

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 92 — An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 92, An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill ordered to be read a second time later this day.

### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 92 — An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 92, An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to just say a few words of congratulations to the new member from Regina North West. And on behalf of the Premier who is stranded because of weather in Saskatoon and will be here later in the day, and on behalf of the government members of the House, I want to extend that congratulations to the new member and wish her well in the work that she will be doing as the new representative for the Regina North West constituency.

I want to add these words, and that is that to be elected to this legislature is a great honour as all of us who do occupy these chairs here know. It is an honour that is extended to only a very few people in the scheme of things. When you think of all the people who live in this province, only a very few are given the privilege and the honour of sitting in this legislature. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, comes a very immense and big responsibility as we know here.

This by-election which took place, took place during very difficult climatic conditions, but that was so because one of the first acts that the government did in the first session of this legislature was to pass a Bill that required that any vacancy in any constituency would have to be filled within 90 days of its vacancy. And therefore not only the spirit but the intent of that legislation has been carried out. And this legislature will be represented . . . or the constituency of Regina North West will be represented in this legislature during this session, as it should be. And I think therefore, although it was a difficult time in which for many members in this House to be campaigning and many volunteers, it's something that had to be done in order that this constituency be represented.

I want to wish the member of North West well in her

work. I look forward to her contribution, as we all do, to the proceedings of this legislature. And I hope that during the debates here, although speaking personally, when my first day in the House came about, it felt a little intimidating, I'm sure that as the days and weeks go by and the member gets involved in the work that we do here, it will be less so and that she will make a very important contribution.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's appropriate that we proceed with this Bill and seat the new member for Regina North West.

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

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Deputy Premier and in fact echo many of the words that he's spoken in the Assembly this morning as we welcome a new member to our midst.

It has always been one of the greatest privileges that I've had in my life to sit in this Assembly. And I remember the feelings of coming into this Assembly, as the new member from Regina North West is doing, as a result of a by-election fought in the winter months. And I think it certainly steels you for the task that will come in the days and the sessions ahead of you. Because if you can survive a winter by-election in Saskatchewan, I think the debate in the Legislative Assembly may pale in comparison. And we must all congratulate Ms. Bergman for the efforts, the efforts of her volunteers, the efforts of her party, and indeed all that participated in the democratic process in what was very unpleasant conditions.

As the Deputy Premier said, there's a high expectation in the public today that we in this Assembly are indeed looking to reform ourselves, that we're treating our business that we do here in a very serious manner. And I think the expectations that were raised in the recent by-election will flow through into this Assembly and that there honestly will be a sense of cooperation and change occurring in this session and in others to come. And we expect the new member from Regina North West to be an integral part of that because all of us have that responsibility in front of us.

So I join with the Deputy Premier, as do all members of the official opposition, in welcoming the new member from Regina North West to this Assembly and we look forward to her participation.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are delighted of course to welcome our newest member of the Liberal caucus, Anita Bergman. We have great confidence in her abilities and we want all of you to know that she'll be a very dedicated and sensitive MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly).

I want to speak for just a few moments about the candidates in the North West by-election. Mr. Speaker, these individuals showed tremendous

commitment to the challenge, and I was impressed with each of them throughout the campaign. In spite of the cynicism so often talked about, the candidates in Regina North West demonstrated that politics is able to attract many people, three particular individuals, who have great enthusiasm, significant talent, and vigour. The campaign was a gruelling test and the candidates and volunteers from all parties are to be congratulated for their courageous efforts.

To Kathie Maher-Wolbaum and to Harvey Schmidt, may I say that they did a remarkable job of representing their convictions and they did their parties and their supporters proud.

I wish our new MLA well. And I know that she will work tirelessly on behalf of her constituents and the people of Saskatchewan. We feel very honoured to be in this Assembly and we are committed to earning the respect of not only our political colleagues, the legislative staff, but the people throughout our province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Motion agreed to, and the Bill read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered in committee?

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, because of the non-controversial nature of this Bill, I would move that the committee stage of the Bill be waived.

By leave of the Assembly, Committee of the Whole waived.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 92 — An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the Bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

### ROYAL ASSENT

At 10:13 a.m. Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill No. 92 — An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Regina North West

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to this Bill.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:14 a.m.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to

present to you Anita Bergman, the member for the constituency of Regina North West, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take her seat.

**The Speaker:** — Let the member take her seat.

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

### MOTION UNDER RULE 42

#### Grain Handlers' Dispute

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize what I am about to do is perhaps a little bit out of the ordinary, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the situation that I'm raising is also out of the ordinary and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have in front of the people of Saskatchewan a dire set of circumstances mitigating against the farmers of this province, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point I would like to ask, by leave of the Assembly, permission to engage in a debate, Mr. Speaker, regarding the grain handlers' strike in the west coast that is affecting, to a great deal of detriment, the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, what I would propose is that we have a debate centring around this grain handlers' strike. We will put a time limit on it and I suggest that we make a time limit of 45 minutes and we limit the speeches of individuals who want to get up to five minutes each, max. And that at the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would propose to make a motion that the transcripts of the debates be sent to Mr. Axworthy, be sent to the federal government, to express the sense of urgency that this Legislative Assembly . . . in a non-partisan, all-party commendation toward this minister be sent forward so that immediate action can be taken to settle the dispute.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly for this debate.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank members of the Assembly for agreeing to this unusual . . .

**The Speaker:** — Before the member proceeds, I assume that by agreement when he put on the conditions of the time limits, that that was also agreed to?

**Mr. Neudorf:** — All right, Mr. Speaker, my time starts now then.

Mr. Speaker, I think it goes without saying that we recognize, that the people of Saskatchewan recognize, and that the federal government should recognize that half of the arable, cultivatable land in Canada is right here in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan economy is based on agriculture. As much as we have been over the years trying to

diversify, the essence boils down to agriculture. And when something happens that is beyond the control of the farmers, beyond the controls of the producer, then we, Mr. Speaker, as legislators, federally and provincially, must take action to ensure that the interests of all of the people are protected. And the way that the thing is developing right now, Mr. Speaker, with a mediator being appointed, his recommendations being rejected, there does not seem to be an imminent end to this dispute. And in the meantime, it is costing the farmers of Saskatchewan millions of dollars a day.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a news release from the Canadian Wheat Growers Association that by the way is also calling for back-to-work legislation. And they are indicating that the Canadian Wheat Board estimates that export sales worth \$500 million are being affected by this strike.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that less and less money is going to come into farmers' pockets as the ships are lying there half full; demurrage charges are now being put into place costing also many, many thousands of dollars a day.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the movement of grain from elevators is being affected. We have a finite grain handling system in this country, Mr. Speaker. The grain cars can only handle so much. And if there's a back-up and orders are not able to be filled, Mr. Speaker, we will never recoup that. That is a permanent loss because we cannot ship more than we are at the present. The elevators are filling up. The terminals are filling up, the grain cars are filling up. And this is going to be permanent damage, Mr. Speaker, unless we can get those people working.

And I would ask again, Mr. Speaker, that the members of this Assembly — all of us — in a united effort, combine in a cooperative spirit for the well-being of the people of Saskatchewan, indeed for the well-being of the people of Canada. And thereby, Mr. Speaker, I would now urge all members to support a motion that would say, Mr. Speaker, we hereby move that the transcripts of the debate of this morning be sent to Mr. Axworthy, be sent to the federal government, where we will all urge expediency; we urge a very hurried approach to where this settlement can take place so that indeed Canada's reputation will not be soiled — Canada's reputation as a reliable exporter of grains will not be soiled.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I formally would move then that this Assembly endorse the sending of all transcripts of this debate to the federal government so that it can act with the sense of urgency.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(1030)

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that you're pleased that there are other people that are a

little bit rusty as to the logistics of the operation here, but to formally help this out I make the motion:

That this Assembly urge the federal government to immediately take steps to end the longshoremen's strike that is devastating the Saskatchewan economy.

Mr. Speaker, that is the motion that we are debating and, Mr. Speaker, the seconder to that motion will be the member from Morse.

**Hon. Mr. Cunningham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to take part in this debate. I agree that we need to send the Saskatchewan perspective to Ottawa and to the participants in there. This is of a particular interest to Saskatchewan and I think that we need to make our viewpoints known.

As you well know, this lockout and subsequent stoppage in grain movement comes at a very bad time for Saskatchewan. The Premier has already sent letters to the Prime Minister and to the parties involved to urge a very quick and complete settlement of this so that we can get on with moving the grain which is so vital to our Saskatchewan producers.

And I say this couldn't come at a worse time; we've had ten years of very, very tough times on the farm. We've had very low commodity prices. We've had crop disasters. And in the past decade we've had thousands of farm families go through the ordeal of foreclosures and bankruptcies and very hard times, and this is one more step and one more problem which we just cannot afford at this time. We must settle this.

The crop this year was the fourth largest in history, and that meant that there will be more difficulties in transporting it and getting it to market. The crop this year, the harvest, was very late and that certainly added to the dilemma. The Wheat Board and the grain companies could not begin marketing the crop because it wasn't in the bin, and the grade was very uncertain, so we had a selling season that started very late because of the harvest.

It was further complicated by the fact that farmers have adapted this year. We had record acreages of peas; we had record acreages of lentils; record acreages of canola, and so on. And that was a response that farmers made to world conditions and fortunately we had some good crops. Not in all regions; in my region the crop was not great but in most parts of the province we had a reasonable crop and we have better prices, not super prices but better prices, particularly for some of those specialty crops, and the action of the farmers has paid off in that respect.

But that also adds a burden to the transportation system. We add more crops, means more switching of railcars, it means more tie-ups, it means more space at terminals and so on. And the system was not geared up for the large amounts of specialty crops that we grew this year. So that further added to the problem of

moving the grain. The flooding in the U.S. (United States) Midwest meant that cars that are often available in the United States, that are moved into the Canadian system to meet peak periods, were not available. So that again added to the problem and made it very difficult and is going to tax the system to get the commodity to market.

This impacts directly on the farm families out there. Many farm families this year have good crops of peas and canola. And the price is good and the grain sits in the bin, and when that grain is in the bin there's no money to pay the suppliers, there's no money to make the payments to the banks, and in some cases, there's no money to put food on the table for the kids. That is not acceptable. We do have to have this grain moving, and we certainly would urge that some settlement occur very, very quickly.

It just is again detrimental to the farmers and that has a detrimental effect on our overall economy, and it's not acceptable to the province of Saskatchewan that this industry be hamstrung by actions that are beyond our control.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly urge that we do send a message to Ottawa that this is very important to Saskatchewan and to our farmers and that something needs to be done very, very quickly, because this will be very detrimental to the industry overall.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know several facts of what has been transpiring over the last several days. Two million metric tonnes of wheat and barley worth \$500 million to the farmers of this country and to Canada are scheduled for export over the next two weeks. And 26 vessels are now in port waiting to load grain; 35 or 40 more are expected in the next two weeks. And by the end of the week, the export terminals will likely be full. Country elevators in our province will likely be full after that.

While ships wait to take on grain, they charge what is called a waiting fee of between 11 and \$15,000 per ship per day; 26 ships charge between 286,000 and \$390,000 per day. And that, Mr. Speaker, means that both the Canadian Wheat Board and the producers of this province are going to be held responsible for those dollars.

This particular strike, or what some people are talking about as a lockout, will cost producers money, and most importantly, irreparable damage to Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier of grain. In the tough economic times we cannot have grain producers held to ransom. And each day that this continues it costs shippers like the Wheat Board, and there's no doubt that it's going to cost our farmers.

Whenever possible, we agree that we must allow the collective bargaining procedure to succeed. But this

has been tried and it's quite obvious that it is not successful. Not only does this indirectly impact on farmers, it's going to indirectly impact on our reputation as a whole, as a nation.

I have personally called the Minister of Agriculture, Ralph Goodale, and other federal ministers at the federal level to express the concerns of Saskatchewan farmers, and we join with our colleagues in the House today to put pressure on the federal government to bring this to some closure.

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say a few words about this issue, and it's a very important one, I believe, for the people of the province of Saskatchewan. Not only the people in rural Saskatchewan are going to feel the impact of this, Mr. Speaker, but also the people in urban centres. So many times we conclude that if rural producers have a problem that it has no impact on other parts of the province. And I want to just say that for the first time in Saskatchewan's history, we have seen a change, just a glimmer of hope in the long end of serious problems for the rural people.

And I want to point out to the people of Saskatchewan and to the federal government that we need to have an adjustment in allowing the people of the province of Saskatchewan to reap some of the benefits that they have worked so hard for over the years.

There are two things I believe that this strike causes a problem with in rural Saskatchewan and in Saskatchewan in total. Those two ways, Mr. Speaker, are a reduction in the grain sales in international markets. We have in Saskatchewan the highest quality of grains grown in the world. We have a system that sets it apart to register these grains and the quality of these grains as it's marketed internationally. We have a reputation, Mr. Speaker, that is second to none across Canada. We have a reputation second to none internationally.

And as I've travelled through various parts of the Soviet Union, they've told me there's two reasons why farmers in Canada are recognized. One is that most of them came from there and the majority of them are good agriculture producers. And that, Mr. Speaker, is very significant in the discussion we have because we can grow the greatest quality of grain, Mr. Speaker, but if the market hasn't got confidence in the shipping and the handling and the delivery of that product then, Mr. Speaker, they will go elsewhere. And that's the seriousness of this problem that we have here today.

It impacts in two ways, Mr. Speaker: a reduction in sales and the cost of demurrage. And as it's been pointed out, demurrage is a very significant issue in this matter. As we speak, the province of Saskatchewan has suffered some very serious problems in the last two years not with drought, Mr. Speaker, but with frost and with delayed harvests. And that, Mr. Speaker, has caused some concern by the Canadian Wheat Board in its capacity to deliver on a full year the volumes of grains that they have on hand in the province of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and

Manitoba. And that raises some concerns. And with this, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board had arranged to haul this during the months of January, February, March with a peak coming just at this time.

Now is it significant that the longshoremen would go on strike at this particular time? And it is significant, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that we should send the federal government this message — say, put the people back to work with the condition that the mediator continues to work in a way that would reflect an opportunity to develop a long-lasting relationship.

What we need to have is something that goes on for more than one year, not just from year to year and year to year, so that every time the products either have to be moved or it has a raise in the price, that that then triggers a mechanism whereby the people there almost hold up the people in the province of Saskatchewan for ransom.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is the reason why we raise this issue today. It's a very significant one. It's important to the people of this province that the millions and millions of dollars that are spent in the dispute, Mr. Speaker, are not only spent in the dispute, but they are also spent by the Canadian grain producers in dealing with the markets that they have to have. And we, Mr. Speaker, are totally at the will of those people who are loading those ships.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard it over and over and over again through the years, that farmers in Saskatchewan would be willing to go there and work at half the rate that those longshoremen are working to provide the guarantee that the grain moves on a consistent basis.

Mr. Speaker, in a world where communication is as available as it is today, we have in the province of Saskatchewan just completed a disaster for ourselves when the people are not able to get the grains. There are millions and millions of people who are waiting for the opportunity to have the grain delivered to their markets. And we, Mr. Speaker, are going to support this motion to be delivered to the federal government, that they work to resolve the issue, but that they put the people back to work. And in that way, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this motion as we debate it here and send it to the federal minister, Mr. Axworthy.

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

(1045)

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I had little difficulty, indeed a considerable sympathy for the comments made by the member from Rosthern. However having seen the motion which he actually wrote, I've got some problem with what was written. It was different than what was said, and I want to address myself to that aspect of this. I leave to the Minister of Agriculture and others a comment upon the situation in Saskatchewan. But what was written is different than what was said.

It has been my experience in these labour disputes, it is never useful to take sides. Neither side is ever perfect and neither side is ever totally at fault. And the problem I have with the wording is that it reads:

That this Assembly urge the federal government to immediately take steps to end the longshoremen's strike . . .

It is not in fact a strike, but a lockout. And I don't think the member from Rosthern intended . . . I was perhaps particularly conscious of the difference, but there is quite a difference.

It's worth remembering that this began, this whole dispute began with . . . a federal mediator was appointed in July of '93. It might be worthwhile to go through the chronology quickly.

July of '93, a federal mediator was appointed. July 19 of '94, the mediator reported, without success. On January 27 there was a strike at the port of Chemainus. On the next day, through a series of events, that resulted in a lockout throughout the entire B.C. (British Columbia) port system. I would add as well that the longshoremen's union offered to move grain and agricultural products.

Now I say this not to take sides; it's never useful to take sides. It is worthwhile remembering this is not a strike but a lockout and the parties are very sensitive about this. So I want to draw to the attention of the Assembly that difference and just point out that it is commonly assumed, Mr. Speaker, that every time there's a work stoppage the unions are at fault and they've gone on strike, and they've gone on strike for more money.

That in fact is . . . and indeed those comments, one might have read those comments, one might have read that into the comments of the member from Morse. In fact that's not the case. There's a strike at a relatively small and far less important port that resulted in a lockout.

So I'm concerned about the wording of this motion because it appears to take sides and that isn't going to get the walk-out settled and that isn't going to get the grain moving. In fact this motion may . . . the language in which the motion is written may do as much harm as good and I'm disappointed in the wording which was chosen, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to speak on this issue because it's very important to all of Saskatchewan, and it's very important to Souris-Cannington. While the minister may not be prepared to take sides on this issue, I am. I am prepared to take the side of the western Canadian farmer who is being hurt by this dispute, lockout, strike, whatever they want to call it, but it's the farmers that are being hurt.

But it's also some of the other industries in this province. The potash producers that ship through that port are also being affected, and if the strike . . . if the

dispute goes on longer, their employment will be affected because sales offshore will also be affected.

I phoned around last week in my local constituency to find out what effect this dispute, as the Minister of Labour would like to call it, is having. The elevators in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, are already filling up because of lack of movement. They're very worried that they're not going to be getting any cars because the cars are already sitting out at the west coast — full.

This is going to have a chain effect, Mr. Speaker, right cross this province, right across western Canada, because once the elevators become full, once the cars become full, it's going to take a significant period of time for that grain to start moving again. And it's just . . . The dispute in Vancouver is not going to be over on day A and grain is going to start moving again. It's going to be a lag time in there that it's going to affect us all.

Those sales are going to be lost. Now, no. 1 and no. 2 spring wheats are selling quite well, but, Mr. Speaker, those grades 3 and lower are moving very slowly. In fact the Wheat Board suggested there's only going to be about 50 per cent of that grain sold. So if we miss any of those sales, Mr. Speaker, it's going to have a very detrimental effect on the economy of all Saskatchewan farmers.

It seems to be, Mr. Speaker, that whenever grain prices start to move, as they have with no. 1 and no. 2 spring wheat and with durum, someone in the system always tries to grab a larger share. And when it all gets said and done, the farmer gets very little benefit for that price increase, but somebody else in the system takes it.

And I think this is part of what is happening in this situation. Someone else in the system has seen some grain prices increase, some movement there; so they feel this is the proper time for which to get an increase for themselves.

The minister would suggest that perhaps labour is not at fault here. According to the media, Mr. Speaker, labour is asking for a \$3-an-hour increase. Well farmers would like to receive that. Farmers would like to receive the benefit of the sales that are currently being lost, Mr. Speaker, to receive the higher prices that are being offered for those.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I would hope the federal government would take a look at as this dispute drags on, is the movement of grain south through other ports. I think that is very important, that we look at alternatives to the grain movement system, that we move either down the Mississippi or through the ports in Washington where it's not a very large jog to move our cars south across the border. And I think that would be a worthwhile effort, Mr. Speaker, to take a look at that.

One of the things that we need to do, Mr. Speaker, and one of the things that the federal government needs to take a serious look at, is naming the port of Vancouver

as an essential service, that any labour disputes at that port be handled by binding arbitration. Then the farmers, the potash producers, the coal industry, and whoever else ships through the port of Vancouver, is not going to be held up for ransom by either the labour unions or the companies at that port. I think that would be a large step forward, Mr. Speaker, if the federal government would implement such an idea and make the port of Vancouver an essential service.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government must look at this issue immediately and must resolve it immediately, before any permanent and truly serious harm happens to the farmers of western Canada. I support this motion fully, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased also to enter the debate on this emergency measure. I think it's important to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that a number of people throughout the grains industry in western Canada are calling for back-to-work legislation. I understand the Minister of Agriculture in Alberta, Western Canadian Wheat Growers, the official opposition, the Government of Saskatchewan, are calling for back-to-work legislation. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has been noticeably absent, Mr. Speaker. And it would be interesting if someone from their organization would be willing to comment on the labour disruption.

Mr. Speaker, we are already seeing things, the prices of grain — canola particularly — being affected by the labour disruption out on the west coast. Canola prices have gone down fairly significantly over the past week. Grain analysts, as reported by Agriline last week, suggested that it was a direct result of the labour problems.

And it's quite simple, Mr. Speaker. Countries, importing countries like Japan, are questioning the Canadian farmers' ability to supply product. And it's a direct result of the labour disruption.

Mr. Speaker, it's my belief we need back-to-work legislation now. In fact I thought back-to-work legislation should have been sooner than now. Collective bargaining rights are important, Mr. Speaker, and we recognize that. However, I believe the point has been reached where the grain handlers and longshoremen should be declared an essential service, removing the right to strike, because it is simply too important of an issue to our economy. The movement of commodities like grain, potash, lumber, are the lifeblood of many large numbers of Canadian families, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the Canadian Wheat Board has used the port of Seattle as an alternative port. And I believe that that port again should be used as an alternative port to continue the movement of Canadian grain. Other ports should be examined as well. Perhaps we should be looking at the use of the Mississippi River system to continue the movement of Canadian grain.

Huge demurrage charges are being rung up against

the Canadian farmer as we speak, Mr. Speaker — something that I find is absolutely reprehensible that the Canadian farmer is bearing the responsibility and the cost for something they have no direct part in whatsoever. The grain companies and the labour unions are directly responsible, and yet it is the Canadian grain farmer that is paying the bill once again, Mr. Speaker. And I think that is reprehensible.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that these people on the west coast earn over \$21 per hour for the work that they do — something in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 per year. Mr. Speaker, the farmers I represent believe this is an excellent wage for the work they do. I think many Saskatchewan farm families would be happy to have that kind of income coming in today to their farm family, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it's high time, as I said, that the industry be declared an essential service. It's far too important of a port and far too important of an issue to stop the movement of Canadian grain. I urge the federal government to act as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker, and I will be supporting this motion wholeheartedly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present an amendment to this motion:

Delete everything after the word "Assembly" and substituting therefor:

urge the federal government to settle the west coast dispute which is negatively affecting the Saskatchewan economy.

Mr. Speaker, I think . . . And that will be seconded by the member for Regina Lake Centre. So I will be moving that motion . . . that amendment, Mr. Speaker, at the end of my comments. And if I do run over the five-minute time, I would assume that I will still have time to make my motion or else have some suitable warning.

Mr. Speaker, it is very obvious we see the opposition members coming from very similar positions that they have taken in the past on issues, and that is beat on somebody. Don't negotiate anything, just beat on somebody for the purpose of making somebody else happy. Well I think those days are over, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask all the opposition members to try to start cooperating for the sake of Saskatchewan farmers and the Saskatchewan economy.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Mr. Speaker, everyone has a role to play in this dispute. Because the economy is very important, the jobs of every individual — not only in Saskatchewan, on the west coast, and in between on the rails — are very, very important to that economy of Saskatchewan and Canada. And that's what we have to keep in mind, those jobs. And if everyone plays their role, Mr. Speaker, those jobs can be maintained

and we can get along in this country — actually get along — instead of just mouthing cooperation.

The federal government has a role, Mr. Speaker. We have called for a negotiated settlement to the strike from this province, and the federal government is an employer in this case. So it has a role to play, a dual role — responsibility for the economy of Canada to make sure the grain moves, to make sure there's a negotiated settlement for the workers on the west coast, and has a responsibility as an employer of those workers.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should have maybe put a little more enthusiasm into his speech and let the people really know he meant it, instead of just mouthing it, as I said, and show a little cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, the employers have a responsibility and a role to play. We have some member-owned employers at the west coast. They have a responsibility to their people who own those companies, the farmers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the workers have a responsibility. There was an action mediated initially. Then there was a reaction to the action. And subsequently we have a stalemate. We had a strike; we had a lockout, or a threatened lockout. I'm not scared to say the words because if we don't start saying the words, then we're not going to be able to settle this thing.

(1100)

So the workers have a responsibility. They also have a responsibility to their families, and that's part of their responsibility and that's what they're showing. They also have a responsibility to their co-workers in Saskatchewan who rely on their jobs in the grains industry and other industries that spin off, and the rail workers who have their jobs rely on this industry. So we all have interlocking responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would also say that the media has a role to play here. On the weekend, and in many of the reports that I have read, Mr. Speaker, I have only heard the words or seen the word "strike." And in very few cases was the word "lockout" mentioned. I don't think that's a balanced approach by the media. I think their role in here is to ensure that everybody is informed of everything that's going on. And unless I've been reading only selected materials — which I haven't chose to do, Mr. Speaker — I have seen many more words . . . the word "strike" many more times than I've seen the word "lockout" or proposed lockout.

So, Mr. Speaker, we all have roles to play in this situation. The important thing, as I said when I began, is that it's the economy of Canada — in particular to us, Saskatchewan — and the jobs from here from the time the grain is grown to the time it's transported until the time it's loaded on the ships to the time it feeds the hungry people of the world, we all have responsibilities. And by beating on each other, we're not going to solve or meet those responsibilities.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will move that we:

Delete everything after the word “Assembly” and substitute the following therefor:

urge the federal government to settle the west coast dispute which is negatively affecting the Saskatchewan economy.

I so move, seconded by the member from Regina Lake Centre.

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

**Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to second this thoughtful amendment and speak in support of it. There is a problem on the west coast, and as an urban member I’ve sought to understand this issue that affects producers in rural Saskatchewan. It’s not always easy for urban members to understand all the issues, having not grown up in this environment, but I have sought to understand this issue.

In seeking information I did come across some additional facts that are not always presented in the articles that I’ve read on the subject. There seem to be two factors affecting this situation that have not been widely reported. The west coast longshoremen have indicated their willingness to move the grain as they have in the past three strikes, the last being in 1986. And I understand there’s also some problem with the rail lines. The railways were two weeks behind on deliveries to the west coast when the lockout began, so the port would have been running below capacity and would have been unable to meet its commitments even prior to this situation. And the longshoremen are in fact locked out.

All that aside, I’d like to comment on the need to respect the process that’s going on. Both sides are at the table. And as we are doing, we all need to urge them to do everything they can to illustrate this process can work without the interference of the federal House.

I want to reiterate our Premier’s call for an urgent mediated settlement. The mediator was appointed quickly and needs a little bit of room to do his job. And I think we also have to be careful in the dispute not to emphasize the divisions between the employer, the longshoremen, and the farmers. All parties need to pull together. Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment and I join in the call for urgency in reaching an agreement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for re-entering the debate to discuss the amendment at this point, Mr. Speaker, and I’ll keep my short remarks to the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, it is this side’s opinion that this issue is much, much too important for semantics and to get bogged down in terminology. And, Mr. Speaker, whether it is a strike, whether it is a lockout, whether it is a dispute, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, the farmers of this province don’t care. The people of this province don’t care.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Mr. Speaker, what we want is for this Assembly, in a clear unequivocal voice transmit to the federal government our concerns. And we believe the motion . . . and in fact we believe that all the members who have spoken in this debate have also voiced that concern. And so, Mr. Speaker, if that is what makes or breaks this motion, then, Mr. Speaker, members on this side are going to agree to the amendment.

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

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to speak on this issue . . . other speakers have spoken about in terms of placing blame. I think it’s important here that we get a settlement. I think we are seeing the problems that exist right now and the financial dilemma that will exist if this dispute continues . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Voice of reason.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Yes, voice of reason.

The one thing that concerns me about this issue is that it’s been used as an opportunity for those people attacking the Canadian Wheat Board. Some people are saying now in terms of this issue that it is now time for to allow grain to move south, to allow the Canadian Wheat Board . . . to remove its authority to move grain. And we’ve seen this issue take place before.

As the member from Morse has outlined, the ability of the Canadian Wheat Board to sell this product produced by grain producers in western Canada and do an excellent job of doing that, with a final payment that was issued last year of \$500 million to producers, increases in interim prices to producers, and a strong track record of moving grain for western Canadian producers. These things have to be enhanced.

But I am saddened to hear, when I hear other organizations attack it, as an opportunity to move grain south. They are taking an issue and adding their argument to it in a false way. It is a falsehood — trying to mix up the durum issue with this is an opportunity to do that.

And we know, Mr. Speaker, that the durum issue that exists right now for western Canadian producers, in terms of the price problem that exists, is created by the export enhancement program by the United States. Clearly this is something that we have to deal with and solve in order to have fair trade out there in the world economy. And it is the export enhancement program that is creating the shortfalls in terms of durum in the



United States. They are creating their own shortages, creating the price to rise.

The Canadian Wheat Board is trying to take advantage of that. But its critics are saying it's not acting quick enough. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we get a settlement. It is important to allow the Canadian Wheat Board to do the job that it needs to do.

With the Canadian Wheat Board, as I was saying, its ability to market the product . . . We've seen last year its ability to move feed grains, which is a poor commodity, and it continued to move that product forward. I think we also have to look at too that we don't see sales restricted in terms of canola production, in sales out there right now in terms of the increased returns for canola producers in western Canada.

Also the Vancouver port is becoming very important in terms of containerization, especially crops to be marketed. It is important that these crops continue to move.

I think that this is also an opportunity. This dispute highlights the need for the federal government to act to develop a mechanism by which we don't see the disputes take place again. And I think all members of the House would agree with such a move.

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

**Mr. Whitmore:** — We need some way by which Saskatchewan farmers are not held to ransom by an issue that takes place many miles away. It also shows the difficulty of Saskatchewan producers being land-locked.

**The Speaker:** — The total time for the debate has elapsed, as agreed to by members earlier today.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

#### Yeas — 54

Van Mulligen	Draper
Thompson	Serby
Wiens	Whitmore
Tchorzewski	Roy
Lingenfelter	Cline
Shillington	Scott
Anguish	Crofford
Koskie	Wormsbecker
Teichrob	Stanger
Johnson	Kluz
Goulet	Knezacek
Atkinson	Harper
Kowalsky	Keeping
Carson	Jess
Penner	Carlson
Cunningham	Langford

Upshall  
Hagel  
Bradley  
Koenker  
Lorje  
Pringle  
Lautermilch  
Renaud  
Murray  
Hamilton  
Trew

Swenson  
Neudorf  
Martens  
Boyd  
Toth  
Britton  
D'Autremont  
Goohsen  
Haverstock  
McPherson  
Bergman

#### Nays — Nil

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move a motion of transmittal, seconded by the Government House Leader:

That Mr. Speaker transmit to: (1) the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien; (2) the Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; and (3) the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources Development, the transcripts of this debate.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

#### PROROGATION

At 11:15 a.m. Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne.

Her Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislative Assembly:

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

This session marked a renewal of hope for the people of Saskatchewan. While some jurisdictions chose to aimlessly slash budgets, you chose to tackle adversity with innovation, initiative, and compassion.

You have sharpened the focus of government in order to better assist the recovery of the Saskatchewan economy through job creation and fiscal stability. The Department of Economic Development Act, 1993 will increase government's ability to rejuvenate the economy, through job creation and increased trade capability. The Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Act enhances the ability of Saskatchewan workers and corporations, working together, to raise equity capital which will create, protect or maintain jobs and allow corporations to diversify and increase investment into Saskatchewan businesses. Further, you have encouraged growth in

small business with the passage of The Income Tax Amendment Act, 1993.

You have endeavoured to improve the circumstances of farmers and the farm economy. You have approved The Farm Financial Stability Act which helps reduce the risk to loan guarantees granted to feeder/breeder associations and increase efficiencies for government, lenders and associations. The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act broadens the investigative powers of the Farm Ownership Board and strengthens enforcement provisions. As part of government reorganization, amendments to The Crop Insurance Act bring the corporation into the Department of Agriculture, consolidating and streamlining administration.

In approving The Health Districts Act you have moved to the second phase of the provision of health care envisioned thirty years ago, when the Woodrow Lloyd government launched North America's first public, prepaid Medicare program. This Act will integrate health services and increase community involvement through the creation of health districts and district health care boards. Providing more local control over the delivery of health services is a significant step in the promotion of wellness for Saskatchewan people.

The continued focus of open and accountable government remains a high government priority. Changes to The Financial Administration Act implement the recommendation of the Financial Management Review Commission by adopting the principles of accrual accounting. The Crown Corporations Act, 1993 sets forth a clear, more accountable structure for the operation and reporting of Crown corporations.

You have provided for the increased confidence in the electoral practises of Saskatchewan. The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993 allowed for public input and the impartial creation of more representative electoral districts. The Local Government Election Amendment Act 1993 (Wards) and The Urban Municipality Amendment Act (Wards) will restore the ward system in Saskatchewan for urban municipalities, strengthening equal representation and accountability. In addition, The Local Government Elections Amendment Act, 1993 (No. 2), updated and enhanced democratic rights within municipal elections in response to requests from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association.

You have endeavoured to earn the faith and trust of Saskatchewan people by embracing high ethical standards. You have adopted The Members' Conflict of Interest Act and approved a code of ethical conduct in order to lend credibility to the conduct of elected officials of the Legislative Assembly.

You have approved legislation that ensures safer workplaces and a better system of benefits and rehabilitation for injured workers. The Occupational Health and Safety Act helps workers and employers to reduce workplace hazards and prevent injuries. It also provides a framework for dealing with sexual and

other forms of harassment. The Workers' Compensation Act has been amended to curtail the practice of deeming and to ensure that injured workers receive fair compensation and treatment.

You have adopted amendments to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, further extending freedom from discrimination.

Although the times have required financial restraint and careful attention to an overburdened treasury, you have none the less sought to show that government has a compassionate face and has not ignored the difficulties of the less fortunate. The Limitation of Actions Amendment Act and The Victims of Crime Amendment Act empower victims of abuse to make progress towards recovery. The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 1993 will eliminate the potential of further financial hardship for disabled adults. As well, these amendments eliminate a perceived discrimination against children of parents who have never been married.

You have adopted The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act in order to accommodate the provisions of the historic agreement signed in 1992 by Saskatchewan, 25 Indian Bands and Canada.

I thank you for the provision you have made to meet the further requirements of the public service and I assure you that this sum of money will be used economically, prudently and in the public interest.

In taking leave of you, I congratulate you for the manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of the session and wish you the full blessing of providence. God save the Queen.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 7th day of February, 1994, at 2 p.m., and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber at 11:22 a.m.