

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Mr. Prebble:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly, I'm very proud to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services in this province and urge the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities including Coronach, Val Marie, Bruno, Radisson, Guernsey, and Kindersley.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge that it stop undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from varied places in Saskatchewan such as Spruce Lake, Turtle Lake, Battleford, Hudson Bay, Grand Coulee, Central Butte, and Saskatoon.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly also today to present petitions signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who have indicated their concern with the cut-back in health care services.

This petition here is from communities of Meadow Lake, Balcarres, Edam, Yorkton, Veregine, MacNutt, and Willowbrook.

**Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition signed by several hundred people throughout Saskatchewan who urge this government to stop undermining and eroding medicare in our province.

This particular petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by residents from Canora, Shellbrook, Middle Lake, Debden, Birch Hills, and La Ronge.

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the rules of the legislature to present a petition signed by some hundreds of Saskatchewan people. The operative phrase in the petition urges the Government of Saskatchewan to stop its policy of eroding and undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

And these particular petitioners are from many communities, including Melville, Carrot River, Watrous, North Battleford, Balcarres, Yorkton, and others.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who have signed a petition expressing their concern about the government's erosion of health care services and urging the government to stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

The petitions that I am about to table include people from the communities of Rosthern, Tisdale, Blaine Lake, Weyburn, Hudson Bay, Gull Lake, and Estevan.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and I urge you to stop . . . and it urges that it stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from different communities in Saskatchewan including Hodgeville, Admiral, Cadillac, Mossbank, Duck Lake, and Estevan.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to the rules of this legislature to present a petition signed by many people who are concerned about the government's undermining and eroding of medicare.

These residents are from various communities, including Frenchman Butte, Evesham, Rocanville, Gravelbourg, Willow Bunch, and Yorkton.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with the rules of this Assembly, I'm proud to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned and have shown their concern about the government's erosion of our health care services and they urge this government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities including Bruno, Hafford, Meadow Lake, St. Walburg, Leoville, and Indian Head.

**Ms. Simard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as well, in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan residents, and these petitioners are urging the government to stop its erosion of medicare. These petitioners are from several different Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker, including Preeceville, Weyburn, Radville, Ogema, Archerwill, and Rama.

**Mr. Solomon:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are asking the Conservative government to stop its erosion of medicare in Saskatchewan. They are from several different Saskatchewan communities including Kerrobert, Moose Jaw, Indian Head, Fort Qu'Appelle, Spring Valley, and Duck Lake.

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In pursuance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly, I too rise today to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are also urging the Government of Saskatchewan to stop its erosion of medicare here in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from many different Saskatchewan communities including the communities of Lestock,

Harris, Clavet, Esterhazy, Melfort, and Moose Jaw.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with the rules of this Legislative Assembly, I am proud to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services in our province, and they urge the government to stop eroding and underfunding our Saskatchewan medicare system.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities including Prince Albert, Canora, Swift Current, Spiritwood, Maple Creek, and Shellbrook.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly I rise today to present the petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan residents. These residents are concerned, and in some cases hurt by the new direction of medicare in the province of Saskatchewan. And just so the text is on the record, Mr. Speaker, I would read the text to you:

To the Hon. Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in legislature assembled:

The petition of the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan humbly sheweth that it is not in the public interest for the Government of Saskatchewan to undermine medicare in our province; and

that it is not in the interest of Saskatchewan children and Saskatchewan families for the Government of Saskatchewan to weaken the children's dental plan; and

that it is not in the interest of Saskatchewan seniors and Saskatchewan families to impose arbitrary, unfair and expensive changes to the comprehensive and universal prescription drug plan; and

that growing hospital waiting lists have reached alarming levels causing great hardship to Saskatchewan people; and

that the Government of Saskatchewan's threat to impose unfair and arbitrary limits on insured medicare services, including chiropractic care and physiotherapy, constitute an unwarranted erosion of health care services in Saskatchewan.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop its policy of eroding and undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly I present a petition

signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are urging that the government stop its attack, its erosion, and its undermining of our medicare system. These petitioners representing our children, our future, our seniors, all our people in this province, are from the following communities, Mr. Speaker.

From Humboldt, from Melfort, from Regina, from Weekes, from Craven, Lestock, and Kindersley.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I proudly rise in the Assembly today to present a petition that is signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge that it stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitions are from many communities in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, including Martensville, Saskatoon, Weyburn, Nipawin, Odessa, Kendal and others, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lyons:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my other colleagues I too rise today in this Assembly to present to the Assembly, pursuant to the rules, a petition protesting, from several hundreds of peoples in this province, protesting particularly the erosion and attack on medicare, and in this case in particular, the children's dental program.

These people come from communities such as Wilkie, Bienfait, Unity, Wadena, Regina, and Estevan.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I too rise in the Assembly to join my colleagues in presenting a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These residents urge this government to stop its erosion of medicare in our province.

Of the many communities represented in this petition, the following communities are included: St. Walburg, Langham, Saskatoon; the communities of Bethune, Biggar, and my wife's home town of Perdue.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in accordance with the rules and proceedings of this Assembly to present a petition signed by several hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are urging that the government stop its erosion of medicare in our province.

These petitioners are from several different communities in Saskatchewan including Melville, Spiritwood, Semans, Climax, Frontier, and Turtleford.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, pursuant to the rules of the Legislative Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan people. These petitioners urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop undermining and eroding medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from several communities including Vanscoy, Regina Beach, Kipling, Tessier, Harris, and Weyburn.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly, I am proud to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and they are urging the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Paddockwood, Balgonie, Moose Jaw, Shellbrook, Beechy, Wadena, and Estevan.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are very much concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and urge the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Landis, Goodsoil, Unity, North Battleford, and Rosthern.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am privileged to rise today, pursuant to the rules of this Legislative Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop undermining and eroding medicare care in Saskatchewan.

And these petitioners, Mr. Speaker, represent people from the communities of Humboldt, Christopher Lake, Meadow Lake, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Guernsey, to name just a few.

**Mr. Prebble:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise a second time in the Assembly this afternoon, in accordance with the rules, to present here a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the erosion of medicare in our province and, among other things, the unfair changes to the prescription drug plan, and ask that the erosion to medicare in this province cease immediately.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from Carrot River, Lake Alma, my home community of Saskatoon, Arborfield, and Central Butte.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again for the second time this afternoon to present a further petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and urge it to stop undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

And these people that signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from such varied communities as Esterhazy, Rocanville, Strasbourg, Bengough, Spruce Lake, Unity, and Saskatoon.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly again to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who are concerned with the erosion of health care and medicare.

These petitioners are from many different communities in Saskatchewan, and they include Watrous, Maryfield, Ituna, Yorkton, Springside, and Yellow Grass.

**Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise with my colleagues to present yet another petition signed by several hundred more Saskatchewan people, with respect to the undermining and the erosion of medicare in Saskatchewan.

This petition, sir, is signed by citizens from, among other places, Watrous, Prince Albert, Humboldt, Outlook, Kenaston, and Hanley.

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present petitions pursuant to the rules of this House. The bulk of the petitions which I now present deal with the wish of the petitioners to stop the government's policy of eroding and undermining medicare, in the petitioner's opinion. There are also, Mr. Speaker, petitions dealing more specifically with the prescription drug plan and the school-based children's dental plan. In order to save the time of the House I will put them in as group.

They are signed by a good number of hundreds of Saskatchewan people resident in Maple Creek, Buchanan, Martensville, Watrous, Blaine Lake, Wilkie, and other communities.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to lay on the table a further petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who have strongly expressed their deep concern about the attack that's taking place on our medicare program and our health care programs. These people are concerned that a health care delivery system which has taken some 25 years to build is now being severely undermined.

I do this, Mr. Speaker, and I bring to your attention that among the many communities which are listed here, included are the following: Saskatoon, Redvers, Wawota, Denholm, Edam, Sonningdale, and Weyburn.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. The petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge that it stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from different Saskatchewan communities including Regina Beach, Vanscoy, Colonsay, Redvers, Melville, and Maple Creek.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise according to the rules of this House to present a petition of many concerned people — people who are concerned about the eroding and undermining of our health care system. There are hundreds of names from various constituencies. They include the areas of Canora, Gravelbourg, Melville, Kincaid, Golden Prairie, and Swift Current.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I rise in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present petitions signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who are voicing their concerns about the erosion of

medicare, including the dental plan, prescription plan, waiting lists.

These petitioners are very deeply concerned about the erosion of this plan, and they come from towns such as Fulda, Humboldt, Lang, Tisdale, Weekes, and Frontier.

**Ms. Simard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again then in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly to table a further petition signed by many Saskatchewan residents who are very concerned about the PC government's erosion of medicare. In particular they're concerned about cut-backs to the children's dental plan, cut-backs to the prescription drug plan, long hospital waiting lists, and threatened limits on chiropractic care, and physiotherapy, Mr. Speaker.

These petitioners are from several different Saskatchewan communities including Sturgis, Unity, Wilkie, Lebreton, Cupar, and Minton. Thank you.

**Mr. Solomon:** — I rise again, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present another petition signed by several hundred more Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are asking that the Conservative government cease the gutting of the medicare programs in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from several different Saskatchewan communities including Wishart, Pense, Lumsden, Wadena, Saltcoats, and Yorkton.

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly on behalf of several of my constituents from Prince Albert as well as on behalf of residents from North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Edam, Meota, Swift Current, and Herbert. All of these petitioners are deeply concerned with the erosion of medicare under the present government, and they ask the government reverse its policy.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with rules of this Assembly I am proud to present another couple of hundred signatures from Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health in our province. These petitioners represent people from across this province, but in particular, White Fox, Christopher Lake, Prince Albert, Warman, Saskatoon, and Aberdeen.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise a second time to present a petition. The petition is signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. They are concerned about the undermining of the medicare system. Many of them have been hurt by the changes, and many others are angry about the changes to the medicare system in the province of Saskatchewan.

These particular petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Aylsham, Shell Lake, Lashburn, Lloydminster, Maidstone, Marshall, St. Walburg, amongst many others.

And I would want to say that the first petition I presented, Mr. Speaker, I neglected to name the communities. I'd like to do that. They came from Nipawin, Weldon,

Middle Lake, Crystal Springs, Smeaton, and Prince Albert.

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, for the second time I rise in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Assembly to present a petition by several hundred Saskatchewan people.

These petitioners are especially worried about the tremendous cut-backs which erode and undermine our medicare system. They are wondering why, Mr. Speaker, we are taking it out on the children of our province. And when you read in there it says that it is not in the interest of Saskatchewan children and Saskatchewan families for the Government of Saskatchewan to weaken the children's dental plan, and that's a very major concern, Mr. Speaker.

So these petitioners come from the following communities: from St. Walburg, Lone Rock, Lloydminster, Lashburn, Melfort, and Cut Knife.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to rise again and present a petition on behalf of hundreds more of Saskatchewan residents — people who are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and who urge the government to stop its undermining of medicare.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Kenaston, Shellbrook, Dinsmore, Lanigan, Kindersley, Lestock, and others.

**Mr. Lyons:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to be able to rise, along with the rest of my colleagues, to present, pursuant to the rules of this legislature, a petition from concerned citizens representing Spruce Home, Canwood, Choiceland, La Ronge, Saskatoon, Windthorst, Meadow Lake, and the constituency that I have the honour to represent, the constituency of Regina Rosemont.

And these citizens, Mr. Speaker, are very, very concerned and are deeply angered by the cuts that the Premier and his government are making to undermine and erode the medicare system in this province.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again to present another petition signed by hundreds of residents of this province — young adults, working people, farming people, and seniors — representing communities like Langenburg, Prince Albert, Neudorf, Duck Lake, Drake, and La Ronge. They are concerned about this government's cuts to medicare.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again in accordance with the rules and proceedings of this Assembly to present a petition signed by several hundreds of people, many from rural Saskatchewan, who are upset and indeed willing to protest the erosion of medicare in our province.

These petitioners are from communities such as Yorkton, Wynyard, Mozart, St. Walburg, Paradise Hill, and Meadow Lake.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today pursuant to the rules of the Legislative Assembly to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan people. These petitioners urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop undermining and eroding medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from communities such as Bienfait, Meadow Lake, Loon Lake, Makwa, Gronlid, and Estevan, among others.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again in accordance with the rules of this Assembly. I'm proud to present here today more copies of a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners along with all the others are strongly protesting the government's erosion of our health care services.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities including Midale, Melville, Regina, Ogema, Bienfait, Carnduff, and Estevan.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are very concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities including Meadow Lake, Kerrobert, North Battleford, White Fox, Hafford, Landis, Tisdale, and Saskatoon.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to the rules of this Legislative Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred residents of Saskatchewan. On the 25th anniversary of medicare in this province, these individuals express their concern about the unprecedented attack on publicly funded medical care.

The petitioners represent communities such as Landis, Esterhazy, Outlook, Dundurn, Quill Lake, Neilburg, and Kipling.

**Mr. Prebble:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise again to present petitions from hundreds more Saskatchewan residents who are protesting the erosion of medicare in the province of Saskatchewan, and among other things they're expressing special concern about the growing hospital waiting lists in this province that have reached alarming levels and are causing great hardship for Saskatchewan people.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from Carrot River, Rockglen, Wolseley, Kinistino, Smeaton, and Milestone.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the third time this afternoon to present further names of people who are petitioning this Assembly. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge it to stop undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

They come from a variety of communities in

Saskatchewan such as Landis, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, White City, Sedley, Lumsden, and I might add, Mr. Speaker, from the constituency of Saskatoon Eastview who have no voice in this Assembly.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition by several hundreds of petitioners from across Saskatchewan who have signed this petition to indicate their deep concern that the government's undermining of the health care system in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from a number of communities across Saskatchewan including Moose Jaw, Hudson Bay, Blaine Lake, Laird, Carnduff, Maryfield, and Estevan.

**Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to be able to do it, and I'm proud that these people had the determination to do it, to put their names on the petitions.

But I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I'm saddened that I have to do it, and that is to table this health care petition which protests the savage attack on medicare in Saskatchewan. It comes, sir, from residents of Codette, Ernfold, Pangman, Central Butte, Whitewood, Prince Albert and Swift Current.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present another petition dealing with health care and dealing more particularly with the petitioners' view that the Government of Saskatchewan should stop its policy of eroding and undermining medicare.

The petition consists of 23 pages, bearing signatures of people from many points across the province including Carlyle, Riverhurst, Biggar, Martensville, Arcola, and Davidson.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise again to present a petition to the Assembly signed by further hundreds of Saskatchewan people who are concerned about the attacks that are being made on the health care program of this province by this government. They're concerned about the future of our medicare program. They are so concerned that they have taken the time and made the commitment to sign this petition, along with the many thousands which have been presented here already today.

The people are from communities from, among others such as Macklin, Leask, Foam Lake, McLean, Moose Jaw, and Radville.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the third time today to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and urge that it stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from many different Saskatchewan communities including Bredenbury, Biggar, Wakaw, Major, and Carrot River.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present additional

names of petitioners who are concerned and have been adversely affected by the policies of this government in regards to medicare and hospitalization.

These petitioners, several hundreds of them, come from communities such as Rabbit Lake, Humboldt, Prince Albert, Meacham, Wakaw, and Melville.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I rise in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present petitions by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents, people who have, by signing this petition, added their voice to the public outcry to stop this government from undermining our medicare system.

These people come from towns such as Plunkett, Creighton, Kincaid, Mankota, Swift Current, and Lewvan.

**Ms. Simard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to file in this Assembly, to present a petition to this Assembly by several hundred more Saskatchewan residents who are urging the PC government to discontinue their erosion of the medicare system in Saskatchewan. These petitioners come from several Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker, including Margo, Lestock, Foam Lake, Bankend, Medstead, and Mildren. Thank you.

**Mr. Solomon:** — I rise today for the third time, Mr. Speaker, to present another petition signed by several hundred more Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are asking the government, the Conservative government opposite to stop the privatizing of the dental plan, reverse that; to stop the privatizing of the drug plan; and to stop its erosion of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from several different Saskatchewan communities including Swift Current, Biggar, Vanscoy, Carrot River, Langham, Kindersley, and Lake Lenore.

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Assembly, I rise once again to present a petition on behalf of hundreds of residents of Saskatchewan. All of these signed a petition which urges the government to stop its erosion of health care services in Saskatchewan.

The residents are from all walks of life, Mr. Speaker, and they come from the communities of Watrous, Mount Nebo, Fillmore, Loon Lake, Glaslyn, Weyburn, as well as other Saskatchewan communities.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in accordance with the rules of this Legislative Assembly for the third time today. I am proud to present hundreds of signatures signed by people across this province who are concerned about the government's cuts to our health care system. These petitioners represent a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Spy Hill, Tramping Lake, Stockholm, Assiniboia, Indian Head, White City, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, Bangor, and Melville.

**Mr. Anguish:** — I rise for the third time today as well, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition concerning health care and

people's concern about health care in the province of Saskatchewan. And it's again signed by hundreds of the residents of the province of Saskatchewan, including the communities of Asquith, Osler, Elrose, Harris, Gray, Regina, Indian Head, and Kronau.

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again to present a petition from the following communities of Canora, Kipling, Bethune, Duval, Stoughton, and Estevan. Mr. Speaker, the residents from these communities are extremely . . . want to bring the message out especially in the area of our prescription drug plan. They feel that they do not have the up-front money that a lot of the people have in . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. I'd like to bring the hon. member's attention to standing order 11(3) which says:

On the presentation of a petition no debate on or in relation to the same shall be allowed.

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, so with that I present the petitions.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour for me to stand again and present on behalf of hundreds more Saskatchewan people, more petitions from people who care very deeply, Mr. Speaker, about the future of medicare in Saskatchewan. They're from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Turtleford, Nipawin, Codette, Humboldt, Lanigan, Lumsden and others, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lyons:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to join with my colleagues to present to the legislature today, pursuant to the rules, a petition asking the provincial government to change its course, to stop undermining and eroding the medicare system in this province. There's several hundred signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, and they come from as far away as Ile-a-la-Crosse and from Shellbrook, Leask, Kelvington, Borden, North Battleford, and from the community of Saltcoats.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again, for the third time, to present another petition from Saskatchewan residents — residents who are concerned about our children's dental plan, the prescription drug plan, hospital waiting lists, and the general erosion of medicare under this government. And these citizens are from communities, including Melfort, White Fox, Martensville, Saskatoon, Wakaw, and Love.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today, pursuant to the rules and procedures of this Assembly, to present a petition signed by yet more hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who are concerned about this government's direction in terms of health care in this province. These petitioners are from several different communities, including Maidstone, Edam, Cudworth, Tramping Lake, North Battleford, and Biggar.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again, pursuant to the rules of the Legislative Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan people. These petitioners urge the

Government of Saskatchewan to stop undermining and eroding medicare by eroding the children's dental plan and the prescription drug plan. These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from several communities, including Tisdale, McKague, Melfort, Yorkton, Birch Hills, Shellbrook, and Margo, amongst others.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly, I am proud to present here today 27 more copies of a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners recognize it is not in the public interest for the government to undermine Saskatchewan medicare, and they are urging the government to stop.

And these petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including North Battleford, Estevan, Swift Current, Shaunavon, Regina, Central Butte, and Hepburn.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present here today a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare.

These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Crystal Springs, Luseland, North Battleford, White City, Prince Albert, and Regina.

(1445)

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today pursuant to the rules of this Legislative Assembly to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan people who have exercised their democratic right to petition this Conservative government to stop their attack on medicare.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from communities as diverse as Carrot River, Nipawin, Glenavon, Leask, Tisdale, Marcelin, and Khedive.

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to present another petition signed by residents of Nipawin, Wilkie, Mervin, Swift Current, Candiac, and Fort Qu'Appelle.

And these petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are deeply concerned with the government's erosion of medicare, and particularly with the decision to weaken the children's dental plan and implement unfair changes to the prescription drug plan.

I'm pleased to present the petition to the Assembly.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today for the fourth time in this Assembly to present hundreds more names of people in Saskatchewan who are concerned about this government's actions in the field of medicare and

health care services.

In particular, I draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the section of the petition that says:

That growing hospital lists have reached alarming levels, causing great hardship to Saskatchewan people.

And some of the people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the city of Saskatoon, where the problem is most severe. Along with those people from Saskatoon, there are people from Elstow, Invermay, Maryfield, Admiral, Shaunavon, and Carlyle. I take great pleasure in laying their wishes upon the Table here today, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I present for a fourth time a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents, and these petitioners are deeply concerned with the undermining of health care in Saskatchewan.

The petitioners are from a number of communities including Rocanville, Weyburn, Windthorst, Emma Lake, P.A. — Prince Albert, Meath Park, Preeceville, Carrot River, Watrous, Saskatoon, Sturgis, Melville, and Yorkton.

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I lay before the House another petition containing names of citizens from Delisle, Alsask, Fosston, Rose Valley, Melfort, Star City, and Estevan.

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to present on behalf of many citizens from communities such as Weyburn, Viceroy, Assiniboia, Humboldt, Rose Valley, and Estevan, their petition dealing with the eroding and undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I present a petition with several hundred names on it, from many communities including Porcupine Plain, Eston, Rosetown, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Tisdale, Weyburn, and an additional 80 names from the city of Estevan.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are deeply concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and urge that it stop its undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan.

The petitions are signed by hundreds of different residents of Saskatchewan from the communities of Sturgis, Saltcoats, Springside, Shellbrook, and Yorkton.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the fourth time to present the names of petitioners who are concerned about the eroding of health care in our province. They are from the areas of Kelvington, North Battleford, Langley, Aylsham, and Meota.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly, I present hundreds of more petitions from people from Saskatchewan representing towns such as Love, White Fox, Wishart, Shamrock, Cudworth, and Moosomin.

**Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, I also wish to file further petitions from residents of Fillmore, Earl Grey, Strasbourg, Montmartre, Francis, and Fort Qu'Appelle.

**Mr. Solomon:** — Mr. Speaker: I'd like to present another petition signed by several hundred more Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are from Sturgis, Preeceville, Endeavour, Odessa, Montmartre, Kennedy, and many residents from the constituency of Regina North West.

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — I rise, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition from residents of Goodsoil, Glenavon, Warman, Martensville and Saskatoon, who are urging this government to stop its erosion of medicare.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — I rise for the fourth time to present a petition concerned about the undercutting of our medicare system in Saskatchewan. They represent several hundred people from communities such as Cut Knife, Maidstone, Humboldt, Regina, Weyburn, Vonda, and Goodsoil.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Plunkett, Harris, Shellbrook, Unity, Lashburn, and Lloydminster residents have signed this petition. They hope it has some impact on the government in the province of Saskatchewan to stop their erosion of medicare system. And I so present it here today in the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, I present a petition here from Biggar, Duck Lake, Assiniboia, Pense, Vibank, Cadillac, and Ponteix. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to raise a particular here. It says that hospital waiting lists have reached alarming levels causing great hardship. So with that I present.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to present hundreds more of the same petition from citizens from the communities of McLean, Preeceville, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Endeavour, Gainsborough, Tisdale, and others.

**Mr. Lyons:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to present to the Assembly a petition outlining the people's protest against the cuts to medicare. These people . . . several hundred are from Humboldt, Kelvington, Estevan, Bienfait, Tisdale, Hudson Bay, Crooked River, and I happen to notice that there's several members, the former members of the Legislative Assembly, have their signatures on this as well.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time I rise to present a petition of Saskatchewan citizens to this Assembly, these citizens from communities including Meadow Lake, Outlook, Conquest, Balcarres, Weyburn, Yellow Grass, and Wynyard — these citizens concerned about the erosion of medicare in our province.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, pursuant to the rules of this legislature, to present a petition on behalf of several hundred Saskatchewan

residents who are upset with the Premier and his government and the way they're handling medicare. These people are from Yorkton, Calder, Moose Jaw, Lanigan, Marquis, and Mossbank.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again with the same petition that I present from the cities and towns of North Battleford, Watrous, Young, Preeceville, Sturgis, and Canora, in the hopes that these petitions will do some good to the members opposite.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to present here today more petitions from people protesting the erosion of medicare. These people are from Spruce Home, Watrous, Kindersley, Dorintosh, Prince Albert, Borden, Ernfold, Halbrite, Lloydminster, and Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again, in accordance with the rules of this Assembly, to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents. These petitioners are very much concerned about the government's erosion of health care services, and urge the government to stop eroding Saskatchewan medicare. These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities, including Nipawin, Fair Glen, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Melville.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, pursuant to the rules of this Legislative Assembly, to present a petition signed by several hundred Saskatchewan people. These petitioners urge the government to reconsider its measures against medicare and to re-establish the program. These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from many communities such as Codette, Canwood, Meadow Lake, my own constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland, Conquest, and Nipawin.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the final time in this Assembly to present petitions from residents in Qu'Appelle, White Fox, St. Louis, Central Butte, Weyburn, Estevan, Tisdale, Love, Wishart, Montmartre, Eastend and Shaunavon, in total, Mr. Speaker, close to 1,000 signatures from people protesting the cuts to the children's dental plan, to the prescription drug plan, and to the funding of our hospitals, and the petition concludes:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop its policy of eroding and undermining medicare in Saskatchewan.

I am pleased to lay these on the Table.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the fifth time in the Assembly today, and the final time I will rise on this petition, to present hundreds and hundreds of names; as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, twice as many names as I have presented to the Assembly at any other time I have arisen this afternoon.



Now these people from Leroy, Humboldt, Sedley, Indian Head, Regina, Loon Lake, Wadena, Canora, Francis, Yellow Grass, Estevan, and Fillmore and Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, are concerned not only with the undermining of medicare in Saskatchewan but the weakening of the children's dental plan, the unfair and expensive changes to prescription drug plan, and the long hospital waiting lists, especially in the city of Saskatoon, and other issues in the medicare area.

It was with a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Speaker, I present this petition on behalf of the people of all of the places in Saskatchewan that I have named and many other names of towns and cities in Saskatchewan that I have not named but are on those petitions.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise also for a final time to present the petition of several hundreds of people across Saskatchewan who indeed were prepared to sign the petition indicating their deep concern in respect to the undermining of the health care in Saskatchewan. These petitioners are from communities throughout Saskatchewan: Canora, Buchanan, Kenosee Lake, Moose Jaw, Regina, Lampman, Yorkton, Debden, Maple Creek, Green Lake, Lanigan, and Leask. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to present further petitions, a very large number of them running to well over 95 pages of names, coming from many different communities: Esterhazy, Rockglen, Moose Jaw, Waldheim, Davidson, Tisdale, Wishart, Kelliher, Saskatoon, Naicam, Biggar, Broadview, Holdfast, Penzance, and Choiceland, and Canwood, and Birch Hills, and Churchbridge, and Semans, and Rosthern, and Sintaluta, and Indian Head, and Beauval — all concerned with the erosion of medicare.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again to present many hundreds of names of people who have signed the petition expressing their concerns about the cuts made to the health care programs in Saskatchewan by the government. They include people from the communities of Saltcoats, Candiac, Corning, Garrick, Lintlaw, and Raymore, Esterhazy, Langenburg, Bethune, Ormiston, Unity, and Qu'Appelle.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to present to you several hundred other signatures from such communities as Whitewood, Broadview, Southey, Earl Grey, Nokomis, Kelvington, Yorkton, Norquay, Kamsack, Stornoway, Veregin, and Outlook.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1500)

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I

want to rise again to present to this legislature the names of a number of people who have been concerned over the last two or three or four months about the direction that our health care system has been taking, and particularly s it refers to the dental plan and the drug program.

These petitioners are from constituencies and areas such as Nipawin, Kelliher, Spalding, Kipling, Watrous, Pilot Butte, Hudson Bay, Tisdale, Stewart Valley, Oxbow, Lake Alma, and Coronach.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again, presenting the same petition from the communities of Biggar, Rabbit Lake, Melville, Spiritwood, Moose Jaw, Odessa, Nipawin, Arelee, Milestone, Wadena, Weyburn, and Whitewood, adding their names to the tens of thousands of people asking this government to change its policy of undermining our health care system.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise once again to table several hundred more signatures of Saskatchewan residents who are protesting the PC government's hurtful cut-backs to health care services and the erosion of the medicare system in Saskatchewan.

These residents come from several communities, Mr. Speaker, including prince Albert, Christopher Lake, Montmartre, Redvers, and Yorkton, North Battleford, Domremy, Oxbow, Davidson, Young, and Lucky Lake. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Solomon:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the fifth time today in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly to present a 46-page petition signed by several hundred more Saskatchewan residents who are opposed to the privatization of the dental plan and the privatization and the gutting of the drug plan. They urge the Conservative government to stop the Balkanization of medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from several communities including Saskatoon, Cut Knife, Yorkton, Langenburg, Kinistino, Stornoway, Churchbridge, Wawota, Etonia, Spy Hill, Moosomin, and Fairlight.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to rise on behalf of residents across Saskatchewan, hundreds of residents who have signed a petition protesting the erosion of medicare. These residents come from the communities of Outlook, Perdue, Smeaton, Lipton, Kindersley, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Estevan, Torquay, Oxbow, Hanley, Imperial, Carnduff, Rosetown, and my home town of Prince Albert.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I am proud to present hundreds and hundreds of signatures of people across this

province opposing the government's cuts to our health care system. These signatures represent people from the communities of Cut Knife, Livelong, Estevan, Turtleford, Maymont, North Battleford, Raymore, Melfort, Beatty, Moose Jaw, Gronlid, Ridgedale, Elbow, Biggar, Sonningdale, Hanley, Arelee, and Goodsoil.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Anguish:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have here some 40 or 50 pages. If I had my preference I'd like to present them all individually, but they're from residents of the province who have expressed great concern about the health care system in this province. They are petitioning the government to stop the erosion of the medical care system in the province of Saskatchewan. These people, as I said, are concerned; in some case, hurt; in some cases, very angry at what has happened to our health care system.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. I think that the hon. member should once again remember rule 11(3) which says that:

On the presentation of a petition no debate on or in relation to the same shall be allowed.

**Mr. Anguish:** — I apologize for that, Mr. Speaker. I've been obviously carried away by the magnitude of the response on the petitions.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Warman, Delisle, Weyburn, Coronach, Bredenbury, Rosetown, Big River, Lake Lenore, Estevan, Ceylon, Senlac, and Macklin, amongst other communities, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, for the fifth and final time I present the petition from people from the following communities of Blaine Lake, Halbrite, Weyburn, Hodgeville, Big River, Forget, Melville, Carnduff, Radville, Eston, Keeler and Brownlee.

Mr. Speaker, they are stating simply, stop the policy of eroding and undermining our medicare system. They're saying, don't weaken our children's dental plan, our prescription drug plan. Our hospital waiting lists are alarming, and also our chiropractic care and physiotherapy.

With that I present, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, it is one of the proudest moments since I've been able to enter this Assembly that I stand on behalf of hundreds and hundreds more of Saskatchewan people to express their care and concern for the future of medicare in their province of Saskatchewan.

And these hundreds of people, Mr. Speaker, are from communities such as Unity and Leask and Porcupine Plain; Wadena, Mayfair, Rocanville and Swift Current,

Plenty, Kipling, Moosomin, Archerwill, Weyburn and many, many others, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lyons:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to join with my colleagues to present to you several hundreds of names of people of this province who are opposed to the government's present course in regards to the health care system.

These citizens come from Saskatoon, Foam Lake, Hafford, Tisdale, Moose Jaw and Kamsack, Biggar, Melfort, Regina, Wakaw, Arcola, St. Walburg, Meadow Lake. And for the information of the Premier, I see no Cuban communities listed here.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. The hon. member I'm sure realizes that he's out of order, and I would like to once more read standing order No. 11(3):

On the presentation of a petition no debate on or in relation to the same shall be allowed.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, in addition to the thousands and thousands of signatures already presented, I would rise to present, according to the rules of this legislature, several hundred, if not a thousand more, signatures of Saskatchewan citizens concerned with the erosion of medicare.

Again, these citizens are from the community of Perdue, communities of Biggar, Mozart, city of Regina, Neudorf, Wynyard, Meadow Lake, Dundurn, Clavet, Warman, Borden, and from the community I am proud to represent, the city of Moose Jaw.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly to present a petition signed by hundreds, to add to the thousands that have already been tabled today, of people who are concerned with the lack of commitment to medicare in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners are from Spruce Lake, Saskatoon, Martensville, Dalmeny, Biggar, Cochin, Dundurn, Plunkett, Aberdeen, Allan, Kindersley, and many more, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with a list of petitions today, similar to the ones I've presented earlier. These petitions are from the people of Cut Knife, Oxbow, Wadena, Prince Albert, Battleford, Christopher Lake, North Battleford, Wakaw, Prince Albert, Macdowall, Spruce Home, Birch Hills, Big River, and Meath Park, as well as others.

This is my fifth round with these petitions, but for the Minister of Health and the Premier and his colleagues, I'm sure it must feel more like the 10th round of a heavyweight fight.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise for the fifth time in accordance with the rules of this Assembly to present hundreds of more names to add to the thousands that are already here from petitioners who are strongly protesting the government's erosion of our health care services.

The petitioners represented in these petitions come from many communities including Harris, Biggar, Rosetown, Wakaw, Eatonia, Naicam, Waldheim, Wadena, Flaxcombe, Birch Hills, Weyburn, Semans, Raymore, Cupar, Punnichy, Prince Albert, and my town of Saskatoon.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to present a petition signed by hundreds of Saskatchewan residents who are concerned about the government's erosion of health care services and urge the government to stop cutting back on Saskatchewan medicare. These petitioners are from a number of Saskatchewan communities. Some of them are Humboldt, Prince Albert, Birch Hills, St. Benedict, Saskatoon, Ceylon, Arborfield, Naicam, Wadena, Weyburn, Mortlach, Craven, and Whitewood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise pursuant to the orders of this Assembly to present 47 pages of petitions signed by residents of Saskatchewan who are protesting cut-backs to health care services and who want to make sure that, as one woman put it, that their opinion is heard over more than just the backyard fence. These petitioners represent communities as diverse as Theodore, Leoville, Porcupine Plain, Kelliher, Parkside, Craven, Chitek Lake, Gladstone, Beechy, and Leross.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really proud, Mr. Speaker, to present to you the last of over 60,000 signatures that have been presented to this legislature this afternoon.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, people from across this province from the East to the West, from the North to the South, have sent a message that they do not want our health care system to be eroded and undermined in this province. Mr. Speaker, it's with a great deal of pride that I present the last of those signatures, and these people represent the communities of Delisle, Mankota, Weyburn, Bjorkdale, Turtleford, North Portal, Estevan, and I'm proud to say, Mr. Speaker, several hundred people from the constituency that I represent, Saskatoon Nutana.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — In total, Mr. Speaker, we have presented close to 100,000 signatures by the people of this province, in this legislature, since the end of June.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago I had the opportunity of introducing Saskatchewan's chief trade negotiator, and I want to take the opportunity to reintroduce him today as a result of the initialling of the trade negotiations, an agreement between the United States and Canada.

(1515)

In the west gallery, I would like to introduce Mr. Art Wakabayashi who has been a deputy minister of Finance in the Government of Saskatchewan, director-general at the federal level, and has worked very hard, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Saskatchewan people to put together a comprehensive trade package between Canada and the United States with Saskatchewan's interest at stake. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to say, as a result of his work and work of people on his team and people across Canada, that we now see that approximately, Mr. Speaker, 49 to 50 per cent of Canadians think it's a good idea.

And for benefits for consumers and producers alike, I would like to thank Mr. Art Wakabayashi and have him stand and be recognized in the legislature.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with a great deal of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I introduce to you and to other members of the Legislative Assembly several hundred people who are gathered here today who are representatives of community groups in our province, and in particular the city of Saskatoon. These people represent . . . or the city of Regina. These people represent senior citizens' organizations, health organizations, non-government organizations, as well as unions in health institutions. These people have been involved in gathering the thousands and thousands of signatures that we've just presented to the Legislative Assembly. They have gone door to door, and for that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope that the government is listening and will get the message. Thank you for coming today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the legislature to welcome our guests, and I would ask these guests to rise. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sauder:** — Mr. Speaker, today it's with pleasure that I rise to introduce some special guests from my constituency of Nipawin. Those guests are Mr. and Mrs. Ted Azevedo.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about Mr. Azevedo. He has served the senior citizens of this province for many years. In 1977 he was appointed to the Senior Citizens Provincial Council as a member, and in 1983 became its chairman. He's presently the president of the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens Association, and I believe I

have that name right, and I also believe first vice-president of the Canadian Seniors Association.

In 1980 he was appointed chairman of the heritage subcommittee of the Celebrate Saskatchewan group. As well Ted has a life membership in the Nipawin and district Agricultural Society for over 20 years of dedicated service to that organization. He's also serving in his 14th year as treasurer of the Nipawin & District Living Forestry Museum. Over the years he has been deeply involved with the Saskatchewan Association of New Horizons Projects, and I would personally like to commend him at this time for the contributions that he has made over these years to that very important sector of our society — our seniors.

And I would invite all members of this Assembly to afford Mr. and Mrs. Azevedo a warm Saskatchewan legislative welcome.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Blakeney:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and to members of this House, a former member of this Assembly, a person who served the constituency of Moose Jaw for a good number of years and had the distinction of being minister of Health during the period in 1962 which saw the introduction of medicare in Saskatchewan.

I introduce to you the Hon. W.G. Davies.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Petersen:** — Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in introducing a very prominent member of the agricultural community who's seated in the west gallery today, that being Mr. Ken McDonald of Indian Head. Mr. McDonald is the president of the Saskatchewan cattle feeders association, which association supports our actions and our moves with trade with the U.S. They understand and realize the importance of access to that very important market for their product.

Mr. McDonald operates his farm . . . pardon me, the Three Bars Ranch at Indian head, with his brother Don, and his wife Karen, and his father as well.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. McDonald.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great deal of pleasure today for me to introduce to you and through you to this House, Mr. Boyd Anderson, who is seated in the west gallery.

Mr. Anderson is currently the chairman of the Beef Stabilization Board in Saskatchewan and has always been deeply involved in the cattle industry. He has served in many capacities, including president of the Saskatchewan Stockgrowers Association. As well, Mr. Anderson has had a long and distinguished career as a municipal politician and has contributed untold hours in dedication to serving both his community and all of

Saskatchewan. That dedication was honoured with an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Regina.

Mr. Anderson is a man of deep conviction, and one of the issues of the day is trade, and he has many thoughts on that. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with him after question period to discuss those issues. I would like all members of the House to please welcome Mr. Anderson to the legislature.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. I would like at this time to intervene to inform our honoured guests in the galleries that the tradition and practice of this House is that guests do not participate in any way in the proceedings of the House. And therefore, I would respectfully ask them to refrain from clapping or any other forms of demonstrations.

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my colleague from Thunder Creek in welcome Mr. Anderson to the Assembly. It was my pleasure to work with him as a director with SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) while he was the president, and I want to extend a welcome to him from the Assembly here and on my behalf

I also want to welcome, and have you as members of the Assembly welcome, a gentleman who I've gotten to know in the past few years. He is the chairman of the animal health committee for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. He operates a farm at Cut Knife, Saskatchewan. They have a commercial cattle operation and a feedlot. The gentleman is a strong proponent of the trade that we have in the livestock sector with the United States, and I want to have the Assembly join me in welcoming Mr. Lynne Biggert from Cut Knife, Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Health Care Cuts

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier of Saskatchewan. Mr. Premier, we have just presented the signatures of more than 60,000 Saskatchewan residents who oppose your health care cuts, added to the 36,000 people who signed similar petitions this past summer, this means that nearly 100,000 Saskatchewan people have formally protested your health care cuts. And we have petitions, Mr. Premier, coming in daily.

My question is this: in view of the fact that nearly 100,000 Saskatchewan citizens have sent you a clear message to reverse your harmful and hurtful health care cuts, will you now listen to the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — I thank the hon. member for the question, Mr. Speaker. I would point out, if I may, the truth with respect to health care expenditures in the

province of Saskatchewan this year and the last five years. If I could, Mr. Speaker, the health budget in the province of Saskatchewan has increased 63 per cent in the last five years, which is the largest in the history of the province, and the second largest in Canada.

And the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the opposition has voted against every health care budget that we've introduced in the last five years, with the largest increases we've seen in Saskatchewan's history. Now that's the truth. You voted against it, and we've provided the increases.

And if I could, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out to the hon. members that we reduced — and removed, pardon me, Mr. Speaker — we removed extra billing in the province of Saskatchewan, which had an impact in the neighbourhood of \$1 million on people, particularly seniors, Mr. Speaker. That's been removed.

In our health care budget, Mr. Speaker, we have provided in the neighbourhood of \$275 million in brand-new hospital construction — particularly in acute care, Mr. Speaker — in hospitals, Pasqua Hospital, University Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Regina General, the new City Hospital which is to be built, Mr. Speaker.

I will point out that for the seniors, which obviously use health care significantly, the new Saskatchewan heritage program provides about \$40 million, Mr. Speaker, in new money to seniors on their discretionary income, whatever they would like to spend. I could add, Mr. Speaker, that we are looking at the fact that we have now something like 2,190 new special care home beds that have either been constructed or about to be constructed since 1982, Mr. Speaker.

Now I point this out, and I have a list of about 12, Mr. Speaker, to be fair, that we have introduced annually in the budget, and increased the budget 63 per cent in this province — the largest in its history, the second largest in Canada — and every single measure was voted against by the opposition. And when we remove extra billing, Mr. Speaker, and we provide these kinds of economic benefits, at least the opposition, Mr. Speaker, could vote for the people and see these significant increases take place.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Premier, the people of the province are interested in the truth, and the truth is that your government cut health spending by \$18.6 million this year.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — The truth is that people are making decisions on whether they buy prescription drugs or whether they buy groceries. Mr. Premier, that's the truth. And, Mr. Premier, let's talk about the truth. People don't want your speeches; they don't want your evasions; they want to know, will you now listen, in view of the fact that 100,000 people in this province have sent you a message and they do not want your version of the truth. They want you to rescind and change your health care cut-backs.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the truth will speak for itself. Sixty-three per cent increase in health care expenditures and the budget up 63 per cent. Every increase in health care expenditures that we have done, like the new chiropody program, Mr. Speaker, and particularly senior citizens have encouraged us to have a chiropody program to help them be more mobile. Every single issue that we've put in our health budget has been voted against by the NDP — and that's the truth, Mr. Speaker, because it's on the record in this Assembly — every single, solitary budget in Health, and the increase of a 63 per cent since 1982, has been voted on against by the NDP — every single one, Mr. Speaker. And I am going to take the opportunity to get that information to senior citizens across this province, and to other people, Mr. Speaker — every single, solitary one that they have voted against.

And when we talk about a new chiropody program and we talk about the fact that extra billing has been removed, Mr. Speaker, and the new nursing home construction, and the fact that the new leader of the NDP would not only have a moratorium but he would say, new hospital construction for senior citizens is a waste of money — and he's on the record of saying that, Mr. Speaker — there's going to be an awful lot of Saskatchewan people are going to like to know the truth about the NDP and what they really believe.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1530)

### Cuts to Health Care

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I too have a question to the Premier. And my question addresses the matter of how Saskatchewan people's trust has been betrayed by this government. Mr. Premier, you didn't say a thing about the cuts to health care during the provincial election of last October, not once. And at that time you were promising to improve and expand health care services. Those are the facts, Mr. Premier, of the situation.

And you did the same thing in past elections. I bring to your attention a campaign brochure which you personally signed — you personally signed — and I quote from it in part:

A new PC government will place great emphasis on improving the delivery of health services by expanding the drug plan.

That's what you said, sir. That's the truth. Why did you betray that promise, Mr. Premier?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, we said that we would provide the very best health care program in Canada, and the best health care facilities, and increase expenditures dramatically, regardless of economic conditions, Mr. Speaker. And the truth is, that has happened.

The largest increases in health care expenditures, more hospital beds, more cancer clinics, more nursing home capacity, Mr. Speaker, more CAT scans, more new facility, more operations, more dollars per capita than ever in the history of the province of Saskatchewan, and every one of those measures was voted against by the NDP. They refused to vote for increases in health care, and they're on the record here, Mr. Speaker.

So they can stand in their place today and say . . . If I might, Mr. Speaker, if you take the last five years, the last five years of our administration versus the last five years of the NDP administration, Mr. Speaker, their increases in health care expenditures were two percentage points, ours were 9.7, almost a five-fold difference, Mr. Speaker, in the percentage increase and the percentage encouragement for health care. And when we do increase it, they vote against it, Mr. Speaker, and they're on the record of doing so.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Never before in the history of Saskatchewan has there been a petition of over 100,000 names presented in this legislature.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I ask the Premier to deal with the truth. I ask him: does he deny — in my supplementary — does he deny his own brochure that said a new PC government will place great emphasis on improving the delivery of health services by expanding the drug plan, but instead has cut it back so that people are suffering like they have never had to suffer before in the purchase of their prescription drugs?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada and the people of Saskatchewan are not going to buy make-up stories by the opposition with respect to the facts in either funding or on programs, Mr. Speaker. If I can quote the leader, the new leader of the NDP on . . . the member from Riversdale, Mr. Speaker. He says:

Underfunding in the sense of failure to fund treatment has not been substantiated. (That's what he says.) Indeed there is evidence of significant remaining inefficient and effective care, suggesting that underfunding argument is primarily aimed at increasing physicians' incomes and expanding their access to publicly provided capital equipment.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in government, they didn't fund it nearly as high as we did. When the NDP had a chance, they didn't remove extra billing, Mr. Speaker. When the NDP had an opportunity to build new nursing homes, they stood up and said, no, that's not the answer. And the new leader of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, the member from Riversdale, has said we can't ever get into the trap of building new facilities. And that's why they don't vote for new facilities and health care expenditures because they don't believe in it. They just talk a good story, and that's

why they have been defeated twice on the health care issues as well as many others, because the people know they just talk; they don't deliver.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the Premier. Mr. Premier, I have here another promise which your party made to the people of Saskatchewan regarding health care. This promise, Mr. Speaker, has the heading, and I quote, "Guarantee," and I want to read to you what it reads in part. It says that:

The PC party of Saskatchewan is committed to continue the medicare system. The PC party of Saskatchewan will abolish the unfair deterrent fees for prescription drugs.

Mr. Premier, this guarantee was signed by your Minister of Finance, the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden who brought in this budget that we're debating now. I ask you, Mr. Premier, why did your party and your Minister of Finance make this promise when you never intended to keep it?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the members opposite have this position of the NDP. Certainly, the NDP have across the province, and I believe that the media have. And I just point out, Mr. Speaker, that their record is clear and our record is clear. Their record in terms of expenditures is there and ours is here, Mr. Speaker.

And the new solution is this: the member from Riversdale says we have to ration medical technology, Mr. Speaker. Then he goes on to say, building more institutions for the aged is a road to disaster. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's precisely why they vote against these kinds of increases for seniors. That's why they're against the new drug and rehabilitation centre at Yorkton. They are afraid, Mr. Speaker, to spend money on health care. The new leader of the NDP is on record as saying, don't build it for seniors, ration technology, Mr. Speaker, ration it. That's why they vote against the budget increases.

And, Mr. Speaker, when you give them the truth, when you give them the truth they sit over there and they laugh, Mr. Speaker. They're ashamed of the truth; they're ashamed of their record; they're ashamed of their voting patterns. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, they're ashamed of their electorate record because, Mr. Speaker, they weren't successful for the second time in a row, and the fourth time in the last two decades.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Drug Abuse by Senior Citizens

**Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, a few days ago on the Premier's free-time TV political broadcast, he suggested that it was his plan to make it more difficult for Saskatchewan people to buy prescription drugs as a way to avoid drug abuse.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: is it really your position, Mr. Premier, that the sick and the elderly are drug abusers, and that their doctors are wrong in prescribing them their medication?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a classic case where the NDP are hidebound by their philosophy and have to live in the past. Physicians are telling us, and I believe you have seen, Mr. Speaker, research by specialists that are dealing with senior citizens, and it's been quoted in major newspapers across the country, the research that's coming forward, and saying, by the painful — by the painful — senior citizens have access, Mr. Speaker, to prescribed drugs, and it can cause problems.

Now the NDP won't face the youth problem with respect to drug and alcohol abuse. They turn their minds away from it. They won't recognize the problem with drug abuse with senior citizens. They won't recognize the fact that it is the number one social problem facing North America today, associated with drug and alcohol abuse, Mr. Speaker.

And then when we allocate new money to it in our budget — new money — what do they do, Mr. Speaker? The members opposite vote against the new money for health care. They're on the record. Every single time they voted against the increases, Mr. Speaker. We're going to make it public to all citizens, and particularly senior citizens and the youth, so they know the record of the NDP with respect to health care expenditures.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Premier, I want to get this very clear. Are you saying that the people who take prescribed medication on a regular basis really don't need it? Are you saying that every family doctor is a drug pusher?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — See, Mr. Speaker, how they don't tell the truth to the people and they give them half-truths. The NDP have been doing this all their lives, Mr. Speaker. They will not recognize there's a drug problem in society. They won't recognize it.

And over there, Mr. Speaker, each and every one of them will stand up and say, oh no, that's not the case. You better turn your head, you better put your head in the sand and not deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, we have the courage to deal with today's contemporary problems. They might like to live in the past, but the families and the parents and the children of senior citizens who notice drug abuse are saying yes, somebody should deal with it. and thank goodness the NDP aren't in power because they would be afraid to deal with it on one hand; secondly, they wouldn't finance it, Mr. Speaker, because they didn't in the past.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Cuts to Children's Dental Plan

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, and it deals with the destruction of the school-based children's dental program which has thrown hundreds of people out of work and meant hardships for the families, especially in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Premier, your own figures, latest figures that I have seen show that you have cut 330 rural communities serving 392 schools with the drug plan. You have cut that back to 93 dentists in 71 communities. I want you to tell those rural families just how that represents an improved system.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, if you go into rural Saskatchewan and you ask them what the number one problem is, facing farmers in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order!

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, they don't want to listen to the truth. You ask farmers the number one problem. You listen — you listen. You ask them the number one problem in Saskatchewan and it isn't the one-time visit to the dentist, Mr. Speaker. That's not the number one problem.

The number one problem is farm income and the price of wheat, Mr. Speaker. And the NDP have even got that confused. They think the number one rural problem is the single visit to the dentist on an annual basis. That's their rural solution. I mean, they just stood up. The Agriculture critic for the NDP just said the number one agriculture problem in rural Saskatchewan is the visit to the dentist.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have agriculture specialists all across this province, and I would venture to say that most likely, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't agree with the hon. member, and he should be ashamed of himself to even stand there and say that he represents agriculture for the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this. Rural people appreciate the fact that they can receive deficiency payments, Mr. Speaker. They can receive up to \$10,000 per family as a result of things that the Progressive Conservative government has done in the province and nationally, that the NDP never, ever did for rural families. In fact what they did, and the member from Riversdale did, was succession duties, land bank, death taxes, and high interest rates, Mr. Speaker. And that's their legacy to agriculture.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Free Trade Adjustment Mechanism

**Mr. Goodale:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. It has to do with the proposed free trade agreement. I want to ask the Premier about the proposed adjustment mechanism that will be required for Canadian producers and exporters in the wake of any such agreement.

The Government of Canada has of course talked about that, but to date has not provided any detail about any such mechanism. The Premier has said there will be, for example, such a mechanism specifically related to the two-price wheat program, but again, as yet we don't have any detail.

I would like to ask the Premier when the precise details of this program with respect to two-price wheat and all the other adjustment programs are going to be published; and can we have the assurance from the Premier that there will be full details of all and any adjustment programs published publicly and available in this legislature before Canada is called upon to ratify any treaty with the United States?

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have till 1989, in January, to begin the whole process of trade-related activities with the United States, and then a 10-year program of phasing down tariffs, so eventually tariffs will go to zero.

(1545)

Now over that period of time, and certainly between now and 1989, January, which is over a year, they will be, and I believe federally and provincially, fleshing out adjustment mechanisms that will apply, new mechanisms that will apply to individuals that may have to adjust because of resource allocations and adjustments.

So I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister has said that there will be new money allocated to adjustment mechanisms, and the process would be in co-operation with the provinces and with the industrial SAGITS (Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade), the general economic analysis that has taken place sector by sector, and saying this is the kind of money that you may need here; here's a kind of adjustment process you may need here, and so forth.

So it's a question of time, and it will be available over a 10-year period as we move into . . . gradually move into it, and the specific details of it, I think, will take some time to be developed.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **Increase in Nursing Home Fees**

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a new question and it is addressed to the Premier. It will be short, concise, and based on fact. Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the hardship that your fee increases are causing senior citizens and the disabled in Saskatchewan. On November 1, nursing home fees will increase again, and that makes an 18 per cent increase in the course of this year. This last summer you raised home care fees over 66 per cent.

Mr. Premier, my question is this: why are you attempting to solve your deficit problem with the savings accounts and the pensions of Saskatchewan seniors?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McLeod:** — Mr. Speaker, since the question deals with a detailed response in terms of the charges in the nursing home . . . to nursing home residence, I will be pleased to respond to the member's question. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the following: the maximum old age security, GIS (guaranteed income supplement) and Saskatchewan income plan benefits, the maximum of those benefits will provide for \$103 of disposable income for any resident of a nursing home in Saskatchewan now. There will be \$103 of disposable income. Now, Mr. Speaker, you must have some type of fair way to deal with this, and we have that formula in place now. And that formula is such that 85.7 per cent of OAS (old age security) GIS (guaranteed income supplement), and Saskatchewan income plan, which is the amount that is available to the person most in need, to the person most in need — 85.7 per cent of that goes for the resident charge, and if we go back, Mr. Speaker, to 1981, the time before we were in the government, when they were in the government, the amount that was charged was 85.6 per cent of those same three benefits. Mr. Speaker, that is a reasonable formula. That's a formula that's been kept up over this period of this amount of time. It's reasonable, and it stands the most important test, Mr. Speaker, and that is the test of fairness, and it stands that well.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **Waiting Lists for Saskatoon Hospitals**

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, my question deals with your announcement that you made the other day on your TV show that you would deal with the long waiting lists in Saskatoon, and let me remind the Premier that the waiting lists in Saskatoon are still over 11,000.

Mr. Premier, you said that the doctors and nurses and the operating staff people would have to now work overtime, weekends, and in the evenings in order to perform the extra operations. These people, Mr. Premier — these people, Mr. Premier, object very strenuously to this assembly line operation type that you're setting up, and they are telling you that fatigue has no place in the operating room. Mr. Premier, can you tell me now how many staff have you made available to those three hospitals to do those extra operations? How many staff have you made available now?

**Hon. Mr. McLeod:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to point out very clearly to the member from Saskatoon South — I might add who was the former minister of Health — let me just quote from May 13, *Hansard* of May 13, 1980, when that member who just took his seat was the minister of Health. And I quote: "I think it would be irresponsible of this government if there weren't a waiting list," said the minister who was the minister at that time. That's what he said, I think it would be irresponsible. Now he stands in a different mode and tells us this.

But, Mr. Speaker, the most important aspect of this, and I have said it on several occasions in this House before, and I will say it again for the member from Saskatoon South and his colleagues, there are two approaches that must be taken to the waiting list problem in Saskatoon,



and we have acknowledged the fact that there is that problem.

Long-term, which is the plan which has been in place for some time, and there is the regeneration of those hospitals and the construction of those hospitals that's going on in Saskatoon now, and has been going on since this government took office, Mr. Speaker. That was the legacy that we were left by them — the need for regeneration of the major hospitals in Saskatoon. In good years they did not regenerate those hospitals. That was the legacy we were left. That was the challenge that we undertook, and we rose to that challenge and those hospitals are being built.

And as it relates to the short term as a waiting list, Mr. Speaker, we have various measures in place and more will be there in terms of the day surgery unit which you've heard about before at City Hospital in Saskatoon — 2,500 more surgeries, many others. And there will be \$1 million into directed money at the specialty areas which are causing the log-jam, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Before orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I rise to table a document . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. We're not at orders of the day.

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Before orders of the day I rise to table a document signed by 165 residents of Saskatchewan. This document calls on the Minister of Health to stop punishing elderly people and low income families with cuts to the Saskatchewan prescription drug plan and the Saskatchewan dental plan. It states that these changes are an extreme hardship to thousands of Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has not been prepared in a formal way for presentation to the Legislative Assembly under rule 11. This petition is signed by residents of many of Saskatchewan's communities including Christopher Lake, Anglin Lake, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Bruno, Yorkton, Viscount, Plunkett, Aberdeen, Warman, Osler, and Asquith.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### MOTION UNDER RULE 16

#### Privatization of Government Services

**Mr. Martin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 16 I move, seconded by the member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster:

That this Assembly recognizing that all partners in the legislature have endorsed the concept of privatization of some government services, now encourage the government to pursue the provision

of government services . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. Allow the member for Regina Wascana to continue.

**Mr. Martin:** — I will move my motion at the end of my remarks, if that's acceptable.

Mr. Speaker:

. . . recognizing that all parties in this legislature have endorsed a concept of privatization of some government services, now encourage the government to pursue the provision of government services through the use of public participation in the private sector in order that these services can be provided to the public in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

I make this motion, Mr. Speaker, because it gives all members an opportunity to make their views on the whole question of privatization clear. There's much discussion in the media, and even in this Assembly, by members of the same party giving out quite different positions on exactly where they stand.

So I would begin the debate by making a direct and special invitation to the yet to be, but soon to be new leader of the NDP, the member from Riversdale, to participate in this debate. He especially has an obligation to let the people know where he stands on such a fundamental issue, since he clearly aspires to be in our province's highest political office.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I would invite the member of Regina Rosemont to pitch into the discussion, since I for one would like the confirmation of his statements that massive government intervention is a solution to our economic challenges. He has been reasonably forthcoming in the past about this position, and I would hope that he would be forthcoming in this debate. Perhaps at the end of the debate then, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to figure out exactly how the conflicting positions of the NDP are able to co-exist; the position of those who say privatization's okay so long as the people are in favour, and that of those who say privatization is wrong anywhere; that it is even remotely possible to have the government doing whatever it is that is being done. So I invite particularly those two, Mr. Speaker, to get into this debate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak a bit about the concept of privatization itself. Maybe one useful approach would be to do a "before and after." The first before and after we can look at, Mr. Speaker, is the NDP position itself on private ownership. Now the NDP would certainly rank Tommy Douglas as an authority they respect. His before is the *Regina Manifesto*. The manifesto, Mr. Speaker, the founding document of the CCF and later the NDP, states, and I quote, that:

(State) Planning by itself will be of little use if the public authority has not the power to carry its plans into effect. Such power will require the control of finance and all those vital industries and services, which, if they remain in private hands,

can be used to thwart or corrupt the will of the public authority. (The state) Control of finance is the first step in control of the whole economy.

That was before Tommy Douglas exercised power in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. What did he do when he gained power? What was his afterthought? Well as premier of this province, in this Assembly on February 22, 1950, Mr. Douglas had this to say:

We have taken the position that for a government in this province to take huge sums of money and invest it in looking for minerals would put this province in a financial position which would jeopardize its security. Therefore, we will allow private enterprise to come in here and look for minerals . . . That, if they come in, we will give them security on two points: one, that if they find certain resources, they will be allowed to develop them; and secondly, that if they set up the machinery for developing, they will not be expropriated.

Those two categorical assurances have been given, and I repeat them here this afternoon.

Well what happened there, Mr. Speaker? Well, Mr. Douglas says that there was a need for capital in the province, a need for investment dollars, and a need for someone willing to take the risk. He recognized the risk and was unwilling to have the taxpayer assume that risk. He also recognized that no private investor would take that risk under a threat of government take-over, so he provided assurances such as a take-over . . . against such as a take-over.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there's another after, and that is the after Tommy Douglas was no longer the leader of the NDP — the after when the member from Saskatoon Riversdale held sway over the resource policy of this province. They figured that Tommy Douglas was wrong somehow, and they did in fact provide the mechanism for expropriating the private owners of minerals in this province. They forced the potash industry to sell out to the government or face a gruelling expropriation procedure.

So that was after Tommy Douglas, but it was also before, Mr. Speaker. It was the before of that government because they too had a change of heart. Mr. Speaker, while we were still in opposition in 1982, we had a document leaked to us. It was a copy of the minutes of a board meeting of the Crown investments corporation of the NDP government. And surprise, surprise, Mr. Speaker! It provided for a plan to implement privatization in Saskatchewan.

The government of that day also came around to realizing that capital is a scarce resource indeed and that risks are part and parcel of investment. They came around to that realization too late to save the people of this province from the horrendous losses incurred by the state-owned potash corporation and the other state-owned enterprises, but at least they did come around.

The minutes of that meeting, Mr. Speaker, state, and I quote, that "Capital rationing for Crown investments has

become a reality." And because of that and other things, Mr. Speaker, they agreed to create "a program to provide Saskatchewan residents an opportunity to make equity investments in Saskatchewan enterprises."

So we can see that even that government, the NDP, endorsed privatization, although to what degree and in what manner, it is fair to say, we are uncertain. For before they could proceed with their own privatization plans, an election intervened and new management was put in place in Saskatchewan.

I think some other history might be helpful to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. The member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg might like to note of the position of one leader of the Liberals, and someone, I understand, who is philosophically quite close to that hon. member, Mr. Davey Stuart.

May 25, 1975 edition of the *Leader-Post* stated the position of the Liberal Party, at least at that time. He said, and I quote:

Once the oil producers begin stepping up production and exploration in the province, a Liberal government would either phase out Saskoil or restructure it as a research and trading operation.

(1600)

Now that is not quite the same kind of privatization that we have practised, but it is a most thorough one. Because to phase out the company, the government would have to sell off all of its assets.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can see that the part of the motion that says, "All parties in this legislature have endorsed the concept of privatization of some government activities," is absolutely 100 per cent accurate.

Mr. Speaker, in our democratic system it is indeed possible to have both private ownership and public accountability. This is accomplished quite simply through government regulations, through policies on taxation, through direct consultations with business. It is also accomplished rather directly, Mr. Speaker, through the passage of laws to which businesses are as accountable as any other entities in our society and arguably more so than government institutions.

Let me refresh the memories of members, Mr. Speaker, regarding the accountability of state-owned business. You will recall a time under the previous administration, the NDP administration, when there was a significant spill of tailings at a uranium mine in which the government had ownership. You will recall that that spill was covered and that the public was not informed. That is an example of state-owned business accountability, as shameful as it was at the time.

Because what happens is that the same people who are breaking laws or hiding things are the people charged with enforcing those laws or making those things public. So, Mr. Speaker, privatization is a positive tool for ensuring the greatest possible efficiency while at the same

time ensuring the most effective accountability.

Now when we speak of privatization, we must be reasonable. I know that it is difficult for certain members of this House to have a reasonable discussion on the issue, but in fairness they must do their best. There's no rationality in saying, because I support privatizing the commercial operation owned by the government, that somehow by extension, I support privatizing my local elementary school. That would be absurd. And I caution the members who are apt to make those kinds of claims, that the people have worn weary of those scare tactics.

I will ask the members opposite, is there anything, even one thing that you still think there should be public participation in? Or have you changed your minds yet again since January of '82 when you had developed your own privatization program? If you haven't changed your minds, then do us the service of telling us what services you would allow. In the words of your ministerial board — Saskatchewan residents, an opportunity to make equity investments in. Perhaps the member from Regina North East might like to address that question since he was a member of the board that approved the privatization plan.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited at the prospect that privatization offers our province. We have seen just tremendous results in Saskoil. That firm has become a truly major player as the result of its entry into the market, and it will grow more in the future. That means more jobs, more wealth for this province, more opportunity across the board, and more opportunity for our young people.

I'm anxious to see a number of other areas explored for privatization as well. I think the approach of getting private sector auditors involved, for example, is an excellent approach. And while I'm on the matter of private auditors, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to remind the member from Saskatoon Riversdale of his own observations in April of '81, recorded in *Hansard*. And again I quote:

My perception is that the provincial auditor is to make sure that the expenditure of the public dollar is carried out according to the statutory and other dictates of the legislature. I think in some areas such as a proliferation of Crown corporations, we have in the province of Saskatchewan a different kind of nuance involved, if you will, a degree of financial accountability perhaps not directly through the provincial auditor; otherwise, you would have to have a massive provincial auditor's bureaucracy. And even at that you would never be able to just run through the family of Crown corporations, plus the big spending departments. It can't be done.

That was said by the minister from Riversdale . . . rather the member from Riversdale, and I close that quote.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all of those were the words of the member for Riversdale, the heir apparent to the NDP leadership.

I'll tell you that I've never heard a better argument for

privatizing some of the auditing services performed for the government as the one that he gave in that speech in 1981, and so I strongly urge the government to accept the member from Riversdale's assessment of the situation and to proceed with that privatization as quickly as possible, hopefully with the full co-operation of the opposition in light of the soon-to-be leader's strong stand on this specific case for privatization.

Mr. Speaker, I expect that I likely would favour a greater degree of privatization than members opposite. I believe in fact that every government activity that is not a direct social service, such as education or health care, is a reasonable candidate for examination.

This does not mean that they are all suitable for privatization. But we need not be apolitic and say that they cannot even be looked at. If we do not look, we can never know, and I am not one who advocates hiding from knowledge.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, when the opposition lost all control of its senses when it was announced that the government would investigate privatizing the Prince Albert pulp mill. They cried out as if the sky were falling in. Don't do it, they said. Don't even think about the possibility. Only terrible things can result if we do.

Well the government did think about it and studied it, and the government found an interesting buyer that offered just some tremendous advantages for the province, one of which was a construction of an all-new paper mill which would open up new markets for us in the States and provide a new source of jobs and incomes for this province.

What do the NDP say to that, Mr. Speaker? Well, they said it will never happen; you've been taken in by a bunch of — what is it they call them? — oh yes, a bunch of rapacious capitalists. You're being taken in by a bunch of rapacious capitalists, they said. I'm not even sure they could spell the word, but they said it none the less. The paper mill will never be built, they said — said the ever-pessimistic NDP.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a bit behind schedule, but I challenge the NDP members from Prince Albert to ask their constituents if they think that they are hallucinating. Is all that construction work a mass fantasy? Are all those people working on the job site dreaming? Mr. Speaker, of course it is being built, and it is a great benefit for Prince Albert and an important contribution to . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. I would like to remind the hon. member that his time is running out and he should put his motion before his time runs out — move his motion.

**Mr. Martin:** — Okay.

That this Assembly endorse the concept of public participation and/or privatizing in the area of the commercial Crown sector and in the area of the provision of government services, where it can be demonstrated that those services can be provided in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

I move it, seconded by the member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me an absolute pleasure to be able to stand in this Assembly and speak to the motion in rule 16. As we all know in this Assembly, and indeed the people all throughout the province of Saskatchewan, we definitely know that the NDP, the opposition in this House, is totally opposed to privatization and free trade in Saskatchewan, and indeed all across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that due to the fact that they are so opposed to free trade and privatization in this province and across Canada, this is now a theatrical performance by the NDP in this House that we have seen now for 99 days, opposing all these incentive programs that we have to build in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I way to say I have a fairly extensive speech written here, but basically, you know, there's so many different avenues a person can speak on as to what these people have said in this Assembly over this last 99 days that it is totally appalling that anybody across this province would even listen, let alone vote for these individuals — radical, left-wing individuals.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say that when I look at privatization I look at economic benefits for all people of Saskatchewan — for the youth. And this is what life is all about, Mr. Speaker. It is the youth of this province, the youth that is going to support the seniors of this province.

We have had an indication this afternoon of an NDP manipulated bunch of petitions presented to this Assembly. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, if I added up all the names that were presented here in this Assembly today, it would be probably in the neighbourhood of about 50 per cent of the total population in this province that have backed the NDP in the last . . . in the 1986 election. They scraped and they turned every rock in this province to get a petition presented here in this Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, on the privatization, on the privatization Bill . . . or on the privatization that we are trying to institute in this province to give these incentives to our young people so as to support the seniors in this province in their health care and in making life easier for them, they vote against every single positive thing that we seem to bring into this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, you know I don't often get upset and mad; I seem to be able to hold my cool, but sometimes, Mr. Speaker, sometimes you know we have to talk to kids in kind of a different way. I would say that the children in our schools act a whole lot more adult-like than the contribution we have had from the NDP opposition in this legislature. For 99 days they talk about privatization; they want to talk about privatization and the jobs. I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are wasting our time in this Assembly by putting up with their type of rhetoric and waste of the precious Assembly time — 99 days where I

could be out telling the people about our incentive programs; what free trade and privatization is going to do for this province.

I'll tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have countless, numerous phone calls from my riding, of people that are totally interested in this movement. Forty-nine per cent in the last national poll, Mr. Deputy Speaker, were in favour of free trade and privatization across this country, and they are opposed, absolutely opposed. And I will tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that being opposed to that, as they were opposed to our provincial budgets throughout, since 1982, that they are opposed to us being able to support the senior citizens in this province by being able to collect through the privatization, by privatization, being able to create these jobs so that we can, as a government, collect tax to give the seniors that support they need in future health care problems so that we can extend . . .

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** — Order. I would ask the member to keep his comments on the motion that is before the Assembly. The member for Cut Knife-Lloydminster.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Well, thank you. I'll accept your ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Like I said, it's very seldom I get upset, but I want you to realize I was trying to relate it to privatization. But I hope that when the opposition stand up, you will not allow them to relate things to privatization. That is their silly little tricks that they try to use in this House, and I appreciate your ruling.

I would like to say though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it used to be that proponents of privatization were viewed much the same as supporters of nationalization. And that has been driven by ideology. Today, Mr. Speaker, we find the concept of privatization being championed by governments of every political stripe — other than the fact of the members opposite, I should say — from the conservative to other socialist parties and as far as the communist parties are concerned.

(1615)

Why is this happening, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you may ask? It's happening because in almost every case privatization makes good economic sense. It definitely creates an optimism for our youth. It gives all sorts of opportunities and spin-offs to help in the realms of job creation, as I had indicated earlier.

That is why we see the curious cases presented by the Labour governments of Australia and New Zealand. In both countries we see government services being turned over to the private sector, departments turned into Crown corporations, and public participation being invited through sale of Crown corporations shares. Here we have two very socialist governments doing what would have once appeared to be a very anti-socialist thing to do.

I make this point, Mr. Speaker, since members opposite like to paint our privatization efforts as being driven by ideology. This is not the case, Mr. Speaker. Since our party come to power in 1982, we have made it clear that we would be re-examining the role of Crown corporations and the function and delivery of

government services.

This was not a secret, Mr. Speaker. We said that cost effectiveness would be the primary consideration in our decisions, and yes, we made some changes. Road construction is now done by private contractors because it made economic sense, not because of ideology — it made economic sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it created a competition out there. It drove road construction prices down because of the competition, and we are building today more miles of highway for least dollars that were spent under the previous administration's government.

Cable TV operators now own their transmission hardware — something that the member for Saskatoon Riversdale was strongly opposed when he was in government, but I suspect that he may have softened his views since the light of his recent statements. It seems that for him, at least, ideology is taking a back seat to a pragmatism of sorts. Unfortunately for him, I doubt that all of his colleagues share that view, and it is very, very . . . it shows very clear that that caucus opposite is split on this issue and many others.

But the people of Saskatchewan can see that privatization presents a number of interesting opportunities — a more effective, efficient delivery of government services, for example, and an opportunity to participate in the development of Saskatchewan through buying bonds and shares in Crown corporations; these are very real, very exciting opportunities . . .

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, the government has an obsession. It has an obsession to pursue the dogma of privatization. This PC government has a fanatical obsession to privatize, and I say that that is both immoral and impractical, and it's hurting thousands of Saskatchewan residents.

Following my remarks today, Mr. Speaker, I will be moving an amendment to this motion, and the amendment which will ask:

That all the words after the word "Assembly" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

. . . condemns the Government of Saskatchewan for its narrow, impractical and ideological plan to sell off Saskatchewan public assets and public services, which will cost Saskatchewan jobs, reduce services to Saskatchewan people, reduce Saskatchewan people's control of our provincial economy, and thereby harm the interests of all Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's and this government's narrow, ideological, and unwise position to privatize Saskatchewan is nothing more than a scorched earth policy. I charge the Premier — I charge

him with plundering and ploughing under the carefully nurtured and flourishing social and economic growth that we were so fortunate to inherit from the work of many generations of Saskatchewan people.

By doing this, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is telling me that he does not believe in a Saskatchewan as we know it. By embracing privatization dogmatically he is telling me that Saskatchewan is no good. He is telling me that Saskatchewan must be changed. He is saying that he does not believe in the Saskatchewan system that we have in place.

Instead of adopting a positive approach to fine tuning and improving our widely accepted government services, our Premier is taking a fanatical approach for political purposes. And I say that instead of being sensitive to and practical about the needs of Saskatchewan, we are just getting more and more of the Premier's ideological propaganda and patronage through privatization.

But why is it — why is it, Mr. Speaker, that this government is so dogmatically hidebound to the privatization strategy? Why is it that this government has chosen to yield to the advice of outsiders — the right wing ideologies of the Fraser Institute and the extremist plots of Madsen Pirie, the guru of the Adam Smith Institute, that centre of outmoded economic theory, that theory which, when put into practice, has resulted in hardship for all in the past, Mr. Speaker. This was evidenced by the stock market crash in 1929, and that foolish theory of the Adam Smith economics is even partially evidenced once again today in the stock market crash we are experiencing currently.

Why is it that our Premier is pursuing this unpractical, dogmatic, privatization ideology? I say it's a dismal solution put forward by a Premier who is now reacting in terror to a \$3.4 billion provincial deficit of his own construction. He desperately looked for a solution to his own mismanagement, and this government is desperately looking for a way to recover from its unpopularity.

So what are they doing? Well simply put, Mr. Speaker, they are selling out Saskatchewan assets to private interest to obtain operating capital. Remember that the interest alone on the 3.4 billion debt amounts to \$340 for every man, woman, and child in Saskatchewan, or for an average family over \$1,000 per family per year.

And to make this policy of privatization appear popular, they sell off the shares of a chosen Crown corporation at a fraction of the market value. In other words, they dump the shares in the market. And I say it's not right, and it's a blatant betrayal of the people of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — While Saskatchewan people are given the opportunity to buy shares in the Crown corporations, the reality is most Saskatchewan residents can only afford to buy small amounts of this stock. Large amounts of this stock are sold to a small number of institutional or corporate investors and out-of-province Tory friends.

These investors gain quick profits on a far larger scale.

The assets which the people of Saskatchewan now own collectively are sold off only for a fraction of their real value. And Saskoil is the best example to date of this favouritism in their privatization.

The PC government offers tax breaks to its friends buying already undervalued Saskoil shares. Two-thirds of these shares were sold to out-of-province residents while many Saskatchewan people were not even able to get their orders filled. Out-of-province Saskatchewan residents got a major bonus from the Saskatchewan treasury. The Saskoil share offering just proves the government gives away too much to the rich when it privatizes.

Meanwhile the poor are left to service the rising debt caused by the loss of equity. This government believes ordinary taxpayers should suffer major tax increases and major cuts in service, while at the same time bonuses are given to investors. Now that is one example of privatization in the commercial field.

And I say selling Saskatchewan assets to gain favour with friends of the Conservatives at cost to the ordinary taxpayer is immoral, Mr. Speaker, but what is even more cruel is the privatization of our social and health services. And I'm talking, Mr. Speaker, about the privatization of services to the mentally retarded, the privatization of our school dental program, the privatization of the drug plan, the prescription drug plan.

Let me elaborate first of all, Mr. Speaker, on the dogmatic privatization of services to the mentally retarded. Now, Mr. Speaker, at North Park Centre, an institute in Prince Albert, there were 180 mentally retarded senior residents who loved that, and used that as their home — 180 residents are now being forced to move against their wishes. They were not . . . this dogmatic approach led to their government now asking them to find a place to live, or the doors will be closed at the end of February in 1988.

What will it lead to? It will lead to no respite care for these people. It will lead to dislocation, displacement. It will lead to a loss of jobs for a hundred workers in Prince Albert. And worst of all, Mr. Speaker, it was dogmatic and it was not asked for. And what we're hearing, Mr. Speaker, is that not only are they going to stop at privatizing North Park Centre but some of these people who will not have homes found are being moved to Valley View, and in the long run those people in Valley View will also be asked to move and be privatized.

Mr. Speaker, from that one example — I want to bring my remarks to a conclusion — from that example we can see that this government's dogmatic approach to privatization is not practical. What could be practical about forcing mentally retarded seniors out of North Park Centre? What could be practical about forcing parents of children in the rural area to drive miles and miles and take days off from the children to school to drive them to dentists? What could be practical about forcing people to pay hundreds of dollars up front for the prescription drug plan?

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, and seconded by the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake:

That all the words after the "Assembly" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

. . . condemns the Government of Saskatchewan for its narrow, impractical, and ideological plan to sell off Saskatchewan public assets and public services, which will cost Saskatchewan jobs, reduce services to Saskatchewan people, reduce Saskatchewan people's control of our provincial economy, and thereby harm the interests of all Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gave me a great deal of pleasure to second the amendment by the member from Prince Albert, and with good reason. As I read through the motion under Rule 16, the end of the motion reads that:

(They want to privatize) . . . where it can be demonstrated that those services can be provided in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Well, let's have a look at the record in Saskatchewan thus far. This government has been guided and run by Madsen Pirie and the Fraser Institute; there can be no doubt that that's the direction of the government. And because of the kind of direction that this government has embarked upon, they've hurt a lot of small-business people in this province. And it now seems that they're willing to divert their eyes to the Crown corporate sector, Crown corporations, and that's on the list for the privatization.

(1630)

Now some people have said to me, perhaps it's not even that bad of an idea that we should get rid of the Crown corporations, given the kind of management that these people have thrust upon those corporations — they've been losing money for the most part. And I think there might even be a feeling out there that the sooner they get rid of these corporations, the sooner they'll quit losing more and more of the people's equity that they've built up over the years.

And I said I wanted to talk about some examples of privatization, and I want to make some remarks about a comment made by the member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster in terms of this privatization venture they're embarking upon being the creator of jobs for the young people.

**An Hon. Member:** — Exactly.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well the member says, exactly. Maybe he can explain to the members of this House and the people of this province why we've lost so many of our young people. And you've already been on some of the privatization deal that you want to pull.

Well let's have a look at one of your privatization operations. Let's have a look at the Department of Highways. You sold \$40 million worth of equipment for \$6 million. Now that might mean good business sense to you, but I tell you, I'll tell the member from Cut

Knife-Lloyd it doesn't mean good business sense to the people of this province. And I'd like him to tell me how the sale of \$40 million worth of equipment for \$6 million has created employment, Mr. Member? Well I tell you, you start looking in the rural communities and look at all of the young people that are actually out trying to find work, and how many of those people have been employed because of your privatization of the Department of Highways? I can show you the reverse scenario. I can show you a bunch that used to be employed by that Crown corporation who are sitting on unemployment right now.

But my colleague from Prince Albert indicates it's an ideological thing that you're about; it's a philosophical bent you're on; you're listening to Madsen Pirie, and you're listening to the Fraser Institute. You've got absolutely no concept of what has built this province and the fact that we've used three different sectors to build this province and to create a stable economy.

We've used the public sector and the private sector and the corporate sector and the co-operative sector. We've used all of those. And I want to tell you, Mr. Member, we're going to continue to use all of those when the people of this province turf you people from government. And the reason, I say, is because we want to create a stable environment for working people and for business people, for young and for old. And we can do that by a mixed economy that we once had, we still have, but I'm afraid we won't have if you're bent on this privatization journey of yours.

And he can yip and he can yap. If he wants to talk about Saskoil, let's talk about Saskoil. You sold off shares of Saskoil, and you know as well as I know that 60-some per cent of those shares are no longer owned in this province. And I want to also tell that member that he should also note that that corporation, instead of investing in this province where it was designed to invest, invests in our neighbouring province of Alberta. Has that created jobs for Saskatchewan people?

Mr. Speaker, if you want to call him to order, he might be able to listen, instead of yapping and chirping, and he might better understand what's happened to the Crown corporations in the province under the hands of this government and privatization.

You tell me, Mr. Member, how many people have in this province, how many people in this province have benefited by the privatization of Saskoil? How many young people has it employed?

**An Hon. Member:** — Lots.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — The minister says, lots. Forty thousand unemployed in this province, up from 20,000. Tell he how it's helped. I say to you, you're hell-bent on an ideological course. You aren't looking at the economics of what you're doing. It's a philosophical bent you're on, and I say you're wrong, and the people of this province are going to say you're wrong.

You've privatized the dental plan, and you've put 400 dental nurses out of work. And has that created

employment? You've taken services away from 338 communities and it's no longer available. You're looking at something like 75 communities where that service is available. So your privatization has created no jobs. In fact it's lost jobs.

**An Hon. Member:** — He's misleading the House again.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well he says I'm misleading the House. You sat in here the say day I did, Mr. Member, when all of those people were in here that you had fired, and all of them were in here looking for some help from you, and you sat there on your hands. And I tell you that there are some 400 people out of work that shouldn't be and wouldn't be if it wasn't for you.

Saskoil — 70 per cent of the shares that were privatized are out of the province now . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well how do you see that as being good business? It's not Saskatchewan people that any longer own that. It's out of province. And I say to you, it's not creating any jobs in this province.

So let's look at the future a bit, Mr. Speaker, let's look at SGI. The minister and the members may not know why SGI was put in place, but I'll tell you that there are a lot of seniors in this province who remember when SGI was put in, when people couldn't afford insurance in this province. And there are a number of them that are still out there today and that are looking at this government's performance in terms of Crown corporations.

It provided cheaper insurance over the years. It provided insurance to a lot that couldn't have afforded it otherwise. And why sell it? I don't understand. Do we want the Ontario rates? And their government was soundly defeated in Ontario, and one of the reasons was because of insurance rates. I say to you, blind ideology and no return.

They talk about the privatization of Weyerhaeuser. Well they can call it what they want. I've called it a give-away and I'll continue to call it a give-away. And until you can show, and members opposite can show where the people of this province have gotten their money back from that give-away, then we'll start listening to you. But I tell you the people of Prince Albert didn't believe you, and they still don't.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this province understand what happened under a New Democrat government when we used the Crown corporations as a vehicle and as a tool to deliver health care, not cut-backs to health care but expansion to health care. The people of this province remember and understood that the New Democrats understood what the province of Saskatchewan was about.

And now that they've had a chance to compare it to this group, I suggest to you that they're not going to follow that ideological bent that these people are on. There's no benefits to the people of this province. All we have to do is look at the record of the privatization since you've been in power, and I can't suggest that there's been one instance where you can show me that there have been jobs for young people because of privatization.

And I can't tell you that I believe small business has benefited by any of the privatization. You can talk in terms of highways — the road construction industry have had enough of you, the independent truckers have had enough of you in terms of deregulation, and you can call it whatever you want, but whatever word, it's all the same.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I will be supporting the amendment because I think the people of this province are not believing this resolution, and they don't believe the privatization has been able to provide more efficient and a more cost-effective direction in terms of Crown corporations. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It gives me a pleasure to join in the debate today and to voice my support for the content of the speech put forth by my colleague from Regina Wascana.

This motion addresses some very important issues — the use of public participation in the private sector to provide services to the public in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. And I think we should look at those words for a minute. You underline “service to the public” because that's what it's all about here; that's what we as government, what we as taxpayers in Saskatchewan, are looking for and what we're demanding — service to the public.

And what does the public want? The public wants the same thing from government, or semi-government institutions, that they want all through society. They want fast, courteous service. They want it to be delivered in the most cost-effective means possible, because no taxpayer, no citizen in our province likes tax increases. No citizen likes to see sloth and waste in any area of society. So when we're debating this particular issue, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must keep on those particular issues because that is what the public expects from us as members of the legislature, as governments, and as opposition members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have witnessed the popularity of some of these initiatives in the last few years because they are providing exactly those things. And I think about people in our home province of Saskatchewan and the issue of Sask Power bonds. And even though I wasn't a member of this House when that particular issue arose in 1984, I do well remember the outcry from the members of the then opposition over this particular initiative. And this initiative was put forth by Sask Power to raise money in the province of Saskatchewan to enhance the electrical services which all our citizens demand, which they expect to have, and which they expect to have at the most cost-efficient method possible.

In that very first issue of Sask Power bonds, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was over \$90 million raised when the issue was sold out. And I'm sure if that issue had been carried on for a longer period of time, more people would have subscribed to it.

And I don't know each and every person in this province

who has subscribed to a Sask Power bond issue, but I do know that people in my riding and the cross-section of people that they represent — and I can honestly say that all walks of life in the riding of Thunder Creek, and I'm sure other ridings are no different, bought Sask Power bond issues because of the idea that their money was going to do service in the province of Saskatchewan. The rate of return was in line for them with other types of lending institutions, and they felt good about being able to provide funds for their own particular province.

And as we know, every Sask Power bond issue since then has been sold out. They have become something which the public in Saskatchewan expect to have at their disposal as an investment tool. And they have benefited our province because we are not now borrowing money in New York or Toronto or the other places that we traditionally, prior to some innovative thinking, used to have to go borrow our money.

Another example, Mr. Speaker, is . . . and I think it is a success, is the Saskoil bond issue . . . or Saskoil shares. And though the members of the opposition may decry that Saskoil is now beyond the reach of the residents of Saskatchewan, I take issue with them because that particular company wasn't doing the service to the people of Saskatchewan that it potentially could.

And the fact that Canadians — and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take great pride in being a Canadian, a western Canadian, and the fact that Saskoil is now a Canadian oil company doing business throughout the oil basin, the energy basin in western Canada, and I believe successfully, and down the road with continued initiatives will be more successful.

(1645)

I believe that that was in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan because as that company grows, as that company develops, as that company proves up its reserves and moves into other parts of the energy spectrum, it's going to provide jobs here in Saskatchewan, in western Canada, for the good of our province and for the good of Canadians.

And I can only see Saskoil as being a major benefactor now when we talk about trade, with all the realm of possibilities for the energy sector. And that particular company is now in a position to go in and be a benefactor in that trade issue, to use those hundreds of millions of dollars which will pour into the energy sector for north-west Saskatchewan, for Alberta, and for Canadians. And we, as a whole, will benefit as taxpayers in this country of Canada and in the province of Saskatchewan.

Our government is aware that you must allow the private sector to participate in order to keep them growing. And though it may be a small part of the bigger picture, I like to think that the recent legislation to allow private auditors to do the books of Crown corporations is a good move, because every year we graduate many people from the College of Commerce, from business administration here in Regina. They're competent people. They serve in firms that have some of the best economic minds in western Canada.



And even though it will mean a smaller staff for the provincial auditor, the private sector are now going to have a way of bringing their expertise, bringing their new young people into the management of Saskatchewan's Crown corporations. And I mean, there are Saskatchewan people who we graduate from our universities. They aren't some foreign devil from off-shore. These are people who have gone to school and developed their expertise to provide the best service possible to their clients. And these people are not going to be providing that particular service to Saskatchewan Crown corporations, and I can only see it as an enhancement of that particular task rather than a liability. We are only adding, strengthening, not taking away.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many other areas, and some of my colleagues have touched on them, that privatization could lead to cost savings for the taxpayers of this province — greater efficiencies. And I'd like to think the fact that we are open to ideas. We do not have a closed mind. The mind-set is not struck on one particular direction. We do not adhere totally to the past in the direction that we are going, but that we are allowing people out there with initiative to think, to try and achieve, can only be good for the people in this province. I'm not saying that we are moving totally away from government involvement, but where we have, it has proven beneficial in many areas.

Now the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake just took great issue with one of my colleagues as far as the road building industry. And I can't believe for a minute, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the private contractors who are presently at work in this province are any less qualified, do sloppier work than was provided with the Department of Highways previously. The only thing that I've been able to notice is that usually the . . .

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** — Order. The member's time has elapsed.

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this very important debate, a debate that is just beginning in the Legislative Assembly today and that I predict will be a key part of the deliberations of the members of both sides of this House in the months and the years to come.

I find it a bit amusing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the member from Thunder Creek talks about cost efficiency. And I don't think there's anyone in this House who's opposed to cost efficiency, but I would point out to the member from Thunder Creek and all of the members opposite, that there was the most cost-efficient government that Saskatchewan had ever know, from 1971 to 1982, when there were 11 consecutive balanced budgets delivered by the administration of the New Democratic government prior to 1982.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Now the member from Thunder Creek quite correctly says that we have to have in Saskatchewan private sector participation. Correctly he says that, Mr. Speaker. It is a truth that in the province of Saskatchewan,

in which we have a large geographical area populated by a small number of people, that for the economy to function and to generate jobs and employment and economic activity, the reality is, and any government that has ever been responsible to the people of Saskatchewan knows that what is required in this province is the public and the private sector working hand in hand.

And what the whole thrust of privatization is all about, Mr. Speaker, what it's all about, is taking the responsibility to provide economic and employment leadership for the province of Saskatchewan, and thrusting it to the private sector and saying, we wash our hands of our responsibility, it's your job. And the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, know that it won't work.

And let's call privatization, let's call privatization what it really is, the real term that we should be using in this House, Mr. Speaker. And the member from wherever he is — Cut Knife-Lloyd — he says, what is it? The word, Mr. Speaker, is this — the word is privatization. Piratization is what this debate is all about.

And what is piratization? You know that's privatization tailor-made for PC patronage. And what do we hear them talking about, Mr. Speaker? What do we hear the piratizers talking about? They use phrases like selling off Saskatchewan, and under-valued shares, and deregulation, and user-pay, and contract out. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that that is a formula for PC patronage and that is clearly piratization in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — And let me predict, Mr. Speaker, that when this session comes to an end and behind closed cabinet doors the Premier of this province says it's time for a cabinet shuffle and it's time to reveal our real plan to the people of Saskatchewan and names a new minister of privatization — whether that's the member from Indian Head-Wolseley or whoever it is — when he names the new minister of privatization that minister will become known around the province of Saskatchewan as the minister or piratization.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — And we've seen the evidence of PC piratization already, Mr. Speaker. We've seen the evidence already. We've seen the evidence of the consultation with the Fraser Institute, with the on-the-board one P.H. Pocklington — and I wonder who that might be — that gives the consultation and advice to the Government of Saskatchewan. And is there any government in Canada that has used the advice of the Fraser Institute more than this Tory government of Saskatchewan? And the answer is no. The answer is no.

And we've seen the privatization take place already. We've seen it in our highway system, Mr. Speaker. We've seen it in Highways. We heard the former member from Wilkie, Jim Garner, the member of Highways, who loved to fly. We heard him talk about taking hundreds of Saskatchewan highway workers and transferring them to the private sector.

And that was followed up then, Mr. Speaker, by one of the biggest scams in the history of the province in which \$40 million worth of highway equipment was auctioned off at fire sale prices for \$6 million — privatization, PC style.

And that was followed, Mr. Speaker, that was followed more by contracting out — and contracting out to Saskatchewan firms? No, no, Alberta firms do a better job to take taxpayers' money in the province of Saskatchewan, and to do road work, and to employ Alberta employees, all of whom take Saskatchewan tax dollars and do what little road work is being done, and they go home and pay their income tax in other provinces. And that's privatization, PC style.

And what has maintenance of highways become as a result of this privatization of highways, PC style? What has it become? What we have in the province of Saskatchewan, we now call highway maintenance, Mr. Speaker. What you get into a truck with a bunch of sticks with red or orange flags on them and you run around the province and you stick them on the road, on the side of the road beside the pot-holes and the soft spots. And then, and then to top it all off, you go across the province of Saskatchewan and every few miles you put up a sign that says, slow down and save your windshield. And that's highway maintenance — PC privatization style.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — We've seen the privatization of our prescription drug plan here in the province of Saskatchewan. We saw in this Assembly today, Mr. Speaker, people who are concerned, who have worked hard, and who have produced, to be presented in this Assembly, nearly 100,000 signatures of people who are concerned about the privatization of health care in the province of Saskatchewan.

And here comes walking into the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, is the — what I will predict, the next minister of privatization in the province. And listen carefully, Mr. Minister, because you've got your work cut out for you.

What's happened with the privatization of the prescription drug plan, Mr. Speaker? We took, oh, that scary notion of socialized medicine where people of Saskatchewan went through this strange ritual. They got sick, they went to their doctor, they got a prescription, they took \$3.95 or less to their pharmacy, they got their medicine, and they got better. What a strange socialized notion of the ritual of socialized medicine. But this band opposite, Mr. Speaker, said there is no socialized medicine that cannot be improved by privatizing it, by privatizing the prescription drug plan.

And now we got a new system, a new privatized system of prescription drug plan in Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker. Where you get sick, you go to your doctor, you get a prescription and then you get to make the big decision — then you get to make the big decision as to whether I can afford to take my medicine to get better or not.

It's user-pay, it's user-pay, Mr. Speaker. And what a betrayal of the traditions of the Saskatchewan people who

believe firmly and strongly, and 100,000 people have said to this Legislative Assembly that they believe in the security of a medicare plan and that they don't want to see it privatized and privatized by the government opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Is it better, is it better, and I ask for whom — that the sick shall now have to pay more? User-pay, user-pay for the prescription drug plan, and that's privatization and that's privatization in anybody's language.

And why is this going on, Mr. Speaker? Why is this going on in the province of Saskatchewan today? And I don't think that we have to consult with the university doctorates. We don't have to consult with the high-priced consultants that this government loves to employ. Mr. Speaker, if we want to know why this is happening we need only go out to talk to the constituents in every constituency around the province of Saskatchewan.

And what are they saying? Are they saying we love privatization, give us more? No, they're not saying that. What they're saying, Mr. Speaker, is that they see the signs of a desperate government. They see the wild ideological commitments of a desperate government. They're saying in the province of Saskatchewan that we have a Premier who knows he's serving his last term and before he goes he's going to take the province with him. That's what they're saying, Mr. Speaker, around the province of Saskatchewan, the wise people in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And a hundred thousand of them have signed petitions to bring to this Assembly their concerns about the privatization of medicare. The wise people in this province, Mr. Speaker, are the real people of Saskatchewan. They're the citizens of Saskatchewan who are saying, we don't want a blind ideological ramming of the future of Saskatchewan by committing this province to the privatization and the privatization of our present and our future. That's what they're saying, Mr. Speaker. And that's the people that we have an obligation to listen to in this Assembly.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, I say that the blind ideological commitment of the government opposite cannot be allowed to continue. We must, all Saskatchewan citizens, stand fir, shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, defending the people of Saskatchewan against the privatization of the initiatives of the government opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — And so in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I will say that I am proud to support the amendment before us.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, please. Time has elapsed.

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — I am very pleased to have the opportunity to get into this debate. I am also very happy, Mr. Speaker, to have now, I think, four or five positions of that caucus in that party on the question of public participation and privatization.

And, Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.