

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

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

#### Special Nominating Committee

**Clerk:** — Mr. Lingenfelter, as chairman of the Special Nominating Committee set up to propose lists of members to be on the select standing committees of this Assembly, reports his first report which is tabled in the Assembly today and is distributed to all members and will be in the *Votes and Proceedings* this evening.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the first report of the special committee appointed to prepare lists of members to compose the standing committees of the Assembly be now concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the committee chair in particular and the Special Nominating Committee in general for my inclusion on both the Crown Corporations Committee as well as the *Public Accounts* Committee.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Friday next move:

That this Assembly, on the occasion of Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, recognizes the seriousness of this problem and expresses its determination to eliminate this violence in our society through programs which include prevention, public education, support services, and the strict enforcement of the law.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce a group of Girl Guides who are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They are being accompanied by Heather Snowdy and Nancy Hordern and I will be meeting with them immediately after the proceedings here in order to have drinks and pictures. Welcome.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and through you to members of the Legislative Assembly, 23 grade 2 and 3 students seated in your gallery. The students are accompanied by teachers Dianne Stark, Darlene Dixon, and chaperons Bev Cherney, Scott Gray, and Serina Tong.

I will be meeting with this group at 2:30 for pictures and later in the members' dining room for refreshments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all hon. members to join me in welcoming this group from Dr. Hanna School.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, the executive members of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan who are visiting with people in the legislature today — with MLAs (members of the Legislative Assembly) — to discuss various issues of concern to the Metis community.

These members include the provincial secretary of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, Gerald Morin; treasurer of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, Phillip Chartier; area director of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, Winston McKay; researcher with the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, Ivan Morin; advisor with the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, Clem Chartier.

Welcome to the legislature. I hope your meetings are interesting and worthwhile; and have a safe trip home.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, allow me to extend a warm welcome from the members of the opposition to the Metis Society as well. I had a moment just to speak with these gentlemen in the cafeteria this morning and enjoyed the time, and feel free to call. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mrs. Teichrob:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the other members of the Assembly the executive director of the Teachers' Federation, Mr. Fred Herron, who is with us in the gallery . . . in your gallery.

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

**Ms. Lorje:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish also to note the presence of Mr. Fred Herron, a constituent of Saskatoon Wildwood, and I hope that he has very fruitful deliberations in his time here in Regina. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my voice from this side of the House — I guess I can't say from this side of the House any more — but from the members of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, also to Fred Herron as executive director of the STF (Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation). And certainly in my role as critic of education I intend to work very closely with him and I think that in the future we will have many productive meetings together. So welcome here this afternoon, Fred.

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

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly five grade 11 and 12 students from Central Collegiate in Moose Jaw who are seated in your gallery this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their instructor, Brian Swanson.

This is a special group, special in the hearts of the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and myself in that they are members of a government club at Central Collegiate in Moose Jaw; young people who take a great interest in the goings on of politics at all levels and who have made it an early priority with the new government to come over and take in a session of the Legislative Assembly. That may very well be . . . I ask all members to note these young people are here because it may very well be that some day one or more of them will take a seat on the floor of this Assembly if their interests are realized.

I also would like to pay special recognition to Mr. Swanson who just recently led the polls in the municipal elections for the city council in Moose Jaw.

Following question period the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow and I will meet with this group. They've been on tour of the building and we'll join them for pictures and refreshments and a visit, and we look forward to doing that. And I ask all members to join us in welcoming them to the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We may have saved the best for the last. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to join my colleague, the member for Moose Jaw Palliser, in welcoming government club to the Legislative Assembly today. While I'm a graduate of another high school in Moose Jaw — I won't say a better high school; another high school in Moose Jaw — I have much regard for Central Collegiate.

Mr. Speaker, and all members, this high school is very active at all times, but particularly in this season. They have just completed a production of Charles Dickens's Christmas Carol. Just this morning the swing choir from Central Collegiate entertained at a banquet on behalf of The Arthritis Society in Moose Jaw, which we enjoyed.

And I want to welcome this group of Central Collegiate students and their teacher, Brian Swanson, to the Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize and introduce an extra person, Mr. Speaker. Over here I would like to recognize the Metis Society of course, you know, officially at this time using our language, which is Cree.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

Also, Mr. Speaker, at the end there I mentioned the name of Mr. Earl Cook who happens to be from my constituency in Cumberland, and I mentioned that I

would be meeting with the group and also Earl after question period.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Federal Funding for Agriculture

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, as many people in Saskatchewan suspected, as we approach Christmas we find that the government of the day was unable to get more money for farmers out of Ottawa. As a result of the information in the paper today I want to direct a question to the Premier.

Given the comments from the federal Minister of Finance that the \$800 million that they've allocated plus the \$2.8 billion that will be going out between now and February or March is all the money that's coming for the farmers — and obviously we know that there's a crisis there — does the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan now admit that he may have to be there for the farmers before Christmas? And if he thinks he does because of the crisis, would he now explain to this legislature what he's going to do for the farmers in Saskatchewan.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would tell the member from Estevan that this government and this Premier intend to be with the farmer at all times as we were at the time of the Ottawa trek.

I'd also say to the hon. member from Estevan that I read the remarks of Mr. Mazankowski in the paper today, but I want to tell you that those remarks are exactly the same ones that he told me when I met with him in Ottawa. I didn't accept those remarks at the time that I met him in Ottawa. I subsequently went to talk to the Prime Minister who said, as I reported to the member yesterday, that he would reconsider this matter with Mr. Mazankowski and other officials and that he stood by the farmers. I'm going to await the Prime Minister's response in this matter.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Christmas is approaching and there is a farm crisis. And the Premier of Saskatchewan, not knowing if there's going to be any more money coming, says he's going to wait.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is simply this: how long will he wait? What if there's no money for farmers by Christmas, or there's only half the amount that he expected, or there's not nearly enough for people because we've got children concerned, mothers concerned, farmers concerned, rural municipalities concerned; what will he do other than wait? What will happen on Christmas day in Saskatchewan if there's not enough money? What will the Premier say to the people of the province of Saskatchewan and to the farmers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I tell the hon.

member from Estevan in response to the question, that I will tell the farmers and the people of Saskatchewan what I've been saying to them before the election and after the election and now: that the federal government owes a big responsibility to the farmers of this province to make an adequate cash payment.

And I would say to the member from Estevan that what he could do for the farmers is to join us in that submission. What he could do . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — What he could do is join me and the Leader of the Liberal Party in making one little phone call to his friends in Ottawa and telling them how urgent this crisis is — and it is urgent.

Now the Prime Minister said that he would in fact say to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture that he wants these projects reviewed. I take the Prime Minister's word. Let's see what he comes up with.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to address this question to the new Premier of Saskatchewan who has raised expectations among farmers that he can deliver money. I ask the Premier to put a great deal of effort forward knowing that I made the call and I made the trip resulting in about \$800 million, 2.8 billion so far.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — In the last few years, Mr. Speaker, 13.3 billion in the province of Saskatchewan alone, Mr. Speaker. And I asked the hon. member: would he consider my plan if he wants a strategy to get billions of dollars into the hands of farmers? Would he consider my plan of co-operating with the federal government, co-operating with other governments — like Ontario that's come up with \$35 million for farmers; in addition Manitoba and Alberta that have come up with more money — would he consider my plan and say, look, I'll phone the Minister of Agriculture or the Prime Minister and I'll put 2 or \$3 million on the table to make sure that 300 or \$400 million gets in the hands of farmers by Christmas. I'll co-operate like that to show the goodwill because farmers are more important than politics in the province of Saskatchewan. Would the minister do that . . . Would the premier do that?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note the terminology and the phraseology used by the member from Estevan in asking his question. I made the trip to Ottawa. I got the money. I did this, my plan this.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — And he is supported by his caucus just now in this statement. Well I want to say now to the member from Estevan, he may have made the trip and the money may have come, but I tell you that money came not because of your trip, it came because 4,000 farmers in Rosetown and 3,000 in Weyburn said they

needed the money. That's why that money came.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — And I'm in Ottawa with the Leader of the Liberal Party and all the other political leaders and all of the coalition of farmers in Saskatchewan, across western Canada, because that's where the farmers want us to be. It is the responsibility of Ottawa. They acknowledge it and everybody else does, that this money should be coming up.

And I'm saying to the premier, former premier, I'm saying this to him with the greatest of respect, rather than saying things like, well you know, how have you succeeded and where is the money going to come from and what are you going to do, what you should be doing still is joining us in this coalition — non-political, non-partisan approach — of getting the money in the hands of the farmers of Saskatchewan. That's what you should be doing. That's the best thing you can do for the farmers of this region.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new Premier of Saskatchewan reminds us all of the fact that when he had the opportunity to help farmers, when interest rates were 22 per cent, he blamed Ottawa.

Today, Mr. Speaker . . . and he laughs. Listen. They wouldn't debate it yesterday but they laugh today.

Mr. Speaker, when the people of Saskatchewan need money at Christmas time because there's a crisis and the new Premier won't deliver, and he won't even say I will co-operate, he won't even follow the lead of his NDP colleagues in Ontario and come up with a little bit of money to lever more money — which we all know is possible — Mr. Speaker, what kind of message is he going to leave to the families at Christmas time in the province of Saskatchewan when he results in no more money coming to the province of Saskatchewan and his trip was a complete failure?

What's he going to say to the people of Saskatchewan that he promised he would help — more than the \$13 billion we've got in the past when there were no farm rallies . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I presume that within lies a question in the remarks made by the member from Estevan. I will assume that the question is the last sentence about what am I going to say. I'm going to say what I've said before and what I'm saying and what I'm going to say in the future: that the federal government from Ottawa has let down the farming community, has let down the farming community.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — I'm going to say to the farmers that the farmers are telling us. You don't have to accept my words for it, Mr. Member from Estevan. If everything was as you say that it was, you wouldn't have had 4,000 in Rosetown, you wouldn't have had 3,000 in Weyburn,

you wouldn't have had 10,000 at the Agribition. The farmers are telling you. That's why you're sitting over there with that small rump group. They're telling you that your policies are all misplaced.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — I say to the member of Estevan in closing this answer: if you want to help, join the coalition, join the farmers who are leading this. Don't sit on the sidelines and in effect carp. Come in there with positive suggestions. We'll listen to your positive suggestions.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member is so confident that he has got money for people and he's got the answers, would the hon. member, would the Premier, tell this House now why he had his Minister of Agriculture duck the debate yesterday? Why did the minister of rural affairs duck the debate, and why the NDP wouldn't even debate the crisis going on in the province of Saskatchewan in agriculture?

If he's so confident that he has got all the answers, why wouldn't he debate and why wouldn't he have his two new ministers stand in their place and debate and vote here in the House? Why, Mr. Minister? Why send them out of the House if he's so confident that he has the answer? Do you know why, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think that he has the answers for agriculture and he never did.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the member from Estevan, with the greatest of respect, that not even he has all the answers to all of the issues. Not even he.

**An Hon. Member:** — Thirteen billion dollars worth.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Thirteen billion dollars worth, the member from Rosthern says. And talking about ducking, talk about ducking, the leader of the Conservative Party in the province of Saskatchewan ducked the big debate when 4,000 farmers in Rosetown wanted to . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — The Leader of the Conservative Party ducked his obligation to his constituents by not even going with us to Ottawa to plead the case for the farmers. He ducked it.

Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here on behalf of western Canadians is saying to the Ottawa government we need more money, more immediately, and we need improvements to GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) and to NISA (net income stabilization account). We've done the best that we can thus far in mounting that case.

The member says, what is going to be the outcome? I say to him, I do not know what the outcome is going to be. But

I do know that we have tried, and we're going to continue to try to get what Ottawa has to do — and that is fulfil its obligations to the farmers of Saskatchewan and to western Canada, and you should be with us, sir.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. I'll just ask the member once more because he didn't answer the question.

Why? Why wouldn't you debate the agriculture crisis and look at solutions? You asked me for my co-operation, a lot of suggestions for that co-operation. Why did you ask your two new members to duck the vote? Why did you do that?

The first chance the new Minister of Agriculture's got to stand on his feet in agriculture in this legislature and you say, stay out of the House. Why, Mr. Speaker, did that member ask his ministers to duck the debate, and why wouldn't he debate agriculture here yesterday? Would he answer that question.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, it's pretty hard to know how to answer that because . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Well I guess it is.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — It is. It is because it's not a very credible question, and the former premier knows that entirely. But I will say to the member from Estevan, Mr. Speaker, very clearly, in about 15, 20 minutes time from now, there will be a debate on the Speech from the Throne, and the hon. member from Estevan will have his chance. We all look forward to his contribution to debate.

And I'm sure that he won't duck his responsibilities and that this afternoon he'll take part in the debate at the earliest opportunity, as all members will.

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

### Implications of the Milgaard Case

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a question today for the Minister of Justice. Most everyone is familiar with the David Milgaard case, and I want to ask the minister if it is his view that the potential innocence of one person is less important than maintaining the reputation of the Department of Justice, or its prosecutors, or the Attorney General?

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank the member for that question.

The federal Minister of Justice has made an order that this matter will be reviewed by the Supreme Court of Canada. We believe that that's a suitable disposition of this case which has received a great deal of publicity lately. We believe very strongly, as do the members opposite, in the integrity of our justice system.

But that having been said, this is in our opinion an

appropriate order for the federal minister to make, and Saskatchewan will be playing such role, performing such function before the Supreme Court of Canada as is appropriate, considering that we were the prosecuting jurisdiction.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — I have a new question to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

The member for Regina South has publicly stated that, and I quote:

It doesn't matter if Milgaard is innocent . . . I'm not primarily concerned with his guilt or innocence. What I am concerned with is that (the media) and the lawyers are selling us down the river.

Mr. Minister, it seems that the member is more interested in his own reputation and safeguarding the then attorney general than the principles of fundamental justice.

What are you prepared to do, Mr. Minister, to assure the people of Saskatchewan that the attitude did not prejudice the prosecution of David Milgaard?

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina South was expressing his own personal views and not those of the government. The views of the government are as I have stated. The prosecution of David Milgaard took place a long, long time ago. And the member from Regina South was, I think, not the prosecutor on the case, so that he wasn't defending himself or the way in which he may have been involved in the case. He was speaking simply from his own personal perspective.

We don't put a muzzle on our members; we don't tell them that they can't express their views. But I want to tell the House and the hon. member that he was not expressing the views of this government.

**Mr. Martens:** — Given that David Milgaard was prosecuted, or the appeal process was assisted, by the member from Regina South and he also assisted in the prosecution of Larry Fisher, I believe, and that these prosecutions occurred under the same attorney general and given that there is now sufficient question about the guilt of Mr. Milgaard to warrant a review by the Supreme Court, is the minister prepared to admit that something clearly went amiss in these prosecutions?

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — That, I think, Mr. Speaker, is the precise question that will be before the Supreme Court. As I understand it, they're going to be reviewing the record, and I believe there is also provision for the consideration of any new evidence that may be offered by anyone.

Speaking again for the government, we are satisfied with the process that has been set down by the federal minister, and we're prepared to fully play our part in seeing that process through to a conclusion.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, a new question. I think this is a very serious matter and I view it as a serious matter. And I view it in as serious a matter as I want to ask the Premier of the province to ask the member from Regina South to apologize in this Assembly for the remarks that he made in relation to the conduct that, and I quote: "It doesn't matter if Milgaard is innocent . . . I'm not primarily concerned with his guilt or innocence."

I respect the Department of Justice in its role in this province and to the people of Saskatchewan, and I'm going to ask the Premier to ask that member to apologize not only to this House but to the public of Saskatchewan for that comment.

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Mr. Speaker, with all respect to the hon. member, I don't think this is a question to play politics about, and I think that's what he's doing.

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — I have said that I have clearly stated what is the view of the government. I have clearly stated that the remarks of the hon. member from Regina South are the member's own opinions. I have said that we don't muzzle our members on this side of the House but I've clearly disassociated us from those remarks. It's not a question of having him apologize or reprimanding him or anything like that. He has stated what his views are and I have stated that those are not the views of the government.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, I have one more question. The seriousness of this is a concern that I raise and it's as serious as . . . implied an implication that is not relevant to today's time, but it's also serious enough to make me believe that the Premier needs to do exactly as I asked.

I have stood in this House and had members of my government apologize to the Assembly. And I think it was on the basis of the conduct of this House, respect for the Department of Justice, respect for the Assembly, respect for the distinction between the Assembly and the Department of Justice, that this member needs to apologize to this House for those remarks that he made.

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that this Milgaard matter is a serious matter. It's always a serious matter when there are serious allegations that anyone may be in prison who is not guilty, who is innocent. And that's precisely what the Supreme Court is going to review and look into. And the process by which they have decided to do this is satisfactory as far as the government is concerned.

The member will know perfectly well that the member from Regina South is a very distinguished lawyer with a very distinguished career in the public service of this province in the role of prosecutor.

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — And as in the case of any citizen of this country the member from Regina South has a right to express his own view.

I will say, as Minister of Justice on behalf of this government, that his view does not happen to be the view of the government of this province and I've tried to make that clear to the hon. member.

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. When a member of this Legislative Assembly says that he is not concerned with justice of either innocent or guilt . . . I'll read what he says:

I'm not primarily concerned with his guilt or innocence. What I am concerned with is that (the media) and the lawyers are selling us down the river. The whole judicial system is at issue — it's worth more than one person.

Now what I'm saying and asking to the Premier: when a member of the Legislative Assembly said the judicial system is more important than one life, one person, whether the person is a farmer, a Metis person, a white person, male, female, whatever, he's putting himself, or at least the Premier's cabinet or the caucus or this Legislative Assembly, in a pretty difficult light.

The Premier of the province of Saskatchewan is sitting here, Mr. Speaker, with his member, part of that government, as a reflection of the part of the administration. Now that member has said that the system is above the law.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I would ask the member to put his question.

**Mr. Devine:** — I would ask the Premier, would he take his place today and clearly state his views with respect to the statement that this member from Regina South has made. And if he does not agree with him, will he ask him to publicly apologize for including all of the members of the legislature in that statement, because it's not accurate and it's not fair. Would the minister do that? Would the Premier do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times I can go around on this question, but I want to make it clear to the Leader of the Opposition that the speaker from Regina South, that the member from Regina South was stating his own views. The Leader of the Opposition has selectively quoted from a newspaper as to parts of those views with which he takes exception, and I dare say that the member from Regina South would be pleased to meet with the Leader of the Opposition and put those remarks in proper context. We don't think that there is any necessity to call on him to apologize to you or to the House or to anybody else. He's expressing his own views. Those are not the views of the government, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice has responded because the Premier has failed to

answer the question. And he says there's no need — I'll repeat his answer, there's no need, and I want the media to at least acknowledge the answer — there's no need to apologize to this House for a statement that isn't made like this. There's no need. Did you hear that from the Minister of Justice?

I would like the Premier to stand in his place and now condone what the Minister of Justice has just said. Would the Premier stand up and say there's no need to apologize if somebody says, I'm not primarily concerned with guilt or innocence; what I'm concerned with is the system above the people.

Now, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The member from Moose Jaw, if he wants to respond on behalf of the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. If the member has a question, could we have the question, please.

**Mr. Devine:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with the statement that was made by the member from Regina South? Does the Premier agree with the Minister of Justice that the member need not apologize for a statement like that? And does the Premier agree that it has something to say about the attitude of this Assembly or the government or anybody else when a member can say that and not even be asked to apologize in this legislature and to the people of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Mr. Speaker, the really unfortunate and sad part of all this is an attempt to try and squeeze politics out of a situation where there is no politics involved.

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — The government of the province of Saskatchewan is satisfied with the disposition of this case made by the federal minister, and we are prepared to co-operate with that order in seeing this case through to a conclusion. And that is that.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave, I would ask for leave to introduce several routine motions.

Leave granted.

## MOTIONS

Referral of *Public Accounts* to Standing Committee of *Public Accounts*

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That the *Public Accounts* of the province of Saskatchewan tabled as sessional paper 142

during the fourth session of the twenty-first Legislative Assembly, and the *Public Accounts* for the fiscal year 1989-90 as tabled this session, be referred to the Standing Committee on *Public Accounts*.

Motion agreed to.

Referral of *Report of the Provincial Auditor* to the Standing Committee on *Public Accounts*

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — By leave of the Assembly:

That the *Report of the Provincial Auditor*, tabled as sessional paper number 137 during the fourth session of the twenty-first Legislative Assembly, and reports tabled this session, be referred to the Standing Committee on *Public Accounts*.

That's seconded by the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Motion agreed to.

#### **Referral of Recommendations to the Standing Committee on Communication**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave, I move:

That the recommendations of the public documents committee under The Archives Act respecting disposal of certain public documents contained in the sessional papers 120 tabled during the fourth session of the twenty-first Legislative Assembly, and any such recommendations tabled this session, be referred to the Standing Committee on Communication.

Motion agreed to.

#### **Referral of Annual Reports and Financial Statements to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — By leave, I move, seconded by the member for Regina Hillsdale:

That the annual reports of the financial statements of various Crown corporations and related agencies, as were tabled in the fourth session of the twenty-first legislature and not reported upon by the Crown Corporations Committee during that session, and the annual reports and financial statements as tabled in the present session, be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Motion agreed to.

#### **Referral of Report to Standing Committee on Communication**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Finally, Mr. Speaker, and by leave of the Assembly, I move, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That the annual report of the Saskatchewan

Legislative Library tabled this session be referred to the Standing Committee on Communication.

Motion agreed to.

### **SPECIAL ORDER**

### **ADJOURNED DEBATES**

### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Murray, seconded by Mr. Flavel.

**Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to begin, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating yourself on your election. I appreciate the sincerity and integrity that I know you bring to this task. And I also congratulate the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden who moved the Speech from the Throne, and the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood who seconded the Speech from the Throne.

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

(1445)

**Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, Regina Lake Centre constituency reflects the many diverse interests, cultures, and occupations that are found throughout Saskatchewan. But I believe it also reflects many of the concerns.

The business district includes both the innovative downtown merchants represented by Market Square, and as well the many small, independent businesses that populate Albert Street, 13th Avenue, Hill Avenue mall, and River Heights mall.

Many of these businesses contacted me directly over the past few months to express their concerns over the PST (provincial sales tax). It was their view that it depressed consumer willingness to spend and was creating a downturn in business activity. And they also have concerns over the complex system of tax administration in Canada which is eating up productive business time with paperwork. Most of these businesses have been around for the long haul and have managed through ups and downs, but are now under more pressure than they've previously experienced.

Many people in Lake Centre are the working poor who are fully employed but earning minimum wage or employed in subsistence industries such as arts and cultural activities, small private contractors, independent tradespeople, and people who work in charitable organizations.

They were concerned with taxes such as the PST, and they're still concerned about the GST (goods and services tax). But they're also concerned with issues such as minimum wage, support starts and cultural development, support to the NGO (non-governmental organization) sector, and fuller participation in the economy as well as long-term benefits and pensions.

Mr. Speaker, in Regina Lake Centre there are many business and professional people who have seen a steady decline in their purchasing power and quality of life — people who are concerned whether all children will have access to post-secondary training and education and jobs in the province of Saskatchewan. Many are angry that children have been compelled to leave the province to seek employment, and they also have expressed concern that health care remain a priority.

Regarding their occupations, many of these professionals provide contractual services or fee-for-service activities and express concern over fair tendering and fair contracting policies of government.

In Regina Lake Centre many working people and the unions who represent them are concerned about occupational health and safety, workers' compensation, improvements to labour relations, and the increasing and well-documented trend to part-time, low-pay service sector jobs and the contracting out of jobs that were previously in the union.

Mr. Speaker, the non-government organizations that serve people's needs at the most direct level in the community are concerned about their long-term ability to continue providing these services. The communities they work with have substantial problems with substandard or too expensive housing, inadequate incomes, family disintegration, cultural alienation, racism, family violence, and an inability of families to meet the basic needs of themselves and their children for social, economic, and political participation.

For the most part these organizations and the people they serve are without an effective voice in decision making. And to complete a tour of the constituency, there are those who are firmly seated in poverty, who concern themselves primarily with survival and can only dream of the many things that we take for granted for ourselves and our children.

Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously this is the bad news, but there's also a lot of good news. Despite these many concerns, Regina Lake Centre is a very diverse and interesting place to live. It's the site of many historic buildings such as the Holy Rosary Cathedral, and a considerable number of designated heritage properties and homes.

People in this constituency are willing to organize and take action on problems. As we go on a walk about the constituency, we would encounter Market Square, the Cathedral Merchants' Association, many innovative, independent small businesses, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Bridge Artists' Co-op, AIDS Regina, Transition House, Rainbow Youth Centre, the Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism, the Mental Health Association, the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women, Myers House, the YMCA and the YWCA, and the Cathedral Heritage Association.

This is a very small list of the organizations headquartered in Regina Lake Centre, but they are an example of the fine efforts of community-minded people to improve the

quality of life. And as I briefly passed over their names I hope it reminded everyone of the value we get for our dollar when we individually and collectively invest in these organizations.

Most recently I had the pleasure of attending the 51st annual Rotary Club Christmas Carol Festival at Knox Met Church. The proceeds from the volunteer efforts of all the choirs that participate from schools and organizations across the city go to help families at Christmas.

I want also to mention briefly to you, Mr. Speaker, the extensive development of seniors' high-rises in this area. There are seven in all, and several private nursing homes. My visits to these places are always a time to make new friends, learn a little history and to realize the importance of good, affordable, safe housing and home care programs as we age, hopefully gracefully. People who have come from many different circumstances and incomes find a common denominator of a good quality of life and the respect that's demonstrated through the support and caring.

And, Mr. Speaker, this leads me to the next topic I wish to pursue, which is that of public service and respect for the public who are served. As most children, I learned many of my attitudes from my parents, Hubert and Elsie Elkin, who are a part of this tradition in Saskatchewan. Like many of the founders of the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation), they are ordinary people with extraordinary vision. They named their problems and took action on the solutions.

My father was a union organizer and deputy minister of Labour in the government of Tommy Douglas. My mother has always been a political analyst who has had a great ability to see the writing on the wall, so to speak. And as well, they have willingly provided substantial direct assistance to people who need help, which has often been me over the course of my existence.

Hub and Elsie kept our home open to political gatherings, and it was here that I became aware of the benefit of debate and discussion and the development of new ideas and innovations as we challenge each other to think more deeply and to consider other perspectives.

I also learned the highest respect for public funds, and the use of those funds in the service of the public interest. Through my childhood eyes, I believed the CCF could work miracles, and for many years we did.

Mr. Speaker, from the Second World War period up to the 1980s, many innovations in the creation of social and economic infrastructure were accomplished. For example province-wide electrification; conversion from domestic and industrial coal burning to oil and then gas; 62,000 miles of road modernization plus paving in small communities; development of oil, gas, phosphate, sodium phosphate, and uranium; assistance to farms and towns to provide indoor sewer and water facilities; hospital construction and provision of medical and hospital insurance subsequently adopted by the whole country; provision of a money-saving auto and property insurance scheme; progressive labour legislation including reasonable minimum wages, support for free



collective bargaining and extension of the right to bargain to public employees — this was one I hadn't known about but was pleased to hear — reduction of working hours from 54 to 60 hours for a six-day week to a 40-hour five-day week with paid annual vacation and public holidays, and yearly improved workers' compensation.

Nursing homes for seniors, and the development of a system of provincial parks; air ambulance service — these are just some of the examples of the bold efforts to move the province forward. And this infrastructure still exists today, but we are now facing a new challenge — to bring the same level of innovation to the issues and circumstances of the '90s.

One of the reasons these programs were so successful and supported, Mr. Speaker, was the fact they were built on the real needs of real people in communities. They did not come from our attempt to be like somebody else, and they did not come from a need to find a quick fix to a long-term problem. They are the result of the shared thinking of people who had a very long-term vision of this province that exceeded the four-year mandate of any particular government's term of office, and they were programs that built for the future. To use our leader Roy Romanow's example, they were like a seed planted in the expectation that it would grow a tree, in the shade of which we might stand in our lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, in the midst of responding to all the emergency and crisis needs in our society, it's important to keep this long-term vision in mind, if we are to add our contribution to the long-term social and economic infrastructure of our province. Now as never before, people are requesting and demanding a voice in these important decisions that affect them. But they are also asked to come up with a considerable portion of the money to fund government initiatives, and they wish to ensure — as any wise consumer does — that they're getting value for their dollar.

If I could put it more bluntly, Mr. Speaker, they are concerned with who pays and who plays. When they say they want a first-class public service, they mean they want a public service that's hired based on competence and ability to understand the task at hand, not a public service that travels first class.

Mr. Speaker, democratic reform and accountability to the taxpayers and citizens of this province were two of the reasons I ran for this office. I've worked for many years with young people, people in poverty, and aboriginal people, who share a common bond of historical domination. The response to each of these areas of concern may be different, but the need to establish significant roles in decision making is the only practical solution to these long-term structural problems.

For the people who traditionally serve communities in the non-government sector, more direct working relationships are needed where we move from a relationship of monitoring and assessment to a relationship based on mutual accountability and trust. The dialogue must be opened up so we can benefit from their extensive knowledge of the community.

For professionals in the civil service and outside the civil service we need to set up mechanisms that facilitate the application of their professional knowledge to our social and economic conditions. For primary producers, small-business people, workers' co-ops, producer co-ops, we need to establish a working relationship to help develop the long-term financial and physical infrastructure to support their activities.

In the end result, what I'm talking about is sustainable development. Sustainable development is about opening doors. In fact it's about making sure we won't close any doors our children may want to go through in the future.

Mr. Speaker, sustainable development respects and enhances our ability to be involved in the decisions that affect our lives and the lives of our communities. It does not see us as an inconvenient appendage of the economic system but instead places our environmental health and human well-being at the centre of policy development.

As a society, one of our difficulties has been the inability to develop the democratic institutions that are equal to the challenges of the '90s, but we have made some steps in this direction and are formalizing a process for this work to continue. As an elected representative, one of my objectives that I share with my colleagues is to see this work continue at the government level but also at the constituency level.

Another personal objective is to contribute to the goal of eliminating waste and mismanagement. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are considerable federal and provincial dollars spent in the fragmented pursuit of solving social, cultural, and economic problems.

Over the years my experience has been that these programs are developed at a distance from the community and are often evaluated in terms of how well the community meets the needs of the program, not how well the program meets the needs of the community.

Mr. Speaker, we need an integrated network of universally accessible and easily understood social and economic programs built on a long-term base of social, financial, physical, environmental, and organizational infrastructure that will sustain us into the future.

These approaches to sustainable development need to be shaped within the overall context of a commitment to basic human rights. Canada recently signed the International Covenant on the Rights of the Child. This covenant is a turning point in our society when children who were previously seen as property, as were women, have now been granted rights that are enforceable under international law.

The covenant deals with three main categories of children's rights: the right to survival, with adequate food, shelter, clean water and primary health care; the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and my personal favourite, which is the right to develop in a safe environment through the provision of formal education, play, preventative health care and the opportunity to participate without discrimination in the social, cultural, religious, economic, and political life of the community.

Saskatchewan is also subject to these principles and will have to work to ensure that they're reflected in our legislation.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to return briefly to the topic of the economy and jobs as these areas provide us with the financial resources to meet our social objectives. As we deal increasingly in a global economy, we have been warned of the need to diversify and not to put all of our eggs in one basket. I'm equally concerned, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward to deal with farm issues, the constitution, and new trade deals, that we don't put all of our eggs in somebody else's basket.

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

**Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan must control its own wealth and resources. There may be occasions when megaprojects make economic sense — we would need to weigh the costs and benefits — but it's always been in Saskatchewan most of our efforts will be at the community level, both in meeting our provincial needs and also connecting with markets in Canada, the U.S. and internationally.

Integrated, small-scale, non-polluting, community-based development will place more money in the hands of local entrepreneurs, co-ops and community economic development enterprises. This is the kind of investment that will employ local people and will help us move out of our deficit position by returning money to Saskatchewan communities. If linked in a thoughtful way to our education system, we will enhance a new generation of people who are able to integrate social, environmental, and economic objectives.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to emphasize the honour I feel at having been entrusted to serve Regina Lake Centre constituency. Portions of this constituency were recently represented by Louise Simard and Ned Shillington and I know from going door-to-door over the past two years that it's evident the respect and goodwill felt for these two members of the legislature.

To represent such a diverse and talented community is a responsibility I respect deeply, and I'll continue to work for a community voice in democratic reform, government accountability, and sustainable development of social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being within the framework of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the members of the opposition and the member from Saskatoon Greystone in serving the pressing needs of our constituencies and our province.

Thank you for your attention.

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

(1500)

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Well the honeymoon is over. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to participate in one of our democracy's most important events, the reply to the address from the throne.

To begin my first speech in this Assembly, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart, the good people of the constituency of Maple Creek, from the Great Sand Hills, the great Cypress Hills, and the banks of the South Saskatchewan River — the greatest people in Saskatchewan. And they are good people, Mr. Speaker.

With many new members there may not be a great understanding of my constituency, so let me share with you some of their values — their way of life — values that I have delegated to represent in this Assembly.

They are a hard-working people, Mr. Speaker, people who take their living from the land by coaxing crops from the soil, nurturing livestock on the pastures, or drawing something of nature and nature's resources from under the ground itself. We are dependent on agriculture and energy for our survival in Maple Creek constituency.

We are people of committed family values who believe that how you treat the family next door is as important as how you treat your own family. We believe in working for a living and getting an honest day's pay for an honest day's labour. And in many ways we are a deeply traditional people.

We inhabit that part of the province that shares with the members for Estevan, Souris-Cannington, Bengough-Milestone, Shaunavon, and Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, a history of overcoming those who say: you can't do it, you can't succeed.

Those constituencies all have at least a part of what is known as the Palliser Triangle within them. And if you recall your high school history, Palliser was not a very positive fellow. He said these lands were, and I quote, unfit for human consumption. Well we have worked hard for over a hundred years and we have proven Palliser wrong.

And that is the kind of people we are. And I am proud to reflect that in my first speech to this Assembly. I say sincerely that it humbles me to be given the responsibility and the honour of representing such people here.

And it is also an honour for me to have, as my maiden speech to the Assembly, a speech in reply to the address from the throne. Mr. Speaker, Her Honour is to be commended for her exceptional performance on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan in delivering this speech, and indeed in all of her duties.

Let me say, sir, that I take the proper title of our side of the House very seriously — Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Her Majesty's "Loyal" Opposition. And now is as good a time to reflect on these things as we speak in response to Her Honour's address. There is a purpose to all of this ceremony and these oaths of fealty to the Crown.

There is a tremendous, important purpose to having the personage of the Crown appear before us and present the values of our democracy to this Assembly and to the people of our province. It is perhaps now more than ever important to realize, as we face a government that lacks the formality and a designation as a loyal government and

one that perhaps, because of the strength of its numbers, appears to be forbidding, what loyalty to our democratic system, our parliamentary values, means.

Mr. Speaker, the address written by this government reflects nothing that would demonstrate a real, imagined, or even a pretended loyalty to these principles. More certainly, Mr. Speaker, the actions of this government make no pretence at all about the low esteem in which it holds the fundamentals of the legislative, democratic, and judicial processes that are so vital to our freedom and so vitally represented in the ceremonies in which we have just been engaged.

This government came to power on a promise of open government, yet immediately puts into action a secret tribunal. It came to power on the promise of a non-partisan approach, a disavowal of political patronage. Yet every action, every word, has been an act of political partisanship rarely matched in our province and indeed in our nation.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the political climate is ripe for the government to continue its political campaign. I understand full well the continuing anxiety of the people and how this anxiety creates for the government the conditions necessary to ignore the basis of democratic practice. I understand this, but I cannot accept the response of the government.

This has been, Mr. Speaker, a government that borders on hate-mongering. I say to you, sir, that even Joseph McCarthy allowed the media into its monkey trials — but not this government with its Gass tribunal, its Gass kangaroo court. And the NDP say if there is nothing for the Gass kangaroo court to find, why would you protest.

Why would we protest, Mr. Speaker? Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a political tribunal — a political kangaroo court. And we know full well that where such a vile exercise is put into motion, where there is nothing to find, something will be manufactured.

Matters of public policy that have been tested through the electoral process become the subject of a semi-judicial kangaroo court, not a matter of public debate. We know also that this tribunal is unbalanced. It is very similar indeed to the local committees called soviets in that other country where the government and the party became one. Members of the local soviet were partisan activists; members of the Gass tribunal are partisan activists. Members of the soviet were charged with finding out why the thoughts and actions of those not in the party were bad; members of the Gass tribunal are charged with finding out why the thoughts and actions of those not in the NDP are bad.

Members of the soviet conducted their hearings in secret; so does the Gass tribunal. Members of the soviet could force people to appear before it against their will; so can the Gass tribunal. And as I say, even Joseph McCarthy allowed the media into his tribunals.

What this government has done, having seen an opportunity in the form of public disenchantment, and eager to avoid that disenchantment transforming into

actual government responsibility, this government has said, let us continue to prosecute the opposition. Let us generate a hatred so intense that we the NDP, can escape any responsibility to make things better. This government has started off in corruption and so it can only end in corruption. And today, Mr. Speaker, I say that it is a disgrace to every member of the New Democratic Party in this nation.

Mr. Speaker, a true search for reform is needed. A true search for reform that is in fact, in thought, and in deed, non-partisan, but aimed at improving the access of the people to their government; improving the accountability of government; improving the spending practices of government. This is a search that is needed most surely in every province.

And if, Mr. Speaker, the Gass tribunal was charged with examining and recommending ways and means of improving the financial life of the government and investigating methods of accounting, and with those investigative methods of accounting and administration that could eliminate duplication, waste and secrecy, then, Mr. Speaker, we would cheer on the tribunal. Indeed such a body would no longer be a tribunal, but rather a genuine inquiry as envisaged under the Inquiries Act.

But the monstrosity we have been presented with is an exercise in hypocrisy and dishonesty so profound that future generations will read of it in the history books as evidence of a government drunk with its own majority, bitter beyond its own memory, and vindictive to the point of betrayal of democracy. And it is also shameful, Mr. Speaker. I say to the press gallery through you, it is shameful that the media — who are charged with protecting the democratic system by virtue of their charter to free speech — it is shameful that they have not only recognized a honeymoon for this new government but that they have been active partners in that honeymoon.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — I frankly find it incomprehensible, Mr. Speaker, that such an important, historic and frankly disgusting act should take place, attacking the media's right to gather and present information to the public on the vital processes of government, and yet the media neither condemn nor comment on this act.

Let our friends in the gallery be cautioned that there is a risk in participating in a honeymoon if you do not engage in safe practices. There is loose in this province a political virus and the only prophylactic is a strong scepticism, the demand for a clear and honest explanation, of willingness to dig out the controversial evidence.

How is it, Mr. Speaker, that 250 crop insurance adjusters were fired in this province and there was not one word in the media when it happened? Why is it that the media have not demanded explanations of this cover-up from the government that engaged in it?

How is it that an absolutely and unconditional vacuum in administrative control and accountability was allowed to occur uncommented? It is only a fool, flush from a

honeymoon evening, that believes it is possible for the same few ministers to be in actual administrative control of virtually every Crown corporation after firing every non-NDP cabinet minister on all of the boards of directors.

We have been left with absolute political control and essentially no administrative control in the Crown sector. How is it that political operatives have been allowed to be placed in the departments of Crown corporations without even the suggestion of investigative reporting to look into the situation?

What has happened with the honeymooners, Mr. Speaker, is that they have concluded that it is all natural, that it's all okay. Forget that hundreds of non-partisan people are being fired. Forget that Crowns are operated without genuine boards of directors. Forget that the Gass tribunals are politically mandated and held in secret. Forget that in the Premier's office they have set up a special media unit to circumvent the independent information service. Forget it all. Because after all, the NDP are entitled to a honeymoon, aren't they?

Mr. Speaker, leading up to this session we have had many indications of the government's arrogance and its assumption that because the people elected an NDP government, somehow that is a message that the people do not believe that there should be an opposition. Let me remind the members opposite, and particularly the person running the government over there, the member from Elphinstone, let me remind him and his protégé from Riversdale of a few facts.

While the number of seats resulting from the election have indeed disproportionately accrued to the NDP, that is not the case with the vote. The loss of the government of the people was in actuality a rather narrow loss. A very large number of seats were lost to the split in the free enterprise vote. A significant number of seats were lost by very narrow margins. Indeed the antidemocratic conniving of members opposite was such that it will likely never be established what influence the movement of union voters from Regina to certain rural seats had.

(1515)

But my point, Mr. Speaker, is only that the representation in this House should not go to the members' heads. The people do indeed desire an opposition. And more than ever I suggest that they want a government that pays some attention to the criticism of its opposition and that does not simply assume to itself the glory of some kind of political godhead.

But what do we see coming from the people across the way? In announcing this session, the minister of everything under the sun, the member from Elphinstone, announced the session would last two weeks.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a change in the practice of this Assembly, indeed, if the late member for Shaunavon centralized to member from Elphinstone can simply declare how long this session will last. He will get his two-week session one way and one way only, and that is to prorogue the Assembly in the midst of interim supply. I

can be pretty sure of that, Mr. Speaker, based on a couple of things.

First, the government and most particularly the minister of everything under the sun have shown an absolute unwillingness to be forthright with the release of any information except that which they hope will embarrass or attack the opposition. Secondly, this opposition is not embarrassed, and it fully intends to have answers to its questions before it will agree to rise from the Committee of Finance. And we have a lot of questions for that committee that I shall leave for the appropriate time.

But we also have questions that need answering now, indeed, answers, Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago. I look to my portfolio in the opposition cabinet, and I want to know where the government is at with rural development. I tell you there is no knowing the answer to that from the stand-in minister. It appears that only three people have any authority in this government, this triumvirate.

We have the minister for Executive Council, and what a hefty responsibility that is for the member from Riversdale. Think about that for a moment. With all his concern about keeping the cabinet small and doubling up duties, what does Riversdale do to share in the burden? He takes on the ministry of Executive Council — pretty time-consuming stuff that.

Well they have succeeded in keeping the cabinet small, Mr. Speaker, really small. In fact we have a cabinet of three, with seven others collecting pay cheques as public relations objects. So in the triumvirate, we start by mentioning one that perhaps doesn't belong because there is some unclarity as to the responsibility he actually is willing to carry. But in theory, the leader has some authority, so I feel we must include him in the troika.

After that we have the member from Dewdney, late of Humboldt but centralized to Regina. This is the minister of dirt of/and deception. The member from Dewdney wields his power through secret tribunals, falsified figures, and creative accounting. But make no mistake. His power is real, and his seat on the triumvirate firmly entrenched.

Finally the third knot of the triumvirate, the pinnacle, Mr. Speaker, of the power in this oligarchy, the minister of everything under the sun and past president of the New Democratic Party, the member for Regina Elphinstone. Here we have a piece of work, Mr. Speaker, that nature never imagined. This is a man who said what was needed in this province is, quote, a political revolt. This is a man who cheered while his colleague, one Barb Byers, proclaimed to the gathered faithful, and once again I quote, we will make this province ungovernable.

And this, Mr. Speaker, is the man who is proud, Mr. Speaker — proud, mind you — that the NDP actually succeeded in a time in making the province ungovernable in fact. His power accrued to him through political revolution, through taking hostage the people of Saskatchewan, through political terrorism. And of this he is proud.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the man who is running our province, a man who has demonstrated so little respect for the principles and practices of democracy that it is hardly surprising that he presents himself as one who will dictate to this House such basic matters as the length of its sitting. Taking pride in generating fear and hatred — the essential components of political revolt — is a powerful statement in itself and one which the people will heed in due time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with respect to rural development, we can assess the power structure of the government, which is essentially a triumvirate, and we can better understand the impotence of the poor fellow the three have asked to stand in for that portfolio. Lest there be any question about whether the three were serious when they picked the seven mannequins, all we need do is review the performance of the stand-ins.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities recently had their convention. It is an old organization that has been a huge part of the growth and development of this province. It has a history of genuine co-operation and a generous response to real leadership. The SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) is as close as you can get to the people when it comes to elected government. And that's a fact the triumvirate would do well to remember.

In any event, this important organization invited the new minister to share with them something of his assessment of the situation in rural Saskatchewan and the situation that rural Saskatchewan faces, an overview of where his government might be headed with rural development, some insights into the thinking that's been going on.

And I believe the time provided the minister was 90 minutes — a measure of the importance placed in this meeting by the rural councillors. Here's 90 minutes, Minister, and if you need a little more to cover the ground, we'll try to find it for you. Give us your thoughts, your visions, a sketch of the leadership you hope to provide rural Saskatchewan.

And guess how long that speech took, Mr. Speaker? About five minutes. The Minister of Rural Development, in one of the most important general meetings he will be privileged to participate in in any given year, had five minutes worth for the people.

These are down-to-earth people, but it is a grave mistake to think they are fools. They are not. They have been at this business of defending and building and protecting rural Saskatchewan for more time than this place has been a province. And this government has five minutes for them.

What did the minister say in his five minutes? He said, I'm not here to give you solutions; I'm here to ask you for solutions. And as one wag in the crowd pointed out, the question then becomes, what's the use of the man? What's the use of a minister who expects the people to solve their own problems?

And of course there has to be co-operation. SARM is experienced and extremely capable of productive

co-operation. The truth is the SARM basically wrote the new rural Act passed on to the previous government.

So don't write it off, to call for co-operation — these people know all about co-operation and are more than ready to co-operate — but they expect some leadership. They expect some responsibility to lie with the provincial government and they certainly expect their minister to do more than to spend five minutes telling them that it's all out of his hands.

Surely the triumvirate has not so disembowelled the seven that they can do nothing. It almost makes you feel a little pity for the seven, but that's not what being in cabinet is all about. If the minister of everything under the sun is fighting against rural development, then for Heaven's sakes screw up your courage and take him on. If the man with the funny figures tells you all of the election promises, all of the commitments to rural municipalities from the NDP all of these years, were without truth and don't bother, then show some dignity and refuse to be used like a pawn.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — You, Mr. Minister from Canora, represent at least four years of promises made by your party and even made by members of the triumvirate itself. Integrity requires you to try to act on these promises and forget about the game of saying, gee we were surprised there was no money there when we came to power, because that kind of dishonesty is just too simple to dismiss.

Every budget the previous government presented — go back and look, every one of them — your triumvirate indeed denied that the government should cap spending for rural municipalities. The government of the day told you there was no more money. You were told this over and over and over again. And you always said, there is money if only you closed the trade offices. And we said, that won't do the trick. Well you've closed the trade offices, so now get the money to the RMs (rural municipality) as you promised.

You know it's going to be interesting how the triumvirate and their mannequins respond to their own quotes from the budget debates past. I look at the member from Melfort and I can't help but shake my head. This woman was the mayor of Melfort. She made a career out of demanding more money from the province — a veritable career, Mr. Speaker. Indeed her most recent crusades were that the province wasn't providing enough money to support the water projects and that the province wasn't willing to spend money to build a regional college in Melfort.

She was told, with all of the mayors, we are going to have to hold spending increases to zero. We'll do the best we can on the upside, and in fact we found a very significant sum of money for the water project in Melfort, but in general we'll have to hold it to zero.

What was the member's rallying cry? No, it's not enough. I won't accept it, she shouted. And to prove that more support could be provided to the municipality, she

declared that she would run for the NDP and an NDP government would deliver the goods.

Well, member for Melfort, the chickens are home. You said it could be done; you said it would be done. Stand and deliver.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — But no, just one more mannequin in the display window. Well let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, this opposition will not let the triumvirate off so easily as their own stand-in members seem willing to do. We say, stand and deliver.

Rural development is an absolute priority in this province, and you have frittered away almost every opportunity to achieve it. You have misled the people about decentralization in such a grand fashion that I'm actually surprised to see some of you enter this Chamber.

During the election, the minister for Executive Council did not yet have so many portfolios or so many heavily weighted governmental responsibilities, so he had lots of time to consider what he should say in regard to decentralization. He made an absolute commitment to the communities involved in decentralization. And what he said was that he would examine each announcement relocation on a case-by-case basis — a case-by-case basis, Mr. Speaker.

In fact when the members on this side reported our belief that the union leaders had gotten to the member for Riversdale and that Fair Share Saskatchewan would be cancelled outright by a new NDP government, the leader of the NDP loudly, clearly, and very aggressively denied that that was true. Indeed when it was reported, the member's response was reported in the Tisdale **Recorder**. And, Mr. Speaker, if a page will stop by, I will lay the news clipping on the table for the record. And I quote:

"For the PC's to say that we would cancel Fair Share is an outright lie," Roy Romanow added.

So the member said he would not cancel it. But in fact the member had not been honest with the people of Tisdale or the people of Saskatchewan. He did not study them on a case-by-case basis. He did exactly as we had reported when we got the news of the deal with the union leaders, and that is that he cancelled Fair Share outright — the first betrayal of the member of rural Saskatchewan.

(1530)

And I ask the member for Kelsey-Tisdale, get up in this Assembly and let's hear from you. Where were you, Mr. Member, when your leader was putting these false hopes into your own people? Where were you, Mr. Member, when the slick lawyer talked up the folks of Hudson Bay? Where were you when these commitments were made, and where are you now that they have been broken? Will you speak on behalf of your own constituents, or will you artfully dodge the responsibilities placed squarely on your shoulders by your own leader?

And I ask, Mr. Speaker, the member for Pelly, where were

you when the triumvirate plotted to take the New Careers opportunities corporation out of Kamsack? You had better get up in this debate, Mr. Member for Pelly, and you had better be prepared to account to the people of Kamsack on your stand against them.

And let me give you something to think about, something the people of Pelly already know. If it was Rod Gardner sitting in that chair, he would not hesitate for one minute to stand up and give his own government the what-for if it was an attack on his constituents, the way your government is attacking it. Show a little courage and defend the people you are elected to represent, and stop this raping of rural Saskatchewan.

What about community bonds, Mr. Speaker? — a program that members on this side are extremely proud to have created, extremely proud. It is a program that puts the power of development and developing rural communities into the hands of rural people themselves.

Now we've heard all kinds of rumours and even innuendoes from the minister of everything that they have changes in store for that program. Here again we have the member for Elphinstone willing to talk to the media but unwilling to reveal his plan to this Assembly. So I say to the Minister of Rural Development, I say to the chorus line behind the front benches, you had better find out what the triumvirate has in store for community bonds because if it's anything like that — what they mean when they say they like NDP-style decentralization — you'll know they've got it donkey backwards.

And let's just touch on that for a moment. The members opposite said they support decentralization, just not Tory decentralization. And now we know what the NDP decentralization is. It used to be called centralization, taking jobs and putting them in the capital city. That's NDP decentralization. Decentralize them from rural areas to the big cities. God help us all if their logic works the same way with community bonds.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been talking for some time, but you understand there is so much left out of this throne speech, in fact almost everything has been left out of it that it requires a lot to be said. Let me say that I know that this loyal opposition will not simply be an opposition that criticizes without offering alternatives. We intend to hold the government accountable in strict and uncompromising terms. But we will also be promising real alternatives, and we will be proposing those alternatives, real suggestions to better the lot of the people of Saskatchewan. And time will tell, Mr. Speaker, just how sincere this government is in wanting to improve things, and one measure will be how much attention they will give the legitimate concerns and ideas of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the consideration of my remarks.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly I'd like to congratulate you on your election and wish you the very best as you carry out your important duties. I am proud

and honoured to represent the people of Saskatoon Idylwyld in this Assembly. My riding is located entirely within the city of Saskatoon, the beautiful city of Saskatoon, I might add, a place that I'm sure is near and dear to the hearts of all members of this Assembly.

It contains people from all walks of life, and it's my duty, Mr. Speaker, to represent all of them as best I can. They all believe in our province and its future. They all hope for economic recovery and social equality, not just for themselves but for everyone.

And what they have in common, Mr. Speaker, is more important than any divisions among them. They desire that we recognize that we are united as a community, and we must co-operate in attempting to meet the challenges and opportunities facing our province. Or as the throne speech said it, we need a renewed spirit of co-operation and community in Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — And in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, I will be guided by the wisdom and advice of the people who elected me and also the wisdom and advice of all members in this House. Like all members, I come here to represent my neighbours. Among my neighbours are small-business people who work long hours with modest reward because of the agricultural crisis and economic downturn. Some have lost their businesses. Many are concerned for their future. They look to us for measures that will improve the economy of our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have started. I believe that the initiative demonstrated by the Speech from the Throne with respect to rollback of the PST and cancellation of harmonization is a positive first step from this government.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — Many of my neighbours, Mr. Speaker, are working people who have been let go in middle age and face unemployment for the first time in their lives. They too look to us to restore economic activity in our province and to restore their dignity to them. My neighbours are also parents who see, for the first time in the history of our province, the educational and job opportunities of their children lessened from that of a generation ago.

My neighbours include women and young people working at part-time jobs without adequate wages, hours, or benefits. They include students, Mr. Speaker, with the ability and the will to get an education, but without access to education and without opportunities for work.

And I'm particularly mindful of their situation, Mr. Speaker, because it was my privilege to be provided by the federal and provincial governments, as were members of my generation, with accessible, affordable, first-class education. And I believe that every young person is entitled to the same opportunities that I and my generation received.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — Many of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, are

minimum wage workers and poor people, especially women without the resources to feed, clothe and shelter their families as they should be. Some are injured workers who have been denied recourse to benefits, medical services, and retraining that they should receive.

They look to us to ensure improved occupational health and safety to prevent injuries in the work place, one of the leading causes of disability in Canada. And they look to us to ensure that the administration of the workers' compensation system will be fair and will be seen to be fair.

My neighbours include many Indian and Metis people facing poverty, unemployment, incarceration, discrimination, and the social problems accompanying poverty. They are denied their fair share of this province's resources. I believe that we must commit ourselves to bringing about a fair and final settlement of aboriginal land claims in Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must work with Indian and Metis organizations to do all that we can in our schools, in the work place, in our social programs, and where appropriate by the transfer of jurisdiction, to end the cycle of unemployment and poverty among Indian and Metis people.

Although I represent an urban riding, Mr. Speaker, some of my constituents are farmers who live in the city by choice or because their spouse has a job in town. In fact I was surprised when I was canvassing one day in the election to find on one small crescent five full-time farmers, and it made me realize that we do have much in common sometimes that we don't realize. Many of our neighbours farm and of course many of the people in rural areas work in the city.

We are all familiar, Mr. Speaker, with the international and domestic policies and pressures which conspire against the ability of our farmers to meet production costs, let alone obtain a fair rate of return for their production.

As well, Mr. Speaker, fortunately many of my constituents are comfortable, but they too look to us to meet the challenges, the serious problems I've described present, because they do not wish to live in a have or have-not society. They share by and large a belief that we are our brother's and sister's keeper, a belief, Mr. Speaker, that is fundamental to the fibre of this province.

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

**Mr. Cline:** — So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of work to do. We are accountable to our neighbours to face these problems in a responsible manner. We will not solve all of them nor can we expect to solve any of them alone without the co-operation of business, labour, and other sectors of our society.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that to be involved in politics one must be somewhat of an optimist. While we must recognize our problems, we must not be immobilized by feelings of despair or cynicism, rather we must view these

difficult times as a time of challenge and opportunity, a time for creative thinking and a time for decisive action. The common sense and goodwill of our people and our common belief that we are a worthwhile community will see us through the problems of today and we will build a better province.

Mr. Speaker, one need only look at this magnificent Chamber in this wonderful building to appreciate the vision that our predecessors had for our province. When one recalls that just after the turn of the century men and women built this great Legislative Building on the cold, bald, treeless, and flat prairie, one can appreciate that they proceeded with a great sense of vision, a great sense of optimism, and a great sense of hope for the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, Tommy Douglas had vision when he took over a bankrupt province in 1944. He built in this province and he rebuilt. And so shall we, Mr. Speaker.

I pledge to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to all members of this Assembly, and to the people who sent me here, that I will do my part in our province's work.

And once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to very sincerely thank the people of Saskatoon Idylwyld for electing me, and I will not break faith with them. Thank you.

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

(1545)

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. It is indeed an honour to rise from my place in this great Chamber to represent the constituency of Saskatoon Greystone and in fact the many thousands of Saskatchewan people who supported the Liberal Party in the recent election.

I want to begin my remarks by congratulating the Premier and his government on the decisive victory that they achieved. I hope that the hon. members elected to government will prove over the next four years that they are truly worthy of the enormous trust which has been placed in them by the electorate. And the people will be watching, Mr. Speaker.

I want all of us to realize that when the people of Saskatchewan gather at coffee time every day at home, at work, the coffee shops all over the province to evaluate the government, they are talking about all of us in this building. Therefore I have a vested interest in your performance, and I encourage you to do well for the people of this province first and foremost, but for our reputation as elected representatives and for government employees as well.

The people have waited for a long time without a responsible administration in this province, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the wait is over. I sincerely hope that this new government will do more than simply acknowledge the level of cynicism that exists in Saskatchewan today, and will take proactive steps to restore the level of trust in this institution.

It will not be easy but I do believe that it can be done. In fact much of what needs to be done can be done without financial cost. The people must be assured through legislation that this government is willing and committed to real change. The Premier spoke of reform during the election. I know the hon. member from Saskatoon Eastview spoke of these reforms during the election as well, as did many others on the government side. And so did I and all of our Liberal candidates, Mr. Speaker.

Most significant to us was the introduction of the first ever code of ethics by all candidates in a political party. And I'm pleased to see that the Premier is following and will introduce such a code for the members of this Assembly, given that the proposed reforms will affect all members of this Assembly and all Assemblies of the future. I submit that it would be an excellent place to involve all-party committees.

Both the Liberal Party and members of the government promised the people of Saskatchewan that they would have set election dates, and people voted for that change. People want a budget delivered for the province at the start of every fiscal year, just as they see happen in the business world, even in their own lives as well.

There must be no more ducking the numbers, Mr. Speaker. I applaud this government's decision to introduce appropriations in this session, and I'd like to urge the government to consider changes to prevent governments from running the province on special warrants under normal circumstances. We must set time parameters during which the government is obligated to produce a budget.

I applaud the initiative shown in the throne speech which promises public consultation on the proposed reform package. And I urge the government to strike a committee on government reform to investigate change and its implications on procedure in this House, to propose legislation including free-standing votes for all members of this legislature, and to deliver this package in the next session.

There will be many things that this government is prevented from doing due to serious financial circumstances in which the Conservatives have left us, but government reform will be a positive step toward restoring the confidence of Saskatchewan people in their government.

During the election, all three parties took some positions on government reform. The Liberals, I believe, and I hope that several will concede that we were amongst the strongest advocates of government reform in the nation. The NDP supported some important reforms to the system — those I mentioned moments ago.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, there is common ground here among 75 per cent of the voting population at least. It was the Conservatives however, who were out of touch and expressed little interest in reform. They were a government, Mr. Speaker . . .

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



**Ms. Haverstock:** — It is with regret by the way, that I notice that the hon. member from Estevan is not here this afternoon. They were the government, Mr. Speaker, who believed that they were all knowing, all seeing, and all powerful. And, Mr. Speaker, they were all wrong.

The people of our province became so concerned about Conservative government somehow being returned, that many people voted against the Conservatives rather than voting for the candidate of their choice in many ridings, and the results of that fear are seen here today, Mr. Speaker.

And with sincere respect to the individuals, all individuals who were elected, we have a major imbalance in the proportions in this Assembly. I want this House to know, Mr. Speaker, that if people had not been so afraid of re-electing another Conservative government, that there would have been at least 10 times as many Liberals on this side of the House today.

Perhaps justice will somehow be served by all of this. Perhaps having to sit and listen to the facts about their administration unravelling before them over the next four years will be good therapy for the opposition.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — With time they will come to realize how severe is the damage that they have caused. If that is the case, then many of our quality Liberal candidates who are denied the opportunity to sit in this House will feel that some purpose was indeed served by having lost to the members who now form the official opposition.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives had no interest in reform. As Leader of the Liberal Party, I've been calling for reform for two and a half years. In our platform document, as I mentioned, we called for set election dates every four years. We called for an independent, ongoing electoral review board to deal with boundary issues in view of our shifting population trends.

Liberals have called for free-standing votes in the legislature to allow MLAs to speak for their constituents and not simply be mouthpieces for their party, a reform particularly critical to a government proportioned as this one is. I have suggested and supported all-party committees to discuss crucial issues as a way of putting the opposition, and yes, back-benchers, and indeed independent members to work for the people of Saskatchewan.

As an aside, Mr. Speaker, it distressed me to learn that there are very few active government committees other than *Public Accounts* and Crown Corporations. The legislative Committee on Agriculture has not met since 1923 in the province of Saskatchewan. I am told that this is because agriculture is such an important issue that it is discussed every day in the House.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I happen to believe that *Public Accounts* and Crown Corporations get their fair share in this House as well. But I believe that given the problems that we face in agriculture there should be regular meetings of that all-party committee to which farm

groups can submit proposals as well as consult with other provinces about agricultural solutions.

I propose, Mr. Speaker, that the Agriculture Committee and the Education Committee which has also been dormant for decades, become active once again to contribute to the well-being of this province. These are the actions people of the province of Saskatchewan are expecting this government to take, Mr. Speaker.

And there are others. In the past months and years I have travelled Saskatchewan talking with people and listening to farmers and city people, youth and seniors, ordinary men and women with similar concerns. And, Mr. Speaker, these people do speak with a common voice. They do not speak of rural or urban, north or south, white or native.

They are speaking as parents and grandparents who want to know that they can trust their government to be caretakers of the future for their children. They are speaking to us as our sons and daughters who want Saskatchewan to be their first choice for opportunity to work and study and invest in their own futures. Presently I do not believe that these people have been served well.

And I'm going to try to impart to you today what they want, Mr. Speaker, and then I am going to observe this government to see if it can deliver. I will not be unrealistic. I will demand a chance to participate fairly in the process, a chance to fairly contribute my ideas — the ideas of the people of the 125,000 and more people who voted Liberal in this province.

And I will extend my hand in a co-operative spirit to this government because I believe that they deserve the chance to govern and manage this province of ours in Saskatchewan, as they convinced at least half of the people that they were able to do.

And when they are not doing a good job, when I hear from people that they are not satisfied, when I am not satisfied, I will rise from my seat, from this seat, to express my concerns with the hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will not see me rise alone, that you will recognize that I do represent 25 per cent of the voting population for our province, and that you will afford me the opportunity to make their feelings known to this House.

The people want the financial mess in this province cleaned up. They want the books opened. And I applaud the Premier and the new Minister of Finance for getting on with the job so quickly. I have confidence in the individuals named to the financial review committee, and although I would have preferred to have seen more private sector accountants included, I wish them Godspeed in their duties.

I hope that the fiasco that was government in this province for the last nine years will never recur. And I hope that this new government will take the initiative to respect proper procedures and to study legislation that will assure people that the breaches of the democratic process typical of the last administration will not happen again.

I would like the opportunity to participate in that process, to bring forward ideas presented in the Liberal Party platform, such as the taxpayer protection Act and the deficit reduction Act. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is not good enough to have 20-20 hindsight where your opponents' performance is concerned. It's not enough for us to sit in an ivory tower and pass judgement on the record of the Conservatives.

It is crucial that this new government consult with people about the guarantees that must be built into the system so that the government will once again be trusted to police itself.

To have legislation to dictate the terms and conditions of government deficit financing, the parameters of taxation is not to be feared. It should be welcomed by this administration, because it would help them to do what is necessary without fear of reproach from the voters, because it would be the law. This government will have to face reality sooner or later, and I believe we're all facing it sooner.

In the past two elections it was the Liberals who would have gained the most from making expensive campaign promises. But I would like to remind the people of this province that it has been the Liberals who showed restraint when both the Conservatives and the New Democrats were trying to outbid each other with campaign promises in the 1986 election.

And again in the recent campaign we built our platform entitled, facing reality, because the people running as candidates for the Liberal Party were more concerned about the future of Saskatchewan than they were about political careers. We were honest and open and forthright with the people of this province.

But the people in this province, Mr. Speaker, have spoken. And this new government indeed has to face the cold reality of governing a province with the largest per capita debt of any government in North America. However, I do believe we all think there is hope. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if the Premier truly wants to change the course of our future in a positive way, he has the power to do so.

This is a time in our history when the Premier and the elected members of his government will have to resist the pressures to make patronage appointments. The pressure is from special interest groups. If the Premier really wants change, then he must demonstrate the leadership necessary to say no. If he has a plan and if he is committed to that plan, he must lay out his plan before the province so that people understand where his government is taking us. And then he must have the courage to stay with it until it works.

There's been far too much *ad hoc*-ery, Mr. Speaker, in this province, and indeed in the nation. It will take vision and courage to rise above the temptation to deliver more of the same.

(1600)

People are cynical. They are viewing the government's

actions with a wait-and-see attitude, and deservedly so. If the only cause for publicly exposing the patronage and corruption of the Conservatives is to replace it with more of the same, then people in this province will never trust government again.

Having the opportunity to replace favouritism with fairness, corruption with competence, intimidation with open process, is a second chance at a future for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. If this government does not recognize that and does not act responsively to restore the public trust, then they will have committed a breach far more serious than all of the Conservative travesties combined.

This is a new government, but a government with many members with experience. And along with that experience, no doubt comes some scores that may have to be settled from previous years. Now having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the Premier to have his advisors tread carefully upon the lives of our people in our civil service.

Truly we must send a message to the people of Saskatchewan that obscene salaries and severance packages paid to political pals will not be tolerated. But this government must be careful to evaluate the individuals being painted with this brush to ensure that quality people are not being sacrificed in a purge.

At the same time we must ensure that we send a message to the people outside of Saskatchewan as well — potential investors, candidates for positions with the Government of Saskatchewan, and private industry here, financial institutions who back our debt. We must send a message that this government will provide a sensible, level-headed administration which honours, honours, Mr. Speaker, its contracts with individuals and with corporations if they are struck in the best interests of both parties at the time they were signed.

Our party recognized that this would be a sensitive issue following the election. And to that end, Mr. Speaker, we proposed in our platform a system of efficiency and productivity audits, that these be conducted on all departments to determine not only where there is waste and mismanagement, but also where there is competence and good management. And I strongly suggest that the government consider this evaluative process which would give the people of Saskatchewan, as well as members of our civil service, some comfort in knowing that decisions are being made on qualitative, not on political bases.

Mr. Speaker, as financially desperate as our government may be, they must not use desperation as an excuse to — and I quote myself — expropriate without compensation legitimate contracts with legitimate firms and individuals. Times are tough, and the government will have to implement measures which will be perceived as very tight-fisted after years of what I have called drunken sailor spending sprees by their predecessors.

And although, Mr. Speaker, things are tough, they are not hopeless. With interest rates at their lowest in years, there is truly an opportunity to get a handle on things in

Saskatchewan — an opportunity to gain some ground on our deficit and accumulated debt. With sensitive and sensible investment initiatives, we can still coax money from the high savings rate of Saskatchewan people in these difficult economic times.

But time is of the essence, and this government must, Mr. Speaker, not only open the books, but ensure that it opens its process, opens its doors to the people of Saskatchewan. The people must know that this government will listen not only to their problems, but to the solutions that they are proposing. And we must draw the people closer to government, Mr. Speaker, for they have been pushed away for many years. And the distance between government and the people is causing bitterness and resentment. We must work together to heal the pain that has been caused in the election. We must close the gap between urban and rural, business and labour. And we must move forward together as one Saskatchewan people. We must make room in these great halls, Mr. Speaker, for the people to feel welcome with their concerns, because for too long since the people have been made to feel truly welcome in this, their institution.

It's time that this institution truly became the government of the people, spending the people's money, not some bottomless pit of the spoils of power. And it is time that we focused on setting a direction for the future, on looking, really looking, for solutions to the problems we talked about during the election — problems of unemployment, and hunger, health care funding, and agriculture.

And speaking of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan farmers, western Canadian farmers, have just taken a major step forward for agriculture in Canada by initiating the trek to Ottawa. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate them.

And I'd also like to commend the Premier of Saskatchewan and his staff for assisting the farmers with the organization of the trip and for facilitating many of the interprovincial government arrangements. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank the Premier for not only inviting me to join the lobby, but for attending the Liberal caucus meeting in Ottawa.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that in spite of whatever criticism may arise about the cost, that this was definitely one of the best investments this government could make on behalf of agriculture in this province, and indeed Canada.

To the Leader of the Opposition, a man who was introduced not long ago in Melville as the saviour of agriculture, let me say this, Mr. Speaker: there is no one person who will save agriculture. It was evident to all of us who travelled to Ottawa that there had been far too much behind-closed-door discussions. It was obvious that too few members of our federal parliament really understand the problems faced by our western Canadian farmers, that too few understand the crisis proportions of the problems.

And I must say to the Leader of the Opposition that I find it inexcusable, considering that the hon. member from Estevan has had the ear of the Conservative government and the Prime Minister for nine years, it is unforgivable

that so many of his Conservative federal colleagues in Ottawa had no understanding whatsoever of what we were facing in Saskatchewan. That, sir, is what happens when agriculture becomes a campaign weapon, when midnight flights to Ottawa and eleventh-hour phone calls to the Prime Minister are the tactics. The result is that very few people are involved in the process, and the rest of the Conservatives in Ottawa have come to think that the biggest problem the former premier faced was getting re-elected.

That has cost us credibility, Mr. Speaker, with the federal government. And I think last week's show of solidarity and the conspicuous absence of some individuals sent a clear message that things have changed.

I want the Leader of the Opposition to know as well, Mr. Speaker, that with or without his support in Ottawa, a great deal of progress was made, and the stage has been set for more progress in the future. The farmers of this province are showing courage and strength, and we as their elected representatives must support that bold new direction.

Therefore as the MLA for Saskatoon Greystone — and I think it is significant that an initiative in agriculture be put forward by a member who represents the largest urban constituency in the province of Saskatchewan — I wish to put before the Premier a suggestion that a national agriculture summit be convened in our province by March of 1992. I had hoped the Premier would have included this in his Speech from the Throne, but none the less I am pleased to be the person to bring this forward.

I suggest that a working committee be struck and instructed to bring together politicians east and west and north, agricultural economists, international market experts, specialists in agricultural research and development, lenders, and farmers. Let us convene here, Mr. Speaker, in the heartland of agriculture, and let us set politics aside to discuss the solutions of our farm debt crisis, our government program inadequacies, our transportation problems, the food subsidy war, and our future as food producers.

And let's not be fearful, Mr. Speaker, of letting the rest of this nation know that if we are incapable in Canada of growing our own food, we will no longer be a sovereign nation.

We must not be afraid to find out what is wrong with the Free Trade Agreement as it pertains to agriculture, GRIP, and NISA and the Crow rate. The farmers know where the flaws are, Mr. Speaker, so let them tell us. And let us use all of the power of this Assembly to correct them.

We must not be afraid to ask lending institutions to write down part of farm debt in this province. We must consult with people who have studied the issues, Mr. Speaker, and there are many experts. We must let farmers ask the experts questions. And we must disagree on some things and agree on others, and we must emerge with a solid plan to take to the banks and to Ottawa and finally, perhaps, in Canada have a national agriculture policy. We are all on the same side of this issue, Mr. Speaker, and we must quit acting like adversaries.

If we can get cash moving through our economy again instead of through this convoluted government financial pipeline from Ottawa, through our farmers, directly into the lending institutions, Mr. Speaker, then things will begin to change. There will be jobs and sales tax revenue and housing starts and full restaurants and busy shopping malls, and many people will rethink their plans and decide to stay in this province. The line-ups at food banks will diminish, and we can sit down and talk about repairing our shell-shocked social programs and education system. And then the government will have the tools to eliminate a horrendous deficit and debt.

Let us initiate this summit together as Saskatchewan politicians with our farmers, and let us make it successful in raising awareness, in posing long-term agricultural solutions before the next federal election, so that all parties will understand that farmers are a force with which to be reckoned.

Let us give our people some hope, some sense of direction. It is a long, cold, and depressing winter for many people on our farms, given the problems that they have to face. So let's give them something to work towards before seeding time. Let us create a vehicle to which we can offer suggestions, a forum in which they can be heard. Let's be the leaders. Let us open the doors of this institution to the people in a true sense and unleash the true power of government. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that bringing the focus of the nation to the problems in agriculture here in Saskatchewan and indeed in Canada, that this is the most important undertaking before us in this province of ours today.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk now about other things which are also of great importance, things I listed when referring to the solutions to other problems which are contingent upon solving the agriculture crisis.

There are many things, Mr. Speaker, which have been neglected by the Conservative administration. And now I know that they had tremendous initiative to build and invest and privatize. And I hope some of the investments that they made with our \$12 billion pay off; we need every dime. But this past administration neglected many crucial components of our society. It is one thing for the past government to have said that it had no money to fund programs for child care and interval houses for battered women and drug and alcohol treatment centres — and I'd like to say this to the Leader of the Opposition — it is one thing for the previous administration to have cut money from the prescription drug plans and to have tightened up regulations on welfare and social assistance while claiming that funds are tight, but it is quite another when the money is being squandered on your friends in high places. It is quite another to use this money, when you claim you do not have any, on advertising campaigns for Fair Share Saskatchewan and other feel-good campaigns designed to improve the government's image at election time.

But, Mr. Speaker, what is more reprehensible is for the past administration to have shown a complete lack of concern for the people who have had the fewest options in life, the people who rely on the social conscience of the

government to help them with their struggles. The government of this province was without a heart for the last nine years, Mr. Speaker, and that has caused tremendous pain — financial, emotional, and indeed physical — for many of our citizens.

(1615)

During the election campaign I spent a great deal of time talking about the economy and taxation and agriculture and health care and government reform. Some people wondered why I didn't talk more about seniors and child care and women's issues and poverty because they know how personally sensitive I feel about those issues. And I want to tell you that it is not because Liberals did not care. It was because, in my circumstances, we had to prove our ability in areas other than those in first order to gain the credibility necessary to elect representatives. But we do care about these issues.

One only has to look at the history of the Liberal Party, see what we in fact cherish as being defined as Canadian citizens that were put forward by the Liberal Party of Canada, to see the tremendous contributions that have been made. And we did make many contributions, Mr. Speaker, in being 42 years as government in Saskatchewan.

Some people would have liked me to have focused more on education, on the environment, on native issues during this campaign, because they know that I have been an educator in this province and I have travelled throughout the province and the North and I've seen the third-world conditions.

Some people with whom I have worked in theatre and in music wondered why I didn't spend more time talking about the arts and culture.

People who know how strongly I feel about unintended pregnancy in this province and the lack of education and support for teen-age mothers, asked why I didn't spend more time talking about that issue as well. And I intend to pressure government for action on this crisis too.

But now that I am here — and I did refer to myself as the moral opposition, not defined in the right wing sense of moral, to this government — I do issue this fair warning. I now have a platform in this Assembly from which I can draw attention to these issues, a voice in the legislature where I can rise to ensure that our government does demonstrate caring toward all of the people in our province.

I told people that I would deliver government with heart. And, Mr. Speaker, although the people of Saskatchewan did not elect a Liberal government, although they did not elect an official opposition that showed concern for these issues over the last nine years, they did elect some very fine individuals on the government side who are committed as well to solving these problems. And, Mr. Speaker, the people did elect, I believe, a certain kind of opposition of one.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, one way or another, I intend to keep my promise to the best of my ability; and with all of

the resources at my disposal, I intend to deliver that government with heart.

I want to say this also, Mr. Speaker, that I am here in this House as the result of an election, a contest which through the very hard work and dedicated commitment of hundreds of volunteers, and through the support of over 50 per cent of my constituents, I was able to win. But there are two other fine individuals that were in that race, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to acknowledge their commitment to this province today. The issues of which I just spoke, and particularly the issues of hunger and poverty and the environment in this province, were of extreme importance to the former MLA for Saskatoon University, Mr. Peter Prebble.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — And his voice on those issues will be I believe truly missed but not forgotten, as I know that he will continue to work to the best of his ability in every way for the province of Saskatchewan. And the youth of our province, particularly the troubled youth, must be a priority for this administration.

And I want now to applaud the efforts of Mr. Gary Hellard, the Conservative candidate, who I hope will serve as an important conscience for the opposition on many issues in this area.

I do not wish to spend the next four years in this House opposing everything that comes before us. I do wish to gain a deeper understanding of the workings of the legislature and I will ask the indulgence of the hon. members as I learn.

I have asked the government to consider, to give consideration to, my request for additional funding for my office in the legislature to enable me to respond to the many concerned Liberals and groups across the province who see me as their spokesperson. I want to be able to convey the concerns of people who don't see eye to eye with the government in a calm and sensible way. And I expect to have the opportunity to be heard. I expect that opportunity because I expect this government to care about what the people think.

And I expect the government to take criticism constructively and to rework legislation if it is faulty or if it can be improved. I expect it and so do the people who finance this exercise in democracy, the Saskatchewan taxpayers.

I will also be appealing to you, Mr. Speaker, for special consideration to waive the need for a seconder in my case which would greatly facilitate my being able to introduce motions and Bills. And as you are fully aware, it is quite an antiquated regulation since it was brought about in the years when there were no political parties, and to merely set aside frivolous motions.

The actions of the government in these initial days and weeks will be crucial in determining the character of this administration. People are watching. They're holding their breath to see if we have really voted for change or if we will have more of the same. People are wondering if

the New Democratic Party will have learned anything from past mistakes, if they have learned anything from the previous administration.

And, Mr. Speaker, in the true spirit of Saskatchewan people, I think all of us in our province are willing to give them a chance. I am certainly willing to give them the chance too. But, Mr. Speaker, I give this government fair warning: the people have lost patience. They will soon judge the government's intentions. So be careful. Be careful to measure actions against the best interests of all of our people. Be careful to keep politics out of government and not to replace high-priced friends of the Conservatives with your own friends. Be grateful for the support of the unions, but remember that the people will be watching negotiations and settlements to see if there appear to be unpaid debts. And remember that I, too, will be here to watch and to listen and to voice concerns and comments of all Saskatchewan people who raise them with me.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, as do the people of this province, to seeing the NDP plan to revitalize this province and to get us back on our feet. I will not allow the government to hide behind the mistakes of the Conservatives. We want to know the truth, but we do not wish to be preoccupied with what the past administration failed to do.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan people wish to concentrate on what the present government is going to do, and we do not want to be kept waiting long to see results. Therefore we shall begin today, Mr. Speaker, to keep a report card on the government — a report card on its performance in each session.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, at the end of four years the people will measure those results against their expectations, against the promises made by the Premier, by his government. And it will be the people again who will pass judgement. For a few days following the campaign, four years seemed like a very long time between elections, but there are many challenges to be met by this government and many, many opportunities to be pursued. And for me there is much to learn, much to contribute I hope, to the future of this province.

Suddenly, Mr. Speaker, four years does not seem like much of a long time. I hope that every member of this Legislative Assembly will serve the people well. I am proud and I'm excited to be a part of it. So I say, let the business of government begin. And I thank you, sir.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** --Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your democratic election as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly which I know you will fulfil in a most capable and distinguished manner.

As a new member of the legislature, I shall always do my best to abide by the rules of the House and to be guided by Your Honour's decisions. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate all of the members in the Assembly on their election to the legislature. And I would like to thank

the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden for moving the Speech from the Throne with her perceptive comments, and to the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood for such an eloquent seconding.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the constituents of Bengough-Milestone for the confidence that they placed in me on October 21, 1991. I want to take a moment to thank these people for sharing their concerns with me, for their warmth and their friendliness and their support.

I know I am representing a terrific group of constituents in the legislature, and it is with honour and awe that I make my first speech here today in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. And I do represent a constituency of strong character and people with a great spirit of community and democracy.

I was raised on agriculture and politics and, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to honour my grandparents, Forrest and Nina Henrickson who were great pioneers in our community, our province, and our party. They exemplified the spirit of hard work and co-operation in their lives. They fought hard and dedicated themselves to the formation of the CCF. In their home, Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd were household names. With great passion they supported medicare and helped establish the first community-based medical clinic here in Regina.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — When I asked my grandmother on her 90th birthday if I should seek political office, she quickly replied, why of course — you're not afraid of hard work are you? She passed away two days later and I wish to honour her memory here today. It is her courage and vision that exemplifies the great spirit of the people of Saskatchewan that we represent here in this Assembly.

Bengough-Milestone constituency is an area which covers 9,500 square miles with a wide-spread population. It has a rich and an interesting history. The area and the climate has produced a strong and hardy group of people. Our constituency is made up of many towns, villages and farms. Agriculture and oil and gas are important industries in our constituency, along with many successful small businesses. Our farmers, small businesses, and communities have been hit hard by the agricultural and economic crisis. The quality of life in rural Saskatchewan is a major concern of the constituents of Bengough-Milestone.

Mr. Speaker, as I campaigned over the last two years, I have never been as aware and close to the conditions of the people in Bengough-Milestone and our province. People are suffering and there is so much uncertainty and insecurity. As I've met with people in our constituency I have seen anger and despair. But I've also seen hope, a fighting spirit, people who are not giving up but are prepared to fight for the principles that this province was built on — principles of compassion, common sense, community, co-operation, and integrity.

I have met with people in the constituency working on municipal boards, town councils, hospital and school boards, people working on rural development

committees, people establishing co-operatives to save local businesses and creative entrepreneurs. Progressive ideas and creativeness are well evident in our people and our communities in Bengough-Milestone. The people of Bengough-Milestone need to be listened to, and I am proud to represent their ideas and their concerns in the legislature.

I campaigned on the principle that a politician must be more than just a good speaker, but also a good listener.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — I am committed to listening to the constituents of Bengough-Milestone and improving the two-way communication between constituents and their MLA. One constituent of mine just recently told me how he had noticed such a positive change in attitude since October 21.

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

(1630)

**Ms. Bradley:** — People are not expecting miracles overnight, but they are excited about a change — that there is a government who wants to listen to their ideas and concerns. They want a government that is honest and takes leadership in what it says and does.

I now, Mr. Speaker, would like to address how I feel our government has taken leadership to meet its objectives. Mr. Speaker, as we have only been in government since October 21, and now six weeks later, I am proud of our record and our throne speech. We have already accomplished a great deal.

Mr. Speaker, people in Bengough-Milestone over the last nine years had become sceptical and cynical of government. They want a government which is honest and accountable. They want a government which uses common sense financial management. We are in a financial nightmare with a budget deficit of not \$265 million, as we were led to believe, but \$960 million.

But our Premier has decisively acted to save money by appointing a small cabinet of only 11 members, by cancelling Fair Share, by putting an end to ludicrous severance packages, and by cut-backs in advertising, travelling, consulting, and staffing. That's millions of dollars in savings.

We are determined to eliminate waste and mismanagement. We said we'd open up the books, and we are presently doing that. The financial review panel is in place for a full public accounting. The taxpayers of this province have a right to know where their hard-earned dollars are being and have been spent.

As one wise constituent said to me, we don't want something for nothing but we want something for something.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — Mr. Speaker, the 7 per cent expanded and

harmonized PST was an unfair tax. As many of you know, the southern part of Bengough-Milestone constituency lies along the American border. The expanded PST was driving people across the border and hurting small businesses in Bengough-Milestone as well as the ordinary taxpayer. We said it would be repealed, and I'm proud to say we are now legislatively repealing the harmonization of the expanded PST.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — On Saturday in Bengough a small-business man smiled at me and told me how his business had picked up since the PST had been repealed. Repealing the 7 per cent expanded PST will stimulate the economy and provide much needed revenue in our businesses, our communities, and our province.

Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is the core of our rural character and it needs special and immediate attention. The farmers and ranchers in the constituency of Bengough-Milestone have been hit hard by years of drought, grasshoppers, low commodity prices, high input costs, and debt load. Being raised on a farm near Gray, presently a partner in our family farm at Milestone, and in meeting the people of Bengough-Milestone, I cannot help but be aware and affected by the agricultural crisis.

I am proud to say, as a New Democratic government, we have already in our short term of office made agriculture, the protection of our family farm, and our rural way of life as a priority.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — I am proud to be named as a member of the caucus committee in agriculture. Our commitment to agriculture has been shown in our Ottawa trip to lobby the federal government for increased federal cash assistance for prairie grain farmers as soon as possible. Farmers need cash now.

Mr. Speaker, farmers want a long-term program that stabilizes their income. The shortcomings of GRIP and NISA need to be addressed. This was also expressed by the farm lobby to Ottawa. We as a government are committed to working for improvements to GRIP and NISA and negotiating a better deal with Ottawa.

Farm debt must be addressed immediately, Mr. Speaker. And I was pleased to see it addressed in the throne speech. Farmer after farmer has told me in Bengough-Milestone, we do not want our debt written off, but give us more time and a reduced interest rate. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that meetings with farmers, farm organizations, and financial institutions are now under way to resolve the debt crisis, and secondly, to examine concrete ways to make sure that young men and women have the opportunity to choose farming as a way of life.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — Mr. Speaker, if we do not keep farmers on the land in Bengough-Milestone, we will not save rural communities and an important way of life in rural

Saskatchewan will be destroyed. I am dedicated to fighting for agriculture and a rural way of life over the next four years in the legislature.

Constituents in Bengough-Milestone also see health and education as high priorities in their lives. In Bengough-Milestone there are three hospitals, three nursing homes, and many excellent schools serving the communities. Because of a decline in population and budget cuts, these facilities are experiencing difficulty in maintaining the high quality service they strive for. We may not have, as promised by the Conservatives, a factory in every town in our constituency, but we do need schools and quality health care facilities in our communities. These are small industries in our communities, and they're vital for a quality of life.

Nursing homes and programs such as Meals on Wheels and home care are vital services meeting the needs of many seniors in our constituency. The public school-based dental program was an excellent program serving our children. I feel confident that with new direction and priorities in health care and with a community based model focusing on prevention and wellness, health care in rural Saskatchewan will improve.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — I am impressed at the quality of care that I see in the hospitals and nursing homes I have visited in Bengough-Milestone. Health care is a priority and a right for all our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as I previously alluded to the fact that education is also a priority to the quality of life in rural Saskatchewan, every student has a right to the best education possible. Being a teacher, I feel strongly about education. It must be the very best that we can afford. I am impressed with the constituents of Bengough-Milestone as they do not want to see education suffer because of tough economic times. They see education as a priority and do not want to jeopardize the future of our rural students. They know the effect of the agriculture crisis and the imperativeness of keeping the family farm in rural Saskatchewan. School boards, teachers, parents, and taxpayers are willing to work together to help solve the problems they are facing.

If we are going to keep our young people in Saskatchewan, we must offer them an affordable, quality education. We must stop the exodus from Saskatchewan of one of our most valuable resources, our youth.

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

**Ms. Bradley:** — There are many more priorities which must be set right in this province: protection of our environment, affordable housing, decent highways and roads, opportunities to work.

Mr. Speaker, we must manage our province wisely. In the last nine years we witnessed an unprecedented record of privatization, a form of privatization seeming to run on the principle: if it makes money, sell it — or should I say give it — to a friend. Our mandate of a mixed economy of private, co-operatives, and public sectors working

together is for the benefit of all.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased with the announcement of a six-month by-election time limit being set. Many constituents of Bengough-Milestone will be very pleased with this legislation as they feel representation is an important principle of democracy. The principles of democratic reform are vital to our commitment to a more honest, open, and accountable government in the 1990s. I know the constituents of Bengough-Milestone want a government that follows democratic principles and listens to the people it represents.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I look forward to the next four years in serving the people of Bengough-Milestone and Saskatchewan. To me, politics and government are people working together to achieve what cannot be accomplished working alone. That's why public office is one of the greatest privileges that a community can bestow.

In Saskatchewan, our community is our whole province — rural and urban. And Bengough-Milestone is an important part of the total picture of our province. By working together we can turn the province around and make Saskatchewan a better place to live. I feel confident in the direction taken by the throne speech.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the Speech from the Throne and I urge all members to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to enter the debate for this the first throne speech of a New Democratic government under the leadership of Premier Roy Romanow. I'd also like to thank the voters of Shaunavon constituency for electing me on October 21. It is my hope that I will be able to provide them with quality representation while I remain a member of the legislature.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell the people of Saskatchewan about the constituency I represent. Shaunavon is located in the south-west part of the province and covers approximately 10,000 square miles in an area known as the Palliser Triangle. Highway 13 passes through my constituency and is aptly named the Red Coat Trail because of the historic march of the North West Mounted Police west to Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills.

Shaunavon has little in the way of industry, but has many grain farms and cattle ranches and an active small-business sector. The oil industry is present in Shaunavon and Frontier areas.

A new national park that includes some of the last vestiges of the original open prairie can be found in the Grasslands Park at Val Marie. At Ponteix and Eastend important archaeological work is being done and significant fossil finds have been made.

But, Mr. Speaker, the basic survival and well-being of my

constituency remains in agriculture, and that is what our new government will be addressing in this throne speech and in our future actions.

Shaunavon constituency has had a storied political history. Our voters have elected representatives of all political stripes. In 1934 my constituency was one of five in Saskatchewan that elected a CCF member to the legislature.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — In 1971 we elected our first New Democrat. When I look back at all the quality people that have served the people of Shaunavon so well, it is a humbling experience. All that I can promise to my constituents is that I'll serve you to the best of my abilities, that I'll make every effort to consult and inform you on all the pressing issues that we are facing today.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — And, Mr. Speaker, our new government indeed faces a formidable agenda. The previous government has left us with a legacy of debt, high taxes, squandered provincial assets, and reduced services.

Under the previous government's fiscal mismanagement, our province has had the highest inflation rate in Canada; the fewest housing starts in the last decade; the second highest incidence of low income families, second only to Newfoundland; the slowest growing labour force in Canada; the second highest personal income tax in Canada; a record of 10 straight budget deficits that leave us with an accumulated deficit of \$5.8 billion; and tens of thousands of people leaving our province each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, nothing would sum up the philosophy of the previous government better than to contrast how it treated big-business friends and the many hungry children who presently live in Saskatchewan. Last year the Devine administration budgeted \$800,000 to feed hungry children in this province. It is estimated that this would be about \$12 per child. Yes, Mr. Speaker, \$12 per child.

Contrast that, Mr. Speaker, with the severance package that was arranged for the past president of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. George Hill. Children who have only known hunger for all their young lives were to receive \$12 — 3 cents a day. Mr. Hill, on the other hand, for his few years of service to SaskPower was to receive \$1.3 million. Mr. Speaker, there is only one word that can describe this — obscene.

(1645)

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Devine government left the people of Saskatchewan with a legacy of crushing debt, shattered hopes, broken dreams. The people of Saskatchewan weighed that government in the balance and found it wanting. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I and



many other New Democrats now stand in this place as a new chapter and our political history opens.

Mr. Speaker, all across this province there's a new climate of optimism. Once more decisions that involve Saskatchewan people will be made here in Saskatchewan. Once again we'll be masters of our own agenda and destiny. This throne speech, Mr. Speaker, is the first of many steps forward to a new era of prosperity and progress for the people of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Mr. Speaker, in the short period of time that this government has been in office, we have already begun to restore the faith of Saskatchewan's people in their institutions of government.

In this throne speech we have introduced legislation that will reduce the obscene severance packages created for the friends of the Devine government to a level that is both equitable and comparable with standards in private industry.

Mr. Speaker, in this throne speech we'll introduce legislation that will remove the expanded provincial sales tax. That's saving Saskatchewan consumers millions of dollars.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — This will not completely solve the problems facing our people, but it is the first of many steps that will be introduced by the government that will once again create optimism and opportunity for our Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains in a continuing crisis. We are all aware of the cause of our problems. They are not Saskatchewan made but rather the actions of the Europeans and Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, one of the first actions of this government was to assist the farm lobby in its objective of obtaining increased federal cash assistance for prairie grain and oilseed producers and to obtain early payment of this assistance.

As part of the farm lobby we sought a commitment from the federal government to feature discussion to achieve solutions on issues including a call for Canada to convene an international summit on the grain price war; improvements to GRIP and NISA; development of a long-term national agriculture policy to deal with farm debt and to provide stability on farm income in the grains and oilseed sector; and the need for a direct Canadian lobby effort to Washington to end the international grain price war.

Mr. Speaker, this on-to-Ottawa trek, as it was called, recalling past efforts of the Great Depression was supported by politicians representing every party in Manitoba, the Saskatchewan Liberals, and ourselves, as well as the NDP and Liberal representatives from Alberta. Noticeable by their absence, Mr. Speaker, were the Conservatives from both Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when virtually every farm organization in western Canada was participating in this effort to make Ottawa aware of how desperate the situation is here in Saskatchewan and western Canada, it was regrettable that the Conservatives in Saskatchewan and Alberta chose not to participate.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the efforts of the farm lobby, the Prime Minister has indicated, and I'd like to quote him here. These are his words, Mr. Speaker:

I indicated to the Premier that when the Minister of Finance returned I would meet with him and the Minister of Agriculture to see if perhaps some programs could not be structured in a way that would be of greater benefits to the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that as a result of the farm lobby the Prime Minister is prepared to act. And I'd like to point out that our Premier has also indicated that our government would be happy to offer the Prime Minister any support that we can in his efforts to increase farm financial aid.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe this farm lobby we saw develop over the past year represents all of the best Saskatchewan traditions. There was people working together, setting aside old conflicts and antagonisms in order to create a sense of urgency and a sense of awareness in other parts of Canada, of the desperate state of agriculture here in the West.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place on record the names of all the organizations who participated in the lobby presentations in Ottawa on November 26 and 27, 1991: Concerned Farmers Movement of Saskatchewan, Concerned Farmers of Alberta, Concerned Farmers of Manitoba, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, National Farmers Union, Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network, Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Credit Union Central, Saskatchewan Flax Growers Association, Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board, Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association, Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, Saskatchewan Milk Producers Association, Christian Farm Crisis Action Committee, the Family Farm Foundation, Saskatchewan members of the Wheat Board Advisory Committee, Saskatchewan members of the Senior Grain Transportation Committee, chairmen of regional ADD (agriculture development and diversification district) councils, Western (Canadian) Barley Growers Association, Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association, Saskatchewan Women's Institute, Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board, United Grain Growers, Inner-Church Committee on Rural Life.

And they were accompanied by the Premier of Saskatchewan; Minister of Agriculture and Food for Saskatchewan; Deputy Premier of Manitoba; Minister of Agriculture, Manitoba; Leader of the Liberal Party, Saskatchewan; Leader of the NDP, Manitoba; Leader of the Liberal Party, Manitoba; Leader of the NDP, Alberta;

Liberal agriculture critic, Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, all of us here should thank the hundreds, — no, thousands — of farmers and concerned people who make up the membership of these organizations.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — I believe that only by all of us working together can we solve the enormous agricultural problems facing our province. But, Mr. Speaker, where there is a will there is a way. And working together we will not only solve the agricultural crisis facing us today but any and all other problems that will arise in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is the hope of this government that the co-operative efforts demonstrated by the farm lobby will be the operative philosophy of this government, replacing the politics of confrontation symbolized by the actions of the previous government.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — It is our intention, Mr. Speaker, to work with people and for people. And in this throne speech I am pleased to see that local municipalities will once more be given the right to decide what kind of municipal electoral system they want. This is how it should be, Mr. Speaker — local people deciding the kind of electoral system that meets their needs. That's democracy, Mr. Speaker.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the government will not allow constituencies to be without representation for years as was the practice of the members opposite.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Only people that were openly contemptuous of the ideal of democracy could condone that practice. And that practice will not occur again, Mr. Speaker, as long as we are the government.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — In October, the people listened. The people learned. They knew they had been betrayed by the members opposite. They went to the polls in record numbers, and when they voted, they said never again will the members opposite have the opportunity to betray, to deceive, and to hurt.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I just want to draw the member's attention to . . . He's getting very close to using language which is not acceptable. The word deceive would be better if another word were used in that stead. Continue.

**Mr. McPherson:** — I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

Today, Mr. Speaker, in this throne speech we have returned to our Saskatchewan tradition of people working

together not just for themselves, not for a few but for us all.

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

**Mr. McPherson:** — Saskatchewan people working together not just for their future but for their children's future; Saskatchewan people working together not just for ourselves but for a better province and a better country; Saskatchewan people working together bound again by common ideals, common objectives; working together in common purpose and common dedication to one great cause — the betterment of our province and our country.

Saskatchewan people working together once more in the tradition of J.S. Woodsworth, Tommy Douglas, Woodrow Lloyd, Allan Blakeney and all those pioneers who worked to build a co-operative commonwealth here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in this throne speech we build on the work of our pioneers here in Saskatchewan. They were people with a vision, people with a dream, people who dreamt of how political party, power, could be used for the benefit of ordinary people, for the good of all. People who dreamt of building a better world by building a better province, they gave us much to be proud of.

In this throne speech, Mr. Speaker, we dedicate ourselves once more to the ideal that the real measure of individual and national worth is the quality of life we provide for all; that what we do for the least fortunate of our fellow citizens is what is truly valuable, and that the real measure of political worth is how to provide for people so that they can live useful and meaningful lives.

This throne speech is the first step to a new era of prosperity and progress for the people of Saskatchewan. I am pleased to cast my first vote in this legislature for a throne speech that will serve my constituents of Shaunavon well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.