

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Second Session — Sixteenth Legislature**  
**33rd Day**

**Thursday, March 20, 1969**

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

**WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

**Mr. E. Whelan** (Regina North West): — Mr. Speaker, through you, Sir, it is my pleasure to introduce to all Members 60 alert young citizens from the grade five class at Sherwood school in Regina North West. They are in the Speakers gallery and are accompanied by their social studies teacher, Mrs. Nancy Hill and her assistant, Mrs. Carol Caswell. All Members I am sure join me in congratulating the teachers of this group for their interest in parliamentary procedure and expressing the wish that their stay here with us this afternoon will be informative and pleasant.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. J.E. Brockelbank** (Saskatoon Mayfair): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Assembly a group situated in the west gallery, a group of students from Bishop Klein school in Saskatoon Mayfair. They are 36 in number and I believe that they are accompanied by Mr. Orosz and Mr. Gruending. I am sure that all Members of the Chamber will hope that they have an educational and a pleasant day here today and wish them a safe journey back to Saskatoon Mayfair.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Provincial-Municipal Conference**

**Hon. W.R. Thatcher** (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I should like to make an announcement which I think has some importance. I wish to indicate that a Provincial-Municipal Conference will be held in Regina Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17. It will be held in these Chambers.

The Government is inviting the following organizations to send six official delegates and a maximum of six observers: The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association; the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association.

At the conference which we held some years ago there were ten representatives. We have reduced that at the request of

the Association. In addition we are inviting the Saskatchewan Hospital Association to send two voting delegates. About 15 other organizations will be invited to send two observers each if they wish. The latter group will include such organizations as The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, The Saskatchewan's Farmer Union, The Chamber of Commerce, The Teachers' Federation and The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and so on.

All Members of the Legislature, of course, will be invited as observers. This will be the first conference held since Dec. 1965. The main purpose of the gathering will be to discuss all aspects of provincial-municipal relations and particularly as they pertain to financial matters.

We hope in this day of tight money that this will be a particularly useful conference to the people of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## QUESTIONS

### Recalling of Defective Vehicles

**Mr. E. Whelan** (Regina North West): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day may I direct a question to the Attorney General (Mr. Heald), the Minister in charge of the Highway Traffic Board?

In view of the shocking information carried by the local press that the world's largest auto manufacturer is recalling 1,100,000 vehicles suspected of defective brakes, can the Minister advise us what steps the Government or the Highway Traffic Board or any agency of the Government has taken to advise the owners of these vehicles of the dangerous defect?

**Hon. D.V. Heald** (Attorney General): — I haven't heard the report, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly look into it.

**Mr. Whelan:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could direct a supplementary question to the Hon. Minister. What representations, if any, has the Government made to the Federal Government to prevent a repetition of this shoddy manufacturing, since another 4,900,000 vehicles were recalled by this same company in February of this year for defective exhaust and carburettor systems?

**Mr. Heald:** — Well, I think that it would be a normal question. If you submit the question in a normal way it will be answered in the normal way.

**Hon. D. Boldt** (Minister of Highways): — Mr. Speaker, if I may answer. In the same news report it also stated that GMC was advising the motorists that had these cars to bring them in. If the Member had read the

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full report he wouldn't have needed to ask this question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. J. Kowalchuk** (Melville): — Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister. Can the Minister assure us because of this situation that special consideration will be given to school buses in that category?

**Mr. Heald:** — Sir, I said that we would look into it.

### **Establishment of a Counter-Missile System by U.S.A.**

**Mr. W.S. Lloyd** (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I want to direct a question to the Government. The question arises out of information, very disconcerting information, for the last several days that the Government of the United States was going to establish a counter-missile system. I know that the Government of Canada is in consultation with them. The point of importance to Saskatchewan people is that the base for this system is to be established at Great Falls, Montana and Grand Forks, North Dakota, which will put Saskatchewan directly in the fly-way or course-way. I wonder if the Government has or will consider indicating to the Government of Canada the very considerable concern of people in the Province of Saskatchewan at this very worrisome situation?

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that we have enough problems dealing with Provincial matters. This does not come under our jurisdiction in any way. Now, I admit that we have to take steps to protect ourselves against the Russian Socialists and the Chinese Socialists, but still that is the duty of Ottawa and not the duty of this Legislature.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### **MOTION FOR RETURN**

#### **Return No. 101**

**Mr. W.G. Davies** (Moose Jaw South): moved that an Order of the Assembly do issue for Return 101 showing:

1. Prior to the introduction in the Legislature, in 1968, of the Employment Agencies Bill, whether there was any communication or consultation with respect to the subject matter of this Bill between the Government of Saskatchewan or any of its Departments or Agencies, and (a) the Federal Government or any of its Departments or Agencies; (b) any labour organization or organizations ; (c) any employers' organization or organizations,

employment agency or agencies, or any person or persons interest in, or wishing to promote or establish, any fee-charging private employment agencies.

2. With whom and when any such communications or consultations took place.

**Hon. L.P. Coderre** (Minister of Labour): — Mr. Speaker, the question asked here is asking for something that is impossible to answer. For example, how do I know and remember in the previous five years the number of consultations which I have had in my office, what they were about, or whether they were about the Workmen's Compensation Board, or unemployment or any facets of that. Some of the correspondence that I may have had, much of it is of a confidential nature. So under those circumstances I feel that I am not able to give the answer and I would ask this Legislature to turn this question down.

**Mr. Davies:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to the attention of this House and to the Minister of Labour who has just spoken that this question does not refer to incidental or casual conversations that have taken place over a long period of time. The Motion asks respecting the period prior to the introduction in the Legislature in 1968 of the Employment Agencies Bill, whether there was any communication or consultation with respect to the subject matter of this Bill. It goes on to say, "between the Government of Saskatchewan and any of its Departments or Agencies and (a) the Federal Government and any of its Department or Agencies" and so forth. It doesn't cover the range of matters that the Minister of Labour has rung in, in his usual vague fashion, may I add, without reference to the Motion before us.

There should not be here any question of confidentiality. I think we have a right again to know whether conversations of this kind were held, and whether the Government in introducing this Bill did consult with employer organizations, employees organizations, or with the Federal Government that has a very evident interest in this kind of legislation; whether, indeed, the Department proceeded out of the blue with respect to this legislation, or proceeded after having some information from those people who are acquainted with the Bill that the Minister in 1968 after some discussion withdrew in this House.

I say that none of the reasons that the Minister has given us apply to what we are talking about. I point out again that we are talking about what happened prior to the introduction of this Bill in 1968. If the Government uses its majority again, as it has done so many times during the course of this Legislative session, to deny information, not only to the Opposition but to the people of this province, it will be yet another indication that the Government is hiding information from the people who have a right to know about it.

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**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Motion negatived.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 15 - Saskatchewan Code of Human Rights**

**Mr. R. Romanow** (Saskatoon Riversdale) moved, seconded by Mr. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition):

That this Assembly recommend to the consideration of the Government the immediate passage of legislation to enact a Saskatchewan Code of Human Rights to be administered by a Human Rights Commission of Saskatchewan.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the motion that I am going to be moving concerns itself with human rights in the Province of Saskatchewan and the proposed Human Rights Commission for the Province of Saskatchewan.

I am sure that I am not alone when I say that this Resolution is a very important Resolution, one that I think should be of particular importance and interest to us, the Parliamentarians of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, human rights are one of the most important touchstones of our democratic society. They are much talked about - regrettably, often, though they are not followed in our society. All Members of this House, I am sure, will agree with me that we judge the degree of concern that a Government has for its citizens by the type of human rights legislation that it enacts. This Resolution is prompted by my belief that the Saskatchewan Government and this Legislature should act now to implement a human rights legislation program worthy of the needs of the 1970s.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — Now, the term human rights can be used to cover a wide range of individual freedoms and obligations of the province or of the state toward the citizens of the society. It can, however, be also described in rather simple terms, such as life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, as we are all familiar with in the Declaration in the United States. Human rights can be comprehensively stated as they were in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Whatever way human rights are stated to be, they should be guaranteed for the citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan and this, Mr. Speaker, is the intention of the proposed Resolution.

Now before proceeding further, it should be brought to the attention of the Members of this House that the Province of Saskatchewan has been the leader of human rights legislation

in the past. The Saskatchewan Bill of Rights was passed by the former CCF Government back in 1947, and I might add that in many jurisdictions it still remains as a beacon of human rights legislation throughout Canada and much of North America. This Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, which is still in force, is one of the most extensive statutes on civil liberties. It deals with fundamental freedoms of speech, press, assembly, religion, association, commonly called as the political civil liberties. It also prohibits discrimination with respect to accommodation, employment, occupation, land transactions, education, business and enterprises. It also purports to binding the Crown, the gentlemen sitting opposite, and every servant and agent of the Crown, as it ought properly to do. It can be seen by a quick perusal of the human rights legislation in Saskatchewan that, at one time, this Province was the leader of human rights legislation in Canada.

My Resolution is presented as a result of my belief that the times now demand a broad and new approach to human rights legislation in order to update such bills as the Saskatchewan Bill of Human Rights. We can be rightfully proud that Saskatchewan passed this Bill in 1947. However, I now call on Members of this House to seriously consider the Resolution for a new Bill of Rights for tomorrow.

One of the main reasons for the introduction of this Resolution is that the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights is enforced through a penal sanction, that is the imposition of a fine. The major flaw of the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights is that there really is no provision for the administration or enforcement of that Act in a manner other than through application of another statute of this province. For example, if there happens to be a violation, it has to be enforced through provisions of another statute such as The Liquor Act or The Vehicles Act of the Province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Bill of Rights is sort of quasi-criminal in that it declares certain practices to be illegal and sets out certain sanctions.

This type of protection is subject however to a number of weaknesses, it is, of course, better than no form of protection whatsoever, but as I have stated it is subject to a number of weaknesses. An example is that there is reluctance often on the part of a victim of discrimination of Saskatchewan to initiate criminal proceedings. Often, there are difficulties in proving the offence according to the standards of a court of criminal law. And further, I am sure that there is a reluctance on the part of the judiciary to convict in these types of circumstances, probably reflecting our view that a discriminatory act is probably not in the same category or nature as a quasi-criminal act or a criminal offence.

Also, I feel, that the Legislators of Saskatchewan must have known, at the time of implementation of the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, that the provisions were somewhat inadequate because they also saw fit to implement such statutes as The Fair Employment Practices Act, The Fair Accommodation Practices Act

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and so on. These statutes, I am sure, were designed to provide for a mechanism whereby penalties could be imposed on violators and trespassers of human rights.

What I wish to stress here, Mr. Speaker, is that the legislation as presently set out in the Statute Books of Saskatchewan, although adequate in its day, now requires a further and more effective form of supporting legislation. Well, some Members will probably want to question why the increased concern or interest in civil liberties. I feel that there are probably many reasons for this, but very briefly, I think four main reasons highlight the concern for civil liberties generally. Firstly, since the Second World War, it can be said that the level of conscience has, I think, in the society as a whole been greatly increased. This is probably directly due to the international shock that we received through experiences in death camps in the Second World War and the like. As has been stated by one writer on Human Rights, he said, "That particular bruise on our moral reserves likely will be there to discolour conscience for a long time to come." Secondly, people in Saskatchewan are beginning to appreciate the role that human rights ideas play in the contemporary movements of the last 10 to 15 years. Many movements in the world which are based on so-called self-determination and similar purposes are nourished by some form of ideals or sympathy for human rights. Often in the world, Mr. Speaker, political alignments and social policy and the type of conflict that goes on in social structures have been greatly shaped and moulded by the attitudes and the actions respecting human rights by other peoples in the world. Thirdly, the singularly most important reason for the rise of concern for civil liberties is the confrontation of colour that is being witnessed by our people and in the United States and elsewhere in North America. I think this confrontation of colour is dramatic. We see here a majority of mankind in the world who emerge now in a non-white situation in a confrontation of colour. We see in many states of the United States a struggle for political and economic equality of a black minority. We see massive psychological and physical changes for the underprivileged in many of the states in the United States and our friends to the South.

I say, Mr. Speaker, also that this confrontation of colours is taking place in subtle ways such as in the United Nations, for example, where there is growing concern over apartheid. I feel that there has also been no more singular reason for concern on civil liberties and human rights than, as I have termed, its confrontation of colour in the United States and other parts of North America.

Mr. Speaker, may I say that this problem also poses itself here in the Province of Saskatchewan. A few days ago we heard our Premier talk about a time bomb in the Province of Saskatchewan. He was referring to a particular Saskatchewan problem, perhaps not peculiar to Saskatchewan but primarily based here. Although it is not a confrontation of colour, in the sense that I have described, the Indian and Métis situation in Saskatchewan

does present to the people of Saskatchewan a confrontation crisis. There is growing concern, a growing awareness by the people of our province in human liberties as a result of the recent developments in Saskatchewan relating to our native people, and so there should be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, fourthly, another reason for the increase in human rights is what is often called the revolution of rising expectations. This phrase is attributed to Adlai Stevenson and I think is a classic description of the phenomenon of the developing countries. This phrase reflects the concern of many of the poor nations of the world and the poor people of this province and of this country to improve their living and working standards so that the term human rights may really mean something, so that the term human rights may mean to them better living standards in all regards. These terms, as I have said, are not restricted to faraway places. The revolution of rising expectations applies to all Canadians. It applies to the people of the Province of Saskatchewan and it is as applicable to the native people of this province as to the city dweller of Saskatoon or Regina who happens to be living in one of the slums of our cities.

This revolution, Mr. Speaker, is applicable to the farmer of the Province of Saskatchewan in many areas who is forced now, because of the cost-price squeeze and other arguments aired in this Chamber during this session, to struggle for economic survival and economic equality. So, Mr. Speaker, one can see that there are many reasons for this increased interest in human rights, why there is an increased interest in the Human Rights Commission and the institution of a Human Rights Code. I have simply attempted to illustrate four of the reasons for this increased interest to illustrate the concern in human rights legislation. I think these four reasons are sufficient in themselves to provide for the establishment of a Human Rights Code for Saskatchewan which would enshrine and define forever our basic and alienable social and political economic rights for the people of this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — These are reasons which, Mr. Speaker, are sufficient in themselves to provide for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission to enforce with strength and with vigour the case against racism and inequality and poverty in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have taken the liberty of preparing a draft Bill respecting the establishment of a Saskatchewan Code of Human Rights and the means to provide for the administration of this Code of Human Rights. I am going to, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, table a copy of the draft Bill with the Legislature. I have as well photocopies that I should like distributed sometime at the convenience of the staff to the Members of the Legislature. I am not going to take the time



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of the Members of this House to review in detail the relevant provisions of the proposed Bill. As I said, I am going to table it. It is going to be present on the desks of the Members of this House for their perusal.

Essentially though, the following are the major aspects of this legislation. It is drafted in the basic recognition that there is inherent dignity and equality and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as a general statement of principle. The Bill also states that it is the public policy of Saskatchewan that every person should be free and equal in dignity and rights without regard to race, creed, colour, nationality, ancestry or place of origin.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — This Bill also states that no person shall publish or display or cause to be displayed any notice, signs, symbols, emblem or other representation indicating discrimination. Further, it prohibits discrimination with respect to accommodation services or facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted. The Act further prohibits discrimination in the occupancy of commercial units which includes space used for such things as stores, offices, warehouses and manufacturing establishments. In the field of employment, no employer or person by this proposed legislation, no person or employer acting on behalf of an employer shall refuse to employ or to continue to employ any person who discriminates against another individual with respect to race, creed, colour, nationality, ancestry or place of origin. And I think in the field of employment special emphasis should be placed here. As, I said the other day, the Premier was asked on television about possible discrimination respecting hiring and placement of native peoples of our province. He indicated, according to my recollection of the newscast, that no instance of discrimination had been brought to his attention. I am sure that one of the reasons why discrimination had not been brought to the attention of the Government is probably the simple reluctance on the part of the native people to institute action. Further, I am sure that there are many occasions where Indian and Métis people are interested and concerned in launching proceedings against discrimination and against a person who violates human rights but simply do not know where to begin in order to start to initiate proceedings. This provision on employment is not only designed for Indian and Métis people. It's designed with respect to all working people of the Province of Saskatchewan. It's based on the underlying assumption that each and every one of us in this province, no matter what age, colour, creed, ability, political belief, has the basic human right to a decent job with decent working conditions and wages.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — This Act also suggests that

no person should circulate any application for employment or publish any advertisement in connection with prospective employment, which in any way, directly or indirectly, places a limitation or specification or preference or in any other way delineates as to race or colour or the other matters that I've talked about with respect to job placement.

Further, Mr. Speaker, the legislation is intended to be administered by a Human Rights Commission. In order to ensure that all of the above matters that I've talked about are followed and carried out, a Human Rights Code in order to be binding on the Government should be administered by a Human Rights Commission. This proposed Commission must have teeth in order to prosecute violations. In the draft Bill that I have tabled, it's a three-man commission, with the power of the Executive Council to increase its numbers as required. Members will note that the draft Bill also provides for staff and other essential material for the completion of the duties of this commission.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, I think it's most important that Members place a high emphasis on the strength and the independence and the value of this commission to administer human rights in Saskatchewan. These people must be placed at the level of a Deputy Minister at least and must be given freedom and autonomy and freedom from influence of the government of the day. They must be given freedom and independence as I've stated. They must be responsible to no Minister, to no political party, to no vested interests, to no employer or other group in the Province of Saskatchewan. They must have freedom to circulate into government offices short of the Cabinet Chamber and into employers' records, if need be, to search out possible acts of discrimination. To me this is the singularly most important improvement of any legislation respecting human rights that we have to date in the Province of Saskatchewan.

As I've said, the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, laudable as it is, is lacking this type of enforcement procedure. This proposed Bill is by no means the best in the area. It's merely a suggestion along the lines I would want this Legislature to consider and possibly proceed with. One other observation, Mr. Speaker. I said that the Bill is by no means the best or the most exhaustive in the field. I want to underline the fact that there is great interest in human rights in the Province of Saskatchewan. I personally regret that there are only about 10 or 11 Government Members opposite on the other side listening on this matter. I want to tell Members of this House that without any initiative on my part or by anybody on this side, four young people from the Province of Saskatchewan took it upon themselves, at their own expense, to take a day off from their classes to be present today to hear the presentation on human rights because that's how important they felt this matter was.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — I had never met these people

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prior to today. I had casually spoken to one of them when he approached me as the result of the notice of motion. They're so interested, Mr. Speaker, that I'm going to table another copy of a draft Bill on human rights that this student organization prepared with the assistance of older people in the Province of Saskatchewan. I think it's another form of bill that should be looked at for the consideration of the Members and I'm now going to table it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — And to put their concern in proper perspective, there are four people who are present here today. Two are from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon campus. One is Mr. Warren Caragata and the other is Miss Dawne Peterson. They're both sitting in the speaker's gallery, Mr. Speaker. From grade 12 at Evan Hardy Collegiate in Saskatoon, David Hosking and John Greer are present. Four people, and these young people are members of an organization that is called the Saskatchewan United Nations Organization for Students or for short SUNOS. All of these students, about 380 of them, in the Province of Saskatchewan are debating this question of human rights and I think these young people must be congratulated for coming to Regina to partake in this debate and their members must also be congratulated.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — And so, Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House and permission of yourself I should like to table for the record the hard work that is embodied in the proposed bill by the people from SUNOS.

Mr. Speaker, I would interpret . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — . . . I would interpret and I'm sure all Members in this House would interpret that the passage of either Bill or a combination of both of the statutes would mean acceptance of the broad terms and principles of the Human Rights Code, as I have enunciated. No stone should be left unturned to ensure that discrimination, wherever it may exist in our Province, should be eliminated. There are other methods, of course, to promote human rights. The emphasis must be placed on publicity of the existence of legislation. Stress must be placed on education of the needs for human rights and hopefully there will be a trend away from vigorous enforcement of the provisions of the proposed statutes, simply because the people in the Province of Saskatchewan have grown to accept the principles which likely won't have to be enforced with vigour with respect to these acts of discrimination.

In all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, I should like this Legislature to consider in debate the possibility of enacting this new additional civil rights legislation. The time is long overdue. The Province of Alberta is now instituting it. Ontario has had this Bill on the Statute Books for approximately five to six years. Perhaps there should be appropriate legislation written in various labour statutes which would set out better and with greater particulars employment criteria. The Legislature could consider a provision perhaps whereby parties who enter into contract with Government agencies would be bound by a provision in that contract which forces the other party to comply with the provisions of human rights legislation. A display of the Human Rights Code in all places of public accommodation is probably another avenue of approach.

Above all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must place emphasis on education of our people in the province. Education of basic human rights which should be respected should begin with our children at the very earliest age. It should be followed by us, the Legislators of this Province, in debate in this Assembly.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — Education of human rights should be continued at ethnic schools and schools for new Canadians. I can speak very personally here. When my parents, of Ukrainian background, came to Canada they received rudimentary instruction on their basic political freedoms in this country, in this province. This is a wonderful thing. It instilled these people with hope and with courage and I'm sure that applies to every person in this Legislature and to all the people of this province. Education can be carried out, as I've said, by the conduct of the Members of this Legislature in debate and our other activities.

I think it's most important that the statute is not deteriorated by being a pious but ineffectual declaration of human rights. This statute should be perhaps a Magna Carta for Human Liberties for the people of this province. It should be the beginning of the Province taking new leadership nationally in this field. As I've said human rights legislation in Saskatchewan has long been overdue. This Resolution and the proposed Bill are based on a recognition of the sameness of all men. It's based on the recognition that there can be no real dignity of any man unless society dedicates itself to ensuring dignity of all men everywhere.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Romanow:** — And as has been stated, in today's so-called global village more than ever the question who is my neighbour cannot and must not be answered with qualifications as to race, colour, creed, religion and political beliefs.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**Mr. Romanow:** —:Therefore. Mr. Speaker, because the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) has had a long-standing concern, I know, in this field I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition that this Assembly recommend to the consideration of the Government the immediate passage of legislation to enact a Saskatchewan Code of Human Rights to be administered by a Human Rights Commission of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. D.V. Heald** (Attorney General): — Mr. Speaker, my first words must be words of congratulations to the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale (Mr. Romanow) for the very forthright and scholarly way in which he conducted himself in the course of his remarks . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Heald:** — . . . in introducing this Resolution. I would also like to say a word on behalf of those of us on this side of the House in joining with him in welcoming the people from Saskatoon who are so vitally interested in this matter of human rights in the Province of Saskatchewan. I congratulate them and I commend them for their interest.

I am going to have quite a bit to say about this Resolution at a later date but I would like to make a few observations at this time, Mr. Speaker, before begging the leave of the House to adjourn the debate.

The Member for Saskatoon Riversdale (Mr. Romanow) remarks did refer to certain specific legislation which is on the Statute Books of this province and he referred, of course, to The Saskatchewan Bill of Rights Act, The Fair Accommodation Practices Act and The Fair Employment Practices Act. I would like to spend a few minutes speaking about other Government programs that I feel are in a broad sense, they're in a broader sense perhaps, than, the context used by the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale, that they also are civil rights programs. I think of programs such as the Indian and Métis Branch program which was put on over the last two or three years. Legal education courses conducted by my Department in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, the Indian and Métis Branch. This program was started on a very modest scale. I hope that it will be extended considerably by the new Department of Indian and Métis Affairs which will be under the jurisdiction of one of our Ministers. This has been a good program. It's the kind of information that should be given to the people, the Indian and Métis people, who took part in this program which was held in Prince Albert and Regina and in different areas of the province. It's a good program and it is going to be continued. That, so far as I'm concerned, is also a human rights program. I think you will agree that my definition is perhaps wider than the context used by the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale (Mr. Romanow)

because traditionally the expression “civil rights” or “human rights” has meant the exercise by a particular group of rights and powers that theoretically belong to all but have not been exercised by all.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that this definition of human rights is now undergoing change. At the present time certain conditions, certain rights, certain prerogatives are formulated in society and in the public eye, and the next step is the acceptance that the exercise of these conditions, rights and prerogatives by all in a society constitutes justice. And I would refer here to the trend or growing public opinion for example that a university education or any other higher education is now being regarded not as a privilege but as a right, not only for young people but for all people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Heald:** — I would like to say that I have some misgivings regarding the effectiveness of programs under the statutes referred to by the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale (Mr. Romanow). Historically since they were passed, and I think they're good statutes, but since they were passed the activity under these statutes has been minimal. A few prosecutions have taken place. I am referring now to the Bill of Rights and The Fair Accommodation Practices Act and The Fair Employment Practices Act. A few prosecutions have taken place and a number of investigations have been made under the powers provided in the legislation. However, prosecutions and investigations presuppose an awareness of rights and an awareness on the parts of administrators of circumstances that might be matters for their attention under the Act. It's evident to me that unawareness on the part of the public of rights and duties under the legislation is nullifying the benefits to be gained by the legislation. I am of the view that publicity outlining the features of existing human rights legislation has to be increased. Presently there is some publicity in this regard being conducted through the Indian and Métis Branch by the lectures that I referred to, but the scope of this publicity at the moment is only directed to one certain group and of course that is not completely satisfactory. There should be far more public participation and public involvement in this kind of information, and there should be more dissemination on the part of all of us in respect to the kind of legislation that's there.

In many cases those who discriminate do so, I suggest, because of ignorance or because of the lack of understanding of the situation faced by those being discriminated against. At the present time I am in the process of considering ways in which a more extensive educational program can be carried out, so that the basic requirements and rights in our legislation can be brought home to the public. I think a number of governmental departments will be involved in this consideration. I think the establishment of an education program with respect to existing human rights legislation is one step that will have to

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be taken. Another step that has already been taken by my Department is in respect to the conciliation provisions of The Fair Accommodation Practices Act. You will recall that The Fair Accommodation Practices Act makes provision for an inquiry by an officer into a complaint made under the Act in an endeavour to effect a settlement of the matter complained of. This course of action has been used recently with, I think, moderate success.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that conciliation procedures are the most effective procedures under this Act, and maybe they haven't been used as often in the past as they might have been. Additionally, I'm not sure that all attempts at working out the most satisfactory solution have been made. By and large in the past, few personal contacts of interested parties have been made during conciliation actions taken under the legislation. Complaints in the past have been investigated by means of correspondence and through investigating agencies such as the police. This was the practice when you gentlemen were the Government of the day. We have changed that. The facts were found second-hand by the officer and settlements were made in the absence of that close and direct contact that I certainly feel is necessary for the most satisfactory settlement. Indeed personal contact by the conciliation officer concerned will often provide an opportunity for rational discussion of the issues, and this will lead to an appreciation of other points of view often leading in turn to a dissolution of the difficulties. Towards this end, Mr. Speaker, I have instructed the present officer appointed under The Fair Accommodation Practices Act, Mr. Holtzman, of my Department to conduct personal interviews when complaints are received and during his inquiries to bring the disputing parties face to face if at all possible; and we've done this in a number of cases. I've also instructed this officer to conduct follow-up attendances with the parties involved in the dispute to cement settlements made or to prevent the disputes from renewing. By these new approaches I hope that disputes that have arisen will be settled more satisfactorily than in the past and that further action such as prosecutions will not be required.

I think all Hon. Members will agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that prosecutions are, for the most part, the least desirable and effective method for providing protection under our civil rights legislation.

Mr. Speaker, The Bill of Rights Act, The Fair Accommodation Practices Act, and Fair Employment Practices Act, these are the Saskatchewan statutes that are directly concerned with human rights in our province. I would suggest to you also that in addition to these Acts there are other Acts which are on the Statute Books of our Province. In 1967 it was my privilege and honour to introduce The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. I know you will agree that this legislation filled a need in our society, the need to compensate persons who have been the innocent victims of criminal acts. The Saskatchewan program, as I've told you before, was the first of its kind in Canada and it's the most comprehensive in North America.

I would like to say a word, Mr. Speaker, about the philosophy of this program in that I think this program does fall squarely within any human rights or civil rights discussion. Basically in the case of the criminal act, society has directed all of its activities and energy toward the perpetrator of that act. Elaborate police agencies exist for the purpose of preventing and detecting the commission of crimes by citizens of the state. When a crime is committed, the police agencies are charged with the responsibility of apprehending the offender and bringing him before the courts, which of course is an institution established for the purpose of determining the innocence or guilt of these persons. During the course of this determination, welfare agencies, public and private, conduct studies into the history of the offender to find out the reasons for his actions. Rehabilitative measures are considered and recommended and we can thus see that from the time of the commission of the offence, until a sentence has been served and even afterward, police agencies, the judiciary, corrections officers and rehabilitative officers, and voluntary societies are all actively engaged in providing attention to the offender. Except in a very few instances, Mr. Speaker, an innocent victim of a crime had no right to look to the state for recompense for the loss he had suffered as a result of the crime.

There is no provision in the criminal law which requires a person to pay to an injured person compensation for injuries suffered. Administrators, legal philosophers and others have asked the question: why does the state direct all its activities towards the offending party and leave the injured party to his own resources to secure redress? So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is within the broader context of human rights legislation. I suggest also that our very extended legal aid program is also human rights legislation. You will shortly be asked, when the estimates of my Department come before the Legislature, to vote a very substantial sum this year for counsel for indigent persons - \$120,000 which is considerably more than it was a few years ago. These are all matters of human rights. These are all matters that have to be considered in the context of the Hon. Member's (Mr. Romanow) Resolution. I want to say more about this at a later date. Before I sit down today I would just like to remind you and perhaps report to the House at this time on the discussions at the Constitutional Conference in respect of the constitutional entrenchment of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution of Canada. As all Hon. Members will know, the Prime Minister of Canada is vitally concerned and interested in having a constitutionally entrenched Bill of Rights. Many of the rights that were discussed by the Member for Saskatoon Riversdale and many of the rights that I have mentioned here today, I think before long will be entrenched in a Bill of Rights for all Canadians so that they will be the inalienable rights of each and every citizen in our society.

So I want to say a little bit more at a later date, Mr. Speaker, about the Constitutional Bill of Rights. I want to say a little bit more about the Resolution insofar as it recommends the immediate constitution of a Human Rights Commission



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in the Province of Saskatchewan, and I would accordingly beg leave to adjourn the debate at this time.

Debate adjourned.

## **ADJOURNED DEBATES**

### **Resolution No. 6 - Provincial Housing and Urban Development**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed Resolution by Mr. E. Whelan (Regina North West):

That this Assembly recommend to the consideration of the Government the establishment of a provincial Housing and Urban Development Authority, to:

- (a) provide housing for low-income groups;
- (b) develop a financial program to make money for housing available at reasonable rates;
- (c) establish the long-term and short-term housing needs of rural and urban people in Saskatchewan;
- (d) study ways and means to lower construction costs;
- (e) project long-term regional planning and land acquisition for urban development and home-building.

**Mr. J.E. Brockelbank** (Saskatoon Mayfair): — Mr. Speaker, last year's Resolution on this general area of concern was passed by this Assembly in an amended form. The Hon. Members opposite amended by deleting a section calling for the establishment of a provincial housing authority. In its amended form that Resolution urged the provincial Government to enlist the support of the Government of Canada in developing a program particularly for low and medium-income families which would include the following: (1) Provision of funds at a low interest rate for home building; (2) Establishment of research facilities to develop new and less costly techniques for the construction of homes; and (3) The development of a program which will guarantee the construction of a minimum yearly quota of housing for each province in Canada.

What was the result of that Resolution passed unanimously by this House last year? The interest rates continued to reach for new highs; I am not aware of any results of an aggressive research policy in this area; I am unaware of any programmed guarantee of a minimum yearly quota of housing for each province. The amendment offered by the Members opposite deleted the portion of the Resolution which came nearest the recommendation of the Batten Commission in its housing section. That report called for a provincial Mortgage and Housing Authority. The housing situation will remain out of control as long as the Government continues to apply a piecemeal approach to solving the problem in housing.

The Federal Government's abandonment of winter works program has had an indirect effect on municipalities which will

increase property taxes, which in turn will compound the housing problem. The vacuum caused by that Federal Government action can be filled, to a degree, by the favourable consideration of this Resolution that I am seconding.

I am concerned because the housing construction costs in my city are the highest on the Prairies according to the CMHC figures in 1967. Those costs have risen considerably since then.

In order to bring another point of view to bear on this subject I would like to quote in part from pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the brief from the Saskatoon Labour Council to the Hellyer Committee on Housing.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation was formed in 1946, one of its main purposes being to assist low wage earners in getting mortgage money in order to buy houses at lower rates of interest than that offered by private lenders. In its submission, the Saskatoon Labour Council pointed out that in this respect CMHC has completely failed in one of its main objectives.

In 1957 with a National Housing Act mortgage rate of 5½ per cent the maximum mortgage available was \$13,000. A qualifying salary of \$4,638 a year was necessary but in 1957 the average wage in manufacturing was approximately \$3,500 a year. Since then in 1968 with National Housing Act mortgage rates at 8½ per cent, the maximum mortgage available was \$18,000. The qualifying salary is almost \$9,000 a year. But the average manufacturing wage in 1967 was about \$5,000 a year.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, in 1957 a wage earner would have to make over \$1,000 a year more than the average wage in Canada in order to qualify for an NHA mortgage, but in 1968 the wage earner would now have to make \$4,000 a year over the average wage in Canada in order to qualify for an NHA mortgage.

In 1966 over 12 per cent of NHA borrowers had incomes of over \$10,000 a year while 30 per cent were above \$8,000 a year. The result, therefore, of CMHC policy has been to assist those people who don't need assistance while their own regulations deny assistance to the very people that the CMHC was established to assist. Michael Harrington in his book, *The Other America* refers to this as "Socialism for the rich and private enterprise for the poor." To put it another way, if you can prove you don't need assistance then you can get it. On the other hand, if you do need assistance you are barred by the regulations from getting that assistance.

The other part of the Government policy that has been a failure is, of course, in public housing. According to figures available to us, from 1949 to 1966, less than one

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per cent of total housing starts was public housing or about 21,000 units. In this respect we should commend the Saskatoon City Council for finally moving in this direction. However, even what they have done is totally inadequate. The Saskatoon Labour Council submits that, even if every municipality in Canada were to take full advantage of public housing, this would not solve the housing crisis.

According to information put out by the city of Saskatoon with respect to public housing, no one making over \$400 a month can qualify, so this still leaves all of those people who make too much money to qualify for public housing but too little money to qualify for an NHA mortgage to buy their own home.

Mr. Speaker, the situation described here is analogous to a situation that exists in Saskatchewan in the field of health care. Many Saskatchewan citizens are too poor to pay the Government's deterrent fees on medical and hospital plans but too rich to get on welfare where the fees would be paid by the Government. I have no hesitation in saying that both these situations are undesirable and I respectfully submit that more equitable solutions can be arrived at in each case.

Quoting again from the Saskatoon Labour Council brief on Housing:

Failure to come to grips with the housing problem and the reluctance on the part of governments to give it the priority it deserves have allowed the situation to deteriorate to such an extent that the trouble is not just a shortage of housing, but extravagant costs and rentals that have priced homes out of the market for the majority of the people who need them. We therefore call on all three levels of government to work out a coordinated program designed to meet the immediate and long-range housing needs of the people of Saskatchewan, with particular emphasis on the requirements of the low-income and fixed income groups.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to bring further opinions on this matter from a different source, to the attention of Hon. Members, from the bulletin on the Canadian Conference on Housing, May 1968, a section entitled Housing Progress Report. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the title itself is rather ironic in that it uses the word, "progress" when referring to the housing situation in Canada, as follows:

An adequate housing policy must seek account of many factors, but two problems stand out above all others. One is the problem of production, to generate and maintain a level of house-building activity adequate for the requirements of a growing population. The other is the problem of distribution or, more specifically, the problem of ensuring that those in the low-income group share

in the improvement of housing conditions. The two problems are related. The more effectively the problem of housing production is resolved, the easier is the problem of distribution. But when housing production falls short of requirements, the housing problem of those in the lower income groups becomes even more acute.

Even if the output were to match the estimated potential demand for new housing, the benefit for those in the lower income groups would still be very limited. A more equitable share in the improvement of housing conditions for low-income people depends inescapably on greater public initiative. The record of public aid to low-income groups is not impressive, 2.8 per cent of all housing starts assisted in this way since 1948, or the equivalent of 1.4 per cent of all occupied dwellings. This proportion rose to 5 per cent of all starts in 1967, but most of this increase was accounted for by Ontario where the proportion was almost double the national average. Nearly 80 per cent of all low-income housing initiated in Canada in 1967 was in the Province of Ontario.

The Resolution, which I am pleased to second, suggests goals to be reached by planning. It is directed to the area of the most serious shortcoming, that is housing for low-income groups. It serves to strengthen the Resolution which we presented last year which was eventually supported unanimously. It reflects in part the Batten Report, the Saskatoon Labour Council's report to the Hellyer Committee, and other interested groups. I call upon all Members to unanimously support the Resolution directed toward the housing problem.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. C.L.B. Estey** (Minister of Municipal Affairs): — Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which we have before the House at the present time simply calls for a creation of a housing authority in order to carry on the very aspects of housing which we are carrying on in our Housing Branch at the present time.

The Province of Saskatchewan in its Housing Program, Land Acquisition Program, and other programs relating to housing, relies upon the co-operation which we have with CMHC. I might say at this time that, since I have been Minister of Municipal Affairs, co-operation has been excellent. We have simply for the asking a great deal of research which has been done by the CMHC together with the advice of their experts, which has been accumulated over a period of years.

Certain speakers who have spoken on this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, have rather deprecated our efforts in the field of public or low-rental housing. I would just like to point out that while our efforts may not satisfy some people, we will in the period of 18 months ending in June of 1969, virtually

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double the number of low-rental public housing which we have in the province. I am not including in that figure those houses which we have constructed for any particular segment of the population or economic rental, or those houses which we have purchased in co-operation with CMHC for immediate occupancy. While some people may sneer at our housing efforts to date, I just want to tell this House that we have accomplished what we have in the field of housing with a permanent staff of four people. The Province of Ontario - assume it is 10 times our population - has a group of 525 civil servants, as of the last count, running the Ontario Housing Authority and doing exactly the same work which we are doing in the Province of Saskatchewan.

I want to turn for a moment to what we are doing in the field of land acquisition, as this is referred to in the Resolution which is before the House. We have this year for the first time purchased raw land, on behalf of the city of Regina. We have relieved the city of Regina of that land by paying out between ourselves and CMHC 95 per cent of the purchase price. In other words, only 5 per cent of that purchase price has to be paid directly by the taxpayers of Regina. We have told the city of Regina that we will purchase more land as you bring it along. Anyone that has read the Hellyer Report knows what the Hellyer Report says about the city of Saskatoon insofar as land purchase is concerned. It leads all of Canada. We have in our land bank nearly 1,000 acres on behalf of the city of Saskatoon and have made a commitment to purchase more land in 1969. We are also developing lots. The biggest project which we have under way at the present time is at Uranium City, where we have undertaken to develop within a fixed period approximately 140 lots; and we have had to give a firm commitment to Eldorado that we will have 40 of those lots available for building in the spring of 1969, and we will have those lots ready. I just want to point out to you that since January 1, Mr. Speaker, we have announced, and tenders have been called in many cases for, certain projects which will get under way within the next month or six weeks. In Regina we will build 60 units initially which will be spread around the city. We have announced a project for Biggar, Unity, Prince Albert and Lloydminster. There will be another large project in Saskatoon, and we will be building I would say in the vicinity of between 500 and 600 houses during the forthcoming year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in addition to what I have said about housing, I want again to mention this program of purchasing older houses. When I spoke on the Speech from the Throne Debate, I said that our initial experiment would involve the purchase of 50 houses. We have already purchased 50 houses in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, and are now out to increase that number to 100 houses. The Member for Regina North West (Mr. Whelan) made this statement, "No houses for rent or purchase in Regina." I just want to tell him that we have purchased houses in Regina, not one exceeding \$15,000 in value at the rate of about two or three per week. It is all nonsense to say that there are no houses for sale in the Province of Saskatchewan. Indeed, I hope that when we come back into this House

next year we will be able to say that this project has reached 200 houses.

Now I want to say something about the specific accomplishments in housing in Saskatchewan, in the broader field than that of simply government. The final CMHC figures for 1968 are now out and available to anyone in this House. In 1968, the number of housing units completed in Saskatchewan exceeded by 41.8 per cent the number of housing completions in 1967. Manitoba which had a Housing Authority had an increase of 13.9 per cent, in 1968 over 1967. Alberta which had a Housing Authority only had an increase of 38 per cent. Mr. Speaker, this idea of creating a grandiose housing authority or any other kind of housing authority won't build one more house in the Province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Estey:** — I want to point out further, Mr. Speaker, that the total units completed, that's completed in Saskatchewan in 1968, amounted to 4,729. In 1967, the figure was 3,034. Now the question arises: is this tendency of increased housing which has been going on since 1966 being carried on into the future? The CMHC have recently released their figures for January 1969, as compared to January 1968. In January 1968, the completions in Saskatchewan amounted to 296 units. I want to point out to the two speakers who have spoken on this Resolution that in January 1969 that figure was virtually doubled, when we had 521 housing completed in a month when the climate was almost the worst in history.

Now, what about housing starts? This is most significant I submit. In 1968, in January we had only 116 housing starts. But in January 1969 we had 430 housing starts in the Province of Saskatchewan. I am of the opinion that this Hellyer Report may take away from the provinces that have a Housing Authority one of their most important activities as of this date. I have met with Mr. Hellyer and I feel that he is quite determined that an amendment will be brought in, I would think within the next two or three weeks, in the House of Commons, whereby loans for acquiring and developing land will be made directly to a municipality. In other words, the cities of Regina and Saskatoon will I believe, maybe even for the 1969 construction season, go directly to CMHC. Off-hand, I do not think the Province will have any objection to this procedure, so long as the borrowing is within the Local Government Board supervision. I am one of those who would like to see cheaper money for housing. I think in the Hellyer Report that they have struck on one source that might reduce the interest rate on housing. That is the assets of our Pension Funds. It is rather interesting to note that of the Pension Funds examined by the Hellyer Report only two had significant investments in housing mortgages. Those two were Air Canada and Canada Packers. Only two large pension funds in Canada received any credit in the Hellyer Task Force Report. I would suggest to those Members opposite, who are in

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a position to be on the board of pension funds controlled by labour organizations or by organizations of a combination of labour and management, that they see to it that the absolute maximum, permitted by law and regulations of the funds under their control, goes into housing mortgages. If you are limited by any statutory provision, I am quite certain that that limitation can be removed in view of the present feeling of the Government of Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Regina North West (Mr. Whelan) referred to the high land costs. Certainly in the history of the city of Saskatoon, we have not what you would call high land costs. But in any event, assuming that cost of land is high, we have at this session of the Legislature brought in legislation - the Member concerned should know - whereby any city in this province can lease land to an individual on which the individual can build a home on such terms as that municipal corporation deems advisable. We are not in any way limiting the rights or power of the municipal corporation to lease land. Then the Member for Regina North West referred to construction of homes being at a standstill. I submit that statements like those are hopelessly exaggerated and add nothing whatever to the housing situation in Saskatchewan in the way of making a contribution.

The question of research has been referred to. I submit that there is no province or housing authority in Canada, even in the wealthy province of Ontario, which can attempt to build a research organization that could even touch that presently found in CMHC and in our National Research Council. I might add, as I said before, we can use every bit of the research of CMHC, and they are only too glad to make it available.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose the following amendment to this Resolution, seconded by the Minister of Social Welfare (Mr. MacDonald):

That all the words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefore:

This Assembly commends the present housing and development programs of the Government and recommends that such program be continued with emphasis on the following aspects:

- (a) that the Government continue the construction program for housing under The Housing and Urban Renewal Act and The National Act;
- (b) that the Government endorse the recommendations of the Task Force on Housing and Urban Development to have pension funds controlled by labour unions and management channelled into mortgages for housing construction;
- (c) that the Government continue its program of land acquisition and land development;
- (d) that the Government encourage Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the National Research Council to continue research into housing construction with a view

to decreasing the construction costs;

(e) that the Government continue its consultations with urban and rural municipalities concerned with questions of regional planning so that an effective program for regional planning may be instituted in those areas where required; and

(f) that the Government in co-operation with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation continue its program of purchasing older but suitable homes in our urban centres.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. W.G. Davies** (Moose Jaw South): — Mr. Speaker, I have first of all a comment with respect to the amendment that is now being given to us by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It is of course an amendment which seeks to bypass as an alternative the motion that was submitted by my friend, Mr. Whelan, and would prevent the centralization of efforts in a more effective way as has been suggested by the original motion. Also the amendment endorses the Hellyer Task Force recommendations apparently in their entirety because there is nothing in the amendment to suggest otherwise. This, if I may say so, I find quite unpalatable as will I think other Members on this side of the House, and perhaps on the other side of the House too. I don't think that we should endorse holus-bolus a series of recommendations that are a rehash in many ways of suggestions that have been made by the large financial institutions of this country, that presume to proceed on the basis of higher interest rates and in the end make housing no more available than was the situation before. In fact in my opinion, it will place housing even further beyond the reach of many people in average or middle circumstances.

Now, my friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs has talked about the pension funds of various organizations being made available for purposes of creating more housing. In a general way I think I would agree that these concentrations of money where they exist should be made available. I notice his reference, however, to trade unions and employer bodies. In many instances, trade unions don't enjoy effective representation on pension plan administrations. Where they do have representation they don't have that controlling voice that would make them real significant partners in getting more money to spend for the purpose of creating additional housing. I think that we should realize the situation for what it is. That is, that most pension plans in Canada are controlled by the employer even where there is labour union representation on the trustees' boards of pension plans. It is representation, but not the controlling interest.

I say this because of the way in which the Minister had posed the question; and while I certainly don't disagree with the proposition that pension plans should be used as he has suggested, I don't believe that the labour union organizations in this country have the controlling voice that would be most



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useful in getting this exchange under way.

Now, the Minister of Municipal Affairs has talked about the fact that we have had an increase over the last year or so in the number of housing starts; and so we should have had, because in recent years, Mr. Speaker, we have had a very bad record of housing starts and housing finishes in this province as everybody knows. It is possible to take any given years and get some fantastic figures on percentage improvements for the next yearly period, because of what was not done during the previous year. He has used this, of course, in justification for the argument that we don't need a Housing Authority in Saskatchewan; because he says Manitoba and Alberta have housing authorities, but in a given 12-month period, their percentage of housing starts were less than in Saskatchewan. I don't think this proves anything, it is a complete non sequitur. If a Housing Authority is created and is not used enough then of course that simply means that the Authority isn't functioning in the way that it was planned to have it function. Also a percentage of 41 per cent or 38 per cent in increases could mean a great deal more in terms of total overall efforts than a percentage increase of 47 per cent.

I don't think anyone here is suggesting that nothing has been done in the field of housing in Saskatchewan in recent years. What is suggested is that what has been done and what is planned to be done is not nearly good enough. It is good enough for the people that have needed housing accommodation for many years, and it is not good enough for the many new families that are in formation now and will be formed in the period ahead of us. The Resolution that has been proposed tries to itemize those things by which we will get a real acceleration of effort under a Housing Authority that is equipped to do the job. I think that the amendment that has been given to us by the Minister of Municipal Affairs will simply not accomplish the objective that we must reach in this province if we are going to satisfy existing needs and needs of the future. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the matters that are in this Resolution are among the most pressing and urgent in Canada. I think it is a paradox that in the second or third wealthiest country in the world millions of people should be in dire need of proper housing. This can be denied. The perpetuation of unsatisfactory housing standards, of plain and outright shortages of a desperate nature, should be a concentration point for all governments in Canada. Our Resolution of course does propose that kind of concentration.

One of the proposals that come out of the Hellyer Task Force on housing is that there would be presumably more new homes created by extending the amortization and payment period. I say, in the midst of the exorbitantly high interest rates, now current, that this doesn't constitute any real assistance to people; it is just another tax on their income. For the majority of Canadians who earn \$5,200 a year, it just means a great percentage of their income spent on housing and therefore, for that reason, less money to be spent on food, clothing,

education and other needs and amenities. Ultimately, of course, it means that an \$18,000 home if one can be acquired for that sum, will cost well over \$40,000 before it is paid for. I say that this prospect is a financial nightmare except that it is real and except that it is with us in actuality.

It is well known, Mr. Speaker, and indeed it is conceded by the Federal Government, housing authorities and political leaders for that matter, that the average Canadian can't participate successfully under present housing regulations. Some of these officials and politicians have declared that a worker simply can't build a home under today's conditions unless he has an income in the order of \$8,000 a year. A more conservative estimate was given by Mr. Ross Lane, the president of the Regina House Builders' Association. This was at the beginning of 1968 by the way. He said then that excluding land costs - and they are pretty significant - the cheapest home in the Regina market was being sold for \$15,400. In order to qualify for an NHA mortgage - and that was the interest rates at that time, slightly lower - a prospective home buyer must earn a rock-bottom income of \$6,200 a year.

Well this rock-bottom income, so-called, exceeds the average Saskatchewan weekly salaries by about \$709 or \$800 a year. It is clear evidence that the greater part of the employed work force in the province is economically segregated in terms of Canada's home acquisition rules. I want to say in passing that these weekly income figures refer only to that portion of the wage-earning population that is employed in establishments hiring 20 employees or over. In a province like Saskatchewan where there are approximately 24,000 employers, many of them with less than 20 employees, it is evident that there is a large portion of workers that don't come within the official Dominion Bureau of Statistics' figures. So the overall income figures are far less in terms of weekly earnings than I have indicated in the figures I have just given you.

As well, the NHA rules say that no one can purchase a home today that exceeds 27 per cent of the income of the income-earner. I say that 27 per cent is far too high for people who are making low wages. It is a fact also that wage-earners in many cases are paying 30 per cent or more of their income in rent or purchase costs. This means that many families are short of proper food and clothing. There are reliable reports to indicate that in some cases this borders on outright privation and hardship. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, 20 per cent of income is the maximum that should be paid out or invested, especially by the young family in which there are usually two or more children. There is no real justification for the 27 per cent figure at all. This figure has simply grown like Topsy. In the mid-forties, the Professor Marsh Report said that in no case should the payment for home acquisition cost exceed 20 per cent. That was an outside or maximum figure. Now of course it is far beyond that. I say again, and I want to emphasize it, Mr. Speaker, that upcreeping costs have posed the kind of inflation that has inflicted genuine hardship in

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payments.

Of course there are other kinds of hardships and financial troubles that are inflicted by the straight lack of accommodation and these all too evidently cause an immense amount of harm. Everybody knows about these perhaps - the juvenile delinquency, the physical and psychological disorders, the twisted lives and the social and personal ill-health of a very significant and alarming degree in society today.

We need, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Estey), a housing policy that will fit the needs of the 1970s. We don't have that policy at this moment. We don't have one that even begins to be acceptable and satisfactory. The kind of organization that is contemplated in the Resolution that we have placed before this House is one that would bring about that kind of desirable housing policy.

We've got at this moment 74 per cent of all Canadians living in urban areas of 1,000 or over; and we are told that in a very few years this will be 80 per cent. Apart from these significant figures there is the need of the rural areas. One has only to take a short visit to the country and to look at the farm side and our villages to realize what a large part of our citizens in this province have to live in. I say it is, as many have said before us, straight substandard accommodation.

Half of the dwellings that we have now in Canada pre-date 1945. One million people in this country live in substandard housing accommodation. Even the modest housing goals that have been set by the Economic Council of Canada have not been achieved. All of these of course are reinforcements to the arguments that we have put before this House with a Resolution we've asked the House to adopt. There is also the question of parts of our population, such as senior citizens and students. Housing needs here are quite desperate and they should be met by the kind of provincial planning that could be achieved through a Central Housing Authority.

The Canadian Welfare council has said that 50 per cent of Canadian families need some kind of assistance in obtaining decent shelter. In all of Canada there are only about 50,000 publicly owned low-rental units. This is estimated to be about one per cent of all of the dwellings in Canada. This is an outrageously small figure. It is evident that we simply have to increase the number of units that are built by public authorities. While I am on this question, and since it is raised from time to time, I want to point out that there are reliable figures to show that the proportion of labour costs in homes has actually declined over the last decade. It is the high land, interest, and associated costs that are the real burden. The real trouble today lies in bringing these housing costs down. But, as well as that, of course, it is also a question of home design and homebuilding methods. This is where we need some real research. This is where we are not getting action either by CMHC or any other housing body in Canada today.

Some people reply to statements like this to the effect that they couldn't abide to live in a mass-produced home. Mr. Speaker, people now live in accommodations, which I suggest are singularly much of a muchness and dull and uniform. Just fly over any part of Regina and Saskatoon in the new districts, the suburban districts, or those of any other city in Canada in the kind of housing areas built since the Second World War. The ranched-roof prospects that spread out in unrelieved sameness across the horizon hardly suggests to me that present housing is built through the application of imagination or very much architectural vision. I say there is no reason why public investigation and research should not do something to provide not only more economical patterns of building, but more exciting and more liveable in designs. More public involvement should bring about better homes in the function context as well.

Now, as I understand it there are about 1,000 rental units, that were subsidized with rent related to income that were in operation, or being built in Saskatchewan in 1968. This type of housing evidently suits the needs and the pocketbooks of a very vast portion of our population. It has to be stepped up in a very substantial way. I accept what the Minister says that there has been some improvement. It is clear, however, that not nearly enough has been done and much more needs to be done. As a proportion of the total housing figure in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, 1,000 public housing rental units is far, far too small. A land acquisition through the public aegis is undoubtedly needed. That is the aim of the Resolution before us. It advocates a sound means to accomplish it. We need not only to acquire land for future housing needs, Mr. Speaker, but for recreation and park development, If something isn't done about this, we are going to find very shortly that we will suffer for it. Dr. Albert Rose, of the University of Toronto School of Social Work, Mr. Speaker, says that Canadians are in the midst of a permanent housing crisis in our present policy. I say that the challenge for our Province is to plan and to work for a bright future to emerge. We can do it and we should do it. We will do it with the kind of efforts that have been suggested by the Resolution proposed by Mr. Whelan.

**Mr. Speaker:** — I apologize for having mentioned when I was putting an amendment to the motion that it was moved by the Member for Saskatoon Mayfair (Mr. Brockelbank) when in fact it was moved by the Member for Regina North West (Mr. Whelan). I apologize for my mistake.

**Mr. E. Whelan** (Regina North West): — Mr. Speaker, listening to the Hon. Minister I was under the impression that he was building a case with very little evidence, particularly when you look at the Estimates and realize that a couple of the entries for example in projects for the Acquisition and Development of Land for Housing; this item has decreased from \$625,000 to \$248,000. Construction of Houses for Rental in designated areas has decreased from \$500,000 to \$7,500.

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I think the facts are that in this province at the present time, particularly in the cities, we are faced with high rents and no homes are available at a reasonable rent for people with low-incomes. I think it is particularly significant that the Hon. Minister should talk about a project at Uranium City and say it is a big one because there are no big projects in Regina and we could certainly stand some big projects in places like Regina. He did not tell us about the size of the group of people that he has in his Department who are working on housing. He omitted this completely. He didn't talk about interest rates. He admitted this, he didn't make any statement whatsoever about interest rates. He didn't tell us about the cost of homes at the present time. He talked about research but he didn't say that they were doing any research here in the province at the present time. I don't think he would dare discuss these items because it would be such a sad case. As I said earlier in this debate, the need in Canada is 250,000 homes per year at the present time. Divide this up and you will find that we are not adequately building homes for the people of the Province of Saskatchewan. We have nothing more than a jungle in the housing field. This Resolution that we are calling for would establish machinery to work on housing, to work on it properly. The Resolution as amended would continue with the present chaotic situation that exists. Interest rates at 10 per cent, rentals beyond the reach of the vast majority of the people in the province, no research facilities, a hit-and-miss planning proposition, people without homes and the construction industry in the depths of despair. The original Resolution calls for an organized effort to provide homes for low-income people, not just a handful of them, but homes in large numbers, to develop a financial program to make money for housing available at reasonable rates, to establish the long-term and short-term housing needs of the rural and urban people of Saskatchewan. No evidence that the Minister gave us indicated that this is being done or that this will be done, or a study of ways and means to lower construction costs. Nothing that the Minister said indicated that this is being undertaken. We have waited for many years and there is no evidence that it is available to the people of this province, to project long-term regional planning and land acquisition for urban development and homebuilding. When one looks at what is happening to the estimates in this area that he has submitted to this House, one can only conclude that it is a pretty feeble effort and that we are making progress in reverse. To endorse the Resolution as amended would be to endorse an ineffective program. It would put the seal of approval on a housing program in this province that is the essence of ineptitude. I cannot support the motion as amended.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, did I catch you correctly on that?

**Mr. Speaker:** — Yes, you seconded the

motion, at least so it says on this one. Unless somebody else seconded it, it has gone through the whole process of such now.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

### **Resolution No. 2 - Establishment of a Provincial Consumers' Agency**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed Resolution by Mr. W.G. Davies (Moose Jaw South):

That this Assembly, believing that action to help and protect consumers is vital and essential, recommend to the consideration of the Government of Saskatchewan the establishment of a Provincial Consumers' Agency, on lines proposed in February of 1968 by the Batten Commission, that would develop a full and effective program of consumer assistance, education and protection, in conjunction if possible with the Federal Department of Consumer Affairs, and report as often as required to a Standing Committee of the Legislature on Consumer Problems respecting their work; the Committee to be so constituted that it would from time to time sit to receive representations from the public on all matters relating to the welfare of consumers.

**Mr. G.G. Leith** (Elrose): — Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned the debate the last time I was speaking on this Resolution, I admitted that I have had some sympathy for the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Member for Moose Jaw South (Mr. Davies). I also said that I found myself strolling up that flower-strewn path that he was attempting to lead the Members. I said that I found myself dreaming that there might be a day when there would be a Provincial Commissariat to aid and educate and protect and report to the consumer. Then I remembered that the Hon. Member from Moose Jaw South (Mr. Davies) had been a Cabinet Minister in the former Government, that there are Members sitting here who were Cabinet Ministers in a former Government and I felt that it might be interesting to find out some of the things that they were able to do when they were in power to protect the consumer.

But first I would like to say that all Members know or they should know of some of the great strides this Government has made toward the protection of consumers in Saskatchewan. We know this, not only from our own experience in the House, but from newspapers, radio, television and periodicals in other parts of Canada and the United States. On March 6, The Leader Post carried a small item which I want to bring to your attention, headed "Saskatchewan Law Held Example," Victoria, Canadian Press:

The British Columbia Civil Liberties' Association would like the province to follow the example of Saskatchewan

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in the matter of compensation for crime victims.

There is more to the article but I recommend it to your attention, Members. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, much of our consumer protection legislation has been copied verbatim in other jurisdictions. Therefore it irks Members on this side of the House when we have to listen to the Members opposite say that the consumer has been forgotten in the last five years and that the consumer needs extra protection that we have not supplied.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this Government and particularly the Minister responsible, the Hon. Member from Lumsden (Mr. Heald) in his portfolios as Attorney General and Provincial Secretary should be receiving great praise and not criticism from the Members opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Leith:** — Particularly, Mr. Speaker, I would address my remarks to those on the opposite side of the House who were Members of the Cabinet or who were at least senior Members of that previous Socialist Government. These people know full well the lack of thought and consideration that they had for the consuming public. Those former Ministers opposite know that I could cite many cases of negligence on their part to make my point in respect to the Socialist disregard for the consumers' interest. But there is one cavalier, highhanded, callous, dastardly example which I feel is sufficient in itself, and that is the case of certain commercial cemeteries, which were allowed to be established and allowed to be operated in the Province of Saskatchewan during the administration of the CCF Government. I want to hasten to add that this doesn't include all commercial cemeteries, but I think the Hon. Members who represented the constituencies of Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney), Moose Jaw South (Mr. Davies), Weyburn (Mr. Pepper) and The Battlefords (Mr. Kramer) ought to listen pretty carefully. I think they ought to explain to the people of their constituencies the reasons for allowing such a situation to occur. I think that their constituents would like to know some of the answers to why they were allowed to flourish.

Now the Hon. Member that moved this Resolution was at one time a member of the Moose Jaw city council in 1949-56. He was a Member since 1956, he was re-elected in 1960, 1964 and 1967. He was Minister of Public Works, and he was appointed August 1, 1960. He was Minister of Public Health, appointed the 7th of November, 1961 and he was the Minister of Public Works again from the 7th of September, 1962 until their defeat.

In 1954 and for some years previous, the Province of Ontario had serious problems with promoters of pre-arranged funeral contracts, operated for gain. As a result, a Royal Commission was appointed within that province which investigated the situation and as a result many persons were put out of business. The

combination of the Royal Commission Report and the public exposure by such persons as Pierre Berton by way of radio and the press caused these fast-buck artists to leave Ontario. But where did they go? Mr. Speaker, they came to the haven of the fast-buck artists. They came here to Saskatchewan with the apparent blessing of the Socialist regime of that time. I would like to quote from Pierre Berton's book entitled *The Big Sell*, pages 192, 194, 195 and which reads as follows:

I, Mr. Wesley Chowen, president of Archmount Memorial Services, joined the Archmount family because I saw the possibilities of accomplishing everything for which my wife and I had ever wished. It was wonderful, rewarding work in which we had the opportunity of growing just as rapidly as we wanted to grow. I wish I could describe what our Archmount experiences meant to us. And to us more growth and happiness is ahead with all of us working together.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a copy of an ad appearing in an Eastern paper and described on page 23 of Berton's book reads as follows:

Chosen applicant to be trained in special field of family service. This position offers prestige and security, sound income on commission, profit-sharing nation-wide organization. Applicants must be neat in appearance. Personal interview only.

Now, Mr. Berton translates this to read this as an ad for salesmen to sell cemetery lots for Rest Haven Memorial Gardens, door-to-door, high pressure.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I suppose it was great and rewarding and a wonderful experience for Chowen and Audrey but I can assure you that the people who parted with their money in Moose Jaw - and that cemetery by the way is called the Rest Haven Memorial Gardens - Weyburn and North Battleford didn't think it was so great. Mr. Speaker, who do you think took over in Saskatchewan after being chased out of Ontario? It was none other than Mr. Wesley Chowen, and I suppose Audrey came too. Mr. Speaker, when he was forced to leave Saskatchewan in 1964, he is reported to have said to certain officials in the department in the Government that he would never have been bothered if the Government hadn't changed. In light of the facts I have disclosed, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many people are happy that the Government did change.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Leith:** — I wonder if the Hon. Members opposite are aware of the heartache and the fears which were expressed by many of our citizens in Moose Jaw, Weyburn, and North Battleford when they were told the true position of these cemetery companies in 1964-65. Mr. Speaker, we as a Government did what ought to have been done by the previous Government. We said to these



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people because the Government of that day had failed to protect the consuming public by passing proper legislation and enforcing the same, we will take over the companies and guarantee the remaining relatives that they will receive that for which they had contracted and paid for in full. Many of our citizens lost thousands and thousands of dollars in the first instance and now all the taxpayers of Saskatchewan are paying for the operation of these cemeteries. I think the Hon. Members that I have mentioned ought to have known what was going on. They ought to have known because they drove past these cemeteries every time they came to Regina from their respective homes. This is a flagrant act of irresponsibility. It is interesting to note that these cemetery companies were allowed to act under the Securities Commission because The Cemeteries Act didn't then cover cemeteries then operating for gain. Sir, when they did get around to passing The Cemeteries Act in 1956 they failed to protect the public by requiring them to set aside monies in a recognized trust for the future delivery of goods and services such as opening and closing of graves, markers and vaults. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be reasonable to say that they were a party to fraud, fraud perpetrated on many good citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan due to their inadequate legislation and their callous disinterest in the protection of the helpless. Members opposite may say that this was five years ago or six years ago. Some of the younger Members opposite say get on to the present and to the future. Well, I want to tell the new Members opposite that they have been badly trained and badly taught by the people who sit on their front benches. They ought to realize, and they ought to know just what kind of consumer protection that previous CCF Government prepared and supplied to the consumers of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have further comments to make on this. I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

## **MOTION**

### **Mr. C.B. Koester - Honorary Officer of Legislature**

**Hon. W.R. Thatcher** (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion with leave of the Assembly, then I should like to make a few brief remarks. I want to move, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd):

That the Members of this House, desiring to record their deep appreciation for the long and distinguished service rendered by Mr. C.B. Koester, C.D., M.A., B.Ed., to this Legislature as Clerk, and acknowledging the dignity and profound learning with which he has graced this office, designates him as Honorary Officer of this Legislature with an entrée to the Chamber and a seat at the Table on all ceremonial occasions.

### Tribute to Mr. C.B. Koester

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, it is with mixed feelings that I rise on this occasion. It is a pleasure to be able to pay a tribute to a particularly distinguished public servant. At the same time it is a source of regret to realize that in the near future Mr. Koester will no longer be among us in this House. Mr. Koester is a learned man, an outstanding scholar and writer, and an unfailing fount of knowledge on parliamentary procedure. He has been a servant of this Assembly for a decade. He has held the difficult and demanding position of Clerk since 1961. He is also a family man and I take this opportunity of welcoming his children and his wife to the Assembly on this occasion. They are I know justifiably proud of him.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thatcher:** — If there is a single characteristic of Mr. Koester other than his rather remarkable efficiency which stands out, it is his ever-present cheerful good nature. And in this House you need that characteristic. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there must have been many times when many of us, even I, have stretched our Clerk's good humour to the limit. Yet, it is always there.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Without exception there seems to be no procedural problem, no matter how complicated, which can get the better of him. And I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you and all your predecessors who have worked closely with him will agree that if there is such a thing as a man who has all the answers, it is Mr. Koester.

The Clerk served his country during World War II and after in the Royal Canadian Navy, having entered while in his teens. Before coming to this House he was a teacher and department head at Sheldon Williams Collegiate. He has contributed frequent articles to various publications in the two fields in which he is a recognized authority - history and parliamentary procedure. While serving this House, Mr. Koester has continued his pursuit of learning in his chosen field of history. He is leaving us for a university career. I hope he can straighten things out over on the campus, Mr. Speaker. I know he will continue to distinguish himself just as he has in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Mr. Koester. All Hon. Members I know will join me in wishing him every success and happiness in the days ahead.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. W.S. Lloyd** (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, I am sure that

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all of us received the news last fall with some dismay that our Clerk, sometimes our “Klark,” had decided to vacate his position at our table in this Legislature and transfer his very well-known energy and ability to teaching at the University. However, times do change and even Clerks change their ideas as to what is the most satisfying occupation from time to time, and we have no alternative other than to accept. I want to join very heartily on behalf of all of us on this side of the House and on behalf of myself personally with the tribute which the Premier has paid to Mr. Koester. We also join in the welcome to Mrs. Koester and members of the family here this afternoon. A couple of them tend to look very much alike. There is a very logical explanation for that, and it is good to have them with us as we speak appreciation to husband and father on this particular occasion.

Certainly, as the Premier has said, Mr. Koester has displayed during his period here great technical competence and great patience. It seems to me, however, that the talent he has brought to his position and the contribution he has made to us and the parliamentary institution in which we operate comes from much more than just a grasp of the technicalities of the rules and the history and the precedents in which they have been applied. It seems to me it comes particularly from an understanding of parliamentary principles, his study of them. It comes particularly from some strange sort of feeling, I believe, with respect to what these rules mean. I don't know how one acquires this feeling, I am sure. I suspect in part it is a procedure of some kind of osmosis almost, but some people have it and others don't. We are fortunate to have had a clerk who has had this very strong feeling with respect to what parliamentary institutions and principles and procedures really do mean.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lloyd:** — It is much more than just a matter of technical interpretation. I might be pardoned I suppose by saying that I suspect that some of this came by virtue of the fact of his experience as a teacher. Certainly some of it came as a result of his very considerable interest in history.

His work has been made effective in part, of course, because we have had confidence, a well-earned confidence, in his knowledge of the use of the rules. In addition to that his work has been successful because we have had confidence in him as a person and again one can't stress the value of this too much in a very difficult position such as that which he holds. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add appreciation for the fact and the Premier has made reference to this, while he was here he saw fit not just to sit and serve but also to study and extend his experience. As will be recalled he took time to attend university, he took time also to broaden his experience by an exchange, which he arranged, which made it possible for him to serve in the British House of Commons. This kind of

continuing interest in getting more information and better and deeper understanding with the work, I think, is a characteristic of our Clerk.

May I mention our appreciation for his services in another way. And that is with respect to his interest in the Parliamentary Association. Here I may only say this is an extension of the Legislature in one sense. It is a body apart from the Legislature in another sense and the contribution of the Clerk in making that more meaningful to all of us is again one of his services. Let me also express to him, Mr. Speaker, our very best wishes as he enters into his next career, which is his third or his fourth, I have forgotten which. I think it is very fortunate that we do have people going into our universities to teach who have had some background in the Public Service. I have often felt that students sometimes get short changed because not enough of the university teachers have had an opportunity to work in and get an understanding of just what the Public Service is all about. I feel that, if there were more people that had that background while teaching, then probably students might in turn have more interest in entering the Public Service and the whole public would be better served. Let me just say that we wish him very well in his new career. I give my very sincere thanks, Mr. Speaker, to Mr. Koester for all that he has done in the past and our very best wishes for every success as he goes to the University to teach.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. F.A. Dewhurst** (Wadena): — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure on this occasion to add my words to those of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to a man in this Legislature whom we have all come to know and respect. The Premier in a light-hearted vein said that he hoped Mr. Koester would be able to straighten out the mess at the University. Well, I think he will have one good qualification, he will be able to smell political interference when he hears it. Now another thing, too, the Premier mentioned, that Mr. Koester had been in the Navy during the last war. I guess maybe that is one of the reasons why he has been able to be so successful in this Legislature because he has been used to working in deep water. He has not only been able to survive but he has been able to teach the rest of us to swim a little bit to get along with our work in this Legislature.

I know that, when I took over as the Speaker of this Legislature a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, and I imagine that you had the same experience, Mr. Koester was a source of real comfort to be able to turn to and discuss the problems that would arise from day to day, to get help and advice and guidance from him. I am sure that all the Private Members of the Legislature, too, have felt quite free, regardless of what side of the House they sat on, to go to Mr. Koester and get help and advice from Mr. Koester in drawing up the phrasing of resolutions, questions or anything else which they were interested in. It never seemed

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to matter how busy he was, he always had time to take off from his own work in his office to sit down and spend a few minutes discussing the problems of the Legislature with Members any time they wished to. Also he was able to attend the Committee meetings and help to give help and guidance in the Committees. I am sure that that service has been gratefully appreciated. I would like to also congratulate Mr. Koester on the beautiful wife and family that he has and to say that we share with them the pride in the ability of Mr. Koester and the success he has had thus far and wish him lots of luck in the future.

I only wish to add at this time that, having set up a Special Committee in this House to study the Rules and Procedures of this Legislature I sincerely hope that most of this work can be done before we lose the valuable service of Mr. Koester to this group and to this Legislature. I wish that we could persuade him to stay here but I know with Mr. Koester's training he wants to conquer other fields, give his benefit of time and learning in other capacities. I can say that we wish him well in all of his endeavours.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. D.G. Stuart** (Provincial Treasurer): — Mr. Speaker, I would just like to join with Members on both sides of the House in paying a tribute to Mr. Koester and to his family for the help that he gave to me when I was handed the job of House Leader. I beat a pretty steady path to his door about a quarter after two every day. He would fully instruct me and I would run back here, and in case I would forget it he would write it down and hand it to me at 2:30. I imagine he has been a tremendous help to a great many people who found themselves in my spot on this side of the House. Mr. Heald and Mr. MacDonald and from the other side of the House when they sat here too. So he has been a tower of strength and a great institution in this House. I join with others in thanking him and wishing him well.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** — I ask the indulgence of the House in order to add my words to those of others who have spoken in connection with this ceremony in honour of our Clerk who has served this Legislature so ably and so well throughout the past nine years.

Where people have the priceless privilege of living in a free, self-governing country, where they themselves select and elect their own governors, it is absolutely essential that those to whom the people delegate power shall have a legislature or a parliament in which to operate. It has been recognized since the earliest times that the Legislature must have a Clerk to act as its recording officer. This position requires a person capable of paying meticulous attention to detail in order to absolutely ensure the correctness of the records. In this

regard the Legislature of our province has been most fortunate in having as a Clerk one who so completely filled this qualification.

It is reasonable that those that make the laws which govern us should be governed by a rule of law in their making and these are the laws of parliamentary procedure evolved over centuries, sometimes by a process of trial and error, but more often instituted by logic. The Clerk of the Legislature is an important, continuous custodian of this vast mass of precedents and of these great traditions.

Once again, we in this province have been fortunate in having had in the service of the House, in the person of our Clerk, a man who devoted many years of painstaking research to this subject, by which he amassed a wealth of knowledge, that has always been readily and freely available, both to the three Speakers with whom he has worked and to all of the Members of our Legislature.

I pay tribute also to his excellent good humour and good nature, as he met all of the problems which he encountered from day to day and of which without a shadow of a doubt I have probably been the worst.

Our Clerk has been accepted throughout Canada, and throughout the British Commonwealth as a master of parliamentary procedure and is an authority thereon.

His service to this House as a Clerk and to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as Secretary has been outstanding, and on behalf of the Legislature, and very particularly for myself, I wish to join with others in expressing to him the most sincere thanks and the deepest appreciation.

On September next, he will leave the service of the House to return to the teaching profession. He has had a distinguished career in the Services and also as a parliamentarian. He is recognized as an erudite scholar and an outstanding historian. What this House has lost the field of education has gained. We wish to him, to his wife and to his family every success and the very best of luck.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. F. Meakes** (Touchwood): — Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my words of regret and congratulations to Mr. Koester. The only reason I rise is to talk about another ability of Mr. Koester's that I am not sure that many people of this House know he has.

My memory goes back to 1963 when the Province hosted the Canadian Parliamentary Association and we had a three-day tour of the province. I was on that tour as was Mr. Koester. One of the treasured memories that I will have of Mr. Koester was of

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him leading us in folk singing on the bus. He was the leader of the orchestra, he was the leader of the choir and he was the life of the party. To me this will be one of the treasured moments that I have of Mr. Koester. I wish him great success in his new field.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:51 o'clock p.m.