

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

PROROGATION

At 10:03 a.m. Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne.

Her Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is my duty to relieve you of further attendance at this Legislative Assembly. In so doing, I wish to thank you for and congratulate you on the work you have done.

When this session began, I indicated my government's commitment to restoring the public's faith in their elected representatives. My ministers believe the only way to accomplish this objective is to offer government that is open, honest, accessible and accountable. To that end, you have enacted legislation during this first session of the twenty-second Legislature which is an important first step in restoring public confidence in our political process.

You have passed amendments to The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act which ensure that by-elections are held within six months of a vacancy in this Legislature.

Further you have enacted amendments to The Tabling of Documents Act which significantly improve the timeliness of government reporting.

In keeping with the priority my government places upon the principle of accountability, you have approved The Crown Employment Contracts Act which ensures fairness and common sense as the primary objectives in employment packages for senior civil servants.

As part of my government's continuing commitment to democratic reform, amendments to The Urban Municipality Act were introduced and subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Law. Although the committee has not had an opportunity to officially report back to the House, its diligent and thoughtful work will be reflected in future legislative initiatives.

You have repealed legislation which provided for the expansion and harmonization of the provincial sales tax. The elimination of this additional tax burden has provided much-needed relief to Saskatchewan consumers and has been important in safeguarding a significant number of jobs throughout the province.

You agreed that amendments to The Northern Municipalities Act were necessary to enhance the economic opportunities available in northern Saskatchewan and, accordingly, voted to allow northern municipalities to participate through share ownership in

municipal economic development corporations.

During this session, members enacted The Medical Profession Amendment Act, thereby lengthening the permits of physicians who provide temporary medical services in rural Saskatchewan.

My government also approached this first session as an opportunity to undertake an examination of the current state of the province's finances.

Recognizing the gravity of the financial challenge facing this province, my government moved swiftly to appoint the Financial Management Review Commission. The Gass Commission served to more clearly define the current state of our province's finances and made a number of recommendations which will enhance and strengthen the responsible nature of government.

In conclusion, I thank you for the provision you have made for the requirements of the public service and assure you that this sum of money has been used prudently and in the public interest.

In taking leave of you, I desire to thank you for the manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of the session and wish you the full blessing of Providence.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: — Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 27th day of April, 1992, at 3 p.m., and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber at 10:09 a.m.