

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**The Deputy Clerk:** — Pursuant to rule 11(7), the petition presented yesterday by the member from Moose Jaw North has been reviewed. The petition has been found to be irregular as to form and cannot therefore be received.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Petersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to introduce to you and through you, a group of students from the Kelvington-Wadena constituency who are here on a tour that's sponsored by the Kelvington-Wadena Progressive Conservative Association. The students are age 14 to 18 years; there's about 45, I believe. They are in the Speaker's gallery. They are accompanied by their chaperons, Delores Zelinski, Elaine Patenaude, Dwayne Kapeluck, Lorraine Petersen, Diane Hnatuik, and their bus driver is Leo Patenaude. I'd ask all members to welcome them here today and to join me in wishing them a good stay. We'll be joining you at 2:30 for pictures, I believe. Thank you very much.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hodgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with my friend and colleague from the Kelvington-Wadena constituency. I'd like to add to that, words of welcome to the students from all over north-eastern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and in particular I'm especially proud of a large group of students from the Melfort constituency. They, as well, are age 14 to 18 years. They are seated in the west gallery. They have some chaperons and a bus driver by the name of Fred Burlock, Todd Naber, Dale McMunn. We also have Roger and Carol Pedersen and Robert Stewart.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the legislature to warmly welcome all of these students from all over north-east Saskatchewan, and to give the message to all of them how delighted we are that young people from the north-east take such an interest in the legislative proceedings.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the legislature, Wes Robbins, who was a former member of the legislature for Saskatoon Nutana, the constituency that I now represent. And I note that the Minister of Health, while kibitzing with us before we began today's proceedings, suggested that Mr. Robbins was visiting the legislature to straighten out this side of the House. And I want to assure the members opposite that Mr. Robbins, as a former minister of Finance, would love to straighten out their Minister of Finance who will be delivering his budget tomorrow.

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

**Mr. Hardy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to introduce to the Assembly a group of 48 Progressive Conservative youths from the Kelsey-Tisdale constituency who are here this afternoon to watch the procedures of the legislature.

I'd like to welcome and extend my best wishes and thanks to all the students who took the time to come into Regina to our Legislative Assembly to see the workings of this legislature, to see how laws are passed and how the proceedings and the money is spent in the province of Saskatchewan.

I would like to also acknowledge that with them they have their chaperons, Leonard Kehrig, Doug Mahussier, and their bus driver Chuck Mason.

I wish them a safe journey home and I will be meeting with them at 2:30 for pictures and refreshments in room 218 afterwards. And I wish all members to join with me in welcoming them here to the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It took a little while.

I too would like to introduce some guests to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the Assembly. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, we have about 45 people from the town of Unity. In among that group is a hockey team, midget junior B. They're here today playing in the Optimist tournament. They are in the finals tonight at 8 o'clock. They are here with their coaches and trainers and several of their families.

I would like to extend personal congratulations, Mr. Speaker, because in a small town, as you know, we all knew everyone's first name. And also, Mr. Speaker, in that hockey team is a grandson of mine, and it makes me doubly proud to recognize them today.

Their coaches are Jim Gordon and Jim Holowachuk. They're there, and several of the family with them. And I would like the Assembly to join with me wishing them good luck tonight in the finals, and good game and good luck.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Handling of Oats by Wheat Board

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, and it deals with the federal government's plan to privatize the Canadian Wheat Board and your government's support of it.

I have here a summary of the wheat board district meetings that were held across western Canada in the past month or so. And of those meetings, the 24 board meetings that were held in the three prairie provinces, 22 passed motions to have oats reinstated under the Canadian Wheat Board, and 10 passed motions

demanding the head of Charlie Mayer for taking oats out of the Canadian Wheat Board.

In light of those facts, Mr. Minister, have you reconsidered your position of support for privatizing the Canadian Wheat Board? Are you continuing on in this madness to get rid of one of the most fortunate and suitable committees, and the Canadian Wheat Board, in dealing with handling the wheat and the grains of the farmers of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — I appreciate the question from the hon. member. As he probably knows, it was a Progressive Conservative Government in 1935 that established the Canadian Wheat Board, and, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Canadian Wheat Board does an excellent job of marketing wheat and barley, particularly in large country-to-country sales.

With respect to oats, Mr. Speaker, we are all aware, and certainly the public is aware, that about 1 or less than 1 per cent of the wheat board's export sales were associated with oats. Over 90 per cent of the oats are marketed domestically in Saskatchewan or across Canada.

And, Mr. Speaker, the producers of livestock in particular, if I could use the example, Mr. Speaker, the United Grain Growers, a co-operative elevator corporation that is represented by farmers throughout the prairie provinces, as well as the livestock associations, the feeder associations, the Saskatchewan hog board, Mr. Speaker, have all said, why don't you try to allocate the oats on the domestic market so that farmers, Mr. Speaker, can have the access to that feed grain when in fact only . . . or less than 1 per cent is sold internationally by the Canadian Wheat board.

Now I said I'm prepared to try that and see how it goes. Some forecasted, Mr. Speaker, to say that if it's taken out of the wheat board, Mr. Speaker, the price will collapse. Well we've noticed, Mr. Speaker, that the price has increased, for all grains, granted, but for seed oats I think you'd see now it's gone from \$2 a bushel to over \$4 a bushel, and it's because it's . . . and it's in a domestic market, Mr. Speaker.

So we set it up. We're quite prepared to defend the Canadian Wheat Board when it comes to the big international sales country to country on wheat and barley. If the domestic industry wants to try the domestic market for oats, then I'm prepared to look at it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Minister, I want to tell you that at the meetings that were held in Saskatchewan, at the 11 that were held in Saskatchewan — I want to list them out so you know the spectrum of places that are concerned about this issue — but Weyburn and Wapella and Wadena and Melville and Porcupine Plain and Wakaw and Kerrobert and Perdue and Gull Lake and Herbert and Meadow Lake — in each of these towns, in each of these communities, motions were passed asking that you

would support and that the federal government would reinstate oats in the Canadian Wheat Board, at every one of those meetings. In fact 1,576 people voted in favour and only 51 voted against the motions at those meetings, at those 11 meetings.

I want to ask you: in light of the fact, Mr. Minister, that only 3 per cent of the farmers are favouring your view, only 3 per cent, can you tell me why you are defending the Cargills of the world who want to destroy the Canadian Wheat Board, and why you refuse to stand up for Saskatchewan farmers? Why are you doing that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I again make the point, it was a Progressive Conservative government that established the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker, so if we want to go back and look at the history of it, and it's Progressive Conservative governments that have supported the co-operative system, they still support it, Mr. Speaker, with the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Premier can't answer the question if people interrupt him.

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

**The Speaker:** — And I therefore . . . I ask the people who interrupt him to give the Premier the courtesy of allowing him to answer it without interruption.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I respect that ruling.

I'll say again, Mr. Speaker, that it was a Progressive Conservative government that started the Canadian Wheat Board. It was a Progressive Conservative minister, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Mr. Speaker, that first sold wheat to China, country to country.

It was a Conservative minister that initiated some of the largest co-operative movements we've seen here in the province of Saskatchewan, like the new upgrader in the city of Regina, built with a co-operative; like the new health care card that has been initiated in Saskatchewan, built by co-operatives, Mr. Speaker. I make the point, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . the hon. member doesn't like to hear that. He doesn't like to hear the Progressive Conservative government is progressive and conservative — initiated the Canadian Wheat Board — works with co-operatives.

And he can have all the meetings that he wants, Mr. Speaker, but I'll tell you, you can have meetings now and there still will be farmers who want rape-seed and canola under the Canadian Wheat Board, and maybe he supports that. I've talked to farmers all across the province and they're split on that. But I don't see a consensus to put rape-seed or canola or flax-seed under the Canadian Wheat Board. So when the farmers come to me and say: well 90 per cent of the oats is traded domestically and it's only 1 per cent of international sales, could we try it on the domestic market? I'd say, look, if the feeder associations want it, the hog producers want it, if United Grain Growers co-operative wants it, then at least we

should take a look at it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the same minister. Mr. Minister, last year there was nearly \$9 million worth of final payment went to farmers on oats. Under your scheme, any potential for final payments will be skimmed off by the large multinational grain traders. So what you're doing is supporting the grain companies' pockets as opposed to supporting the bottom line of farmers. Will you, Mr. Minister, stand in your place, show your support for the farmers of this province who are telling you, who are pleading with you, who you are saying are wrong. Reverse your decision. Show your support for them instead of the large multinational grain trade.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the whole province will be interested to know that classically there's a big difference between the agricultural policy of the NDP that only looks at marketing boards and our policy that respects all the industry, including the livestock industry.

Did you notice, Mr. Speaker, not one mention of the livestock industry by the members opposite? The hog producers, the livestock producers, the beef producers, the poultry producers, what are they saying?

He also talks about a final payment. One of the fastest-growing industries in Saskatchewan, in western Canada, and North America is the meat business. If you're growing grain for the meat business, the beef, the packing plants, the increase in mutton, the increase in the pork, the increase in the poultry, you want a large and strong and healthy domestic grain business, Mr. Speaker. And if only 1 per cent of the sales are going offshore through the Canadian Wheat Board, what is that doing for the local domestic meat industry?

Mr. Speaker, they have said to me and they've said to members of this Legislative Assembly, protect the cattlemen, protect the hog producer, protect the poultry producer, make sure we have access to domestic grains. If the wheat board is only selling 1 per cent internationally, then build that market here so we can have a balanced agriculture, fair for the livestock industry and fair for the grain men, and let the farmers decide that. If they're prepared to grow oats because of this, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to defend it.

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

**The Speaker:** — I realize the hon. minister has a wealth of knowledge to respond to these questions, but I ask the answers to be a bit shorter.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister, I take note of how you are again trying to pit one group against the other. What you're saying is, you're pitting the grain producer against the livestock producer. How can you do

that? I know how you can do it. It's by doing things like taking oats, supporting oats coming out from under the wheat board.

The question, Mr. Minister, is this. The wheat board has long been a mainstay in the province of Saskatchewan and western Canada, providing the biggest, highest possible price. What's happening now is you are going to open that up. First it's oats, then it'll be barley, and then it'll be the demise of the whole wheat board, and you're supporting that despite the fact the farmers are against you, Mr. Minister of Agriculture.

Will you again — you did not answer my question; you didn't even evade to it last time. Will you stand in your place and tell the people of this province that you support the Canadian Wheat Board, and if you say that, will you table your recommendations to the federal government showing how you support the board.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, just so that the students and indeed the media understand, over 90 per cent of the oats is sold farmer to farmer. If it's sold farmer to farmer, particularly because of the livestock industry, there's no final payments. It has nothing to do with the Canadian Wheat Board, and the wheat board on its export sales has less than one-half of one per cent, I believe, associated with oats.

Now the livestock industry says, if nobody is marketing it through the board to speak of, it's only a small percentage, and it's all going farmer to farmer or the livestock industry, feedlot, poultry operations and so forth, why don't we let them establish a domestic market because there is no final payment?

He talks about a final payment. Well, Mr. Speaker, if 90-some per cent of it is sold farmer to farmer, there is no final payment at all. So don't let anybody be misled by that hon. member who says there's this huge final payment in oats. There wouldn't be enough final payments in oats, Mr. Speaker, to buy an average-sized group of farms, or let alone one farm, here in the province of Saskatchewan, because only 1 per cent, or less than that, is export volume for the Canadian Wheat Board.

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

### Adjustments under Free Trade Agreement

**Mr. Mitchell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the same minister, and this concerns the report of the advisory committee on adjustments under the free trade agreement which released its report in Ottawa earlier this afternoon. And it seems that the recommendations in this report, as they pertain to agriculture, are heavily weighted in favour of food processors, and against producers.

And I'm particularly concerned with the recommendations concerning the wheat board that we've been talking about earlier this afternoon. If adopted, these recommendations would call for the wheat board to sell for domestic use at the U.S. spot

market price for the day of the sale, and would allow farmers to sell to the wheat board on the basis of commodity futures contracts, again based on the U.S. commodity exchange prices.

And, Mr. Minister, a simple question: are you in agreement with the thrust of that kind of recommendation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, we had debate in this legislature with respect to two-priced wheat before, and I'll go over the argument for the hon. member so he understands it. By not charging consumers higher than the world price for grains and feed grains and therefore for bread, Mr. Speaker, and putting it on the income tax side, we can support agriculture without hurting Canadian consumers.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, as we allow the processors to buy the grain at world price here, it encourages the processing of grain so that in fact we just don't market grain, we can market pasta, we can market noodles, we can manufacture bread, we can manufacture doughnuts and put Canadian food manufacturers, where the real money is for farmers, on a competitive basis in North America and, indeed, the world.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, at the same time you can sell it at the initial world price and you have the final payment that the member from Humboldt was talking about, because the board markets it on a pooled basis so it has the initial price right now as we see in crop insurance — almost \$5 a bushel guaranteed by the Canadian Wheat Board and by crop insurance that you can buy at right now — and the final payment may be a dollar and a half or \$2 or \$3 for all I know.

What this allows is the taxpayers' money to come out of those that have income, not the consumers, and allow us to encourage processing and manufacturing in the meat business and in the food business, which is good for us in creating of jobs; and third, the final payment can be from the Canadian Wheat Board as it's supposed to be, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mitchell:** — You'll notice, Mr. Minister, that there is no mention in the adjustment committee's report about the maintenance of the \$280 million a year which western Canadian farmers are going to be out as a result of the loss of the two-price system. I'd like to know where in the world that idea went to, and I want to carry on and just ask this question. These changes would mean that the free trade agreement would be used to further undermine the ability of the wheat board to control the grains market, and your answer just confirmed that, and would move towards the eventual destruction of the orderly marketing system, and that, it's been said earlier in this House, is part and parcel of the privatization of the board, which is what the grain farmers are so adamantly opposed to.

Now, Mr. Minister, you have to decide whose side you're on here. You can't be on both sides of this question.

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

**Mr. Mitchell:** — Again, a simple question. I'd like a simple answer this time. Will you stand up for Saskatchewan farmers and for our wheat board, or will you go along with the American producers and the big multinational food processors and the demands of the so-called free market? On whose side are you, Minister?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I will just quite simply say that it was the Progressive Conservative government that established the wheat board. I support the wheat board, Mr. Speaker, and I support it in the marketing of wheat, in the marketing of barley, on the two-price system. Let me make it very clear again for the students and for the media, that was on domestic sales and domestic sales grown for Canadian wheat. Over 65 per cent of that money was going to Ontario because they were converting to spring wheat to sow on the domestic market, because western Canadian producers sell on the international market, Mr. Speaker. And every single, solitary farmer in western Canada that knows anything about international sales says, get out from under that two-price system or else Ontario is going to grow all the domestic market and they will get all the two-price benefit.

Now you ask me whose side I'm on: the western Canadian wheat grower's side, that's whose, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to two-price wheat, when it comes to marketing for the wheat board. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm all for processing that wheat here, not just exporting it, processing it here in Saskatchewan to make the fine quality flour, to make the noodles, to make the pasta, to make the bread, and all those kinds of things that we need internationally and that we can make money on, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Farm Foreclosures

**Mr. Koskie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address a question to the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Premier, you should be proud because your government, in conjunction with the federal government, brought something to Saskatchewan that we have never seen before, and that is the auctioning off of family farms. That took place in Weyburn, auctioning off land that was seized by an agency of the federal government, the Farm Credit Corporation.

I want to ask you, Mr. Premier, at the present time, what the federal government is doing is seizing the land, and your government are in the process of seizing the equipment from the farmers. I ask you, Mr. Premier, why are you taking and being a part of this vicious attack on farm families? Why are you rejecting the suggestions to put a moratorium on foreclosures until at least they get the drought payment? Can you answer that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the students must be wondering what he's . . . the hon. member is talking about when he's saying that I'm a part of this, Mr. Speaker. This legislature has passed legislation, and all members here, I'm sure, can take credit for asking for support for farmers in Saskatchewan. And never in the history of our province have we seen as much money go to farmers in the province.

Even this last year, and the hon. knows, if you have crop insurance plus a drought payment plus western grain plus green feed programs, you could be looking at near \$100 an acre and never started your combine. Now that's never happened in the history of Saskatchewan. A thousand acres — that's a hundred thousand dollars in benefits that go to Saskatchewan farmer, per farm, Mr. Speaker.

We have \$1.2 billion out at 6 per cent money; over \$1 billion in cash paid to Saskatchewan farmers that never had to be paid back, Mr. Speaker, and he's asking me, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to defend agriculture.

Let me just turn it around. When interest rates were 20 and 21 per cent, that hurt these farms, Mr. Speaker, and the parents of these children that are in this room, when interest rates were 21 per cent, that member opposite was a cabinet minister and he never did one solitary thing to help farmers, and that's one of the reason they're closing farms today, because he didn't have the courage to step in and take on the banks. We did, Mr. Speaker, and I will defend farmers as long as I'm sitting on this side of the House or that side of the House, or any place else in Saskatchewan, more than he ever did.

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

**Mr. Koskie:** — I have a supplement for the Premier, Mr. Speaker. You're pretty sensitive, Mr. Premier, and well you should be.

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

**Mr. Koskie:** — Are you aware that in the judicial centre of Saskatoon in the calendar year of 1988 that your agriculture corporation of Saskatchewan launched 458 legal actions of foreclosure against the farmers? In the first three months of this year alone, there have been 201 such actions launched in Saskatoon — 70 in one week, Mr. Premier.

I ask you: how can you possibly face the farmers when you and your counterparts have deceived the farmers in respect to the amount of the drought payment? I ask you: why don't you stand up for the farmers who are losing their land, instead of the rhetoric which you're giving us here today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, it's two points I'd like to make, Mr. Speaker. Of the 50,000 farmers that we have through agriculture credit corporation, you'll find it's less than one-tenth of one per cent that there's been foreclosures on. I believe it's 28 farms, 26 farms, of the total 50,000 that there's been an actual foreclosure on, Mr. Speaker.

I want to also make the point . . . It's interesting that the hon. member raises the city of Saskatoon. And I think again I'll remind the public, and the media certainly has been helping us remind them, that there's one particular law firm in Saskatoon that has been profiting by foreclosing on farmers. And I won't mention the name because I'm not allowed to mention it, but there's a couple of members in the legislature that have been associated with that law firm, and they're NDP, Mr. Speaker. Imagine, the NDP profiting from foreclosing on farmers.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order. Order. I'd just like to once more remind hon. members that unparliamentary language is not acceptable from your seats, and I'm just telling you that if you persist in using it I'll have to call you to order on it.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Mr. Premier, we have checked most of the judicial centres in the province, and we have ascertained that ACS (Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan), of which you are the head of, are one of the biggest foreclosers in the history of this province. We find that a total of 620 legal actions were taken in 1988 against the farmers of Saskatchewan by your corporation. We find that 297 have been taken so far in 1989.

When, Mr. Premier, will you take action on behalf of the farmers rather than legal actions to take them off their farms?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I can reiterate the point, Mr. Speaker, that we have programs to protect farmers, and the farmers know that. We have literally billions of dollars out there, Mr. Speaker. Out of over 50,000 farmers there's been 27, 28 foreclosures; that's it. The hon. member talks about legal action. We talk to the farmers and we recommend that any farmer that's having a difficulty making a payment to talk, and to come in and we'll work out some sort of agreement with them, Mr. Speaker.

And finally, I just remind the hon. member, because of 20 and 21 per cent interest rates when the NDP were in, farmers lost their farms and have been in trouble ever since, Mr. Speaker, and I hold them responsible for that. And the other thing that I hold them responsible for is the hypocrisy of foreclosing on farmers for profit because the NDP members are in law firms, Mr. Speaker, and I think that is a pathetic indication of their support for agriculture in this province.

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

**Mr. Koskie:** — Final supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, are you aware that the Agricultural Credit Corporation, of which you are the chief officer, has now referred an additional 2,000 — 2,000 delinquent production loans to your lawyers to attack the farmers? I ask you, Mr. Premier, do you know what the farmers out there are referring to you as? They're calling you the Judas of agriculture, the Judas of agriculture. You've betrayed them. I ask you, how long are you going to allow the

destruction of the family farm to go on?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member can call me names, and he can try to be fancy so that the media might have something to print. I just point out, Mr. Speaker, the persons and the people that betrayed agriculture are sitting right over there, Mr. Speaker. They're the very people that brought in land bank, they're the very people that let 21 per cent interest rate take their farm, and they never raised a cent to help them — not one cent, not one penny.

And when they were defeated, Mr. Speaker, including the member from Riversdale, he starts a land bank corporation and he works with the bank and he makes profit taking their farms, Mr. Speaker. I will defend the taxpayers' money at any time, Mr. Speaker, but they're hurting on this one, and I'm not going to let them off the hook. They're the people who have let down agriculture, and the rest of the country knows it.

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

**The Speaker:** — Time has elapsed, but I'm going to have to remind the members once more that the hollering "liar" from your desks is certainly not in keeping with the traditions of this House or to the courtesies extended other members. And it's true, it's true that when members say it from their seat the Speaker can't always tell who the actual individual is, but that also is not an excuse for hon. members to use unparliamentary language. And I bring that to your attention one more time.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Establishment of Saskatchewan's Round Table on Environment and Economy

**Hon. Mr. Swan:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the appointment of Saskatchewan's Round Table on Environment and Economy. This group of 18 senior public and private decision makers will undertake the task of advising the Premier on the ways to implement the recommendations of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy.

The round table will bring together people of many backgrounds and interests to explore ways in which we can develop a plan to achieve an environmentally sound approach to economic development. By promoting a dialogue among Saskatchewan people, industry, government, and environmental interest groups, we can integrate environmental and economic planning and decision making.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the round table will be the following. I will be chairing that round table.

We have Frank Arnie, past president of Saskatchewan Wildlife Association, past president and past director of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Beverly Brennan, vice-president, finance and administration with Philom Bios Inc. in Saskatoon.

Doug Chekay, provincial manager, Ducks Unlimited Canada-Saskatchewan, member of the Canadian Association of Resource Managers, director of Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Habitat Trust.

Roland Crowe, chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Bill Duke, past president, Western Canadian Grain Growers Association.

Hon. Joan Duncan, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Bill Gayner, vice-president and general manager, Saskatchewan division of Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.

Jon Gilles, associate professor of agricultural engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. David Henry, associate professor of science, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, Regina.

Dr. Steuart Houston, professor of radiology, University of Saskatchewan.

Darla Hunter, lawyer, MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman, from Regina.

Rev. Austin Jagoe, minister, Meewasin Valley United Church, Saskatoon.

Sister Phyllis Kapuscinski, professor of education, University of Regina.

The Hon. Colin Maxwell, Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Lindsay Milne, vice-president, exploration and production, western Canada, Husky Oil Operations Ltd.

Ken Naber, president of Focus on Inputs Association, past president of the Canola Growers Association, reeve of R.M. 428 from Star City.

John Nightingale, president of Key Lake Mining Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this group of distinguished people will have very valuable input to the round table for Saskatchewan. Formation of the Saskatchewan round table is consistent with the government's endorsement of the report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy at the first ministers' conference in November of 1988. This report was presented . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order, order. Order. Order. I'm having great difficulty in hearing the minister, and I'm sure other members are too.

**Hon. Mr. Swan:** — As our country's response to the World Commission on Environment and Development, which was headed by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, the commission found that environmental problems are global in proportion and

each nation must work toward protecting the environment.

The findings are included in the report, *Our Common Future*. The national task force report contains some 40 recommendations directed to promoting environmentally sound economic growth and development. As the report . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I must remind the hon. member that ministerial statements, we have tried to keep them rather brief, and I'm just reminding him. He's getting to the point now where he's perhaps getting a little too long, and if possible I'd like to ask him to wrap up his statement.

**Hon. Mr. Swan:** — Mr. Speaker, this report directs government, industry, business, educators, and each citizen in initiating actions to achieve the goal that we have intended.

Mr. Speaker, this government is determined to conserve the environment for future generations. The protection of our natural heritage represents the highest calling of political leadership and one of the most difficult challenges facing the human race.

I believe that this group will do a good job for Saskatchewan, and I look forward to the report that they will prepare and present to our Premier for the future of our environment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, let me, if I can, just make an observation at the beginning that I am surprised the minister did not provide the opposition with the text of his remarks today. Rather he provided us with a copy of a news release, and I am frankly surprised that we did not have the full text.

That said, Mr. Speaker, as one of many who have lobbied the minister for the formation of the round table, I and we welcome this long overdue announcement. I'd want to point out to the House that the National Task Force on Environment and Economy, which called for the establishment of the round tables, said that they should be established and fully functional by September of last year, September 1988.

These many, many, many months later, Mr. Speaker, we finally have the announcement in Saskatchewan. But we welcome the announcement, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, clearly both the use and the effect in this of the round table in the Saskatchewan context is going to depend on two things. It's going to depend on the make-up of the round table, the people who are there, and it's going to depend on the political will of the government to see that it is useful and effective.

Now on the first point, Mr. Speaker, on the make-up, as I have seen it today, I note with some surprise and almost disbelief, that there is no one on this round table who is

clearly identified as representing the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. That group in our province that's probably the most well versed, well educated, the group that has been most vocal in environmental protection is not represented on this round table. I find that appalling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the national task force called for a representative of labour on the round table. Mr. Speaker, I do not see in this list of individuals anyone who is there specifically to represent the interests of labour on this round table. I do see some of the friends of the government. I see Weyerhaeuser and Husky Oil and others. I do not see a representative of labour.

In the context of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, surely this round table should have involved someone from municipal government, rural and urban. Not clearly represented. Not clearly represented. It's urban and rural municipalities who very often have to deal with the consequences of environmental disaster and economic developments, and we've had the example of the upgrader spill here in Regina. There's no representation that I can see, Mr. Speaker. I see little or no representation of small industry on this list.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to give those who have let their name stand on this round table, I want to give them our encouragement and support. I point out there are gaps and there are holes in this round table. That's point one.

Point two, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the political will of a government to make this kind of round table useful and effective.

Mr. Speaker, we must all be committed now to the concept of sustainable development. Mr. Speaker, I question the political will of this group of men and women to strive after that goal in our province. When we've seen the evidence of things like the Rafferty, the boondoggle in the south-east corner of our province, Mr. Speaker, I question the political will of this government. And so these two points then.

Mr. Speaker, on the negative side, this round table I think has some holes in its make-up, and I encourage the minister to expand the round table, some of those areas. I question also the political will of this government. But on the positive side, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the round table is established and that that mechanism will be in place when government changes in this province.

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

(1445)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 10 — An Act to amend The Public Trustee Act

**Hon. Mr. Andrew:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Public Trustee Act.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 11 — An Act to amend The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act**

**Hon. Mr. Andrew:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 12 — An Act respecting Regulations**

**Hon. Mr. Andrew:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill respecting Regulations.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 13 — An Act respecting Certain Amendments to Certain Acts resulting from the enactment of The Regulations Act, 1989**

**Hon. Mr. Andrew:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill respecting Certain Amendments to Certain Acts resulting from the enactment of The Regulations Act, 1989.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 14 — An Act respecting Consequential Amendments to certain Acts resulting from the enactment of The Municipal Board Act**

**Hon. Mr. Klein:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of a Bill respecting Consequential Amendments to certain Acts resulting from the enactment of The Municipal Board Act.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**CONDOLENCES**

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I rise to inform members of the passing earlier this morning of a former member of this Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, this morning in Victoria, B.C., Mr. Bob Walker, the former member for Hanley for 19 years from 1948 till 1967, passed away in that city. Mr. Walker also served the people of Saskatchewan as attorney general and provincial secretary under the Douglas and Lloyd governments for eight years from 1956 to 1964.

This will be a particularly tragic piece of information, Mr. Speaker, for a couple of people from Moose Jaw. Mr. Walker has both a brother and a sister who currently reside in Moose Jaw.

I simply want to advise members of the Assembly that funeral arrangements have not been confirmed definitely, but the family anticipates that the funeral will be held in Victoria this Saturday. And I recognize as well, Mr. Speaker, that formal motion of condolence will come before the House at a later time, and simply rise today to advise members of the Assembly of the passing of a former colleague.

**MOTIONS**

**Appointment of Gordon Barnhart as Honorary Officer of Assembly**

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I rise to ask leave to move a motion which would designate Gordon Barnhart as an honorary officer of the Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — From what I have been led to understand, Mr. Premier, I believe the House wishes to conduct some other business first.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Table Officer**

**The Speaker:** — However, before orders of the day, I wish to introduce to the hon. members, Mr. Charles Robert, a Table Officer who is on secondment from the House of Commons in Ottawa. He will be assisting our Clerks-at-the-Table for the remainder of this session.

On your behalf, I wish to welcome Mr. Robert to our Assembly. Please welcome him along with me.

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

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**MOTIONS**

**Appointment of Gordon Barnhart as Honorary Officer of Legislative Assembly**

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm standing in for the Deputy House Leader as House Leader today, and my understanding of today's agenda is that we move immediately to the motion offered by the Premier for the Clerk of the House, and following that we adjourn to the tea. I may be mistaken, but that's my understanding of it. If that's the understanding of everyone here, I don't know why we wouldn't get on with the very pleasant task of honouring our friend, the Clerk.

**The Speaker:** — Of course the Speaker always follows the wishes of the House, so we will carry on as you wish unless there's some objection. Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Gordon Barnhart, and I will be making a motion at the end of my remarks.

For 20 years Gordon Barnhart has served the people of Saskatchewan as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and at the end of this month, as all members know, he leaves to become Clerk of the Senate and Parliament of Canada.

He has provided very wise and impartial counsel to three premiers and five speakers over his long tenure, and his professionalism and dedication continues to be appreciated by both sides of the House.

As only the sixth Clerk since the legislature was



established in 1905, Gordon has seen a lot of important changes which have altered the business of this House, changes which include the introduction of question period, televising the proceedings, Mr. Speaker, and three revisions of procedural rules. His guidance and professional advice has facilitated these major transitions over the years.

As an historian and writer, Gordon Barnhart has an impressive list of publications to his credit, and he's been on the editorial board of the Canadian Parliamentary Review for many years. He is well respected by his professional associates and counterparts across Canada and indeed across the Commonwealth through his active participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

He once described himself as a lifelong student of history, and it's not often that a student of history also has the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to have an influence on the makers of history as Gordon has done for the last 20 years in this Assembly.

We are sorry to be losing the benefit of his wisdom, but we are proud to be sending such a distinguished native son to serve the people of Canada in Ottawa.

On behalf of my colleagues in the legislature, I personally wish Gordon well as he takes up his new challenges, and I thank him for his excellent service to the province of Saskatchewan.

When I had the opportunity to talk to some senators, Mr. Speaker, who seek my advice, I could only say I would hate to see the member leave, but I would highly recommend him as the best in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move, seconded by the House Leader, the member from Regina Elphinstone:

That the members of this House, desiring to record the respectful appreciation for the 20 years of distinguished service rendered by Mr. Gordon Barnhart, M.A., to this legislature as Clerk, and acknowledging the dedication and dignity he brought to that office, designates him as an honorary officer of this Legislative Assembly with an entry to the Chamber and a seat at the Table on all ceremonial occasions.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, on behalf of my colleagues, to second the motion which acknowledges the dedication and the distinguished service of Mr. Gordon Barnhart and designates him as an honorary officer of this Legislative Assembly.

Gordon Barnhart has made a very worthy contribution throughout the last 20 years in which he has maintained the records of this Legislative Assembly and been the careful custodian of the parliamentary procedure.

Our legislature has evolved during Mr. Barnhart's tenure as Clerk. Perhaps most notably, there have been revisions

of the procedural rules of the Assembly, the introduction of television cameras in the House, and the creation of an independent body to oversee the affairs of the Clerk's office.

Mr. Barnhart's guidance and contribution is well recognized throughout the province, not only in this Assembly, but many people have come to know Gordon well and respect his ideas, not only here but throughout the community. I know that on both sides of the House he has been respected for his scrupulous fairness in dealing with members of the House and giving them advice, whether they were in government or in opposition. And I think that's a proud tradition, not only in this House but in others, and by honouring Mr. Barnhart today we honour his colleagues and successor who will serve at the Table.

I believe that by continuing the tradition of service to the Legislative Assembly embodied in the career of Gordon Barnhart, we serve the cause of the democratic government. And so I'm pleased to add my words of commendation for the distinguished service of Mr. Gordon Barnhart, his contribution to this legislature and to the parliamentary government, and I congratulate him on his appointment in Ottawa.

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

**The Speaker:** — Before putting the question, I would ask for the House's indulgence to also say a few words on behalf of our Clerk.

Thank you. I would like to add my words to the Premier and to the member for Regina Elphinstone, to honour our Clerk who has served the legislature for the past 20 years. Almost all of these years were served as Clerk. It has been recognized from the earliest beginnings of parliamentary democracy that in order for a legislature to function efficiently, it required a clerk to be the custodian of its records and to be intimately involved in the formation and interpretation of the legislative rules and procedures.

Mr. Barnhart began his career in this area some 20 years ago, after having taught high school in North Battleford. In January 1969 he was appointed to the position of Assistant Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, apprenticing under another distinguished Clerk, Dr. Koester. Soon after, in September 1969, he was appointed Clerk, a position which he has continuously filled.

During that time he has fulfilled a number of important functions, among which some of the following are: he is a founding member of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table and served as its president in 1971 and 1972; he is a member and past councillor of the Study of Parliament Group. Mr. Barnhart has taken an avid interest in the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament by serving as its chief returning officer. He was responsible for implementation of a daily *Hansard* in 1977. Also he helped usher in the first fully automated television system in the world, which serves this House and the people of Saskatchewan.

He helped in the creation of the Board of Internal Economy which has enhanced the independence of the legislature.

Mr. Barnhart has been involved in three revisions of rules and procedures of our Legislative Assembly. He has also been an enthusiastic proponent of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which allowed him to travel widely in the Commonwealth, thus playing an important role in enhancing the status of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly throughout the Commonwealth nations. Mr. Barnhart, it might be added, has served three administrations, representing each major political party and five Speakers.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Barnhart on his new appointment as Clerk of the Senate in Ottawa. I personally wish to thank him for the assistance he has given me in my role as Speaker. Saskatchewan's loss will be the Senate's gain.

Finally, my best wishes to his wife and family as they make their new home in the nation's capital. Congratulations.

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

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Berntson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that we would all want to afford to Mr. Barnhart an opportunity to say a few words, and my understanding is that we have to adjourn before we can do that, and so I will move that this House do now adjourn. And before you put the question, according to my schedule we have a tea at the library at 3:30, and I think that this particular occasion is deserving of the celebration that would require more than just a few minutes, so when I move that this House do now adjourn, I suggest that it remain adjourned until 2 o'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:05 p.m.