

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
June 17, 1982

This being the day appointed by proclamation of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, dated the ninth day of June 1982, for the meeting of the first session of the 20th Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan and the Assembly having met:

THE CLERK: — I would like to inform the Assembly that I have received a communication from the private secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, stating that His Honor will open the session at 2 p.m. today, the 17th day of June 1982.

2:06 p.m.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat on the throne.

HON. MR. LANE: — I AM COMMANDED BY His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor 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.

THE CLERK: — Nominations are open for Speaker.

MOTION

Election of Speaker

HON. MR. DEVINE: — I move, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Gary Lane, Provincial Secretary:

That Herbert Junior Swan, Esq., member for the constituency of Rosetown-Elrose, do take the Chair of the Assembly as Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, I beg to express my grateful thanks and humble acknowledgement of the high Honor the Assembly has been pleased to confer upon me. While I leave the floor of this Assembly to take the Speaker's Chair, I feel that I also leave all political partisan feelings in order that I may discharge with impartiality to all, and to the best of my ability, the various and important duties pertaining to the high office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan.

2:14 p.m.

His Honor the Lieutenant-governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the throne.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR:

The Legislative Assembly has elected me as its 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, humbly claim all their undoubted 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 favorable consideration.

HON. MR. LANE: — Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Honor 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 their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

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

His Honor 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 of the 20th legislature of Saskatchewan.

This legislature convenes at a time of severe economic strain for Canada and for Saskatchewan. While we cannot insulate ourselves from difficulties which have origins elsewhere, we can use the resources of our province and the energies of our people to create here a positive economic climate for growth and development. We can also use the resources of Saskatchewan to aid our citizens as they struggle with the everyday consequences of high inflation and high interest rates.

In Saskatchewan we have always held as complementary the traditional values of independence and co-operation. As individuals, we treasure self-reliance. As a community faced with the vast challenge of our province, we have worked together to make full use of the opportunities Providence has given us. Consistent with these values, my advisers will use the resources of the government as necessary to protect the health and security of the people of Saskatchewan, to preserve our common heritage and to complement the efforts of our citizens in developing a vibrant provincial economy. New programs will be designed and old ones improved which will be sensitive to the needs of those being assisted and which will be efficient in delivery and cost. It is possible for government to be reliable without being remote, suffocating or paternalistic.

My advisers also believe that it is the duty of government to allow a wide scope for individual initiatives in the provision of goods and services, and that government intervention may be counter-productive if it attempts to encompass too much of the activity of the modern economy.

The prosperity of Saskatchewan is directly related to the prosperity of the agricultural sector. My advisers believe that the historic strength of our agricultural industry derives from the independent farmer, working land he owns and carefully safeguards

for future generations. We must see any threat to the preservation of the family farms, including any strong and continuous drift to rented farmsteads, as a threat to the Saskatchewan way of life. For this reason my government is now developing the Saskatchewan Family Farm Purchase Program, which will promote the transfer of farmland from older to younger farmers by providing once-in-a-lifetime loans at low interest rates.

In recent years the people of this province have been called upon to bear an increasingly heavy burden of taxation — taxation which has been imposed from many directions and in many guises. It is time to carefully assess this burden and provide a measure of relief. My advisers have already acted to repeal the petroleum fuel tax and during the coming session you will be asked to confirm this action by approving changes to The Fuel Petroleum Products Act.

You will also be asked to consider legislation to establish a public utilities review commission to review the rates set for consumers by Saskatchewan's public utilities. My government believes that public utility rate increases should be monitored and controlled by a public body to guarantee that rate increases are publicly justified and do not simply constitute disguised taxation.

It is a primary duty of government to see that access to suitable housing is widespread and that as many people as possible can own their own homes. A wide variety of housing is available to potential purchasers in Saskatchewan, but many buyers have been artificially barred from the market because of the high interest rate policy imposed from outside Saskatchewan. My government therefore plans to proceed with the mortgage interest reduction plan in this session, so that mortgages at the rate of 13.25 per cent will be available for mortgages on principal residences, up to a value of \$50,000, for the next three years.

My government will also be presenting amendments to the local government election act and The Urban Municipality Act to update and standardize procedures for urban and rural municipalities.

The Education Act will be amended to repeal the ward system of elections for urban school boards. This legislation must be passed immediately to apply to the fall 1982 local elections.

Various other legislative measures will be placed before you for your consideration.

I leave you now to the business of the session, with full confidence that you will favorably discharge your duties and responsibilities.

May Divine Providence continue to bless our province and guide this legislature in all its deliberations.

Leaving.

Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice from Chief Electoral Officer

MR. SPEAKER: — I beg to inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received from the chief electoral officer lists of the names of such

members as have been returned to serve in the legislature.

Introduction of Pages

MR. SPEAKER: — I beg to inform the Assembly that Blair Butterfield, Brent Christensen, and Therese Stecyk will be pages during the present session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MOTIONS

Bill Respecting Oaths of Office

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker. I, move:

That a bill respecting the administration of oaths of office be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER: — I beg to inform the Assembly that in order to prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy of the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, which I now lay on the Table.

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Eric Berntson, Minister of Agriculture.

That the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration on Friday.

Motion agreed to.

Printing of *Votes and Proceedings* of the Assembly

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Andrew, Minister of Finance:

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.

Members to Compose Lists for Standing Committees

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Joan Duncan, Minister of Revenue, Supply and Services:

That Messrs. Katzman, Baker, Hammersmith, Klein and Martens be constituted a special committee to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the standing committees of the Assembly, provided under rule no. 86;

That the said standing committees be severally empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by this Assembly and to report from time to time their observations thereon with power to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses under oath.

MR. SPEAKER: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

HON. MR. BLAKENEY: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on the motion. I rise to point out that the body of the motion is unobjectionable. The personnel on the committee consists of four government members and one opposition members, and I rise to point out that, so far as I am aware, this will be the first time in the history of the legislature of Saskatchewan that the official opposition, whatever its size may have been, will have had one representative on that committee rather than the customary two.

Motion agreed to.

Election of Deputy Speaker

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by Hon. Paul Rousseau, Minister of Industry and Commerce:

That Lloyd Muller, Esq., member for the constituency of Shellbrook-Torch River, be Deputy Speaker of this Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

Election of Deputy Chairman of Committees

HON. MR. DEVINE: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Colin Thatcher, Minister of Mineral Resources:

That Louis A. Domotor, member for Humboldt, be deputy chairman of committees of this Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:32 p.m.