

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

November 13, 1975

2nd Day

Thursday, November 13, 1975

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

On the Orders of the Day.

QUESTIONS

Money Borrowed for Potash

MR. D.G. STEUART (Leader of the Opposition): — Before the orders of the day I should like to direct a question to the Premier. In the course of his press reports about the suggested takeover of the potash industry, he talked about having some money in place to do this, having borrowed some money. My question is: where has this money been borrowed or what arrangement have been made to borrow this money (has it been borrowed in the United States)? A fair amount of money is involved. How much is actually involved at this stage and what interest rate has been agreed upon?

HON. A.E. BLAKENEY (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, I don't recall using that particular language i.e. indicating that money had been borrowed. I believe I used the language to suggest that money was in place. This, in essence, is money in the resources fund which accumulates from the royalty surcharge on oil revenues. It is not borrowed, as such, but is the yield from a particular taxation measure, which yield is not taken into current revenue. I don't have at my fingertips the amount which would be there and whether or not it has been lent out on short term or the like but there is a considerable sum of money which has accumulated in the resources fund which in our judgment could be made available for the purchase of this asset if it appeared appropriate.

MR. STEUART: — A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Leaving aside for a moment the fact that our clear understanding was that that money was to be used in the development of new energy sources, this appears to be a misappropriation of that particular money. It is my understanding that there were some of your people in New York attempting to obtain money, my supplementary question is: have there been any negotiations going on in New York or in any other of the financial capitals of the world, Toronto, or any other place in the world, efforts on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan by any of their officials to obtain money, borrow money, to buy into the potash industry and if so, what kind of money, American money, Arab money, and what interest rate are you talking about if you have done this?

MR. BLAKENEY: — In anticipation of the possible need for capital funds, both for the projects announced in the Speech from the Throne and other projects, persons on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan have spoken with bond dealers in Toronto, bond dealers in New York, or perhaps I should say bond dealers from Toronto and bond dealers from New York - I don't know where the

conversations actually took place. These conversations have gone on but so far as I am aware no arrangements have been made to finalize any underwriting. Preliminary discussions have taken place.

FEDERAL PRICES AND INCOMES CONTROL BOARD

MR. C.P. MacDONALD (Indian Head-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance or the appropriate Minister. Is the Minister aware that there is a certain degree of confusion among the people of Saskatchewan as to the position of the Government of Saskatchewan towards the new Prices and Incomes Control Board a package of the Federal Government? In fact the Throne Speech made it as clear as an unrehearsed Chinese fire drill. Is the Minister aware that some provinces have already indicated that they will sign an agreement with the federal government to accept jurisdiction over some provincial responsibilities? Is it the intention of the Government of Saskatchewan to sign an agreement under section 4(3) whereby they will give to the federal government the responsibility of certain of their responsibilities or are they intending to follow the pattern of Quebec and use section 4(4) where they can establish their own prices and income board? If it is their intention to sign an agreement could the Minister indicate to the Members of the House the state of negotiations and when an agreement is intended to be signed?

HON. W.E. SMISHEK (Minister of Finance): — Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member talks about confusion he is probably naming himself first, being confused about the prices and wages controls, I'll accept that. To the best of my knowledge only the Province of Ontario has indicated that they will be entering into an agreement with the Federal Government. The Province of Quebec has indicated that they are going to be going their own route with legislation; none of the other provinces to the best of my knowledge have stated precisely what their position will be. There are ongoing discussions with the Government of Canada on a number of items that were set out in the White Paper as well as in Bill C73. These discussions are between officials of our government and the officials of other provincial governments and the Federal Government. The Federal Government has not been able to give an answer to a number of items as to their clarity. There are going to be further meetings this week and officials are meeting again next week. My understanding is that the Minister of Finance is intending to call another Federal-Provincial Conference of Finance Ministers for November 26. We are still looking for answers for specific clarification by the Federal Government. The Government of Saskatchewan has not reached a conclusion of whether we will be entering into an agreement or taking action on our own. These things are being reviewed and pending the clarification of federal policy. Our policy will be announced in due course.

MR. MacDONALD: — A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister is also aware that there are provisions in the federal guide lines whereby exceptions can be made for historical relationships or catch up purposes. Is the government intending to make representation to indicate certain groups of employees within the province of Saskatchewan who will be considered in

those new categories, and if so, does the Government of Saskatchewan determine which groups of employees in Saskatchewan they will consider coming under those particular provisions of historical tradition or historical relationships or catch up? Because as the Minister is aware a great number of employees are now bargaining collectively and unless there is some indication as to the intention of the government, in many cases this bargaining will be a farce.

MR. SMISHEK: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, we have recognized that there are disparities. We have been discussing with the Government of Canada our particular problems as to the relationships. Again in this particular area the Federal Government is not telling us very clearly what they mean about historical relationships. We have some ideas, particularly the relationship of jobs in our neighboring provinces. So the answer is, yes, we have made representation we are also looking to clarification from the Government of Canada. We do recognize our particular problems. Some of these for example are teachers, nurses, hospital employees, construction workers; there are quite a few groups.

EXPROPRIATION OF POTASH INDUSTRY

MR. E.C. MALONE (Regina Lakeview): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mineral Resources, I see he is not in his seat this afternoon, and after hearing the Speech from the Throne yesterday, I don't blame him. But in his absence, perhaps I could direct a question to the Premier. As we are of course aware, the Speech from the Throne contained very severe measures to be taken against the potash companies, that is, nationalization or expropriation. The reason given by the Government for taking these measures was that the companies have failed to go along with the suggested tax changes made by the Government and in fact they exercised their inalienable right of going to court to challenge the Government. Apparently the Government is afraid that justice will be done in this action and as a result has brought in these measures. My question to the Premier is, Mr. Speaker, how is this going to affect the uranium mining industry? They are in the position of having similar tax measures being put upon them that are very similar to the potash industry. If the uranium industry does not accept these taxing measures, is it the intention of the Government to expropriate them?

MR. BLAKENEY: — Mr. Speaker, you will have noted the hypothetical nature of the question — if something happens in the future, what then? I think it is perhaps best to wait until the dire predictions of the Hon. Member for Lakeview do, or do not, take place.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. BLAKENEY: — We are having discussions and we have no reason to anticipate that there will be any difficulty in arriving at a mutually satisfactory arrangement that will provide for joint ventures, as I have indicated, and provide a role for the public mining development corporation and

a role for the private industry, and in respect to the private industry, have an appropriate regime of requisition and taxation.

MR. MALONE: — Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question. It would appear that the uranium industry is going to be treated in the same manner as the potash industry. Have you set any deadlines as to when the uranium industry is to agree or disagree with the taxing proposals that you have made?

MR. BLAKENEY: — I think that we are not at that stage. I think we have promulgated some draft proposals to the industry and are now receiving from them some comments on what they would feel to be the effect of those proposals on their industry. We have not promulgated or passed any regulations which they have been called upon either to accept or reject at this time.

PURCHASE OF MORE LAND FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICE SPACE

MR. G.H. PENNER (Saskatoon Eastview): — I wonder if I could direct a question to the Minister of Government Services. If he would explain why with the government having recently begun construction of a major office . . .

MR. SPEAKER: — Order! We have had three questions now, it is a practice that has been in this House. I wonder if we could move on to Orders of the Day.

MR. ROMANOW: — We'll allow one more.

MR. PENNER: — . . . Thank you. As I was asking, would the Minister of Government Services explain why it is that having begun construction of a major office complex in downtown Saskatoon that is worth something in the neighborhood of \$20 million, that two weeks ago the government further attempted to purchase land for office space in the Saskatoon Eastview area?

HON G.T. SNYDER (Minister of Government Services): — I believe the Member asks the question, why is Government Services purchasing additional property in downtown Saskatoon. Was that the question that you . . .

MR. PENNER: — In the Saskatoon Eastview area, you already have a major chunk of land in the downtown area.

MR. SNYDER: — I'll have to defer that question until later. Mr. Speaker, I shall refer this to the people in the department and I will get back to the Member when I have had an opportunity to check with departmental officials.

MOTIONS

HOUSE ADJOURNMENT

HON. R.J. ROMANOW (Attorney General): — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Bowerman:

That when this Assembly adjourns today, Thursday, November 13, 1975, it do stand adjourned until Monday, November 17, 1975.

Motion agreed to.

CONDOLENCES

HON. A.E. BLAKENEY (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, it is traditional in this Legislature on the day following the delivery of the Speech from the Throne that the House recognizes the contribution made to the public life of this province by former members of the Assembly who have died since the Legislature last met. I accordingly move, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Steuart):

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing since the prorogation of the Legislature of four former Members of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contributions they made to their community, their constituency and to this Province:

Harold John Fraser, Q.C., who died on September 1, 1975, was a Member of this Legislature for Prince Albert from 1939 to 1944. He was born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1893 where he received his public and high school education and he later studied law at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. He served overseas during the First World War with the Canadian Machine Gun Squadron of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. He practised law in Prince Albert for over 50 years and in 1957 was appointed Queen's Counsel. He served as a public school trustee in 1924 and 1925; and as an alderman from 1928 to 1933; as mayor of Prince Albert from 1934 to 1938; and as president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association from 1938 to 1939. He also served in various offices of the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Club.

George Frederick Loken, who died on August 25, 1975 was a Member of this Legislature for Rosetown from 1964 to 1975. He was born in 1906 at Elstow, Saskatchewan, where he received his education. He was a bank employee from 1923 to 1927; was in the real estate business from 1927 to 1931; and operated a farm implement and automobile dealership from 1932 to 1964. He served on the Rosetown Town Council for nine terms and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Lodge, the Wa Wa Shrine Temple, the Elks Lodge, and the Lions Club.

William Henry Wahl, who died on April 1, 1975, was a Member of this Legislature for Qu'Appelle-Wolseley from 1952 to 1956. He was born at Carnduff, Saskatchewan in 1902. He lived in Glenavon, Saskatchewan and was a farm implement dealer there. He was active for many years as mayor of the town; as a member of the school board; as a charter member of the Wheat Pool; and as a member of various committees to build recreational and community facilities.

Maurice John Willis, who died on November 10, 1975, was a Member of this Legislature for Elrose from 1944 to 1960.

He was born at Stony Mountain, Manitoba in 1900. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Education degree. He was principal of the Elrose School for six years and then was principal of the Eston High School for 29 years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and was on the United Church Board in Eston. He served as president of the local Teachers' Association for two years and acted as councillor for his superintendency to the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation from 1939 to 1942. He later was made an honorary member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathies with members of the bereaved families.

Mr. Speaker, those are the formal condolences. I should like to add a few words with respect to the three of the former Members. I did not know Mr. Fraser and doubtless some Members from the Prince Albert area will be commenting on his contribution.

I did sit in this House, as many of us did, with George Loken. I sat during the entire period of the eleven years that he represented the Rosetown area. He was a soft-spoken and friendly man. He served his constituents faithfully; he did not take a particularly active part in the debates of the House but he did, as all Cabinet Members know, look after his constituents and their needs very, very diligently. He made a real contribution to his Party and his province and he will be remembered with respect by the people of the Rosetown area. I had the opportunity to attend his funeral in August and the esteem in which he was held by the people in the Rosetown area who clearly knew him best, was indicated from the many people from all walks of life who were in attendance at the funeral to pay their last respects.

I didn't sit in the Legislature with Harry Wahl, but I came to know him reasonably well in the days when I worked in this building as a Secretary of Crown Corporations and used to sit in on the meetings of the Crown Corporations Committee regularly for five or six years. Harry Wahl was a member of that Committee and an active participant. He was a genial man, always interested and well-informed, particularly on farm topics and those aspects of farm topics related to machinery distribution and regulation. He was his own man. I well remember on one occasion when Harry decided to express some words of fairly strident criticism of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. And that was not the normal stance of the CCF Members in this Legislature during the 1950s. There were a number of his colleagues who raised their eyebrows, but Harry was the sort of man who would not be particularly disturbed either by the fact that his colleagues may raise their eyebrows, or the fact that he was a founding member of the Pool. He was indeed his own man. He was, nevertheless, well regarded and well-liked by his colleagues and by the Members on the opposite side of the House.

I came to know Maurice Willis, the former Member for Elrose, under the same circumstances. He served in the House from 1944 to 1960 and I knew him particularly well in the early 1950s and have, of course, kept in touch with him because he was an active Member of the Party to which I belong right up to the day of

his death. I may say, the Hon. Member for The Battlefords, the Minister of Highways (Mr. Kramer) who served in this House with Maurice for eight years, is attending the funeral on behalf of the Government, and I may say so, on behalf of the Legislature.

Maurice was a quiet man, a particularly careful-living man. He was dedicated and sincere; he was the sort of man who had a burning interest in public affairs. He exhibited this when I came to know him as a critic, a knowledgeable and sympathetic critic of the affairs of our Party. In all of his criticisms he had in mind the concerns of the community and the province rather than any personal concerns. As a teacher, a principal, an MLA, and in retirement, he was a public-spirited man of principle.

MR. D.G. STEUART (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to join with the Premier and I am sure other Members in this House, in paying respect to these men who have passed on since our last meeting, and who served their province and in most cases their communities as well at the local level for so many years and so well. I didn't know Mr. Willis, nor Mr. Wahl, and will simply say on behalf of the Liberal caucus that we join the Premier in paying our respects to their memory for the services that they rendered to their constituents, to their province in serving in this Legislative Assembly, and passing on to their families our deep regrets and our respects to them.

Hal Fraser was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the city of Prince Albert in 1940. He had been, as the Premier pointed out, a trustee, an alderman and a mayor. He served the city of Prince Albert during the very difficult times of the 1930s, and he served them very well. He continued to serve the public even after he had formally moved out of the political arena, through the Chamber of Commerce and through the Kiwanis Club, up until literally the day of his death, when at the age of 80 or 81 he would still have been practising law and he was still tremendously active in community work in the city of Prince Albert.

Hal Fraser held one record of which he was proud, a record not given to very many people, in fact, a record not given to anyone in this nation in the last 35 years, in that actually at one time he defeated John Diefenbaker in the position of mayor of the city of Prince Albert. Mind you it was rather unfortunate in his later years in life he spoiled that record by running against him and being one of his victims in a federal election in the 1960s. Even Mr. Diefenbaker, at that time, had rather wished that Hal had left the record intact and I think Hal did when he finished himself. But he was that kind of a man, he knew he didn't have a chance, but he was a dedicated member of his party and felt that Liberals in the Prince Albert constituency should have someone they could vote for and he made the sacrifice and it was a sacrifice. But he was an outstanding citizen. He held very strong views and he expressed them strongly and colorfully.

I join with the Premier in passing on my respects to his wife and to his son.

George Loken, I knew and liked and admired and respected.

It was a great loss to his community and to all of us when he passed away so suddenly, almost immediately after retiring from this House. George, in the best sense of the word, was a community man. Whether they needed to build a rink in Rosetown, whether it was the United Appeal, or whether it was work with the Chamber of Commerce, or the Elks, or the local Masons, George was one of the first people they called on and one of the most dependable people they had in that community. When he was convinced, he stood for public office as an MLA and won that seat. He wasn't an active speaking Member in the House, but few men, I'm sure, no one in my time in this Legislative Assembly, indeed on this side of the House, worked harder for individuals. George kept an office just off the main street in Rosetown and that office was open to everyone. George never questioned when the people came in and had a problem to do with the provincial or the federal government, or anyone else, he never questioned. He wasn't really interested in how they had voted, whom they supported, but he went to work for them. It always amazed me how many people he knew in the civil service. He didn't really bother with Cabinet Ministers, even when we were the government, and certainly when we weren't the government. George went directly to the people involved, whether it was the Deputy Minister or the head of an agency or a department. As I say, I was always amazed at the number of people working in this Government, at all levels and in the Crown corporations, that George knew on a personal basis. The action he could get, in fact he could get far more action most of the time than someone serving in the Cabinet. That was his attitude in life — he liked to help people and he did help people. That's why there was more than an affection for George in our caucus and I know there was respect and friendship on both sides of the House. There was real genuine love for George Loken in his own area. I regret his untimely passing. I think he had many more years, we had hoped he would have many more years to give to his community and to his family.

I take this opportunity to pay my sincere respects to the memory of George Loken and to pass on to his family our regard, our affection and our love for George Loken, and our thanks for the sacrifices that they made and that he made on our behalf.

MR. R. L. COLLVER (Leader of the Progressive Conservatives): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to add the condolences of our caucus to those already expressed.

Although I did not know the gentlemen in question their record shows that they served the interests of the Province of Saskatchewan and the people of this province well.

May God grant them eternal peace.

MR. C.P. MacDONALD (Indian Head-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to join very briefly with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Conservative Party in expressing condolences to the passing of these four former Members of the House. I did not have the opportunity of knowing three of them, but one was a very close personal friend.

I should like first of all to say about Mr. Wahl, he does come from that area which I have the privilege to represent —

Indian Head - Wolseley — from the community of Glenavon, and one of the things that always amazed me as I roamed up and down the constituency, was that everybody kept referring to Mr. Wahl. I think that perhaps one of the reasons that I am here today is that he was not able to campaign against me because he certainly never lost his interest or his vigor in the political life of his community or of our province.

I, too, want to pass on my condolences to George Loken's family. I don't think I can add very much to what the Premier or Mr. Steuart, or Mr. Collver have indicated about George, but any of you who have had an opportunity to walk down the street of Rosetown with George Loken would know why he was elected to this House. Everyone stopped him, shook his hand and wished him well. He knew every little storekeeper, every dishwasher, every cook in the community and he served them all very well and faithfully.

As Mr. Steuart indicated he never really participated in the very vigorous partisan debate in this House, but where George really made his effect was in the caucus room, or the committee, or in the halls. He provided a great deal of leadership for us in our caucus and for other Members of the House and it is with deep regret that the Liberal caucus of this House has lost a very warm and personal friend.

MR. M. FESCHUK (Prince Albert): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with other Members in expressing condolences to the bereaved families of the Members who have passed away, and in particular to the family of Harold John Fraser, Q.C., known to many as Hal Fraser.

I didn't know Mr. Fraser as a Member of the Legislature nor as a politician. I knew him, however, as a conscientious hard-working gentleman. A man who took a keen interest in his community and who was able to make a contribution wherever he was involved. I am told that while he served as an active member in the Canadian Army he was wounded and that as an officer with the rank of Lieutenant he was known to treat his men as his equals and that he wasn't afraid to criticize his superiors or challenge their strategy. It was from Mr. Fraser that I had learned that he was a Member of this Legislative Assembly representing Prince Albert from 1940 to 1944. I later discovered that Mr. Fraser was a strong advocate for northern development. In the early 1940s Mr. Fraser had the foresight and called on his Government for industrial diversification in the North. He suggested power sites and roads for northern Saskatchewan. He appealed to Government, tourists and citizens for the conservation of natural resources in the northern parts of this province. It has been said that had his colleagues been as considerate and conscientious as Hal Fraser, his Government would have remained in office following the 1944 election. I think that like many men of his generation he set a wonderful example. He left a record that he, his friends and his family can well be proud of. Mr. Fraser's passing has been Prince Albert's loss. To the bereaved family I express my deepest sympathy.

MR. R.H. BAILEY (Rosetown-Elrose): — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-echo the words of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Collver to the gentlemen named. I knew two of these gentlemen, Maurice Willis and George Loken happen to come from the area that I

represent at the present time.

M.J. Willis, had a distinctive career as a school principal for 35 years. As the Premier has indicated both of these schools happened to be in the Eston-Elrose School Unit, No. 33 in the Province of Saskatchewan. It was for 14 years that he represented the Elrose constituency.

I did not know Mr. Willis as well as I knew George Loken, a former Member of this Legislature for Rosetown. He was indeed a very unique individual. I could re-echo the words of Mr. Steuart and the others as I came to know George. He demonstrated to everyone what real citizenship meant. He was not a vociferous individual but he did look after the needs of everyone regardless of what walk of life they came from or what their political affiliation. It would not surprise me that we may see very shortly that one of the many projects which George undertook, or supported or organized in the town of Rosetown will bear his name in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, The Rosetown-Elrose constituency will long remember Maurice John Willis and George Frederick Loken.

MR. J.G. LANE (Qu'Appelle): — Mr. Speaker, I join with other Members of the Legislature in expressing condolences to the families of the deceased Members. As I was elected in 1971 the only gentleman whom I knew was George Loken of the Rosetown constituency. I hadn't met George before being elected and knowing he was of poor health and a very quiet individual, I wondered how he had managed to get elected. I was talking to a friend of mine in Saskatoon from Rosetown and I asked him that very question. I said, how did George manage to be so successful and get re-elected? He said, do you want to know how I got to the University? He told me that George loaned him the money to go. He said he never expected any payment and I found out subsequently that that was a very common thing for George. I came to realize over the next four years just how much help he had been to his constituents and how deeply involved he was.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Steuart) has referred to the number of people in government whom George Loken knew. I know of very, very few Members who made as many trips to Regina on behalf of his constituents as George Loken did. And he did it, as I said earlier, with failing health. He certainly wasn't a well man and yet he constantly, sometimes once or twice a week, would drive down to Regina on behalf of his constituents and their problems. I know of very, very few people, Mr. Speaker, who served their constituents as well as George Loken did and I join with other Members of this Assembly in expressing deep condolences to the family.

MR. D.L. FARIS (Arm River): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with other Members of the Assembly in paying tribute to the memory of George Loken. Those of us who sat in the Assembly with George will remember him sitting in that corner over there and sometimes envying him because he used a hearing device in the Assembly. I was never myself sure whether it was on or off, but he seemed not to get upset by what was going on and I sometimes wondered if that device wasn't off.

He was a man of tremendous depth and personal warmth and

anyone who spoke with him could see that. I have the honor of representing part of his former constituency and the things that have been said about him by Members opposite are undoubtedly true. Anyone who came to George Loken with a problem was put number one on his list and he had a deep personal concern. I sometimes reflect that perhaps the reason George didn't get upset by what was going on in the Assembly was simply that he had his priorities right. He was looking after his community and after the people who mattered most to him because they were his responsibility. I sometimes wonder with a man like George Loken if he had continued to run if he would ever have been defeated.

MR. P.P. MOSTOWAY (Saskatoon Centre): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to express belated condolences to the family, relatives and many friends of the later Mr. Loken, Member for Rosetown, who represented that constituency for a number of years. As for the Hon. Member, I got to know him for approximately the last four years as a natural consequence of our two constituencies being adjacent to one another. I must say that I ran into numerous citizens of all political, economic and social stripes who had nothing but praise for his genuine concern for people in his own quiet manner. But that is not to imply that the Hon. Member did not participate in movements and organizations in his community, constituency and even his province, for he did, and in this regard he certainly left his mark.

MR. A.N. McMILLAN (Kindersley): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to join the other Members in paying tribute to those Members deceased and particularly George Loken. I had the privilege of being one of Mr. Loken's constituents for many, many years and knew him well both in and out of politics. It is interesting, I suppose, that my relationship with George Loken grew to the point where in 1968 he urged me to prepare myself to pay an active role in the political process in Saskatchewan. This I did with encouragement and guidance from George Loken and in many way I expect I owe my election to this Legislature to George Loken.

George was both an astute businessman and equally an astute politician. These characteristics of George Loken are well known and have been mentioned here this afternoon. Just as well known, however, was the fact that George had a natural understanding of people and this fact I suspect more than anything coupled with his principles and his integrity and his keen eye for justice made him the Member worthy of respect that those who sat with him were aware of. The fact that George was elected each and every time he ran is certainly proof positive that the people in the Rosetown area held him in high esteem. I know that George will be sadly missed by the constituents of Rosetown area and certainly by his family, and also I know by the people of Saskatchewan as a whole.

MR. J.A. PEPPER (Weyburn): — Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my words of regret and condolence to those expressed by Members before me. It seems each year at the opening of the Session that we are reminded of those Members who are no longer with us but who have made contributions to those they have served during their stay here in this Legislature.

The late William Henry Wahl who served as a Member for

Qu'Appelle-Wolseley, a neighboring constituency of mine, during the years from 1952 to 1956, not only was active in politics as you all know but his record speaks for itself: a mayor, an implement dealer, a member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. These all demonstrate to me, Mr. Speaker,, the contributions he has made to this community and it certainly shows the esteem in which he was held by his people.

I would also wish to express condolences for the late Mr. George Loken, Member for Rosetown. Having sat here in this House with the late Mr. Loken for a period of 11 years, I can assure you that I found him a gentleman at all times. And while we knew his health was not of the best for sometime he never complained or shirked his duties. I should like to join, Mr. Speaker,, with other Members in expressing sympathy to the Members of the bereaved family.

MR. A. THIBAUT (Kinistino): — Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with the other Members of the Assembly in paying tribute to some of the Members who are no longer with us.

I should like to say a few words about Mr. Loken. I got to know him very well when he was on the Highway Traffic Safety Committee, the intersessional committee, there is where you saw George Loken, and the contribution that he made because there he spoke his mind, he changed his mind, he studied and he really tried to bring out the best that could be recommended.

Also, Mr. Willis was a senior Member when I came to this Legislature. I want to tell the older Members that when new Members come into the Legislature it can be quite lonely. Maurice Willis was a man who was out there to help you. You went to him with problems and he showed you the way. That was Maurice Willis. He was a school teacher and Maurice Willis was really appreciated by the people who knew him.

As for Henry Wahl, only one Member is left in this Legislature who sat with Henry Wahl. He is the dean of the House today, Mr. Kramer, who is attending the funeral of Maurice Willis. But Henry Wahl came to this Legislature many times later and I met him and had many conversations with him. To describe Henry Wahl I went to Hansard and looked at one speech he delivered in 1956. I shall read two paragraphs of his speech:

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to state that I became interested in the Indian question many years ago. In fact when I was a boy and listened to my grandfather talk. He used to proudly say that his grandfather and his grandmother had travelled by boat and walked with other troops with the United Empire Loyalists to what is now known as Nova Scotia to live and enjoy the rights to go and live under the British flag. And at that time he stated that no one had a better right to call themselves Canadians than the Empire Loyalists except the Indian. I always remembered that as I grew older. I came to realize that those privileges that my ancestors had been willing to make sacrifices for had been denied to Indians and it is about that that I am going to speak.

And it goes on in another paragraph:

Now who has a better right to look after the affairs of

the Indians than the Indians themselves? I think that it would help to correct the ills of the Indians to give them self-government and allow them the right to vote, and not only municipally but for the provincial and federal governments.

And we know that after those days they did receive the right to vote.

I consider it a privilege and an honor to be able to express a few words of deep sympathy on behalf of myself and the Assembly to the members of the bereaved families.

MR. J. WIEBE (Morse): — Mr. Speaker, as well, I should like to take this opportunity just briefly to add a few words to pay respect to the man whom I consider to be possibly one of the greatest representatives, namely George Loken, whom this province has ever seen. I hesitate to say one of the greatest politicians because George was the kind of an individual, as has been mentioned already today, who immediately, once the election was over was no longer a politician. George Loken was a servant, a representative of the people of his constituency. It was for this reasons too, that he was one of the very, very few MLAs in the history of Saskatchewan politics to take his job seriously enough to make himself available at all times to his constituents. He set up a constituency office at his own expense within his constituency so that at any time, a constituent would have the opportunity to drop in and talk to his MLA personally. Because of this, I feel George was successful in three consecutive elections. As has been mentioned earlier, had George decided to run again I feel that the people of Rosetown would have honored him with another four years of representation.

As a new Member when I first came into the Legislature back in 1971 following a by-election and being rather green, it was George Loken who helped the junior Member along, not only with suggestions but also with criticisms of how one conducted himself in this Legislature. I feel that because of this George took an active interest in not only his constituents but also within his own caucus and within his own party.

I should just like to add my respects to his family.

MR. BLAKENEY: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. 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 of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:31 o'clock p.m.