

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

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

#### Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills

**Clerk:** — Mr. Britton, as vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills, presents the first report of the said committee, which is as follows:

Your committee has duly examined the undermentioned petitions for private Bills, and finds that the provisions of rules 59, 60, and 61 have been fully complied with.

Of the Ukrainian Catholic Council for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, in the province of Saskatchewan;

Of the Regina Exhibition Association Limited of the city of Regina, of the province of Saskatchewan;

Of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Credit Society Limited and Saskatchewan Co-operative Financial Services Limited, both of the city of Regina;

Of Briercrest Bible College of Caronport, in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills now be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you today, and through you to all members of the Assembly, eight grade 11 and 12 students from Vanier Collegiate who are seated in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker.

These students are accompanied by their teacher, Richard Keleher, and chaperon, Shirley Geisler. And they've already been on a tour of the Assembly building. I'm looking forward to meeting them after question period, Mr. Speaker, for photos and a visit.

I would also add that just on Saturday of last week, that the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and Thunder Creek and myself had the pleasure of attending the Vanier Collegiate graduation banquet and ceremonies. And I would ask all members to wish these students well in the conclusion of their studies this year, to have a happy summer, and for those who are continuing on who are grade 12 graduates, in their careers to follow.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today, along with the member from Moose Jaw Palliser, to welcome the students from Vanier, and also to introduce to you, sir, and to all members of the House, 12 adult students from the SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) adult education program in Moose Jaw. And they're accompanied here to the legislature today with their teacher, Larry Shaak.

I sincerely hope they enjoy their visit to Regina and the legislature. I look forward to a very short visit after question period with the students. I invite all members to welcome these students from SIAST Moose Jaw.

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

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this morning to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly 59 grade 5 students from Lumsden Elementary School which are seated in the west gallery there. I've met with them earlier for photos, and they are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Tournay and Mrs. Reiger. And I know that they are going to have a very informative and exciting visit here and I ask you all to join me in welcoming them here this morning.

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

**Mr. Pringle:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see in your gallery a constituent of mine and a very close friend, Myrna Rolfes. And I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, Myrna Rolfes. And I think she's here today to observe the conduct of a certain member, so I would ask all the members here to join me in welcoming her here.

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

**The Speaker:** — I just want to remind the member from Saskatoon Eastview-Haultain that she is a constituent of his and not of mine.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently the Saskatchewan representatives attended the Economic Research Committee meetings in Ottawa, and Saskatchewan was reported as the most improved province for the housing market. Mr. Speaker, the ERC group has representatives from the Bank of Canada, the Department of Finance, chartered banks, life companies, trust companies, and housing industry reps from each province across Canada.

It was indicated that our unemployment rate, at 7.9 per cent, is the lowest in Canada. It was indicated as well that 10 real estate offices showed a forty-two and a half per cent gain from January through April compared with the previous year. Mr. Speaker, as well it indicated that housing starts should hit 1,500 units in the coming year. I would want to say that housing has always led the economy out of tough times, and I really do believe that

this is an indication of good things to come.

Along with the change of government, quite clearly there is a new optimism developed in Saskatchewan. Industry and consumers and government are working together in a spirit of co-operation, and clearly we are on the road to rebuilding this province together.

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

**Mr. Britton:** — Mr. Speaker, I live in the town of Unity, and of course Unity, the name the town of Unity should be on the front page today because of the conversations going on in the constitution.

I would like to report to the Assembly that we have in Unity a three-day-plus rodeo weekend coming up. This rodeo started out at about two days, and with the co-operation of all the service clubs and all the organizations, voluntarily have brought this into a three-day-plus very successful rodeo weekend.

And it goes along with what the member opposite just said about co-operation and volunteerism. In the town of Unity we practise that, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to tell you all the bleachers, booths, and exhibition facilities were built by volunteers. They're paid for. And I would invite anyone that's close by to drop in at our town and we'll show you a little bit of what Unity means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of this government that the best social program is a job. Mr. Speaker, at 1 o'clock today in our city, the member from Moose Jaw Palliser and myself will be formally announcing the creation of 18 new jobs in the city of Moose Jaw.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, these jobs are being created under the new and innovative community employment program of the New Careers Corporation through the establishment in Moose Jaw of two market garden projects — one through the Moose Jaw native Friendship Centre, and one through the Moose Jaw branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The benefits, Mr. Speaker, of these two projects are not only employment. Some of the produce from the gardens will be provided to the Moose Jaw food bank, other produce will be provided to the hot meal program at the native Friendship Centre. Revenues from the produce sale will assist in the operation of both organizations.

Mr. Speaker, 18 people a few days ago were without work and without much hope. Today they are working, Mr. Speaker, and it's because this government does believe the best social program is a job.

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to draw to the attention of the House, the achievement of Lumsden Elementary School. I have just introduced the grade 5 students from this school, Mr. Speaker.

The people of Lumsden have long appreciated the quality of both the elementary and secondary schools in Lumsden, but it is especially noteworthy that the Lumsden Elementary School has been awarded the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Fitness and Recreation award for their superior physical education program.

Not only is it one out of only eleven schools in the province to have received this award, Mr. Speaker, but Lumsden Elementary won the award two years ago as well.

I'm looking forward to presenting the award later this morning on behalf of the Minister of Education.

Educators have long known that good education requires a healthy mind and a healthy body. We all would wish that the values inculcated by the quality of the Lumsden Elementary physical education program will encourage these children to grow up healthy and fit.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, fitness in one's youth should encourage health throughout life, and I congratulate the staff and students at Lumsden Elementary for their efforts in this regard.

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

**Mr. Draper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the attention of this House a proposal that we're pursuing in the Assiniboia-Gravelbourg constituency.

We are trying to organize a renal dialysis unit in one of our local hospitals. At present, a number of patients need to travel to Regina or Saskatoon for dialysis, usually twice or three times a week. This is very costly in time and money to the patient and also occupies beds, we think unnecessarily, in the city hospitals.

At the same time we have other patients who have home dialysis units. This is very convenient for them, but it's rather extravagant in the number of dialysis units needed, as they only use it two or three days a week, and the rest of the time it lies unused.

Our idea is that one unit installed in a local hospital could serve three patients, thus reducing the number of dialysers required throughout the province. It would also reduce the pressure on renal units in city hospitals and increase the range of services available in our peripheral hospitals.

I would like to bring this to the attention particularly of the rural members of this House and hope that they will inform me of projects that they are contemplating in their rural hospitals which may be of use to me . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the series of Saskatchewan Transportation Company good news stories, today I'm delighted to report that after nearly 10

years of very few promotions within STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company), there is a new policy at STC.

Now, Mr. Speaker, recruitment is being done from within STC as a matter of choice whenever possible. The first example of this new policy occurred with the following results. Administrative positions were reduced by four, and at the same time five career STC employees were promoted from within. This was done by STC creating for the first time a passenger services department.

Imagine, for 10 years while passenger ridership dropped drastically, there was no passenger services department. Now, Mr. Speaker, one department, including depot staff, dispatch, and operators are responsible for passenger services and initiatives to increase bus ridership.

It is long overdue for STC employees to be recognized for their dedication and their very large knowledge about how to run a bus company. Stay tuned for more STC good news.

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

(1015)

**Mr. Goohsen:** — I'm happy this morning, Mr. Speaker, to report that I've just returned from the agricultural employment conference that was held for Canada this year in Saskatoon. This is a conference that's held every two years to review the agricultural labour force and the needs of the agricultural labour force, and to try to find ways to ensure that we will in fact have a labour force into the future.

I attended as a local agricultural employment board chairperson, a position that I hold in the Swift Current office. And as the representative for that area, I was there to discuss things like the unity of our country, which will greatly affect the shifts possibly in things like our milk boards and our pork boards. And those kinds of shifts will be very important to the trends of labour and the labour force in agriculture.

We will also be very much dependent on what happens in the area of free trade, as well as labour patterns that may be created as a result of the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks and the movements in that direction.

We had motivational speakers such as Bill Gibson from Vancouver. And these were very enlightening speeches that reviewed ways that we can motivate ourselves and be more productive in agriculture. We also listened to Knowlton Nash, a very popular person on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) television, who spoke to us about the declining numbers of agriculture, and thus the declining political clout that the farm community has. He also reviewed with us ways that we can make the media become more interested in . . .

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

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — I ask for leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to members of the House a group of students from Berezowsky School in Prince Albert in my riding.

Berezowsky School in our community is a well-known school. And I guess it's got a fairly close and warm spot in the hearts of my family, especially my daughter, who's now 19 years old, attended the first year of kindergarten when Berezowsky School was first opened. Berezowsky was and is named after a former MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), Bill Berezowsky, who represented the area a number of years ago.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to meeting with the students, the chaperons, and their teachers. And hopefully we'll be able to answer any questions that they might have with respect to the operation of their legislature. Thank you very much.

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

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Ruling on Appropriate Questions for Question Period

**The Speaker:** — Before I call oral questions, I wish to make a brief statement that relates to question period.

During question period in the last two days, several points of order were raised regarding the practice of not allowing questions to be asked on details of Bills currently on the order paper. Rule 38(1) regarding oral and written questions was referred to. I wish to clarify my interpretation of this rule for all members.

Yesterday when the member for Souris-Cannington referred to a Bill in his first question, there were immediate calls from some members to the effect that this was out of order. It is not our practice and it is not my intent to prohibit members from asking questions on matters that may be the subject of legislation before the House. To do so would be to unduly restrict members from raising very serious and contentious issues in this very important forum of question period.

Having said that, however, it is also not my intent to allow any and all questions relating to Bills that may be on the order paper for debate. Questions may be asked on the subject matter of Bills before the House, but such questions should not deal with the details of the Bill or clauses of the Bill. The appropriate forum for that type of question is in the Committee of the Whole where the minister has the assistance of officials to provide detailed information. Members should be able to frame their questions in such a way as to deal with the general policy behind the Bill without raising specific details that require detailed answers.

Members will know that to apply the distinction that I have just made requires the Speaker to make an instant judgement call during the heat of question period. I will be interpreting this rule in keeping with the practice of

this House, and in that regard I refer all members to a ruling of the Chair, dated June 23, 1989.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Provincial Funding for Abortion

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Premier. Mr. Premier, today people are gathering on the steps of our legislature, demanding that you listen to the people. You have said everyone knows that it is unconstitutional for the government to refuse to provide medically necessary services. You have said that, sir. You have de-insured insulin for diabetics, and you clearly believe that is constitutional.

Mr. Minister, Mr. Premier, is it your position that abortions are more medically necessary than insulin?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is — and the members opposite know this full well — that it is unconstitutional to de-insure abortions because of the Canada Health Act and the Charter of Rights. And the members opposite are fully aware of that, including the former premier.

The fact of the matter is that with respect to some other services which are not surgical procedures, such as insulin for diabetics or optometric services, they are not within the definition of the Canada Health Act. And actually some of these services such as optometric services are de-insured in other provinces in Canada whereas abortions are insured across Canada.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And if the Premier is going to continue to duck the issue, I will direct my question then to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, this question is not about politics but about hundreds of thousands of people telling you that when times are tough they don't want you spending their money on abortions in this province. Madam Minister, that's what this is all about.

Now, Madam Minister, you have determined that it is legal for you to take optometrists out of medicare. You are now saying that your legal opinion is that abortions are medically necessary and eye care is not. Madam Minister, you are now claiming that abortions are more medically necessary than chiropractic treatment.

The question is this, Madam Minister: will you put your opinion about these things to the ultimate test and at least ask the Court of Appeal to make a ruling? Will you do that, Madam Minister?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite ducked the question of abortions for nine and a half years. They ducked it. They continue . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. There was no interruption when the member asked his question. I ask members, please let the minister answer her question.

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — They continued to fund abortions for a period of nine and a half years, and when they moved into an election that they knew they were going to lose, they put forward a plebiscite question against the advice of their lawyers in Justice, against the advice of lawyers outside of Justice, and they knew that it was constitutionally invalid. They knew that, Mr. Speaker. And instead they chose to put a question before the public raising the hopes of the people of Saskatchewan or some people in Saskatchewan. A cruel hoax, Mr. Speaker, that's what I call it. A cruel hoax.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, your government has used this legislature to bring forward laws that override the rights of farmers, override the rights of government employees. You are using this legislature to pass laws allowing search and seizure without a warrant and override the rights of the individual. And today you are using the opinions of a few of your hired lawyers to deny the rights of the voters.

Mr. Premier, will you not admit today that the only rights that you are interested in are the rights of the NDP (New Democratic Party) Party. Is that not exactly the case we are facing today?

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, there are certain rights that are enshrined in our constitution and we call them constitutional rights. These rights cannot be overridden except in very exceptional circumstances, and we are advised that it doesn't apply to a situation such as this.

The members opposite however, for their own political purposes . . . and I think this is the height of political expediency — the height of political expediency and a most offensive act — to put a plebiscite to the voters that they knew could not be enforced and that they knew they would never have to enforce because they were going to lose the election. Instead they wanted to leave a problem that they could lobby on from a political point of view. But I'll tell you . . .

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

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier, looking for an answer. You are fighting the idea of listening to the people and holding a vote on constitutional change. Now you have people on the steps of this legislature who say they have a right — a right, Mr. Premier — to be heard. They voted in the hundreds of thousands in the last election to say no tax money for abortions.

Mr. Premier, will you prove that you respect democracy, that you respect the people's vote, and you will order the Minister of Health to stop funding abortions in these times when you are taking insulin away from diabetics?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, respecting democracy is respecting the law. And respecting democracy is being fair and open with the people instead of perpetuating cruel hoaxes such as the one put forward by the members opposite when they had full knowledge that this act was unconstitutional. I think it is a most cynical act from political leaders — most cynical and offensive.

Mr. Speaker, and I must say that there are people in the pro-life movement who agree with us in that regard. And I'm referring right now to an article by a Mr. Keith Elford who says:

The plebiscite was designed ostensibly to collect voter opinion but its real purpose was to create a no-win situation for the province's new leaders.

That's the real purpose of that vote and I say it's shameful.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, and to the Premier. Mr. Premier, many people voted last fall for the NDP and also to stop funding of abortions. Mr. Premier, you will take away the insulin that gives life to diabetics while at the same time spending money to take away the life of the unborn. This government has no respect for the wishes of the voters. And may I remind you, Mr. Premier, that while you won the election, more people voted to stop funding abortions than the number who voted for the NDP.

Mr. Premier, if you will not order the Health minister to listen to the voters, then will you at least insist on behalf of Saskatchewan people that the matter be referred to the Court of Appeal for a ruling. Will you not respect the people even that much, Mr. Premier?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — I wonder where the members opposite and the one who asked the question were in the last nine and a half years, Mr. Speaker. Where were they on this issue? They were hiding their heads in the sand until they came to an election that they knew they weren't going to win, Mr. Speaker.

Now with respect to respecting the wishes of the voters, we have respect for the wishes of the voters. And we took a considerable length of time to look at this issue inside out because we respect the wishes of the voters, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you respect the wishes of 360-some thousand voters, Madam Minister, 63 per cent of those that voted have told and they have spoken. But, Madam Minister, you are ordering hospitals to perform abortions. You are ordering them to do this procedure and then you defy the voters and you pay for that procedure.

Will you confirm, Madam Minister, that with your efforts to increase the free access to abortions in Saskatchewan, that the budget for abortions in this province will be one

of the very few areas of the health care budget to increase over the next several years? Will you confirm that, Madam Minister?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — I wonder if the members opposite ordered abortions for nine and a half years, Mr. Speaker. I suggest they no more ordered them than we are ordering them. What we are doing here is stating the law as it has existed for years and as they acknowledged it existed by not doing anything. There is no change in the status quo with respect to the law in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, what is important here and what the members opposite failed to do on this issue was to try and get at the problem, and that is unintended pregnancies. And what this government is doing is, it is showing its commitment to life in this province and it is implementing a policy to attempt to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, we have a government that is going to take some action to deal with this problem and to bring people together from all walks of life, from all religions, to deal with this problem.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New question to the same minister. The action that you're taking, Madam Minister, is exactly what has the people of this province concerned. It is obvious, Madam Minister, to everyone that if you order more abortions performed, you're going to have to spend more money, Madam Minister. I think that is obvious.

If your budget, Madam Minister, if your budget for abortions is going up while your budget for cancer patients, for example, is going down, you are taking money that at one time was used to save life and then transferring it to a portion that is going to destroy life.

Madam Minister, I ask you again in all sincerity, will you at least refer this matter to the Court of Appeal and then quit hiding behind the opinions of a few of your NDP lawyers?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, the member's comments opposite are totally reprehensible. This government and this Minister of Health is not ordering abortions. And I find their discussion, their comments, reprehensible.

This government will provide access to abortions as the law requires. We are not ordering abortions. And we will do what we can to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in the province.

And with respect to referring to the Court of Appeal, Mr. Speaker, what we need to do on this issue is to attack the problem and not spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a legal action that we know what the end result will be.

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

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Madam Minister wants to know where the people on this side of the House were the last nine and a half years pertaining to abortion, we were out there fighting for the lives of the unborn.

And we sincerely . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we sincerely brought it to the vote to the people . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order. Order. I would like to settle all people down on both sides of the House. I've noticed there were some interruptions when the minister was answering her question and now there's interruption when the member asks his question. I ask members, please, let them ask their questions, let the ministers answer.

Member from Arm River, I'd like you to direct your question.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, while you shriek your political rhetoric, we have people who had their medicine taken away on everything from medicine to user fees on cancer patients. You will charge diabetics for the privilege of staying alive with insulin but say it is unconstitutional to refuse to pay the entire bill for every abortion.

Madam Minister, is it not true that in effect what you're doing is diverting funds from the diabetics and cancer patients and funnelling that money into abortions?

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — I think your comments are . . . I said reprehensible, but they're becoming laughable, Mr. Speaker.

Where were these members, where were these members for the last nine and a half years? Why didn't they refer it to the courts in the last nine and a half years if they thought they could be successful on a court action? These johnny-come-latelies across the way, who had nine and a half years of opportunity to do something about this problem if they believed there was really a legal solution, which I say they didn't, which is why they didn't do anything about it.

What this government is doing is taking money to attempt to deal with the problem, which is unintended pregnancies. We have set up a family planning committee that is very comprehensive. We have people from all over the province who will be sitting on this committee, who have high qualifications, and who have a serious interest in dealing with the problem, because the problem is unintended pregnancies.

And instead of using political rhetoric and trying to make it . . .

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Premier if he might want to consider responding to this, and if not it'll go to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Premier, from my knowledge there is nothing in the Canada Health Act which specifically refers to abortion. I'll repeat that, Mr. Premier. There is nothing in the Canada Health Act that specifically refers to abortion.

Secondly, if you want to find out how provinces will be funded, a province will fund all medically necessary procedures done in hospitals. The key words, Mr. Premier, are medically necessary. The fact that cosmetic surgery is not funded provincially unless it is necessary, speaks to that point. This would indicate that there may be no risk at all of eliminating funding to abortions if they're not medically necessary. What evidence do you have, Mr. Premier, that abortions are medically necessary and how would you make that judgement?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in response to the question, the former premier knew that abortions were considered medically necessary under the Canada Health Act. In fact, the opinion that I had referred to earlier in this debate during this session was found at the premier's office in Saskatoon and it states: under the Canada Health Act, the provinces must fund all medically necessary services. And as long as abortions are medically necessary, which is a Canada Health Act — it's a Canada Health Act requirement, not the provincial government's requirement — provincial governments must fund such abortions or face financial penalties for doing so.

So, Mr. Speaker . . . and the opinion goes on. I'm sure you have a copy of it, Mr. Premier, because you obviously read it before the plebiscite question was put.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is I want to call on the people across Saskatchewan, including the members opposite — although I don't trust them to participate because I know they're being politically expedient — to get together on this issue and try to solve the real problem. If they're serious about this, they should join us in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

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

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Before the Leader of the Opposition puts his question, I notice he was calling "Mr. Speaker". I just want to remind him the minister took eight seconds longer than you did, sir, in putting your question. So I'm keeping very close track of the time element. So I ask the Leader of the Opposition to put his question.

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I will say again — and the minister knows and the Premier knows — that there's nothing in the Canada Health Act which specifically refers to abortion. And certainly abortion on demand is not required by the Canada Health Act.

In fact, I would ask the minister if she would respond to this: does she think it would be difficult to make the legal argument anywhere, in the Court of Appeal, or the Supreme Court, that terminating the life of a healthy baby living in a healthy mother is a necessary medical procedure under the Canada Health Act?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has the answer to that question. He had it when he was in government. The fact of the matter is, the legal advice is, is that it would contravene the Canada Health Act and it contravenes the constitution. That is the legal advice from Department of Justice lawyers and lawyers outside of the Department of Justice. He's read the legal opinions. And if he hasn't, he should have.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, we see with respect that the Minister of Health and the Premier are skirting this because I've asked the question now, this will be the third time. Tell the public why you think this procedure is medically necessary. Why do you think a court would decide that taking the life of a healthy baby in a healthy mother is medically necessary under the Canada Health Act? Why do you think that they would make that decision? Because I don't think that they will make that decision. And I would like you to at least answer the question. Would you give us your legal opinion of why you think that is medically necessary?

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, why did the member opposite think a court would decide that for nine and a half years? Because his failure to act when he was premier of this province clearly indicates that for nine and a half years he knew that's what a court would decide. And the very opinion that he received states, and I will read it for his clarification in the event that he forgets what he read: before the 1988 Supreme Court decisions on abortion a woman and her doctor decided that an abortion was medically necessary and a hospital therapeutic advisory committee confirmed that it was necessary before an abortion could be legally provided. Since the Supreme Court decision did away with therapeutic committees only the woman and her physician decide whether an abortion is medically necessary. That's who decides.

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

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister has given no evidence at all why she could not take this to the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court and find out if it's medically necessary.

**An Hon. Member:** — Why didn't you?

**Mr. Devine:** — And the Premier speaks from his seat, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member:** — Kick him out.

**The Speaker:** — He's not the only one that should be kicked out. Please let the member ask his question and the minister answer.

**Mr. Devine:** — Mr. Speaker, I'll go three questions now to the Premier and perhaps he would care to respond. The

first is, what legal arguments would suggest that a court or a judge would say that abortions are legally necessary. Number two, does he not acknowledge that when you go to the people and ask them if their will is important on something on a moral issue that it wouldn't be worthy of at least trying to test that when the people said, I don't want it funded. And number three, Mr. Premier, if the Act said, well I guess it must be medically necessary, what do you think the cost would be to the Saskatchewan taxpayer if they didn't fund abortion? And if the Canada Health Act said . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order. Let some minister answer the question.

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, the courts have said over and over again that their access to abortions are . . . that women are entitled to access to abortions. We know that's the law. The people opposite know that's the law. They've known it for nine and a half years. They've known it for nine and a half years.

**An Hon. Member:** — Why won't you test it?

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — The member opposite shouts from his seat: why didn't you test it? Why didn't you test it? Why didn't you test it? You didn't test it because you knew . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Could we have another questioner. This debate between members in question period simply cannot continue.

And I ask somebody to ask a question, then please let the minister answer.

**Mr. Devine:** — The question with respect to a penalty, Madam Minister. If the Canada Health Act said it was medically necessary and you're not funding it, therefore the penalty will be we won't fund you for it. What would that be? How many hundreds of thousands of dollars might that be if that was the penalty?

Would the minister confirm that the penalty, even if it was a penalty, is very small compared to the health care budget and certainly in terms of the will of the people who stood in this province and said: stop funding it. They said: it's not my moral decision that I would fund somebody else's decision here.

So if it's a small amount of money, and you're not going to receive it, could you confirm that it's not the money and it's not the law; it's your lack of courage that is making you take this position here today.

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, talking about lack of courage. For nine and a half years that man lacked the courage to stand up on this issue and chose to do it only when he moved into an election he was going to be decimated in.

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — And he had no courage to do what

he could to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in this province. No courage at all.

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

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — He ducked the issue, Mr. Speaker, for nine and a half years. And instead, instead he tried to perpetrate a cruel hoax on the people of this province.

And he knows it's not only a Canada Health Act issue. It's also a constitutional issue. It's not simply a Canada Health Act issue.

So the member opposite still tries to use this issue for his own political expediency. Because if he believed in it, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order.

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

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

**An Hon. Member:** — I'd like leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

(1045)

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Wormsbecker:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you, to the Assembly, 17 grade 4 students from Assiniboia Park School in Weyburn seated in your gallery. I'd also like to introduce their teacher, Kelly Hilkewich, and several chaperon parents: Lorna Katschke, Dennis Gervais, Donna Mryglod, Brenda Harder, and Judy Weiss.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to congratulate the students from Assiniboia Park School for participating in environmental green school program. This is a program which heightens environmental awareness and encourages students and teachers at Assiniboia Park to participate in reducing, reusing and recycling school supplies used in their school.

I have requested my colleague from Assiniboia . . . or I should say, Bengough-Milestone to act in my place to host my students since I have to meet another delegation. And they will be attending to this shortly. And I ask my colleague to do this on my behalf. And I'd like to welcome everybody and request everybody to join in with me in welcoming my guests.

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

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

**Mr. Scott:** — Introduction of guests, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Scott:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly 27 grade 4 students from Montmartre, Saskatchewan who are seated in the west gallery. The

students are joined by their teacher, Sandi Brown, chaperons, Diane McCall, Vida Stevenson, Linda Knoll, and Celine Giroux and their bus driver, Keith Eberlé.

I hope they enjoy their visit here today and also their visit to Regina for the day. And I'll be joining the group shortly, and ask if members join with me in welcoming this group to the legislature today.

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Government Progress Towards Reducing Unintended Pregnancies

**Hon. Ms. Simard:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the progress my government is making towards solving one of the critical problems facing our society — unintended pregnancies. We now know that informed family-planning decisions can have a major impact on the health, overall well-being, and socio-economic status of individuals and families. We also recognize that there is a need for more accessible, culturally sensitive, family-planning programs in our province.

As I've said before, my government is committed to working to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and thereby reducing the number of abortions obtained by Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say we have taken the first step in meeting this commitment. I would like to announce the appointment of a provincial advisory committee to study family-planning issues in Saskatchewan. The role of this committee is twofold: to make recommendations on the development of comprehensive family-planning programs, and to examine economic and social issues contributing to unintended pregnancy and abortion in Saskatchewan.

The committee will explore options for improving access to and delivery of effective family-planning programs for all age groups, but particularly for adolescents. The committee will also examine approaches to family planning and family life education which promote the co-operation and involvement of government, schools, parents, adolescents, and religious and cultural groups.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the knowledge and experience the people I have appointed will bring to this committee. Most importantly, I am pleased with the level of compassion which these people will bring to this important issue.

The committee will be chaired by Ann Schulman of Saskatoon. Ms. Schulman has extensive experience working with children and adolescents both in her current role as executive director of the Saskatchewan Institute on the Prevention of Handicaps and in her previous role as a pediatric nurse.

The other members of the committee bring with them a wealth of experience and involvement with health, family planning, social, and aboriginal issues. They are health care professionals, clerics, social workers, and



educators.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that there are a number of young people on this committee who will bring with them the firsthand knowledge and experience of dealing with this sensitive issue. This committee represents a cross-section of our society and shows a commitment to finding a solution to the problem of unintended pregnancies.

My government believes that family-planning programs are an essential part of any comprehensive health system. Effective family-planning programs will allow Saskatchewan people to make better reproductive health choices and will play a vital role improving the well-being of our families. Thank you.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise first of all to commend the minister for taking some direction, but I also would like to remind the people of this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan that it would appear to me that the ministerial statement today is another way of trying to deflect the criticism that is coming at the NDP Party by many people across the province for their lack and an inability to answer questions, or unwillingness to answer questions.

In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would appear to me that the statement is just another ideologically driven statement by the NDP Party to deflect this criticism. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to remind the minister of the fact that regardless of all the work and efforts that they would make in trying to counteract teen-age pregnancy, I do not believe that teen-age pregnancy is a big problem out there regarding the abortion question. And I don't believe that it will stop all teen-age pregnancy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in light of the fact that . . . I'm not exactly sure what the numbers are, but I notice in our community that of the teen-age pregnancies, many young mothers have chosen to keep their child because they believe that that is a human being they are responsible for, and it's our responsibility to support them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we raised in question period today, what we are bringing and asking the minister to do is, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . the minister is telling the people of Saskatchewan that need insulin that diabetics of this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly people I talked to yesterday, that the cost of their having a healthy life-style is going to be challenged in the fact that they must pay for all their insulin now.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are programs out and about in this province, and if we would ask the government to first of all allow the courts to make a decision, to make a ruling and let them know that they can indeed de-insure abortions but also support programs like teen aid that are giving a wholesome view and approach, taking a wholesome approach to teen-age . . . not only pregnancy but teen-age sexuality in our province.

Mr. Speaker, in one case we can support the program, but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must also stand up and criticize the minister for using this forum to try and promote their ideology.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to rise in this House and very much commend the government on their taking a stand to deal with family life issues in the province of Saskatchewan. Every single part of our world must do its part to ensure that all children are wanted children who will be raised with love, security, and stability.

The realities of our planet — and we can call this our home sphere, our ecosphere — are such that at this time we have almost five billion people on Earth. And by the year 2025 we will have 11 billion people on our planet. What we need to do is to ensure that we can in fact sustain this kind of population, that we can be concerned about the quality of life of each and every person who comes on to our planet.

I am truly concerned, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the approach that is being used here, and I feel that there is an enormous amount of denial or total ignorance on the part of the official opposition. I have not met anyone in this province who is not pro-life. We all care about life, and I find it quite reprehensible that this is reduced to two extremes . . .

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — . . . of either being pro-life or pro-choice. And quite frankly I find both of these groups, whether it be pro-life or pro-choice, using language which in essence becomes a violent kind of language. It is as equally unfair to talk about murder and killing as it is for people in the pro-choice movement to refer to a fetus as though it has no value whatsoever.

And what we need to do is to understand that this is an enormously complex situation with no easy answer. If indeed what happened, what the official opposition wants, that tomorrow there is no access to abortion, if they are so ignorant as to believe that there would therefore be no abortions in this province, they've got to be kidding, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All it means is these things will go underground and we will not deal with this horrific issue of abortion.

The real problem is indeed unintended pregnancy. The symptom of that problem happens to be abortion. And for those of us who find it appalling to have to have abortions in this province, we should all be working in a concerted way to ensure that there will be no need for abortion.

What I do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is refer everyone in this legislature to become educated about this issue. They should in fact examine the works of Dr. Matejcek, the only person on earth who has done longitudinal research into this for 28 years — 28 years — and a gentleman who could truly educate all of us in ensuring that there has to be a far, far better way of dealing with this issue than politicizing it or trying to make decisions on this issue based on emotion.

I would like to conclude, if I may, that we indeed do have a terrible problem in this province with teen-age

pregnancy. And if we are concerned about the quality of life of our children, our children are having children, and I'd like to remind the official opposition that in fact teenagers in this province, the younger they are, the more likely they are to keep their children, which hardly provides stability and security for them.

I'd like to ask the government to in fact look into the fact that we could have family life programs that would take place after school, that could include parents, that would help them in increasing communication within the family. What we indeed need to do is to ensure that people who get pregnant can have a quality of life and support and security that if they choose to bring their children to term, that in fact would they have a support system in place to give everyone some kind of form of future.

So there are several things going on here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I really find it appalling that people somehow make this divisive when we should be working in concert to ensure that all of the people in this province, children especially, are going to get the kind of quality of life they deserve.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### **Bill No. 38 — An Act to amend The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act**

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — I move that Bill No. 38, An Act to amend The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act be now read a second time.

The amendments to this Act will contribute to the protection of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's environment. The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act regulates the use, distribution, and handling of pesticides in Saskatchewan. There are regulations in place that require commercial pesticide applicators in Saskatchewan to be trained and licensed. However there are no regulations in place to ensure that the business people who sell agricultural and industrial pesticides, the pesticide vendors, are trained and licensed.

Saskatchewan is the only Canadian province which does not require vendor licensing. The Western Fertilizer & Chemical Dealers Association and the Crop Protection Institute have requested that mandatory vendor licensing be introduced, and retailers generally support it.

The industry feels that it is important for vendors to be trained and licensed. This amendment will establish regulations requiring that vendors of commercial and restricted pesticides be licensed. Vendors of domestic pesticides for use in the home or garden will not be required to be licensed.

One particular benefit of this amendment will be the increased availability of correct information about the

use of agricultural and industrial pesticides. Farmers frequently consult their pesticide vendors for information about pesticides. This amendment will result in improved point-of-sale information regarding the safe and effective use of pesticides. Mr. Speaker, this amendment also demonstrates the government's commitment to protection of the public and the environment of the province.

(1100)

The second amendment we propose for The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act is a change in terminology from the word permit to the word licence. The Act allows for regulations respecting permits but not respecting licences. In order to be consistent with new national standards for pesticide vendor and applicator certification, a change in terminology from permit to licence is required. This is a housekeeping change.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, these two changes respond to needs indicated by the industry and will ensure that Saskatchewan's regulations are in concert with those in other provinces of Canada. It is for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I'm pleased to bring forward these amendments to The Pest Control Products Act, and I ask all members of the House to support them. Thank you.

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in responding to the minister's comments on Bill 38, the official opposition agrees with him on most of the points in the Bill. There are a number of areas that we are going to want to consult with. Certainly the people that are in custom applying, people that are in the storage business of chemicals need to be talked to and consulted on this issue. I am sure that the minister's department staff have. We would like an opportunity to do that consultation.

One of the things that farmers across Saskatchewan have been telling me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that their ability to access farm chemicals on a continual and reliable basis is one that is of some concern. People in the farming area have heard the media talk about moves by individuals in our society to take the ability of farmers to manage certain chemicals perhaps away from them.

And in this province it's very fundamental that as we move into a new era that is environmentally conscious that we also don't prohibit our farmers from being able to make sound, economic and environmental decisions in regards to chemicals. One of the things that they have to do is have a secure access to those chemicals, that the people that they talk to on a daily basis are knowledgeable, and, as the minister said, meet all of the licensing requirements that are coming into force across Canada.

As I said, we don't have a lot of problems with what the minister said in the House today, but we would like some time to consult with various people in the industry. I would move adjournment, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Debate adjourned.

##### **Bill No. 39 — An Act to amend The Pest Control Act and**

**to enact a consequential amendment related to the enactment of this Act**

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 39, The Pest Control Amendment Act, 1992, is an amendment to The Pest Control Act.

The amendments are primarily administrative changes that clarify the pre-eminence of specific legislation, expand the regulation-making powers of the Act, and provide for exemptions from the Act in the regulations. The changes are to section 12.1, 12.2, and section 32.

Section 12.1 gives the Dutch elm disease control regulations made under The Pest Control Act, pre-eminence over all other Saskatchewan legislation dealing with Dutch elm disease.

This is necessary in order to prevent potential conflict between this Act and The Urban Municipality Act, which allows urban municipalities to make bylaws respecting Dutch elm disease control.

Section 12.2 requires urban municipalities to send their Dutch elm disease bylaws to the Minister of Agriculture and Food within 30 days of the bylaws' enactment.

This allows the Minister of Agriculture and Food to be aware of all legislation that speaks to Dutch elm disease and to determine whether or not these bylaws are in conflict with other provincial legislation, specifically the Dutch elm disease control regulations under The Pest Control Act.

Section 32 and 32.1; the former section 32 is repealed. The new section 32 expands the powers of the Act with respect to making regulations.

Section 32.1 is a new section which allows for exemptions from The Pest Control Act and any regulations made under it. Section 32.1 exempts landlords from being forced to control Dutch elm disease and elm stands where the disease is deemed uncontrollable. In some river valley situations, it is very difficult and very expensive to attempt control measures. In many cases the cost of attempting control measures is prohibitive.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, these changes respond to administrative needs of the legislation. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring forward the amendments to The Pest Control Act and I ask all members of this House to support them. Therefore I move that Bill No. 39, an Act amending The Pest Control Act be read a second time.

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It seems that the House comedian is at it again.

Mr. Minister, your attempts at controlling Dutch elm disease are laudable. You will have no disagreement from members opposite on that point. I am wondering in this particular Bill, if that is the essence of it, why there was no reference to it.

Obviously this amendment places all urban municipal

jurisdictions under some changes. Those municipal jurisdictions do many things besides control Dutch elm disease.

As I read the Act, this will apply to each and every bylaw, be it Dutch elm disease, be it the eradication of certain insect pests like grasshoppers, rodents, that type of thing, where their bylaws will have to comply with your regulations because it is not specific to it. And I think because of that, we would like to have the opportunity to talk to some of our towns and villages to see exactly what their thoughts are on this Bill, if it will in any way impact on the rate base of those jurisdictions.

And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask for adjournment.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 42 — An Act to amend The Consumer Products Warranties Act**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Consumer Products Warranties Amendment Act. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Act removes the provision permitting the consumer protection branch to provide mediation services to assist consumers and businesses to resolve product warranty disputes.

The Consumer Products Warranties Act provides a good level of product warranty protection for consumers. The consumer rights and protections granted by the Act will in fact continue. While mediation services for consumer products will no longer be provided, the consumer protection branch will continue to deal with complaints under licensing statutes which the branch administers. This includes legislation dealing with the service in various industries such as direct sellers, motor dealers, collection agencies, agricultural implements, and auctioneers.

Mr. Speaker, with those comments I therefore move second reading of An Act to amend The Consumer Products Warranties Act.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While this Bill may appear to be innocuous, it removes some of the protection that the government has provided to consumers. Mr. Speaker, a consumer will no longer receive assistance in mediating consumer warranty problems. Rather, Mr. Speaker, a consumer with a concern or a problem must now take the issue to the court. While it may seem cheaper to provide no mediation services, the cost may in fact be greater by forcing these issues into the court system.

I would ask the minister to review the costs associated with this Bill, both of mediation services and the cost of taking the complaints to the court.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that the consumers of this province have an opportunity to study the implications of this Bill and to comment on the implications as they see them. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move we adjourn debate on this Bill.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 43 — An Act to repeal The Hospitals Tax Act and respecting certain consequential amendments resulting from the repeal of that Act**

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you. I rise to move second reading of Bill No. 43, The Hospitals Tax Repeal Act. The Hospitals Tax Act imposed a tax on certain gaming activities such as lottery tickets, bingos, raffles, for several months in 1989. Oh, they'll remember that; there'll be painful memories for members opposite.

While in opposition we opposed this tax because of the disastrous effect it had on lottery ticket sales and other gaming activities. The public's refusal to provide their past monetary support to gaming activities resulted in declining sales and profits for the charitable and non-profit organizations operating gaming activities.

Mr. Speaker, the public's rejection of this ill-conceived Act brought about its removal in November 1989 — only four and a half months. The imposition of the hospital tax was suspended by the former government which passed a regulation under the The Financial Administration Act to provide a general exemption from liability to pay the tax. The repeal of The Hospitals Tax Act is more legally appropriate than the current exemption regulations.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill also includes consequential amendments to remove the references to The Hospitals Tax Act from the The Revenue and Financial Services Act.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore move second reading of Bill No. 43, The Hospitals Tax Repeal Act.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 45 — An Act to amend The Business Corporations Act**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of The Business Corporation Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the amendments proposed to be made by this Bill are housekeeping measures that will improve the service given to businesses by the corporation branch. For example, in a number of situations, these amendments reduce filing requirements to ensure that corporations are not being required to file the same information or documentation with the government more than once. The policy proposal and this Bill update the legislation to reflect current business practices in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, section 42, which sets out the rules that a corporation must comply when it intends to provide financial assistance to its shareholders, directors and employees, is modified to provide clearer direction to corporations as to what is and what is not permissible.

The provision respecting the names that corporations may or may not use are amended as well. Where a person

intends to incorporate a new corporation, a search of federally incorporated companies and trademarks will be carried out in addition to a search of Saskatchewan corporations to ensure that the person's right to use that corporate name is protected as much as possible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, where a person is granted a corporate name in error, the directors requires to change the name, the director is given authority to compensate it for actual expenses incurred without the need for it to resort to court actions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, extra-provincial corporations are given the option of adopting a second corporate name for use in Saskatchewan where it is a registered name is too familiar to the name of a Saskatchewan corporation. This practice has worked well in Alberta to reduce public confusion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the requirement for Saskatchewan companies to have at least one director resident in Saskatchewan is eliminated. This will, for example, allow corporations to remain registered in Saskatchewan even if the principals move out of the province. To protect the public, such corporations are required to appoint a representative in Saskatchewan who can be served with documentation on behalf of the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will correct a number of deficiencies in the Act that have become apparent over the last few years. They have been put together in consultation with the Canadian Bar Association to ensure our corporate law is kept up to date. Mr. Speaker, I therefore move second reading of An Act to amend The Business Corporations Act.

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

(1115)

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to say at the outset, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are all in favour of housekeeping measures that make business more simple and more straightforward in our province.

However, we have to be cautious in a Bill that deals with corporate entities, especially in this Assembly, because of course the people of Saskatchewan know that the philosophy of the government involved is not intended to assist corporations in a general way. And so we are sceptical that perhaps there's more to this Bill than we have been able to get the time to examine just yet.

We want therefore to take a little time to run the Bill past some legal people. Especially I note that the term municipalities is used here and we think it is proper that we run this Bill past the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) and SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) to see what their opinions are.

I also note in section 6 in general it refers to out-of-pocket expenses being paid. I think on the outset I should say that we generally favour that idea because it has been the experience in our past to have friends and neighbours who have had problems with people in the department

making a mistake and allowing the same name or one very similar to be allowed to two separate corporate entities. In which case there ensued considerable amount of expense with lawyers and that sort of process before the mess was straightened out. The people who legitimately had the right to the corporate name had to spend several of hundreds of dollars to in fact get what they should have had to begin with. And to get those out-of-pocket expenses back is more than right.

However the question should be considered, who should be paying for those kinds of mistakes? Should it just naturally come out of the pockets of all the taxpayers or should we be looking at some kind of accountability within that department to make sure that they don't just treat these things frivolously and that they attend to their work in a proper manner.

We find ourselves agreeing to a large extent to those kinds of ideas in here. In section 12 I note that there could be some legal problems with that and I think again there we've got to have people take a look at it. Section 13 is also rather complicated in terms of reference to The Income Tax Act, and I believe that we in all fairness should have some legal people from the tax department take a look at what those implications really are.

I believe in section 15 we're referring to an increase in fee and there's no set fee there. I wonder if it's proper to just give a department the right to arbitrarily decide what that amount is, or should we in fact perhaps have some suggested rate or fee schedule thrown in here for public debate in this Assembly or somewhere else where people who are affected by those costs in fact will have some input some place as to what those costs should be and whether it's fair or not — at least an opportunity to debate and argue about whether or not they should be charged the new arbitrary fees that would be set.

It's a rather lengthy document going on for several pages here, and because of that, and seeing that the costs of searches and so on could be going up considerably, and the implications that are set out in some of these explanations being rather legal in explanation, there's a good possibility that there may be more to this Bill than I have been able to determine at this point. And for that reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask that we move to adjourn debate until another day.

Debate adjourned.

#### **Bill No. 46 — An Act to amend The Income Tax Act**

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to move second reading of the Bill to amend the income tax. As announced in the budget, Mr. Speaker, steps must be taken to reduce Saskatchewan's deficit. The Government of Saskatchewan must depend upon its residents to help restore the financial health of Saskatchewan. Both individuals and corporations are being asked to contribute.

Income taxes are one of the fairest means of reducing the deficit and restoring the financial well-being of Saskatchewan. This is because income taxes are largely

based on the ability to pay.

The Bill introduces the deficit surtax. It's levied at the rate of 10 per cent on the sum of Saskatchewan basic tax including the flat tax, commencing on July 1, 1992. Tax withholdings will reflect the introduction of the deficit surtax on July 1, resulting in an effective rate for 1992 of 5 per cent. Also commencing on July 1 will be a \$50 increase in the child reduction from 200 to 250 per child. This will protect lower income families from the additional taxes resulting from the introduction of the surtax.

Larger corporations are being asked to contribute to the province's recovery through an increase in the general corporate income tax rate from 16 to 17 per cent, commencing January 1, '92. This is in addition to the increase introduced by the previous administration and represents an increase accordingly.

The Bill also clarifies the eligibility of shelf corporations incorporated to benefit from the Saskatchewan tax reduction for the small businesses.

While income taxes are one of the fairest means of levying taxes, this government is not satisfied with the present tax system where provincial income taxes are collected on the province's behalf by the federal government.

There are many benefits to have one collector and administrator of income taxes, particularly the reduced compliance cost for provincial residents in the preparation of tax returns. However Saskatchewan is required, along with other provinces who have similar arrangements, to accept federal control over the conditions under which provincial income taxes are levied. This severely hampers the province's ability to enhance the fairness of a tax system. For example, the province cannot integrate our income tax programs with the income tax system to ensure fairness and efficiency in provincial social policy.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to press the federal government for increased flexibility in provincial income tax, so the provincial income tax system can become fairer and more equitable. I'd be pleased to answer questions concerning the amendments when discussing the Bill in Committee of the Whole.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to move that a Bill to amend The Income Tax Act be now read a second time.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm sure that the minister I think had a little difficulty in saying that he had a lot of pleasure in introducing the Bill in the Assembly today.

Certainly as I took a quick look at the Bill before us, I believe the Bill is addressing a number of the things in the budget or areas in the budget where the government is looking to increase taxation. And on that aspect, certainly many people across this province would just as soon see this Bill die on the order paper. Because I'm not sure that

people across Saskatchewan are all that interested in paying more taxes.

Yes, people in Saskatchewan are interested in addressing the debt. And in talking to a lot of people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have found that people have been throwing out a lot of suggestions and ideas as well. And as I look through the Bill, there are areas in the Bill that will recognize low income families and put a few more dollars into the hands of low income families. And we commend the government for recognizing that need.

But we will also want to remind the government and bring to the government's attention the fact that there are many people across this province that are going to be in more severe financial difficulty because of measures in the budget. And on the basis of a number of the pieces of information we see in this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we certainly are going to want to review it a little closely, as it does put an added tax burden and load not only on corporations, but certainly on personal people right across this province through the personal income tax and increases we see in a number of areas.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Why is the member for Shellbrook-Torch River on his feet?

**Mr. Langford:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce some guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Langford:** — Mr. Speaker, I've got some guests from P.A. (Prince Albert) Carlton which is a buddy riding to Shellbrook-Torch River. I'd like to introduce 20 grade 5 and 6 students from Arthur Pechey School in P.A. I will be taking pictures with them at 11:30 and drinks at 11:35. I wish you students had a good trip and a safe trip home. Would you please help me welcome them.

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

## SECOND READINGS

### Bill No. 47 — An Act to repeal The Health Research Act

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, before I move second reading of the Bill I want to welcome the students as well. I know they'll find their visit to the Assembly today interesting and I wish them a good stay and a safe return home.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Health Research Repeal Act. This Act will transfer all rights and obligations, assets and liabilities of the Saskatchewan Health Research Board to the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission.

When the commission was established in February, Mr. Speaker, it was given a broad mandate. The commission

has been asked to review usage patterns in Saskatchewan to determine how and why services are used and provided in the province. These findings will be made public.

Research information will become the focus for public discussion on changes needed to the health system to improve the quality of health care in Saskatchewan. One of the primary activities of the Saskatchewan Health Research Board was to provide grants for health research. Mr. Speaker, let me assure the House that the commission will continue this practice as part of its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby move second reading of The Health Research Repeal Act.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this Bill and we don't have a lot of concern with it as we read it. We need to know a little bit more, Mr. Speaker. This Bill takes into consideration, as I read the Bill, a complete transfer of responsibilities and assets and so on into another department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we would like to have a little more time on this. The changes to the health care administration as a whole is acceptable on this side. However, we'd like to know how the commission will be structured. We would like to know the parameters of the new commission, their powers. We speak of powers in here and so, Mr. Speaker, in order to get a little more information from the people that this may impact on, we now beg to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

(1130)

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### Consolidated Fund Expenditure Public Service Commission Vote 33

#### Item 1 (continued)

**The Chair:** — I'd ask the minister if he would like to reintroduce his staff to the members of the Assembly.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Seated beside me is Ray Smith, and directly behind me is Mary Kutarna.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, the day before yesterday when we were on PCS, I gave a list of questions that . . . requests that I was asking for. And I said you could either get them from me afterwards or take them out of *Hansard*, and I just wondered how you got along with those questions, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Perhaps the House will indulge me for a moment while I find the member's comments in *Hansard* of . . . was it June 1? I guess it was.

Thank you. I say to the member, I don't see a problem with part of it. Part of the information we don't have. Let me reread this for your benefit:

Now to the rest of the Public Service Commission I want a list of the actual names of any persons who were terminated, their salaries . . .

And I think that's okay. What might be more difficult is with respect to those who were hired, you asked for the list of names, that's okay; job title, that's okay. But what I've got a bit of a problem with is the balance — the job description. In many cases there is no formal job description. It's simply understood and will depend upon the area the person is employed.

So I don't know whether this would satisfy the member or not. With respect to those who are hired, we can give you the names, the job titles, the salary that is with the position, and such job descriptions as might be available . . . as might be reasonably available.

I know that's a little bit iffy, that last one, but we don't always have job descriptions. So if that would satisfy the minister, we could agree to provide that . . . if that would satisfy the member.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Minister, maybe we'll just leave that for a few moments because I understand that there's been a suggestion made from your department of how we can get these questions answered.

I'll be leaving shortly, or after a while, to go to talk to the pro-life people, and the member from Morse will be asking some questions. So I'm going to get a photocopy, Mr. Minister — which I'm sorry that I didn't get; I was busy here this morning — and give you the . . . I have about 38, 39 questions here that I'm going to be asking you, and we'll give them to you and then you can go through them and give me some comments on ones that you can answer and the ones you can't and why not. And we'll do that. The member from Morse will be asking some of those questions while I'm gone.

In the meantime I'd like to ask this question, Mr. Minister: the Public Service Commission, how many jobs or how many personnel got a pink slip that's involved with the Public Service Commission — and I don't mean the people that work for the Public Service Commission — that they have knowledge about or involved with throughout all government? How many pink slips?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — There was one individual whose job was terminated — the former chairman, John McPhail. That's the only person with the Public Service Commission whose position was terminated. There were, as you know, 390 positions throughout government which were terminated on May 7.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — No, I understand that there wasn't many in the Public Service Commission. I understand that. It's, Mr. Minister, the personnel that's involved with all government that is involved with the Public Service Commission. How many pink slips since November 1 or October 21 until now? How many pink slips have been given out?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — As we discuss it, we may have to agree to give you that.

We can supply the member with the numbers and the names of public servants who left the public service by reason of termination, retirement, I suppose in the odd case, death. We can give you the names and the numbers of people who left the public service. We can't do that today but we can agree to give you that.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — You mean, Mr. Minister, that you don't have the numbers of all the people, Public Service Commission, I don't . . . let's say today the numbers. And give me the personnel and the names afterward. How many numbers would there be that's had a pink slip in all of government since November 1. You should have the numbers.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — We sent that to you the other day. And that list is . . . we still stand by that list; it's still complete. We sent you the numbers of people who had left the public service since November 1, '91.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — So that list that you provided me, it had I think it was around 4 or 500 names on it, or positions. And you're saying, Mr. Minister, that's all the pink slips that have been given out to November 1 for all of government, for all of government that the PSC (Public Service Commission) is involved with.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes. Except it does not include orders in council which you'd have to get from Executive Council, and does not include service contracts which we had nothing to do with.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Okay, I understand that. All right. How many of those individuals that got a pink slip was rehired like immediately, or whatever, that has been rehired. Still working for government.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — We don't yet have that information. However we'll undertake to give it to you when it's compiled.

The member may or may not be aware that with respect to out-of-scope employees they go on a re-employment list and some are re-employed, although it isn't always easy to match skills and positions.

With respect to those who are in scope, they have a bumping process. The officials tell me that that takes about two to three months before the thing settles out.

And I'll give you my undertaking that — you pick the time — at a given time in the future, we will supply you with the names of all persons who were rehired through re-employment or through bumping.

I would suggest October 1. By October 1 we'll give you a list of all the people who are rehired. It wouldn't make much sense before then though.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Minister, that won't be acceptable. What I want, Mr. Minister, is the people . . . and I know it's happened in many departments of government where they got their pink slips and never missed a day's work, were rehired the next day. And that's happened in many departments of government.

So when you give out a pink slip and they're fired, and that's the number that's recorded in the papers and publicly and by yourself, that they've had their pink slip, and they're back working the next day — maybe not the same job but in the same department with just a little different job title. You must know and your staff must know exactly who those people are.

I'm not expecting you, Mr. Minister, and I'm quite willing to wait till a certain date to get the ones that have the bumping rights and haven't got a job back yet and the ones that don't know where they're at. I want the list of the people that have been hired back in government and where they're at and what their classifications and what their new job description is, because they're out there. We must have that information, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The officials tell me that they suspect that the answer would be nil. However I'll give you this undertaking. Within a relatively brief period of time we will canvass the departments and answer the question accurately. If there's any, you'll get the names and positions. So I undertake within a reasonably short period of time to tell you how many people were immediately re-employed, reasonably immediately.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Minister, I mean is there some other way that someone could have a pink slip, have a job the next day, never missed a day's work, and are still working, because I know of individuals. And to protect their names, I'm not going to use them in here. I know it's happened. For sure I know it's happened. Is there some way that it could happen and not come through the Public Service Commission, or you wouldn't have got a recording on that?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — It's technically possible they might be given a pink slip and then rehired as a casual. I'm told that that's technically possible. We'll canvass the public service and we will give you our assurance that that did not happen; or if it did, we'll give you the names and the positions where it happened.

The officials think it's extremely unlikely it happened, but we will undertake to ask the departments and get back to you.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Minister, could you undertake to have someone of your staff contact Rural Development, like this morning? Like someone go out and phone them now? Because somebody over there, the deputy minister or somebody in that department, because this is one of the departments where they're not coming back as casual labour; they're coming back as the same job or . . . I'm sorry, maybe not exactly the same job description but doing the same work after they've had a pink slip.

If you would undertake to have somebody contact them now or somebody in your own department should know this. I can't believe that the Public Service Commission where you have to go through . . . you've got to go through the Public Service Commission to be hired in these positions. They must have a recording, they must have, Mr. Minister. With all due respect to you, they must have a recording of someone that got a pink slip and is back to work the next day. They must have.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I'm frankly quite sceptical of that kind of information they get over the phone. I wouldn't necessarily be sure it's accurate. It has been my experience in government when you phone someone and say, now I need an answer real quick, here's the question — the answer is given without proper thought, and it may not be accurate.

I'm prepared to get that information and get back to you. I frankly don't feel very comfortable in phoning up someone's office and asking for it quickly. Moreover — I'm not asking you to do this; I'm prepared to have the staff of the Public Service Commission do it and get back to you at a reasonably early date — but you could also ask the Minister of Rural Development when his estimates came if you have some specific suspicions as would appear to lie behind the question.

But we'll get it. I do not think it's a very wise practice to be running out to the members' lounge, phoning someone, and treating that as if it were accurate information. My experience has been it's often inaccurate.

(1145)

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Well, Mr. Minister, it shouldn't be a big job when your officials are telling you that it's very unlikely there's any, when I think there's been like maybe dozens and dozens and maybe a hundred or more. And what I suspect it is, Mr. Minister — and I said it the first day we were on PCS and SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) — that these people that you're firing and they're leaving government, they haven't any job. But you're going to take care of your own political people.

And we will not be getting off this here department. We have to have commitments. We have to have commitments in writing, wherever. We have to know the people because I've made a vow to you, Mr. Minister, that we would follow the people through to see if your political people are still working. It's only the people that are non-political that got moved from their jobs.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I have a suggestion. Assuming the member's comments were found to be substantiated, that would be the end of the conversation. I couldn't begin to discuss it. I wouldn't know why.

Why don't I give you this undertaking: we will supply the answer to that question before the estimates for the Minister of Rural Development come up. So you'll have the information and then could discuss it with him. As I say, supposing they were found to be true, I could not justify or explain it or deal with it. Why don't you just accept my undertaking that we'll get back to you before those estimates come forward?

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Minister, we might be able to make an agreement like that. We might be able to. But we'd have to have it in writing that all information that we're going to leave that way . . . because we're not going to just let the vote go. We'd have to just leave it on vote 1, if we're going to do a commitment like that. Or else if I got it in writing from you on several questions we have here,



like maybe a lot of questions, that we'd have it in writing that we would get this information when it gets to the department. But we can't get to the department, Mr. Minister, and then the minister says, you should have got it in the Public Service Commission.

I mean, we're not going to be left hanging out to dry here. We want this information. We want to know because I do believe that pink slips have been given out and the people are back to work the next day. And I want to know their names, who they are, and that should be something that you should be able to provide just like that. Your officials should know if they handed out . . . the Public Service Commission working with the departments must know exactly how many people got pink slips and they must know exactly how many people went back to work.

That shouldn't be a difficult question. When could you undertake to have that particular information?

**The Chair:** — Why is the minister on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Carson:** — With leave, I would like to introduce some guests, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Carson:** — Thank you. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Legislative Assembly 10 students in grade 8 from St. Brieux School in my constituency, sitting in your Speaker's gallery. They're here for a tour today to watch the legislative proceedings in this Assembly.

I have met with them. Their teachers are Randy Boyko and Lucille Assiés the chaperon. And I would like to welcome them and have members of the Legislative Assembly join me, hoping that they will have a good visit to Regina this afternoon.

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

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### Consolidated Fund Expenditure Public Service Commission Vote 33

#### Item 1 (continued)

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Let me make this suggestion to the minister. You have my assurance as a member of a treasury bench and as Assistant House Leader that we will have the information to you before Rural Development estimates come up. I'm told, two or three days, so I give you my commitment, we'll have it to you by next Friday.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, I'm going to be going out now to spend some time with the Pro-Life people that's out in the House and the people that are opposing government on the funding. I'm going to be spending some time with them and the Leader of the Liberal Party is going to ask some questions, I understand, and then when the member from Morse comes up, he has

the information — the questions to table. And then we'll be coming back on later. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, in the budget the government announced the cut back of some 500 civil service positions, and on a number of occasions I've heard in this legislature from various ministers that many of those people affected by the cuts will be given an opportunity to engage in bumping of other employees if they have the adequate level of authority.

I ask the minister, how much do you believe that this process will cost?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The member probably knows that bumping is something that has been negotiated under the collective bargaining agreement. There are no direct costs associated with it in the sense there's no additional staff hired, and offhand I see no direct costs.

There's certainly some indirect costs because people are . . . an employee who may understand the job is then bumped and moved out and you get someone in who doesn't. So there's probably some indirect costs. Frankly they'd be very hard to quantify. The indirect costs would be the cost of losing trained people, replacing them with people who are less familiar with the job. Those are indirect costs. I don't know how we would quantify them. That, I think, however, would be the only cost.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, if you could assist me then. What you're saying is that people with more authority and more seniority are going to be bumping people with less authority and seniority, which means that those individual salaries that they're bumping would be less. So the individuals who are taking over these positions, would they not be being paid more for the similar positions?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — No. If they bump what is called a lateral bump, which means a secretary 4 who has more seniority is then given the right under the collective agreement to bump another secretary 4 who has less seniority, been there less time, in that circumstance they might maintain their present salary, maintain their present state in the grid.

But if the only person they can find to bump is a secretary 3, then it's a demotion and the salary goes down.

So yes, when they bump they may well lose salary. That's thought to be preferable to being unemployed.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — So is it also the case, Mr. Minister, that if they bump in a lateral way that they'd have more seniority, that their salary may stay intact? Or is it automatic that they would have to take a lower salary if they're bumping someone of lower salary.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, that's automatic.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — How much of an increase in work-load does bumping involve?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Very hard to quantify. Undoubtedly some increase in the work for supervisors

who must spend more time with an employee who's less familiar with the job that they're doing. So there'd be some additional work for the supervisors. I think that's probably all, as I think about it. I don't think there'd be any additional . . . and probably some . . . yes, I was going to add what Mr. Smith suggested, and that is that there's some work for the PSC as well who must process all of this, and to some extent assist the departments in managing the bumping.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Okay. Mr. Minister, have you budgeted then for any additional work-load? Does this in fact additional work have a sum attached to it?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — No, they do the additional work in addition to the duties which they'd otherwise do.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — In the annual report, 1990-91 annual report, the commission announced that one of its major activities in which they're involved is what they call a five-year strategic plan. Given the sharp changes, I think, that are occurring in the public service, will the work done on this plan remain relevant, in your view?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, the five-year plan was a program to revitalize the public service. It obviously needs to be revisited in the light of the staff reductions. But the goal of revitalizing the public service and creating a public service which is professional, free of political interference, and thereby with a high morale, remains the current goals.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — In the last annual report as well, Mr. Minister, it was noted that the commission was devoting new strategies, incorporating equal pay for work of equal value. Can you tell me how many departments were affected by these initiatives?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The reference was to an internal study that was being done within the PSC. It did not get beyond the PSC in the sense that it involved departments who actually implemented it. So it did not involve any departments apart from PSC. It was an internal study.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there then any employees who actually benefitted from equal pay for work of equal value?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The answer is no.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Do you have any intentions of, in fact, spending on these programs, and how many departments have you targeted?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes it remains a goal of this administration. There's no question but what there is an inequality within society generally, and that is reflected within the public service. No question but what women are paid less than men for work of equal value and in some cases work that's remarkably similar.

I think it is fair to say as well that the primary reason we didn't continue was simply a matter of finances. This was an extremely difficult year to begin this program which is costly.

When will we commence it? Well that will depend I guess on commodity prices. When the financial health of the province improves, we will start it. It remains a goal of this administration and the party of which I'm a member. But like so many other of our ambitious goals, it could not begin this year.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And, Mr. Minister, would you please define for me the personnel responsibilities of the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — In general terms, the Public Service Commission seeks to ensure that rules for hiring of employees, reclassifying employees, and the dismissal of employees, that those three activities follow certain rules which are designed to ensure fairness, to ensure an absence of patronage, and thereby a professional public service, and is designed to ensure that the workers are as productive as possible and that — and this should not be lost sight of — and that, in terms of ergonomics that the work place is as pleasant to the employee and as productive for the employee as it can be.

So in general terms, it's the role of the Public Service Commission to develop and enforce rules which ensure that the public service is as productive, as professional, and competent as it can be and that the work place is as pleasant for the employee as can be done.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I guess one of the things I was hoping to find out is a breakdown of the various kinds of employment relationships. And if I may, I have tried to understand this myself, and I would just like to put this to you, and then you can correct me if I'm not right.

The way I've looked at it is that there are types that belong to both classified and unclassified service. Within the classified service there's in scope and there's out of scope. That there are also what one would term labour service employees, those who work seasonally, like year after year in our parks, and highways, ferry operators, etc., and that unclassified service are those who are appointed by order in council. Am I correct in that so that I can proceed with my questioning?

(1200)

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, that's very good actually. That's precisely correct.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, I know that some of the questions posed by the critic in the official opposition are similar to these, but they really are specific to what I've just asked you about. Do you know how many people have been dismissed from the public service by employment category and department?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — We generally expect that when we give information to an opposition member, they share it with other members of the party, but of course you're not part of that caucus.

I think what we'll do is give you the information which we gave to the member from Arm River, and it will answer

that question. In fact, as the musician says, I happen to have the music with me. If I can get the assistance of a page, we'll give it to you right now.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I appreciate that very much, Mr. Minister. Of anyone who has been dismissed in the various categories and departments, do you know if there have been any severance packages granted?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, there certainly have been. For out-of-scope people who are . . . in fact there'll be in a sense severance packages for virtually them all who don't bump or aren't rehired through a re-employment list. So yes, there would be.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — At what expense did these severance packages come to the Saskatchewan taxpayer?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — What's done at taxpayers' expense and was budgeted for — do you want the figures?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I would. I guess my sense is that any government dollar is a taxpayers' dollar, so I would appreciate if you could come up with a sum for me.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — At the moment it's only an estimate, and I perhaps should respond in writing. One of the problems is it depends what happens. It depends how many you re-employed, how many go, how many go on a re-employment list. So at the moment it's an estimate. I think it was a six-digit figure. So it was not a terribly large sum of money but certainly a significant sum of money.

Yes, it's done at taxpayers' expense. But I remind the member from Saskatoon Greystone that all enlightened employees, including private employees, now do this. It is true that where employees lay off employees temporarily, there's normally no severance, because they expect them to be recalled. But where a company which is at all enlightened does a permanent down-sizing with no intention of re-employing the employees, private people pay severance as well.

It has in the 1980s and 1990s become established practice by enlightened employees that where employees spend a significant portion of their life contributing to the enterprise, or the government in this case, they should be fairly compensated when their jobs are terminated. And I think we're doing nothing . . . we're not spending taxpayers' money in any different way that private corporations don't spend the shareholders' profits I guess.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I do wish to in fact agree with the minister that it's only appropriate that people be compensated through severance. And in fact I don't know if he'll recall the late hour during the first session just a few days prior to Christmas, but I was in fact pleading with the government about severance packages and honouring contracts with individuals and dealing with unfair contracts on a one-by-one basis rather than passing legislation that was blanketed.

I do have a rationale behind my questions and they are leading somewhere, I want the minister to know. How many dismissals, in fact do you have any, that have not

been settled with severance packages to date?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, there's all kinds of . . . there's a fair number of them, actually, which have not been settled.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Will you be able to provide in future to us the amounts of dollar value involved with those severance packages?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, the minister probably heard the exchange between myself and the member from Arm River. Certainly we'd be prepared to give you say on October 1, a reasonable period of time when this settles out, the cost of the severance packages as we calculated them.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. That's most appreciated, Mr. Minister. As a result of the provincial budget, do you know — and this is in direct relationship just to the budget — do you know if there are people who have lost their jobs due to the budget cuts?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — There were 390 positions eliminated on the date, on the budget date, and that was directly budget driven.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, how many of these were in the classified service? And I'll just finish this because you could answer each one of these short questions individually, I believe, easier. The first, the classified service: how many were orders in council, how many were labour service, and how many were temporary employees?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I think the simplest thing to do is to simply share this document with you. It sets out all of the information you want and actually a little bit . . . and actually more than what you want. If the member has any difficulty in following this, because it's in a Public Service form, please ask and we'll assist you with it.

I'll ask that you give this to the . . . This was already provided to the official opposition.

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Chairman, I wonder, Mr. Minister, in order to provide that the balance, whether the decision to give it to both of the oppositions or whether to table it would be the most convenient, and then have it brought in here, then everybody would have an opportunity to get it. And that would probably solve her problem of getting information on what we have, and our problem on getting information that she is wishing.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — There's just one problem with tabling it. The House may not be in session when some of the information comes back. I will assure you that it will rain on the just and unjust equally. Why don't we agree that anything I supply to the official opposition, I will supply to the member from Saskatoon Greystone, and vice versa.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. I actually thank the member from Morse for raising that, and I'm very grateful to the minister for including me.

I'm just wondering, from what you've given to me stating tentative employee staff cuts, I wonder if you'd be willing to bring forward some more specific information — namely, I'm interested in the employees by name, by department, indicating the salary level and the number of years of service.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes. This has already been supplied to the member from Arm River, so if I can . . .

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I'm going to be leaving with an inordinate amount of extra paper today, Mr. Minister. I thank you for the information. I am interested as well in . . . have you been able to calculate an estimated severance package cost of these job deletions?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — They don't have it here today. We can supply that to you in a very few days. It's just not physically present in the Chamber but we will give it to you in a few days.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Since your government has taken over, how many people have been hired from outside of government, by category and by department?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — If I could have one of the pages, I will send over to the member the answer to her last question.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Minister, I thank you for this information and I hope that you'll be able to provide me with something a bit more specific. What I would appreciate is to have a list of the names, the salary of those hired in out-of-scope classified service by order in council or by contract.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The number is included on the list. Order in council and contract do not fall within the Public Service Commission at all. By definition it's right outside the ambit of this department. Order in council should properly be received from Executive Council estimates when they arrive. The labour service contracts are done strictly by the department, and you would have to ask those questions of each individual department. We don't have it; it's not done through the Public Service Commission at all.

So order in council, you can get a global picture of that from Executive Council, but the labour service contracts, I regret to tell the member, you've got to ask each department.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'm wondering then if for those who are hired by the Public Service Commission, if you could give me the names of those and their salary levels?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes we can give you that.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. I'm wondering if there is an intention on the part of the government — and I'm sure that you may choose not to answer on behalf of the whole government — but is there going to be a place whereby there will be a co-ordination of this for people to be able to have an understanding of how much monies and the

hiring, the salaries, the kinds of things that I am asking for here.

I guess there is a part of me that kind of wonders about having to go to each and every department to find out about temporary hirings or contract hirings. Would the Associate Minister of Finance not find it to be of value to have one place to where all of us could go and find this information?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — It can certainly be . . . certainly assist the members in their work in the Assembly. The problem is that it is almost, by definition, a very decentralized process.

Casuals by definition are something that the deputies can hire when they need them. They are limited to specific kinds of work and they're limited to a period of time. But by definition it's something that's left in the discretion of the minister to handle — the exceptions, the overflows, the particular problems.

So it would be useful for members of the Assembly but in fact by definition this is a very decentralized process designed to allow deputies to manage their departments in the most efficient manner possible and with as little "red tape" from the central agencies, of which this is one.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'm wondering if you could tell me if you have any plans for an early retirement program that is going to be put in place or . . . I mean is there anything like this contemplated by the government for those employed by the Public Service Commission?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — No, we have no present intention at this time to introduce any early retirement programs.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. I know that there has been some discussion in these deliberations about patronage. And of course it was a very major concern with the former government and I think generally conceded that the quality of the public service in Saskatchewan relative to other jurisdictions and any other government in fact — federal or provincial — in the country, that we were not left with a particularly good reputation.

What measures are you taking to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future?

(1215)

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — This was one of those areas where the law never changed. In quite a number of areas the quality of public services deteriorated. The laws were never changed; they were simply not enforced. That's what happened here. The regulations and the laws were really never changed. It's just that they were not enforced. They were ignored and circumvented by the most transparent means.

What we have done is to . . . We have a new chairman. Before appointing her I assured myself and I assured the members of Executive Council who concurred in the

order in council appointment, that she was going to be running an independent public service free of patronage.

So the best answer I can give the member, which you may or may not find very satisfying, is that in the person of Ms. Bailey who actually is away today, we sought someone who would ensure that patronage would play no part in the hiring. And it's reasonably certain that's happened.

And I remind the member of the summer student program in which we took steps to ensure that it was done at random by a computer. That caused some problems because some students who had done well in past years weren't returned and so on. But it did rid the system of patronage and it was designed by her.

So I guess the best answer I can give you is that that's one of the reasons why we have Ms. Bailey who is the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, that leads me, I think, to come back to a question that I've had earlier and had forgotten to pose. The former chairman of the Public Service Commission was fired and I'm wondering if you would provide a reason to this House for his dismissal and the cost to the taxpayers, of this action.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — This is very delicate. Because I want to be candid with the member, at the same time I don't want to make some comments about anyone, because we have a platform to make these comments; they really have no platform to respond to them.

Suffice it to say that the hiring practices of the former administration — I am being delicate — the hiring practices of the former administration were not ones we wanted to continue. We felt that the change to a professional, competent public service, free of patronage, could best be accomplished with a new chairman.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, will there be any opportunity for people to know more about what happened with this situation and in particular the cost to the taxpayers?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — There was a . . . I think there may not be. There was a confidentiality clause in the contract when it was settled. Those things have become common. They don't necessarily serve the purposes of the members of this Assembly very well because members want to ask questions on behalf of their constituents and the taxpayers. However, they do serve other purposes and they are common in severance contracts. And I'm told by the officials that there was a confidentiality clause in the contract. So I regret to say to the member that I'm probably not ever going to be in a position to answer that question.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Now as we know, a new appointment has been made. As minister for Public Service Commission, I'm wondering if you'd be able to provide me with a statement outlining her educational and employment background, as well as salary and prerequisites, such things as perhaps provision for a vehicle.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — She gets the same vehicle everyone else does. And that was the subject of a fair amount of publicity recently. The member will recall, give an option of \$100 or a vehicle costing the government less than \$19,000, and that is a different figure than you or I would pay if we purchased an automobile privately. So she gets the same as any other permanent head.

I don't have her education. It wasn't paramount in her hiring. I don't think it's necessarily relevant to the discussion. She had been in the public service since the '70s; had worked under both governments and had been promoted under both governments — indicating, I think, a fair level of competence and a degree of impartiality as far as . . .

I'm going to give you this employment background in a second. She began in 1976, was promoted under both governments, and under all three governments — the Blakeney administration, the administration led by the member from Estevan, and the current administration. Her background has always been in personnel and personnel issues.

She's basically an employee who worked her way up through the system and is now at the top, I guess. But it was her employment history and her personal qualities, and really not her education which was a factor. I'll give this to the member, and I'll ask the member, before so doing, to make a copy for the member from Morse.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'm interested in the administration and information services of the Public Service Commission and could you provide a breakdown of functions? Nearly a third of the staff located appears to be located in overhead. In my point of view, just looking at this, it appears very excessive. I'd like your comments, please.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — There is a reasonably complete description on page 12 of the annual report. I could read it into the record if the member wanted or . . . I'm not sure what's desired here. But I might perhaps refer you to page 12. There's a fairly complete description, I think, of the administrative information services division.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, I'm hoping that what you will do is just comment on the fact that I really do feel that having a third of the expenditures is rather excessive in one area. That's really what I'm most interested in having your comments about.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — As page 12 points out, the division of the Public Service Commission provides administrative services to the entire Public Service Commission. This isn't just information or sort of propaganda. It's much more extensive than that.

We have mixed here two functions: information and administration. And it provides administrative services for the entire Public Service Commission. I think that's not out of line with other agencies in government. That ratio is not out of line with other agencies in government when you look at the totality of its functions.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Minister, it appears really as though the public service is presumably going to have fewer and fewer jobs. I think what we're watching is a shrinking of the public service. And I think that it would make some sense then if the Public Service Commission would shrink itself in direct correlation to the fact that more employees of the Public Service Commission are in fact becoming unemployed. And part of what I am looking at here is that we need to look at what these people do and their direct correlation with the fewer numbers of people that they would be dealing with in the province overall.

So I'm wondering if in fact many of the functions that are indicated in this annual report could not be taken into other departments, just as you've indicated earlier are done with temporary positions and contract positions. Could we not have some of this responsibility picked up in other places?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — No. In fact I say to the member opposite, this is an area where we're going to be putting increased resources, not fewer. It is accurate that the total people employed by the public service may well decline at a slow rate. However without being partisan — and I promised myself I wouldn't engage in the partisan comments I did the other day — but suffice it to say that the whole function of the Public Service Commission was derailed under the former administration.

And we now face a serious problem of morale in the public service, a problem with its . . . And they, the members of the public service, are more concerned than anyone about their professionalism and the competence and efficiency. We can only address those problems with increased resources in the Public Service Commission.

This is one of the key areas for this government to tackle and challenge. If I were to list the five most serious challenges that this government has, I would put the public service — not the Public Service Commission — the public service as one of them. The morale of the public service is one of our key problems. We're actually going to be putting additional resources into this area in an attempt to develop a public service which is professional and which has a high morale and which is therefore productive. So we'll actually be putting additional resources into the area because of the horrendous mess which was left behind by the former administration.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Well, Mr. Minister, having been involved with the Public Service Commission, I couldn't agree with you more. And I'm wondering why we don't have whistle-blower legislation and a lot of other things that could empower people who are members, actually employees of government who could help us and feel safe in being able to bring forward incidences that they believe are being unjust to the citizens of Saskatchewan.

I'm now going to turn to employee relations. The average wage, what I'm able to see in the annual report, including clerical, is \$57,000. I'm wondering if you would provide me with a list of people and their salaries who make over \$50,000, what it is they actually do as well.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — You're asking for a list of people in the Public Service Commission who make more than \$50,000.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I don't see any problem with that. No, we'll certainly provide that to you.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you. I also am interested in what staff development actually means. There is a section on staff development. And I'm wondering if you would be able to define for me what that refers to.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Staff development means that we seek to develop the full potential of each employee at whatever level. That would be done in a variety of ways. The most obvious way is through staff training. Sometimes there are organizational changes. Sometimes changes are ergonomic in nature; it's the work place. Sometimes television or a computer monitor and the chair set at proper angles will do a good deal to improve productivity. But it basically involves improving and developing the full potential of each employee, to the extent to which that's possible.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'll now be more specific about this. I'd like to know how many courses are put on; what they actually entail; do the departments pay for attendance; what are the other expenses that may be incurred with staff development; what follow-up is done to see whether these skills are applied once the training is completed, in other words, ongoing evaluation; and how are training needs identified.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I don't know whether the member will trust this undertaking. There are hundreds of courses, and I think if we actually gave you all of the information, it would be an unmanageable. First of all, it would be a lot of work for us, but it would also be an unmanageably large amount of information you'd be getting — something the size of a New York telephone book.

We will undertake to give you a description, a more complete description of the kinds of courses, the nature of courses, the global costs in what would be a reasonably complete and yet usable fashion.

(1230)

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I would appreciate that. In fact its seriousness is pointed out by the fact if it's going to be the size of a New York telephone book, then we've got too many courses and not enough evaluation of how we can streamline some of these and make them of more help to the province.

I have some quite specific questions that I don't know if you could provide me here, but I have two things that are going to come with these questions. The first is not only acquiring some actual numbers, but it's also a message that I would like to get to you. And in turn I hope that you'll be able to provide for me, at least in some short

time in the future, some information on this.

How many women are in senior positions that have been hired through the PCS . . . or pardon me, PSC?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, we do. I think this may answer a number of questions in addition to the questions with respect to women. You may want more specific detail, but this will at least . . .

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I'm wondering what actions you intend to take to ensure that women, that people of native ancestry, those with disabilities, are given opportunities to compete for public service jobs in all areas and levels.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — We have targeted these groups for their fair share of government jobs, and both are under-represented. I think it's fair to say that during the '80s when the former administration were in office, they did make some progress with respect to the employment of women in senior positions. The figures did rise appreciably, and there's some modest degree of congratulations due to the members opposite. The number of women in senior positions did rise actually.

The number of natives employed just was absolutely static and at an unacceptably low level. And we have targeted this latter group, people of native ancestry in particular, as a group which we need to work on. We are working with native groups, and we're getting their input. In fact I'm meeting with a group of these people next week. I just recall talking to my appointment secretary about it. We are also working with the native secretariat — let me get the name correct here — the Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat. We're working with them.

We have targeted both groups, and we're working with women's groups and the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women and so on. We're also working with the Women's Secretariat, which the member from Regina Hillsdale is the minister for. So we're working with both groups.

We've got a lot further to go with people of native ancestry than we do with women. We have made some progress actually with respect to women.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much. And what I do want to have on record is the fact that I appreciate something where I can see next year the kind of growth that has taken place.

Do you have stated anywhere some specific goals, or how are you approaching this?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I don't know that it has been stated. The annual report this year was prepared really in many ways before we actually came on-stream; the work in this was done. Another year I would like to see in the annual report a more complete treatment of our progress with respect to equity employment — employment of people with disabilities, employment of people of native ancestry, and employment of women.

So another year I'd like to see in the annual report a statement of our goals. And I'd like to give members of the

Assembly an accounting of how well we're doing. But I think at the moment I don't know that I could readily lay my hands on an official statement of our policy in the area.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I think you will be relieved to know that I'm almost finished. There are two other areas on which I'd like to make comment. The first is on student employment programs. And I was very concerned about what has happened. It appears that the entire budget cut in the PSC seems to be on the backs of students. And these are the people who can least afford it. Not only are student employment programs cut back, but of course the government is now forcing the universities and technical institutes to impose large tuition increases as well.

I'm wondering if you could tell me how many person-years of employment does this actually represent, the cuts to students? I'd like to know how many students it represents and what is the decrease from last year.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Actually the member's not informed correctly. There was a decrease in student employment hiring but by no means much more catastrophic than the decrease in spending elsewhere.

I'll give you the breakdown of the student summer employment budget by department. Again, if I could have the assistance of a page. And the member from Morse also wants a copy. He's reminding me. So I'll have you make some copies.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — If I may, before I get a copy — is it going to show what the percentage was last year compared to this year . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Now my comments that I'm going to close with are really not done specifically to be critical. They are not. They're to be, I hope, constructive. And I found some of the budget very unimaginative, particularly given these times.

Rather than cutting back on the public service, was there any consideration given to reducing hours among larger groups of employees? In other words, work sharing so some people wouldn't be so hard hit and lose their jobs entirely. In this way it's my belief, as retirements begin to take place, that people's hours would be able to increase over time and that things would be normalized again.

The way it is now it appears as though very experienced public servants are out on the street, and I think that the province has lost their knowledge and their training as well, the expensive training to which the taxpayers of Saskatchewan have contributed.

So I guess if there's anything that I would like to have commented on here is: was there a think-tank, a discussion?

And I'm not stating that we shouldn't down-size the Public Service Commission over time, but I think that it in fact should be done in a very planful, thoughtful way, given the particular serious financial situation of the province. I think that to have people completely

unemployed, not being able to pay taxes and contribute to the province, is not a way to be able to help in the long run. That all of these things fit into the bigger picture.

So I wondered if some thought had been given to a way of keeping people in the circumstance of being able to pay taxes rather than simply losing their jobs.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Some thought was given to that. It's one of those ideas which has some attraction at a distance and becomes very awkward when you get up close.

For one thing, job-sharing in-scope would have to be negotiated with the public service unions. There's not a lot of enthusiasm for job-sharing among the unions.

And I remind you again — I may not need to remind the member from Greystone, but I constantly need to remind the official opposition — union leaders are elected by their membership and they lose elections. And the membership do change them; these are democratic structures. And I think by and large union leaders do speak for their members.

There isn't a lot of enthusiasm for job-sharing. The practical effect of that is that the number of permanent jobs decreases and the number of temporary jobs increases. That's actually what happens. Temporary jobs and they may become casual jobs then, are not anywhere near as attractive, so that there isn't a lot of enthusiasm by employees for that. And certainly from the point of managers, they would sooner have permanent employees, rather than a whole lot of temporary employees and casual employees.

Also, I'm going to say as well something else quite outside the bounds of your question: that we are actually moving to convert temporary positions and casual positions to permanent positions. The structure of the estimates were such that only permanent positions were reported. And so the former administration engaged in cheap games at the expense of employees actually, by leaving all sorts of jobs temporary so they weren't reported in the blue book, but which in fact were permanent. Where we have, when we arrived, we had people who had been on temporary for a decade, which didn't strike us as being terribly temporary. We're actually moving to have a number of those moved in as permanent, where they ought to be. The sole reason they weren't, as I say, was some rather cheap games done by the former administration at the expense of employees.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I wish to thank the minister for answering my questions today. It's novel; I hadn't been hearing it most of the week. And furthermore one of the things that I'd like to state is I'm quite convinced that the people of this province, whether they are union leaders or those who are business leaders, and the leaders of government, could indeed come together and come up with a way in which people of this province can stay employed.

And I don't want to suggest for a moment that I don't think that the public service of this province cannot be down-sized over time and that we can take a very

different approach. But I do say, in these economic times, that I would very much encourage the minister to meet with union leaders and to have a labour-business council to come together and look specifically at the issue of employment and services in the province of Saskatchewan.

So I thank you for your time.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I do meet with both on a fairly regular basis. I don't know that I meet with them in the same room on a fairly regular basis. That might be a useful suggestion.

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a list of questions here for you, Mr. Minister, that the member for Arm River was talking. I'll send them over. I'll also give a list of them to the member from Greystone.

And if you don't mind, I have a couple of questions relating to this. Are you planning on providing . . . you said, I think, by Friday next week you'd have the answers available to us?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Just for some of them. Some of them, the member will recall that it wasn't possible to provide the answer for some time. The ones we were going to . . . I did undertake to provide . . . I think the page was supposed to give one of these to the member from Saskatoon Greystone actually.

I think we undertook to provide you with the information about people who were laid off in Rural Services being re-employed in casual. I think we undertook to provide those in a week's time. I don't think we undertook to provide everything in a week's time, but we did undertake to provide it as soon as is possible.

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Minister, I have a couple of questions that I want to ask you in relation to an observation that was made about staff development. Is this where you have the program that is called Coaching for Results? Is that the area where you have that?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — The answer to your question is yes. The member probably has some more specific questions.

**Mr. Martens:** — Could I have you inform the Assembly how many Crown corporations and departments are using that at the present time?

(1245)

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — It's being used by all government departments. The Crown corporations are not involved in this.

**Mr. Martens:** — Well I'm not sure whether that's entirely accurate because prior to the election I was using them through Ag Credit Corporation and I'm not sure just . . . Probably it was to increase the opportunity for providing a good, solid work-force within the Crown corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I am informed by the officials that it's not used in the Crown corporations. I will recheck



that answer and confirm it or otherwise, shortly.

I've been told that part of Ag Development Corporation in fact is part of the Public Service Commission and that may be why the program found its way into that corporation. But unless the Crown corporations are a part of the Public Service Commission, and most of them are not, Coaching for Results is only used by the Public Service Commission.

**Mr. Martens:** — That, Mr. Minister, is maybe the reason why it was used in Ag Credit, because Ag Credit is a part of the Department of Agriculture and is a vote of Agriculture, and that's probably the reason.

I want to make an observation about that. I think, from what I recall in the Department of Agriculture, it was an excellent program that dealt with providing an opportunity for people to establish themselves and establish a mandate for themselves. And I think it helped the Department of Agriculture to do that. And I want to just compliment the Public Service Commission on their role there. They did assist us to some extent.

You didn't answer the question that I had. Are you doing any other departments now under that program?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — All departments are involved in it.

I can say to the member as well, while I'm on my feet, that we've glanced through this. At first blush there doesn't appear to be any reason why these questions can't be answered. And so far as reasonably can be done, I give you my undertaking to do so.

It will not be done . . . Some of these will take some time; some can be done more immediately. I give you my undertaking they'll be answered so far as is reasonably possible, and it'll be done as soon as is reasonably possible.

**Mr. Martens:** — The question that I have on process, Mr. Minister, is . . . the answer . . . we'd like to maybe perhaps have an opportunity to question you on some of the answers. Would we have an opportunity to ask you to appear before the committee at a later date for some observations on the answers?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I don't know what the process for that would be. Once the Public Service estimates are voted on, they're not brought back. I'm not sure what the process would be actually. You could, I suppose, question us another year. But I don't know offhand what the process would be for that.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, some time ago when we were on SPMC — and I thought we were through — we had asked our last questions and you didn't go through the subvotes and you said you wanted to leave it for a later date so your colleagues could ask questions, and which they had indicated they wanted to ask questions. So I think it would be most fair maybe that we can just let this go with your commitment that you're going to answer as many of those questions as you can. And the ones that you can't, explain

to us why you can't. And we can do that at a later date. Just leave it on this vote it's on now.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I suppose that's possible. We do prefer to have some finality to this. I know that PCS estimates were adjourned and I was the one who did that. In retrospect I'm not entirely sure of the wisdom of that. We need to begin dealing with these. I'll give the member my undertaking that if you have any questions about it, I will answer them either orally or in writing, and attempt to provide you with all the information we can.

I've taken the position with respect to the Public Service Commission that we will give you any information which would be available to you under the freedom of information Act, and that's an awful lot. We're going to do that. We're going to answer these so far as it's possible to do so. I think we have nothing to hide. And if you have any supplementary questions following up on that, we'll answer in writing.

But it is awkward to start adjourning all of the estimates. Yes, I think that's a bit awkward.

**Mr. Martens:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, I agree it's a bit awkward, and it's not necessarily going to be our practice. However, what you did and what we had tried to accommodate is that answers were supplied. We asked . . . you asked us specifically for a verbal response so that you could respond to it. And I don't think that that's out of order for this committee to do that. And we would like to have a response that we could respond to.

And, Mr. Minister, we could ask you these questions and ask you to not only table them here but to respond to them. And in order to expedite the time, we'd just like to have an opportunity to respond to it at a later date. And that's the reason for it. It's not to defer or delay. We just wanted to know what opportunity we would have to respond to them.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I'm not entirely sure I know what the member is suggesting. We're prepared to vote off SPMC. In retrospect I think that's what should have happened. There were some members who had some questions and they weren't here, and in retrospect I think that was unwise. We need some finality to this.

So we'll vote them both off, and I think that's maybe what we should do. I also want to take . . . to respond to you. We've agreed to a very lengthy list of questions. We've agreed to respond to them. We'll answer any supplementary questions in a timely way, and it seems to me that that's a fair and reasonable response to your questions.

**The Chair:** — Why is the member on her feet?

**Hon. Mrs. Teichrob:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish leave for the introduction of guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mrs. Teichrob:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to

introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly 25 grade 6 students from the Cut Knife Elementary School. On behalf of my colleague from the constituency of Cut Knife-Lloydminster, I'd like to welcome them here to the Assembly today.

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

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### Consolidated Fund Expenditure Public Service Commission Vote 33

#### Item 1 (continued)

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand where you want to get to a conclusion of this estimate. But, Mr. Minister, we could've taken the time in a deliberate fashion and asked all these questions and asked you verbally to respond to them all. And you could've taken the opportunity to not respond. But it would've taken a lot of time in this committee to do that. So we are providing you with the questions. Can you give us an opportunity at some later date on a chance to respond to the answers that we get?

And if we want to do that, we're going to have some very substantial estimates here to do. And I can just think of Health and Education and Agriculture as being some of the ones that we are going to take some time. And we want to have the answers for them. And we're not here to promote any kind of deferment of time, extend the time. We're here to get some answers to some questions, and we would like to have you give us an opportunity to do that at a later date.

And those that are ones that we will be dealing with very, very thoroughly, we will want to have those kinds of answers. And this happens to be one of those that we will be dealing with thoroughly because we have a serious concern about a number of things. One is the response that you've got, the replacement of people in the public service with other people who we think you probably are back-filling with people who are your supporters. And we have a tendency to want to investigate that. And we believe that we have to have some answers.

So in view of that, we want to have, for the public of Saskatchewan, an opportunity to revisit this with those questions being answered.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Okay, I understand the member's concern. Let me put it this way to you. With respect to positions which have been back-filled, as you put it, I undertook earlier — I don't know if the member was in the House — I undertook earlier with the member from Arm River to get back to him in a timely way. That should only take a few days. You'll then have those when you deal with the other departments.

Let us suppose that what the member from Arm River believed were true, that there were some back-filling being done. All I could do is tell you it's done; I couldn't give you any information about why, whether or not there's any justification. I'll undertake to get you that in a

timely way. The officials tell me a week should be ample. I'll undertake to get the back-filling question — if I can put it that way — in a timely way. Then you'll have it when you deal with other departments and it would be there that you would raise those questions in any event. So if that's the member's concern, we'll certainly get you that in a very timely way.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, the list of questions that we give you, the written questions, now so we can maybe speed up estimates throughout the whole process of all the departments, those questions that you've received — not all of them but the broader questions in there — are going to be coming, the same questions asked in all departments. So maybe to help things, you could circulate that to all your ministers because I understand you're the department that this is kind of come upon you, the kind of questions we're going to ask, and maybe you can save us a lot of time.

So in these two departments, SPMC and Public Service Commission, we do ask you to, at the end of another week, to bring it back on for an hour or two or something like that. And we'll give your commitment, we won't be holding it up. If we can just . . . when your questions are answered, we want the written . . . we want the answers in writing, tabled in the House. And then just give us an hour or two to ask you some questions on it. That's all we ask for.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Okay. Let's be clear about what we're doing. This is not a terribly good place to be negotiating this, but with respect to SPMC and PCS we will get you the back-filling questions within a week. I can get that; I'm told that's not a problem. What is a problem is this lengthier list. Some of that's going to take some time.

We'll get you that within a week. We'll get you that next week. Then let us agree that next week as well, both of these, PCS and SPMC will be brought back and finalized within an hour each.

And if that's the agreement, I think as assistant House Leader we can agree to that and the commitment's done and we'll vote this wretched thing off.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, yes we give you that commitment.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Just before the officials leave, I would like to thank the officials. It is conceivable that, given the nature of the information, they might not be back at all. I say it's conceivable. If you want them, they'll be back but in case they're not, I do want to thank the officials for assisting the members of this Assembly in their deliberations.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 1 p.m.