

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
February 8, 1994

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move first reading of a Bill to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the legislative utilities review committee.

Mr. Martens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday I shall be asking the government this question:

Regarding the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, being this corporation recorded a loss of \$150 million in 1992 and a profit of \$200 million in 1993 and had overestimated the final payment in 1991 by \$85 million, these questions I will be asking: why does the '92-93 summary financial statement not reflect an additional 85 million profit to account for the previous year's overestimation; (b) when will the 85 million correction be recorded in *Public Accounts*; and (c) where will the 85 million correction be recorded in the *Public Accounts*?

Mr. Neudorf: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Thursday next ask the government the following question:

With regard to the Department of Agriculture's 1992-93 expenditure for ministers' travel, please provide details and trips taken by Minister Cunningham, R.L. Harper, Eric M.T. Upshall, Grant D.G. Whitmore, and Minister Bernhard Wiens, including the following information: date of trip, destination, purpose of trip, persons accompanying minister or MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), and the cost of each trip.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Regarding the Public Service Commission: (1) provide the number of individuals employed by the PSC that receive subsidized parking stalls; (2) the total amount monthly spent on providing parking stalls for these individuals.

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

Regarding Saskatchewan Government

Insurance: (1) the total amount of additional revenue generated by all increases in registration, licence fees, and vehicle insurance since November 1, 1991; (2) the percentage increase in registration, licence renewal, and vehicle insurance since November 1, 1991; (3) the average dollar amount increase per individual paid by Saskatchewan vehicle owners as a result of all SGI increases combined since November 1, 1991.

Mr. Britton: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on Thursday next ask the government the following questions:

Regarding the Department of Executive Council's purchasing of polling: the total amount of monies allotted to or spent on public opinion surveys between July, 1993, up to the present; (2) the individuals or firms hired to conduct the polling; and (3) provide a copy of all questions asked in the public opinion surveys and the outcome of each question.

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

Regarding the Department of Health: dental health educators, classification no. 605210, have recently been reclassified to health educator 2, classification no. 108082 positions.

Please provide details of this reclassification including: the reasons for the reclassification; the qualifications and educational requirements for both the dental health educators and health educator 2 positions; the pay range for each classification; the number of individuals affected by this reclassification; the total cost to the taxpayer of this reclassification in one fiscal year; the total spent on dental health educators for the last fiscal year, itemizing salary and expenses; and who authorized these reclassifications.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, in your gallery I just noticed the chief of the Ahtakohp First Nation, Chief Barry Ahenakew. And as well, with Chief Ahenakew is his daughters, Kishey Ahenakew and Sikwun Ahenakew.

I would have the MLAs please welcome them to the legislature.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Cigarette Taxes

Mr. Martens: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Madam Minister, the federal government today announced that they will be cutting cigarette taxes by \$5 a carton and providing further incentives for the provincial government to match this tax reduction. What we have here is an issue of law enforcement that is particular to Quebec, and the federal government is trying to impose a policy on all of the provinces to deal with it.

Madam Minister, is it your intention to follow the federal government's lead and lower cigarette taxes?

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To give a brief response to the member opposite — no, it is not our intention to lower the tax on cigarettes here and we have three main reasons for not doing that.

One, of course, is the health care considerations. We believe that the high prices have been a preventative measure in terms of discouraging people from smoking. What particularly concerns us is evidence that more young people would begin smoking if the price were reduced.

The second, of course, is a revenue consideration. The cost to the province would be about \$35 million which would mean the equivalent of a 3 cent per litre increase in the gas tax.

And finally there's a regional consideration. We do not have a major problem in western Canada and therefore we see no reason to lower our taxes here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: — Madam Minister, as you have stated that the health costs associated with smoking far outweigh the tax revenue, and even at the current level of taxation, a drop in cigarette prices will lead to more young people starting to smoke and more people continuing to smoke, my question to you, Madam Minister, is how is your government going to respond to the initiative of the federal government in dealing with the increase that they're prepared to pay; for the fact that if you go along with them in dealing with this revenue increase, are you going to deal with them in a different way to get an allocation that is going to supplement the loss in revenue they have to the province of Saskatchewan in that area?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: — Mr. Speaker, we do not anticipate a significant loss of revenue because of their position. And the other side of the coin is that there is much of what they've done here that we do support.

Smuggling is a major problem in eastern Canada. There's a psychology there that we regard as very troublesome if people can say, you know, why do I have to obey this law? Then are there other laws that they do not perceive to be fair and they do not have to

obey? If people think it's legitimate to not pay taxes, then where will we get the money for our education and health care services?

So in terms of the enforcement measures, we support those. In terms of taxing tobacco companies, we support that. In terms of their anti-smoking campaign, we support that. But I do think it's important that all members of this legislature make their positions clear with respect to the reduction in the tobacco tax because this is a serious health care consideration.

I've made my position clear.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Rural Physician Services

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, it's no secret that your health care reform has meant a great deal of hurt for rural Saskatchewan. It won't be any surprise to the official opposition when you make further cuts to rural hospitals this year. It's obvious to everyone that your government is not concerned about the people's need for medical care in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Minister, can you tell us how many doctors have left rural Saskatchewan since 1991? Could you provide us with details of that information, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, as members know, this government has been working very closely and the department has worked closely with the district boards across our province who are now charged with the delivery of health care in all parts of our province except the North.

In terms of physician services, I'm not able to give precise numbers to the member today but I can assure him that it is a concern of this government and a concern of the districts that adequate physician services be provided to every resident of our province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well I have spoken to rural doctors in the last number of days and they tell me many of their colleagues are leaving or are giving consideration to leaving. They also say that the ones that are left are facing an increasing patient load because of your government cut-backs.

For instance, one doctor I spoke to had three rural hospitals close in his area. The obvious result is that many people are showing up at all hours of the day or night to see him simply because they no longer have services available in their area. That doctor has seen an increase of over 25 per cent of his case-loads in the past six months — 25 per cent, Mr. Minister.

Can you tell us if in your extensive preliminary studies

you had conducted prior to imposing cut-backs, if you had anticipated decreasing number of doctors in rural Saskatchewan and the increasing patient load for those that were left in rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member and assure members of this House and assure the people of Saskatchewan that in many, many, many of our communities across Saskatchewan physicians are practising today as they practised six months ago, as they practised a year ago. Indeed, in many of our communities we're seeing new interest in taking up practice in rural Saskatchewan because of the possibilities that are there.

I can say to the member, Mr. Speaker, that I can refer to — indeed — to some of the weekly press in our province. I have here in my hand a letter from a doctor in rural Saskatchewan from the town of Craik who speaks of all of the services that are provided in their health centre and of his commitment to remain in that community and to continue serving the people of his community and the people of our province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister, at the same time rural doctors are taking on a much heavier patient load, they are not being compensated for the work they do. Doctors are being questioned by your department as to why they are seeing so many more patients, even though the answer is obvious.

Mr. Minister, doctors are also being asked to return money received for the caring of patients. Mr. Minister, why are you penalizing doctors for helping rural people?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, for the information of the member and other members, he should be aware that in the process of health reform and renewal in our province, building a better health care for the future, we have worked very closely with the physicians and surgeons of the province of Saskatchewan. We've had a good working relationship with the college and with the SMA (Saskatchewan Medical Association). Mr. Speaker, we're proud of that consultative and cooperative relationship that we've had.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister, the problem isn't that there are too many patients coming to see doctors in rural Saskatchewan; it's that there's not enough doctors in rural Saskatchewan. The problem isn't rural people abusing the system; it's the government abusing the people.

Since your cut-backs, Mr. Minister, this doctor has not

been compensated for more than 25 per cent of his patients. This is not an isolated case, Mr. Minister. Many doctors are already saying goodbye to rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Minister, just what are you and your government going to do to keep doctors and attract new doctors to rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, if the member has a particular physician that has a particular concern, I'd be very glad to receive from him the name of that physician and we can follow up on that particular concern.

In terms of the physician resource for the province of Saskatchewan, the member will know this is not a new problem. It's been a perennial problem for our province to attract and keep physicians in rural Saskatchewan, to attract and keep specialists in our province.

We are working very hard — I can tell the House today — working very hard with the training at the University of Saskatchewan to develop a specialized practice for rural Saskatchewan, in Saskatchewan. We are working closely with the SMA and the College of Physicians and Surgeons to look at a physician resource plan to ensure the kinds of things that the member desires.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the district cooperation in this regard, we are looking very closely at working with the districts to establish concepts like group practice, where doctors may live in individual communities but be linked in a group practice so that they can begin to support each other and offer the kinds of service . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Next question.

Municipal Infrastructure Program

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal Government. Madam Minister, can you explain precisely what consultation took place and what agreement was arrived at between the municipalities and your provincial government prior to the signing of the Canada-Saskatchewan infrastructure works program?

Hon. Ms. Carson: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for that question and I will table for the House, for members of the public, a letter that I sent yesterday to the president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association outlining all of the meetings and the position that they took.

We had several meetings. They're outlined in this letter. The agreement that we've reached is also outlined in this letter and I'll table it now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam

Minister, what we're concerned about of course is when the consultations took place and what time the agreement was reached.

Were local governments informed that the province would be putting only \$10 million from existing budgets into municipal projects and that no new money into rural municipal projects was going to be there to match federal funding?

Hon. Ms. Carson: — Mr. Speaker, on December 23 we had a meeting of the round table in which the president of SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) was in attendance, as well as the president of SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities). At that meeting we informed the urban and the rural municipalities associations that there would be no contribution from the provincial government toward the infrastructure program.

We did work with them over the course of the following month to work out an acceptable compromise. They were aware on January 19 that we would be making a contribution of \$10 million. Before that, they had accepted the position from the provincial government that there would be no contribution. It's all in the letters and the details are described in that letter.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, the federal program clearly requires that you reach agreements with local governments to first identify projects; and secondly, direct funding. The province is expected to be putting in one third of the money to support local infrastructure projects, but in fact your government is keeping control of its entire share plus it is taking out \$15 million of federal money.

Now are you telling us that local governments supported this decision?

Hon. Ms. Carson: — Mr. Speaker, I am telling the member opposite that they did support the position we put forward and that she should perhaps inquire of the federal government about their position because this . . . the MIP (municipal infrastructure program) program is not the old federation of Canadian Municipalities Association; it is quite different. And there is a broad flexibility in the program as how it applies both to projects and to funding.

And the Minister of Agriculture made that very clear in his address to SUMA on the last day of the convention. And if the member opposite would like further detail, we'll provide that for her.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Mr. Speaker, Madam Minister, indeed we have been in contact with the federal government and there seems to be some conflict in terms of your point of view relative to the federal government.

Did the municipalities agree that your government should control \$77.13 million for these projects? Projects which will be allocated and completed in the two years that are leading up to the next provincial election. I mean are they in agreement with that particular decision?

Hon. Ms. Carson: — Mr. Speaker, we have established a committee made up of municipal and provincial politicians and bureaucrats to look at and review all of the criteria around this program, including the funding mechanism, the project allocation, and the approval process.

The SUMA as well as SARM are in agreement with the committee and what we are proposing. And that is also outlined in the letter that have I tabled.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Rural Health Services

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, . . . the Associate Minister of Health, we have some further, subsequent questions on health care.

Mr. Minister, last year hospital closures were particularly devastating to those people outside of Saskatoon and Regina. All 52 hospital closures were in rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there's even more discomfoting to learn that there are more cuts planned for rural Saskatchewan in the upcoming budget. The associate deputy minister, Dan Perrins, substantiated that information in Saturday's *Leader-Post*.

My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, will you confirm that your ADM (associate deputy minister) has said that further cuts to rural health care are in the offing? Will you confirm that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I will not confirm anything in the *Leader-Post*.

Let me say to the member, we had this discussion in the last session of this legislature. I think we'll need to have it again. He refers to the closure of hospitals. He is in error, Mr. Speaker. Conversion of facilities has occurred. In 52 of our health care facilities in the province that had acute care funding for 10 beds or less, the acute care beds are now not available.

Mr. Speaker, what is available is some brand-new services and some pre-existing services. What is available in each and every of those 52 facilities will be emergency care. What is available in many of those facilities, Mr. Speaker, is long-term care. There is lab and X-ray facilities available, Mr. Speaker, in those facilities.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that in some of those facilities, in some of the now health centres, facilities that were not available are now being made

available. And I refer to observation beds, respite care, palliative care, foot care programs, and many others.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Next question.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, according to your own statistics, urban hospitals have about 3 beds per 1,000 people. Provincially your department says that the ratio is about 3.3 per 1,000. You have stated that your target for rural Saskatchewan is about 1.5 beds per 1,000. So clearly there are more significant cuts to acute care beds coming for rural Saskatchewan.

So I ask you again, Mr. Minister: will you confirm that rural hospitals are in for additional cuts in acute care beds?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, for the information of the member, on the point he makes about beds in urban Saskatchewan he may be referring here to hospital beds, acute care beds, available in Regina and Saskatoon. I want, for the information of the member, for him to know that beds in the two large urban centres, today as we meet and speak, will be occupied by about 50 per cent of people whose addresses are not Regina and Saskatoon. The beds in our large base hospitals and in the urban hospitals are beds that are available to all of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of this year's funding, he will know the budget announcements from last year. This year, by way of change, funding will be provided on a global basis to the districts who will be making their choices and their budget decisions based, for the first time in the province of Saskatchewan's history, based on need.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, your officials are saying that the areas where the ratio is most out of whack will suffer the biggest reductions. By your own numbers, Mr. Minister, the area which is out of whack is rural Saskatchewan. I, and the majority of residents outside of Saskatoon and Regina, would disagree. But those are your numbers.

Will you at least confirm, Mr. Minister, that the majority of funding reductions — funding reductions — will take place in rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, what I will confirm for the member is that a process is going on in our province today that has never gone on before, and that is a real assessment of health care needs as the basis for future funding. Mr. Speaker, our district boards, people across our province, are working hard today in establishing the real needs of the people they wish to

serve in health care. Based on those needs, Mr. Speaker, funding decisions will be made.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the minister is certainly correct that there are things happening in rural Saskatchewan with respect to health care that we have never seen before. He is right on that point, Mr. Minister. Fifty-two hospitals in rural Saskatchewan closing all over the place and the minister stands and says that it's no big deal. Well the people of rural Saskatchewan don't agree with you, Mr. Minister.

I'm simply asking you the question, if we can expect to see more of the same in the upcoming budget. Will we see further reductions in acute care bed levels for rural Saskatchewan? Will we, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, what we are going to see in the province of Saskatchewan is a health care system which is renewed, that will survive not just for this decade but well into the 20th and 21st centuries, Mr. Speaker. That's what we'll see.

And we'll see it because the decision making and the control and the delivery of health care for the first time in Saskatchewan's history is becoming much more community based and much more associated and attached to real need.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are merely asking the questions of what people are asking of us as MLAs. How many hospitals are going to close in rural Saskatchewan? What is the acute care bed levels? It seems fairly simple and straightforward to me, Mr. Minister. Your own deputy minister confirms a lot of what we have been saying all along: there is going to be further reductions in rural Saskatchewan for acute care bed levels.

We simply want you, Mr. Minister, to confirm that so the people of rural Saskatchewan know what to expect in the upcoming budget. Will you or will you not confirm that hospital closures, acute care bed level reductions, will take place?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the member seems to have difficulty understanding health care in the 1990s and beyond and a new delivery of health care. Mr. Speaker, the decisions regarding acute care beds, long-term care beds, observation, palliative, tertiary care beds — all of the decisions specifically related to beds will now be made by the districts on the basis of the need of their population.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am very confident standing here today that over the course of the next six months, the next year, and the next few years, we will see in every

community of Saskatchewan improvements in health care. Services which have not been previously available, we will see available in the very near future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SaskTel Tendering Policy

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the minister responsible for SaskTel. Mr. Minister, as you know, the opposition and many other people in Saskatchewan have been trying to get your government to state its exact policy on union preference tendering. To my knowledge you are the first minister to provide an exact written policy on this issue and I'm happy that I have a copy of that with me today.

So while I commend you on having the courage to finally put this policy in writing, I cannot agree with your government's commitment to union preference tendering.

Mr. Minister, I have a letter here over your signature which states:

SaskTel's guideline in these situations provides for a union preference on Saskatoon and Regina construction projects with a value of \$150,000 or more.

Mr. Minister, will you confirm that this is indeed SaskTel's policy, and is this also the official policy of other Crown corporations?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member from Maple Creek, I am pleased to be able to tell him that the guidelines which are in place, the intention are of which to make sure that there is a good distribution of work available among both unionized and non-unionized contractors.

And I want to indicate to him that that objective is working fairly well. Because up until November of 1993 there were a large number of contracts that were let out — 105 to be exact. Two went to unionized contractors and 103 went to non-unionized contractors. And \$860,000 of that was of the two that went to unionized, and 7.5 million of that went to contractors who were non-unionized.

So the policy is intended to make sure that all working people in Saskatchewan who work in these fields have an opportunity to have this kind of work available to them. And I'm pleased to report to the House, Mr. Speaker, that the policy is working very well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have here a tender which was recently let on SaskTel's Telmart in Moose Jaw, project no. 996080. Section 2.1 of this tender reads and I quote:

Contractors should note that in awarding the work for this project SaskTel's preference is to award to Contractors that are unionized and who use unionized subcontractors.

Now either Moose Jaw has suddenly become a suburb of Regina or else there is some very terrible mistake been made here, Mr. Minister. Because in light of your stated policy that there are union preference contracting for Saskatoon and Regina contracts only, how can it be both ways?

Will the minister do the right thing and pull the tender that was issued for Moose Jaw and rewrite it and take out those offensive words that require that union-only contractors can be hired? Will you do the right thing in consideration of your letters to the contractors' associations in Saskatchewan and rewrite these tender calls?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member, let me say that the policy is there; it's under continuous review. It is in the interest of the government, in consultation with those people who are affected, to make sure that the standards, the high standards which SaskTel has established for the work that must be performed for the contracts that it lets out . . . and to make sure that the contractors and the working people of this province have an opportunity to work on these projects.

And in this particular case there is a requirement that states that in the project that is being tendered in Moose Jaw, a union contractor will be given some consideration, but the bottom line, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that the specifications of the tender that has been let can be met and be met adequately, and that is the most important part of the policy that is going to be applied.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TABLING OF COMMUNICATION

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I have a message from the Lieutenant Governor:

Dear Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 68.7 of The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby inform the Assembly of the membership of the Board of Internal Economy effective November 17, 1993:

The Hon. Herman Rolfes, Chairman; the Hon. Carol Carson; the Hon. Eldon Lautermilch; Mr. Glenn Hagel, MLA; Mr. Eric Upshall, MLA; Mr. Rick Swenson, MLA; Ms. Lynda Haverstock, MLA.

Yours sincerely, Sylvia Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor, Province of Saskatchewan.

I hereby table her communication.

MOTIONS

Referral of By-laws of Professional Associations to Special Committee on Regulations

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I have a couple of routine motions that I would move. First of all, I would move, seconded by the member for Regina Churchill Downs, by leave of the Assembly:

That the by-laws of the professional associations and amendments thereto be referred as tabled to the Special Committee on Regulations.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

Referral of Annual Report and Financial Statements of Crown Corporations to Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

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

That the annual reports and financial statements of the various Crown corporations and related agencies be referred as tabled to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Motion agreed to.

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

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for The Battlefords, that by leave of the Assembly:

That the *Public Accounts* of the province of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1993 be referred as tabled this session to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Motion agreed to.

Referral of the Report of the Saskatchewan Legislative Library to the Standing Committee on Communication

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Cumberland, that by leave of the Assembly:

That the report of the Saskatchewan Legislative Library be referred as tabled to the Standing Committee on Communication.

Motion agreed to.

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

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Rosetown, that by leave of the Assembly:

That the *Report of the Provincial Auditor* for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1993 be referred as tabled this session to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Motion agreed to.

Referral of Retention and Disposal Schedules to the Standing Committee on Communication

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, finally I move, seconded by the member for Canora, that by leave of the Assembly:

That the retention and disposal schedules approved under The Archives Act by the Public Documents Committee be referred as tabled to the Standing Committee on Communication.

Motion agreed to.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we go to the special order of the day, I wonder if I would have permission of the House — I'm assuming that I do — to introduce two condolence motions. And with the leave of the House, I'll proceed to saying a few words of . . .

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks I'll be moving a motion of condolence respecting a former member of this Assembly, the late Clarence Melvin Fines.

C.M., Clarence Fines, Mr. Speaker, was the last remaining member of the original 1944 CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) cabinet, and he died at Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 27, 1993.

Clarence Fines was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Regina City from 1944 to 1960. Throughout that time he was MLA, but he was also the provincial treasurer and the deputy premier.

Clarence Fines was born August 16, 1905, at Darlington, Manitoba. After attending school at Darlington and at Stonewall, Manitoba, he came to Regina to enrol in the Normal School. Subsequently he attended the universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

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Clarence Fines then taught school in Regina and later served as principal at Benson and Strathcona public

schools. He also served three years as president of the Regina Teachers' Association and two years as president of the Regina branch of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

Clarence Fines's outstanding political career spanned both the provincial and municipal levels of government. He was involved in the Independent Labour Party and then the Farmer-Labour Party, and then in 1932 he helped found the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the CCF.

From 1934 until 1939, and again from 1942 until 1944 when he was elected to this House, he was a member of Regina City Council where he served in many capacities including chair of the Regina General Hospital, director of the Regina Exhibition Board, and a member of the parks board. He also was a very strong supporter of the Regina YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association).

In his 16 years as a member of this Assembly, and in addition to his responsibilities as provincial treasurer and deputy premier, C.M. Fines served as minister responsible for the Bureau of Publications, the Government Purchasing Agency, the Liquor Board, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, as it was called then. He retired from public life in 1960.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind the passing of Clarence Fines casts an extremely deep and long shadow over this legislature, and in a way, over this province. C.M. Fines was a key part of an extremely important era in Saskatchewan — for that matter, in Canadian history — an era which saw in this province the opening of new opportunities, experimentation to benefit people, and a part of an era which was an era laced with a vision of compassion and community and cooperation. Opportunities which became realities, realities based on the values that Saskatchewan people have always held dear — thrift, cooperation, community, economic and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, C.M. Fines was a man who, next to Tommy Douglas, had perhaps the greatest influence on our province and how we overcame the challenges of the post-World War II era and how the opportunities during that era were fashioned.

As the Speech from the Throne yesterday remarked, 1994 will mark the 50th anniversary of the election of North America's first democratic socialist government, right here in Saskatchewan, and the government in this Chamber. Tommy Douglas and his government took pride and took a province that was on its knees and restored its common purpose, rebuilt and restored its pride, and began a long journey towards rebirth and renewal.

And Clarence Fines walked arm in arm with Tommy Douglas every step of the way, during the good times, and even more importantly, during the tough times — a true comrade. As one writer put it, if Douglas was the designer, Fines was the mechanic.

Their first task was to restore Saskatchewan's fiscal

health. It required at times bitter medicine, but they knew that without this objective, without this sacrifice, they could not rebuild, they could not rejuvenate, they could not dream their dreams. So Clarence Fines balanced the books in this province so that we could realize the dreams that then brought us, as it turns out, the most comprehensive and best social reform programs in North America and perhaps anywhere in the western world.

One of Clarence Fines's basic and lasting tenets was that it was of little value to build or to try to build in the absence of financial freedom for a province or for a country. That's why he and Tommy Douglas were always so determined to balance the budget. They wanted our people to have the freedom to make our own economic and social policy decisions here at home, without having to look over our shoulders all the time to try to figure out what the bankers and the bond dealers might think, might approve or might not approve.

The Fines era, I submit, Mr. Speaker, has many lessons for us today, the legislators of 1994. The day the Douglas government took office first time round in 1944, Saskatchewan's gross public debt was \$218 million. To put that into perspective, that's less than the projected deficit for the fiscal year ending March 1994, the deficit that we project at 294 million. But the gross public debt was \$218 million. It was viewed with gravity and it was 38 per cent of Saskatchewan's gross domestic product.

In 1944, Clarence Fines did not run from this crisis nor did he pretend that it did not exist. Rather, he set about in an astute and methodical manner to eliminate the deficit and the debt. Year after year he brought forward responsible budgets designed to underpin an economy which was fragile but growing, and an economy which would be able to support the social and economic programs that he and Douglas and all the other men and women of that party dreamed about and envisioned.

By 1949, Fines had reduced the province's debt by almost \$70 million. A reduction, as he then noted in his budget speech, quote: was unparalleled in the history of any Canadian province since Confederation, end quote. And that was true, when one compared the desperate fiscal picture of that time to other provinces of that time.

And by 1951 the province was, for the first time in its history, seven years after the election of Douglas and Mr. Fines, it was free of debt owing to the banks. And in 1953 Saskatchewan earned its first recorded A credit rating in the international investment markets.

Today when one thinks back about this history and this contribution, one sees a similar objective and difficult road ahead for us, but we're inspired by the success of Mr. Fines and Mr. Douglas.

Today our gross provincial debt is not 38 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product), as it was in 1944, but it's 70 per cent of GDP. And today, unlike the

post-war period, we can't count on Ottawa to relieve our situation. Back in 1947 the federal government cancelled one-half of the \$61 million of relief treasury bills owed to Ottawa by the province, as well as an outstanding interest of \$5.7 million. We do not have that option.

Our future is not indebted to Ottawa, but to bankers elsewhere in the world. But like C.M. Fines and T.C. Douglas, we must follow the path to financial freedom. Difficult as it is, we must continue to fight to reclaim our future. Because as historian Desmond Morton put it: there is nothing the money lenders love more than a socialist government at their mercy. End quote.

So, like Clarence Fines, we understand that financial freedom is the only way to achieve our fundamental objective, a better quality of life for all of our citizens.

And we realize something else — that budgeting is not an end in itself; it is a means. In his 1945 budget speech, C.M. Fines said this:

I agree that a balanced budget is desirable and I'm presenting such a one tonight. But the real task is to assure the security of people. A budget may be balanced on their poverty or their misery. As long as I occupy the important position of provincial treasurer, it shall be my aim to balance the budget, keeping in mind the people of the province.

The budget, C.M. Fines said, rather than being a monetary budget alone, must also become a human budget which will guarantee a minimum of social security to all.

Those, I think, are wise words to which political parties of all ideologies and all stripes would subscribe. A budget is a means to an end; it is not the end of which he and Mr. Douglas dreamed.

They moved on to build, to build rural electrification, hospitalization, medicare in 1962, progressive labour legislation, Canada's first trade union Act, Canada's first Bill of Rights, Canada's first public insurance company, SGI; public telephone company, SaskTel; public power company, SaskPower, and the list goes on.

These were all born — or many of them — out of controversy. Some of these still engender controversy. But the point is from this tradition and this determination, successive governments over years have built on the fundamentals of thrift, community, economic and social justice, and cooperation to succeed in their goals.

In his unpublished memoirs, C.M. Fines wrote this about his last budget in 1960:

For the sixteenth consecutive year I would present a surplus budget, a feat never before accomplished and which has become one of the greatest milestones in the history of

Saskatchewan.

I say it was a great milestone.

Nor need we speculate whether Mr. Fines would agree with the directions that we're taking today. *Star-Phoenix* columnist Randy Burton, speaking to Mr. Fines, wrote this in December of 1992:

His (Fines') advice to Romanow would be "to continue the course that he's been following and get rid of the debt as quickly as he can."

To loosen the purse strings "would completely break the province and there would be no hope for the economy to build up," Fines said.

What's more, Fines is sure that Douglas would have backed him on this score. "On fiscal matters we were usually in complete agreement."

And so they were, Mr. Speaker, the dreamer and the mechanic; they were in complete agreement and they built.

Clarence Fines was a giant. He was a giant in Saskatchewan and in Canada. He was a giant whose shadow still lingers; his legacy still lingers. And while it is difficult for any political party of any stripe to follow in his footsteps, it should be, in my judgement, our goal as legislators to continue that obligation and that legacy and to continue our dreams, to dream our dreams, to rebuild, to renew, and to restore our pride.

Mr. Speaker, in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family — his widow, Lilian; his sons, Murray and Howard; his five grandchildren; and the many more who knew him, worked with him, and loved him.

(1500)

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and express its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Clarence Melvin Fines, who died at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on October 27, 1993, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Regina City from 1944 until 1960. Mr. Fines was born August 16, 1905 at Darlington, Manitoba. He attended school there and at Stonewall, Manitoba, before enrolling in the Normal School in Regina. Mr. Fines then attended the University of Manitoba and the University of Saskatchewan, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Mr. Fines taught school in Regina and later

became principal of Benson and Strathcona public schools. He was president of the Regina Teachers' Association from 1937 to 1940. For two years, beginning in 1941, Mr. Fines was president of the Regina branch of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. Besides his professional interests, Mr. Fines was also attracted to municipal and provincial politics. From 1934 until 1939 and again from 1942 until 1944, he was a member of Regina City Council where he served in many capacities including chair of the Regina General Hospital, on the Parks Board and as a director of the Regina Exhibition. He was also a supporter of the Regina YMCA.

Mr. Fines's provincial political career began with his involvement in the Independent Labour Party and the Farmer-Labour Party. He helped found the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in 1932. In 1944, C.M. Fines was elected to the Legislative Assembly as one of two members to represent the constituency of Regina City. He was re-elected in the elections of 1948, 1952, and 1956. For 16 years, during the period 1944 to 1960, Mr. Fines served as provincial treasurer. He also held the post of deputy premier, minister responsible for the Bureau of Publications, Queen's Printer Office, Government Purchasing Agency, the Liquor Board, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance. Mr. Fines did not stand for re-election in the 1960 general election.

In 1960 Mr. Fines left Regina to begin a career as a corporate financial adviser which initially took him to the island of Grenada. Three years later Mr. Fines moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he lived for the next 30 years. At Fort Lauderdale Mr. Fines was active in many community organizations, including the Boys Club of America and the United Way.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour for me to second the motion of the Premier on the condolence motion to the Fines family on behalf of the official opposition.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, when talking about Clarence Fines, we are talking about an individual who left an indelible print on the face of this province. We're talking about an individual in our society that worked hard, serving his communities for nearly 40 years. And that in itself is truly a hallmark because very few people in Saskatchewan's history have had that type of perseverance in public duty.

And as the Premier mentioned, that covered local boards, city councils, the founding of a political party — not an easy task. I know something about working for political organizations that have very shallow roots. Mr. Fines, obviously, in his dedication and work to develop the CCF Party, knows all about the trials and tribulations of making the democratic process in our province work in a way which he felt could make a difference ultimately to the society we live in.

And I think as an example to any of us, that degree of dedication is one that you can only applaud, that a lifelong dream could be played out in the council chambers and the Legislative Assembly of our province always, I think, with well-intentioned results.

I certainly, Mr. Speaker, wouldn't be of an age to have known Mr. Fines personally. I can only vaguely remember his political career — a political career that was fraught with some controversy. Certainly he's an individual that engendered very strong feelings in a political sense amongst many of the citizens of our province.

I can well remember listening on the radio to the debate in the legislature as a young person, my family gathered around. Coming from a political family, that was something that you did. And I can tell you that the admiration for Mr. Fines amongst some was not quite the same degree that the Premier talked about here today. I've had people in the oil industry tell me that they wish he had served in another province at the time that he did that.

But regardless of those deep feelings that all of us develop when we enter public life, I think at the end of the day you have to give the man his due when you talk about his dedication to fiscal responsibility, the fact that our province had gone through some very difficult times, and that it was absolutely necessary for the building to begin anew after the 1930s and after the loss that we as a province had suffered during the Second World War with so many of our young men and women giving their lives for their country.

Mr. Fines, working with Mr. Douglas, had an appreciation for that Saskatchewan sense of being. And I think down the road, regardless of our political beliefs, we can feel proud that individuals such as that, who weren't born native sons to our province, would come here and take it upon themselves to build and develop.

And certainly I've always wished that perhaps Mr. Fines had lived out his last years in our province because people that have given that much dedication deserve to be a part of the mix that we see here.

I think it was one of the reasons that Mr. Diefenbaker ultimately wanted to be buried on the banks of the Saskatchewan River, because as a native son you feel appreciation for the things that your province has given you. And I think the Fines family can rest assured that all of us in this province feel the deep-felt

condolences that the Premier has talked about and that we do revere people that have made such a strong contribution to us.

So, Mr. Speaker, I join with the Premier in officially recording a deep sense of loss and bereavement and would like to second the motion and express our most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — I want to, Mr. Speaker, add a few comments of my own to those of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. In each session we pay tribute to deceased members, most of whom have sought conscientiously to serve their constituents, to leave the world a little better than what they found it. Inevitably though, time dims the memory of many.

One exception is Clarence Fines whose career and whose importance to us transcends the ages, for Clarence Fines is one of the more extraordinary public figures in Saskatchewan's history. Historians, in focusing on the Douglas government, tended to focus almost exclusively on Tommy Douglas. One takes nothing away from Douglas's unmatched oratorical skills or his courageous vision to suggest that he could not, nor did he, do it alone. He had a partner in Clarence Fines.

Both Clarence Fines and Tommy Douglas had been born in Manitoba, both were almost the same age, both came to Saskatchewan within a year of each other. They probably met in 1938 when the provincial CCF sought to persuade Mr. Douglas to leave politics and come to the province to lead them.

If Douglas was the courageous visionary who defined a new future for Saskatchewan, Fines was the practical administrator who actually made it happen. If Douglas was an orator with very few equals, Fines was an administrator of extraordinary competence.

What was accomplished by the CCF in Saskatchewan is nothing short of a miracle. What the CCF inherited in 1944 was probably one of the most backward jurisdictions in North America. One would be hard put to find a jurisdiction which was as backward: 50 miles of paved road, a provincial public service renowned for its incompetence and corruptness, and a bankrupt treasury.

When the CCF left office some 20 years later, they left a province that was a model of what a modern welfare state ought to be. Such a miracle could not have occurred without Douglas's genius that inspired a generation of Saskatchewan people to dream and strive and build a new and more compassionate society.

Nor could it have happened without Clarence Fines's genius for administration. It was Fines who took a corrupt, patronage-ridden public service and built the finest civil service in Canada. And it was Fines whose practical ability as an administrator took a bankrupt treasury and turned it into a debt-free province. Under that administration, the government of the day, the

CCF government, was successful in attracting an extraordinary number of very talented people to this province to work in the public service.

One was a young man whose father was in the wholesale grocery business, whose father had gone bankrupt. As a teenager this young man took over the business, got the business back up on its feet, got it soundly financed, found time to get a law degree and earn a Rhodes Scholar . . . earn a Rhodes Scholarship as well. On graduating, he came to Saskatchewan to work for what was regarded as the most exciting government in Canada. Many will know that I speak of Allan Blakeney. But he was one of a number of very talented people who came.

The CCF inherited a province which was bankrupt. The CCF took the province and almost immediately faced a financial crisis. The financial establishment, misunderstanding the nature of these prairie socialists, became alarmed and called in some overdue loans almost at the time the government was sworn in. The newly elected Douglas government faced a financial crisis before they had become installed.

Under the leadership of Clarence Fines, the government of the day did the only thing they could do — established a Saskatchewan savings bond program, then a relatively new idea. Clarence Fines bought some of the bonds himself, and through extraordinary energy and salesmanship, managed to sell enough of the bonds to pay off the loan. It was the first of many such triumphs which the CCF of the day enjoyed, facing the hostile financial community.

One is oversimplifying the matter to suggest that this policy was something that Clarence Fines created. Indeed, in their fiscal orthodoxy the CCF of the day in some ways reflected the mentality of the prairie farmer who had come to the West and found that, although a rich land, the West could be a capricious land and the climate even more capricious. A debt-free balance sheet was one of the best guarantees that one might survive the crop failures which, as subsequent generations have found out, can pile one on top of the other. But it was Clarence Fines who took this prairie ethic and turned it into an enduring feature of the CCF-NDP (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party) governments.

After the Saskatchewan bond sale, the government — the CCF government of the day in 1944 — set aside 10 per cent of each year's budget to pay off the provincial debt, and paid it off in 16 years. They balanced virtually every budget — a legacy of financial prudence and acumen which survived until the 1980s.

I met Clarence Fines only once, when he returned to Regina, being honoured by a building named after him. On that occasion I was fascinated by him and he lived up to his reputation, knew the people that worked in the government and offered quite an insight. There is little doubt that Clarence Fines had a special genius for administration and financial

matters, but he was also a great humanitarian in a way that is unknown and forgotten today.

The Premier mentioned that Clarence Fines was on the city council from '34 to 1939 and from '42 to '44. While on city council, he exhibited his humanitarian side. He was instrumental in providing glasses for relief recipients and having relief paid in cash rather than vouchers.

He also sought to introduce to the Regina City Council a degree of electoral reform. He introduced a motion to allow civic employees to be politically active, which was carried unanimously. He brought about a change in civic voting from Monday — a day in which women were traditionally busy with washday — to Wednesday, which was a half-holiday, in the belief that more would vote on a Wednesday. He initiated the enumeration of civic voters, which was previously restricted to property owners only.

(1515)

He endeavoured to get the city to avoid long-term loans and years of interest payments. As he did later as a provincial treasurer, he advocated a pay-as-you-go policy. He also helped people in an individual way. Legion are the people to whom he provided loans, the students he helped, and the community groups which he had loaned money to or helped.

He produced some memoirs which unfortunately have never been published. It is a shame. The senior public . . . I said earlier that they had established a public service which was as competent as any in Canada. After 1964 with the change of government, many of the public servants who had been senior here went to Ottawa again as senior public servants. Most of them spoke of Clarence Fines, most of the ones I met, spoke of Clarence Fines with a kind of reverence.

In his unpublished memoirs he described the difficulty of taking a province from near bankruptcy to a province which was able to support a comprehensive array of social programs.

He wrote the following words, Mr. Speaker:

During the period of planning, renovating, remodelling, and reconstructing the political framework of our province, there was plenty of sweat on the faces of my colleagues and the legions of unselfish and devoted workers steadfast in their faith and unstinting in their health. We believed in our cause, and our confidence in it was never shaken. One of the fundamental truths I have learned from my father was that one must face trouble with courage, disappointment with spirits, and triumph with humility.

The legacy of Clarence Fines is not just a fiscal prudence. More, it is that Clarence Fines and others like him enabled Saskatchewan to continue as a province of hope, a province which could undergo the most acute and difficult challenge and rebound

from these hard times and meet the future with confidence.

I would like to join my colleagues in expressing sympathy to his family and to express the thought that it is the province and the public of Saskatchewan who have benefited from the life and the work of this extraordinary son of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to join in the comments regarding the passing of Mr. Clarence Fines. I'd like to join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing my sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Clarence Fines. Mr. Fines's lengthy career in public life, including his work as an educator, a municipal politician, and provincial representative are a major accomplishment and reason for pride.

I have heard that Mr. Fines is the last surviving member of the cabinet of Tommy Douglas, which makes Mr. Fines's passing even more noteworthy as it marks the end of an era for that party.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, I offer my condolences to all who knew and loved Mr. Fines.

Mr. Kujawa: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to express my condolences on behalf of the passing of Clarence Fines. But even more than that, I want to express my appreciation, not for his passing, but for his life and the contributions that he made to our lives. I, unlike most of you here, am old enough to have actually met him and known him a little bit in person. That's one of the reasons I rise here today.

I'm not going to go into details which have already been covered. I want to tell one little story of how I noticed a connection between his day and the days that followed. I happened to get into a law office where I was with a man already mentioned, Mr. Blakeney. I was not involved in politics but we were in the same law office, so I was interested in the fact that he was running for the first time for government.

He told me — and this is something that I wouldn't understand until I was told — that if he could get the nomination, the election itself was a cinch. But he was afraid that he couldn't get the nomination by the party because he was not well known, and everyone wanted a cinch seat.

So we all attended at the Trianon, which was a dance hall, but that's where the nomination convention was held, to watch the goings-on. And as my friend or partner — or both, I hope — was wondering if he could hang in there and get nominated, a surprise person got up on the stage. It was Clarence Fines. No one knew he was going to be there. He was introduced. He said that since you all know that I'm resigning and so many have been kind enough to ask who is going to replace me, he says, tonight I take great pleasure in introducing to you not the fellow who will replace me, but the fellow who will surpass

me — Allan E. Blakeney.

That kind of brought down the house for about five minutes, and also brought down Blakeney's opposition. He got nominated quickly, he got elected, and he did fairly well, as we all know. I am happy that I knew these people. I want to know more people like them. I appreciate his life more than I worry about the passing, because that happens to us all. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my honour today to rise and join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and the many other colleagues in the legislature today to honour the memory of Clarence Fines and to express our condolences to Mr. Fines's widow, Lilian, their children Howard and Murray, and the five grandchildren.

Mr. Fines, in addition to representing the city of Regina from 1944 to 1960, sat in the first legislature of the Douglas government with my grandmother, Beatrice Trew, who had been elected from Maple Creek. And as a result, I got a few of the Clarence Fines stories over the years. I'm not going to bore the legislature with any of those particular stories, but I do want to pay tribute, as my colleague the member for Regina Albert South did, to what Mr. Fines accomplished during his lifetime.

He was the first socialist treasurer to work what seemed like magic, but of course we all know it wasn't magic. Clarence Fines was using solid economic principles to lay a solid foundation for our Saskatchewan future.

He was instrumental and even an integral part of the great socialist experiment that started in the early '40s, one would argue, with the election of the Douglas government in June of 1944. And as the Premier stated — we wrote our speeches quite separately, I can assure you, but I have in my notes — Clarence Fines was a giant among larger-than-life people. A giant amongst larger-than-life people. I meant it when I wrote it and I certainly mean it as I say it now.

While he was minister responsible for SGI in the '70s, Ed Whelan was responsible to name the new SGI head office tower the C.M. Fines Building, and indeed there was a name plaque put up on the outside of the building to honour Clarence Fines. That plaque mysteriously disappeared halfway through the past decade and it was to the consternation and annoyance to a great many of us.

I was so annoyed that I started sending my driver's licence and vehicle registration by mail addressed to SGI, C.M. Fines Building, Regina. End of the address.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that I believe the people at Canada Post, the working people there and certainly the people who worked in that SGI head office building, appreciated the sentiment of what I was doing so much that the turnaround time for my

renewals wasn't the usual seven days but it was a record two days, and that happened three years running. I look forward to that problem about a decade ago now being replaced . . . being corrected and the C.M. Fines sign going back up on the SGI building.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by expressing my sincere condolences on Clarence Fines's passing, but also my gratitude to Clarence Fines's family and many friends for sharing Mr. Fines with my province. Saskatchewan is to this day a kinder, gentler, more compassionate place to live because of the intelligence and the compassion and the larger-than-life actions of Mr. Clarence Fines.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the conclusion of my remarks I will have a motion of regret noting the passing of a former member of this Assembly, the late Hjalmar Reinhold Dahlman, or Ray Dahlman as those of us who knew him called him.

Mr. Speaker, Hjalmar Reinhold Dahlman, who died at Saskatoon, on October 7, 1993, was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Bengough from 1960 until 1964.

Mr. Dahlman was born on June 3, 1909 near Estevan at the family homestead. He received his education at local schools and worked on the family farm before establishing a farm of his own near Readlyn.

Mr. Dahlman ran successfully in 1934 as a member of the Hepworth School Board. He continued as a member of the board for the next 11 years, including six terms as chair. Between 1945 and 1951, Mr. Dahlman served as a member of the Assiniboia School Unit Board. He became a member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 1944 and was a regular Pool delegate for his district during his farming years.

In 1951 Mr. Dahlman went to Sweden to study the cooperative movement. He had already by that time of course become very involved in the principles of the cooperative movement and particularly involved in the organization of the Cooperative Federation and he had already served at the local co-op board of directors and on the board of the directors from 1943 to 1956. During that period Mr. Dahlman served four terms as the president of his local co-op. In 1959 he took the position as district public relations officer for Federated Co-operatives Ltd.

Now obviously this kind of a background demonstrates traits of a person whose commitment to the community and grass roots and principles of cooperation were very, very deep. He was imbued with cooperation both as a mechanism but as an ideology, a way of life and philosophy. His leadership at the community level, as I have indicated in my opening remarks, was also very demonstrable, very proven.

(1530)

Because of these principles and his activity, Mr. Dahlman was approached personally by Tommy Douglas and asked to run in the 1960 provincial election for the CCF. And he did so and he was elected to this Legislative Assembly that year to represent the constituency of Bengough. He also was a candidate in the 1964 provincial general election, unsuccessfully.

He was later involved in his local credit union and volunteered his time to various organizations and to his church, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to the province and to the community, which preceded his election to this Chamber and continued throughout his entire life.

He was, like C.M. Fines, the other person whom we have honoured here and remembered today, an original member of the CCF and of the co-op movement.

Again, Mr. Speaker, without belabouring this point, these were a collection of men and women in that period, occasioned and conditioned by the circumstances of the Great Depression, and as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, occasioned subsequently and conditioned by the great Second World War, men and women who believed that there was a better way in which to organize society, a way in which the guiding tenets and principles would be those of cooperation, as opposed to confrontation; the pursuit of consensus, the pursuit of building a more secure, better province with a stronger quality of life.

And when one sees and notes the passing of people like Mr. Dahlman and C.M. Fines, the passing physically of the men and women of this era, I personally can't help but marvel at the tenacity and the conviction, the beliefs that these people had during very difficult times. And I can't help but marvel as to what it was that brought together an almost once-in-a-lifetime gathering of men and women who established a political party, who developed the cooperative movement, and in doing so, transformed this province, mainly for the better.

It should be noted that Mr. Dahlman was elected during the medicare debate. That was in 1960 when Mr. Dahlman ran. Like the Leader of the Opposition, I was a little bit too young to remember the details of that debate, but I do recall the central issue being whether or not there would be something called socialized medicine, as it was described.

Medicare had been on the agenda of the CCF since 1944 and earlier, but it wasn't until 1960 that the government of the day felt that it had the financial capacity and the ability to actually deliver on this promise. And of course that was a heated election campaign.

The Douglas government was returned to office; Mr. Dahlman was elected to office as part of that team, and as part of that team they went through the most tumultuous period probably in our history — the

establishment of medicare in 1962.

This was a period which was occasioned by very passionate opinions held on all sides of the fence but basically both sides. The doctors' strike in 1962, the Keep Our Doctors committee and the rallies — these cleaved, these polarized our society. These debates spilled over to the Chamber, where they were conducted with high intellectual content and high passion, as we in the province of Saskatchewan were fashioning something which turned out to be initially a Saskatchewan experiment, but has turned out to be now something which defines us as Canadians. And it was right here in this Chamber, by the CCF and by people like Mr. Dahlman and others.

He continued to be a fervent supporter of medicare and health care, also carrying his views forward on larger school units and the organization of education, in order to provide the best quality of education for the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Dahlman remained very involved in the politics of the province throughout his entire life, whether in this Chamber or outside the Chamber, but he often lightened the halls of the Legislative Building with a wonderful sense of humour and an infectious laugh — something which I think we all miss and need a little bit, not only in this Chamber but in our day-to-day lives.

In 1992 he attended his last political function, the Saskatchewan NDP provincial convention. And after that convention he spoke with his daughter — who I happen to know on a basis which is political; she serves on my constituency organization in my constituency of Saskatoon Riversdale — and expressed the belief that the province would be on the right track if we maintained the principles of community and cooperation and compassion. That we'd be on the right track, regardless of ideology and political persuasion, if we kept those ideals and those goals at the forefront.

Mr. Dahlman will be long remembered for his commitment to Saskatchewan and his tireless involvement to the political process and to the cooperative movement. He was supported throughout by his wife Myrtle, who shared his lifelong interest and activism in politics. He is survived by seven daughters — including Marlene Watson, a member of my executive — and one son.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

And, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded again by the Leader of the Official Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution that he made to his community, his constituency and the province.

Hjalmar Reinhold Dahlman, who died at Saskatoon on October 7, 1993 was a member of this Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Bengough from 1960 until 1964. Mr. Dahlman was born on June 3, 1909 near Estevan at the family homestead. He received his education at local schools and worked on the family farm before establishing a farm of his own near Readlyn.

Mr. Dahlman ran successfully in 1934 as a member of the Hepworth School Board. He continued as a member of the board for the next 11 years, including six terms as chair. Between 1945 and 1951, Mr. Dahlman served as a member of the Assiniboia School Unit Board. He became a member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 1944 and was a regular Pool delegate for his district during his farming years.

In 1951, Mr. Dahlman went to Sweden to study the co-operative movement. He had already been involved in the organization of the Co-operative Federation and served as a member of the Readlyn co-op board of directors from 1943 until 1956. During that period Mr. Dahlman served four terms as the co-op's president. In 1959, he took a position as district public relations officer for Federated Co-op. Mr. Dahlman was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1960 to represent the Bengough constituency. He was a candidate in subsequent provincial general elections. Mr. Dahlman was later involved in his local credit union and volunteered his time to various community organizations.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

Mr. Swenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today on behalf of the official opposition to pay homage to Mr. Hjalmar Dahlman. As the Premier said, an individual who made a contribution to our province through his work in the cooperative movement; a person who I think probably had a true sense and love for the land.

I used to play a good deal of baseball, Mr. Speaker, in the area that Mr. Dahlman farmed in, places like Viceroy and Verwood and Oro Lake and Crane Valley, which are all around there. And I can tell you that some of that isn't the best farm land in the world, that you had to be dedicated, you had to love the land in order to make it produce and believe in it.

And Mr. Dahlman's career both in agriculture, through things like the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and the local co-op, tells me that he did have a deep sense of land, of making a contribution in a very

difficult place. And I am sure that if I had had the privilege of listening to his speeches in this Legislative Assembly that they would have been about many of those fundamentals that so many of us have for a background.

It always seemed to be, being a fellow Scandinavian or a person of Scandinavian descent, Mr. Speaker, that people from that part of Europe always tried to pick the stoniest and hilliest piece of land in Saskatchewan upon which to make a living. And a great number of them also had developed the same types of political persuasions that Mr. Dahlman had, so I guess I've always wondered what happened in my case, Mr. Speaker.

But anyway, I can appreciate the endeavour and the effort that Mr. Dahlman made to building this province. And anyone that's had the opportunity to serve in this Legislative Assembly and contribute as Mr. Dahlman did during, as the Premier said, some very controversial years, is someone that we should take the time to honour.

And I'd like to officially join with the Premier in seconding the motion to express our most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. And it has been an honour for me, on behalf of the official opposition, to take part in paying respect to Mr. Hjalmar Dahlman.

Ms. Bradley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also honoured to rise this afternoon to say a few words to add to the condolence motion presented by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition about the member, Ray Dahlman, who preceded me in representing the people I now represent in Bengough-Milestone for a party of which I am a member.

I didn't know Ray Dahlman personally but in reading his biography feel that I know much about him and the things that motivated him because I suspect they are similar to what motivates many of us. I also feel a great deal of admiration and respect for a man who clearly defined his goals for creating a better tomorrow for his family, his constituents, and the province.

As was said, Ray Dahlman was born in 1909, four years after Saskatchewan was made a province. He was born on the family homestead near Estevan. So his story is very much the story of pioneer Saskatchewan which he helped create, the foundation on which we are still building today. He was raised on the family farm and established a farm of his own at Readlyn after being educated at local schools. He became a family man with eight children.

Because of his interest in the province and his family, Mr. Dahlman became active in the life of his community, as so many of our ancestors did. Education was a great, dominating factor throughout Ray Dahlman's life. He saw the school unit plan as an immense stride forward in rural education. He served on school boards of Hepworth and Assiniboia for 17 years, many of them as chairperson, and many of

those years coming during the depression and war, a difficult time to administer anything.

He was also involved in many of the organizations that have shaped the character of Saskatchewan — Wheat Pool member and delegate; student of the cooperative movement. As was said, he went to Sweden in 1951 to study the co-op movement. Member of the local co-op board; employee of Federated Co-op; member of the local credit union; and an active member of many community organizations.

As I mentioned earlier, in many ways his life reflects the life of our province. And from the beginning of our movement he was a tireless worker for the CCF. We should remember that in the beginning, identifying yourself with the CCF was often done at great risk to one's position in the community. A great amount of courage and commitment were necessary. Clarence Fines knew that; Ray Dahlman undoubtedly knew that.

(1545)

And finally, perhaps most importantly, Ray Dahlman served as the member of the Assembly in the legislature that ushered medicare into North America. He was there. He took part in this monumental accomplishment. And although we can't say this for sure, the fact that he served only one term is probably attributable to his government's courageous stand in the face of incredible resistance.

I feel many of us here today in this Assembly, upon reflection, can relate to the challenges Ray Dahlman was facing, whether it be fiscal restraints, agriculture, education, or health care, when he served the people of Saskatchewan. His example challenges us to meet the tasks ahead with strength, courage, and integrity. His was a public life well lived, and I'm sure a private life full of satisfaction.

His many family members were with him at the end, and I offer them my own condolences and my thanks to Ray Dahlman for a well-marked path of public service.

Mr. Pringle: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is also my honour to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to pay tribute and bring condolences to the family of Ray — or Bud — Reinhold Dahlman.

Mr. Dahlman, as you will know, Mr. Speaker, lived on Brown Crescent for 10 years before his death and you were his member for a number of years and I know had a personal relationship with him and had a high regard for him, as I do, as I did. And his daughter, Deanna, lives in Eastview now and so I know the family quite well.

He and his wife, as the Premier and others have said, they were proud to be pioneers for our movement and we were proud that Ray continued to have confidence in us and support until the day that he died. As has

been mentioned — I'll try not to repeat some of the comments that were mentioned — but as has been mentioned, he was 84, predeceased by his wife, married a second time, and also his second wife predeceased him.

He was a proud farmer, as has been indicated, born in Estevan, which is near my home town of Carnduff and homesteaded in Readlyn as was mentioned and, of course, the representative of Bengough constituency during the medicare crisis. And I'm advised by his family that he was strongly committed to a comprehensive, affordable, accessible health care and that the ability to receive health care should not be based on your income; it should be accessible to all people. So he was involved with a lot of courage during that period of time and worked very hard for the CCF with Tommy Douglas and that team.

As has been mentioned by other speakers, he worked very hard in the co-op movement, the Wheat Pool, of course elected a number of times to the school board, and was an active member of the United Church. Myrtle also ran for us, I understand, and was not successful, but this demonstrated that the entire family was committed to their philosophy and lived in that way.

Ray did mention to me that at the 1992 convention that the Premier spoke of, that he was very impressed with the Premier's speech and felt that the province was, as he said, in good hands. All in all the Dahlmans raised eight children and the family farm is still farmed by one of Ray's sons. In fact Ray farmed alongside of him to some degree until 1992. So he was active until the end.

So, Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and friends here to thank the family for their contribution, because in public life all family members make a significant sacrifice, certainly the Dahlmans, and Mr. Dahlman lived a good life. Those who knew him, like yourself and myself and others, are proud of that association. We certainly are appreciative that our children are benefiting from the kind of health care system, education system, and other community initiatives that he was involved in to make this a better place and a better province.

So in closing, I would just say that he made the province a better place. I hope that we could all say that at some point. And in many ways we're at another time of renewal, much like the period in which he and the former CCF government were in. This is a time for opportunity and reform and we can identify with what it must have been like.

So our best to the children and we wish them all the best of health and peace for the future.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Morse:

That Mr. Speaker transmit the transcript of the

condolence debates to the bereaved families.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured that the Premier has chosen me to move the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne. I share this honour with the members from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, Meadow Lake, Cut Knife-Lloydminster, who have led off the debates in the first three sessions of the 22nd legislature. They've set the standard and put their marks pretty high on the tree, but I hope I can reach them.

I can begin, Mr. Speaker, by affirming what they've each said to you at the beginning of their remarks. Yours is not an easy job maintaining order in an inherently disorderly House. And we appreciate it.

And I'm also happy to welcome the new member from Regina North West to the Assembly. It was a hard-fought, cold, but not cold-hearted campaign. And I believe you will find life in these halls exciting, challenging, and thought-provoking. And I think you could even consider that an understatement.

I want to interrupt my comments at this point, Mr. Speaker, and ask leave of the Assembly to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Crofford: — I'm pretty excited because here I was sitting and I looked up and there are two old friends, Mary and Graham Riches, formerly of Regina Lake Centre but now living in North Queensland, Australia. Mary is an artist, a painter, and an activist; and Graham, who is currently at James Cook University, is noted internationally as an authority on social policy and is more nationally known for his work in the area of child hunger and with the Regina Food Bank.

Graham was my mentor in social policy, so those of you who I pursue in caucus with these issues, you'll have to hold Graham responsible. And those of you who enjoy my presence in the legislature will have to hold him responsible for that too because he nominated me at my nominating convention.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — And I'm going to sit for a moment because I know that another member wants to also recognize our guests.

The Speaker: — The member should not do that before another member does not stand. Otherwise she may lose her . . . I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview-Haultain.

Hon. Mr. Pringle: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. I just wanted to welcome Graham and Mary as well. I was quite surprised and pleased to see them too. I have been in the social work field, with Graham particularly, for many, many years, and we've been on a number of social policy committees together. And it's a real thrill to see him back.

He certainly has, as the member said, has certainly distinguished himself not only nationally, but now internationally in the social policy field. And many, many times I've called over the years, Graham, and always appreciated his sound advice. And certainly in my portfolio now as Minister of Social Services I've been rereading his speeches and his books on hunger and poverty and food banks and I look forward to having a chat with him before they go back. So thank you very much, and welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — To also welcome guests.

The Speaker: — Leave granted. The member may proceed.

Ms. Hamilton: — I would also like to say a quick welcome to Graham and Mary. During my time on city council it was the work of Graham and others who were active in the community who highlighted to the members of city council the needs of so many children that were living in hunger and poverty in the city. And from that followed an inquiry on children's hunger in the city and much good work that has followed.

And I really appreciate the work that was done and the many lives that Graham has touched during his time in Regina and welcome them back to the city and look forward to seeing them if I have an opportunity. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1600)

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

(continued)

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to say at the beginning how proud I am to represent the people of Regina Lake Centre. It straddles the mighty Wascana and it straddles the professions in the mosaic of our province.

What I enjoy most about the people in my constituency is that they are among the most socially

and politically active people in the province. It's not always easy representing activists because they expect with reason and passion that their agendas will be accomplished yesterday. But it is even harder I think to represent people who don't care. So like other members who have opened the throne speech debate this term I share the honour with my constituents.

Speaking in support of this throne speech is one of the easiest things I'll ever have to do. There is no need for the verbal gyrations and linguistic gymnastics the Tories used to have to go through to disguise the nature of their agenda.

I don't have to put a good face on GigaText or try to draw a picture of what water would look like behind Rafferty.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — Most of all I don't have to try to explain why bankruptcy is bad for an individual but good for a province.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I've always believed that simple words explaining straight ideas and programs is the best way to go. Simple, open words to comment on a clear, profound document which reaffirms the direction of this government as it hits the mid-point of its first term. A government committed, as the throne speech says, to economic and social justice and an abiding faith in the power of community and cooperation to achieve them.

I want to frame my remarks within the ongoing public discussion about the role and the nature of government in today's society. This throne speech reflects one of the most fundamental reasons I ran for election — to bring government closer to people. It was a very simple cause, and I sometimes remind people that that was all I said I was going to do when I got elected.

We hear lots of terms being bandied about these days — old and new politics, open and closed government, accountability. And I think it's time we cut through some of the jargon and begin to examine exactly what we believe to be our purpose. What do we mean when we talk about renewal? And when I say we, I include us all — elected officials, journalists, civil servants, academics, and all members of the public. Because to make government work we all have to play a part, because together we're the government.

First, I think we can agree in the abstract that government is neither good nor evil; it's simply a tool, like a hammer. A hammer can be used to tear down a barn or build one, and it's what you do with it that matters.

In the 1980s it was fashionable in some quarters to say that government was not the solution; government was the problem. We had the actor, Ronald Reagan, who believed

this to be the case, and he had some parrots on both sides of the border. And it always struck me as strange that those who believed government is the enemy would want to be in charge of it, but that was the case. And we're still living with the consequences on both sides of the border.

I have always believed and my party believes that government is the tool of people, that it is used to reach goals an individual cannot reach alone — a useful tool, if used properly; a dangerous and even destructive one if used carelessly or maliciously or without respect.

It's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that prior to 1991 the public perception was that the tool had gone berserk over the past few years, and the hammer was indeed swinging the carpenter.

What went wrong? Basically I think the province changed dramatically while the government stood still. Society moved smartly towards the new millennium while those in government operated by yesterday's rules. And I'll look back briefly, just for the sake of emphasizing the direction of change that's taking place.

People wanted more open government, but they got the reverse. Instead of open discussion of budget and legislation, they got deficit by special warrant, policy decisions by cabinet decree, and investment decisions by secret handshakes.

People wanted smaller, less cumbersome, more efficient, more responsive government — government that reflects the reality of the time. In Saskatchewan they got bloated cabinets, unnecessary legislative secretaries, and hidden political operatives. The people asked for fair taxation and got a continuation of tax breaks for the well-to-do. They asked for realistic job creation projects, and instead got megaprojects with no long-term benefits. They asked for responsible stewardship of the public purse, and instead got programs that bribed them with their own money.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan asked for new politics and were repeatedly shown the old. Is it any wonder then that the Roy Romanow government has not only had to face horrendous financial . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order, order. Order, order. I think the member realizes she may not refer to members by their surname or Christian names but by their constituency or the position they hold in the government.

Ms. Crofford: — Is it any wonder then that the Premier has not only had to face the horrendous financial situation that we inherited, and a good opportunity to repeat that, but it must also deal with the real crisis of confidence.

This second problem is in many ways more serious than the first — how to restore confidence in government and how to bring about the renewal of Saskatchewan; how to involve people in being part of the solution. These are the questions we are trying to

answer and these are the questions this throne speech addresses. These are the challenges we've struggled with from the beginning, and Mr. Speaker, I believe we're coming up with the answers.

We're indeed on a journey of renewal. Let me talk about some specific examples. First, we have made a first step towards restoring public confidence in government by restoring financial integrity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — We have changed from a time when Saskatchewan was burdened with \$1 billion of new debt every year to being only one budget away from balancing the books, which is remarkable in its own right.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — We can do little that needs to be done and meet few of people's needs if we continue to spend \$2 million daily on the interest on our debt. The Premier, the Minister of Finance, and Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor have all spoken eloquently on the fact that financial integrity is not the end but the means to an end.

The Minister of Highways likes to quote Harry Truman who said: "Any fool can kick down a barn, it takes a carpenter to build one."

Unlike some other governments who are also dealing with large deficits we have made our adjustments carefully, making sure that the most vulnerable in the province will not be left with nothing but a bus ticket to elsewhere.

Child hunger is a serious enough indictment on all of us. We need not make it worse under the guise of responsibility.

So we are building a smaller, more efficient barn, not kicking down the old one, and we're building it with the knowledge and cooperation of people, not the reverse. Alberta's slash and burn approach is not ours. And that, I believe, is a dramatic example of new politics.

Mr. Speaker, this throne speech talks about the family. It mentions that 1994 has been declared the International Year of the Family and I'm proud to be part of the government that's doing its best to put substance behind this declaration.

One of the silliest aspects of the recent U.S. (United States) presidential election was the fight to establish who best represented family values — Murphy Brown or Dan Quayle. That kind of posturing we can do without. Families are too important.

The throne speech announces the action plan for children and the children's advocate in the Ombudsman's office. Among other things, these initiatives will take more control away from central government bureaucracy and put it closer to those

affected — more openness, more collaboration, new politics, and new ways of working together.

But I want to point out one other fact about family and how this throne speech reflects this government's determination to better the quality of life for family and individuals. Notice that in the speech there's two announcements concerning labour legislation, these announcements coming in the family section. That is not a mistake, Mr. Speaker. The announcements concerning changes to The Labour Standards Act and to The Trade Union Act are exactly where they should be.

It is the function of government to provide the best possible atmosphere in which families can make their own decisions. Government should not dictate quality of life; it should nurture it. Quality of life includes the workplace. Anyone here who has ever worked in a less than congenial setting will know exactly what I mean. Anyone who's worked under less than acceptable conditions will know that what you do at work follows you home. An unsafe, stressful work environment easily leads to stressful home situations or sometimes worse.

Last year we introduced changes to the occupational health and safety regulations and The Workers' Compensation Act for exactly the same reason. The members of both parties opposite are on public record saying that workers work at the pleasure of the employer, that they should have few rights, that occupational health and safety are frills, that workers' compensation does not belong to the worker. And they seem to believe that anyone should be happy just to have any job, that desiring a safe, stress-free environment with adequate wages and hours of work is somehow dangerously radical, that how you spend eight hours of your day has no effect on the other sixteen, not even recognizing what workplace stress does to productivity and profits. I don't believe that and the New Democratic Party does not believe that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — And, Mr. Speaker, these changes too are coming about as a result of intense public consultation with all affected parties. I acknowledge the sage Eisler's point that the Minister of Labour has given himself a near-impossible task, that he has tried to mix oil and water in an effort to achieve consensus, and that ultimately Marx may be finally proven right and labour and management cannot agree.

But which would you have? The dictatorship of the closet as practised by the previous administration, repressive labour legislation by fiat, or the painstakingly slow, collaborative, consultative process which begins with the belief that those in the game should have some say in the rules?

We've chosen the latter course because we don't view confrontation as inevitable, only as a last resort.

I grant you, Mr. Speaker, there have been some

great labour struggles in the past and there have been some great songs — I still remember quite a few of them — and stories that have come out of those struggles. But it seems to me very Canadian that we sacrifice a little drama for a little peace.

As Her Honour said, we are celebrating two 50th anniversaries. In its first throne speech on October 19, 1944, the government of Tommy Douglas said the following:

To enhance the security . . . of the working population, my government will bring in legislation designed to afford them greater protection against exploitation . . . Acting on the principle that workers of this province are entitled to some amenities of life . . . these are but the first of a series of Bills to be introduced by the government directed towards giving Saskatchewan the most advanced labour legislation in the Dominion of Canada.

The result of these actions was a high standard of living for all our residents, a democratic economy, and a level playing-field where big business had to follow the same rules as small business.

Mr. Speaker, these Bills are a continuation of that pledge to give Saskatchewan the most advanced labour and family legislation in the Dominion of Canada. Talking about family and work as one subject is an approach to integrating policy decisions of government. And as we move fully ahead with integrated approaches, I wanted to use health reform for an example.

We're coming to recognize in Canada, and certainly in Saskatchewan, that there are strong links in relationships between economic activities and the multiplicity of social and educational activities. The two sets of activities are so closely related in the behaviour of people that they have the possibility either of being mutually supportive or they can be mutually destructive, leading to ill health for individuals and a poor economy for the society.

In order to achieve this integration requires a common and accepted set of social and economic goals. In our reforms in Saskatchewan we're anxious to address the determinants of health rather than continuing to focus upon the symptoms of ill health. Over time we've allowed the formation of a very huge and costly health industry which now making only a marginal improvement to the real health status of all of us.

In Saskatchewan our concerns include, but are not limited to, poverty, unemployment, environment, housing, and education. As you can see, responsibility for these issues does not normally rest in a single department or even within the public sector. These are the special policy and practice challenges today. These are the challenges that require community-based and partnership approaches.

And, Mr. Speaker, the wellness model and the Minister of Health are receiving recognition from around the world for the freshness and courage of this

second phase of medicare. For instance, the Pan American Health Organization said, "Saskatchewan's reforms could serve as an inspiration and impetus for change." And the director of health promotion for central Western Australia said, "Saskatchewan is about a generation ahead in reorienting the health system to a more balanced response."

Mr. Speaker, any change is difficult. Every birth is painful and every adjustment causes some anxiety. But changes are needed to keep the system relevant today. And I will argue that these changes are not an idle exercise in democracy. It places real power in the hands of communities. It's a journey of renewal of spirit in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, at the mid-point of its first term, this government has much to be proud of. But if we had done nothing but move ahead on the wellness model, we could hold our heads high.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, there is much more to say about the throne speech, but fortunately I'm not going to say all of it. And I look forward to hearing what all members have to say. But I would like to start to end my comments by returning to where I began.

I'm proud to be part of this government for many reasons, but primarily because we are facing our responsibilities in both a practical and strategic way. We're playing with the hand we were dealt; the hand that says, you begin \$15 billion in the hole. And we are staying in the game when many would have folded long ago.

(1615)

The province is better prepared to meet the millennium than it was two years ago. It is certainly the first province in Canada that took the most immediate and positive action on our problems. And we are becoming the first to reap the benefits. I support the way we are changing government and the way people look at government.

We have restored responsible government — not whistles and bells, but good government — an old-fashioned idea and a durable idea and, I will note, an idea on which our government has historically delivered.

We are responding to people's desire to have more decisions rooted in communities. We're giving more ownership of programs and policies back to communities. We're being more flexible in our response to individual community needs. We are, in short, steadily increasing the level of democratic participation in the affairs of government.

We all have a hand on the hammer. The government is not holding it alone. And we're returning government to where it belongs, and I think this transition is exciting.

Things are changing in Saskatchewan and the changes are open, family and community centred, decentralized, and radical. When I reflect on my roots I remind myself that I'm part of a continuum that began 50 years ago with the first Douglas government.

I remember the stories of what that government accomplished against what odds. And I recognize those accomplishments began to take place at the same time as the final push towards the halt of tyranny as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

The only thing stronger than our sense of innovation is our capacity to be humble about our achievements. In Saskatchewan we are radical in a very polite and unassuming way.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this throne speech takes us one more step towards a cautious but exciting time in Saskatchewan. It points us toward the millennium, not backwards towards the 19th century, and it provides hope and direction.

And the main purpose of course of new politics is to achieve some new results. I want for a moment to blue-sky into Saskatchewan's future. We have a small population, a vast province, but lots of assets to build on. There have been many small nations that have competed successfully in world markets with less than we have. However when your resources are limited, strategic thinking becomes essential because you don't have the luxury of making mistakes. Therefore government has to be more competent and more strategic.

It was not true when the former premier said, Saskatchewan had so much going for it we can afford to mismanage it. Quite the opposite is true. We must carefully manage every resource and talent we possess and together apply all of our energies toward our collective success.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Crofford: — This province only succeeds if we all participate fully. The *Partnership for Renewal* identifies our key strengths — value-added agriculture, forestry, minerals, energy, tourism, information and communications. For example, through SaskTel and the visionary thinking of over a decade ago, the entire province is linked with fibre optics. In this we're miles ahead of places like Palo Alto in the Silicon Valley. And there are many similar examples throughout the whole landscape of Saskatchewan.

In order to capitalize on our resources we must have coordinated, long-term thinking. And this is why our government has moved quickly in the key areas of health, agriculture, economic development and finance to lay out documents and strategic action plans outlining a long-term vision for the future. The only way to succeed now is to get on-board with these documents, with this vision, and work with it — a basis to implement and innovate on as we move ahead.

In communities we are moving away from people talking only to governments and instead are creating vehicles for communities to discuss and build on their own strengths and dialogue with neighbouring towns and villages. Mechanisms such as district health boards, regional economic development authorities, child action plan, co-management areas, family service agreements with tribal councils — all of these are creating opportunities for communities to come together, identify their strengths, coordinate their activities, and move ahead with unity and confidence and full commitment to their plans.

Sometimes people come to me when they don't like their community decision. They want government to step in and fix it. But those days are passing. Our government instead wants to help communities to mobilize their ideas and energies in a strong local effort assisted by government.

And the new politics. This is the value added approach needed by provincial governments. Provincial governments must take broad federal initiatives and bring to them the perspective of provincial needs, and then tailor those to provincial circumstances which are strongly linked to community resources.

The challenge to politicians and civil servants is to get up to speed in dealing with these changes. It's no longer enough to plod from A to B and from B to C. Government must fully act as a collective expression of the will of people and this requires new attitudes and new skills. It requires moving beyond partnership to true synergy. It must be skilled in dealing openly, inclusively, and in a more participatory way.

And we won't get there overnight because old habits die hard. But I believe our government has created the long-term strategic plans, some of the community mechanisms, and a framework for these changes. As in any relationship there'll be give and take in the process. Sometime the community will get it right and the civil service and the politicians will be off track; some time government will get it right and the community will be off track. However, in those moments when we both get it right, it'll be a wonderful achievement for us all.

In competing in a global economy we must not forget the lessons our aboriginal friends have for us, for they have had many hard experiences. I don't know if you're familiar with the Cree medicine wheel, but it speaks to the need for balance in our lives. We need to attend to our physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs as individuals and as a society. Overdevelopment of any one part unbalances the entire system and leads to much of the social and economic illness we see in our society, the product of unbalanced distribution of opportunities and benefits in the four areas of healing.

So as we work to bring our society into balance, we need to keep these thoughts in mind and to bring balance into our own lives as legislators so that we can

recognize the full range of needs in our communities. Positive, innovative action now will get us ready for the difficult times ahead as our federal government struggles with the problems we have already tackled.

And we all have a part to play. The money markets, the shareholders, the banks, may have to consider lower profits and lower corporate compensation in order to retain jobs and consumer demand. Our universities and educational institutions will be called upon to provide leading edge research education and training. Journalists need to make more of an effort to provide the facts and not their selective colouration of the facts. Our young people are children of the information and computer age and they'll have to help us older folks get with it.

When times are difficult, which they may increasingly be, we will all have to work together building on our common needs and not take the weak road of finding scapegoats and taking political advantage of division. Employers and unions will need to work together to increase security while enhancing productivity.

As Michael Volpe, columnist for *The Globe and Mail* recently said of Canada's safety nets: it is easy to be compassionate in the midst of plenty; it's more difficult but more important when money is scarce.

Our government has recognized this and compassion is a constant theme that runs through all our financial and program decisions. But compassion alone isn't enough. We need to bring people back from the sidelines of UIC (Unemployment Insurance Commission) and welfare to being as far as possible welcome, participating, and productive members of our communities. That is our task, that is the community's task, and it's the task we embark on together. And I believe this is the direction and foundation laid out in the Speech from the Throne.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Biggar:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am

pleased to have the opportunity to second the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne. I wish to congratulate my colleague and member from Regina Lake Centre for moving the motion, for she has presented a valuable debate and given us all much food for thought.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what political affiliation members have, it is appropriate we take time to reflect upon our roles in this legislature. Through election we have been given the responsibility and the privilege to uphold and advance democracy in the province of Saskatchewan. We all have constituents whose interests we are bound to serve. We are not here for ourselves. We are here as representatives of the public. Our constituents have bestowed a trust upon us we must uphold. We are the link with the public and the government. If we are disheartened by distrust and lack of respect for politicians, then it is up to us to earn public trust and respect. What we say and how we behave in this Chamber can work to restore public faith in the political process, or it can serve to further entrench negative views.

Mr. Speaker, in this regard your role is certainly paramount. I know you take your responsibility to serve the public interest very seriously. And I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on the decorum and competency that you have brought to this office thus far in this legislature. Your job is not an easy one. But your steady hand and sense of fairness has always manoeuvred us through those stormy waters. Thank you for your part in restoring responsible government to the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — While I reflect upon the role of elected officials, it is impossible not to think of my own constituents in the riding of Biggar. Over the years I have gotten to know a great many of these people I serve, and I am pleased to call most of them my friends. Beyond all else, how we treat each other, the respect we show to one another is critical.

A model my party looks up to and a legend in his own time once said it best: The measure of a nation's greatness does not lie in its conquests or in its gross national product or in the size of its gold reserve or the height of its skyscrapers. The real measure of a nation is the quality of its natural life. What does it do for its least fortunate citizens, the opportunity it provides for its youth to live useful and meaningful lives. Equally important, what does it do to share its affluence with those people around the world who suffer from poverty and disease.

Those words of course are from the wisdom of Tommy Douglas when he addressed on May 28, 1976, the convocation of the University of Alberta.

They speak of a value that we will do well to keep in front of us as we make decisions in this building, but also as we live out the story of our daily lives. I am pleased that the people like Tommy Douglas have

gone before me in this legislature to set the standard and provide such a positive role model for all of us to follow.

Of course coming from the constituency of Biggar, I'm used to having representatives of such stature to follow. Out of the Biggar constituency we have been represented by cabinet ministers and even a premier. Woodrow Lloyd represented Biggar constituency for several years, including as premier from 1961 to 1964. Elwood Cowley, a cabinet minister under Blakeney, also came from this area. I'm both humbled and honoured to have the opportunity to follow such influential members of this Assembly.

I know I have big shoes to fill, but I appreciate the people of the Biggar constituency have given me the opportunity to represent them in this House. I've enjoyed the responsibility entrusted to me, and I will continue to do my best to ensure their views are heard and that their concerns are addressed.

And I'm also particularly pleased to be seconding the Speech from the Throne at this point in our mandate. I am delighted that the speech commits us to continuing the journey of renewal we embarked on in October of 1991, proud that that vision we announced in the first throne speech of the 22nd legislature is being carried on towards its successful completion.

(1630)

And, Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in being part of a party and a government which has a vision, which has a plan to implement that vision, and which has the courage to act on that plan. Former premier Allan Blakeney used to say that people may not always agree with what you do, but they'll never be surprised. Our Premier has said much the same thing many times. We have announced what we're doing. Judge us by whether or not we've succeeded, and we'll abide by that judgement.

We said we would first get the province's finances under control. And we have done it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — We have not used the slash-and-burn approach of other governments to put our house in order. We have not given another kick to those least able to defend themselves in order to provide themselves a financial responsibility, as the member from Regina Lake Centre pointed out.

We have said that health care must be protected and enhanced. And in the words of a nameless, faceless politician, we have said that medicare is a sacred trust, and unlike him, we have not betrayed that trust.

Hard choices, Mr. Speaker, we have made them. They may not be to everyone's liking. If they were they wouldn't have been hard. But when I hear the lack of alternative choices from the benches opposite, I'm more than ever convinced that our journey of renewal

is the right trip to take.

I want to emphasize this. This government took over this province and a government that was as close to collapse as it could get. We inherited a province that was nearly as land-locked as Newfoundland. We have changed that. We have changed the mentality that has allowed us to get into that mess, the mentality that says we can control nothing. We have to throw ourselves on the mercy of the big boys from outside the province, the ones who will take what they want from us and maybe leave a crumb or two.

We are wrenching control of our own destiny away from the banks and from the outsiders. We are putting ourselves in the position where we once again sink or swim on our own merits, not someone else's. We are slowly but surely climbing out of the sink-hole, one handhold at a time. It will take time but I assure you we will get there.

And what do I hear from the opposition? What are their reasoned alternatives to our policy, their thoughtful criticism of our programs? What is their considered option on changing the role of government in society and transition, a role very thoughtfully discussed by the member from Regina Lake Centre.

The response is simple. Our problems will be solved if we pay government workers lousy salaries; stiff the people who work for us and we will walk into the promised land. That is not an answer.

Mr. Speaker, this government's program is built on four pillars: fiscal integrity, health care, agriculture, and economic development. The member from Lake Centre talked about the first two. I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the others.

First, agriculture. As I turn to look to the future, Mr. Speaker, I'm encouraged by the changes I see taking place in agriculture. I refer to the recent Ag 2000 strategy, a road-map for the recovery of our agricultural sector. I realize change won't happen overnight. All change takes time; but change is still the fundamental drive of the positive things I see taking the shape for the agricultural sector.

And something else we must acknowledge, the Minister and the Department of Agriculture and Food have in the first time in several decades, publicly laid out a work plan for the next several years. By doing that they have as much as said to Saskatchewan farmers that there's something will be done to make a difference. This is not whistling in the wind, Mr. Speaker. If the department doesn't deliver on its work plan, they will catch the fallout.

I see education, Mr. Speaker — educating farmers and organizations about the options facing them for the '90s. I see resource sharing — sharing with farmers and organizations the expertise of our department staff. I see a new landscape starting to take place, Mr. Speaker. And I want to speak about that landscape and how it affects even my own area personally.

There's a road between my neighbour and myself that's about two and a half miles long. Ten years ago, every crop on that two and a half miles was wheat. Farmers adjusted to the times and saw that they needed to seek other opportunities. On that two and a half miles, Mr. Speaker, there are peas, there are lentils grown, there is canary seed, there is a new type of malt barley, there are new types of spring wheat being grown, there are lentils being grown, there is mustard being grown. And if you travelled another half mile you would find a field of canola.

To me that two and a half miles is an example of how agriculture has changed and how producers in this province have reacted to change in a positive manner and we see that now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — And that landscape, whose characteristics will be filled from the input of all the participants of re-creation . . . And that is the key of succeeding in this rough-and-tumble, rapidly changing technological world of today.

Sharing information, looking for alternatives to challenges facing us in the global trading market; looking for other alternatives at home to create local provincial marketing strategies — one that would allow us to be competitive in a larger market-place.

For we would be terribly ill-advised to only concentrate on the bigger, global picture and ignoring what we could accomplish at home. That's why the Ag 2000 strategy gives us the opportunity to achieve. The technology that is an example of that, Mr. Speaker, is in the area of direct seeding and zero-till.

We are leading North America, we are leading the world, in this technology with such industries as Bourgault and Flexi-Coil providing the technology for farmers. And farmers are taking up that technology and using it successfully.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — And there are no politics involved when it comes to the technology. I know for a fact that the member from Kindersley is actively involved in the area of soil conservation also, and has been dealing with the area of direct seeding and zero till, and understands the importance of these issues.

Let us take it back to our destinies, let us make decisions about what we can do to turn the industry around. It gives us the control we need to reach out to our goals. It also, Mr. Speaker, allows us to dream again, to hope for the future of agriculture in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the key word in everything we're doing is cooperation, a word that's very dear to my heart. We're not acting unilaterally, but in concert. We recognize that no single entity has ever . . . or even half the answers. So we are working with communities,

with individuals, and with businesses to rebuild Saskatchewan — and it's working. Our *Partnership for Renewal* is giving Saskatchewan a realistic, comprehensive and attainable plan for economic growth.

It is realistic because it focuses on home-grown business opportunities. Our emphasis is not megaprojects, but rather on community development, small and medium businesses and individual enterprise. We are doing what we can to streamline opportunity, to eliminate red tape, to establish a single-window approach to government assistance. This throne speech contains those efforts, which it's pledged to increase cooperation with federal and municipal governments, to streamline business support for services. We will be promoting future endeavours of the regional economic development agencies, a cornerstone of economic development, because they know what their regions need, and they know how to promote themselves.

We recognize, Mr. Speaker, that small business is the driving force in the Saskatchewan economy. Small business comprises 93 per cent of the total number of non-agricultural firms and provides one-third of Saskatchewan's employed labour force.

And the good news, Mr. Speaker — our efforts are paying off. Drilling activity is on the increase, tourist inquiries have grown to record levels, manufacturing shipments are growing, retail sales are up, and we still have the lowest unemployment rate in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — Mr. Speaker, our economic development plan is working because it's modest, because it's practical, because it's built on our strengths and our natural advantages. Our emphasis is biotechnology, food processing, tourism, northern mining and development. We are not depending on outsiders. We certainly had enough of megaprojects. Slow, sure, cautious, unspeculative development.

And as my colleague from Regina Lake Centre said, much of the emphasis on economic development is on the quality of that development — not just jobs but fair, decent jobs. Not just progress but progress that enhanced the quality of life, not lessens it. Building, but not building up that tears down the environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — We want to leave something to our children except debt. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this throne speech. I expect even to be more pleased with the Minister of Finance's budget in a few short days.

I want to point out the obvious because it might be so obvious as to be missed by our crusading watchdogs of the press. Both the throne speech and the budget are coming long before the beginning of the new fiscal year which begins April 1. We are starting early to

provide the necessary time for debate, analysis, and we are starting prepared. I can remember June budgets, Mr. Speaker . . .

An Hon. Member: — No budget, none at all.

Mr. Whitmore: — Exactly, even no budgets, Mr. Speaker. I believe our timeliness is one more example of our determination to restore integrity in government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — Mr. Speaker, in general I would not call myself a wildly optimistic person. I'm not given to flights of fancy. I'm a farmer with, I think, a farmer's sense of practicality, a sense of realism that comes from being a primary producer dependent on so much beyond my control. I hope for the best and expect the worst and plan accordingly. But my constant battle with the elements has not erased an idealistic vein that I picked up over the years.

I come from Woodrow's place. I remember once, when he retired once from active political life, he went on to work for the United Nations rather than rest on his many, well-deserved laurels. Like all of us I've been touched by Tommy, who gave probably his most inspired speech of his life in Regina when he was far too sick to be anywhere. Like anyone with deep roots in Saskatchewan, I've been touched by the stories of our pioneers who endured much and achieved because they have had the dream of the better life in the new land. Like us all who study the history of our province, I have been inspired by accounts of the great Indian chiefs and their leaderships, the Poundmakers, the Big Bears.

Our recorded history may be brief but it's an inspiring story. Inspiring because we have had and still have a chance to build a society based on the best in our tradition. We have done much but there's much more left to do. I believe that exercising this Saskatchewan mixture of practicality and idealism will create not a model society, but something moving close to it. By a slow, sensible, measured, cooperative plan, which this throne speech defines, we can inch ourselves a few steps closer to the New Jerusalem — a goal we'll never reach, but we can approach.

Mr. Speaker, I remember an old farmer in my neighbourhood, the epitome of the practicality I mentioned before. Successful, hard-headed, determined, tireless, but a bit single-minded in his approach to business and life I thought. The bottom line was what mattered.

One day I visited him when he was turning over his potato patch. Potatoes were on the ground and he just left calling home to have his family come out and sack them up. I heard him say on the phone to his wife before he hung up, bring the camera out with you; those potatoes on the ground look so pretty, I want a picture of them.

I was not surprised. I was surprised but I shouldn't

have been. That double sense, the growing of food, the appreciation of nature, the practical and the idealism, the hard-nosed and soft-hearted, that seems to me represents Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whitmore: — I hope I have the same mixture in my own soul. I think I do. And that's why I'm here, to use whatever talent I might have to provide practical means for expression about idealistic views. To encourage the better growing and selling of potatoes and other goods so we can all have the means and the time to appreciate what commerce can provide.

That's why I'm here. That's why I'm a member of the New Democratic Party. And that's why I will support the motion that will support the throne speech. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Assembly adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 4 of *Hansard* No. 1A Monday, February 7, 1994, 2 p.m., right-hand column, first paragraph, the name “Scott Grabarcayk” should read “Scott Grabarczyk.”

[NOTE: The online version has been corrected.]