

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Fifth Session — Sixteenth Legislature

Tuesday, February 16, 1971.

3:00 o'clock p.m.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, dated the Nineteenth day of January, 1971, for the meeting of the Fifth Session of the Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Assembly having met:

Mr. Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received a communication from the Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor stating that His Honour would open the Session at three o'clock p.m. today, Tuesday, the Sixteenth day of February, 1971.

3:05 o'clock p.m.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and, having taken his seat upon the Throne, was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:-

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is my privilege to welcome you to the Fifth Session of the Sixteenth Legislature of Saskatchewan.

HOME COMING '71

During 1971 we hope that many former residents will visit the province.

Several years ago at the request of the Saskatchewan Tourist Association, a Home Coming '71 Committee was established to promote Saskatchewan tourism.

You will be asked to approve funds to make the activities of this committee as meaningful as possible.

CANADA WINTER GAMES

It has been the privilege of our province to act as host for the 1971 Canada Winter Games.

These games have brought thousands of athletes and tourists to the Saskatchewan area.

Among other dignitaries, it is our particular pleasure to welcome his Excellency, the governor General, the Prime Minister, and Federal Cabinet Ministers.

One of the legacies of the games at Blackstrap Provincial Park will be the mountain as a permanent ski facility.

Moreover, the park will now become a year round, winter and summer, recreation area for the youth of our province.

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MINERAL RESOURCES

In Saskatchewan the mining outlook is bright.

The potash industry has now reached a secure and advancing position in a newly stabilized world potash market.

Precambrian activities received a major boost by Gulf Minerals' announcement of its plan to proceed with its Rabbit Lake uranium development.

The increasing demand for lignite coal is most encouraging.

In the oil and natural gas industry, increased crude oil prices and an expanding demand for natural gas should be the stimulus required to bring exploration capital into the province.

The Government continues to be concerned about the Federal White Paper tax proposals as they affect the mining industry.

It will continue to vigorously oppose proposals which might discriminate against the West, or harm our competitive position in world markets.

The Legislature meets at a time when most Canadians face serious economic problems.

Inflation is still raging in many parts of Canada.

What is even more serious, is the fact that weapons used to combat inflation have caused other difficulties.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment across the Nation has risen to critical proportions.

Fortunately, unemployment in Saskatchewan is less severe than in most provinces.

Nevertheless, in an effort to create jobs, particularly in the construction industry, the Government in recent months has embarked on a crash public works program.

You will be asked to approve large sums for dozens of new projects.

You will be asked, moreover, to advance the date for other building programs which had originally been planned for 1972 and 1973.

Hopefully, many of these projects can be under way by spring.

Student Employment

My Government will make a special effort to provide employment opportunities for university and technical school students during the summer months.

All government departments, agencies and branches, together with our crown corporations, have been asked to hire the maximum of students who can be usefully employed.

In addition, under certain circumstances, the Government will be prepared to subsidize the employment of students in certain other sectors of the economy.

AGRICULTURE

Because of poor international wheat sales, the agricultural sector has been especially hard hit.

The drop in farm purchasing power permeated through out whole economy during 1970.

However, as the current Session commences, there are encouraging signs that the world wheat marketing situation is improving.

Sales and Quotas in most rural areas are substantially better than one year ago.

Moreover, there are indications that the sale of durum, barley, flax, rapeseed and oats may reach an all-time high in the current crop year.

Diversification

My government, since taking office, has constantly urged and promoted agricultural diversification.

The Guaranteed Livestock Loan Act, introduced at the last Session, has been most successful in promoting a rapid expansion of breeding stock. Financial assistance under this legislation will be expanded during 1971.

SEDCO Loans

You will be asked to approve further funds for the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation, which will permit that agency to make additional loans to major agricultural projects.

Financing of Livestock on Reserves

Legislation will be introduced which will permit Indian Bands to borrow money for herd expansion.

Hog Incentives

Canadian hog prices are almost totally dependent upon the American market.

Those prices have dropped sharply in recent months.

In an effort to help Saskatchewan producers you will be asked to approve a Bill which will permit the paying of quality incentives for hogs.

Irrigation

During 1970 an encouraging start was made in potato production in the South Saskatchewan Irrigation area.

You will be requested to approve funds for the continued expansion of land irrigation programs in this part of the

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province.

Livestock Pollution Controls

An Act will be introduced to help prevent pollution from livestock feeding operations.

The Bill will make it an offence to operate an intensive livestock operation so as to constitute a public nuisance.

Workmen's Compensation for Farmers

Workmen's Compensation for the individual farmer and his workers will be made available on a voluntary basis.

HIGHWAYS

Major sums will again be requested for the construction and expansion of our provincial highway system.

Overall spending will probably be the highest in history.

In formulating the 1971 program, the need to provide jobs for Saskatchewan citizens will be constantly kept in mind.

Construction on the Leader Bridge across the Saskatchewan River will be completed in the autumn of 1971. Work on the Nipawin Bridge is proceeding satisfactorily.

To facilitate the development of our Northern resources, the construction of roads in our North is being expedited.

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN BASE HOSPITAL

Construction work on the new South Saskatchewan Base Hospital located in Regina is now proceeding according to plan.

You will be asked to provide major additional funds for this vital project.

EDUCATION

My Government continues to give the highest priority to the education of our young people.

Within the context of that priority, we have endeavoured to restrain the annual increases in local property taxes needed for educational purposes.

In the past year, all school budgets were thoroughly examined by the department, and firm controls on spending were applied in co-operation with the school boards.

At the same time the highest grants in history were paid, which permitted most districts and units to hold their mill rate, and others to reduce their rates by one or two mills.

Larger Provincial Grants

My Government will again ask the Legislature to assume a large proportion of the overall costs of education in an attempt to ease the burden on local taxpayers, and further diversify the overall tax base available to these local boards.

Teachers' Salaries Agreement Act

In order to facilitate bargaining between teachers and trustees you will be asked to approve changes in the timetable of negotiations.

Amendments will also be introduced to provide for additional means of submitting disputes to arbitration. These changes are designed to expedite the negotiation process and the conclusion of agreements.

University

You will be asked to approve the largest sum of money in history for the continued expansion of the University of Saskatchewan on both the Regina and Saskatoon Campuses.

Student Representation

Legislation will be proposed to give students on the Regina and Saskatoon Campuses the right to elect one member each to the University Board of Governors.

Teachers' Pensions

Your approval will be requested for a measure to adjust the existing superannuation for teachers who retired prior to April, 1963, and their widows and dependents.

Bursary Program

A special committee on scholarships and bursaries will be established to make recommendations on all bursaries paid by the Provincial Government or the University.

The committee will consist of representatives of the Government, of the University, technical schools, and students.

Larger School Units Act

My Government feels that further centralization of some smaller elementary schools, solely on economic grounds, may not always be in the best educational interests of the students.

Accordingly, legislation will be prepared to require the concurrence of the Department of Education, where a board proposes to close schools offering instruction in the lower grades.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Last year, a special Legislative Committee met periodically to study electoral reform.

Using the Committee's final report as a basis, at the current Session my Government will propose certain far-reaching changes in the Election Act and the Controverted Elections Act.

SUNDAY MOVIES

You will be asked to consider changes in the hours during which cinemas are permitted to operate on Sundays.

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STORE OPENING

You will be asked to consider changes in the Urban Municipalities Act, which provide for stiffer penalties for stores remaining open in other than authorized hours.

LIQUOR ACT

You will be asked to set up an Intersessional Committee of the Legislature to review all aspects of our various liquor laws.

The Committee will be requested to make recommendations designed to modernize and increase the effectiveness of existing legislation.

LIGHTING OF AIR STRIPS

In recent years, mainly because of provincial grants, about 70 air strips in the province have been constructed or improved.

It is now proposed that additional steps should be taken.

A new program will be introduced which will permit local communities to establish lights on their local strips, with provincial assistance grants.

LABOUR

Essential Services Emergency Act

Amendments will be introduced to the Essential Services Emergency Act to facilitate the settlement of certain labour disputes.

Minimum Wage

The Minister of Labour will propose that the minimum wage in Saskatchewan be adjusted upward.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act will be placed before you for approval with the object of increasing benefits for injured workmen and their dependents.

Labour Standards Act

Amendments will be proposed to the Labour Standards Act which will assist employees to recover unpaid wages from directors of a company in the event the corporate body defaults.

It will be proposed that employees be given an absolute priority in respect to wages over all other claims and general creditors.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Unsolicited Goods and Credit Cards

You will be asked to pass legislation that will protect Saskatchewan consumers from the disadvantages of unsolicited

goods and credit cards heretofore distributed without restriction.

Litter

In the interests of environmental management and as a measure of pollution control, you will be asked to consider legislation that will effectively restrict the incidence of littering in the province.

Law Foundation

In keeping with the progressive spirit of Saskatchewan law, you will be called upon to establish a Law Foundation to advance legal education, research and law reform.

Franchises

You will be asked to approve legislation providing for the supervision and control of pyramid-type franchises and multi-level distributorships.

HOME OWNER GRANT

In 1966, in an effort to help property owners with their local taxes, my Government introduced an annual \$50 homeowner grant.

Subsequently the amount was raised to \$60.

At the current Session you will be asked again to increase this annual grant.

SPECIAL CARE HOMES

The provision of special care facilities to serve our aged and infirm citizens has been a prime consideration of my Government in the past.

You will be asked for additional funds to permit a major expansion of this program in the coming year.

INDIAN AND METIS

My Government notes with gratification that Saskatchewan native people are indicating a new pride and confidence in themselves.

During the past year, the Provincial Indian and Metis Department, co-operating with federal authorities, has found jobs for large numbers of natives.

As a result of new provincial regulations, highway and building contractors have also provided employment for hundreds of citizens of native origin.

In the coming year, my Government has asked all hospitals receiving provincial grants to hire a percentage of citizens of Indian origin.

New farms at La Loche, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Mortlach are now providing job opportunities.

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My Government has taken over the facilities at Cutbank from the Federal Government. It is using them for native training and education in conjunction with the farm establishment.

My Government believes that the problems of our native population must continue to be given a top priority, and you will be asked for sharply increased appropriations for these programs.

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year, together with the estimates for the year commencing April 1, 1971, will be submitted to you.

I leave you now to the business of the Session with full confidence that you will favourably discharge your duties and responsibilities.

May Divine Providence continue to bless our Province and guide this Legislature in all its deliberations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK ASSISTANTS

MR. SPEAKER: — I should like to inform the Assembly that Michael Arthur de Rosenroll, Esquire, and Michael Douglas Turgeon, Esquire, have been appointed Clerk Assistants of the Legislative Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

MR. SPEAKER: — I should like to introduce to the Members of the Assembly the four pages who will serve the House during this Session. On my left Miss Elizabeth Connor, and Miss Kathy Scott, on my right Mr. Kenneth Fiissel and Mr. Fred Gottselig. I am sure that all Members will wish to join with me in extending to them a very sincere and warm welcome.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The Assembly adjourned at 3:30 o'clock p.m.