

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING, SELECT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### Standing Committee on Public Accounts

**Deputy Clerk:** — Mr. Van Mulligen of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts presents the seventh report as follows:

Your committee considered the following Bill and agreed to report the same without amendment — Bill 53, An Act to amend The Provincial Auditor Act.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few remarks prior to moving the motion of concurrence, and just to say that there's four main elements to this Bill, The Act to amend The Provincial Auditor Act.

One was to, instead of having a lifetime term for the auditor, that it be done for a period of six years which might be renewable one time. Secondly, it expands the professional groups to which a Provincial Auditor might belong as a qualification for the job. Thirdly, that the funding for his office should come through the Board of Internal Economy, as is the case for other officers of the Assembly, as distinct from government departments. And fourthly, that the auditor's mandate, that is the things that he looks at, be expanded to examine questions such as efficiency, to see whether or not the taxpayers are getting value for their money.

There is some disagreement on one of the clauses, that is with the question of a term versus a lifetime appointment, but I'm sure that those comments will come forth in Committee of the Whole.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, your committee appreciated the opportunity to have reviewed the Bill, and I would now move, seconded by the member for The Battlefords:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be concurred in.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to draw to your attention a group of students here from Henry Braun School in the constituency of Regina North East in Regina. They're seated in the Speaker's gallery, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're here to tour the buildings and to watch the question period which is about to take place in a very few moments.

They're accompanied by teacher Mrs. Dorgan, and a chaperon, Mrs. Pauliuk. I want to welcome them to the legislature and wish them an enjoyable and educational visit here and a good summer holiday as school is very quickly coming to a close, and ask the members and you, Mr. Speaker, to join me in welcoming these students here this afternoon.

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

**Mr. Solomon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, 23 students, grade 4 students from my constituency from the community of Walsh Acres, the George Lee School, seated in your gallery. I'd like to ask members to join with me in welcoming them today.

I'll be meeting with them after question period to have our pictures taken and to discuss issues of the day with them. I'd also like to welcome the teachers, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bzdel, Mr. Clifton; and some chaperons, Mrs. Senft and Mrs. Chalupiak. Members, I ask you to join with me in welcoming these guests here today. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I would draw your attention and that of the members to a former member who is sitting behind the rail, Mr. Walter Smishek. Mr. Smishek is not only well-known to the members of this House, but also to the people of Saskatchewan as one who was part of the group of people in Saskatchewan who brought us medicare; was a former minister of Health and in that capacity brought us the prescription drug program and the children's dental program; was a minister of Finance for four years and brought us, I believe, four balanced budgets.

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

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — And I might add, was also a minister of Urban Affairs and brought us the urban revenue-sharing program.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order.

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

**The Speaker:** — I trust that the introduction is complete, but if you haven't quite finished, I would just like to say, not to include debate and simply introduce your guests. I trust you will.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, let me just say, I hope that a person's achievements never become the subject of debate, and I'm pleased to introduce him.

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

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, if I might, while I'm on my feet, I just want to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, a constituent of mine, Rheta Lang, who's up in the east gallery. And would you

please welcome her.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Costs of Decentralization

**Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House the member from Melfort, the former Government House Leader, declared — and I have a copy of his statement here — that the province is “on the verge of bankruptcy . . .” Something which, Mr. Speaker, I might add, many of us have been saying for quite some time.

And the member from Melfort also went on to say that the so-called Fair Share program will cost much more than the government lets on; that it cannot be justified for among other reasons, the costs.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is this: Mr. Premier, will you table today finally your studies on the costs of Fair Share? And if not, will you finally admit that this program is too costly and put together, as we and the member from Melfort have been saying, without adequate planning and consultation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we’ve had considerable experience, as the members opposite have, in moving people when they were in government. We move about 200 people a year.

We’ve certainly looked at the experience in the last few years in terms of Fair Share to various communities. And our costs range from 8 to \$12,000 per person that is moved, Mr. Speaker. Now it will vary depending on how many people move, and it’ll vary depending on the kinds of technology you use. But, Mr. Speaker, I’m quite prepared to stand by that information.

We’ll be providing more analysis when we wrap it up, Mr. Speaker, and the minister in charge will have more to say on that. But I’d certainly say, Mr. Speaker, that all of the experience that our national consultants have, we have, banks have, the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) have, and many, many others, are in the ballpark of the figures that we’ve presented, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the Premier. Mr. Premier, and Mr. Speaker, on the weekend the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* ran an advertisement placed by the Government of Saskatchewan called “THE FACTS ON FAIR SHARE SASKATCHEWAN.” Unfortunately there were no facts in there except for one little interesting fact, and I quote. The ad says, quote:

The process has involved the expertise of a team of national consulting firms — including Price

Waterhouse, Ernst and Young, and Peat Marwick Stevenson and Kellogg (is what the ad said).

Mr. Premier, surely these consulting firms have done these cost studies for you. Surely they must have done so. And if so, why is it that you steadfastly refuse to produce them? Or putting it bluntly, why do you steadfastly continue to hide these reports, especially in the light of the allegations made by your former colleague sitting around the cabinet table, the member for Melfort?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, in this House, Mr. Speaker, obviously there’s a very significant difference in philosophy. We have looked at share offerings in the Potash Corporation so the public could be involved, and they don’t want to believe any of the numbers.

We’ve looked at Weyerhaeuser and PAPCO (Prince Albert Pulp Company), Mr. Speaker. The hon. member knows that it was losing \$91,000 a day, and we put together a deal. We have a brand-new paper mill. And all he can talk about are the numbers, Mr. Speaker, and he’s still against it, Mr. Speaker.

It’s the same with respect to moving Crop Insurance to Melville. We’ve gone through all that, Mr. Speaker. And all they could say in the last election is that they’ll review Melville and whether Crop Insurance would go there. Well that’s all it took for Melville, Mr. Speaker. They voted for the Conservatives because they knew we would deliver Crop Insurance to Melville.

After all the pressure, Mr. Speaker, on us, and then all of the pressure on that member, you’d think that he could stand up today and say he’s either for it or against it. But he still can, Mr. Speaker. He still can.

All over the province of Saskatchewan people are saying, in principle this is the right thing to do. But still that member can’t say whether he’s for it or against it, Mr. Speaker. Make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, we are for it. We defend rural Saskatchewan towns and villages and cities. It is the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Premier. And I note, Mr. Speaker, as is obvious to the entire legislature and the people of the province of Saskatchewan, this Premier refuses or is unable to answer the previous two questions about costs, which substantiate the allegations we’ve been making, and the member from Melfort, that the costs simply don’t justify what’s been taking place here.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is this. In today’s Regina *Leader-Post*, Statistics Canada shows us — sadly I say this — as being number one in Canada when it comes to the number of children living in poor income families, a full 7 per cent above the national average.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to this, the Premier: how can the government justify perhaps up to a hundred million

dollars extra cost on Fair Share, so-called, when the poverty rate for children in this province shows exactly how unfair this government really has been to the poor and the families. How do you justify that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, he's put his foot in it now. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Excuse me. Order. Member for Regina Elphinstone, order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I want . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I don't like to interrupt, but I don't think it's courteous that as soon as I call the House to order, immediately there's a member interrupting again. We should have some co-operation.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I want you and the members of the public and the members of the media to note exactly what the hon. member just said.

He's noticed poverty in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the real poverty in Saskatchewan is in rural Saskatchewan because they've suffered the collapse of farm income. We've seen towns and villages all over this province lose population, Mr. Speaker. Listen to them holler. Listen to the holler, Mr. Speaker. Let me finish. Do you think they'd let me finish.

People all over Saskatchewan have suffered because of \$2 wheat, 21 per cent interest rates. They've suffered, Mr. Speaker, because of commodity wars, and no other jurisdiction in Canada has suffered. And that member won't speak up for them. He won't stand in his place and say, I'll provide you some jobs. I'll stick in there for GRIP (gross revenue insurance plan) and NISA (net income stabilization account). I'll provide community development bonds.

Mr. Speaker, if there's poverty in this province, this government knows that it's in rural Saskatchewan. Those people have lost their farms, lost their incomes. They've had to move, Mr. Speaker. They've been in real, real difficulty and that member, Mr. Speaker, as in 1982, wouldn't lift a finger. And today he abandons them again, Mr. Speaker. He abandons them. Well I haven't, Mr. Speaker, and we'll stick up for them. You can count on that.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the Premier. And I say to the Premier that it's correct. That thanks to your policies and those of your friend the Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, with the closure of VIA Rail and the closure of the post offices and the closure of the dental technicians' programs and the various other privatizations of highways and the absence of an agricultural policy, you're right. The people of rural Saskatchewan are suffering thanks to Tory policies. That's . . . (inaudible) . . . Your policies.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — For nine years this person has been the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order, order, order. Order. Order.

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is this to the Premier. In view of the fact for the last nine years you, sir, have been the government and the Premier in charge of the administration of the province of Saskatchewan, resulting in this now, which you admit, how in the world is it that you can justify up to a hundred million dollars for Fair Share when poverty is rampant in rural Saskatchewan as you say. How do you justify that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, the hon. member doesn't understand agriculture in rural Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order, order. Order, order. Order. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, if Fair Share Saskatchewan, if Fair Share Saskatchewan would cost \$25 million, Mr. Speaker, if it did, that's 50 cents an acre to the farmers and the people of rural Saskatchewan, 50 cents an acre. I've stood in this legislature, offered 3 or 4 or \$500 million, and he's jumped up and down and said it isn't enough and it isn't enough.

If we go out, Mr. Speaker, and we provide jobs for folks all over rural Saskatchewan, it would be there, Mr. Speaker. As a result . . . Listen to them. They don't understand, Mr. Speaker. They wouldn't even listen, and as much as 50 cents an acre in rural Saskatchewan, to provide opportunities when we've had \$2 wheat, we've had drought, we've had grasshoppers.

Mr. Speaker, we've had 21 per cent interest rates and the NDP (New Democratic Party) Leader, the only thing that he did, Mr. Speaker, is foreclose on farmers or buy their land, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well we'll do more than that. We'll do more than that. We know what drove them off the farms. We know what caused them the problem in the first place, Mr. Speaker. We're going to be there to defend them. And, Mr. Speaker, 25 or 30 or 40 or 50 cents an acre is not too much to put into rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I've a new question to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the record of this government is painfully clear to each and every one of us in the province of Saskatchewan — today the highest rate of out-migration, the highest rate of bankruptcies in the farm and businesses, today the highest rate of joblessness. Today, according to the Premier's own admission, the highest rates of poverty in rural Saskatchewan — after

nine years of this government's administration — that's their record.

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

**Mr. Romanow:** — They're the government. Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the Premier opposite has lost faith of the people and the people of the province of Saskatchewan. He's lost the confidence of the members of his cabinet and his caucus, as the member from Melfort chose. Your priorities are a hundred million dollars for Fair Share and not for the poverty and the children in poverty.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to you, Mr. Premier: for once, will you get up and do the right thing and call an election right now so that we can start things on the right way?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I have put \$12 billion into rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — \$12 billion. And the hon. members won't listen and they won't respond because they don't understand.

Mr. Speaker, we put \$2 billion into rural Saskatchewan for farmers in rural communities. We got the federal government to put 9 billion, Mr. Speaker — 9 billion. If you look at all the years prior to that, Mr. Speaker, the NDP never come close to helping farmers. Thank goodness, Mr. Speaker, there was a Progressive Conservative government in the 1980s in the province of Saskatchewan to stick up for farmers, Mr. Speaker, and rural people.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — We spent \$300 million providing natural gas to farmers and towns and villages and ranchers — way overdue. Our neighbours in Alberta had it for years, Mr. Speaker, and finally people have access to natural gas. We provided water projects, diversification, community bonds, and now, Mr. Speaker, just a little bit Fair Share of government offices.

And do you know what the hon. member says? He can't even stand in his place today and say whether he's for it or against it. And he wants me to call an election.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I say to the hon. member, why doesn't he come clean and stand up and say he's either on one side of the fence or the other, Mr. Speaker. He hasn't fooled anybody in rural Saskatchewan. They will deny him again, Mr. Speaker; you can count on it.

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

### Child Hunger in Saskatchewan

**Mr. Pringle:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of the Family. The Premier is obviously not prepared to answer the questions. The Minister of the Family is coaching the Premier from his seat so I'll give him an opportunity to stand up.

Mr. Minister, 23 per cent of Saskatchewan children are

growing up in poverty, as my colleague has said. Instead of offering any support for these families, you would rather spend \$100 million on your government's political agenda, Mr. Minister of the Family.

Mr. Minister, do you, sir, have the courage to stand up today and to admit that the political fortunes of the PC (Progressive Conservative) Party are more important to you, sir, than to the fate of thousands of hungry Saskatchewan children?

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

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** — Mr. Speaker, last year about this time we embarked on a program to respond to the needs of hunger in the province. We visited schools and directors of education and community associations and mayors and municipalities all over this province and asked them how serious they thought the problem was and how could we respond.

It came down, Mr. Speaker, to rather a simple answer. The answer seemed to be for the most part in community schools — community schools in Regina, in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon and Prince Albert and North Battleford. We asked them what they needed to help to solve the problem. You don't solve the problem for a long time because the basic solution, Mr. Speaker, is education.

But we needed to respond to it, so we did respond. We responded by providing hot meals to all these kids attending these community schools in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and North Battleford. And so far . . . and going back over to the schools and talking to them in the last little while, they seem to be very happy with that system, Mr. Speaker.

They seem to feel that maybe there are places where we could top up the programs. Maybe there's a few wrinkles here and there we could fix. But, Mr. Speaker, they're not . . . they're saying it's been a good thing so far and we need to keep it up.

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

**Mr. Pringle:** — New question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since this member was appointed Minister of the Family, poverty in Saskatchewan has gone up dramatically, not down. Mr. Minister, child poverty in Saskatchewan is a disgrace. A year ago you said it didn't even exist. It's a disgrace; it's an embarrassment.

Families in Regina are now being ripped apart, and your choice to many of them is to either separate or become unemployed. That's a choice you're giving them. Families in rural Saskatchewan are being victimized by your government's cruel hoax that this program will actually happen and that their problems will be solved.

Mr. Minister, if you had any decency left, if you had any decency as Minister of the Family, you would follow the lead of the member from Melfort. You would stand up and you would resign as well in protest.

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

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** — First of all, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm really not sure what the question was, but let me try to figure out what the question was. It was . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Will you resign?

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** — Well of course I won't resign. First of all, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** — The mayor of the city, Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, the mayor of the city of Regina suggested that I should resign. My answer to the mayor of the city — as it would be to any of those other members over there because he certainly represents the interests of the people opposite — but, Mr. Speaker, my answer would be this: that I am a member from the city of Regina. I can do more for the city of Regina, more for the hunger in this province, more for the families of this province, by being in cabinet. That's where the decisions are made.

Mr. Speaker, as long as I am here, as long as I have an opportunity to strengthen rural Saskatchewan, because it strengthens the city of Regina . . . Mr. Speaker, if we do not have a strong rural Saskatchewan, we have a weak Regina. And the sooner these people figure that out, the easier it will be to get on with the job.

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

#### Future of Fair Share Saskatchewan

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier, if I can get his attention. Mr. Premier, yesterday in this House we heard a searing indictment of your government to an extent that has seldom been heard in this province, if any, Mr. Premier. Your House Leader, a valued member of the treasury benches and a very important member of your government, stood up and quit your party because he believes you have embarked on a program that is hurting people in this province.

So my question to you today is: are you going to take the advice of the member from Melfort who did what he did because he believed you wrong? Will you reconsider and will you abandon this harmful Fair Shares program which is going to do so much harm to public services in the province of Saskatchewan and cost millions of dollars?

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have been with the cabinet members in Melfort today. And he would have seen, Mr. Speaker, the community endorse Fair Share Saskatchewan. People all over the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, have said that the province of Saskatchewan can have a little bit better share of public employees. Melfort said that today in spades, Mr. Speaker. They are coming out, Mr. Speaker, and they're saying that's the right thing to do.

They say it in Watrous. They say it in Lanigan. They say it in Humboldt and Rosetown. And the NDP still can't make up their mind whether they're for it or against it. And they're asking, Mr. Speaker . . . well come on let's see . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order, order. Order, order. While hon. members may get emotional, surely hollering at the top of your voice shouldn't be part of your expression, surely. And perhaps if the member for Wascana and the member for Saskatoon Nutana would refrain from carrying on their private debate, we could continue.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I just make the point that the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, knows as a politician, Mr. Speaker, that eventually it'll catch up to him. He says one thing in the country in Tisdale. He says, it's absolutely not true that I would cancel this program. Now he comes back here in Regina and his colleagues are on him saying, oh we're against this. Barb Byers told him to say he's against it. Then he goes out into the country again — he'll be in Rosetown tomorrow, Mr. Speaker — he'd say: no, it's okay, I'd just do it a little different. Then he comes back into Regina and Rosenau says: no, you've got to be against it.

Yesterday one of the union members said: you know, I think Romanow's a chicken blank. He should make up his mind. Well what's a chicken blank? That's a politician, Mr. Speaker, who says one thing in the country, another thing in the city; one thing to the seniors, another to the youth. Mr. Speaker, that chicken blank isn't going to make it.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — A new question to the Premier.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order. Order. Order, order. The member for Regina North East wishes to put a question, but he can't if members on both sides of the House don't allow him to.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a new question to the Premier, and let me say at the outset that the definition for a chicken in Saskatchewan is a Premier who's afraid to call an election.

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

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Let me tell the Premier, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the Premier what his former House Leader, the member from Melfort, said yesterday, and I quote:

I do believe that people expect stable, responsible, caring, and fair leadership from their politicians.

Mr. Speaker, I have applied these principles to our program, Fair Share . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Excuse me, excuse me. There are still members from both sides of the House who are not allowing you to put your question. And once again, interruptions and hollering is really not acceptable and I'm going to have to interrupt, even though I don't like

to interrupt hon. members, to bring that to their attention.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me continue, Mr. Premier. Your former House Leader, the member for Melfort, said:

Mr. Speaker, I have applied these principles to our program, Fair Share, and I'm sorry, but I don't think they pass that test.

Well, Mr. Premier, if in the view of one of your former cabinet colleagues the program wasn't fair, it wasn't stable, it wasn't caring or responsible, how can you justify continuing it? Will you today halt your madness and leave it to the people of the province. Will you call an election? Let them decide. Because in the end they are going to have to foot the bill, Mr. Premier. Call an election.

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

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, isn't it . . . It must be fascinating to the media at least, and to the public, to see the fact that one of my colleagues has stepped down over this issue, Mr. Speaker, and still they can't come clean and say whether they're for it or against it.

I say, Mr. Speaker, we will continue it. The NDP are all over the map. The NDP leader can't make up his mind, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't want to get caught in the country. He doesn't want to say one thing there and one thing here because he knows he's been caught over and over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, the old NDP trick, Mr. Speaker, of not . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order, order, order.

Unfortunately I must once more interrupt. And I once more ask hon. members to co-operate — to co-operate, our hon. members, and allow question period to proceed.

**Hon. Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, let me put it another way. If the hon. members think that is doing them so much good, then they might as well encourage us to continue it and make their point. But, Mr. Speaker, they can't make up their mind because they say one thing in the country and one thing in the city.

In Tisdale, I will challenge the hon. member to come to Tisdale and debate Fair Share Saskatchewan. He won't do that. I'll take him Rosetown, Rosetown. I'll challenge him to come to Yorkton. I'll challenge him to come to Melfort. I'll challenge him to come to Moose Jaw. He can come all over the province, Mr. Speaker, but he has to make up his mind. Is he for it or against it, Mr. Speaker?

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

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 88 — An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)

**Hon. Mr. Petersen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of

a Bill to amend The Highway Traffic Act (No. 2).

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

### Bill No. 89 — An Act to amend The Agri-Food Act

**Hon. Mr. Martens:** — I move first reading of a Bill to amend The Agri-Food Act.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### MOTION UNDER RULE 16

#### Fair Share Saskatchewan (continued)

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to rise today, and I will be moving a motion on the rule 16 "in recognizing the extreme hardship faced by rural communities of Saskatchewan as a result of the downturn in our agricultural sector, and the importance to our urban centres of strengthening and stabilizing these rural communities."

Mr. Speaker, I guess probably question period here today has taken up a little bit of what we are going to be talking about here this afternoon . . .

## TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — The hon. member has begun his remarks, and we will take note of the time so he doesn't lose any time. But I would like to ask leave of the House to table the report, the Saskatchewan Electoral Boundaries Commission, 1991. I now table the report that reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to submit herewith pursuant to The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, 1991, section 12(1), a report containing the commission's recommendations respecting constituency boundaries and names in order to provide for the division of Saskatchewan into constituencies for the election of the members of the Legislative Assembly. Yours sincerely, Dr. John Archer, Commission Chairman.

I now table the report.

### MOTION UNDER RULE 16

#### Fair Share Saskatchewan

**Mr. Hopfner:** — As I indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, I will be moving at the end of my remarks:

That this Assembly recognize the extreme hardship faced by rural communities of Saskatchewan as a result of the downturn in our agricultural sector, and the importance of our urban centres of strengthening and stabilizing these rural communities, commend the government for its record of successful

decentralization efforts, and for implementing further decentralization through Fair Share Saskatchewan, for its fair and equitable treatment of employees affected by these moves, and in particular extend its congratulation and appreciation to the Saskatchewan towns and villages that have promoted their communities and shown determination to build their communities, and Saskatchewan, through this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the motion in itself says a lot for what decentralization means in the province of Saskatchewan. And I can only really speak strongly on behalf of my riding, Mr. Speaker. And I want to draw a sort of a scenario in regards to my riding and what had taken place out in my particular riding over the last nine years.

Mr. Speaker, over the last nine years there has been a definite hardship in the agricultural community in the Cut Knife-Lloydminster constituency. We have seen a lot through the closing of businesses in our constituency due to the downturn of the economy and the lack of dollars that the farming community had in their pockets to keep these businesses viable. I know that it is fairly awkward in some cases for some individuals to recognize that particular element because they have been an arm's length from the agricultural community.

I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that decentralization in my communities such as Lloydminster and Maidstone and Cut Knife, have been warmly accepted. I guess probably if the world could have seen the communities in regards to the reaction that had taken place with the announcements, Mr. Speaker, people could have probably have felt differently into the way that it is portrayed, maybe even through the media.

I want to indicate to you, sir, that . . . and I'll give you an example or two. I want to indicate to you, sir, that prior to decentralization and the Progressive Conservatives coming to government in 1982, that the downturn in the agriculture economy had really begun. And there was a hard cry towards Regina here, towards the provincial government under the NDP administration at that particular time, as well as a hard and fast cry to Ottawa, and that had apparently fell on deaf ears.

Interest rates had sky-rocketed dramatically. I as a small-business man, I can relate to my own personal as well as some of my friends in the business community as well, where we had to look at 24 and 25 per cent interest rates in our businesses, in our operating loans as well as our mortgages in our facilities. And I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that it had a dramatic impact in rural Saskatchewan at that particular time.

As I said, it had fallen on deaf ears, Mr. Speaker. And that is what had come to a point of maybe I guess in some aspects some hard, dramatically hard feelings against the NDP administration of that time.

And I took it upon myself as one individual in rural Saskatchewan, to fight for the rights of rural Saskatchewan. Because with that rural base it was recognized that our dollars would be mainly spent in the

larger urban centres in the end — if not sooner, then later.

But I want to indicate that when the backs were turned on rural Saskatchewan by the NDP administration, and now Leader of the Opposition, I want to indicate that we as well as urban centres had indicated their dislike and had voted against the NDP back in 1982.

On those basis, there was never really a recovery. There was further set-backs in the agricultural sector, as everyone well knows, because of the . . . well because of what had taken place across the world — not even in Canada here, Mr. Speaker, but across the world — of commodity wars and everything else.

So you know members opposite here in question period were pointing the finger at our Premier here and is saying it was all his fault, what happened to agriculture, and things like that. Well anybody reasonably minded would know that that's not the case.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we had to, upon taking hold of the administration here, had had to make some fairly significant changes. And yes there is some changes that are I guess fairly difficult to make. And I think probably there are changes that a lot of people find hard.

(1445)

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that even with changes that we've made across the . . . well over the period of time I should say, from '82 to this point, has helped soften the blow in rural Saskatchewan. It's not to say there hadn't been some failures out there over our length of administration to this point, but at least we've softened it and it was of a less dramatic type of blow.

And I say this, Mr. Speaker, that through a program such as decentralization, that is one particular program that has helped soften that blow.

And I would hope, I would hope that the people do not feel . . . The employees that have moved out, I know the ones that have already settled in other parts of Saskatchewan other than here in Regina have really taken their place in the communities across the province that they've moved to and have found that gosh, it's not as bad as the NDP portray it to be out there in rural Saskatchewan.

And I'm surprised by the member of The Battlefords or the member from Quill Lakes, you know, that live in more the rural community, and opposing it. I can understand maybe members from Regina here taking a more hard, fast stand on it because they are closer associated with higher-up union officials that are opposed philosophically to any move that this government so makes.

But I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the people in my riding can feel . . . they feel good about having some new neighbours coming into their communities. They have beautiful facilities out in the communities, especially in my riding. I can say that there is not a lack of any kind of a type of a facility that is in Regina here that wouldn't be found out in my part of the world here, my part of the

province.

And I look at the skating rinks, I look at hockey, and I look at figure skating, I look at volleyball and I look at rugby. I look at the . . . And I'm looking at this on the basis of for our young people as well as we who are getting older, through recreation, sports, and everything else. But the younger people do very well by being able to have these facilities at their fingertips.

There's not too much of this as having to get up at 4:30 in the morning like they do here in the city to have to take advantage of an ice hockey rink or a figure skating rink, you know. The figure-skating clubs and the hockey teams, they have actually decent hours in being able to take place in their competitions and everything else. And they're very strong, strong clubs. I know that there are very strong figure-skating clubs in rural Saskatchewan as well.

And decentralization and the back-up of decentralization should be looked at in these views is that they're not . . . people are not and employees are not moving into some deserted community. We have beautiful education facilities, Mr. Speaker, with beautiful class-rooms. As well we have gymnasiums and indoor-outdoor sports.

I want to indicate to you that it was the second year in a row, Mr. Speaker, that in Lashburn, for instance, the community of Lashburn, that the junior men — and we had 50 young men to choose from — they have won the Saskatchewan provincial rugby championship, the junior men's championship, two years in a row. And they had to compete against places such as Saskatoon and Regina and Humboldt and others.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that the competitiveness out there by these young people are second to none. They are full of emotion; they play with great emotion; they hold their heads up high. And, Mr. Speaker, they feel strong about their community and the community's survival and stability.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not that I am opposed to the stability here in Regina. Those kinds of programs, stability programs here, for instance, the community of Regina and Saskatoon or the larger cities especially, they, Mr. Speaker, are I guess probably as important to me as a rural person, as my own communities are.

I as a member of this Assembly of this government, Mr. Speaker, do not take part in the decentralization program as a way of trying to get even with some people, some employees of the civil service. That's not the reason at all. I believe, Mr. Speaker, this — I believe that decentralization means taking government even closer to the people. It gives the people that have more or less centralized here in Regina an opportunity to get closer to the people they work for as well and to meet new friends and help stabilize a community, as well as carry on with their duties.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, if we take a look at it, I can understand some of the emotions that do possibly fly in the face of certain employees in here in Regina, and I'm sure that we're prepared as a government to sit down and

deal with that as it comes to be.

And I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is my privilege to so move and, Mr. Speaker, I move then:

That this Assembly once again recognizing the extreme hardship faced by the rural communities of Saskatchewan as a result of the downturn in our agriculture sector, and the importance to our urban centres of strengthening and stabilizing these rural communities, commend the government for its record of successful decentralization efforts, for implementing further decentralization through Fair Share Saskatchewan, for its fair and equitable treatment of employees affected by these moves, and in particular extend its congratulations and appreciation to the Saskatchewan towns and villages that have promoted their communities and shown determination to build their communities, and Saskatchewan, through this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I so move, seconded by the member from Wilkie.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House now proceed to Resolution No. 46 which reads as follows:

That this Legislative Assembly hereby expresses its non-confidence in the Government of Saskatchewan and therefore demands the immediate dissolution of the Legislature and the calling of a provincial general election.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

**The Speaker:** — I had to get this straight, so I need to explain it. I had to put the motion. I recognized you; however, I'll be frank with you, I recognized you under the assumption that you were going to ask leave to introduce guests or something like that. Therefore your motion wasn't in order because this motion hadn't been put. I must put the motion and then the seconder has an opportunity.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's with pleasure I rise to speak in favour of this motion.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, decentralization is nothing really new to the province of Saskatchewan. This process has been in effect since about 1984, Mr. Speaker. The only thing that has changed or is different, Mr. Speaker, is that we have gave the decentralization a name, which is Fair Share Saskatchewan. It was called decentralization, Mr. Speaker, and it is something that has been done in the past, Mr. Speaker, and has been very successful.

Mr. Speaker, we have watched the decentralization process, and we slow walked it since 1984. We have



watched the Water Corporation in Moose Jaw, we've watched Crop Insurance in Melville, and we have watched Agricultural Credit Corporation in Swift Current, Saskatchewan Pension Plan, Mr. Speaker, in Kindersley, and the New Careers Corporation in Kamsack.

Mr. Speaker, I could enlarge on that by saying that our group homes, the decentralization of our group homes, is another example of decentralization which has been very successful, in that we have taken people who are handicapped in one degree or another, Mr. Speaker, and put them into a home atmosphere. We decentralized that out of the institutions, Mr. Speaker. So this program is really nothing new.

We could talk about rural service centres, Mr. Speaker, which is part of the decentralization. And, Mr. Speaker, all of these moves have been successful in terms of government efficiency. We have watched these and we are now prepared, Mr. Speaker, to take the process further. All these moves have been very popular in the communities in which they have been moved to.

(1500)

One of the mayors in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, said: it's long overdue. He said things like: it's the best thing since sliced bread. Mr. Speaker, they're very enthusiastic.

Mr. Speaker, they are aware, very much aware, of the trauma that may be there for people who'd have to move to a new home, and they are prepared to welcome them with open arms. They're prepared to make their move as easy as it can. And they are prepared to work with them, not on just one day to say hello, but for the weeks and months and years into the move, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware, we are aware of the trauma of people moving out of the city. Mr. Speaker, we have young farmers not only losing their jobs — losing their life work, and moving to the city. So we are aware of that; we know that. And we have put policies in place, Mr. Speaker, to alleviate that and help as much as we can.

Mr. Speaker, at the time the moves were taking place, the members opposite played the same game that they're playing today. They told us the moves would kill departments. They told us the moves would do absolutely nothing for the communities involved. Mr. Speaker, that opinion is not shared by the people in the country. Mr. Speaker, they want a chance to share in the spin-off to business that comes from salaries being paid in their community.

In my home town of Unity, Mr. Speaker, we have a salt mine, Sifto Salt. They employ in the neighbourhood of 95 people plus management. Mr. Speaker, the people of Unity understand where Main Street would be if we didn't have the cash inflow from that salt mine.

They embrace those people, Mr. Speaker, and the people of the Sifto Salt company embrace the town, because we stand together. If we closed down the Sifto Salt plant, 95 people are out of a job; the town of Unity is out of a payroll. They know that, and they work very well together. The people of my community, Mr. Speaker, are

prepared to work with anyone that comes to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, in this move there is nothing to criticize. If you prescribe to the members opposite that there is nothing to criticize, there must be nothing to say. Mr. Speaker, there is something to say. There is something to say about the residents and the communities that have the drive and dedication to build and stabilize their communities.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, there's two questions must be asked — two fundamental questions. The fundamental question I would ask first: is rural Saskatchewan way of life worth saving? If the answer, Mr. Speaker, is yes, then Fair Share fits that, with community bonds, Fair Share, rural service centres. All those fit.

Mr. Speaker, the other question I have to ask myself: if my grandchildren say to me, grandpa, how come you let Unity die; you didn't do anything. If I can say to him, I tried, I tried to save it, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a better answer they say, we done nothing.

And, Mr. Speaker, they laugh over there. They don't understand. They don't understand about small communities. They don't understand, Mr. Speaker. They're not interested. Mr. Speaker, it all points . . . Mr. Speaker, it points to a positive development.

And I get reaction. And I know when I get reaction from them it's because I hit a nerve. Mr. Speaker, I know by their reaction that they don't like to hear what I say because what I have to say makes sense, Mr. Speaker. It's there. It's that community.

Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is go out in the rural communities and you will feel, you will feel, the excitement in the air. Mr. Speaker, there was 120 people in the town of Unity. My wife went to Macklin. My grandson drove the minister to Wilkie. And each of those, Mr. Speaker, came back and said they were positive. The mayor of Wilkie, who ran for the nomination for the NDP and lost, was very excited — very, very excited in this program. He accepts it; he wants it.

Those over there on the other side of the House won't believe that, Mr. Speaker. All they have to do is call him up. He's a fair-minded man . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . yes, right.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a grandfather. And I would say to the member over there from Quill Lakes, who's giving me the problem, that I'm probably better respected than his grandchildren respect him.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order, order, order. Order, order. I'd just like to draw it to the attention of the hon. member, that we — order — that we don't mention the hon. member's presence or absence.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you're wondering about Fair Share, Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look in the people's eyes and see the excitement that is happening when we announce Fair Share to them.

Mr. Speaker, is there any way that you can help me with the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . yes.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that people don't like to move but people move all the time. I talked to RCMP; I talked to bankers; I talked to elevator agents; and, Mr. Speaker, they all have to move. However, Mr. Speaker, in conversation with them, they don't get the consideration that we are giving to the people that we are asking to move. We are asking them to move, Mr. Speaker, but we are also putting a package before them that I think is fair, I think it's just, and I think they will accept when they know the full extent of the package that will be offered to them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in our areas Fair Share has given them a renewed belief in that they can save their small communities. Mr. Speaker, it was traumatic to see businesses close down and to see the feeling that's out there now, saying yes, we may be able to save our Saskatchewan way of life in the rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it would be unfair to say that the opposition hasn't come out with a position on Fair Share, but it would be nice, Mr. Speaker, if they would narrow it down to maybe just one position.

Mr. Speaker, we're asking them, are they for it or against it. Well, Mr. Speaker, it has been a position that they use both in the city . . . they use one in the city and one in the rural communities. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's fair that they should have a different position in the city as they do in the rural country.

Mr. Speaker, it's not fair to the people. If they have a position on it and they are dead against it, that's fair. We accept that. We know they won't accept anything we do anyway. But let us have from them their position as to why, why we shouldn't try to save rural Saskatchewan. That's all we're asking. Tell us you're position. What would you do?

The NDP in Regina, and I quote the member from The Battlefords, he said: I am opposed to Fair Share Saskatchewan. It would be no different than sending people to the salt mines of Siberia.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Unity, Saskatchewan, in the province of Saskatchewan, in the constituency of Wilkie, would . . .

**The Speaker:** — Time has elapsed.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House now proceed to resolution no. 46 which reads as follows:

That this Legislative Assembly hereby expresses its non-confidence in the Government of Saskatchewan and therefore demands the immediate dissolution of the legislature and the calling of a provincial election.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

The division bells rang from 3:05 p.m. until 4 p.m.

## MOTIONS

### Resolution No. 15 — Community Economic Development Programs

**Mr. Sauder:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased and privileged to have this opportunity to address the Assembly today, private members' day.

Mr. Speaker, once again we're presented with an opposition who doesn't have the respect for this Assembly and what it means for the province of Saskatchewan, what it means for our democracy . . . but to utilize every method and every tactic that they can to disrupt the proceedings here . . . who don't want to listen to an open and honest debate, who don't want to deal openly, fairly, with the issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I think that they should be disgraced. It's a disgraceful attitude that they display, the way they carry on in this Assembly. It's been my privilege to spend these last nine years here, and I must say that one of the things that's disappointed me most has been the decorum of this House, the mode of operation of the opposition, as they've looked at every opportunity and every initiative as to what it means in political terms as opposed to what it means for the people of Saskatchewan; those people who did put their trust and confidence in each and every one of the members elected to this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Sauder:** — Mr. Speaker, to close my remarks this afternoon, I'm going to move a motion relating to community economic development program in our province and what it's meant in the various communities that have participated in that program.

We have an opportunity to speak to a resolution that puts many of the recent happenings seen here in Regina back into perspective. Mr. Speaker, when members of the opposition choose to take the time, they're going to have the opportunity to enter into this debate and to put their views forward.

Today we have that chance to talk about what the people of this province can do when a government that genuinely cares about them and about their well-being, gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their enthusiasm and their initiative for their own communities — opportunities for the people of this province to not only have a say in how economic development and stabilization should be carried out in their own areas, but also the chance to actively take part, to participate in those decisions and to implement them.

That's what this government has succeeded in doing with the community economic development program. We've successfully utilized the enthusiasm and the dedication that has built our province from the ground up and has targeted it towards the stabilization and the further development of those communities across our great province.

Mr. Speaker, time and again that is what the people of this province — a province that has a strong tradition of hard

work — that's what they've been asking for.

They haven't expected a government to serve them everything on a silver platter. They haven't asked for that. What they do expect, and have every right to expect from their government, is to provide the means to achieve their goals. They expect to have the chance to use their abilities and they expect government to believe in them and their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, most unfortunately we see members across the floor who don't have that respect for them, who aren't prepared to give them that opportunity to do it for themselves, to make their communities what they're capable of being. In contrast to that, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that this side of the House does believe in the people of this province and we're not prepared to let their determination to build their communities go to waste.

The community economic development program is designed to enable urban municipalities to improve not only their economic viability, but also the social, the cultural, religious viabilities that they have. It gives the residents of Saskatchewan villages, towns, and cities the opportunity to make their place the kind of town that anyone would be proud of. And, Mr. Speaker, by the number of communities who are listed in the resolution, I believe it's safe to say that a lot of our people in Saskatchewan are using this opportunity to the best of their ability. They are prepared to put their hard work and initiative and dollars on the line to make their community successful.

What's so special about these kinds of programs, and why are they proving so popular? Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for precisely the same reason I've already mentioned a number of times — the pride of building your community; the pride of working with your neighbours; the pride of family who have ties to that communities; doing something that the entire community can be proud of. And more importantly, doing something that's going to make that place stronger and a more viable place to live and raise a family — a stronger more viable place for mom and dad, grandpa and grandma, to spend their later years where they can be proud of what they've contributed. A place that does justice to the heritage of our pioneers, where few places in the world who can still boast that in many of their communities they have still original pioneers, original settlers there. People who came there with a dream and a vision, people who were not forced into our communities, people who came by choice because they wanted that opportunity to make a better life for themselves, an opportunity to have a better place for their children because they recognized the opportunities that their communities or future communities held. They recognized that the resources that were at hand could be put to use to provide so many of those things that they wished for themselves.

Community economic development committees provide the first steps to this renewed commitment to desired development. These committees are responsible for many things, including promoting tourism, advertising local attractions, acquiring chiropractors, barbers, other professional and business people to their communities and areas. They're responsible for finding out what the

community needs most and then finding ways to acquire them.

Many instances, one of the first courses of action of those committees is to sit down and assess their strengths. To list, draw up a community profile, to list all the things that they do have, all the resources that are available within their boundaries. And on the other side of the sheet to draw up a list of the things that they would like to see for their community, to take the opportunity to set a goal, to decide consciously where they want to go and where they'd like to be in the future.

For this, Mr. Speaker, every member of this Assembly should congratulate those members of our communities, those members who put their time and effort on a volunteer basis into those committees.

This government, under the leadership of our Premier, the member from Estevan, takes great pride in being part of that process, a process that has helped rekindle the co-operative spirit that has been such an important part of Saskatchewan's heritage, a spirit that has been such an important part of making Saskatchewan what it has become.

Projects like community bonds have truly been a spark into a great number of communities across the province. It's been an opportunity for them to recognize that within their own borders, within their own communities, they have the wherewithal to promote new business, in some case assist existing businesses, to better serve the needs that they have in their area.

We now have 68 incorporated bond corporations with 44 new economic development projects under way all across this province. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are more of them to come, many more to come.

People once again have become excited about the potential that their communities possess. Why is it? Because this government has taken the time to listen once more to what the people of this province have wanted. We've listened and then we've came up with a plan to implement many of those ideas that the public had.

Government is only as good as the people it serves and the people it represents. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm proud to say I'm proud to have been a member of this government that has listened to those people who have brought their ideas forward to government, and have assisted in developing programs and plans to let them put them into place — plans that have involved the people . . .

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

**Mr. Sauder:** — Involved the people not only as they've outlined the problems, but involved them in finding their solutions — a plan that's let each community lay out their own priorities in that process of strengthening not only their economy but also the economy of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, daily we see evidence that our plan is working. The people know that it is working. That's why manufacturing investment in this province has increased by more than 700 per cent. That's why we have all these

communities starting community economic development committees, community bond corporations, and putting in community profiles for their Fair Share Saskatchewan proposals.

That's why when you travel around the province, people speak with new vigour and enthusiasm for what their communities can become. They see this province maturing, this province and their communities coming to its own. They see that investing in the futures of the people of their community through programs like community bonds and helping people set up community development committees, it's much more profitable than buying potash mines; much more profitable than nationalizing an oil industry; setting up committees to promote home-grown ideas and businesses, working together within their community as opposed to some central government doing it all for them; continuing that tradition of working together, contributing not only to the economic well-being once again but also to those other aspects that make life so distinctive and so great in our rural communities.

(1615)

Mr. Speaker, those people also know how important the farm economy is to their futures and they know that government must do what it can to protect that industry. They feel the excitement of new families and jobs coming to their areas through Fair Share Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I had that opportunity only this morning to participate in the announcement in my home constituency of people coming to that community. As I had the opportunity to visit with so many of them afterwards, they were so enthused about the opportunity to welcome new people to their community, not only for what it meant in jobs and the economic side, but for what that community and area had to offer to those people as a place to live, in the life-style that was available, and the many, many things that they're so proud of in north-eastern Saskatchewan.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the kind of thing that makes this job so rewarding, seeing people regain that belief that they can do it for themselves and they can do it better than anyone else. They can do it better than people in government so far away. They can do it better than a bureaucrat in Regina. They can do it for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, so unfortunately as we look back over our history, we've seen that that belief is something that has been allowed to die by successive governments in the past, as they have so many times offered to do everything for them. They've driven that spirit out, but it has been rekindled. People are doing it and they're determined to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, and I'm sure you recall when the subject of a factory in every town came out in the media, members opposite sat in their chairs and chuckled. In fact many of them did more than chuckle — they outright laughed and treated the idea with scorn. Mr. Speaker, they laughed because they didn't believe it was possible. They thought it was something, that because someone talked about it, it should happen the next day.

Mr. Speaker, the very realistic people of this province realize that those types of things aren't turned around in a day or a week or in one term of office of a government. Mr. Speaker, they realize it will take time. They realize they have to lay the groundwork and work to that end. Mr. Speaker, they've taken up the challenge and they are working to that end. Sorry to say members opposite haven't put the same faith in the people of our province that they have in themselves. I say shame on them. Something like that isn't going to happen overnight, but the groundwork has been laid.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge you, I challenge members opposite, to go to the people in Melville, who now have a communications plant in their city, and tell them that it isn't possible to have that type of development in their community. Go to the people in Wynyard and tell them that it isn't possible to bottle water in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, once again we've seen a display by the member who represents that community, a display that he doesn't have the belief in his own people to even support them in their enterprises and in what they're doing — a member who treats his own constituents and their development with scorn and disdain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, go to the people in Indian Head and tell them that it isn't possible to produce medical supplies. Go to the people in Biggar and tell them that it isn't possible to produce world-class barley malt. Go to Saskatoon and tell them that they don't have the know-how to produce Saskatchewan's own beer. Go to your home area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the people of Prince Albert, surrounding area, and tell them that they can't produce paper. Some of the finest paper produced is in our Saskatchewan resources.

Who has done it, Mr. Deputy Speaker? It hasn't been government. It's been the people — our enterprising people, our tradesmen, our business people who put those projects together, who've worked on them and are making them successful within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, there's a long list of those type of projects. And the list, I'm happy to say, is getting longer. People are recognizing the opportunities that are available; they're building on those opportunities.

The dreams that all the people in Saskatchewan have, the dream that there will be jobs for them in their own communities, is becoming a reality. Partly it's through the work of community economic development committees, community bond corporations, but mostly it's through that desire of the people of Saskatchewan — the desire that they have to build, the desire that they have to make things better. Because those people in this province are builders, Mr. Speaker, they're going to make it happen.

Members opposite don't like to hear about people building. They don't like to hear about people doing things for themselves. They would sooner have them under their control. They would sooner say, we'll do it for you. Mr. Speaker, I challenge them to get out and listen to those people and to work with them, not against them. Mr. Speaker, those people in this province are builders

and it's something that the members on this side of the House have recognized, and we share that belief very strongly with them.

Mr. Speaker, people who are builders follow a plan. Mr. Speaker, we've been following a plan — a plan that's required spending money to protect the people when times were tough. And that goes back to the very early days of this administration in 1982, when we recognized that there were things that were out of the control of the people as individuals.

When the government came to the aid of people when interest rates were record highs, when people were losing their homes, when members sitting opposite were part of a government who turned a callous hand on those people and said there's nothing that can be done, this government recognized that there was something that can be done. We assisted those people through those times.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen that since 1982. We've seen it in assistance to agriculture; we've seen it in assistance to business people; we've seen it in assistance to students wanting to go to further their education. And we've stood with them. We've helped them.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a government that at times in that plan has been required to invest in projects to create new jobs for Saskatchewan people — a plan that's required improvements to how we deal with oil and gas companies so we could utilize the natural resources this province has been blessed with. It's been a plan that's recognized the enormous amount of human potential that the people of this province demonstrate in everything they do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a plan. We continue to follow that plan. From time to time as conditions change, there are certainly amendments, but we have stuck to a plan of building and working with the people to make their Saskatchewan better, to diversify what we have . . .

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

**Mr. Sauder:** — To add value to those resources that we have been so abundantly blessed with. The people of this province know that plan, and it certainly is helping, particularly in the manufacturing sector, to turn around.

Just a few weeks ago, newspapers carried the story of economic diversification and how Saskatchewan has done a super job during very difficult economic times. It hasn't been an accident, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's because we've had that plan — a plan where communities and their economic development committees have a very large role to play.

Mr. Speaker, let's contrast that with what members opposite have to offer the people of Saskatchewan — members who've never taken the time to listen to those people, who don't believe that those people can do what they want to do. Members opposite who would sooner criticize what's been done and not offer realistic solutions or alternatives to the problems that face us.

A government who stands and asks for instant results instead of putting the hard work and laying the groundwork for a solid future. Going by what they have said in this House and elsewhere, they're going to increase spending in every government department, following their course of tradition by having more control. But at the same time they say they're going to reduce taxes and reduce the deficit. Mr. Speaker, every taxpayer knows that they can't have more programs without paying more taxes. Their policies don't add up. Obviously they haven't learned very basic arithmetic yet. When somebody asks them how they're going to do it, they don't know. They say, we have to look first; we'll have to think about that; we'll set up a committee to study it.

How are they going to pay for all their promises? I'd like to know. The people of my constituency would like to know. Others in the province are asking.

Are they going to give the people of this province the opportunity to build and grow through more community development projects, or are they going to come in and shut them down, because some of them might involve bigger companies?

Are they going to continue to work with those people who've taken the initiative to develop things within their communities. Are they going to provide the support for economic growth and stabilization that the people of this province want, or are they going to revert back to their policy of buying potash mines, paper mills?

Are they going to stop Fair Share Saskatchewan and deprive rural communities across the province of their share of government services and the economic spin-offs associated with having government offices located in their towns.

I would challenge them all to come clean. Go out to Nipawin; come out to my constituency and tell the people in Nipawin where they stand, that they're not going to proceed with that type of support to that community. Go out to Weyburn, go out to Swift Current, Gull Lake, go out to all these communities and tell them that they don't stand behind them. Be honest with the people.

Those people are asking those questions, and I believe the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Riversdale, has an obligation to provide an answer to them.

Mr. Speaker, we've had answers, and we do have a plan, and most importantly we believe in those people in our communities and in Saskatchewan. We know how hard the people in Shaunavon, Porcupine Plain, Churchbridge, Meadow Lake, and Carlyle have been working. We know how hard the people in Nipawin, Radville, Preeceville, and others have been working. We also know what their communities mean to them.

We know that the tough economic times, particularly in agriculture, is doing to their communities and what they've been facing. It's been particularly hard on many of them. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, we know what the people of these communities can do if they're given the

tools to go out and get it done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proof is in the results, and I listed many of them previously — places who are doing things for themselves and developing their own communities. Things are getting done, Mr. Speaker. The mood is also changing. We're beginning to use the potential that this province has had from day one, that other governments have been too afraid to use because it might lessen the people's dependence on them.

Mr. Speaker, we're not afraid of Saskatchewan people competing with anyone. We're prepared to go out and compete with the best of them. We're prepared to put our resources to use for our development of our future. And we as a government are not afraid of providing them with the tools for development through community economic development committees, community development bonds, and giving them the assistance that we can. We're not afraid because Saskatchewan people can compete with anyone, and they can win.

Mr. Speaker, that is why members on this side of the House are so determined to continue working with the people of this province. We believe that it is much, much too important to our Saskatchewan future and our way of life to see that potential shelved for only partisan political reasons — shelved once again as it was in the past, and, Mr. Speaker, as the people believe, shelved like it would be again if the members opposite had their way.

Mr. Speaker, with these remarks I'd like to conclude on this. And at this time I'd like to move this motion, seconded by the member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster:

That this Assembly commend the government for its community economic development program and in particular extend its congratulations and appreciation for their determination to build their communities to the following Saskatchewan towns that have established community economic development committees under the program: Assiniboia, Birch Hills, Broadview, Canora, Carlyle, Churchbridge, Coronach, Davidson, Esterhazy, Eston, Foam Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, Gravelbourg, Hudson Bay, Humboldt, Indian Head, Ituna, Kamsack, Kerrobert, Kindersley, Kipling, Langenburg, Langham, Lanigan, La Ronge, Leader, Manitou Beach, Maple Creek, Martensville, Meadow Lake, Naicam, Nipawin, Outlook, Porcupine Plain, Preeceville, Radville, Redvers, Rocanville, Rosetown, Rosthern, Shaunavon, Shellbrook, Spiritwood, Sturgis, Tisdale, Wadena, Wakaw, Waldheim, Watrous, Whitewood, Wilkie, Wolseley and Wynyrd.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I so move.

(1630)

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I guess, Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me to draw some remarks once again from I have . . . I guess probably if nothing else, it is something similar to what rule no. 16 was earlier on today. I want to congratulate the member, my colleague from Nipawin, for a very sincere speech

that he had presented to all of us in this Legislative Assembly. I think probably that was one of the most sincere speeches that I've heard from any one member in speaking what comes right from the heart, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to get into my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by indicating that over the years that the most crucial issues facing Saskatchewan was the need to stabilize the agricultural base and rural communities as a foundation for urban prosperity and preservation of the Saskatchewan way of life, Mr. Speaker.

And I think members opposite, if they would have listened, the NDP would have listened just to what was read in that one sentence, would have said a lot. And then they might have understood what this government and this administration has been trying to do for quite some time.

I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that as I'd said earlier today in my remarks under rule 16, that the NDP opposition was turfed from government because they had turned their backs on the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, those people had an opportunity, the NDP had an opportunity, to put fully into practice much of what the Progressive Conservative government has done over the last nine years here in Saskatchewan.

I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that over nine years I have heard members of the NDP Party say, well me too, me too. I would do that too, only I might do it just a little bit different. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the people are much wiser than what the NDP give them credit for.

I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that we have now for some time have tried to get members of the opposition to stand in their place and tell us what they would do for the people of Saskatchewan in regards to economic development in all communities across this province.

Mr. Speaker, I guess probably again in that very first sentence that I read out to you, I will stress a very major point to this sentence. And it was, sir, that a very strong agricultural base, an agricultural community in rural Saskatchewan mean a very strong urban entity, and the strength of the urban entity just grows and expands in tenfold.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that over the years in my business, I have travelled on many occasions to the larger centres for my supplies so that I could be of service to the people in my communities. I want to say that those dollars passed through my small community, a community of 900, and had made its way into the large urban centre where those jobs were created and those people were able to serve me, as I wanted to serve my customers back home in my community. And I'm just one little person, Mr. Speaker, in the cog that keeps the province moving.

Our Premier, Mr. Speaker, has understood agriculture. He has grown up in agriculture and he is the first Premier of this province that has come from an agricultural background, an economic agricultural background. And I want to indicate to you, sir, that that strength in itself, that understanding in itself, has brought us a great distance

from where we were prior to us taking over as a government in the province of Saskatchewan.

Our Premier has brought much strength back into the agricultural sector through very tough and economic times caused by world tough and economic times. Commodity wars, Mr. Speaker, for an example, when we, our farmers had to look at \$2 a bushel wheat. And we all know that the costs of agriculture in this country and indeed our province where we have the highest percentage of agriculture right across this country . . . we all understand that the farmers cannot survive a \$2 price on wheat.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the protection of that agricultural base. We have recently just passed in this Legislative Assembly an insurance program under the GRIP and NISA Bill which does allow us as farmers now to be able to at least plan on a minimum for the particular crop year that we move into.

Mr. Speaker, as well, prior to this particular GRIP and NISA program, we have also had to go after not only our provincial coffers, go into our provincial coffers, but we had to go after federal dollars as well for cash injection into the farmers' pockets so that we could do as much as we could to keep those farmers on the land, Mr. Speaker. And there were many farmers in rural Saskatchewan that are very thankful for the help that was given them over the years, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that maybe in some people's minds that it just wasn't enough. But, Mr. Speaker, we kept working and we're keeping on that struggle to keep the farmers on the land and to get a buoyant economy back and a stable economy back in the agricultural scene.

I know that over the years I would say that there has been in agricultural loans, through protection and cash input between provincial and federal dollars, something in the neighbourhood of close to 11 billions of dollars injected into the agricultural community itself.

And I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that with that \$11 billion, I know as a small-business man in a small community, that I had some benefit through that injection because there had been a lot of the community, the agriculture community, come into my business place and have spent a good dollar. And I was able to pass it on through into the larger urban centres. So I'd just like to indicate to you, sir, that that is one of our major, major platforms that we've been able to maintain and continue on to maintain, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've taken many opportunities in protecting almost all sectors of the provincial economy. I would tend to think that when the economy, through the world economy, had taken its toll in Saskatchewan here through high interest rates, Mr. Speaker, and low commodities, this government, this Progressive Conservative government, has spent money when money needed to be spent to shore up, like I just indicated in agriculture. But we shored up for people and families. And small business needed that protection as well, Mr. Speaker.

(1645)

And what we did, Mr. Speaker, we had for instance — I'll give you an example — we had a mortgage, and we still have a mortgage protection plan here in the province of Saskatchewan. It was the first time ever thought of, Mr. Speaker. And we took the lead in a mortgage protection plan for our young people and, well in fact everyone here, Mr. Speaker, that wished to own a house in this province. And I believe when it was first introduced it was at thirteen and a quarter per cent, if members opposite would remember.

And, Mr. Speaker, that thirteen and a quarter per cent mortgage interest protection, that kept people in their homes. It kept families together. Mr. Speaker, it was a very emotional time when we brought that mortgage protection plan into law into this province because the communities were very, very vulnerable to the high interest rates. The stability was taken out from underneath them. And I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that that had a very emotional impact on families right across this province.

Mr. Speaker, as a member, those are the things that I love to do, as a member of this Assembly and for the love of this province, is to help people — help people be able to carry on with owning their homes and keeping families in their homes and not to have to worry.

I can remember, Mr. Speaker, in '81, as a candidate just running to become elected, people came to me and saying, what will you people do for us when you form government? Will you help us keep our homes? I remember that very well. And I was one of them that went around, I was one of the earlier candidates and said, you bet we're going to work for you to keep your homes.

And those people, Mr. Speaker, have those homes today. And those people never, ever did forget that. They still talk about that 24 per cent interest rates. And that's when the farm economy really took a big whipping as well, Mr. Speaker, and the farm families having to leave their homes and stuff. It was just that. So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to give you that as an example.

Another thing that kind of helped stabilize rural Saskatchewan and urban as well, and pulled the people of this province together, was such a thing, Mr. Speaker, as the Saskatchewan Pension Plan.

I want to indicate to you that it was the first time ever program again in this province, which many other provinces are now taking a look at. And this has helped the farm wives across this province. It's helped the small-business rural people. It's helped them to be able to look forward to some sort of security, Mr. Speaker, at retirement.

And I think probably the statistics will prove in itself the popularity of the program that this Progressive Conservative government had gained through introducing this program into the province. So you see, Mr. Speaker, that is another type of protection that this government has introduced in this province over the last nine years.

And again too, sir, I want to indicate to you that — and I know I might be jumping back and forth here a little bit — but I want to indicate to you as well the farm security Act, that it helped slow down a violent process and it helped keep families on the farm up until at least they could deal with their own situations and put some very serious thoughts into it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that if there was anybody over the years that has had any great amount of heart into the thinking of programs to help stabilize this province, it has been this Progressive Conservative administration.

I want to say as well, sir, that we have built into the provincial mandate as well now, Mr. Speaker, community bonds. Community bonds has been very well accepted throughout Saskatchewan. I can relate to my particular riding, Mr. Speaker, and I'll give you one instance and that was in Cut Knife, Saskatchewan — a very, very eager community, a community that wants to be second to no place. I believe they will compete very easily against, with their eagerness, with the best of anyone anywhere, at any given time.

But through a community bond issue, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that Cut Knife had lured a valve manufacturing plant into their community of approximately 600. And this valve plant is definitely employing a lot of people now in the community of Cut Knife. And I heard rumour here the other day, and it's just by rumour that the valve manufacturing plant are now thinking about doubling in size, and they have just actually really got a kick-start here early in March. So that was good news.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, when you look at community bonds and you look at that stabilizing effect that it can have on rural Saskatchewan, and indeed then spread into the urban communities, is phenomenal. And it goes back to then, just as I've indicated to you now, I've given you an example of community bonds, I've given you an example of GRIP and NISA.

I want to talk a little bit now about decentralization. Mr. Speaker, I had spoke about decentralization a little bit earlier. In the few communities where we had an announcement in my particular riding, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that our communities were just overwhelmed by the announcements and they're looking forward to meeting the new citizens of their communities and are hoping that those people that would be prepared to move with those positions, that they are going to want to make sure that they feel good and they're going to make sure that they feel welcomed into their communities.

So I know, Mr. Speaker, that when I talked to those individuals and the councils . . . and I congratulate the councils for their hard work and dedication and the planning that they've put into it to ask this administration for some of the help from the decentralization. I like to say that, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate these councils, both rural and urban councils for that particular hard work and effort.

But the decentralization will definitely mean stability in the communities. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that once the

people move to these communities and take up their positions and take a place in those communities, they're going to feel real good. The quality of life up there, Mr. Speaker, is second to none. I don't say it's any . . . the quality of life is no better here in Regina than it is out in Maidstone.

I think probably it's just what we all get used to and where we . . . and what I . . . My grand-dad used to say home is where you hang your hat. And you know, like, he I guess is one of the first pioneers into this province here in the settlement out by Lake Lenore. And the member from Quill Lakes that represents Lake Lenore might well remember my grand-dad. His name was Mike Hopfner. And, Mr. Speaker, they had definitely come to this province to make a life for themselves and not look back. I can remember many stories my grand-dad told me when I was just a young fella. I can remember his positive attitude about life in the farming community of Lake Lenore.

And I was proud to be a part of that community for the first 16 years of my life, Mr. Speaker. And I saw a portion of that community over the years go before me, go down. Some businesses left as I was a kid growing up in that community. And it hurt, you know, because we lost buddies — be it boys and girls as friends going to school together and things like that. And it hurt when you saw them leaving, and you weren't going to maybe see them again. That's how you might of thought when you were a young fellow, you see.

And as we grow older, well we thought well maybe, by gosh, there could be a much better place. There's much more we could be ourselves. And I can remember the slogan the Premier used back in '82: there's so much more we can be. And that's pretty well what the attitude my grand-dad had back when he pioneered. And I can remember him as a little fellow.

So those kinds of things, you know, Mr. Speaker, are very dear to my heart. And I'm sure that members opposite can share the same feelings and same experiences and stories like that too. Maybe some are a little bit younger than I am but regardless.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, when I look at these kinds of things, when I look at those communities that have kind of dwindled where we used to have five implement dealers — you know, Massey Ferguson and IH (International Harvester) and John Deeres and Minneapolis dealers and Cockshutt dealers and Case and all the . . . they used to be . . . every one of them had an identity in these communities, you see. And I saw these leave the communities, you see.

And again it goes back, well, to the Lake Lenore days as the member from Quill Lakes will well remember. And my dad and my grand-dad had started the IH dealership there. And my dad ran it and he sold out just on retirement, and it ended up there were two dealerships left by the time I left Lake Lenore, and that was the John Deere dealership and the IH dealership. So all the others went by the way, and that was hard, and so did the families.



So now these are things that we are doing through decentralization. We're trying to introduce some new kind of stability into the communities and make these people feel like they are part of Saskatchewan, these communities are part of Saskatchewan.

And I want to indicate that the infrastructures that we have in place are second to none. Education facilities, you know, I look at some of the . . . or talk to some of the profs at the University of Saskatchewan, for instance, and how they have indicated that some of the students that have gone on to university out of Lashburn, Saskatchewan, for instance, have been some of the most top quality type of students that you could ever ask for.

And they spoke well of other areas as well. They spoke well of all rural Saskatchewan. And so that says a lot for the educational facilities that we have in our small rural communities.

Sporting facilities as well. We have very fine structured sporting facilities where it gives our young people an opportunity in life to compete, to learn what competition is all about. And, Mr. Speaker, these young people are really proud of those communities. And for members of the opposition to say that these communities aren't worth decentralization is very unfair. I think that the members of the opposition should know that these communities are very much . . .

**The Speaker:** — It being 5 o'clock, the House stands recessed until 7 p.m.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.