

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**First Session — Seventeenth Legislature**  
**1st Day**

**Wednesday, July 28, 1971.**

10:00 o'clock a.m.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, dated the nineteenth of July, 1971, for the meeting for the First Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan and the Assembly having met:

His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat on the Throne.

**Hon. R. Romanow** (Attorney General): — I am commanded by His Honour to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present Legislature until later today, when the Legislative Assembly shall have elected a Speaker, according to law.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor then retired from the Chamber.

The Hon. Mr. Blakeney, addressing himself to the Clerk, moved, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Romanow, that Frederick Arthur Dewhurst, Esquire, member for the constituency of Wadena, take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

The question being put by the Clerk, it was resolved that Frederick Arthur Dewhurst, Esquire, Member for the constituency of Wadena, do take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

The Clerk, having declared Frederick Arthur Dewhurst, Esquire, duly elected, he was conducted to the Chair, where standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgements to the Assembly for the great honour they have been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be their Speaker.

Thereupon he took the Chair and the Mace was laid on the Table.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor re-entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker then addressed His Honour to the following effect:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Legislative Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, although I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, hereby humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable consideration.

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**Hon. R. Romanow** (Provincial Secretary): — Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to Her majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure that you the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all seasonable occasions, and that its proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then 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 First Session for the Seventeenth Legislature of Saskatchewan.

You come together saddened by the untimely death of the Leader of the Opposition and former Premier, the Hon. W. Ross Thatcher, P.C. I ask you to carry on the work of the Government in the same tradition that was pursued in the vigorous dedication by the Hon. Mr. Thatcher during his more than 25 years of public life.

Free access to health care is given high priority by my government. The imposition of deterrent fees on persons requiring treatment in or out of hospital has proved to be a hindrance to health and an onerous burden on our citizens. You will therefore be asked to approve legislation abolishing all deterrent fees in the field of health care.

Free access to medical and hospital care is particularly important to our older citizens. Therefore, legislation to abolish medical and hospital premiums for every resident 65 years of age or older will be placed with you.

You will be asked to approve changes in the Mental Health Act which will have the effect of removing provisions enacted April 15, 1968. These provisions place on the families of the mentally ill serious financial burdens not placed on the families of those suffering from physical illness.

The continuing farm income crisis is a matter of deep concern to my Government. My ministers have taken certain steps to assist farmers, notably by extending retroactively to January 1, 1971, the payment of hog premiums.

As a further step, legislation will be introduced to protect farmers unable to pay their debts from seizure of their farm land and machinery.

My Government has observed with serious misgivings the stagnation of the national and provincial economies, accompanied by a drastic increase in unemployment. In Saskatchewan, the lack of jobs, combined with the oppressive effects of legislation which is harshly discriminatory against working people, has resulted in an unprecedented exodus of our work force. Thousands of

workers and their families have left the province.

My Ministers have already moved to increase the number of jobs by setting up a task force on job creation which is undertaking a crash review of government projects to identify those which can be accelerated or set in motion before winter.

As additional steps, you will be asked to restore free collective bargaining in Saskatchewan by the quick repeal of The Essential Services Emergency Act, and to reduce the hours of work.

Certain other matters, including an enquiry into the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, will be placed before you for consideration.

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.

### **MOTIONS SITTING OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Speaker:** — Rule No. 3 states as follows: “The time of the meeting of the Assembly is at 2:30 o’clock in the afternoon of each sitting day.” Leave is therefore requested to open the sitting time earlier than stated in the said rule book. Is leave granted?

Motion agreed to.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS LIST OF MEMBERS RETURNED TO SERVE IN LEGISLATURE**

**Mr. Speaker:** — I beg to inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly received from the Chief Electoral Officer lists of names of such Members as have been returned to serve in the Legislature.

### **APPOINTMENT OF CLERK ASSISTANT**

**Mr. Speaker:** — I beg to inform the Assembly that Michael Arthur de Rosenroll has been appointed Clerk Assistant during the present Session.

### **MOTIONS SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

**Hon. A.E. Blakeney** (Premier): — I move, seconded by the Hon. J.R. Messer (Minister of Agriculture):

That the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the Assembly.

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Motion agreed to.

### **PRINTING OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

**Mr. Blakeney:** — I move, seconded by the Hon. Attorney General (Mr. Romanow):

That the Votes and Proceedings of this Assembly be printed after first having been perused by Mr. Speaker; that he do appoint the printing thereof and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Motion agreed to.

### **RULES TO BE SUSPENDED FOR THE DURATION OF THIS SESSION**

**Mr. Blakeney:** — I move, seconded by the Hon. W.E. Smishek (Minister of Health) and by leave of the Assembly, that the following rules be suspended for the duration of this Session:

1. Rule 98 respecting lists of reports required to be tabled.
2. Rule 105 respecting the report required to be tabled by the Legislative Librarian.

Motion agreed to.

### **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Snyder (Minister of Labour):

That John Edward Brockelbank, Esquire, Member for the constituency of Saskatoon Mayfair, be Deputy Speaker of this Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

### **SECOND READINGS**

Hon. A.E. Blakeney (Premier) moved second reading of Bill No. 1 — **An Act respecting a Certain Election in the Constituency of Prince Albert West.**

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think I can outline very briefly the contents of the Bill, speaking on second reading.

The purpose of the Bill is to seat Mr. David Gordon Steuart as the Hon. Member for Prince Albert. It, I think, will be known that on polling day Mr. Steuart held a majority. There was a recount. The judge, we are advised, is prepared to certify that Mr. Steuart has a majority. The candidate who ran second to Mr. Steuart, Dr. Hjertaas, has issued a statement to the effect that he does not propose to appeal. The provisions of The Election Act provide that five days must elapse before the appropriate notice can be given to the Chief Electoral Officer. This is now a formality and I am suggesting in effect by this Act that this formality be waived and that the Hon. Mr. Steuart be seated forthwith.

There is always reluctance, I think, in any Assembly to take upon itself the job of seating members. It is peculiarly the function of the voters and not the Members of the Assembly to fill a vacancy. However, I think in every practical sense the voters have spoken and they have selected Mr. Steuart.

The Bill will leave open to any other candidate or any other elector in the constituency of Prince Albert West his rights to appeal, if that appeal is sought, of a re-count. It doesn't seek to abridge that, although I am advised by the press and otherwise that that right is not going to be pursued. It also leaves open all rights to controvert the election. It doesn't in fact abridge any rights. It has the effect of seating Mr. Steuart until all the procedures which might otherwise hold up his seating in this House have been completed and if, in fact, the procedures seat someone else, then of course, that someone else will be the Member for Prince Albert West.

That is the effect of the Bill and with that explanation, Mr. Speaker, I move to second reading.

**Mr. C.P. MacDonald** (Milestone): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that the Members on this side of the House will certainly support this Bill, however, we have an area of concern in that originally it was our understanding that this Bill would be broad enough in scope that it would make it possible for all three members who are now before a re-count, that when their re-count was completed and the judge has made the decision or officially declared him the winner, that then this Bill would make it possible for all three of those members to sit in the House.

Our side believes that this is a technicality and that just as Mr. Steuart is duly elected by the people of Prince Albert West, he has won a majority, the judge has officially re-counted the ballots. He has been declared the winner by the judge and therefore we feel that this Bill should also make it possible for the member for Gravelbourg and of course the Member for Athabasca when the re-count has been finished or concluded, that they would be prevented because of the technicality of requesting a five-day waiting period from making a contribution to this House and on behalf of their constituents.

We also feel it's very essential that the Opposition be able to provide good opposition and that they have every member who has been elected to this side of the House able to contribute and to make his contribution on behalf of the official Opposition of the Legislature and the people of Saskatchewan. I, therefore, want to ask the Premier, in closing the debate, if the members on the Government side of the House would not consider amending this Bill to broaden its scope in such a way that should the judge or the re-count in Athabasca constituency and the re-count in Gravelbourg constituency be completed while the Session is sitting and the judge declares the winners, that then they too would have the opportunity of taking part in the official proceeding of the legislature and making their contribution.

**Mr. J.C. McIsaac** (Wilkie): — Mr. Speaker, just before the Premier closes debate on this Bill, we had considered — as my seatmate mentioned — asking amendments and perhaps the way the Bill is worded and the title phrased, that may not be possible. I wonder if he would in lieu of considering an amendment, consider bringing in

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a similar Bill at a later date when the judge has declared the winner in Gravelbourg or Athabasca and dealing with those constituencies in a similar manner to Prince Albert West.

**Mr. Blakeney:** —Mr. Speaker, I think it will be appreciated that Mr. Steuart, the soon to be member for Prince Albert West, is in a different position than the other two. No judge has spoken with respect to the other two. The re-count is still in progress. There are real possibilities of appeal, I would think, in at least one of them. Under these circumstances and because of our Legislature by an Act rather than by the electoral process, we thought that the appropriate procedure was to deal with the one case which is before us where the judge has in fact spoken. We have had in recent days some reference to the desirability of the regular rules applying and I felt that there was the prospect that this would also commend itself to the members opposite with respect to elections. But leaving that aside, I do feel that there is some merit in the points made by the Member for Milestone (Mr. MacDonald) and the Member for Wilkie (Mr. McIsaac) and we shall certainly have a look at another Bill. I think it's not appropriate to amend this one because of the purpose of this Bill, shortly put, is to seat the Hon. Mr. Steuart now so that he may assume his role as Leader of the Opposition or Acting Leader of the Opposition and in particular, so that he may be here when we move to Condolences when I know that he would like to say something with respect to the death of some deceased Members.

Motion agreed to and read a second time.

The Bill was reported without amendment and read the third time and passed.

### CONDOLENCES

**Hon. A.E. Blakeney** (Premier): —Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart):

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of three former members of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contributions each has made to his community, to his constituency, and to his Province:

**William James Arthurs** died on July 14, 1971. He was a Member of this Legislature for Melville from 1944 to 1948. He was born in Janetville, Ontario, and came to Balcarres in 1905. He was a railway conductor, worked for the railway for over 40 years. He was secretary of the Provincial Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; chairman of the grievance committee of the Canadian National Railway Pensioners' Club. He was past master of the Royal Black Loyal Orange Lodge in Melville.

**Gustav Herman Danielson** who died on July 8, 1971, was a member of this Legislature for Arm River from 1934 to 1964. He was born in Sweden in 1883, he was educated there before emigrating to the United States in 1901. In 1903 he came to Canada, homesteaded near Elbow and later moved to the Davidson district. He was a director of the Davidson Co-operative Association for 40 years; Saskatchewan Wheat Pool delegate for three years; councillor of the Rural Municipality of Arm River for seven years; reeve of that Municipality for eight years; he was a school trustee for eight years and a member for the Davidson Hospital Board for 38 years. In June 1971 a Provincial Park near Gardiner Dam was named Danielson Park in his honour.

**The Honourable Wilbert Ross Thatcher, P.C.** who died on July 23, 1971, was a Member of this Legislature for Morse from 1960 to 1971. He was born in Neville, Saskatchewan, in 1917. He received his public and high school education in Limerick and Moose Jaw. He graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He was an alderman of the City of Moose Jaw from 1942 to 1944. He sat as a member of the House of Commons from 1945 to 1957. He was sworn in as a Member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada in 1967. He was Leader of the Opposition in this Legislature from 1960 to 1964 and Premier of Saskatchewan and President of the Executive Council from May 1964 to June 1971. He was Provincial Treasurer from May 1964 to September of 1970. He was a former president of the Moose Jaw Canucks Hockey Club, a member of the executive of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a member of the Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge and Wa Wa Shrine.

Mr. Speaker, if I may add some personal notes to the formal condolences. It was not my privilege to know the Hon. Member for Melville Mr. Arthurs and I believe, in looking around, that probably the only Member of this Legislature who served with him in this House is Mr. Speaker. It indicates the shortness of the political life, to think that someone who served in this legislature in 1948 has only now one person who served with him.

I did however serve in the Legislature with the former member for Arm River, Herman Danielson. I join with many in Saskatchewan who remember with affection and respect the long-time Dean of the House. I served in the House only for four years with Mr. Danielson but I knew better than that association would suggest since I had been a public servant from 1950 to 1958 and had many associations with him.

Mr. Danielson was not the sort of person you overlooked or forgot. He was colourful in every sense of the word. My early acquaintance with him turned to admiration as I observed the very sincere and very spirited way in which he advocated the interests of his constituents. He was a great believer in the co-operative movement and served his community both as a co-op director and long-time director of the Davidson Co-op and as a Pool delegate.

As will be indicated in terms in which the formal condolence is set out, he was a true Saskatchewan pioneer. Like many others at the turn of the century he went to the United States first

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and then came up to Saskatchewan. He homesteaded and was in that sense a real pioneer. No man in the history of Saskatchewan as far as I can ascertain represented his constituency in the House for as many continuous years as did Mr. Danielson. He served from 1944 to 1964, 30 years, and I believe that is the all-time record. For 20 of those years from 1944 to 1964 he was an untiring member of the Opposition. Many will still recall the vigor with which he and the now deceased member for Saltcoats Minty Lopston used to pursue the government of the day in the Legislature. I think it is ironic that his distinguished career in the House ended when the Liberal Government was elected. I don't know but perhaps he would really have been happier in Opposition in any case. It was with a no sense of regret, I think, that Mr. Danielson brought his criticisms to the House.

Mr. Danielson's career spanned the entire life of the Province of Saskatchewan, he served his province well, he still serves, in spirit, as Dean of the Legislature. On behalf of the citizens of Saskatchewan I extend our deepest sympathy to Mr.s. Danielson and family.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I add a word on the passing, the very untimely passing, of the late Mr. Ross Thatcher.

All of us, I know were shocked and grieved at the sudden passing of the Hon. Mr. Thatcher, the member for Morse, the Leader of the Opposition and former Premier. The shock was the greater because he was a man of untiring energy, great dedication — he seemed always to be in motion— and the sudden silencing of the familiar voice which had become so much a part of modern Saskatchewan history created a sense of loss felt by everyone in the Province.

Mr. Thatcher had a long and distinguished career in public life. I referred to the fact that he was an alderman in Moose Jaw, a Member of Parliament for over 10 years and a Member of this Legislature for over 10 years. As leader of the Liberal Party he was Leader of the Opposition and then Premier.

Mr. Thatcher has been described as colourful, controversial, decisive, energetic and single minded. He was all of those things. But most of all he was his own man. He led his party and his province along the road in which he sincerely believed. He applied himself with untiring energy and devotion. He worked at a pace which spared neither his time nor his health, as we all now know. In this House he earned the respect of both supporters and those who were his opposition. You could differ with Ross Thatcher, you could oppose him on many issues — I did and other Members of this House did — but you couldn't doubt the sincerity with which he pursued his objectives. He earned the respect of all who knew him.

I entered the House in 1960, the same year that Mr. Thatcher did. I found him to be a tough-minded and unrelenting antagonist when he was to your left, Mr. Speaker, and I was to your right, yet he had a sense of humor and this frequently came to the fore. I can remember two or three particular instances when I thought that his humour shone through in a way which particularly impressed me. He also had a sense of feeling for his constituents and a desire to listen to their problems and to do what he thought was best with respect to them.

Perhaps the stature of the man in my eyes is better illustrated by the gracious manner in which he responded to the defeat



of his party on June 23rd. As you may imagine at our party headquarters there was jubilation. With great composure and great personal courage Mr. Thatcher came to our committee rooms, went to the podium through a wildly cheering crowd and wished me very, very sincerely, good wishes as Premier elect. His party had lost, he wanted the government to carry on, and I didn't in any sense doubt the sincerity of his good wishes.

He was decisive in victory, energetic in office, gracious in defeat. He will long be remembered in this Province. His untimely passing will be regretted by citizens of every political persuasion. On behalf of the people of Saskatchewan I extend our deepest sympathy to Mr.s. Thatcher, their son and other members of the bereaved family.

In the formal words of condolence I move, seconded by Mr. Steuart, that in recording its deepest sense of loss and bereavement this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathies with the members of the bereaved families.

**Mr. D.G. Steuart** (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, I should first like to congratulate you on your elevation to that high office and offer to you the support and the co-operation of the Members of the Opposition.

I should also like to thank the House for accommodating my entry into this Legislature this morning. I should like to say that it is an honour for me to second the motion of condolences put forward by Premier Blakeney.

As the Premier pointed out, I am not sure that anyone on this side of the House knew and certainly none of us sat with William Arthurs of Melville. On behalf of the Opposition I should like to take this opportunity to say how much we respect him and his memory as we respect any man or woman who serves his province especially in the capacity as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and pass on to his family our deepest sympathy.

I should like to turn now to Herman Danielson. I do feel that at a time like this, while it is a sad occasion, still some of the memories as Mr. Blakeney pointed out of these members, the ones we have sat with, certainly were anything but sad. The spectacle of Herman Danielson standing in his place between the aisles, refusing to speak into the microphone which he considered a confounded plot by the government of the day, and attempting to twist it off its stand here as he fought his battle over the years is a sight none of us will ever forget. Herman served for 30 years in this Legislative Assembly, certainly from my point of view he was one of the great giants of the Liberal Party during the 1940s during the 20 years we sat in Opposition. I can remember listening to Herman on the radio, among others, and long before I ever knew him or had ever seen him I developed a great affection and a great admiration for him. When I used to come down into the Legislature first to sit as an observer, later as a member in the Opposition, Herman along with Minty Lopston had become known really by the government of the day as the 'gold dust twins'. They sat there and they provided great and lively opposition. One of my fond memories is coming into the House and getting advice from both of them as a young and new Member. Minty said, "never worry about the facts," he said, "if you think the government has spent \$5 million, accuse them of \$10 million, they are just liable to tell you the truth and the truth will hang them every time." Herman was just the opposite. When Herman came in to

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speak, he had to carry the files, he set them down and stacked them up. He never, that I know of, ever stated a fact in this House that he couldn't prove by reference and cross reference, he had the most tremendous documentation and volumes and press clippings and reference of anyone that I have ever known who has ever sat in this House. But Herman was a serious man, he was a dedicated man. He served as a councillor, a hospital member, on the school board and he was a great pioneer in the co-op movement, the local co-op, the Wheat Pool, in fact, in every facet of the co-op movement of this Province. He fought for the co-op movement just as he fought for his principles inside and outside this House. He was a fighter, he was a dedicated fighter and he did over a long, long period of time render great and dedicated service to this Province and I am sure we all pay respect to his memory.

I now turn to our former leader, Ross Thatcher. I would first pass on our condolences and our sympathy to his family, his most gracious wife Peggy, his son Colin, his mother, brothers and his grandchildren. Although Ross spent over half of his life in the public eye, in public service, he was essentially a private man. Anyone who was ever with him and saw him with his grandchildren, the love he had for those grandchildren was a very joyous and happy thing to see. He didn't show this side to the public, because he considered it his own private affair. About three days after he had passed away I was speaking to a radio commentator, and he said, "All these condolences that are pouring in from across the nation, and from politicians in all walks of life and from all political parties, do you really think that they are sincere?" My answer was, "Yes, I think they are sincere. Politicians fight hard in this country, we hold strong beliefs, we state them strongly, but no one believed that or followed it more vehemently than Ross Thatcher. But we do respect each other." I was on a television program with Woodrow Lloyd. After it was over, the same sort of comment was made by some people from the television station. "How can you politicians talk like this about each other the way you go after each other publicly?" Woodrow smiled and he said, "Well we do have a sort of a union, and we do have a great deal of respect for each other even though that doesn't show up and really can't show up in our public posture and our public utterances, because we are dedicated to certain principles and when we differ we have to take certain stands." I think it is a mark of our Canadian democracy that when a tragedy like this happens people all over Canada and from all parties do join ranks and they pay tribute to the memory as we are doing to this great man, Ross Thatcher.

I knew Ross as a friend and saw a side of him that maybe not too many people saw, warm, humorous, loyal. And again it was a side that he didn't really try to show. Maybe he would have been better off if he had shown it publicly more often. I respect him personally and I thank him because he did give me and many others the opportunity to serve in this Legislature and to serve this Province in a way that we never, at least I never would have had, if it hadn't been for him. He gave our party life. Ironically he found us with 15 members and he left us with 14 Members. But he left us with a great difference. He found us disorganized. He left us unified. He found us floundering sometimes almost without a goal. He left us with a definite goal and a definite role to play. He led us from defeat twice to victory, and once more to defeat. I think he led the Liberal Party in this Province as long or longer than any other man and he led the Liberal Party through more elections

than any other man in the history of Saskatchewan. He left us with a goal and a memory.

I think he left the people of this Province a great legacy. Mostly it is tangible things — new highways, schools, hospitals, auditoriums. He believed in those things. He was a believer in practical things. But he did leave us some intangibles. He had a great dedication for minority groups. For example, his work with native people, I think, will long be remembered. He was sincere and he was dedicated. His work for the Hutterites will long be remembered by that minority. Ross had a much deeper feeling and philosophy than most people realized or recognized. I am convinced that he made a great contribution to our party, to this Province and to our Nation. He fought hard, worked hard and he served well. I think, Mr. Speaker, that history will be kinder to Ross Thatcher than the electorate was on June 23. But this is often the fate of politicians and Ross Thatcher wouldn't have had it any other way. He didn't cry, he didn't complain, he didn't excuse. When he faced victory he savoured it; when he faced defeat, he took full responsibility. He was a man!

**Mr. F. Meakes** (Touchwood): — Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to add a few remarks to the condolences of these three men.

Mr. Arthurs I did not know well not having sat in the House with him. I've heard many stories of him when he was in this Legislature and of his work. He was a man who enjoyed life to its very fullest. I want to add my condolences to the Arthurs family.

To the untimely death of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Thatcher, we were all saddened by its tragic suddenness. I could admire him for his dedication to those things that he believed in and he certainly never stinted his energy or his ability and strength in fighting for his political party — the party that he believed in. My sympathies go to Mr.s. Thatcher and family.

I rose mainly to speak on behalf of my old friend, Herman Danielson. I sat in this Legislature with him for eight years and certainly as the Premier (Mr. Blakeney) said and the member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart) has said, he added colour to this House. I recall many memories of him, which I won't elaborate here. He too was a great fighter for his beliefs and I found out that underneath that very gruff exterior he was a very kindly and warm man and he too had a great feeling, a very deep feeling, for the underdog. He and I got to know one another because we had a mutual interest in the co-operative movement. He was dedicated to it, as has been previously recorded. I admired his deep dedication to the co-operative movement in his home community and in the province. I don't know whether the House knows this but I believe that Herman Danielson guided more co-op legislation through this House than any other member that has ever sat in this House. He told me once with pride, "I have guided more co-operative legislation through this House than any other man."

I knew him as a fighter for the co-operative movement. In this House he never failed to work on behalf of the co-operative movement. I know that in the co-operative movement he will long be remembered. I want to add my sympathy to Mr.s. Danielson and family.

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**Mr. G.B. Grant** (Regina Whitmore Park): — Mr. Speaker, may I extend to you my sincere congratulations on your elevation to this high post as Speaker of this Assembly.

I didn't have the good fortune to know Mr. Arthurs and only casually knew Mr. Danielson so I shall restrict my remarks to one whom I was very close to.

Ross Thatcher was a decision maker, the very thing that leadership is made of. Being a leader has its rewards by way of recognition and satisfaction in accomplishment but at the same time it has its periods of loneliness, frustration and disappointments. Seven years with Mr. Thatcher gives you an opportunity to see how a leader handles and lives with a variety of situations. Few people are associated closely enough with any premier to appreciate the multitude of problems and difficulties he is faced with. He has two big operational areas, heading the government and heading his party. Either one by itself a formidable task but when combined it becomes a most demanding one. Ross Thatcher was loyal to his responsibilities. He put this loyalty first. It was the base line for his decision making. His loyalty in carrying out his responsibilities meant difficult decisions and at times unpopular decisions. Few know that Mr. Thatcher left a legacy between Regina and Moose Jaw and I speak not of asphalt and concrete but of a growing thing. It was his idea to plant trees and bushes along this highway and this will serve as a living and growing memorial to him. Our former Premier will be remembered as a dynamic leader and an untiring worker. He will be sorrowfully missed in Saskatchewan political life. I deemed it a privilege and a genuine experience being associated with him. I join others in this House, Mr. Speaker, in conveying my sympathies to his family.

**Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I understand there are a number of others who wish to add tribute and in order that there may be an opportunity to do that this afternoon, I would move that this Assembly do now recess until 2:30 o'clock p.m. today.

The Assembly resumed the interrupted proceedings on the condolence Motion.

**Mr. D. Boldt** (Rosthern): — Mr. Speaker I should like to identify myself with the main motion presented by the Premier.

Although I did not know the senior gentleman from Melville I understood in the Resolution that he was born in 1888 and died this summer. That would make him more than 80 years old or over four score years. A man who lives to be over 80 years must have been a good man and I'm sure that those who knew him will agree and appreciate the services that he rendered to this Province and to the community. I should like to share in the motion, to those he left behind, our sympathies and best wishes.

I knew Herman Danielson quite well. I came into the House in 1960 and as a rookie I appreciated the advice and the concern that he had for the younger members and the advice that he freely gave to us who needed it. In 1960 he was then well into his seventies and members will recall, those that were in the

House at that time, that he never did come to the evening sittings. He felt it too burdensome for his years but that didn't mean that he wasn't well aware and well on top of what was said the previous evening. He would work in his room in the King's Hotel and the next morning when he came to the House he would be fully armed with material and quotes from all Members and he would participate in the debate. I had a great deal of respect for him.

As was mentioned today he was a great man for the co-operative movement. I remember his saying back in 1964 that the Davidson Co-op was perhaps the only truly co-op store left in Saskatchewan. It was run and operated by the local people and not by Federated. He worked for the municipality and served as a Member of the Legislature for 30 years and this is a record that certainly must be appreciated and is appreciated by all of those that knew him in the constituency he represented.

As Members will appreciate, it is with a great deal of difficulty that we speak of a leader and a friend who passed away only a few days ago. Many generalizations in praise of Mr. Thatcher have been made in comments from all over Canada but I should like to say a few words of the personal experiences that I had with Ross Thatcher.

In 1961 when the then Government called a session in February, we were advised by the leader that most of the MLAs, the Liberal MLAs, would stay at the King's Hotel. I had registered a few weeks before for a room. I had reserved one and I came to the King's Hotel a few days before the session started. For some unknown reason the gentleman behind the desk was quite specific that I take room 214. I enquired why I had to take room 214, whether I couldn't have a choice, and the answer that I got was Mr. Thatcher had insisted that I be given this room. He had room 212, a corner room that he requested and that I be given the next room. He claimed to know me as a quiet sort of a chap and he wanted the least possible disturbance while at the hotel. For five sessions this arrangement remained and it was through this close neighbourly association that a very personal friendship developed between the Thatchers and myself and my wife. There was many an evening we would be out in the country at a political gathering and we would return in the early hours of the morning, catch a few hours of sleep, and be ready for the committee meetings the next morning. I have never met a man who had the drive, the energy, the enthusiasm and the love for work and the dedication for public service as had the late Ross Thatcher. Much has been said in the last few days about the qualities and as I said before I should like to be a little more personal.

On many occasions, we, the Government, and he personally, had been at times accused of putting dollars before people. As Minister of Welfare in the first years of our government, he and I yearly visited our correctional intuitions in Regina and Prince Albert. My deputy minister at the time informed me that this had never been done by any other Premier in the Province. Great changes were made at his request for the welfare of the inmates. We went down before lunch and had lunch with the workers there and we would speak with the inmates and he would ask them to come to his office after discharge or release and he personally would see that they would be employed. We visited Dale's House and I saw the primitive structure, a three-storey building. I believe it was the old CN station.

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It served its purpose — I'm not criticizing the building at all — but it was obsolete. It had become a holding unit for delinquent girls. That afternoon Ross and I sat down and discussed the seriousness of the condition of the institution and later that day I instructed my deputy to go to the architects and draw up plans for a new home for delinquent girls. We visited the geriatric centre, saw at first-hand how unfortunate some of our citizens were. More staff and funds were made available within a few days and later on Ross told me when he went home that night he had not slept because of the condition of many of our fellow citizens

I believe that it will be said and admitted by all church conferences, Protestants, and Catholics alike, that nobody would have done it better than Ross, to impress upon the citizens of Saskatchewan, the real plight of our native people. He wanted to know and do something about their deplorable conditions. No premier in the past, I believe, has ever visited the Reserves as often as he did to gather first-hand information.

I am confident that the Indian and the Métis will long remember him as their friend. Less than a year ago he was called upon to organize, by a federal organizer of the North American Continent, a Premier's Prayer Breakfast, as it is called in other provinces. He called me to his office one day and asked me to organize a Prayer Breakfast, and he said, and I quote:

Dave, I don't want it to be called a Premier's Breakfast. I don't want my office to be accused of trying to catch votes through a Prayer Breakfast.

This is how I knew his private life. He was deeply concerned and worried when reference was made to his behaviour and conduct and his personal life, which were in most cases unfounded. But never would he lash out publicly at those who became personal.

Ross was a hard worker and he expected us all, as public servants, to give of our best. Of the years as a Member of his Cabinet, I must say they have been the most rewarding seven years of my life. My colleagues and I did not always agree with Ross. We had some very strenuous debates, but we were a team. If we made mistakes we made them as a team, we made them together. Ross was a good friend, a good leader, a good Premier. Saskatchewan has lost a friend and a gallant man.

May God comfort Mr.s Thatcher, Colin and other members of the family.

**Mr. J. Kowalchuk** (Melville): — Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the other Members of this Assembly in paying tribute to the former Members of this Legislature, including The Hon. Ross Thatcher. I want to extend sympathies to Mr.s. Thatcher and the family.

One of the other deceased Members whom I knew very well personally and with whom I had the pleasure of working with when I was a young student was J.W. Arthurs, at one time CCF Member for the Melville constituency.

Mr. Arthurs was known to young and old as Jim Arthurs and was a prominent figure in local and provincial politics. He served Melville constituency as a member of the Saskatchewan Legislature from 1944 to 1948. He was born in Janetville,

Ontario, in 1888. He came West to Balcarres in 1905 and started work on the railway in 1913 as a brakeman and then as a conductor, where he served faithfully for 40 years and finally retired in 1953.

Jim Arthurs was an active man. He was active in community affairs. He was chairman of the Melville Lodge of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen for 20 years. He was Secretary of the Provincial Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Chairman of the Grievance committee of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and an executive member of the Canadian National Railway Pensioners' Club. He was a Past Master of the Royal Black Loyal Orange Lodge in Melville.

Surviving are his wife Cara, two sons and three daughters. Jim Arthurs moved to Vancouver after retiring from his railway job, where he completed his life, passing away on July 17 at the age of 83 years.

To Jim Arthurs we say, a job well done, the toils of life well preformed. To Mr.s. Arthurs and the family we should like to offer our sincerest sympathies.

**Mr. J.C. McIsaac** (Wilkie): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to take a few moments on this particular Resolution before us to associate myself with remarks made by the Member who just took his seat and others who have spoken.

I, of course, didn't know Mr. Arthurs. I was only slightly acquainted with Mr. Danielson. I knew him largely through two avenues, first his speeches on the air and secondly, through my association with Jack Horsman, former Wilkie MLA who was my predecessor in that constituency. Mr. Horsman, of course, was a close associate of Mr. Danielson, as you can well appreciate having sat in this Legislature for 16 of those 30 years while Mr. Danielson was here.

Now those of you who know Jack Horsman — and I am sure that Mr. Speaker knows and there are others — know that he is not and never was given to overstatement. I did use to question some of the tales of Mr. Danielson and others that John would relate to me until such time as I came down here myself and then, of course, I heard many others reiterate some of the anecdotes that Mr. Steuart and others mentioned here this morning.

I wish to extend, my sympathy to his family, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of my predecessor and great friend, Mr. Jack Horsman, former Wilkie MLA.

Ross Thatcher. I met Ross at the time of his election as Liberal Party Leader. I never really spent that much time with him until the summer of 1963, when he came to Wilkie to meet our executive and myself and see whether or not I wanted to run in that constituency.

Certainly it was through him and urging of some close friends at home that I did agree to run and contest that nomination and eventually win that constituency for the last three elections in a row.

I worked, of course, with Ross very closely as Party Whip that first session when we were the Government. I came to

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know and appreciate his many great attributes, his sincerity, his conviction, his energy and his purposeful determination at all times.

Later on that year 1965, he called me into his office. The Moosomin by-election was on, in its last week, I believe. He talked generally about the election, politics and so on. And out of the clear blue he asked me if I wanted to come down and join the Cabinet. I remember well one comment that he made at that time. He said, "Cliff you will find politics very demanding. Very frustrating and, in fact it is best described as disorganized confusion most of the time. I'll tell you if you come down it will get into your blood and despite the frustrations you will come to enjoy it and anything else other than politics will seem very dull thereafter." I am sure that anyone who has been in public life or politics knows the truth of that statement.

Shortly after being appointed, he called me over to his office one day. I had given some misdirection to a municipality representative who was in to my office in interpreting a new policy and I thought one thing that he would do would be to put me straight on that, but it wasn't. We talked about totally different things, that he was looking to and considering for future. And when I referred to this fact that I had inadvertently misinformed the municipality about a new policy that had just been brought down by the former member of Qu'Appelle-Wolseley (Mr. McFarlane) who was then the Minister. Ross said, "Oh, that is nothing. Don't worry about that. Anyone can make a mistake. But I will tell you this, Cliff, one thing that I can't stand is stupidity, be it in public office or anywhere else."

Other instances could be cited by me in the same vein as the member for Rosthern (Mr. Boldt) did to demonstrate some of these personal qualities of our former Leader, as we came to know and appreciate him. His genuine concern for the underdog in society, the Hutterites of this Province, the Indian and Métis people, will certainly mark him, Mr. Speaker, as one of the great humanitarians of this Province, and as a true Liberal — not a Conservative — and but I am sure that word would be, and has been, used to describe Ross and his philosophy — but his concern that every man must have, above all his own dignity as the most basic of human rights.

He didn't have an ounce of personal bias in his soul, largely because he just didn't have any time for it. As I listened in Moose Jaw on Monday to the eulogy at the funeral, one thought crossed my mind. I know that Ross will leave many legacies and some have been alluded to here today. But I hope and I believe that one that will remain; if more and more people in public life, be it in political life, church or academic circles or other circles, will follow his principle of always coming out forthright, four-square with what their thoughts really are, and are prepared to state them and back them up; then I think that he will have made a contribution to this province and indeed to this country. That will certainly long outlive many of the other qualities that he will be known for. Calling the shot as he sees it, calling it with sincerity and conviction.

On behalf of myself, my family and my constituents, Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with others in extending condolences to his family and his friends.



**Mr. D. Faris** (Arm River): — Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the memory of Herman Danielson.

I never had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Danielson or sitting in the House with him, but I feel that in a way I came to know him through visits that I made in the constituency. I feel that there are probably very few members in this House who will have memories of the visits and the work that they did for their constituents, brought to the attention of someone 30 – and in some cases almost 40 years later.

Mr. Danielson distinguished himself, in my opinion, not so much by his contributions in this House, but rather as setting a model of service to his people. I heard many, many times, in every part of the constituency, stories of things that he had done for people during the '30s. His memory was cherished by those people. I am sure that for Mr.s. Danielson and the family, that continuing memory must be the greatest tribute.

Unfortunately, Mr. Danielson was predeceased this year by his only daughter. His last years were spent in considerable suffering. I wish to extend to his wife and to his family my sincere sympathies, and those of this House.

**Mr. K. MacLeod** (Regina Albert Park): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer briefly to Mr. J. Herman Danielson, late of Davidson, Saskatchewan.

He was, Mr. Speaker, a child of another age. I am very interested and fascinated by the fact that he arrived in the United States in 1901 at the age of 18, almost 19 years, some four and one half months prior to the time the Wright Brothers had flown their first aircraft. Not only before the age of radio and television, but prior to the age of aircraft and the modern convenience.

He arrived in Canada when he was 22 years old. He arrived in the North West Territories. He came to the area of Elbow, Saskatchewan to take up a homestead in what was free land in this great North West Territory, prior to the birth of our province. For those who believe Mr. Speaker, in fortuitous circumstances, it is worth noting, I think that in the year 1938 the Hon. John Diefenbaker was not the Honourable, he was in fact John Diefenbaker, leader of the Provincial Conservative Party of Saskatchewan. And he sought to unseat Mr. Danielson in that election, but Mr. Danielson defeated him.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker what might have occurred had the result of that election been the other way around. I think that it is very unfortunate for all, that John Diefenbaker went down to defeat, because I think that this House was blessed over the years with a rare and distinguished personage, and I think that our House of Commons in our federal field was given one of its outstanding parliamentarians. For those who suffer defeat, occasionally defeat leads on, Mr. Speaker, if I may philosophize momentarily, to something far better, far better not only for the man, but for the people.

And if I may speak briefly of the Hon. W. Ross Thatcher. It has occurred to me, Mr. Speaker, that if the Hon. Ross Thatcher was an irritant to our people, it was, I think, the kind of irritation that comes from the roadbuilder's noise as he builds a road to your house. The irritation, I think, caused by the

carpenter's hammer as he improves your home.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the improvement of our lot was well known by the late Mr. Thatcher to involve sacrifice and discomfort. The goal throughout, I am convinced, was a better Saskatchewan.

If he appeared, Mr. Speaker, on occasion to overlook some needy, it was because he saw someone else even more needy. If he seemed not to give enough to the poor but comfortable senior citizens or others, it was because he knew of Indians and Métis in the northern part of the province living in dirt shacks, with dirt floors. With so much to be done, Mr. Speaker, his impatience may be well understood.

I know that almost single-handedly he drove this Province towards industrialization. I am sure that he couldn't always do this by waiting for all of us to agree. I suspect that a man with so many virtues may well be forgiven for having some giant size failings. It is not necessary that we like everything about the way that he did things. And for the matter it may not be necessary that we like anything about the way that he did things. It is, I think, Mr. Speaker, beyond doubt that we do owe him., and he well deserved, the highest tribute that I have ever been able to give any other man, Mr. Speaker, when I say 'there was a man'.

**Mr. A. Matsalla** (Canora): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself and the people that I represent in paying tribute and expressing sympathy to the former Members of this House who have passed on during the past year.

I want to direct particularly my remarks to Mr. Ross Thatcher, the former Premier of this Province, with whom I had occasion to know and sit in this House during the past term. His untimely passing, of course, shocked me and the people of this Province.

Mr. Thatcher has had, I would say, an exciting and challenging career in politics. He had often placed himself in a controversial position and expounded his views bluntly and in a straightforward manner. He displayed strong beliefs and he worked with great energy and untiring effort towards his objectives. If one were to illustrate strength of character and decisiveness, he would find that Mr. Thatcher fulfilled these qualities.

With some 29 years in public life, Mr. Thatcher has left a mark in Canadian and provincial politics that will not be overlooked, nor will history not make a record of. His contribution to our process of government will prove valuable to many of us living into the future.

Along with other condolences already expressed by the Premier and other members of this House, I want to convey my sympathy to Mr.s. Thatcher and the family.

**Mr. J.G. Lane** (Lumsden): — Mr. Speaker, let me first offer my congratulations to you in your elevation to the very high office you now hold.

It is usually a very happy occasion when a Member makes his first utterances in this very august Chamber, however, the,

recent death of Ross Thatcher has saddened me, as I know it has saddened many of the people that are sitting in this Chamber today.

I knew Ross Thatcher and without Ross Thatcher's guidance and confidence I should not be sitting as an MLA in this House today and I thank him personally for the opportunity that he has given me.

As a young person I knew the frustration of dealing with a man whose ideas were very, very strong, whose views were very, very strong. I had often approached Ross Thatcher with some ideas and I have had them bluntly shot down in a very, very arbitrary manner. But I respected him because I found out as I got some experience that his views were usually right. He had a great love of the people of this Province and he knew the people of this Province; and his experience and his love and his knowledge often justified the stand that he had taken in our discussions. I began to learn that his concern for the future of this Province was the same as mine, his concern for the peoples of this Province was the same as mine but above all — and I don't think this has been mentioned — I realized that he brought with him his own personal honesty and integrity to government and I hope this legacy will be remembered by all of us. It's a very, very tremendous thing that he tried to do inputting this stamp of honesty and integrity on every one of the functions of government and the functions of politics. I know this great effort in this regard by Mr. Thatcher will be remembered by myself and I hope that it will be remembered by all here today.

I regrettably did not know Mr. Arthurs and Mr. Danielson but I join with the other members of this House in expressing condolences to their families.

**Mr. T.M. Weatherald** (Cannington): — Mr. Speaker, this is a regrettable occasion where, in the immediate aftermath of the Hon. Ross Thatcher's death, I have the first opportunity to address this House and I intend to keep my remarks brief because the subject has been so eloquently dealt with by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the other members that have already spoken.

My first encounter with Ross Thatcher, was, Mr. Speaker, in 1963. I had talked to him on a number of occasions on the telephone and I had seen him at Liberal Party conventions but never personally met him. In 1963 when the nominating convention for Cannington constituency was held, he was the speaker at which I was the candidate. He'd already had two meetings that day and he walked into the hall somewhat late and after the balloting had been conducted — and it was a hard-fought convention with a substantial turnout of people — he came to speak to me afterwards and he said, "Tom, get those memberships in."

Mr. Speaker, this was my first encounter with his boundless energy that all of us will remember.

I shall particularly remember him for three distinct qualities: his total honesty, sincerity of purpose (regardless of controversy) and his boundless energy.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that I in my lifetime shall not know another man who had the energy and drive that characterized this particular person. I am convinced that it will be a long time before Saskatchewan sees another person of this tremendous

energy, boundless courage and great vigor, by which he enunciated and carried out his policies.

This boundless energy and ambition I think will be long time before seen again. In my time I have yet to see another with these characteristics to such a great extent, although politics is characterized by people who have high ambition and great energy. I think that he would most want to be remembered for his total honesty, both intellectual and financial — whether you agreed with him or not — and with his total honesty as far as finance was concerned. He looked upon the province's finances as though every dollar was his own and he conducted the financial affairs of Saskatchewan as carefully as though it was his own money. This was one of his characteristics which he most firmly believed in.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with all of the previous remarks made, as I said at the outset, and his total dedication and great love for the people of Saskatchewan.

I wish to pass my condolences on to Mr.s. Thatcher and her family and wish them every success.

**Mr. J.A. Pepper** (Weyburn): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself with the other members of this House on this motion now before us.

Having known neither Mr. Danielson nor Mr. Arthurs, whom I am sure contributed greatly to the constituencies and to the province which they represented, I rise at this time to express my condolences in the recent passing of the Hon. Mr. Ross Thatcher, with whom I had the privilege of sitting as a Member of the Opposition while he was the Premier, during the period of time from 1964 to 1971. Mr. Thatcher gave unstintingly of his time and his energy towards working for and promoting his political beliefs and his desires in a very public spirited way, and his name will long be remembered, I am sure, for the part he played in the political arena of Saskatchewan and Canada.

On behalf of the Weyburn constituency and myself, I should like to express to Mr.s. Thatcher and the Thatcher family, our deepest sympathy on this recent sad bereavement.

**Mr. C.P. MacDonald** (Milestone): — Mr. Speaker, I join with other Members of the House in associating myself with the resolution proposed by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

You know, I think if Mr. Thatcher is looking down on us today he would be saying, "I hope that this finishes very quickly," because Ross loved life and certainly this was one day that he never did enjoy very much.

I should first like to make a comment or two about Herman Danielson. When I first finished university, I had the opportunity of going to teach in the community of Craik and Herman Danielson was my MLA. I never had the opportunity of sitting in the House with him but I can recall very vividly some of the stories that have been told about Herman, his vigorous opposition, his color, his dynamic personality and I recall the first time I met Mr. Danielson was on the street of Craik. I strolled down the street after school had been completed and there was Herman holding court with a group of people from

that community — farmers. His arms were going in both directions and you would think he was still in the House giving the government the ‘dickens’ about something that he didn’t believe in. I think Saskatchewan lost a very distinguished citizen.

You know, life is a continual learning experience and occasionally a figure comes into the sphere of influence of people after which your life is never quite the same. Ross Thatcher was such a catalyst. I think he taught all of us who came in contact with him many things. He taught us that integrity was more important than victory and I don’t think it was ever more clearly illustrated than the night of June 23rd when all of us around Saskatchewan, and particularly Members of this party, watched his appearance on television and certainly we were never prouder of Ross than on that occasion. He also taught us that tolerance was certainly far more important than bigotry and as my seatmate said, Ross Thatcher didn’t have a bigoted bone in his body.

Mention has been made of his treatment of minority groups, his interest in the Hutterite community, but, you know, I think of it in other ways. For example, a man’s religion. The thing that was important was a man’s ability. In his selection of a Cabinet, he broke all the traditional rules. He felt that it made no difference what our race or color or your creed was as long as you could make a contribution, that was what was important.

I think he taught us also that truth was the most prized possession of all. And you know, probably of all the things he was criticized most for was the fact that, occasionally it was said, that he put his foot in his own mouth because he always spoke exactly as he felt. He was blunt, he was straightforward, and he never hesitated to say what was in his mind, whether it was popular or not.

I think he also taught us that loyalty was perhaps the most desirable quality of character of all. You know, whenever anyone was in trouble, that’s when Ross was at his greatest, whether it was a personal family problem, whether it was a political problem, or whatever it may be, you could always count on Ross when the going got tough.

He also taught us that if you believed in something, it was worth fighting for. I don’t think there is anybody who has ever sat in this Legislature that will ever forget the vigor with which he fought for what he believed in. He wasn’t always right but he gave his life for what he believed was right.

I think he also taught us that out of adversity came strength. Ross Thatcher had many ups and downs in life. I think most people in public life do but whenever adversity was at its greatest, he always felt that out of that would come unity and strength. And that was the one message he had for his party and for his friends after June 23rd.

He taught us many other things but you know I should like to go back just on a personal note. One of things that I think all of us will remember — most of us on this side of the House — it was Ross Thatcher that got us involved in politics. I remember one day when I was in my house in Wilcox, in came Father Murray, a great friend of Ross Thatcher’s, and Ross himself, puffing on that great cigar. He didn’t seem to have time

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to sit down and take a few moments but he came out very, very bluntly and said, "Will you run or will you not, because you know we've got a big job to do and we've got to get started?"

I think of another area. Very few people remember that Ross Thatcher was interested in young people. Very few people remember his association with the Moose Jaw Canucks. He was interested, particularly in hockey and it was Ross Thatcher who conceived the idea of a Youth Agency which was one of many firsts that he did implement.

I think that Ross Thatcher will always be a part of the Liberal Party and certainly a part of this House.

**Hon. E.I. Wood** (Swift Current): — Mr. Speaker, I would first like to compliment you upon your appointment to the highest office in this House and I know that you will carry it with dignity and ability. We know that you will be fair in all your dealings with the House.

At this time I should like to say a few words in commemoration of Mr. Herman Danielson. It was my privilege to sit during two Legislatures when Herman Danielson was in the House. It was my privilege to be Speaker during a couple of those sessions and you will possibly appreciate with me, Mr. Speaker, just what the privilege was of being Speaker when you had someone like Herman Danielson in the House. If he kept the rules at any time, it was purely coincidental but being who he was — it was impossible, absolutely impossible for the Speaker, shall we say, to throw the book at him. It was one of those things that you put up with and you like it. Herman Danielson went his way in the House, unimpeded by the rules, but he went ahead and did what he thought was right and I am sure that he was firm in his convictions that he was right in what he said and did.

As I say, he may have been a thorn in the side of the government of the day as well as of the Speaker, but I have had occasion to talk to people who were members of his constituency who were his constituents and they said that there was a sterling worth in Herman Danielson that was not missed by the people of his constituency. When the chips were down, he had stood up for that which was right even though it was not to be his own advantage and this was not soon forgotten by his constituents. I think it was largely due to this sort of thing and to the fact that he worked hard to try to service his constituents and to do things for his constituents that he remained a member of this House for as many years as he did.

I should like at this time to express our condolences for those who are left and our respect for Mr. Danielson who has gone.

I should also like to say a few things concerning the Hon. W. Ross Thatcher, P.C.

It was my privilege again to be Speaker of the House when Mr. Thatcher first came to this House. I was a new Speaker. Mr. Koester was just new in the chair as the Clerk. Mr. Thatcher was new to his role as the Leader of the Opposition. I was quick to recognize the courage and forthrightness and the determination of Mr. Thatcher. I should like to say that his is the first one, so far as I know and I think I am right in this, to bring in verbal questions on the Orders of the Day to this

House. Verbal questions on the Orders of the Day had been a practice in Ottawa but in my first term here as a backbencher it never was done, it was always written questions which were answered on the Orders of the Day. Oral questions on the Orders of the Day had never been brought in and Mr. Thatcher was the first one who brought these in. We recognize them as something that was recognized in Ottawa and, of course, we are prepared to go along with them. As all Members are well aware this procedure has become an honoured precedent in this House.

Mr. Thatcher was forceful and he was dedicated in what he did. I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I think quite probably that my association, I should say my first meeting with Mr. Thatcher, antedates that of any other person in the House or in this place at this time. My first school teacher was a sister of Mr. Thatcher's mother. We boarded the school teacher and I think the future Hon. Ross Thatcher was a babe-in-arms when he came to our house on the farm. So I doubt if there are any here who have known Ross Thatcher longer than I have.

I wish, at this time, to express my appreciation of the man. A man, I think, with courage, determination and dedication to what he believed. I should like to express my sincere sympathy to Mr.s. Thatcher and the family at this time.

**Mr. D. MacDonald** (Moose Jaw North): — Mr. Speaker, as the Member from Moose Jaw North, I am very grateful to have this opportunity to say a few words about Ross Thatcher.

Moose Jaw was home for Ross Thatcher. It has often been said that one of Moose Jaw's greatest exports is talented and great people. We have had more than our share of people leaving Moose Jaw and going on to greatness in their fields. Ross is one of the truly great but he never left Moose Jaw. His political career has taken him to Ottawa and Regina while serving the people of our province but home was always Moose Jaw. This was never more obvious than during the past 10 or 11 years. It was a rare weekend that didn't see Ross travel to his ranch and family in Moose Jaw. These short visits home provided Ross his chance to renew his strength and to gain a freshness with which he could face the challenge of a very demanding week as Premier.

Relaxation for Ross was an exhausting day in the wind, in the sun and the rain and the dirt at his ranch. Pleasure for Ross was attending an auction sale and chatting with fellow farmers. On the weekend Ross was truly a fellow farmer. Satisfaction for Ross was seeing one of his newly born calves or watching one of his bulls being judged a champion. Enjoyment for Ross was visiting with old familiar friends.

Ross was a devoted family man. His wife, Peggy, is a woman with outstanding attributes. Ross realized this and seemed to draw strength and encouragement from her. Ross was proud of his son, Colin, whom he watched grow, receive an education and then return to work with his father. Together, Ross and Colin turned a small farm into one of Western Canada's most successful purebred ranches. As a grandfather Ross Thatcher was the granddaddy of them all. The Ross Thatcher that I knew from his visits home was a man of warmth, sensitivity and sincerity. Ross Thatcher was a friend, a leader and example and an inspiration.

**Mr. H.E. Coupland** (Meadow Lake): — Mr. Speaker, I should also like to add a few words to those of the other Members on the passing of our former Premier and friend.

I feel Saskatchewan has lost one of her ablest men. Ross Thatcher never spared himself in his dedication to the people Saskatchewan. He worked hard and he expected the same from those around him. I considered Ross a friend and a very sincere friend. It was because of Ross Thatcher that I entered politics shortly after he became the Leader of the Liberal Party. I have never regretted it. I feel it has been an honor to work with Ross for the betterment of Saskatchewan. Ross always knew where he was going and he was never afraid to let people know even though sometimes things were not that popular. I am convinced that the former Premier, Ross Thatcher, will go down in history as the greatest Premier Saskatchewan ever had. I think the things he did and tried to do will be long remembered by the people of Saskatchewan and also across Canada.

I should like to extend my sincere sympathy to Mr.s. Thatcher, Colin, his mother and wish them well in the future.

**Mr. G.F. Loken** (Rosetown): — Mr. Speaker, I rise to add today my few words to those already spoken in memory of a great man, a great leader, and former Premier, Ross Thatcher.

Ross Thatcher was my friend. He was responsible for getting me to run for the Legislature and he was responsible for getting me elected. I, along with every other Member on this side of the House, shall sincerely miss him in the days and months ahead.

Ross Thatcher took a poorly organized Liberal Party in 1959 to form a government in 1964. From 1964 to 1971 Ross provided good, honest government to the people and the Province of Saskatchewan. I am certain that the people will miss Ross's style and intent of leadership. The Liberal Government in its seven years did more for Saskatchewan than any other government in her history. Mr. Speaker, even you and the Members opposite must surely regret the loss of Saskatchewan's most prominent citizen of the last several decades. Ross worked for the betterment of Saskatchewan. All of us on this side of the House will remember him as a good example of a public servant.

My wife and I wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Mr.s. Thatcher and her son, Colin. We wish them well in the days and years ahead. Ross Thatcher died a fighter; it is only fitting that the Liberal Caucus continue to fight his fights. He would have wanted it that way. Mr. Speaker, we have lost one of the greatest men who has ever sat in the House. We shall all be sorry for it.

**Mr. E.F. Gardner** (Moosomin): — Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of Ross Thatcher are certainly well documented, they are clearly on record and many have been mentioned here today. Many of you here knew Ross Thatcher better than I did, but I feel that few of us knew him really well. Most people of the province only knew the image that he chose to present to the public. He was a man of great feeling and great compassion. In a Leader-Post editorial a few days ago a reporter who had travelled across the province with



Ross, mentioned that he had detected a tear in his eye on certain occasions when they had seen particularly distressing social or living conditions. And I know this to be true.

I have four Indian reserves in my constituency and I am sure that Ross Thatcher spent more time visiting Indian reserves than any other Premier here or any place in Canada. He would call me on the 'phone, arrange to meet me, and we would visit some of the people on one of my reserves. He was not there to make political speeches, he very carefully refrained from doing so. He was sincerely interested in improving the lot of our native people and he was frustrated because he felt that we were not making enough progress.

Often his gruff manner hid his true feelings. I recall several months ago an occasion when a large delegation of municipal people came in from my constituency with a certain request for the Premier. After their request had been denied and the delegation had left I was talking to Ross and complaining about the fact that my people had not got what they wanted because I felt it was a worthy project. He told me that his waiting room was filled every day with people who had worthy projects but he said, "I have to consider them carefully because all of them cost the taxpayer money. When I say, 'Yes', it means spending money." And then he added rather wistfully, "You know, Gardner, before I leave the job as Premier, I wish I could have just one day where I could say 'Yes' to everybody." I think this was an indication of his true feelings.

Ross Thatcher was a man who held no malice towards his political opponents, either within his party or the Opposition. This was demonstrated on many occasions. It was well known that he damned the socialists collectively but individually he held a grudge against no one. Ross Thatcher was a man who had a soft spot for anyone who needed help. He had been known to help both friend and foe alike and it was often to the consternation of his political colleagues. He has been known to dig into his own pocket to help someone in dire financial need. But he would not help anyone who dared to mention this publicly. Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that we often have to wait until a man has gone before we truly get to know him.

I wish at this time to express my condolences to the family. I am proud of my association with Ross Thatcher.

**Mr. D. McPherson** (Regina Lakeview): — I should first like to associate myself with the other members in expressing regret for the death of a former Member from Melville, the late W.J. Arthurs. I did not know this gentleman but he served this House from 1944 to 1948 and his record is certainly here.

I knew Herman Danielson very well and I can only say, along with what the Member for Arm River (Mr. Faris) said, that he was a great Member of this House.

Just a few words I should like to say about Ross Thatcher, knowing him as well as I did. He was certainly a kindly man and he had a big heart. He loved Saskatchewan and he loved to see Saskatchewan grow and he certainly loved the City of Moose Jaw. Never a day went by or an industry that approached him that he said, "Would you not set up in the City of Moose Jaw." He certainly loved that city. He loved his family and loved his two grandchildren.

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This man loved the business world. He like to go out and trade and he liked to see it make a profit. He loved ranching. He got into ranching because in the hardware business in order to sell when things were moving a little slow, he would take grain and cattle in trade. Hence he bought the farm and he started from there. He got into the Hereford business and bought a lot of cattle at the start, along with trading, and he didn't do very well when it came to showing cattle with what he had. Being the businessman and the earnest gentleman he was, he decided that he was going to go out and buy the best females in the country and make the ranch pay. He won the grand championship in 1969, and I went up with him that night when he received the trophy and he was certainly pleased.

He will long be remembered in Canada as a great leader and I am proud to have known Ross Thatcher.

**Hon. A. E. Blakeney** (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Steuart):

That the Resolution just passed, together with the transcripts of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased Members, be communicated to the bereaved families, on behalf of this Assembly, by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:45 o'clock p.m.