this time than put on the order paper at the regular time.

Mr. Speaker: — I have to agree that there

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are questions being asked on the orders of the day which would be better placed on the order paper, because the minister would have to consult his staff. He cannot give a direct answer in the house. To answer questions such as has been raised at this time it would be necessary, in my opinion, for the minister to consult his staff for a detailed record; therefore, I think that type of question should be on the order paper.

Mr. Thatcher: — Mr. Speaker, I agree with you, but that isn't such a question. He shouldn't need to consult his staff to answer that one.

Mr. Speaker: — Order!

QUESTION: RE COMMUNITY WELLS

Mr. D.T. McFarlane (Qu'Appelle-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question before the orders of the day, and I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I feel this is of very great importance at the present time due to a great deal of misunderstanding and apprehension with regard to the winter works program insofar as it concerns community wells. Now there are a great many communities that have brought this to my attention over the weekend that don't know what the procedure will be from here on in. These wells are being put in and they are supposed to be developed . .

Mr. Speaker: — The member may ask a question, but we cannot have a speech on it.

Mr. McFarlane: — I was just clarifying my question for the minister. What concerns them is developing the wells and putting in the cement work. As hon. members know the weather has been most adverse.

Mr. Speaker: — Would the hon. member state his question and not elaborate on it please.

Mr. McFarlane: — I am doing that right now. I was just saying that the weather has been adverse for cement work. In

view of that would the minister state whether this program will be carried on after the April 1st deadline?

Hon. Mr. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — I would suggest the hon. member ask a question without a speech. The federal government has ruled that the cut-off date would be March 31st. I have taken the matter up with Mr. Hamilton and I haven't had a reply yet — suggesting to him that the cut-off date be extended two months after April 1st to give municipalities who have got into the emergency program a chance to complete their well development work. I haven't had a reply yet.

Mr. McFarlane: — Could I ask a supplementary question? In the event that you don't get a reply from the minister, is there not somebody in his department who could furnish this information?

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I think there is Mr. Speaker, but I have been finding it very difficult to get replies for some reason or other, on urgent matters from the hon. minister at Ottawa.

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

Mr. J.H. Staveley (Weyburn): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I would like to draw to your attention and to the attention of all members of this legislature, a group of fourteen students, accompanied by two of their teachers from Western Christian College. Western Christian College is situated approximately four miles from the city of Weyburn, at the Weyburn airport. The objective of Western Christian is to make a contribution to our nation and to the church by instituting a program which offers our youth academic excellence enriched with social and spiritual education. Emphasis is placed on the high ideals of Christian living, Mr. Speaker, the objective being to produce individuals of character and integrity and with the edicts of the Bible as the basis of good citizenship. Students come from all over the North American continent and I am sure that you and the members of the legislature would like to join with me today in extending best wishes to this fine group of young people and express the hope that their experience today will be very enjoyable and fruitful.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: RE ESTEVAN BRICK PLANT

Hon. J.H. Brockelbank (Minister of Mineral Resources): — Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all hon. members of the house will be very pleased to know that the brick plant at Estevan has commenced operations today and they are making goods and they will be in operation from now on.

Although some hon. members were very prompt on bringing other kind of information to the house . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — You told us they never closed Brock.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — . . . I was afraid that I would have to bring this myself.

An Hon. Member: — How long will it be open Brock?

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — There is a lot else you don't know too.

Mr. Speaker: — Order!

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — It would make a big book.

DEBATE ON ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Berezowsky, seconded by Mr. Thurston.

Mr. Arthur Thibault (Kinistino): — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join with the members who preceded me in congratulating you on your appointment to your high office. The people of your constituency have every reason to be proud of your appointment to this office. I am personally proud because you were my first seat-mate in this house.

At this time I would like to join my colleagues to welcome the new member from Weyburn (Mr. Staveley) into this chamber. I also take great pleasure in congratulating my seat-mate the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Berezowsky) and my colleague the hon. member for Lumsden

(Mr. Thurston) for the excellent job they did in moving and seconding the Address in Reply.

I must also congratulate the Premier for the magnificent way in which he is managing the affairs of our province. Mr. Speaker, because this is the first opportunity that I have had to speak on radio time since my election, I would like to thank the people of my constituency for placing their confidence in me to represent them in this legislature for the present term.

Mr. Speaker, when I was reeve of my municipality, it was always my practice to keep in close contact with the people and to learn about their problems, and this way I could do the best job helping them, regardless of their political affiliations. I have always applied the same principle since I have been elected a member of the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the municipal councils of towns and villages have co-operated very closely with me, as well as other groups in matters of public need. Words cannot express my pleasure and gratitude for this attitude of co-operation. The resolutions and suggestions that have come to me from local governments, going on record in favour of the medical plan as proposed by the provincial government have given me much encouragement.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Thibault: — Mr. Speaker, as one who has always been interested in the youth of our country and the welfare of youth — and I consider young people as our most precious resource, I want to congratulate the Domremy high school girls, in being successful in bringing the high school championship in curling for Saskatchewan. The team is composed of Maureen McGrath, skip, Therese Blerot, second Collette Marsechal, third, Lucille Beauchane lead. Another team in my constituency which I have not mentioned on air time, which I want to name now, and which I am most happy to congratulate is the Yellow Creek high school boys, who took the soccer championship for 1961 in this province. Kinistino, as you well see, Mr. Speaker, is a constituency of champions.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Thibault: — Mr. Speaker, I think my people should know that

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I have had wonderful co-operation with the ministers of this government. Particularly, I want to thank the Hon. L.F. McIntosh, the former Minister of Municipal Affairs for his favourable consideration which brought sewer and water to the towns of Kinistino, Birch Hills, Wakaw and the village of St. Louis. The financial assistance from the same department has given us many miles of grid road at a cost of many thousands of dollars, most of which came from the province. I must say that this was done only by the co-operation of both levels of government and I want to remind the opposition that according to the Leader-Post of March 8th, 1956, their stand was that the CCF grid road program was only a mirage to win an election. They said it was something like shaking a carrot in front of a balky donkey to get him going. Apparently they did not have the foresight to see that what they thought could not be done, could be done by this government.

I was reeve of the municipality of Invergordon when this program was approved by the S.A.R.M. and the provincial government, and I can assure you, sir, that I was one of the delegates who voted in favour of it. I could almost say that the grid road program was the downfall of the president of the S.A.R.M. at that time, because there was some inclination by him to use the grid road program for political purposes and municipal men are not interested in politics at the local government level.

Mr. Speaker, now I would like to say to the Minister of Highways, that my people are pleased with the highway program and on behalf of my people I want to thank the Minister of Highways for the completion of No. 3 highway, the oiling job, and the completion of No. 20 highway to the junction of No. 2. I hope that as soon as conditions permit that No. 44 trail will be included in the highway system. I am warning the minister with all good grace that I shall continue to make representations for this project as long as I am here.

One other problem that I would like to get the government to pay attention to, that is common in the northern parts of Saskatchewan, is the excessive snowfall. This creates a problem for municipalities and snow plow clubs, and I think that the department should give further study to assist the regions that have this problem.

I would also thank the Minister of Telephones for bringing dial telephones to Birch Hills, Kinistino and Wakaw, and if the minister visits my constituency, I can assure him that he will be most welcome.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Thibault: — Mr. Speaker, our people are most happy to have experienced the completion of rural electrification and much of the credit should go to the minister in charge. We have also been fortunate to obtain natural gas for a number of communities — Wakaw, Domremy, Hoey, St. Louis, Birch Hills, Kinistino and Beatty, and I would like to see the same service extended to the village of Hagen and Weldon, at an early date.

Another amenity that is coming to our area is the sewer and water program for farm homes. We should never forget that the Hon. I.C. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture, worked long and hard to get this program for farm home underway in Saskatchewan. My people appreciate this program because it means so much to them to make life more abundant. Farm people, Mr. Speaker, are just as entitled to these services as are the people in the cities and towns. This department has also given every possible assistance to the communities to obtain water, as was the case in Birch Hills, where the water was pumped from the Saskatchewan River to fill the community dugout. These services will go a long way in keeping the families of the communities together.

Last and not least, I want to thank the former Minister of Public Health in the wonderful work that he has done in my constituency in improving hospitals by valuable extensions and additions. You will recall Mr. Speaker, that a year ago, I brought a resolution suggesting driver training promotion. I am pleased to report, Sir, that this suggestion received wonderful co-operation from my constituency and that the towns of Birch Hills and Kinistino have taken the first step to providing such training. I am sure that their efforts will bear much good fruit.

Having said a few words that are of interest to my constituency in particular, I now would like to touch upon more general matters. The behaviour of the opposition is amusing and sometimes tragic. Some vote one way and some vote the other — with that I have no quarrel. But Mr. Speaker, what nauseated me last year was when one

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member in the opposition got up and intimated that his job was to sabotage everything this government was trying to do. Mr. Speaker, my life would be meaningless if I came here to sabotage anything a government was trying to do in the interests of the people, no matter what side of the house I sat. I will contribute all I can to my constituency, to Saskatchewan and to Canada to make this land a better and happier place to live in.

The people of my constituency do not look at matters — whether they are left or right, but they judge them whether they are right or wrong. You will recall that in the fall session last year the opposition howled about the fact that the backbenchers did not take much time in debating the medical care plan. Mr. Speaker, the medical care plan was decided at the election and our job was to come here and put it into effect.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Thibault: — It was not up to us to hold it up and for the delaying tactics of the opposition in trying to stop this plan, they are the ones who will have to answer to our people. Some say that the doctors are going to leave Saskatchewan, but I will say this, that in my constituency a large area has had municipal doctors for many years. I haven't heard any complaints against these plans, and I have every reason to believe that they will be just as satisfied with the provincial plan. I hope that the medical plan will be there for those who need it, and for the glory of those who don't need it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about local government reorganization. Prior to the holding of the meetings by the continuing committee, I was asked many times by my constituents what I thought of reorganization. My advice in all cases was that they should attend the meetings of the continuing committee. There they could ask questions and also voice their opinion. I attended the meetings in my area in order to be well acquainted with the whole situation so that when the question came before us as members of the legislature, we would be in a position to make sound decisions. I thought that it was wrong for a member of the legislature to voice an opinion at a time when the committee had representations from all local governing groups and was holding meetings in order to present their report to the government. I think that members of the legislature

should have been keeping their nose out of the whole affair until the committee had completed its work and presented its case to the government. Then I felt it would be the proper time for members to speak up. I know that some members opposite were trying to make a political football out of the whole affair. I label these tactics as just cheap politics.

Mr. Speaker, as one who has spent many years with local government, I know that the grassroots of democracy are in local government. If we want democracy to survive we must have strong local government. I have no time for a member who thinks only of his personal pride and has absolutely no regard for the welfare of the country as a whole.

Mr. McCarthy: — Who is that?

Mr. McDonald: — The member for Kinistino (Mr. Thibault)?

Mr. Thibault: — Mr. Speaker, I have been interrupted many times but I think I should remind the members — may I say that these interruptions are an abuse of radio broadcasting. It is a disrespect to the listening public and an interference with the purpose for which radio broadcasting was established.

Mr. McDonald: — It is a disrespect to read your speech.

Mr. Thibault: — I am not reading. May I point out that the purpose of broadcasting is to give the people of a constituency a chance to hear their member. It also gives a chance to learn about the questions before the legislature and to hear the issues from both sides. For this reason I strongly object to interference by the members, especially when we are on the air.

Mr. Speaker, now that I have been interrupted, my time is slipping on, I want to point this out that now that the report of the continuing committee has been handed in to the government, I want to make this abundantly clear — and I can say this, that legislation should be brought in, that we have enabling legislation so that any area that wants to form a different type of local government can do so after a vote has been taken . . .

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

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Mr. Thibault: — . . . and that the towns and villages be given a choice to stay in or to stay out. Those are some of the principles that I would like brought into the legislation at this session.

Mr. McDonald: — You have had a change of heart.

Mr. Thibault: — Not me.

Mr. MacDougall: — You are on the wrong side of the house then.

Mr. Thibault: — Mr. Speaker, I cannot sit down without taking a few minutes to talk about our new national leader.

Mr. McDonald: — Who is that?

Mr. Thibault: — I cannot take my seat without mentioning the Mr. T.C. Douglas, who in spite of what the members opposite say, did not abandon the ship. Mr. Speaker, we are living at a time when the world has reached the crossroads, where it has to choose between living together in peace or blowing itself into eternity. We in our constituency executive meeting decided that we would be very selfish indeed to hold this man in Saskatchewan, recognizing him as we did as not only a provincial leader, but a national leader, and even a world figure. It is with these thoughts in mind Mr. Speaker, that I take great pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. H.A. Broten (Watrous): — Mr. Speaker, first I would like to join other hon. members in congratulating you on your election to your high position. May I say you have fully earned and deserve this appointment.

I too, would like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion, who both made a good presentation on behalf of the government, a government led by a new Premier, who proved himself a good administrator and was unanimously elected leader by the members of our party. I wish him well and congratulate him at this time.

As this has been my first opportunity to speak on the air to the electors of the Watrous constituency since my election I would like to thank them for their support at election time and also for their co-operation since that time. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to be associated with this side of the house for several reasons. First because we have the necessary freedom of expression for political action, and second the desire to put into effect adequate social legislation, a desire which some people on the other side of the house may have also, but because they are so closely associated with big business and party organization and the involvement of campaign funds, they do not have the necessary freedom to propose and implement humane social legislation which demonstrates a social consciousness such as hospitals and medical insurance legislation etc.

The Liberal governments have one by one disappeared from power throughout Canada, except in one province, and before they were voted out of power not one of them had demonstrated the social consciousness required to put in even as much as a supplemental allowance for old age before they went out of office. They have also talked of health insurance for 40 years. Twenty-two of those years they had the power to act and did not and this proves, Mr. Speaker, they were not free to do so because of being tied to the interests of big business and associates, who could well look after their own.

This freedom to act on behalf of our people, Mr. Speaker, is fundamental in our ideas in a free society, as was demonstrated by our Saskatchewan government in putting through the necessary legislation, after making the medical plan an issue in the last provincial election. I submit, as I mentioned before, that the Liberals and Tories do not have the necessary freedom, hence we have had to lead in this type of legislation and they have had to follow because of its popularity. May I also say, Mr. Speaker, that this has been demonstrated throughout the whole of Europe where Social Democrats and Labour parties have had to be in power before this type of legislation was brought forth. Do you realize sir, it is only in North America in all this old free world that this type of legislation is not in the statute books now.

Our government of Saskatchewan has proven by its action in the social sphere that we desire medical care, not for only 70 per cent of our people, but 100 per cent, hence the comprehensive compulsory plan for medical insurance.

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We do not desire only 70 per cent of our people to have medical coverage. We want 100 per cent to be covered. We do not want 30 per cent of our people who do not have medical coverage now to have to go on a means test to see if their medical expenses will be paid. This is our chief reason for opposing the arguments that our Liberal friends are putting up. We want coverage for everyone as a right, and we are in good company Mr. Speaker. Harry S. Truman, former president of the U.S.A. says in his memoirs:

“On November 19, 1945, I sent congress a message recommending a national compulsory health insurance by payroll and other deductions. Under this plan all citizens would be able to get medical and hospital services regardless of ability to pay.”

But here Mr. Speaker, it is 1962 and they can't even get a bill passed to aid the aged with medical coverage in their society. May I also say here neither have they got a government such as ours to lead the way in any of the states. Mr. Truman goes on to say regarding his bitter disappointment and I quote:

“I have had some stormy times and have engaged in many vigorous controversies. Democracy thrives on debate and political differences, but I have no patience with the reactionary, selfish people and politicians who fought year after year every proposal made to improve the people's health. I have had some bitter disappointments as President, but the one that has troubled me most in a personal way has been the failure to defeat the organized opposition for a national compulsory health insurance program, but this opposition has only delayed, and cannot stop the adoption of indispensable federal health insurance plan.”

May I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that Canada is fortunate that we on this side, being a free people and a free party, can put on the statute books legislation which President Truman could not, and other parties can't

because of a lack of desire and because of not being free agents of the people but part of special interests.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, it is not a question of socialism versus free enterprises, but it is a question of a free party. When in power we must be free enough to inaugurate the necessary legislation to help a minority group, such as farmers, and 30 per cent of our population who have not medical coverage at this time. It is also a question of helping our unemployed, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I have been speaking on the necessity of a free independent party such as the New Democratic Party. In order to carry through the necessary social and economic legislation on behalf of the citizens of Saskatchewan, I would like to bring to your attention what our former premier, Mr. T.C. Douglas, said on a broadcast to Saskatchewan on October 23, 1961, regarding the necessity of an independent broadly based party, and how important it is to Saskatchewan and to Canada, especially to farmers, and why he left provincial politics to again enter the federal field, and I quote:

“During the past year I have been increasingly concerned about the fact that the Canadian economy has ceased to expand at a time that the economies of other countries are forging ahead. I have also been concerned about the international situation, the threat of nuclear war hangs over our heads, and each day it seems to come a little closer. While no nation can avert war it seems to me that Canada has failed to promote a positive program for peace.”

He goes on to say:

“What has influenced me most, however, has been the steady decline in farm income in relation to farm costs. As you know I went into politics 26 years ago and because I was convinced that the farmers were the most exploited group in our society. I came back to Saskatchewan in 1944 because I believed we could do something to improve the lot of the farming population and I believe we have achieved a measure of success. However, helping the farmer get electrical power, better roads, schools and hospitals, does

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“not meet their basic problems of declining income. At the present time the farmers of Canada represent 12 per cent of the working force, but they receive less than a per cent of the total income. The reasons for this is not hard to find. At the turn of the century over 50 per cent of Canada’s population lived on the farm. They were a powerful voting group and we were courted by the old line party, provincial party. By 1941 the farmers represented only 31 per cent of the population, and in 1956 the Gordon Commission estimated that this had dropped to less than 14 per cent. Furthermore, the prediction is that by 1980 the farmers will constitute less than 8 per cent of our total population. This means that the farmer is no longer able to control a large block of seats in the House of Commons, and even if we could win every rural seat on the prairies, we could not hope to push an adequate agricultural program through parliament. Today the farmers must have economic allies if they are to get economic justice. Where would he find such an ally. Certainly not in the manufacturers’ associations, the mortgage companies’ associations, or the national chambers of commerce. I believe the time has come when the farmer must, with the industrial worker, the small business man, the professional white collar worker, attempt to get a fair share of the national income. That is why the New Democratic Party was formed and I am glad to say this party has pledged itself to a program of parity prices which will bear a fair relationship to the farmers . . . “

He goes on to say:

“I agreed to lead the New Democratic party because for the first time in the last quarter of a century we have a political movement which is sufficiently broad-based that it can get a square deal for the farmers in general and for the prairie farmers in particular. However, I believe that by increasing farm income we can give a stimulus to Canadian economy, thereby cure unemployment and promote economic growth.”

These words of our former premier say in a clear and ringing tone why we have a New Democratic Party and why our premier left to carry on in the federal field, and why we cannot expect to obtain from the Liberals and Conservatives the social and economic legislation necessary for the welfare of the farmers and hence the rest of the people in Saskatchewan. The small town business man and our cities are very dependent on the farmers, if they are to get an even break, will have to back the New Democratic Party with sufficient strength to gain power to get parity prices. Parity prices, sir, a hollow sound when it comes from the lips of Liberals and Conservatives, because they both had the opportunity to inaugurate it and reneged. All we get is a \$200 bribe in order to buy our vote. Mr. Speaker, what is \$200 when our production costs, inclusive of living, have gone up from 123.6 in 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures, to 256.3 in 1960, or a little more than doubled, and our price of the cereal grain are about the same all through that period? Is it any wonder Mr. Douglas felt he would have to re-enter the federal field so that the farmers' voice could be heard inside a party that in the provincial field has dedicated itself against social justice to all segments of our population. But this philosophy of benefits for all and they be put to use in the provincial field the same idea of a fair break to all which follows in the economic field as well regarding federal legislation. Therefore the farmers only hope is in the New Democratic Party which believes in righting the wrongs for minority groups.

Mr. Thatcher: — Twelve hundred new taxes too, Hans.

Mr. Broten: — As a well rounded and responsible administration for all segments of our country. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to express my thanks to the government for their consideration given to Watrous constituency, especially for the oiling of No. 2 the main street of Saskatchewan from No. 11 to the town of Watrous, and may I also urge attention to No. 2A to Manitou Beach. I wish also, to thank you for the hardtop of No. 5 from the No. 2 to Humboldt, which I believe will be finished this year. The oiling of No. 14 from Lanigan to Wolverine was appreciated, also I do urge that the oiling past the town of Plunkett, Viscount and Colonsay on No. 14 be extended this year. They also say that federal grants and other

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grants are much appreciated, especially we do need some consideration in the Bruno area.

The Wardley Brine Shrimp Company which I announced last year in the house was started at Watrous, completed their construction and have started operations and will be in full production in May this year. The products are sold through the parent company, Wardley Products of New York. The Brine Shrimp is used for fish food. We wish the company well in their endeavour.

Also may I say, come to Manitou Beach. There are over 300 cottages, a fine recreation centre, served by a fine shopping centre in Watrous, and again may I add it is on No. 2 the mainstreet of Saskatchewan.

May I say Mr. Speaker, I do support the motion.

Hon. W.G. Davies (Minister of Public Health): — Mr. Speaker, in beginning today to join this debate, may I add to what others have already said, my most sincere congratulations on your accession to the honored position to which you have been appointed. The long years of service, Mr. Speaker, that you have rendered to the people of Saskatchewan, and to of course the people of your own constituency, have undoubtedly supplied you with the most suitable background for these duties. I think too it is a fitting and a proper reward for the commendable fashion in which you have discharged your very many responsibilities throughout this whole period. I am very sure, sir, that you will fulfil your obligations and your work in the post of Speaker of this house, as faithfully and as well as you have performed in the past. I wish you, sir, the utmost success in this distinguished position.

I should also in the beginning offer my compliments to the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply. I think they did a splendid job of outlining the basic questions that confront the people of this province, and I think the two are a credit to this house as well as to their own constituency.

The speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, began by mentioning the adverse conditions created in the province by reason of the short crop in 1961. It pointed out the difficulties for the government, the difficulties for the people of Saskatchewan. At the same time it seems to me that it illustrated very well the fact that in spite

of these circumstances Saskatchewan has seen continued development and that there has been a forward move in many aspects of our amenities and the general provincial economy. A betterment of our road systems, further advances in the expansion of natural gas and electric power, growth of the rural sewer and water system, as well as a rise in money spent on education and health, are only a few examples of this very beneficial forward movement.

I would just briefly like to refer to my own constituency of Moose Jaw City, and I think Mr. Speaker you will know that the people of the friendly city, as we call it, and those in the area, have been very pleased to see the improvements of this last year that have taken place in the region. The widening and resurfacing of No. 2 highway north to Tuxford, the oiling of No. 39 highway to Corrine, have been I think significant changes. The decision to go ahead with a \$1.4 million expansion at the technical institute in my city is equally promising. Another major item has been the purchase of the government of an additional parcel of land at Buffalo Lake so as to provide a total of 950 acres for a public park development. I am sure this is going to do much for the public enjoyment, not only for the people of Moose Jaw, but in the surrounding districts, and to provide something they can use for their leisure hours. In respect of this last matter I am hoping it will be possible, Mr. Speaker, to secure further advantages that will supplement those that have already been granted.

Now during the past year the work of the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health has continued to increase, in keeping with the programs which are supplied and offered to the end of getting the best standard of health for the people of the province, and therefore I suggest, Sir, increasing the opportunities of Saskatchewan people for happiness, because it seems to me it is not possible to have one without having the other. The 13 health regions, or perhaps more properly the 13 health areas in the province which operate under the over-all supervision of the department, have I think without doubt supplied a tremendous impetus to this desirable state of healthiness. The network of services that come within these regions and within this program, using the skill and the knowledge and the capabilities of hundreds of devoted public health workers, have unquestionably reduced sickness and disability and death, in addition, of course, to making more hours available for many worthwhile activities at the discretion of our citizens.

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I want to point out here that one of the desirable side effects is, of course, augmenting production by making possible more opportunities for work because of reduced sickness.

I think Sir, that the importance of a public health apparatus, especially of a continuing and a functioning one, is not always realized, nor does it seem to me that we always recognize what this means to producing a high standard of healthiness in our communities. I should like to provide this one single example of what I think is important in this respect, and I am going to refer to immunization procedures as they have been applied during the course of the last several years. In 1923, Mr. Speaker, there had been in Canada up to that time about 60,000 cases of diphtheria and a very, very high rate of mortality, about 10 per cent. In that year a diphtheria toxoid was discovered. Now theoretically it should have been possible after 1923 to within an extremely short space of time eradicated this dread scourge so feared by all the mothers of Canada. Yet in 1944, 21 years after the discovery of this toxoid, there were 3223 recorded cases of diphtheria in Canada, with an accompanying 350 deaths. This I suggest was as a result of neglect in the use of the means of prevention and because we had not used the appropriate means of carrying serum and vaccine to the people of all areas in this country.

I think it will be seen from this example that it is not enough to discover the serum and the vaccines that are so helpful in combatting communicable diseases, it is not enough to have often extremely able professional people that individually pursue their professions. A well organized public health service on the other hand has proved to be absolutely indispensable in educating people to take preventive means and in taking these preventive means to the largest part of the population.

Now Sir, I don't wish to imply here that we have by any means achieved the ultimate with respect to the prevention of communicable diseases, but I do say that we have just pride to be very glad of the enormous strides that have been taken and that have had an effect for good on our people generally. Our department I may say, looks to further steps that will better these services, and improve these programs.

I was going to make this afternoon a rather extensive reference to the new Sabin vaccine for poliomyelitis.

As you know Saskatchewan has in the last several years achieved a very high standard of immunization among a large part of the population through the use of Salk vaccine. This vaccine is considered to be 85 to 90 per cent effective for those who are vaccinated, but with the remaining number of persons it has been found that it does not build up the necessary antibodies to provide protection. There is, however, coming to Canada the Sabin oral vaccine. One dose only of this vaccine is necessary, taken by mouth as I have suggested, and it is proposed, as soon as this is licensed by the federal authorities, to initiate a full program in Saskatchewan that will take advantage of what we think is an even better means of combatting poliomyelitis, and in the long run I think creating a situation where the bad effects of polio would be almost negligible for the entire population and that the incidence of the disease would become very rare.

Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne mentioned the advantages that have been made over the years in the provincial mental health program, which cites among other things the important research that is being carried on in the province. The hon. Premier, in his very impressive speech last week, has already mentioned there will be sums spent in planning a provincial research centre for mental health. Now the government is very naturally anxious to proceed with the institution of new measures and all advances that will combat mental disorders. I think the record of this province shows that this course has been pursued most sincerely. Much more of course needs to be done and I want to say the government intends to consider further moves ahead as these seem to be possible within the framework of the total responsibilities of this government.

I do regret to say Mr. Speaker, that there have sometimes been some rather irresponsible statements made about the mental health program and some of these have emanated from the ranks of the Liberal party of Saskatchewan, and for the sake of the facts I want to look at a few comparisons between the Saskatchewan record and that of other provinces.

First of all, taking into consideration mental health budgets, I am now talking about operating costs, and this is for the provinces in the fiscal year 1961-62 as we have them. We find that Saskatchewan has again led the field in the per capita expenditure on this item. Per resident we spent in the fiscal year that ended in March 31, 1961, \$11.47 for each resident of the province. This involves a total sum of \$10,479,620.00. Now Mr. Speaker, this sum almost exactly equals the combined spending of these purposes of Manitoba, Newfoundland and

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Nova Scotia.

Per capita spending of each of the provinces can be given, I think it might be useful and I think I can do that now with your permission, Mr. Speaker, with the over-all figure for Canada. The per capita figure for Newfoundland is \$4.69, Prince Edward Island \$7.13, Nova Scotia \$4.39, New Brunswick \$5.84, Quebec \$3.27, Ontario \$8.92, Manitoba \$5.75, I gave for Saskatchewan already \$11.47, Alberta \$7.63, British Columbia \$9.18, the average for Canada being \$6.77 per capita. I think that these sums alone are enough to constitute an effective answer to what I suggested as being extremely irresponsible criticism by some people who I think should know better. As well as these comparisons, I would like to refer to the very considerable sums of money that we have spent on renovations to our mental hospitals, including of course our latest changeover, the converted facilities at Prince Albert. I want to refer too to the new Mental Health Clinics that have been established in a number of centres in Saskatchewan so as to bring psychiatric services closer to the people. I think that these developments are most significant and they reflect themselves in lowering the number of persons in our mental hospitals over recent years, and the length of stay for the people that are unfortunate enough to go to the mental hospitals has been likewise decreased. In short the active treatment program that has been developed has improved the likelihood of returning the mentally ill person to his family circle and to productive society. I want to make it clear that I am citing these examples in no boastful spirit, as I know, Sir, that there are areas where we all want to see improvements, and which I have already said we will improve as soon as we have the financial ability to do so.

I did think it was necessary today to cast a little light on places where there has been a great deal of loose talk and criticism. We do need more space, but the fact remains that we have a thousand or so fewer patients in our mental institutions at North Battleford and Weyburn, than when this government took office. We want to improve our treatment facilities but the fact is that we have an incomparably better trained work force in our institutions than we had in the earlier years and we have been able, because of the increased knowledge and the vastly improved capacity, to return many of those who were suffering from mental sickness to normal and useful lives.

Before leaving this section of my talk Mr. Speaker, may I inform the house that work on the regional psychiatric hospital at Yorkton will continue this year. The initial job of making provision for basic facilities is now fairly well completed. This work has cost the province about half a million dollars to this time, with an additional amount committed. I am sure that the house will be as pleased to receive this information, as I am.

Mr. Speaker, the throne speech has commented on our work towards the introduction of a provincial medical care plan. It states properly that it will represent an important social advance for our people. Throughout this session, and of course the last special session, we have heard from our friends in the opposition the most extreme criticism, often rife with inconsistency, about our approach to this whole problem. At public meetings members of the Liberal party have continued their efforts to discredit the government in its efforts to carry out this plan. It is impossible, Sir, to escape the conviction that the Liberal party in Saskatchewan in line with the record of Liberals everywhere in Canada, is fundamentally opposed to a public medical care program.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I expect to hear a chorus of negatives after this from the members of the opposition, but it is hard to get away, Mr. Speaker, from appearances. In the midst of this corrosive attack the Liberal party has yet to say in any detail what it would do on a medical care program.

Mr. Thatcher: — You just resign and we'll show what we'll do Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Yes, indeed Mr. Speaker . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — Just resign and we will show you.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — If indeed it would do anything at all . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — We'll get a medical plan. You fellows can't.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, that isn't true.

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Mr. Speaker: — Will the hon. members please stop interrupting so the speaker can finish his speech.

Mr. Thatcher: — If you would quit speaking such nonsense . . .

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I want to say Mr. Speaker, that a public medical care plan is coming to Saskatchewan just as surely as it is coming eventually everywhere in Canada.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Because the people want that program. We have been urged by our friends opposite, I believe in the last session, to wait until a national plan comes along. What National Plan? What national plan Mr. Speaker? We have a national commission . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — Where is your plan?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — . . . which is now going around the country accepting reports from different organizations and to get their opinions on this matter. I understand it will not be reported until the next federal election. Certainly this is the most shadowy of indications. We've had over the years many more specific indications than this, if you can call them specific. After all it is almost 42 years since we had the first promise from the Liberal government for a national health plan and this promise of a program that would give 60% of the cost of the health program and the Liberal party of the day went out of office without having done anything about it. I say, Mr. Speaker, that we have had these promises but well we know that these have gone with the wind with many, many other unredeemed Liberal promises in the past.

Mr. Thatcher: — What about your sales tax promise?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — In my honest opinion . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — Five per cent tax. How about that Bill?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — . . . the best way that we can

work toward the health plan for all Canadians is to get one going in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Thatcher: — We've got the taxes, but no plan.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — That's the way we got a hospital plan and I say that if we hadn't started one here they probably wouldn't have one in effect anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Thatcher: — What one have you started here?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I say that the same thing goes for the medical care plan.

Now Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about our activities toward the plan in Saskatchewan. You know that up to the present we have not been successful in getting a meeting with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to discuss satisfactory arrangements that will meet the wishes of those who give and those who receive services under the plan.

Mr. Thatcher: — You wouldn't meet them when they wanted to meet you.

Premier Lloyd: — Would the hon. member of the opposition please be quiet.

Mr. Speaker: — I wish all members would comply with the rules of the house and not interrupt the hon. members as they are speaking.

Mr. McDonald: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that applies to the Premier just as much as it does to the Leader of the Opposition. He was on his haunches about 15 times when the Leader of the Opposition was making his address. If it is going to come from that side of the house I am sure it will come from this side.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, I will have something to say about that in a little while.

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Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Typical lies.

Mr. McDonald: — Mr. Speaker, I demand that the Minister of Agriculture withdraw that statement.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Mr. Speaker, on that point there is no member in this house that sat quieter in his seat without interrupting when the hon. Premier spoke and the hon. member from Moosomin (Mr. McDonald) knows that.

Mr. McDonald: — I ask that the member withdraw his statement.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I will withdraw it if it will make him feel better, but it's a fact Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McDonald: — I just want to tell you that you will feel a lot better having withdrawn it.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I will withdraw it.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — The Leader of the Opposition will hear more about the point he raised in a few minutes. Meanwhile I want to say that it is my hope and my expectation that meetings will finally take place. The Medical Care Commission appointed early in the month of January is undertaking some very careful and efficient preparations along the many lines that are indicated in a plan of this sort.

Mr. Gardiner: — Mr. Speaker, on the Speaker's ruling of reading speeches in this house, I don't mind the odd private member doing so but when a minister of the crown stands up and reads his entire speech, I think that the Speaker should take the action that was promised by the Speaker last year and end this habit of reading speeches in the house.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, this comes very strangely from the members of the opposition and I don't want to say any more about it except to say that I have my speech here Mr. Speaker, I have my notes written as you see on the side and I am referring largely to these. Now may I proceed?

Mr. Speaker: — . . . I do not think he is guilty of that offense.

Mr. McFarlane: — I think that we should abide by the rules of this house and no reading of speeches. That is something that we would like to have cleared up now.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — It is very evident to me Mr. Speaker . . .

Mr. Gardiner: — What about this one . . .

An Hon. Member: — Do you make a distinction as to who speaks on the floor of this house? Is each one on individual merit or is it the rule . . .

Mr. Speaker: — . . . later, Order!

An Hon. Member: — You also said that . . .

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the rest of this speech won't be any more palatable to the members than what I have already said.

Opposition Members: — I hope it is more truthful.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, they are going to sit there and listen to it just as I have had to listen to a lot of nonsense coming from that side of the house. Mr. Speaker, the government as I have already made clear has offered to meet the college. In the statements that I have made during the course of the last several months I think that this has been evident. The commission, on its appointment, has approached the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the same way. Both the government and the commission have been refused a meeting by the college. I would point out that there is no doubt that the council of the college has been granted the authority of the last convention to enter into negotiations with this government. The refusal to meet this time is very apparently to me the result of the decision made by the officials of the college, not to meet with the government or the commission. I am going to refer later to a resolution which was passed by the last meeting of the college and this certainly bears out everything that I have just said.

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Now Mr. Speaker, it has also been said and said on frequent occasions that the Medical Care Insurance Act was drafted without reference to the medical profession and that there was also a suggestion that there was no opportunity for the college to convey its feelings to the government. Now this I say, Mr. Speaker, is not so and the record is very obviously to the contrary. Ever since the Medical Care Advisory Committee was set up in 1960 the representatives on the committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons have conveyed their viewpoints and conveyed their opinions. This is over a period of over sixteen months, Mr. Speaker. They were aware of the feelings of other members of the committee; they were made aware of the opinions of all the organizations that came before the committee and they themselves quite exhaustively made their own opinions known when their representatives came before the committee, and I say that the structure of the present act is very largely patterned on the final proposal of the majority of the advisory committee. It is utterly fallacious to suggest that the government, in coming to the conclusion that it did in drafting the bill last fall, decided on recommendations from its own staff and did not look at the recommendations of organizations other than the advisory committee. I say again that the act was largely passed on the recommendations made by the advisory body which met over 16 months and had drafted interim report for the consideration of the government.

Mr. Thatcher: — Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question at this juncture?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, at this point, having been interrupted I consider so unfairly and so often I will wait until I have finished my speech and answer questions then.

The act as it now stands, Mr. Speaker, makes it possible for the medical profession to enter into arrangements to supply medical care without in any way, any genuine way, hurting their status. Sensational language such as has been used that this act means civil conscription of doctors in the province is just so much unalloyed fiction. There is no reason to believe that the thousands of fine doctors that are now working for the public in many areas are conscripted or are not able to express their opinions or have lost their professional status simply because they are receiving their remunerations from public funds.

I want to say this, that I have no intention and no desire to talk of anything now or in the future that would savour of threats or pressure on the doctors of this province and I have consistently tried to state the exact contrary. I have some confidence that the doctors of the province are now beginning to think that the authorization that was given to their members at their convention last October in a second resolution should be acted upon and that negotiations should be entered into with the government and the commission concurrently or separately. I don't care how they proceed as long as it is in the spirit of getting a solution to the problem that we have found.

I know that there has been a great deal of partisan feeling expressed in this house. I know that we have had some pretty hot debates on the matters before the house and in my view the interest of every member of this house would be best served by supporting action toward a settlement. If this is not forthcoming, I want to predict to the members that are sitting opposite me that they will some day regret the decision that they have taken in opposing the act and opposing the setting up of a commission.

I want to say something about a number of remarks that were said in this house on Friday, by the hon. member from Melville (Mr. Gardiner). In my opinion these remarks were a disservice to the cause of getting an effective arrangement in Saskatchewan on medical care. It was so full of inaccuracies, Mr. Speaker, and irrelevancies that one hardly knows where to begin in trying to answer. However, I am going to make reference to only a few. We were accused on this side of the house of spreading hate and dissension about the doctors of this province. Now I want to emphatically deny that any member on this side of the house has in any way attempted to spread hate and dissension about the doctors and the same goes for this nonsense about — what was the expression? “Planning a breach of the freedom of the people of this province” or similar remarks about the medical care plan striking at the freedom and well-being of every man, woman and child in the province. I say that this is just unmitigated balderdash, Mr. Speaker, and certainly is not true.

We were told the other day that doctors had never asked to be placed on salaries by this government by the hon. member from Melville and I might say that this government has never asked or demanded that doctors accept this basis of payment under a medical care plan.

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The member said on Friday that doctors could go anywhere in Canada and make double the money that they are making in Saskatchewan. Now this is more of the talk, I suggest Mr. Speaker, designed to intimidate the people of this province against the participation in a medical care plan.

I think it is a sad thing to hear these remarks from the member from Melville (Mr. Gardiner). I want to say that over the weekend I took the trouble to look up some of these figures on this question, and you may be interested to know that the average income of doctors in Saskatchewan is at the highest level of any province in Canada. This is on net taxable income for the year 1959. It is after deduction for expenses of practice but before income tax. The average shown for that year for doctors in practice reporting was \$18,393.35. I won't run over all of the other provinces Mr. Speaker, I have said that the Saskatchewan average is the highest, the Canadian average in the same figures is \$15,757.31.

Hon. Mr. Walker: — After paying all their expenses?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — This is after the payment of business expense but before income tax. The same way in which a person would get paid a salary or wage today and have income tax deducted after. Of course if the hon. member from Qu'Appelle-Wolseley (Mr. McFarlane) said that the chairman of the medical care commission gets his salary and has no income tax deducted, then he is quite wrong about that.

Mr. McFarlane: — Plus expenses . . .

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Well anyone, Mr. Speaker, in this country that moves around and does any travelling gets his expenses paid and I am sure that the member knows about that.

I want to get to perhaps what may be a more pertinent topic and that is the statement of the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Gardiner), that the government should take the responsibility of asking doctors for a meeting should have been not only to discuss legislation but on how changes could be made to protect the freedom of the doctors. As the hon. member was making this statement there was already in the mail under my signature an additional letter to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and I am going to quote the text of that this afternoon, but I would like the hon. member to know and

the members of the Liberal party that for three months we have been doing precisely this, and as early as late November and by a written communication on December 4th we had asked the college to come to a meeting with us, not to discuss only the question of a medical care commission, but to discuss additionally the matter of general subjects on which the doctors felt some concern and felt that there should be some discussion. I am sure that if the members had been following the events, they would have noticed that we had asked for this type of discussion and would have noticed that we had been consistently refused.

Mr. Gardiner: — Not originally.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I don't know what the hon. member means by not originally, but I say this and I say it categorically, Mr. Speaker, that for a matter of three months we have been asking for the type of meeting that the member for Melville said that we have refused. I have shown that this is not so. I want to . . .

Mr. McDonald: — Mr. Speaker, I just want one thing clarified, he said we, is that the commission or the government?

Mr. Speaker: — When you used the word we, who are you referring to?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — When I use the word 'we' in respect of a body trying to get a meeting with the college, I am naturally referring to the government, Sir.

Mr. Thatcher: — Would you answer my question Bill?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I would like to proceed. The reply of the college said this, and I am quoting a letter that is dated December 22nd, that we did not receive until December 28th, post marked, by the way, the day before. This letter in refusing said.

“Council agrees with and will accept the direction of its membership as indicated by this resolution.”

They are referring to a resolution that denied the medical

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care insurance act as being the kind of framework they could co-operate in and then went on to say:

“It would therefore be pointless to meet for the purpose of discussing a medical care bill which has been enacted in a form incompatible with the professions’ standards.”

I want to point out again that we had initially asked in our letter for a meeting that embraced all kinds of topics and would certainly not have excluded any of the general topics that might have had to do with the fears or doubts of the doctors.

In my letter of January 5th, in replying to this communication, I made it quite clear again that we initially had not asked for a meeting solely on the question of a medical care plan and solely to implement the plan itself, but that we had been prepared to discuss all general subjects that had to do with the things that they were complaining about. I would say that the people of the province know that the government is doing everything humanly possible to talk to the doctors and any suggestion that the hon. member has made, and which I think has been repeated elsewhere, that we haven’t done our best to do this is just not so.

Mr. Gardiner: — Definitely.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Now I want to quote this other resolution about which I spoke a few minutes ago and which no one seems to have heard very much about. This was passed with even a greater majority than the first resolution opposing the medical care plan at the October meeting of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons and with your permission Mr. Speaker, I would like to read this into the records.

“Resolved that this annual general meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Saskatchewan Division of the Canadian Medical Association authorize the council of the college to proceed on our behalf in all negotiations relating to all matters in respect to any government plan or plans of medical services.”

It went on to say:

“We further recognize and authorize the officers, executive, council and committees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons as the duly constituted and recognized officers, council executive and committees of the Saskatchewan division of the C.M.A. to negotiate on our behalf.”

I would just like to repeat these words, because I think they are most important in their context.

“to negotiate on our behalf.”

And the final paragraph of the resolution:

“We further authorize the same officers council, executive and committees to negotiate on our behalf as the Saskatchewan Medical Association, if they deem advisable.”

I say that all powers are present with the college to negotiate in terms of that resolution. I suggest that it was clearly the feeling of the members there that in endorsing this resolution they were giving to the council or the executive, if you will, of the college, the powers to deal on their behalf.

Now I refer Mr. Speaker, to a communication that I wrote again to Dr. Dalgleish last Friday and I think it wouldn't be amiss if I read this letter, a letter of three short paragraphs, this letter written to Dr. Dalgleish said:

“Mr. D.D. Tansley, the chairman of the Medical Insurance Commission, has forwarded to me a copy of the letter which he received from you on February 23rd. I regret that council has once again refused to enter into discussion on the medical care plan. It is my government's firm belief that the differences which separate the government and the college can be met in negotiations. In this spirit, I wish now to renew my request for an early meeting between representatives of the college and representatives of the government to discuss the medical care plan and its implementation.

“You have indicated general dissatisfaction

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“with The Medical Care Insurance Act itself. I wish to make clear that we are not prepared to entertain any proposals, as you have suggested, to repeal the act. Nevertheless, the government is willing to discuss the act and to consider specific changes, if it can be demonstrated that they are required to protect the medical profession’s legitimate interests. At the same time may I impress upon you the urgency which time places on this request. The legislature is now sitting and if any amendments to the act are contemplated, they would need to be speedily introduced.”

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the door to negotiations has been and is now open. I suggest that there is no reason why the medical profession of this province should not enter it.

There have been a number of rather unkind and I think unfair things said about the new medical care commission. I say this, that whatever is said about the commission, it cannot be said that these are not a very capable, a very knowledgeable and experienced group of men.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I am really appalled Mr. Speaker, at the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition in discussing the commission members, and I am suggesting that at least he could have made some recognition to the fact that these people are obviously of a type that can do the job. I am sure that every fair-minded person, every person in this legislature that wants to acknowledge capacities, want to acknowledge ability, would perhaps agree with me that Dr. W.P. Thompson, the chairman of the Advisory Committee on medical care, is a person whose opinion cannot be taken lightly. I received from him in January, after the appointment of the commission, an unsolicited letter. I think that these comments might be reported here. He said to me in this letter written on January 10th.

“Dear Sir: I wish to compliment you and the government on the personnel of the medical care insurance commission. I know them all, several of them very well, and I have worked closely with some of them. I have great respect

“for them, not only from the standpoint of ability, but also from that of integrity and public-spirit, and they have all had experience which should be useful in the work of the commission. You have done a fine job. Yours sincerely, W.P. Thompson.”

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Davies: — I venture to suggest Mr. Speaker, that this is the kind of appraisal which will meet with the general agreement of the people of the province, rather than the narrow and partisan judgment of the hon. Leader of the Liberal party, and the Liberal party generally in Saskatchewan.

I would like to turn for a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to some of the programs of the Department of Public Health. It seems to me that it might be useful to report on these now, since I think they are of considerable interest to the public. I think, as well as to give you information on these, it will indicate how the demand on health services have grown and the effective way in which the department has moved to assume responsibility for what I think is its proper share in meeting these demands. I'm sure that it must be evident to all of the members of this house that expenditures on health consume a considerable share of the productive resources of this country. As the technological development of public health and health of all kinds proceeds, and I think it has been proceeding at a very rapid rate during the last 10 or 15 years, it becomes evident that the cost increase, because each of these facilities, each of these services cost a little more money. I think at the same time that there is public recognition that this is a pretty good thing, that these services are good, these facilities are desirable and they are prepared to pay for them. It is interesting however to note that in general the percentage that has been spent on health services in the whole of the western world, and of course including Canada, has not really changed appreciably in the last 10 or 15 years. This is again concerned and related to the production capacity of the country. We are spending a great deal more in terms of dollars on health services today, but the percentage of our gross national product has not varied very much over that period of time. Now, I think too, that from time to time it is useful for us to re-evaluate the developments that have taken place in the province in the

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health field, and to make some comments on the kind of program that we have had and their worth and desirability.

I would first of all suggest that we could put our public health services into four principle categories. They are first of all (1) the services for the maintenance of health and the prevention of disease. Secondly, the services for the direct provision of health treatment. (3) the financial assistance programs to provide health services, and finally, the service programs that are rendered by various departments of the government for the people. I want to point out that in this last group there are included all of the consultative and the technical services, such as are provided in the provincial laboratories. I want to point out too that a key requirement in the provision of health services is the participation in evolving the programs. I am going to mention later on that this seems to be becoming a fact and more and more of the health regions are taking part in this participation and in this suggesting of policy.

We now, Mr. Speaker, have the 12 health regions plus the northern health district, under the purview of the department, and the public health services provided by the cities of Regina and Saskatoon, which for the first time provide the province of Saskatchewan with a complete public health coverage. I think that Saskatchewan is probably one of the few major jurisdictions in Canada or the United States that has provided for full-time health services on this scale. I also suggest that the future framework of health services will be established on this local framework.

I indicated that I was very happy with the kind of reception given to programs by the regional boards of health, who are not only taking a keen interest in the development of the preventive programs, but they are expanding their interests in the provision of treatment services for the people of the area that they are in. Members of my department and members of the regional health boards have spent a considerable amount of time in the past year discussing the whole problem of the development of the regional patterns of public health, and I am going to quote one paragraph of the document prepared jointly by the regional boards. It stresses the basic importance of the concept of regional development of health services and they have defined it in this way and I am quoting:

“The organization and co-ordination of all

“health resources and services within a defined area for the purpose of maintaining the highest possible level of medical care in adapting a comprehensive health program to the needs of the area.”

I intimated, Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago that the health services and needs are becoming more and more complex. Twenty years ago it was possible for us to put health services into neat little packages, often separate one from the other. You could talk about the need for a hospital service or about the need for preventive or treatment facilities, but this is really no longer possible. The tremendous degree of knowledge that needs to be accumulated by professional people, the coverage of each program that effects the people of the province, and is conducted either through the health regions or through the department, has really brought us to a point where the only fashion in which we can provide the best health services is by taking a co-ordinated and a public approach to each of these problems. As time goes on and one considers special cases, as to persons who are afflicted with rheumatism or arthritis or with any one of a dozen typical diseases, one realizes that it is not only a question of treating people, but of following the case right from the time he visits his doctor to the time that he is effectively rehabilitated. Therefore, as the appropriate department of government, we see the need to provide leadership necessary to make services available on this co-ordinated basis so that our interest proceeds from this in the provision of preventive services, of hospital care, of medical care, and rehabilitation. It is my view, and I am glad to say the view of the regional boards of health, that we must similarly develop a concern about the whole constellation of health services, whatever and wherever they may be, and that we must look as far as we can to the local bodies for the desirable co-ordination and co-operation in these programs. I think again, that the regional boards have recognized with the government that services can and must be made available without consideration of ability to pay and must reflect need rather than some artificial demand that is based on the economics of supply and demand.

I want to refer briefly, Mr. Speaker, without taking too much of the time of the house, to a number of difficulties that the department is experiencing in the incidence of infectious and communicable disease.

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But there are situations which are causing us some difficulty and I think probably for apparent reasons, they may also be causing the same type of trouble elsewhere in other parts of Canada. I refer first of all to infectious hepatitis which as I think members know, is a disease characterized by an inflammation of the liver cells. It is characterized in convalescence by a very long period of recovery, and the chief measures of control that we are able to apply are measures that have to do with cleanliness and the use of gamma globulin. However, in spite of the very assiduous effort on the part of regional boards of health and health workers everywhere, we can say that we are just barely holding our own in controlling this disease. Streptococcal infections are similarly of some problem. We do think however that the administering of the penicillin packages to children in any situation where outbreaks of this infection are threatening have been effective in reducing the size of outbreaks and that in the future this disease can be minimized. I would like to say a word about the Type B influenza that we all became, unfortunately, familiar with last fall, and which prostrated a good many of our citizens and also, I am unhappy to say, caused several deaths. This Type B influenza was identified very quickly by our provincial laboratory, and I want to pay tribute here to the splendid work that was done by the staff of this branch.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Identification of the specific type of virus that caused this type of influenza put us in a position where we were able to get supplies of vaccine to use in the cases of those persons in the province who were particular risks — referring to the people in hospitals, older people and those more likely to come down with influenza and so on. We think that this is the most suitable way of coping with future outbreaks of influenza, that is, the identification of the particular virus and then getting as many doses as possible of the remedial vaccine. I want to say again that the good work that was done here was in finding the particular bug that caused this influenza, and by finding it we were able to cope with the disease much better than we would otherwise have been able to do.

Venereal diseases pose some problem in the province. The number of new cases is not large, and there is nothing to be alarmed about in that connection. We haven't been able to reduce, as we would like to, the number of cases in the last several years. The chief

concern here is with younger people, in certain social economic groups, who are not sufficiently aware of the dangers of the disease, nor the dangers indeed of promiscuity. We think the handling of this question again, is one of increased education and so far as medication is concerned, the program of providing the free drugs and the free treatment continues, and we see no difficulties in that direction.

The cancer program, Mr. Speaker, continues to provide effective care for persons who contract the disease. The scope of direct services that are provided by clinics in the province is being steadily expanded. I think I can assure the members of this house that the most effective diagnostic and radio-therapeutic measures are being used in this province for the control of cancer. I would like to add here that the Cancer Commission has served as a very important example of the way in which a commission can have real responsibility in the development and administering of a public health program within a general framework of responsibility to the government and the legislature. It is our contention, Mr. Speaker, that the medical care commission would work in an equally effective fashion.

I would like to say just a little bit on the subject of tuberculosis. This of course is one of the areas where the government provides financial assistance. I think it was with a great deal of pride that the people of this province, certainly the Saskatchewan government, recognized last year the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League. This event, coming as it did on the heels of a demonstration of the effectiveness of tuberculosis control, was a very heartening and encouraging thing for the people of the province. Besides, I think it was a fine example of the way in which the municipalities, the provincial government, the people of the province, the board of the league and their staff, and indeed many other agencies, all working together to provide the means for control of what was once called, if my recollection is correct, the disease which was "Captain of the Men of Death". I think that was the term used for the scourge of tuberculosis not so many years ago. The closing of the Prince Albert Sanatorium and the subsequent marked reduction of cases down at Fort Qu'Appelle Sanatorium are again indicative of the fact that tuberculosis is now substantially controlled and that we are on our way to the eradication of the disease.

Just a word, Mr. Speaker, about the general hospitals in the province. The hospitals have continued

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to make improvements in their general plans and their general services. The hospitals, Mr. Speaker, are modernizing and they are doing this of course with the assistance of the government — by very generous grants — and of course to a lesser extent the grant from the federal government. Some of the examples of what has been done in the field of new construction projects would be the Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert, the Yorkton Union Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, and a very extensive program of modernization and the provision of new facilities elsewhere. I think this might be the point for me to comment on something that the Leader of the Opposition said the other day about the astronomical costs of hospital care in Saskatchewan. I took the trouble to look this up and I find that our cost per patient day Mr. Speaker, in 1959 — this is the last year for which I can find figures — was \$19.86 per day as against an average for the provinces with plans at that time of \$19.77. Nineteen dollars and eight-six cents against \$19.77, and I suggest that those figures don't reveal a too astronomical cost and that on the whole this has been a fine service. With the escalation of costs in other areas of the economy the increase has simply come about for that reason. Certainly there is nothing to indicate that the administration of our hospital plan is any more expensive because it happens to be a plan in the province of Saskatchewan.

I made mention of course to the fluctuation in the provincial economy which has brought about the need for similar economies in this province and by the hospitals. This last year has had its impact on hospitals, just the same as it has had its impact on every department of this government. In spite of difficulties, in spite of all these difficulties Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to see that the hospitals have operated efficiently and in fact have even in some respects improved their standards within the budgetary limitations set. I would like here again to acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation that we have had from the Saskatchewan Hospital Associations. The fact is that from the beginning of last year, the association acknowledged that in view of the short crop they would need to co-operate with us in finding ways in which money could be saved and that it is largely because of this co-operation that we have encountered the easiest adjustment in a most difficult period.

At the beginning of 1962 Mr. Speaker, we have been able to extend some further assistance to the hospitals by removing restrictions on the purposes for which the retained portions of earnings from preferred accommodations

may be used. Previous to January 1, 1962 hospitals were required to maintain a separate bank account for the 50 per cent of the net proceeds from preferred accommodation and any sum that was earned here could be spent only in deferring expenses on capital costs. After January 1st, this sum may be used for either operating or capital purposes, in any fashion that is deemed suitable by the individual hospital. Respecting the use of funds that have been accumulated up to the end of 1961, they also may use this in a discretionary way, after having prior approval from the division of hospital administration and standards. As I say, the removal of these restrictions will provide more flexibility in hospital expenditures and I think in general that this should make for a more efficient use of the funds by individual hospitals.

I spoke about a wide variety of services that are provided by the Department of Public Health in the form of consultations, direct services, inspectional, regulatory services and so on. These are all defined in the regulations and in legislation and I am going to comment on them only very briefly. I won't say anything about the air ambulance nor the sanitary engineering division because I think we know a fair amount about these. I would like though to say something more about the provincial laboratories. This has been, I think, one of the least well-understood areas of government. It is now equipped and it is now staffed to handle the widest range of laboratory tests, ranging from clinical chemistry to the identification of viruses and bacteria, and also to the elimination of toxic substances of all kinds in almost any product. The demand, Mr. Speaker, on the provincial laboratory have been increasing very steadily over the past decade, and the staff have been able to provide tests which cannot be effectively provided anywhere else in the province. Indeed, in some fields of investigation, a considerable volume of work comes from as far away as the Lakehead in Ontario in the east and to the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia on the west. This work of course is done on a custom basis for a fee. For residents of Saskatchewan, or for physicians of the province, the great bulk of testing is done without any charge at all. Perhaps some idea of the extent of this operation can be gleaned by looking at the figure for 1960-61 of tests carried out on specimens submitted. This totalled 189 thousand. I think from this, Mr. Speaker, it will be seen that there is a very large amount of work

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being done here and one which could not be duplicated by any other private concern in the province.

I made just a few remarks about the occupational health branch. This is a new branch of the Department of Public Health. It is concerned mainly with providing skilled assistance to industry in coping with occupational hazards of all kinds, thereby reducing the number of days that are lost because of accidents, hazards, or anything that is akin to these problems. As an example there are very detailed studies now being carried out in the uranium mines of the province to try and reduce the hazards that are a result from radiation. As well, industries where toxic materials are used are the subject of study in this branch and already some excellent work has been done by this branch in that regard. A detailed study is now underway in respect to the condition known as grain handlers' cough — which is a recurrent condition with many persons that work in the grain elevators — and we had no studies up to this time on this and we are therefore seeing that this is done.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the programs that I think provide an over-all look at the activities of the department and which may be some interest to this house and to the general public.

In closing, may I make these few remarks. When we met the Hall Commission in early January we quoted in that brief the definition of the World Health Organization on "What is Health?" In the short form that definition says that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest that the activities of this department and the Saskatchewan government have been geared to match this ideal state and to reach for it. As we said in our submission at that time:

"Many will urge upon you, no doubt, that there is a limited roll for government to play in the provision of health services. These advocates view health care as a commodity to be purchased in the competitive economy of the market place. Many of our problems of mal-distribution of personnel and services, our shortages and our grave financial problems of health care arise from this type of thinking. We hold that the nature of health needs, the consequences of their neglect and the need to provide a balanced

“and equitably financed program to remove the threat of illness costs to family security all argue against such a point of view.”

We pointed out Mr. Speaker, that the examination of the complex problems of health and disease lead to the conclusion that society can best solve these problems by organized collective action, through their governments working in co-operation with all agencies and all elements of the social order.

Mr. Speaker, whether we talk about the present activities of my department or the medical care program, we seek to enlarge and to enhance and to improve these activities and therefore finally the health and happiness of the people. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I shall support the motion moved by the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Berezowsky) and seconded by the hon. member for Lumsden (Mr. Thurston.)

Mr. Thatcher: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder before the minister takes his seat, if he would now permit the question that he wouldn't permit in the middle of his remarks? May I ask that question now?

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Go ahead.

Mr. Thatcher: — He made during his speech, a plea that the doctors should immediately meet with the government. Is it not correct that the medical profession or the college, repeatedly asked to meet with the cabinet to discuss the bill, before it was passed? And supplementary to that question, is it not correct that such a meeting was just as frequently turned down before the bill was passed? In other words, the minister says the door is open, but it wasn't open last October.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say first of all in explanation that the remarks that I made had to do with the remarks made by the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Gardiner) about myself failing to reach an understanding with the doctors. What I did was to deal with the time that I have been minister of this department, and I think that I have effectually rebutted anything that was said about that. Now with respect to the former period, I say this, that the College of Physicians and Surgeons had every

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opportunity during the sixteen months previous to make their ideas and their formulations known to the Advisory Committee on Medical Care, and did that, in fact. Moreover they did meet, sometime prior to the session, with the government of this province. What I am saying is that there is no doubt that the feelings of the college, that the presentation of the college had been made known, not simply in the month or two before December, but in the sixteen months previous to that time, through the submissions they made and through the numerous statements that they had made.

Mr. Thatcher: — Would you not, Mr. Minister, answer my question? Didn't the profession ask to meet the cabinet before this bill was passed, and did the cabinet refuse to meet with them? It is only after the bill is passed that the socialists say, "Let's get together". I repeat you refused to meet with them before the bill became law.

Premier Lloyd: — . . . I can say that the government did not refuse any request of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Mr. Thatcher: — I say they did and I can give proof that they did.

Premier Lloyd: — Go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: — Order! I cannot permit remarks across the floor in this way.

Mr. J.E. Snedker (Saltcoats): — Mr. Speaker, first I wish to congratulate you Sir upon your election to the office of Speaker of the legislature. I also wish to express to the Minister of Health, appreciation for the recent announcement he just made to the effect that the Yorkton Mental Institution would be proceeded with. Having helped in some measure to talk him into it, I think I will say no more for fear I might talk him out of it, but we appreciate it anyway.

In connection with a few of the remarks that have just been made by the gentleman who just took his seat, Mr. Speaker, if I understood him correctly, the statement he made was this. That the Liberal party is fundamentally opposed to a medical care program.

I think if I heard him correctly he said that we had done everything to prevent it or something along that line. The statement which I heard was that we were fundamentally opposed to a medical care program. Now, the word fundamentally means entirely — altogether, and this included every member on this side of the house, and possibly some outside of it for all I know, but all of us that are here. Now I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat certain things which were said in this legislature at the last special session of the house when we were gathered here together, called into a special session for the purpose primarily of passing a bill in connection with medical care for the province of Saskatchewan.

I have here on my desk, volume No. 4 of the Debates and Proceedings of this house of that special session. I turn to page No. 94 and I sincerely hope that the minister will pay some attention to me now because he obviously wasn't paying any attention then. These are remarks which I made in connection with the medical care program, in this house at that time. I am not going to quote too voluminously, but sufficiently to convince the hon. gentleman on the other side that he was incorrect when he made that statement. I proceed and I quote — Volume 4, Page 94:

“Now having said that Mr. Speaker, and having mentioned the recommendations of the committee, which is that this plan should be administered by a commission, and I think I have made it reasonably clear that I oppose any administration by a commission appointed by the government. I would oppose it regardless of what government it was. I believe in the alternative of regional administration, as they have it in Swift Current, “and I quoted the report and gave you a pretty fair description as to how that area is administered.

“I believe that the region should be established by a vote of the people — in or out — if the people vote they are out — then they are out. If they vote they are in — then they are in, and if they vote they are in the region, then they administer their own region and elect their own people to do it.”

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Now that statement could hardly have been made by anybody who is fundamentally opposed to any type of medical care plan for the province of Saskatchewan.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — I continue the quotation Mr. Speaker:

“I believe each region should be administered by an elected board. Whether it should be entirely elected by the people or whether it should be elected half by the people, and half appointed by the municipality in the area, as is done in the administration of union hospitals, under the Union Hospital Act, I haven't quite made up my mind, but in one form or another.”

In other words, it was to be done. That statement could hardly have been made by someone who didn't believe in medical care. I quote further:

“You would have people administering their own affairs in their own way. You would have representatives of the people, available to the people. When the people need somebody to turn to they would not have to come all the way to Regina and chase some cabinet minister up and down the corridors until they found him, or be shuffled from one to the other down the assembly line of civil servants. The obligations of the regional board, in my opinion, (I'm continuing to quote) should be to provide complete medical care, diagnostic treatment, surgery, specialists. The method of payment to doctors, in my opinion, should be at the option of the board. I want to make that very clear. It would be up to them — if they put the doctors on a salary as the present municipal doctors are, or whether they paid them fee-for-service as they do in Swift Current, or whether they should use a combination of both.”

That statement could hardly have been made by somebody that didn't believe in medical care for this province. I continue to quote.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Go right ahead.

Mr. Snedker: — I quote:

“It would similarly be up to the regionally elected board as to whether they would operate the organization themselves directly, or make a deal with M.S.I. or Group Medical, which is possibly what a regional board would do in the city, as opposed to what boards in the country would do. The provision of dental, optical and pharmaceutical supplies would be at the option of the board. They would do what they thought they could afford to do and what they thought was right. The financing whether it would be by capitation or by property tax would be at the option of the board or by a combination of both, supplemented by grants from the provincial government which would certainly not cost the people any more than what this scheme is going to cost. It would probably be a lot less because the board would cut out a whale of a lot of red tape and employees.”

That was hardly said by a person who doesn't believe in medical care. I continue to quote:

“The position of the government in relation to the regions would be to assist and to advise them in every way. A vote would be conducted by the Department of Municipal Affairs. A supervisory audit would have to be conducted by the local government board, or the Department of Health. Grants would be payable by the provincial government, but one region would not be favoured as opposed to the other. Government would not be limited in any way, except that grants that would be available to one must be available to all. Any scheme such as that would dovetail into a federal scheme by reason of the fact that any federal scheme would probably be on the basis of grants from the provinces. What we are faced with is that the commission recommends a medical plan administered by a commission, plus the cost of patronage.”

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Hon. Mr. Walker: — Is the hon. member reading?

Mr. Snedker: — “What we need is a medical plan administered by the people themselves, less the cost of patronage.” I will read a lot more of this before I am through.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — And I am going to repeat the last sentence. I quote:

“What we are faced with is that the commission recommends a medical plan administered by a commission, plus the cost of patronage. What I believe in is a medical plan administered by people themselves, less the cost of patronage.”

You have the gall and audacity to get up in your seat and say that we all oppose medical care.

An Hon. Member: — Give it to them Jim.

Mr. Snedker: — No wonder your face is red.

An Hon. Member: — Is there a doctor in the house?

Mr. Snedker: — Now Mr. Speaker, I turn to Volume No. 9 of the Debates and Proceedings, and this was a speech that I made on second reading of the bill. I will just tune my hon. friend’s memory up a little more in this respect. Just a minute I don’t want to misplace these notes, or I will have to read the whole thing, and I don’t want to take too much time. But I have got lots of it. Now I quote from page No. 76 of the speech which I made on second reading of the medical care bill:

“For that reason I oppose most wholeheartedly administration by a commission. I won’t oppose it and not express what I think is a suitable alternative.”

Now would a person who didn’t believe in medical care make a statement of that nature? Well I hardly think so. I proceed to quote:

“I won’t oppose it and not express what I think is a suitable alternative because I don’t think a person should just oppose for the sake of opposing. If you can’t produce a better alternative and you think there is any value in the scheme, then you shouldn’t say anything.”

Well I did think we had a better alternative. I did think there was value in the scheme, and I did propose the alternative we all did on this side of the house. Now I continue from page 80 Mr. Speaker:

“I believe Mr. Speaker, most firmly that the administration of this plan should be on a regional basis. I believe that here is a God-given chance for the people and the government of this province to strengthen self-government.”

I will have a little more to say about that later on.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Go ahead and talk to yourself.

Mr. Snedker: — Well I would much prefer to talk to myself than to talk to you.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — I would rather talk to myself and the hon. gentlemen on this side of the house, who believe in freedom and democracy, than to talk to you who believe in its destruction.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Now I continue to quote from page 81 of the Debates, Mr. Speaker. Yes, his face is still red.

“I propose Mr. Speaker, to submit an amendment to this bill an amendment which if it is accepted will cause the redrafting of this bill and its resubmission to this house with the objectionable clauses taken out. Those with regard to administration by a commission. My amendment would replace

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“administration by a commission with administration on a regional basis.”

Now my hon. friend on the other side of the house says that we are fundamentally opposed to a medical care plan. I went through a whole campaign in the 1960 election on the basis of a medical care plan for the province of Saskatchewan that would be operated by regional administration, and I suggest that he get up on his feet and apologize for having insinuated that we are liars. He wasn't telling the truth and he knows it.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — I will read it back to you if I haven't got you convinced. This small group in this house and they all supported the amendment and they all supported me — what do you think they were doing sitting here. Of course they supported me. Every one of them.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Every one of them. I suggest that not only do you owe me an apology, I don't care about myself, but you owe everybody on this side of the house an apology. All of us.

An Hon. Member: — . . . Dr. Lang.

Mr. Snedker: — What did he say?

An Hon. Member: — . . . Dr. Lang, who is he or where is he?

Mr. Snedker: — Now don't you try and get off the hook by bringing in extraneous material.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Snedker: — No. He can give me an apology before he asks me anything. Otherwise he can sit down and keep his mouth shut. He can't tell the truth when it is open, and I have demonstrated that for the benefit of everybody.

An Hon. Member: — You are being unparliamentary.

Mr. Snedker: — Now I have said that Mr. Speaker, and if the hon. gentleman chooses to make an apology at the end of my speech it will be quite all right, if not I shall just naturally conclude that this is typical socialist misrepresentation, typical of the campaign of smear sarcasm and vilification that they carry on against the members of the opposition at all times.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — They would stoop to anything for self-justification.

An Hon. Member: — What is this Liberal distortion?

An Hon. Member: — Now is the time for a question.

Mr. Snedker: — Now having said that and I think possibly cleared the matter up to the satisfaction of all and sundry and made brief reference to the remarks that were made on the other side of the house this afternoon, I would like to say a few words, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the attitude of this government, in this house, and this province, to self government in the province. May I draw your attention to the fact that in the early days when the province was formed, the government that was in power at that time followed the procedure of delegating wherever it was possible powers to lower bodies, or to other bodies, clothing them with elective authority to elect their own people to run their own affairs in their own way. They set up municipal councils in our rural municipalities with elected councils to run our municipalities. They set up our town councils with elected councils to run our towns. Similarly members of our hospital boards were appointed by these very authorities within the regions in which they served, appointed by the municipalities by the towns by the cities as the case might be, but wherever it was possible in the formative days of this province, the government at the time followed the principle of the delegation of power to another authority; wherever it was possible. Now it seems we have had quite a change in the last 17 years — we have had a government in the last 17 years that doesn't believe in those things. They believe in the centralization of government here in Regina. Being socialists they would naturally believe in centralization. They would naturally believe

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in bureaucracy, and they have carried on for 17 or 18 years a vicious campaign for the destruction of local self government. They have endeavoured to introduce a socialistic dictatorship in a democratic country.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Wherever it was possible Mr. Speaker they have endeavoured to whittle away the rights and privileges of the elected representatives of the people at the lower levels of government. By this means, by that means, by using the mailed fist within the velvet glove — by using any means that was available — infiltration or anything — endeavouring to replace local government by centralized government, local officials by centralized officials, bureaucracy and patronage. That is the socialist creed, because it has always been the creed of the socialist to destroy that which he cannot control, and they have never been able to control our rural municipalities.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Speaker: — I draw your attention to an article which appeared in the Leader-Post quoting Mr. C.R. Elliott of Humboldt, chairman of the Saskatchewan Hospital Organization and Alumni Association. The statement which he made he said applies particularly to rural hospitals:

“Hospital administrators in Saskatchewan are faced with so much red tape they often don’t know whether or not they are adhering to the law.”

The demands by the government that hospitals should do this and that hospitals shall do that, and I read in the newspaper the other day that increased services were to be given. The Minister of Health, I think, made the announcement, and I think they were services that should be given. Now don’t let him get up in his place and say I said it shouldn’t be given. I think they should be given. But he didn’t announce at the same time where the hospitals were to get the money from to pay for the services. That goes all through the whole scheme of socialist administration, endeavouring to destroy and embarrass our locally controlled institutions, and destroy our local elected boards — here you have the boards of our union hospital districts in between the rate board on the one hand

and the trade unions on the other. I can only conclude by the actions of the government that what they would like to do is eliminate all local union hospital boards and run the whole thing directly from Regina, as a straight line — Department of Health project. That is the conclusion I have come to. Let me add this, taking a good look at the gentlemen opposite and their recent affiliations in eastern Canada, I would also conclude that in all possibility with the local union commissar pulling the strings and telling them the hospitals who to hire and fire.

The frontal attack which was conducted on our rural municipalities last year in an endeavor to liquidate all local self-government at the rural municipal level — local government in this province, an attempt at extension of the patronage system from Regina into the municipalities. Fortunately some of the people out in the country decided they were going to hold a vote on the matter and the government had to bow before the wrath of the people. They didn't like doing it and they didn't do it too graciously but did it nevertheless. I want to pay tribute to all the municipal officials and all the people out in the country. They took the action of conducting that vote when they knew very well that they laid themselves wide open to vicious victimization by this government.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — The attitude of the government to local self government and to rural municipalities in particular, was most aptly summed up by the Minister of Mineral Resources in his famous statement, when Mr. Brockelbank said and I quote from the newspaper,

“ineffective local government groups were a nuisance and a trouble to the government all the time.”

Of course he thinks all municipal governments are a nuisance . . .

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Would the hon. member . . .

Mr. Snedker: — Yes, I can give the chapter and verse . . . December 2nd . . .

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — . . . where that quotation was printed, and I would

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like to hear him read it so I can understand it.

Mr. Snedker: — I will be quite happy to read it as many times as he likes. I am quoting from the Leader-Post of December 2nd, 1960. Mr. Brockelbank said:

“Ineffective local government groups were a nuisance and a trouble to the government at all times.”

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Ineffective.

Mr. Gardiner: — And the same thing last year in this house.

Mr. Snedker: — I will read it again if you like. Do you want it again?

An Hon. Member: — Yes, read it again, I didn't hear it.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege . . .

Mr. Snedker: — If I read it again, I may have him apologizing for it.

Mr. Speaker: — Order! There is a point of privilege . . .

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — I understand that he quotes me as saying ‘ineffective local government’ . . .

An Hon. Member: — It is all ineffective to them . . .

Mr. Snedker: — Certainly that is what I said.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — I didn't say that any governments were ineffective. I didn't say that our present governments were ineffective. I did not say that. I said “Ineffective governments are a nuisance” just the same as ineffective oppositions are a nuisance.

Mr. Snedker: — Yes Mr. Speaker, and I said that he thinks that all local governments are ineffective. I said that at the last session of the house and I say it in this session of the house. I think that he believes that they are all ineffective.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I want to say that the attitude which the hon. member is ascribing to me is entirely wrong. I didn't say, and I don't believe that all local governments, or very many of them for that matter, are ineffective. He isn't on very many of them. If he were on a lot of them there would be a lot more that were.

Mr. Snedker: — Mr. Speaker, I may think what I please. These people stopped brain-washing me 15 years ago.

Now I quote Mr. Speaker, from the report of the Department of Municipal Affairs. The report just tabled in the legislature said results of operations show a large number of rural municipalities incurred deficits of sizeable amounts in 1960. Just in case anybody happens to get any derogatory ideas about that, and in case they happen to think they should use that to criticize our rural municipalities, our lower forms of government that they have incurred a deficit last year, and it is possible they will incur an even larger one this year. That is symptomatic of the times. The report stated, "It was apparent some councils were carrying out public works programs too ambitious for the size of their budgets." Well, you know there is a good reason for that. One bureaucrat goes down to the rural municipality and yells, 'spend'. The next week the other bureaucrat comes along and says, 'retrench'. It is a case of those behind crying, 'forward' and those in front crying, 'back'. I have all the sympathy in the world for the poor bedevilled municipal officials, the reeves, the councillors and the secretaries. They are trying to do the best they can to administer the municipalities — with farmers suffering from the cost price squeeze, suffering from poor crops, suffering from drought, suffering from grasshoppers and socialist bureaucrats. It is a wonder they are not all driven crazy.

Then they go on to talk about the net debt of some of our municipalities.

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“The net debenture debt of municipalities continued to grow, chiefly as a result of borrowings by larger urban centres.” Now I hope when this is debated and discussed that the members of the government opposite are not going to visit on our rural municipalities the sins of the cities. And also that they will bear in mind when they are talking about the debenture debt of our rural municipalities and our other municipal bodies, I hope they will bear in mind that the gross debt of this province is in excess of a half billion dollars and so they are not in a very good position to talk about anyone else.

An Hon. Member: — Excess of a billion, did he say?

Mr. Snedker: — Half a billion. The Leader-Post of March 3, 1962, reported the Department of Municipal Affairs as saying, “that where the electorate, and I am quoting them, failed to exercise its duty in electing a conscientious and capable council, it is inviting the senior government to participate to a greater extent in its affairs.” Now there is a veiled threat if ever I saw one. This is just one more move towards the liquidation of our local self government, threatened by centralization, ridden by socialist bureaucrats, no wonder they are in trouble plagued by snoopers roaming all over the country.

Why, why do the members of this government, why do the socialists so thoroughly dislike local self government? Well I’ll tell you the reason Mr. Speaker, it is because of the S.A.R.M. convention, that little parliament of the province of Saskatchewan that meets once a year . . .

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — They stand in mortal fear of that group. There at that convention are gathered together, members of all political parties, doing the best they can for the people back home and their own institutions, regardless of politics and they just won’t be pushed around by a socialist government or by any other government and rightly so, and that is why the gentlemen opposite seek to liquidate the rural municipalities, why they seek to liquidate our elected officials, why they seek to destroy democracy at the local level, that is why they have been doing it.

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — You are touched . . .

Mr. Snedker: — This can continue. We may

expect a further rise in taxes which this government has encouraged by their stinginess with municipal grants. This has caused the rise in taxation. You know, Mr. Speaker, there is such a thing in this world as expropriation by taxation, and I think this is exactly what these fellows are striving for. That is exactly what they are trying to do. They are endeavouring to see that the tax rate in the country is raised to the point where later on, after they have the counties organized and everything else, they will be able to expropriate our land for non-payment of taxes, and we will have expropriation by taxation, that is exactly what they believe in because they have never given up their dream of collectivized farming — never.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Never have I heard a retraction by any of the hon. members opposite or by the Leader of the CCF-New Democratic Party or any other NDP official that they do not believe in collectivized farming.

Premier Lloyd: — Come, come, come.

Mr. Snedker: — Oh, come, come, come — how well I remember the words of Mr. M.J. Coldwell, past leader of the CCF in Saskatoon when I was attending a school for the purpose of indoctrination of building young CCFers.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — . . . and I said to Mr. Coldwell . . . the land use deal or land lease deal hasn't gone over very well. Now I said you are proposing collectivized farming and I don't think that will go over very well with the people either. I don't see that that is going to get many votes. Now I said if you get to be the government in Ottawa what are you going to do? Are you going to introduce collectivized farming or aren't you? Well, Mr. Coldwell's reply to me was this — I never heard him refute or say anything differently — Mr. Coldwell's reply to me was this . . . he said, "If we control the government in Ottawa, we control the armed service and the police force, and we won't hesitate to use them."

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Well I came to the point

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in my political career when I either had to believe in freedom or believe in socialism, and I chose freedom and I got out of the socialist group, and I would recommend that action to all hon. members sitting on the other side who believe in freedom, democracy and self government.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — I would suggest they do what some of my co-patriots did and my other two colleagues . . .

Mr. McCarthy: — dream . . .

Hon. Mr. Willis: — . . . time for a question — take it as read . . .

Mr. Snedker: — Now, Mr. Speaker, in connection with what I said recently, in regard to the administration of the medical care program I believe now as I believed then, I am firmly convinced that this program would have been much better administered by locally elected groups at the local level. The government did not see fit to accept that recommendation, that is their business — but I still believe we were correct in taking that stand, but I would like to draw to your attention one more thing — and I quote from volume 2 of the 2nd session of the legislature — October 25, 1961, this is a statement made by Mr. Douglas:

“I come back to point Mr. Speaker, that I agree in principle with this idea of regional administration.” (It is quite remarkable that after I had spoken on it he had to get around to pay lip service to it). “And certainly it is the government’s hope and intention that a large part of the administration, the assessing of accounts and the dealing with complaints will be handled on a regional basis, making use of a regional board and a regional staff and regional committee.”

Just in connection with that I would say this, that I think his conception of regional administration was a group of locally elected officials administrating the region, but I gather from this that what his conception was, was something in the nature of the present type of administration in the social welfare department. I think what he had in mind was possibly a regional group of people who were hired or appointed by the government who

were no more or less than a bunch of government socialist propagandists placed here and there in this centre and that centre. That was possibly his idea of regional administration. I don't know whether it was or not, but if that is the type of regional administration this government has in mind Mr. Speaker, I think it is a very poor idea and a very poor substitute for the plan which we proposed.

Hon. Mr. Davies: — No one has ever suggested that.

Mr. Snedker: — Well, I am just saying that and I am also quoting your leader directly.

Just in connection with what I said about socialists believing in the destruction of self-government. They are just following in the natural path of all socialistic parties. It is significant that the Labor party in Australia in 1920 endeavored to destroy every provincial government in that country. They didn't get away with it. So they have a precedent there in destroying local government and I predict if the NDP ever get control in Ottawa they will destroy every government in every province in this country, because that is what they seek to do, for they believe in centralization.

Mr. McDonald: — . . . never make it . . .

Mr. Snedker: — That is not the point. Now I quote here from the Saskatchewan Commonwealth, December 20, 1961 — this little gem:

“We find it a little difficult to be gracious about congratulating J.H. Staveley upon his victory in the Weyburn by-election after the scurrilous campaign of misrepresentation that was carried on by the Liberals.”

Well, we have seen a scurrilous campaign of misrepresentation carried on in this house just about an hour ago, and I would draw your attention, and the attention of hon. members in this house, to the fact that I took part in that campaign and was happy to do so, and at every place where I spoke and wherever I held a meeting I explained the regional administration of a medical care plan precisely and exactly as I explained it to this house

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at the special session, as I have endeavored to re-explain it to you now, and I object to the campaign of slander that is being conducted against members of the opposition.

Let me also say that I am very pleased and proud to see that our campaign of truth bore fruit and we have here with us Mr. Staveley, member from Weyburn. He not only represents to me one more member in the Liberal ranks, one more member on the opposition side of the house; to me this man at the other end of the line, the member from Weyburn, represents a victory for freedom as opposed to socialist dictatorship.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — And I am proud and happy to have assisted him here. I have here an amendment, Mr. Speaker, which I propose to move — seconded by Mr. Coderre.

That the following words be added to the Address:

“but in view of the fact that heavy taxes are presently being collected for medical services insurance, this Assembly deplores the failure of the Government to adopt a workable plan of medical services insurance.”

Mr. Speaker: — Is there any other member who wants to make a comment on this before I give my ruling on it. I believe this amendment, now as it is worded, adapts to the address, which was my objection the other day, that the amendment could not be a separate motion. It has to do with the address, so I believe this amendment is in order. I rule this amendment in order and the debate, as is the custom in this house is on the motion and the amendment.

Mr. Snedker: — Now, Mr. Speaker, further to what I was saying a few moments ago I have been struck by the change in the cast of this government. In the last 2 years and more especially in the last few months, we have seen a definite leftward swing — here we have the key positions in the government in this province controlled by what I always have thought and believed to be and what I still believe to be the left wingers of the CCF movement — The Department

of Education, the Department of Health, the Treasury Department, the Premier of the province, these are the key positions. These people since they have been in power have lost a deferred election, they have lost a by-election in Turtleford, they have lost a by-election in Weyburn, and I am certainly convinced they have lost the confidence of the people in the country.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Now let me suggest in all sincerity that I believe a government of this nature controlled as I believe it to be more by eastern labor union interests than by the people of this province, that there is only one alternative open — the correct thing for them to do is to resign and face the country and let the people settle the issue. That is my personal opinion.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Mr. Snedker: — Well you can make the issue what you choose but I will make the issue as far as I am concerned — freedom versus socialist dictatorship.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Willis — What issue.

Mr. Snedker: — I shall not support the motion Mr. Speaker, I shall support the amendment, and I would also, if he chooses to give it, be willing to accept the apology of the hon. Minister of Health at this time.

Opposition Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Williams (Minister of Labour): — Have I got the green light Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: — You may proceed — you have the floor.

Hon. Mr. Williams: — I am glad the house is in such good humour. First, may I congratulate you on your elevation to the high office, Mr. Speaker. I also want to congratulate my seat mate, the member from Touchwood (Mr. Meakes) on being appointed Deputy Speaker.

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I want to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply and those who have taken part in the debate.

While I am on my feet may I also include the member for Weyburn (Mr. Staveley) and welcome him to this legislature and finally, congratulate the member from Athabasca (Mr. Guy) on the addition to his family and I hope both of them are doing well. Thanks for the cigar.

About one year ago the Saskatchewan Government Telephones launched a ten year program to provide dial service to all points in the province, and to eliminate all manually operated exchanges. Following are the points we plan on leaving as control centres in the handling of long distance calls. Members might like to watch for their own constituency — Meadow Lake, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Melfort, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Rosetown, Outlook, Yorkton, Regina, Moosomin, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Assiniboia, Weyburn, Estevan, Canora, Wadena, Kindersley and Shaunavon. Those last four, Canora, Wadena, Kindersley and Shaunavon, are expected to be converted to C.D.O's in from 5 to 8 years. The closing of the other 353 offices throughout the province will of course be gradual. The exchanges to be converted this year, in 1962, are as follows: It won't take a minute to run through them. Aberdeen, Alsask, Balcarres, Bienfait, Cabri, Carlyle, Davidson, Herbert, Hudson Bay, Kelvington, Kerrobert, Lanigan, Lake Lenore, Leroy, Lumsden, Luseland, Northbank, Oxbow, Preeceville, Radisson, Stoughton, Strasbourg, Sturgis, Wakaw, Watson and Whitewood . . . total of 26.

Mr. McDonald: — You forgot Biggar.

Hon. Mr. Williams: — I am just coming to Biggar. We have found that such changes have generally speaking met with the approval of the towns converted in the past year. Exchanges in Biggar, Maple Creek, Unity, Wilkie, Wynyard, Battleford, Rouleau, Birch Hills and Fort Qu'Appelle, have been closed, and any employees who wished to remain in Saskatchewan Government Telephones have been moved elsewhere.

We met some opposition from the mayor and town council in Biggar but after one of the officials went in with maps and data etc. we heard no more about it. Long distance calls to and from the town of Biggar, (you will realize that is the home of the Premier), are being handled by the operators in Saskatoon.

Some citizens in Melville, however, have opposed

such a move and feel that city should be made one of the 21 toll centres. Unfortunately Melville is not in the proper location and to leave it open would be quite expensive, even extravagant. First \$30,000 would be required to build an addition to the building. Second, the switchboard, valued at \$30,000 can be moved elsewhere and similar expenditures made unnecessary. Third it will not be necessary to spend \$50,000 in a few years on equipment which would be required for customers' distance dialing if the office was to be left open. Because of technological changes the Melville switchboard is not being used to capacity and a partial use is uneconomical. There are six sections to this switchboard, Mr. Speaker, and at the present time only two of them are being used. Fourth a study has indicated a saving of approximately \$17,000 per year can be made by operating Melville as a community-style office rather than a staff office. It is cheaper to centralize long distance switchboards than to maintain so many staffed offices. The amounts just referred to total up to a capital saving of \$110,000 and an amount of between \$17,000 and \$18,000 yearly.

However, a group of Melville citizens have opposed the move and have sent either three or four delegations to Regina to interview myself or officials of the system. With one or two exceptions these men have realized that such a policy was justified and modern progress cannot be stopped. However, the secretary of the Melville Board of Trade has been quite active in opposing the move, and has circulated a petition signed allegedly by over 2,000 people. A glance through the sheets has shown that at least one of these long sheets had been signed by school children in Grades X and XI. Another was signed by an official of a rural company along with 123 subscribers. This man, the secretary of the Board of Trade, recently applied for an interview with Premier Lloyd and myself and some of the officials of S.G.T. but in view of the approaching session and the policy of not meeting delegations unless for a real urgency, after January 1st, the Premier asked me and any other members of the Board of Directors to go to Melville and meet the Board of Trade, taking some of our staff with us. The Attorney General, Mr. Walker, who is vice-chairman of the board, together with the general manager, the assistant general manager, the chief engineer, went to Melville on February 21st. All of us were extremely busy people at that time, but we welcomed the opportunity of explaining the situation to the people of Melville as to why we wanted to close the office next August.

We were guests of the Board of Trade at noon and afterwards had an amicable meeting where I outlined the reasons we felt justified in the closing of the exchange, the same reasons I referred to here just a few moments ago. The general manager and the chief engineer filled in some of the details.

In view of the claim that the petition contained 2,000 names we felt it would be proper also to have a public meeting in the city hall, where reasons could be given to as many people as would turn out. Between 50 and 60 were interested enough to come. I started off and spent some time again explaining our reasons to these Melville citizens. After I was through, Mr. Medhurst, general manager spoke and further explained details which he thought would be of interest, mostly technical matters. There were some suggestions that the exchange in Canora should be closed and the Melville exchange left open, but in view of the location of our heavy wire circuits this was not feasible. There are now 4,044 telephones that come into the Canora exchange in comparison with a little over 3,000 into the Melville exchange. The number of long distance calls in and out, or the number of local telephones in the towns of Canora and Melville, has nothing to do with where the toll stations should be located. Melville has grown enough to be called a city, but is in the wrong place geographically to be made a toll centre. I recall five or six years ago Mr. Muirhead who was general manager at that time, explaining the future status of Canora which was decided at the time to be the toll centre for the area north and east. This situation has now arrived. I was quite pleased to see the M.L.A. for Melville constituency (Mr. Gardiner) enter the hall a little late — he looked real sharp in his new spring suit. He has every right to know what goes on in his area and I welcomed the opportunity to provide him with this information. He had not heard what I had said and if I remember correctly either the Attorney General or the general manager was speaking when he came in. Other persons in the audience expressed their views, their points of view, or asked questions which were answered by either myself or the general manager, or the chief engineer. Suddenly Mr. Gardiner left his seat, hurried to the front, and without asking permission, commenced a tirade against me for bringing the general manager. I might say here Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Medhurst is a valued official of S.G.T. with over 43 years of service. He is cautious, meticulous and has a flair for details. Mr. Gardiner's suggestion that I had jeopardized his job by having him present is pure nonsense. He will be with me

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again when we come to crown corporations, sometime this month, as will all other general managers be with their ministers. The same goes for deputy ministers and others who will be with their ministers during the budget period or public accounts.

While we had been very careful to keep politics out of the discussions, Mr. Gardiner claimed it was a political meeting, although how anyone could be expected to gain any political kudos by taking a \$17 thousand or \$18 thousand payroll out of the city is beyond me. He made no reference as I recall to the matter under discussion, but attacked the telephone system for spending huge sums of money to house its employees in the city of Regina. Naturally I was quite upset over the sudden switch from an orderly meeting where we had not had any rowdyism to a violent attack on me personally, and on the government. In spite of a number of interruptions from myself, the Attorney General, and members of the audience telling him to keep politics out of it, and to sit down, he kept right on talking in a loud voice. I have an expression I use, perhaps unfortunately when annoyed or disgusted and I made this remark to my colleague the Attorney General, in reference to the sudden switch from an orderly meeting to a roughhouse political meeting. The member heard the remark and thinking it referred to him dashed across to where I was seated in a threatening manner. One newspaper indicated he seemed about to hit me — well if he had he would have got one right back.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Williams: — Then there was an exchange between the member and the Attorney General, who referred to him as my “loud mouthed friend” — the member the other day said it was blabber mouth but it is about the same thing.

Mr. Grotzky, a very gentlemanly person, who had presented a brief a little earlier, sitting in the front row, got up and asked Mr. Gardiner to sit down, which he did. The meeting then continued with certain citizens again making their views known and then asking questions.

After the meeting adjourned I approached the member with a view of talking things over without any heat, but he was still furious and claimed the telephone system spent too much money on advertising and turned away.

when he spoke in this house on Friday he was quite cool and gave little cause for offense, although some of his statements were not too accurate. However, ten days ago in the city hall in Melville he appeared to be excited — his face was red, he perspired and shouted at the top of his voice.

Mr. Gardiner on Friday said he apologized to the people who attended the meeting for the action of two cabinet ministers. He might consider apologizing to them for his own actions. The whole incident, Mr. Speaker, was a tempest in a teapot and I regret taking up the time of the house with it, but in view of certain press reports I feel it should be properly explained to the legislature and to the public, particularly to the citizens of Melville for whom I have a very high regard.

I wrote Mr. Gardiner a week ago expressing my regrets that the whole thing ever happened and that is as far as I care to go, and as far as I am concerned the matter is closed. Back in the twenties I lived in Melville, then a town, for about three years. Phil Walters who is well known in that part of the country was mayor, and the present mayor, Mr. Bailey, was a call boy on the railway at that time. They were both present at this meeting and strongly opposed the proposal, the closing of the exchange but came up and shook hands with me afterwards as did many others.

We may be making ourselves unpopular in some quarters by this move but I cannot in all good conscience see where we have any other choice. One hundred and ten thousand capital cost and a saving between \$17 and \$18 thousand yearly is entirely too high a price to pay for goodwill. Back in 1946 or 1947 I attended the opening of a new theatre in Melville and afterwards was approached by a group of business men requesting the town be provided with dial telephones to replace the old ringing of the operator type. I was later informed that the telephone system had wished to do this back in the 20's but due to the opposition of one prominent citizen, who had a niece working as an operator, the project was dropped. However, I immediately took steps to initiate the improvement and Melville got its dial service in 1949. I have every reason to believe that the citizens there appreciated the change.

In closing Mr. Speaker, may I say that the Board of Directors and the officials of Saskatchewan Government Telephones wish to provide the people of this province with the highest quality of telephone service obtainable.

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It is perhaps unfortunate that in doing so many positions of operators will gradually disappear. However, we must step with modern times and technological changes which are rapidly taking place in all provinces and all states to the south.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion.

Hon. Mr. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, with a minute left to me I wish first of all to congratulate you sir on your elevation to your high office as Speaker of this legislature. Your background and record of attention to duty and responsibility and the hours of service that you have given in your capacity as chairman of the various committees gives us a good knowledge of your fairness and impartiality. I wish also to congratulate you because you represent a constituency that has an outstanding record of support for the progressive movement, initiated by the man who started the farm movement in its political action stage back in the thirties in the person of George Williams.

Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I wish also to congratulate and very sincerely, the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Berezowsky) and the hon. member for Lumsden (Mr. Thurston) both of whom gave very valuable contributions to the debate in this house.

Before adjourning Mr. Speaker, I would say a few words apropos to the words in the speech made by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Williams). We all know the hon. member for Regina as a gentleman of the first order. I have never yet in all my experience heard the hon. member say as much as “gee whiz” about anyone and trying to suggest that the hon. member for Regina would use the kind of words that were suggested by the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Gardiner) that were directed to him, would be like accusing St. Francis of the Assisi of throwing stones at birds.

Mr. Gardiner: — On a point of order Mr. Speaker, I am just going to say that the minister admitted using those words but they weren't against me, so I would appreciate it . . .

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — That's true but the hon.

member for Melville suggested that they were, and I am glad to know that he has accepted the fact that the hon. member for Regina would not use that kind of language.

Mr. Gardiner: — Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I did not say that I was prepared to accept the minister's statement. I said that the minister now speaking intimated that the minister wouldn't say those words and he admitted saying them.

Mr. Speaker: — Order! Order! that is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — If the hon. member for Melville attributes these words as directed to him. May I suggest Mr. Speaker, that would be like suggesting that St. Francis of Assisi would throw stones at birds. I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

Mr. Gardiner: — The minister did a good job on his own Toby.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Keep your big mouth shut.

Mr. Speaker: — Order! Order!

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:35 o'clock p.m.