

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
April 16, 1993

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Neudorf: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of citizens from across the province on the medicare system that have asked me to present their names in a petition. And I would like to read the prayer on that petition, Mr. Speaker. And it states:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act so that communities may continue their efforts to organize their people and have a genuine impact on the process without intimidation or threat of arbitrary action by the government.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are from Macklin — mostly Macklin. There are some from Denzil on this particular one, Mr. Speaker; from Cactus Lake. And most of the others, in fact all of the others, Mr. Speaker, are from Macklin. And I would like to lay these on the Table at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I move that this Assembly now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 10:03 a.m. until 10:13 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 9

Swenson	Toth
Muirhead	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Neudorf	Goohsen
Martens	

Nays — 35

Romanow	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Calvert
Thompson	Murray
Simard	Hamilton
Tchorzewski	Johnson
Lingenfelter	Trew
Shillington	Serby
Anguish	Whitmore
Goulet	Sonntag
Kowalsky	Flavel
Carson	McPherson
Mitchell	Wormsbecker
MacKinnon	Crofford
Upshall	Knezacek
Hagel	Harper
Bradley	Keeping

Koenker
Pringle

Carlson

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to introduce guests. And while I'm doing so, if I might beg leave for the entire Assembly.

The Speaker: — The member can't ask for the entire Assembly. I will do that now. Do all members who wish to introduce guests have leave?

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank opposition members and all my colleagues for granting leave.

We have seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, the Regina 81st Cubs. There are 25 Cubs here this day, accompanied by Connie Paus, Wayne Temple, Lori Kelln, Gary Hamel, Dawn Eckert, and Craig Phillips. It will be my pleasure to meet with this group, this distinguished group, after a while. I believe we'll be having pictures at 11 and refreshments.

Anyway, I look forward to that meeting with them and I ask all members to join me in welcoming Regina's 81st Cubs.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think this is some kind of record and probably won't be set again, but from Meadow Lake I'm going to be able to introduce guests two days in a row.

I have the distinct pleasure of having here today from Meadow Lake, Mr. Bob Fenwick, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Bob is the SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) agent from Meadow Lake and is here meeting with us this morning. So if you'd join me in welcoming Bob Fenwick.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Devine: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be presenting a petition with several names on it from the communities in and around Macklin, Saskatchewan — Provost, Denzil, and Cactus Lake, Mr. Speaker. And I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act so that communities may continue their efforts to organize their people and have a genuine impact on the process without intimidation or threat of arbitrary action by the government.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And I move this House do now adjourn, Mr. Speaker.

The division bells rang from 10:18 a.m. until 10:28 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 9

Swenson	Toth
Muirhead	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Neudorf	Goohsen
Martens	

Nays — 26

Romanow	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Calvert
Tchorzewski	Murray
Lingenfelter	Hamilton
Shillington	Johnson
Anguish	Flavel
Kowalsky	Scott
Carson	Wormsbecker
Mitchell	Crofford
Upshall	Knezacek
Hagel	Harper
Bradley	Keeping
Pringle	Carlson

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I have a motion that I will move:

Whereas it is the fundamental privilege of the House to establish rules of procedure for itself and to enforce them, Beauchesne's citation 33, page 14, and whereas rule 1 of the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly provides that the rules of the Assembly shall be applied in all cases provided therein . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order! Will the member please be seated.

An Hon. Member: — A point of order.

The Speaker: — Will the member please be seated.

An Hon. Member: — You seen me stand.

The Speaker: — I will warn the member from Arm River, I will not allow those kinds of outbursts. Will the member please be seated when the Speaker is on his feet. He knows the rules of this legislature. I will ask the member to please refrain from those outbursts. Will you please refrain from those outbursts.

An Hon. Member: — A point of order.

The Speaker: — I will ask the member to please come to order. I don't want to warn him again. It is at the discretion of the Speaker — and members know this

well — to recognize members in this House . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Will the member please come to order. Will you please come to order. Both members stood up before . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Order, order, order. I've recognized the Government House Leader and I will hear from the Government House Leader. I will recognize the member's point of order after I've heard from the Government House Leader.

An Hon. Member: — Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The Speaker: — I will warn the member from Rosthern one more time to obey the rules of this legislature and obey the Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — You too, sir.

The Speaker: — I ask the member from Rosthern to please withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Neudorf: — Mr. Speaker, we have rules in this House.

The Speaker: — I have asked the member from Rosthern to withdraw those remarks against a Speaker.

Mr. Neudorf: — No, sir, I will not remove those remarks.

The Speaker: — Order, order. Under rule 28, I think most members will know I will give the member from Rosthern one more opportunity to withdraw those remarks. If he does not do so, I have no alternative but to name him. I will ask the member from Rosthern to please withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Neudorf: — Mr. Speaker, you purposely recognized the member from Elphinstone above the member from Arm River that was up on his feet first.

An Hon. Member: — No doubt.

The Speaker: — I have asked the member from Rosthern to withdraw those remarks. He refuses to do so. Therefore under rule 28 I have no alternative but to name him. And I name you, Bill Neudorf, and ask you to withdraw from the Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MOTIONS

Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly

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

That whereas it is a fundamental privilege of the House is to establish rules and procedures for itself and to enforce them (Beauchesne's, citation 33, page 14);

Whereas rule no. 1 of the *Rules and Procedures*

of the Legislative Assembly provide that the rules of the Assembly shall be applied in all cases provided herein;

And whereas rule 41 of the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of the Saskatchewan Assembly explicitly states that the requirement for 48 hours notice shall not apply to motions dealing with the items or with the times of meeting and/or adjournment of the Assembly;

And whereas the practice of unanimous consent for a proceeding does not constitute a precedent (Beauchesne's, citation 19, page 7);

Whereas the rule of a Speaker cannot ignore the rules or the standing orders of the House except in circumstances where amendments to the rules have resulted in unintended inconsistencies which had been initially overlooked (Beauchesne's, citation 15, page 6);

Whereas a motion without notice to fix the sitting days or the times it meets or adjournment is a debatable motion pursuant to rule 32(k) of the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly and therefore would not override any rights or privileges enjoyed by members, but on the contrary would respect the fundamental right of a member to fully debate the question before the Assembly;

Whereas Beauchesne's, citation 548, page 167 explicitly states that in the absence of standing orders to the contrary, a motion for fixing sitting days and the time of meeting or adjournment may be made without notice;

Therefore I move that this Assembly shall, following the adoption of this motion, sit until 10 p.m., Friday, April 16.

I so move.

An Hon. Member: — Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The Speaker: — What is the member's point of order?

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, my point of order, Mr. Speaker, is in relation to the proceedings in this Assembly. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the normal process is presenting of petitions and that's the point I believe we were on. And members should have been allowed to continue with their petitions in light of the ruling that Speakers have made over the past number of years and precedent in this House that allows for an hour, and the Government House Leader knew that there is only an hour allowed for presenting of petitions.

As well, Mr. Speaker, being aware of the process that is taking place in this province and the concern many people have in relation to the rulings that . . . many of the rulings you have made regarding allowing this

House to operate fairly, allowing members of the opposition and the government to debate and talk about time allocation and extending of hours, and in view of the ruling that was made last night, Mr. Speaker, I believe in conjunction with your view of allowing this House to operate properly and fairly and honestly, I find that the motion presented by the Government House Leader to be out of order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the point of order, I just want to make the comment very briefly that under the point that we are at in the agenda of the Assembly, we have seen the opposition members move adjournment motions. What we are doing here in terms of procedure might seem to be very similar; that is, moving a motion to extend the hours.

I would make the argument, a much more legitimate argument if you're worried about getting the work of the people done, to extend the hours in order to accomplish the will of the government which is duly elected by the people of the province. That's a fundamental principle that should be allowed in this Assembly.

I'm not making the argument that they shouldn't be allowed to use the rules to adjourn the House, but I want to reiterate the need of the rules for the government — rule 41 — to extend the hours are just as legitimate as the rules presently being used by the members of the opposition to obstruct the work of the Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Swenson: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak to the point of order.

The Speaker: — The member may make his point of order.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, Mr. Speaker, after much deliberation, you made a very reasoned ruling as to the way that this House should proceed on issues raised by the member from Elphinstone. The member from Elphinstone rises to the point of order and did not speak to the issue of petitions at all. The member purports to say that how the time of the House is allocated is relevant to the discussion on petitions.

Mr. Speaker, as the Government House Leader that member has had ample opportunity in the past two months to have this House work many evenings when it was scheduled to work and made no attempt at all to facilitate those hours. So for him to interject into this point of order, Mr. Speaker, as raised by my colleague from Moosomin, which is dealing with petitions and the point that you made last night, is simply irrelevant

and facetious because it has nothing to do with it. That member over there has had control of this House for months, Mr. Speaker, and hours have meant nothing to him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I ask the members to just give me a few minutes to have a look at this motion, please.

Order please. I want to inform the members that motions cannot be made under presenting petitions except motions to adjourn or motions relating to petitions unless they are done by leave.

Number two, the motion is out of order also because it contains lengthy preambles which we do not accept in this House.

But most importantly the motion is out of order because it deals with a similar issue that I ruled on last night and my ruling stands as of last night.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)

Mr. Muirhead: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and we thank you for your ruling.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today too to also have a petition to lay on the Table. I'll just read, as you've asked us to do, just read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act so that communities may continue their efforts to organize their people and have a genuine impact on the process without intimidation or threat of arbitrary action by the government.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The division bells rang from 10:45 a.m. until 10:55 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 8

Swenson	Toth
Muirhead	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen

Nays — 17

Thompson	Johnson
Anguish	Serby
MacKinnon	Wormsbecker
Upshall	Crofford
Hagel	Knezacek
Bradley	Harper

Lautermilch
Murray
Hamilton

Keeping
Carlson

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask leave of the Assembly for the introduction of a guest.

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, a friend of mine from the Canora constituency, in the community of Preeceville, who is down here today. And he's seated in the west gallery. Mr. Duane Karcha.

Duane is a farmer from the Preeceville area, and he has a business meeting in town here this afternoon. But he's taking some time out of his day to be here, a little on the early side, so he could take in the proceedings of the House.

So I'd ask all the members to offer him a warm welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to present petitions on behalf of several dozen people from the west side of the province. I will read the prayer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and then explain about where these people come from:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act so the communities may continue their efforts to organize their people and have a genuine impact on the process without intimidation or threat of arbitrary action by the government.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, today I have people from the communities of Kindersley; Alsask; Coleville; Rose Valley, Saskatchewan; Wadena, Saskatchewan; Kindersley; Alsask. As you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a great deal of interest in this particular issue all across the province of Saskatchewan.

And I would table these petitions today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and ask that this House do now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 11 a.m. until 11:10 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 7

Muirhead	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen
Toth	

Hagel	Keeping
Pringle	Carlson
Murray	

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

Nays — 19

Thompson	Murray
Simard	Hamilton
Lingenfelter	Serby
Anguish	Whitmore
Kowalsky	Flavel
MacKinnon	Wormsbecker
Upshall	Crofford
Hagel	Keeping
Pringle	Carlson
Lautermilch	

Mr. Toth: — To present a petition.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I want to remind the member of the rulings that have been made in this House by Speakers, that the amount of time for the presentation of petitions will be limited to one hour each day.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order, the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 11(7) they are hereby read and received:

Mr. Martens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have petitions that I want to place before the Assembly. The prayer reads this way:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act so that communities may continue their efforts to organize their people and have a genuine impact on the process without intimidation or threat of arbitrary action by the government.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And I have individuals from Kindersley, Flaxcombe, Major, Eatonia, the west side of the province, Mr. Speaker, as well as Laporte, Mantario, and places in the west side of the province.

And I place these before the Assembly and ask leave . . . or ask for adjournment of debate — I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker — I move this House adjourn.

The division bells rang from 11:12 a.m. until 11:22 a.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to order SaskPower to facilitate the production of non-utility generated power in areas of increased demand.

And of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to postpone consideration of The Health Districts Act.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the government's overall health care policy, provide: (1) the proportion of GDP (gross domestic product) represented by provincial government expenditures on health care in each of the last five years with comparative data for other provinces; (2) the proportion of GDP represented by all health care expenditures in the province in each of the last five years with comparative data for other provinces and, where available, other jurisdictions.

Mr. Martens: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the health facility studies announced by the Minister of Health: what are the names of the persons and/or firms actually conducting the study; what are the terms of reference of the study; what is the budget for the study; (4) does the study have any relationship to or potential for impact on the distribution and roles of health facilities proposed to be under the jurisdiction of

Yeas — 8

Swenson	Toth
Muirhead	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen

Nays — 19

Thompson	Hamilton
Simard	Trew
Lingenfelter	Serby
Kowalsky	Whitmore
Mitchell	Flavel
MacKinnon	Wormsbecker
Upshall	Crofford

regional health care boards?

I submit this notice of question, please.

Mr. Devine: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday next I ask the government the following question:

Regarding the reported crisis in health care at the Regina General Hospital as described by Dr. John Kim: (1) has the Minister of Health ordered an immediate investigation of the reported crisis? (2) if so, provide (a) the names of the persons conducting the investigation; (b) the terms of reference of the investigation; (c) the date on which the investigation was started; (d) the persons and papers examined to the date of this order in the course of the investigation; and (e) the date the investigation was actually undertaken.

I now give notice.

Mr. Muirhead: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the government's policy on public consultation: does the Minister of Health intend on tabling a response to the petitions of Saskatchewan residents presented to the Assembly regarding the de-insurance of optometric care; and if so, when can the people expect a formal response from the minister?

I so table.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the children's dental plan: (a) how many total Saskatchewan children between the ages of 5 and 13 utilized the planned plan in 1991; (b) how many children in 1992; (c) how many children have been eliminated from the children's dental plan because of the March 1993 budget; (d) what is the total number of children from families on social assistance receiving benefits from the remains of the children's dental plan; and (e) how much money is the government saving through denying children access to the children's dental plan?

I now present this.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding health care consultations: (1) will any representative of the Minister of Health attend the public meeting in the community of Codette, April 20, 1993? (2) if not, why not? (3) if so, upon conclusion of the meeting provide:

(a) the name and title of the representative; (b) a summary of the representations heard by the representative; (c) a copy of any report provided to the minister by the representative; (d) the minister's response to the representations of the community.

I submit this question.

Mr. Britton: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I too shall give notice on Tuesday next that I will ask the following question:

Regarding cut-backs to the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. After the proposed closure of an entire wing at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, the Minister of Health ordered 5 of the 30 beds to remain open at the facility: (1) will the NDP (New Democratic Party) government commit to providing adequate funds to the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre so that specialized care to the severely handicapped children will not be jeopardized and the entire wing will remain open and viable; (b) will the Minister of Health commit to ensuring no additional jobs or beds are lost at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I table this question.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Tuesday next ask the government the following question:

Regarding the minister's comments at the April 6 meeting of the Souris Valley regional health care meeting in Weyburn, the minister stated in her remarks that eventually all health board members would be elected: (a) will the Minister of Health commit to having all board members elected and give a date on which this will take place?

I so submit.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Tuesday . . .

Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. Order. I want to bring to the members' attention rulings which have been made previously in this House, both by Speaker Tusa and Speaker Swan respectively in 1991 and in 1986, when they ruled that the prolonged presentation of oral notices amounted to obstruction of the House and was therefore out of order.

It has since been ruled that members shall have the right or the privilege of presenting . . . each having the opportunity to present oral notice but that no further oral notice be . . . or the privilege of presenting oral notice be given to the members.

Therefore I will not take any further oral notices.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 11:33 a.m. until 11:43 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 7

Swenson	Britton
Devine	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen
Toth	

Nays — 19

Thompson	Trew
Simard	Serby
Lingenfelter	Whitmore
Carson	Flavel
Mitchell	Scott
MacKinnon	Wormsbecker
Upshall	Crofford
Pringle	Keeping
Murray	Carlson
Hamilton	

ORAL QUESTIONS

Rural Hospital Closures

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question this morning is to the Premier.

An Hon. Member: — The Premier's not here.

Mr. Swenson: — Yes he is. Mr. Premier, you, sir, this very day are destroying medicare and destroying everything that your own party stands for. This single-minded process of yours, sir, this attempt to cover off your political hide, means that people who have supported your party for years are angered beyond belief.

The people who supported the icons of your party, the Tommy Douglasses and the Allan Blakenys and even yourself, sir, are saying that you have turned your back on medicare. The health system that took years to build up in this province, you are tearing down in a matter of months, Mr. Premier.

For the sake of your own supporters, Mr. Premier, for the people who supported Tommy and who supported Allan Blakeney, would you say to them today, Mr. Premier, that you are now willing to take a second look at this destructive policy of yours and that you are willing to take off closure and you're willing to give the communities of this province time to do it properly? Would you do that, Mr. Premier?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll tell the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, with the greatest of respect to him, that I'll look after the concerns of the members of the New Democratic Party, if it's okay with him. If he doesn't mind me suggesting, however, I think he's got a bigger worry

with the members of the Progressive Conservative Party, judging by all the opinion polls and the standings in the province of Saskatchewan. So you look after your bailiwick; we'll look after our bailiwick.

But the truth of the matter is that what you people are doing in this childish display of obstruction in the House is typical of what you and some Conservatives and Liberals did in 1962 when you sought to prevent the passage of medicare.

You established the Keep Our Doctors committee. You spread all kinds of mistruths. You tried to scare the people of Saskatchewan. You said, yes we're for it, but don't do it now. You fought it tooth and nail, just like you're fighting this tooth and nail. And why?

You fight this tooth and nail now because you want the system to remain as it is. And the system cannot remain as it is. The system must be reformed. But you want it unreformed. And you want it unreformed so that your true philosophy as in Alberta can come about, and that is privatized, two-tiered medicare health care.

I tell you, sir, that is not going to happen so long as we're the government. And I urge you, if you're sincere about the defence of medicare and hospitalization, to join us and get into the debate, and join us in building a better health care system, rather than politicking.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Before I entertain the next question, I want to ask members to cooperate and to not interrupt in any way when either the questioner or the person who is answering the question is on their feet.

The purpose of question period is to put questions and to hear the answers, and to not interrupt.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, in 1962 I, like the majority of people in this province, weren't even old enough to vote. I was 10 years old in 1962, Mr. Premier. What I grew up with in this province, and many like me, was universal access to medicare, not second-class citizenship because I live in rural Saskatchewan. That's what I grew up with, Mr. Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Swenson: — You promised to help the seniors and the towns and villages of this province, just as you promised to restore the children's dental plan, the prescription drug plan. And what you have done, Mr. Premier, is tear down that commitment, which I as a 10-year-old grew up with in 1962. You have torn it down, sir, in 52 rural communities and made second-class citizens out of them.

How do you say to your own supporters, Mr. Premier,

how do you say to them that that is fair? Mr. Premier, you have the option as a Leader of the Government of Saskatchewan to reconsider this terrible action on rural Saskatchewan. Would you do that, sir, reconsider for the sake of those who were only 10 years old in 1962?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member opposite continues to reveal his true intentions about health care when he uses the description about the reform we've initiated, as tearing down health care.

An Hon. Member: — That's right.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — That's what he says. Yes, and the member from Wilkie says that that's right. And that is exactly the truth of where they believe.

They do not believe in reform. They believe that this system should remain the way they have structured it and the way they have ignored it and the way their cousins in Alberta have used it and that is by privatizing medicare in a two-tier system. That's what they believe in right across the piece.

I would ask that the members opposite tell them . . . He's made his confession of where he was in 1962 at 10 years of age, but I bet you half of that caucus over there was on the doorsteps of this legislature fighting the medicare initiative in 1962 as the Conservative and the Liberal Party was doing it.

We're not tearing down rural Saskatchewan. We are saving rural Saskatchewan and we're saving medicare and health care by implementing the necessary reforms. In fact the *Leader-Post* in the province of Saskatchewan today says editorially, quote:

. . . the NDP only did what is necessary and something that should have been started much earlier.

And it says, quote:

. . . now will be the time to pioneer a new, leaner system that reflects today's changing financial conditions.

That's what they say. That's what the folks in rural Saskatchewan understand, and we want you to support us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Again before I recognize the Leader of the Opposition, I want to ask for the cooperation of the members of the House that when the question is being answered, to not interrupt the person who is answering the question so that we can have a constructive question period.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, you seem to have a fairly short memory these days, a very selective memory. Well I'm telling you that the promises that

you made to Saskatchewan people a very short time ago won't be forgotten.

Mr. Premier, people in this province remember when your party used to have integrity. They remember when the leaders of your party used to have integrity. And what they are saying out there today, Mr. Premier, is that those promises made such a short time ago, where you were going to do more in all regards for medicare, including rural hospitals, what they are saying, where is the integrity of the NDP Party? Where is the integrity of the man that leads it? Where is the integrity of the office of the Premier of Saskatchewan today when we would see your Minister of Health do what she did the other day in the face of your promises, Mr. Premier?

Your legacy to this province right now is the destruction of 52 communities. Mr. Premier, I say to you, prove that there is some integrity in your office remaining. Say to the people of this province that you are willing to go out and meet and give whatever time is necessary to do the proper evaluation of our medicare system. Do that, Mr. Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, again as with the first question, I say to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I've twice asked the members to respect the purpose of question period, to not interrupt. No sooner had the Premier risen to his feet to answer the question put by the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Moosomin started to interrupt the Premier when he was trying to answer the question.

I ask you again to please respect the purpose of the question period and to not interrupt those who are on their feet.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will of course try to appreciate and follow your ruling as well.

I want to say to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, as with the first question with the greatest of respect to the Leader of the Opposition, I don't think I need any lectures about political integrity coming from you, sir, and the members of the Progressive Conservative Party — a party after nine years in government which brought this province virtually to the edge of bankruptcy.

I invite the people of Saskatchewan and you, sir, Leader of the Opposition, to watch the CTV (Canadian Television Network) **W5** show this Sunday, documenting what your nine years of legacy was. You nearly bankrupted this province. You put the situation in the circumstances which required the reform of health care — other factors as well — and you have the audacity, sir, to talk about integrity? I don't think so.

I think the integrity of the Progressive Conservative Party will be restored only after you, sir, are gone from this Chamber, other members of this Assembly in your caucus are gone from this Assembly, and you stop this issue of trying to scare people in their home towns.

I'm telling you that this reform is going to be as the *Leader-Post* says. It is going to be leaner, it's going to be new, it's going to be pioneering, and it's going to have the best health care system that this province can afford. And don't try to obstruct it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question's to the Premier. Mr. Premier, last night you snuck out to Milestone under the auspices of a budget meeting. But the folks smelled you out, sir. They smelled you out and they showed up.

And, Mr. Premier, last night you said to them that you thought it was about time for you and your ministers maybe to spread out across the province and dialogue a little with the people. That's what you said last night, Mr. Premier.

Why is it, Mr. Premier, that you sneak out to a post-budget meeting in Milestone last night and when you're out there you say to the people, I think it's time that I came out and talked to you. But you've come into this legislature, you jam closure down the throats of the opposition, and you say, my government will not budge an inch.

Mr. Premier, I just asked you about integrity. What integrity do you have, sir, to say that in Milestone and come back in this House and deny, deny, deny? Mr. Premier, say the same thing in here you said to the people in Milestone.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — No, no. No, no, Mr. Speaker. It's not members of our party that use the phrase deny, deny, deny; it's members of your party that use the phrase deny, deny. I think again you have your history wrong.

This is a new definition of sneaking in, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Somehow I snuck in to 450 people without them knowing that I was there. Somehow my colleague, the Minister of Health, snuck in in front of 1,100 people out in Eston. This is a new definition of sneaking in.

Mr. Speaker, only the Conservative desperate opposition as it is, third in the public opinion polls by such a far distance, would concoct such a definition. Talk about credibility. No wonder you know that your approach is lacking any kind of support.

You've got to say once and for all, and tell us now, tell us now, are you for health care reform as we have initiated? Yes or no. Tell us yes or no, because you're all over the ballpark on this. Stand up in this next question and tell us whether you support health care

reform as we've proposed.

And I say to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that he won't. And I tell you why he won't do it. Because they do not believe in health care reform. They want it to continue the way it is and to collapse under its weight. And in collapsing to provide, as they have in Alberta, for example, a privatized MRI (magnetic resonance imager) centre. I'm saying I'm opposed to that; you may be for it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Devine: — My question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, I'm going to ask you about your comments to the people of Saskatchewan and your mistruths. On November 24, 1988 you wrote a letter to the people of Assiniboia-Gravelbourg and you said, Mr. Premier, that the latest PC's (Progressive Conservative) proposals to close down all five hospitals in this constituency are unacceptable.

And you went on to say that you should stop its attacks on health care services and its waste and unfair taxes and that you invite people to support the NDP so that you can have quality health care for all of Saskatchewan people.

You said that, Mr. Premier. And you promised that you would stop the pain in rural Saskatchewan, that you would not cut hospitals. Now people went on to believe you, that you would do that — protect rural people from cuts and protect their hospitals. And now you've announced that you've just cut 52 hospitals. In the face of that, Mr. Premier, your mistruths and your half-truths . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'd like the member to put his question without further preamble. Put it now.

Mr. Devine: — I ask the Premier: how could he mislead the people of Saskatchewan by saying in a letter to constituents during an election that he would protect them against hospital closures, and then turn around right around after an election and close 52 rural hospitals, including those that are in this particular riding? How could he do that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the former premier for his question in this regard, and he of course still being the real leader of the official opposition, as we know. Yes, I'll answer the question. You are the real leader and I respect the question that you therefore advanced, being that.

And my answer is very simple to you, sir. You are, and this is why your surrogates in this question period maintain this position, propagate the myth of cutting hospitals, closures of hospitals. What we're proposing is not cutting or closure; what we're proposing is conversion. We are proposing conversion. We are proposing a readjustment of the system . . .

An Hon. Member: — Tell us the truth.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Yes, the former premier says, tell the people. That's exactly what I'm telling the people in Milestone. But I wish you'd tell the people the truth. And the truth is we're not cutting. The truth is we're building a better system based on the fiscal situation as a result of the financial mess which you left behind for all the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Shame on you for having bankrupted the province, forcing us to do this in order to build a better health care system. Shame on you, sir.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I want again to ask the members for their cooperation. The members cannot ask a question and then when the answer is provided begin to interrupt those who provide the answer. Members are not expected to like or dislike the answers, but the members should respect the right of the people who are answering the question and to enable them the right to do so.

Mr. Devine: — I go back to the Premier for a similar kind of question. People are looking at what you promised, that you would protect people from hospital closures and that you would protect them in their health care and in their drugs. And you promised and you said, if you vote NDP we will protect you.

During the debate we had, Mr. Premier, you said that there was \$14.2 billion in deficit. And then you said and I quote, the cost of medicare is well within the budget. Which meant that you did not have to have these cuts and you did not have to attack rural Saskatchewan that has 20 per cent of the health care with the urban with 80 per cent, but you went right out in the face of your promise and you did not tell the truth. You knew the budget and you knew that it could be within the budget, and yet you have not told them the truth. You have intentionally misled the people of Saskatchewan by saying that you would protect them, and you've turned around and announced you are going to cut 52 hospitals.

I want you to tell the people of Saskatchewan the truth. You knew all along that you were going to cut these hospitals. But to win an election you said, I will promise you anything . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Will the member put his question. What is the member's question?

Mr. Devine: — And the Premier can smile and he can laugh. What I'm saying to the Premier and I'm asking the Premier, I'm asking the Premier: tell the people of Saskatchewan the truth, that you knew all along that if you won on this mistruth that you would cut these hospitals and you would raise the cost of medicare and you would deceive the people of Saskatchewan. Tell the truth today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the former premier for that question. I would say to the former premier and still the titular head of the party over there, with the greatest of respect, if I may proffer some advice now to you as you have been proffering it to me, you would be well advised, sir, to get over the fact of the defeat of the election of your party on October 21, 1991. You want to debate the election and get into that, I'm perfectly prepared to do that, but as far as the people of Saskatchewan are concerned, they want you to move to a futuristic approach.

Now I know right now you are still determined, you are still determined to prove in question period that the public was wrong in electing us. Well they'll make that decision in '95 or '96. I'm dealing with the issue that you left behind for us, sir. You left behind for us the highest per capita debt in the history of this province and Canada. And as a result of that debt . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And the former premier says, not true. I ask him to watch CTV (Canadian Television Network) **W5** this Sunday about the Saskatchewan situation. I ask you to invite you and your caucus colleagues to watch the devastation that you reaped on rural Saskatchewan, the devastation that you reaped on rural Saskatchewan by bankrupting the province.

And what we're trying to do now is clean up the mess and what we're trying to do in cleaning up the mess is building a better health care system for the future. As the *Leader-Post* and other people say, we're out here to save medicare and hospitalization and what you want to do is fight the 1991 election all over again. Well you're entitled to do that all by yourself and with your colleagues; I am out here to save medicare and hospitalization. You're either with us in saving it or you're agin it and out to destroying it, and I suspect that you're agin it just like the Tories are virtually everywhere in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — If members continue to interrupt when other members are on their feet, we'll move on to other items of business.

Mr. Devine: — My question is to the Premier. Why can't you tell the people what your real intentions were? Why can't you tell them the truth? You debated against a \$14 billion deficit and then you went on to say the cost of medicare is well within that budget. And then you said you would not cut rural hospitals, and now you've turned around and you've cut 52 hospitals and you've charged for health care.

People are saying you have no mandate to do that; you did not tell the truth. You misled them. In fact they're saying worse than that; they say you lied to the people of Saskatchewan. That's what they're saying.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. The rules of the House are quite clear as to at times there's certain language which may not be used. The member for Estevan has used a word that is not used in this House or any House, and I ask the member for Estevan to retract that

word, to retract that word so that we may proceed with question period. I invite him to do that now.

An Hon. Member: — The people tell it the way it is. The people said that. There's no other word for it.

The Deputy Speaker: — I ask the member for Estevan again . . . and I point out to members that members may not make use of or put into the mouths of others words that you may not use in the House yourself. And so again I ask the member to retract that word so that we can proceed with question period.

Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, all of us on this side of the House have been around the province of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan don't believe that the NDP . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I ask the member for Estevan again to retract the word that he used, to do so without any further explanation, to do so unequivocally and to do so now.

I want to give the member for Estevan a further opportunity to reflect on his use of words . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Order, order. Order. The rules of the Assembly are quite clear. Certain words cannot be used and one cannot attribute to others words that we cannot use ourselves in this Assembly. Order.

Therefore I want to give the member for Estevan one more opportunity to retract that word so that we can move on to other proceedings.

I want to draw the attention of the member for Estevan to rule 28:

The Speaker . . . after having called the attention of the Assembly . . . to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance, or tedious repetition, either of his own arguments . . . may direct him to discontinue his speech, and if the Member continues to speak, the Speaker shall name him, or, if in committee, the Chairman shall report him to the Assembly.

I have given the member now, opportunities to retract the word that he used. I invite him again, one last time, to retract the word that he used, so that we may proceed on with other business.

I've given the member the opportunity to retract that; the member has declined to do so. And accordingly, I name you, Grant Devine, and ask you to remove yourself from the Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Martens: — Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question in question period.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for question period

has elapsed, and we're now in ministerial statements.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 42

Hospital Closures

Mr. Martens: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and pursuant to rule 42, I seek leave of the Assembly to raise a matter of urgent and pressing necessity — the crisis in the communities around this province, the 52 communities who have lost their hospital health care and acute care, specifically in Ponteix.

And I move:

That due to the urgency of this matter, this Assembly do now debate the elimination of hospital funding for the hospital at Ponteix, Saskatchewan.

And that is seconded by the member from Thunder Creek. I ask leave of the Assembly to do that.

Leave not granted.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 12:13 p.m. until 12:23 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 6

Muirhead	Britton
Martens	D'Autremont
Toth	Goohsen

Nays — 23

Thompson	Johnson
Simard	Trew
Tchorzewski	Serby
Lingenfelter	Whitmore
Kowalsky	Flavel
Carson	Scott
Mitchell	Wormsbecker
Upshall	Crofford
Pringle	Harper
Calvert	Keeping
Murray	Carlson
Hamilton	

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, a point of order. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is raised pursuant to the ruling yesterday, last night, and earlier today, indicating it is appropriate for the Speaker to not apply the rules of the Assembly where the application of a rule may have, and I quote, extreme, severe effect on the operation of the Assembly.

Based on these rulings, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to rule on the unprecedented, prolonged use of motion to adjourn during routine proceedings which

opposition members have used 34 times over the last three days and I would say has had an extreme, severe effect on the traditional operations of the Assembly and that the use of such obstructionist tactics during routine proceedings is an abuse of the rules of the Assembly.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because never before in the history of the Assembly that we've been able to trace has this kind of action been taken by an opposition using adjournment of the Assembly over and over again. And I would very much ask you, Mr. Speaker, to rule on this use of an extreme and severe effect of the rules and what that might have if allowed to go on indefinitely on the working of this Assembly.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, in speaking to the point of order, I'd just like to bring to the attention of this Assembly that even though the Government House Leader would argue that the process that has taken place over the last few days is something that has never been entered into, the Government House Leader knows full well the debate that he entered into and instigated back in 1989 on an issue that allowed the opposition of then 25, 26 members some 80 hours of debate on a question that the then opposition felt very strongly about.

And, Mr. Speaker, we're all aware of the debate that has taken place in this House and the fact that the people of Saskatchewan have asked the opposition to speak on their behalf.

We're also aware of the rules of this Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Speaker of this Assembly has already made a motion regarding the particular motion that this member has brought forward. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would seem to me that if this House is to operate properly, if this House is to operate efficiently, then the government should have then allowed the opposition the time . . . had the opportunity on numerous occasions to pull their closure motion and allow for the full and open debate to take place.

I therefore would suggest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in light of rulings that have been brought forward by the Speaker of this Assembly last night and this morning, Mr. Speaker, that the Government House Leader doesn't have a proper point of order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1230)

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I want to thank the Government House Leader and the member from Moosomin for raising the point of order and for your comments on the point of order.

I want at this point to consider the point further and want to reserve my opinion.

Mr. Martens: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to rule 42, I again raise a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

The people in the area of Coronach have had a serious cut in their hospital funding and that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is going to cause a crisis. And I would say that in an area where there is industrial development as there is in the area of Coronach, the fact that there is going to be reduced services there is going to seriously cause a problem in the area of Coronach. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of this Assembly through this motion:

That due to the urgency of this matter, this Assembly now debate the elimination of hospital funding for the hospital at Coronach.

And I ask leave of the Assembly to do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Leave not granted.

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 12:33 p.m. until 12:43 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 7

Swenson	Britton
Muirhead	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen
Toth	

Nays — 24

Romanow	Hamilton
Thompson	Trew
Simard	Serby
Tchorzewski	Whitmore
Lingenfelter	Sonntag
Shillington	Flavel
Carson	McPherson
Mitchell	Wormsbecker
MacKinnon	Crofford
Upshall	Harper
Pringle	Keeping
Murray	Carlson

Mr. Martens: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise again pursuant to an urgent matter of pressing necessity relating to rule 42. It deals with a motion that asks to have the debate about the cuts in acute care funding to the area of Mankota. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the area around there is seriously impacted on this basis. They have a very, very significant distance to drive for any emergency care and that is a very serious concern to them. And that is the reason why I, seconded by the member from Thunder Creek, raise this. The motion would be:

That due to the urgency of this matter, this Assembly do now debate the elimination of hospital funding for the hospital at Mankota.

Leave not granted.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The division bells rang from 12:46 p.m. until 12:56 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 7

Swenson	Britton
Muirhead	D'Autremont
Martens	Goohsen
Toth	

Nays — 19

Romanow	Hamilton
Thompson	Serby
Simard	Whitmore
Tchorzewski	Flavel
Lingenfelter	Wormsbecker
Shillington	Crofford
Mitchell	Harper
Upshall	Keeping
Pringle	Carlson
Murray	

The Assembly adjourned at 12:58 p.m.