

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Second Session — Sixteenth Legislature**  
**25th Day**

**Monday, March 10, 1969**

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.  
On the Orders of the Day

**WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

**Mr. G.T. Snyder (Moose Jaw North):** — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and to the other Members of this House, a fine group of 39 grade six students from the Palliser Heights school. Palliser Heights school is situated in Moose Jaw North, of course. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Thompson. This is the second group that has visited us during this session from Palliser Heights. I'm sure that all Members will want to join with me in expressing a sincere welcome to them and express the wish that their day will be a pleasant and informative one and that they'll have a pleasant and a safe trip back home.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. C.L.B. Estey (Saskatoon Nutana Centre):** — Mr. Speaker, the group from Victoria school have not as yet arrived and I would appreciate it very much, if they do arrive, that I might speak and welcome them later in the afternoon.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIK MIDGET C HOCKEY TEAM**

**Mr. W.A. McIvor (Arm River):** — Before the Orders of the Day, I wish to inform this House that the Craik Midget C Hockey Team won the Provincial Championship Saturday. They defeated Wakaw in the finals by a score of 9 to 3 and 7 to 4. The Member from Kinistino (Mr. Thibault) who was justly proud of his team has made a slight contribution to the Treasurer of the Craik Club.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. McIvor:** — Craik has a very good record in minor hockey, having won four juveniles, two midgets, one bantam championship since 1960. I would like all Members to join with me in congratulating them on the fine showing that they made.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**CONDOLENCES**

**Mr. R. Romanow (Saskatoon Riversdale):** — Mr. Speaker, I should like

very briefly before the Orders of the Day to draw to the attention of the Members of this House the very unfortunate passing on Thursday last in the city of Saskatoon of a very noted historian and one of the leading citizens of Saskatchewan, Professor G.W. Simpson, of the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, he died at the age of 75 and has long been noted, as I have said, as one of the leading citizens of this province. He was Professor Emeritus of the History Department at the University of Saskatchewan, having taught history for approximately 36 years. Mr. Speaker, he was head of the History Department at the University in Saskatoon for about 17 years. I am sure that all Members of this House will appreciate that Dr. Simpson attempted to, and I think to a great degree was successful, cultivating a deep historic sense in the people of Saskatchewan. He helped shape the policy of such important new features as The Saskatchewan Archives Act.

May I just inject one small personal note, Mr. Speaker. Many Members may not know that Dr. Simpson was a very close friend of people of Ukrainian descent and background in the Province of Saskatchewan. He was the first Canadian historian that we know of that could learn, took the time to learn the Ukrainian language so that he could be better facilitated in his translation of Ukrainian history and Ukrainian fine arts. He was always a friend of the Ukrainian people and those who know something about the history of the Ukrainians in the early years will know that that's a very meaningful thing. He initiated, also, the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, he had many honors including being a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. I am sure that all Members would want it recorded that we, as Legislators of the Province, sorrow the passing of a truly great Saskatchewanian.

**Hon. D.V. Heald (Attorney General):** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could associate myself and those of us on this side of the House with the words of eulogy which have been so eloquently spoken by the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale with regard to the death of Dr. George Simpson, well-known historian and one of the great pioneer citizens of this province. I know, Sir, that you will forgive a personal note here when I make the observation that I studied under Dr. Simpson. I took three history classes from him at the University of Saskatchewan and it was a great experience to have had the opportunity to be a member of his history classes. I always remember him saying that history was a very useful art and that everybody should study history because history became so valuable in applying the lessons of the past to the problems of the future. This was truly a great man and everybody in Saskatchewan I know will mourn his passing.

**Mr. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition):** — Mr. Speaker, I want to add to the tribute paid by the Member from Saskatoon Riversdale (Mr. Romanow) and the

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Attorney General (Mr. Heald). As the Member from Riversdale has reminded us, Dr. George Simpson did take a particularly close and personal interest in our ethnic groups in Saskatchewan and particularly in the Ukrainian people. There was a way in which he served which was very close to Members of the Legislature. He was a main force. The main force I think one could say, in the passing of an Archives and Public Documents Act in the Province of Saskatchewan in the late forties. In addition to that he became our first Provincial Archivist. He carried on the duties in connection with and in addition to his duties as Professor at the University. It is of interest to note that at least the two succeeding Provincial Archivists, Dr. Lewis Thomas and Mr. John Archer, were students of Professor Simpson. Indeed then the Provincial archives which is a product in part of the Provincial Legislature, owe a great debt to him. One of his remarks, and it's similar to the one the Attorney General reminded us of, was that a country that forgets its history can't possibly know where it's going. We have much debt in the Legislature and throughout the Province to Professor Simpson for his very wide and sensitive instruction in history in all its phases.

**Mr. J.J. Charlebois (Saskatoon City Park-University):** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the others in extending sympathy to Mrs. Simpson on the passing of this great citizen of our province. It has been my privilege in the last few years for us to have been next door neighbor of Dr. and Mrs. Simpson. Certainly it's with a great deal of regret that we note his passing. Besides the many qualities that have been mentioned here, I can say that Dr. Simpson was also very fond of his garden and very fond of people and his neighbors. At all times he was completely interested in the welfare of others and it is indeed with a great deal of feeling that we see this citizen of ours pass on.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIK MIDGET C HOCKEY TEAM**

**Mr. A. Thibault (Kinistino):** — Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the Member from Arm River (Mr. McIvor) in congratulating the hockey team from Craik who played against Wakaw. I certainly took great pleasure in making a contribution toward the Craik Club because I know any time our young people get that kind of money, it'll certainly be well spent. Once again I want to congratulate the Member for attending the game at Wakaw, and I want to extend my best wishes to the Craik Hockey Club because as we always say, 'May the best team win.' Thank you.

#### **QUESTIONS**

#### **THE PREFONTAINE REPORT**

**Mr. E. Kramer (The Battlefords):** — Before the Minister takes his seat, Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Prefontaine Commission has finished their

report and, if so, will copies be available to Members of the Legislature?

**Hon. G.B. Grant (Minister of Public Health):** — No, the study is not yet complete.

**Mr. Kramer:** — The second question, Mr. Minister, will copies be available when it is completed?

**Mr. Grant:** — It's a report that was made for the departmental administration and I haven't as yet determined whether it's to be tabled or not.

### PROVINCIAL ROAD BANS

**Mr. F.A. Dewhurst (Wadena):** — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to address a question to the Government. I understand that a road ban is going to go on highways before too long in all probability. My question is: what provisions are being made for the farmers to haul their grain to and from dryers during the period the ban is on the road, because some of these dryers are connected to a grain elevator. They must take them to and from the elevator and the farmers have asked what is being done on their behalf?

**Hon. D.V. Heald (Attorney General):** — As a matter of fact, the Government has that under consideration. It was brought to our attention and we are trying to evolve a system of regulations which, while preserving the roads on the one hand, at the same time will make it possible for the farmers, as you have suggested, to get their wheat to the dryers. We are working on a policy now and hopefully will be able to announce something in a day or so.

**Mr. Dewhurst:** — One further question. Would the Attorney General make copies of the policy available to us so that we can let our people know when they contact us?

**Mr. Heald:** — Well, yes, Mr. Speaker, it will be in the form of a public announcement. It'll be made to the Legislature and anything of course that's made available to the Legislature will be available to all Members.

### WELCOME TO STUDENTS

**Hon. C.L.B. Estey (Saskatoon Nutana Centre):** — Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to introduce to the House students from Victoria school in Saskatoon who are in the Speaker's gallery and are accompanied here this afternoon

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by their teachers. I am sure we are delighted to have these students with us and we thank their teachers for showing sufficient interest to bring them along to Regina. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## SECOND READINGS

Hon. A.R. Guy (Minister of Public Works) moved second reading of Bill No. 60 — **An Act to provide for Financial Assistance to Cities for the Establishment and Improvement of Water Pollution Control Works.**

He said: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say a few words on second reading of this Bill to provide financial assistance to cities for the establishment and improvement of water pollution control works. This is another example, I submit, of this Government's concern for the problems of cities to raise money during this period of tight money and high interest rates. All people in Saskatchewan recognize that water pollution presents a real threat to our well-being and to our economy. We recognize that all levels of government and industry have a public responsibility to ensure maintenance of the quality of our water resource. Industry wants good quality water to use in its processes. Municipalities need safe water of good quality. Treatment costs are kept at a minimum if natural water quality is maintained and every citizen wants the beauty of our natural water bodies in the associated wildlife resources protected. The general objective of the water pollution control program implemented on April 1st, 1968 is to protect and enhance the capacity of our water resource to serve the widest possible range of uses. The discharge of treated effluent or waste water is acceptable where it does not cause pollution or impair water quality to the extent that it adversely and unreasonably affects other uses of that water. As a matter of policy, no sewage may be discharged which has not received a minimum of primary treatment. Treatment over and above primary treatment may be required depending on the circumstances.

In the case of new systems, treatment plans must include provision for adding secondary treatment facilities. Where there is limited water available for dilution purposes, the time period allowed for introduction of secondary treatment is limited. In the case of existing primary systems, the Commission is prepared to negotiate a reasonable schedule for the construction of secondary work. We are fortunate in Saskatchewan that water pollution has not gained the upper hand, and it is our hope that it never will as it is a very expensive proposition to correct it, once it has occurred. This is not to say that we do not have water pollution problems but they are isolated and can be corrected. Generally speaking our urban centres and industry have done a good job of effluent treatment. Most of them now provide the equivalent of secondary treatment of waste water.

Since the regulations went into effect last April, the Commission has secured commitments to provide treatment facilities from all those urban centres that do not presently have such facilities. The requirements that these centres construct sewage treatment works pose a real financial problem. Construction and equipment costs have soared in recent years. Since 1960 our towns and villages have been protected from unreasonable sewer and water charges by way of assistance under The Municipal Water Assistance Act. However, cities are not eligible for assistance under that Act.

The Bill before you today provides for Provincial Government grants to Saskatchewan cities amounting to 10 per cent of the cost of actual sewage treatment plants and appurtenant land and other works. The maximum grant to a city is set at \$500,000. These grants will be applicable in the case of construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing works.

The early beneficiaries of this new system of grants will be the cities of Yorkton, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. However, our other cities are growing and the expansion of their treatment facilities will only be a matter of time and then they will receive assistance also.

The knowledge that this assistance is available will assist these cities in planning their construction program. This program together with CMHC assistance will mean that cities can expect by way of senior government grants up to 26 per cent of the capital cost of sewage treatment works.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is another example of Liberal action where our words of concern for cities' financial problems are backed up by hard, cold cash.

**Mr. W.G. Davies (Moose Jaw South)** — I had only a question, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Public Works. Does the Minister have any estimates, or his advisors, as to the amount of money that would be necessary to bring sewage disposal works to a point where they would be satisfactory from all points of view, including health points of view?

**Mr. W.J. Berezowsky (Prince Albert East-Cumberland):** — Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to enter this debate except for the fact that the Hon. Minister (Mr. Guy) made a certain statement. He boasted about a 10 per cent grant the Province is going to contribute to the cities that take upon themselves to build the necessary controls. I recognize as every Member does that pollution of our water is a contemporary evil and something must be done about it. To that extent I commend the Government for proposing this Bill. But I do want to tell the Minister that, when he suggests that 10 per cent is a big deal, instead it's a very small deal even when he stated that the Federal Government through its CMHC is going to

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assist with another 16 per cent. That still is only 26 per cent of the total cost. When you consider the interest rates of today that must be paid by municipal institutions then it is not a very big deal. It's not a tremendous amount of assistance, such as the Minister suggested. I must say that I wish this Government had done something to establish a municipal development fund in co-operation with the Government of Canada under which plan this Government could have obtained money at a possible one or two per cent cost. Now, if such a program had been incorporated into this Bill as a result of such a policy, then I would have said that you're really giving substantial assistance to the cities that require essential pollution control.

I'm glad you've brought the Bill in, Mr. Minister. I know the city that I represent, which is part of Prince Albert, needs this kind of service but I must say, "Please do not boast about the tremendous assistance you're giving to the cities because I think it's very, very paltry."

**Mr. H.H.P. Baker (Regina South East):** — I am certainly glad to see this Act come into force. I think it's long overdue and I am satisfied that it will do a good job. However, as you notice in the remarks of the Minister (Mr. Guy) it's to bail out Yorkton, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. I know Saskatoon needs it very badly, because of the way they're polluting that wonderful Saskatchewan River. This is something that should have been done 10 years ago, and I know it's going to cost them a lot of money. We are planning an extension to our sewage system here this spring or summer, and I believe I understood the Minister to say there would be money for expansion too. Is that right? It's not just for these three locations this year. Well, I certainly appreciate that because we plan on expanding our oxidation ponds and aeration system which has been highly successful. I might tell the Members of this House the city of Regina could have been faced with \$6 to \$7 million expenditure but because of this system we were able to reduce that through this method. It may be good for other people to come and investigate our system. Other cities across Canada have followed suit. It is difficult to be utilized in Ontario because of the closeness of the urban centres as large tracts of land are needed. I'm very pleased to see this and I hope we will get the same treatment that other centres will get, when we make application for our expanded plan this year.

I certainly want to support the Bill.

**Hon. A.R. Guy (Minister of Public Works):** — In answer to the Member for Moose Jaw, I haven't got those figures here, but I think my officials have a rough estimate which we can take a look at in Committee. I want to thank the Member for Prince Albert East-Cumberland (Mr. Berezowsky) for his support. Small wonders never cease. One minute you say we are doing too much and then the next

minute you say we are not providing enough. I only remind the Member for Prince Albert East-Cumberland that this is 26 per cent more than was provided under his Government. As for a Municipal Development Fund, if he is very patient he will find that this Liberal promise will be carried out in the very near future as well.

In reply to the Member for Regina South East (Mr. Baker), I did mention in introducing second reading of the Bill that all cities in Saskatchewan will benefit from this in the future. In fact, our Estimates are that within five years every city in Saskatchewan as well as the three that I mentioned will have to expand their works and will become eligible for some assistance.

Motion agreed to and Bill read a second time.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:00 o'clock p.m.