

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Fourth Session - Seventeenth Legislature
68th Day

Thursday, May 9, 1974.

The Assembly met at 10: 00 o'clock a.m.
On the Orders of the Day.

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

MR. K. THORSON (Souris-Estevan): — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this morning to be able to introduce to you and to the Members of the Assembly, 24 students who are in the west gallery and who have come to Regina this morning from Estevan.

They are members of the Grade Six class at the Hillcrest School in Estevan. They are accompanied this morning by their bus driver, Mr. Don Pindus and by their principal, Mr. G. Wahlmier, who is accompanied by Mrs. Wahlmier.

I am sure that I speak for all of the Members of the Assembly in wishing them a very warm welcome here to the Assembly and to Regina. They are going to spend the day touring various sites, including the IPSCO Plant, the RCMP Museum and the Museum of Natural History. I am sure that we all wish for them an educational day and a safe journey home to Estevan.

HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS

FIRING OF LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE OF AGENT GENERAL'S OFFICE

MR. J.G. LANE (Lumsden): — Before the Orders of the Day I should like to direct a question probably to the Minister of Industry (Mr. Thorson).

The Government of Saskatchewan I understand recently fired a long-term employee out of the Agent General's Office in England and the allegation was made that there was inadequate or unfair compensation pay.

The only reason that the matter was not reviewed in England is because supposedly the office of the Agent General had diplomatic immunity.

Is it the practice of the Government opposite to, (1) fire such employees of such long-term as over 20 years and, (2) to give such inadequate compensation and will the Government review their position?

MR. THORSON: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is No.

MR. LANE: — No, you will not give adequate compensation. Well I think that is a pretty sorry blot on the records. I think it has brought us in a bad light in England. It has been a black mark against the province and I would hope the Government would reconsider its position.

MR. THORSON: — The question was, is it the policy to pay inadequate compensation on severance of employment and the answer is No.

LONG DISTANCE CALLS

MR. K.R. MacLEOD (Regina Albert Park): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I should just like to ask a question of the Minister of Telephones.

I see this matter has received some other attention but last week I tried for about 15 minutes to get a long distance call through to Ottawa, that was last Monday. This morning I just about wore my finger out trying to get a call through and I wonder if . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. MacLEOD: — Quite frankly I wore my finger out without getting through to Ottawa and I wondered if the Minister could tell us what steps are being taken, if any, to rectify the situation with our telephone system. Now I know that this matter seems hilarious to the Government but I know that surely they are not deliberately trying to stifle the Opposition in this matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

HON. J.E. BROCKELBANK (Minister of Government Services): — Sask Tel provides an impartial service, Mr. Speaker. The first step that we take in order to attempt to alleviate problems that might occur to customers is to ask the customer to check with the Trouble Department. There is a number that you phone and they will respond and deal with your problem. If the Member finds that is inadequate I would certainly be pleased to hear about it.

MR. MacLEOD: — I would just simply assure him that I have done so and I want to say to the Minister that his staff at the Telephones is doing an excellent job because they have started to put me through by the long distance operator, because obviously the direct distance dialing isn't working.

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

HON. J.E. BROCKELBANK (Saskatoon Mayfair): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to introduce a group of 12 adult students from the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Science in Saskatoon which is in the constituency of Saskatoon Mayfair.

I understand that they are here today accompanied by Mrs. Sigurdson. In case they are wondering what is going on in the Chamber today and haven't been able to establish it at this point, we are discussing the spending Estimates of the Department of Mineral Resources for the fiscal year that we are in at this time. I hope that they are able to make some sense out of what is going on in the Chamber and I also hope that they have a safe journey back to Saskatoon.

HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

May 9, 1974

HON. A. TAYLOR (Kerrobot-Kindersley): — I wonder if I could beg the indulgence of the House for a moment to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the House, a group of students in the Speaker's Gallery. There are 15 Grade Twelve students from Major with their teacher. With them are 11 exchange students from Belleville, Ontario, with their teacher, Mr. Chapman and their tour organizer.

I am sure the Members of the House will join me in welcoming them to the sitting of the Legislature and wishing them a good journey while they are here, particularly to the Ontario students. We hope they will take back to Ontario good thoughts of their visit in Saskatchewan and to all the students a pleasant and happy journey home.

HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

THIRD READINGS

HON. E.L. COWLEY (Minister of Mineral Resources) moved third reading of Bill No. 128 — **An Act to amend The Oil and Gas Conservation, Stabilization and Development Act, 1973.**

Motion agreed to and Bill read a third time on the following recorded division:

YEAS — 36

Messieurs

Dyck	Michayluk	Owens
Meakes	Byers	Gross
Wood	Thorson	Feduniak
Messer	Whelan	Comer
Snyder	Kwasnica	Rolfes
Bowerman	Carlson	Lange
Thibault	Robbins	Hanson
Larson	Tchorzewski	Oliver
Baker	Cowley	Feschuk
Brockelbank	Taylor	Flasch
MacMurchy	Matsalla	Kaeding
Pepper	Faris	Richards

NAYS — 15

Messieurs

Steuart	MacDonald	Lane
Coupland	McIsaac	MacDonald (Moose Jaw N.)
Loken	Gardner	Wiebe
Guy	Weatherald	Malone
Boldt	MacLeod	
Grant		

The Assembly adjourned at 9:44 o'clock p.m.