

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly, two individuals seated in the west gallery. First, Dennis Bredhal who is the manager of technical operations AECL-CANDU in Saskatoon. Dennis, if you would stand up for us, please.

And also George Spark, the educational coordinator at AECL-CANDU in Saskatoon. They are working on a very important project for the people of Saskatchewan, and I wish all members to welcome them here today.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the House, Ian MacDougall who was the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) for Estevan in the 1960s. Ian's constituency is part of the southern half of my own constituency now. Ian and I worked together with Producers Pipelines for many years. And I'd like to ask everyone to welcome Ian to the House today.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Legislative Assembly, seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cathy Mills who is a teacher and teaches special ed at Birch Hills. Cathy has been very actively involved in politics and in my organization in Kinistino.

She's also, Mr. Speaker, and fellow members, taken a very active role in the wellness model in health care reforms, and has been a tremendous leader in the Birch Hills area. Accompanying her are her lovely children, Janice, 11, Taylor, 8, and Lorren, 5. Also accompanying them, Mr. Speaker, is Cathy's parents, Mr. Al and Betty Yeaman from Weyburn, Saskatchewan. I would ask all members to acknowledge them warmly.

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

**Mr. Roy:** — As well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to add my voice to the Minister of Economic Development. I had the opportunity to meet this morning and I'd like to introduce to you and through to the members of the Assembly, Mr. Dennis Bredhal who is the manager of technical operations at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. in Saskatoon. And also Mr. George Spark who is an official with Atomic Energy of Canada in Saskatoon. And I'd like all of the members to again welcome them very warmly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you today to the members of the Assembly, Brett Slade, a young man from my constituency who's sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Brett is presently attending university and they're down today to discuss matters of concern with the environmental minister, I understand.

Brett's family of course is well known in the area — the famous pure bred Hereford breeders of the Slade ranch, Robert and Ann Slade. And strangely enough, Mr. Speaker, as irony would have it, last night was the night that the pipeline blew up out in our area, and that pipeline does run in fact very close to their ranch. So we hope that there hasn't been any injuries or anything like that.

But I'd ask the Assembly to join with me in welcoming Brett here today.

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

**Mr. Draper:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker, sir. I'd like to introduce a guest in the government gallery over there, a friend, Mr. Bud Fogal, a prominent and very innovative farmer from the Lafleche district. He's a prominent and very hard-working member of the National Farmers Union. He's a long-time friend of mine and my wife's and has been a loyal patient for many years. I'd like you to welcome him to the Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to the other members of the Assembly, a special group of students from the University of Saskatchewan. They are members of the agriculture and bioresource engineering program in third and fourth years. They are accompanied by their professor, Jon Gillies, who was the chairman of our Round Table on Environment and Economy.

The students that are with him today, with whom I met at noon — a very energetic and interested group of students that will serve us well in the future as we work towards a sustainable society — are Brett Slade, Joel Flory, Tracy Chambers, Tony Larsen, Duane Sholter, Deborah Lewko, Ethan Richardson, and Bruce Pon.

Join me in welcoming these students and Professor Gillies to the Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly 14 students from the Canadian Bible College here in Regina which is located in the ... I guess on this side ... which is located in the Elphinstone constituency.

These individuals are from various areas of the

province and Canada and I want to welcome them here. And the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden will be meeting with you after question period. So all members welcome to the students from the Bible College.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery, the gallery closest to Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, are 17 students from the Cornerstone Christian School. These are students in grades 1 to 8. They're visiting the legislature today for a tour and so on. They're accompanied by their teacher, Verna Kowalczyk; adults with them: Al Van Koughnett, Yvonne Johnson, and Danny Orser.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to see some very good friends and close neighbours of mine from the Snyder family in the gallery there with them. I would ask all members to join the group from Moose Jaw . . . to welcome the group from Moose Jaw.

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

**Hon. Mr. Renaud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask them to rise, is the board of directors of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation. They've taken time off today from their busy schedules for their board meeting. And I would certainly wish that all members would join me in welcoming them here today.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Pipeline Explosion

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment and Resource Management. Mr. Minister, last night there was a major gas line explosion north-east of Maple Creek. Fortunately reports have it that no one was injured and we're happy to hear that; but the fact is that this explosion took place and it is a great cause for concern.

This explosion took place, Mr. Minister, in a very sparsely populated area, but it should be pointed out that this same pipeline passes within a few hundred metres of several farms in the area and very close to several of the small communities in the area. So the damage could have been, and of course might in some future time be, much worse.

An explosion that is seen in Lethbridge, that saw fire trucks leaving towns like Hazlet to travel 60 miles and thinking the fire was much closer, gives some perspective to the size.

So, Mr. Minister, could you please report to this House exactly what happened? Why this explosion took place, how much damage was caused, and what precautions you will be taking to ensure that this kind of thing will never happen again?

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Yes, I'd like to respond and give a brief report in regard to the question that was asked. Last night at approximately 8 o'clock there was an explosion on a pipeline in the area that the hon. member mentioned. This was a large line, a 42-inch line that is owned by Foothills Pipe Lines; it is not owned by the province or by TransGas.

Fortunately there were no injuries, and there are approximately 17 farms that will be without service. TransGas and SaskEnergy made arrangements this morning to bring in some natural gas in a compressed form to hook up the 17 farms that were there, and the technical personnel have been sent out to light furnaces and gas appliances and make sure that the 17 farms are back on to natural gas as soon as possible.

It is an unfortunate situation. Pipelines very rarely blow up. There's only been a couple of cases in Canada where this has happened. We'll be monitoring the situation just as closely as we possibly can.

Unfortunately, when pipelines get too old or if there's weak spots there that develop over the years — in this case the pipeline was some 12 years old — unfortunately this will happen from time to time.

On the TransGas system we have never had an incident like this, and we expect not to. We monitor very . . . as closely as we can to make sure that occurrences like this do not happen.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — I thank you, Minister, for your direct follow-up. I had thought perhaps you might need to take some time to go and check into this matter but you've obviously been briefed and I'm glad to hear that.

I hope, Minister, that you do take this matter very seriously. When flames can be seen a mile in the air in a ball of fire that is described by one person this morning as appearing to be the atomic blast and the end of the world coming, when people of a town the whole size of Maple Creek feel that an earthquake has hit their town and they're 30 kilometres away, this I think explains some of the magnitude of the power force that lies within these transmission lines.

And I think it does require that we have some follow-up, that we have some assurance from you that there will be testing done on these lines, and that your follow-up will be to ascertain exactly what caused this explosion so that we can prevent those kinds of things from happening in the future. There are simply too many people's lives at stake with all of the lines that we have running through our province. So I would ask you, Minister, will you do that? Will you guarantee us that today, that you will take the effort necessary to test these lines as well as to find out what caused the explosion?

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

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — I stress again to the hon. member this is not a gas line that is owned or regulated by the province of Saskatchewan. The gas line that blew up is owned by Foothills Pipe Lines which in turn is owned by Nova Corporation out of Alberta. The line connects gas fields in Alberta with markets in the United States. The gas line in question is actually regulated by the National Energy Board and not the province.

In terms of the member wanting some assurances that we keep good maintenance and do testing on the TransGas system in Saskatchewan which is owned by SaskEnergy, I can assure you that we do take good care of our lines. We monitor them very closely, and the situation in Saskatchewan, I hope that that never happens. I don't think anybody can give the member or the public assurance that this will never, ever happen.

Again I repeat, it's a very rare occurrence, and unfortunately Nova's pipeline did blow. We assume at this stage, without having detailed reports, that it blew because of a weak spot in the line which may not have been properly insulated or coated, and at some point a spot developed that was weak. When gas is put through the gas line system, there's some contraction and expansion of the line, and over time these lines will in fact wear out. And I'm sure that Nova will be instructing Foothills to loop the line.

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

#### Government Revenue Increases

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Finance. We have heard from government members that the budget speech to be delivered tomorrow will contain no new taxes. We have heard that time and time again, Mr. Speaker, and we will likely hear that again tomorrow. And I'm sure all back-benchers will applaud.

My question, Madam Minister: I'm wondering if you can provide this Assembly with a list of all the taxes, utility rates, premiums, fees, tuition fees, levies, and/or tolls that will increase this year as a direct or indirect result of your government's policies.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government intends to live up to its commitment to the people of Saskatchewan. The commitment was clear. If we met our deficit reduction targets, which we have — in fact we have more than met our deficit reduction targets — there would be no increases in taxes. That means no increases in incomes, sales, gas taxes.

Now the member opposite also would know that utility issues are a separate issue. They are decided on a different basis. But I think what we have to do is we have to look at some basic facts. You'll look at the cost of utilities across Canada — car insurance, power,

electricity, telephones, the basic utilities — Saskatchewan has the second lowest utility rates of any province in Canada.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — So even though we have financial problems, we take pride in the fact that we have protected our consumers from massive increases in utility rates.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister, I'm not sure that you're aware, certainly many taxpayers are unaware, that over 40 per cent of our government's revenues and expenditures are not covered by what you're going to be giving to us here tomorrow in your budget address. Over 40 per cent of the provincial government's financial activity occurs outside the budget process in the Crown corporations. So when you speak of no new taxes, that simply isn't accurate. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

People have seen their SaskPower rates increase 11 per cent, SaskTel 5 per cent, SaskEnergy 15.5 per cent; SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) rates and fees have risen dramatically.

Madam Minister, can you tell this Assembly that there will be no utility rate increases, fee increases, premium increases, levy increases, or any other revenue increases that will directly impact on the taxpayers of the province?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I would reiterate the point I made before. What we have said is that there are no tax increases in this budget. We mean no tax increases in this budget. I know the Liberal government in Ottawa has said there are no tax increases in their budget. I will wait to see whether that is true, whether in fact base broadening turns out to be for the average person tax increases.

I also understand that for the average person an increase in any kind of utility rate is a concern. I understand that concern. But we have done our best to protect them from massive increases. Let's look at the recent SaskEnergy increase. Why did we have to increase that rate? Two reasons. Number one, we no longer own our own wells and the members opposite will know the reason why.

Secondly, because we have to buy our gas on the open market just like anyone else, we were faced with a 40 per cent increase in gas rates. Now we absorbed 30 per cent of that and we felt very, very uncomfortable with having to pass on 9.6. But we did our best to protect the consumers here from massive price increases.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister,

you claim that there are no new taxes. I'm wondering if you also neglect to account for the increase in property taxes that are a direct relationship to your changes in your policies.

User fees have occurred in cities, towns, villages, and RMs (rural municipality); property taxes are going up. Madam Minister, your government's reduction in transfer payments to municipalities have gone down; your programs have cut straight across all of the taxes that people in the provinces pay directly and indirectly.

Can you commit today, or perhaps tomorrow, when you make the claim that there will be no new taxes, that there will be no direct increases to the taxpayers of the province? Because they're all taxpayers, Madam Minister, and will you make that statement to the people of the province, that there will be no direct or indirect taxes tomorrow when you announce your budget for the next year?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite obviously knows I can't tell third parties what to do. But I would like to say something about third parties. I would like to say something here about third parties. They have been our partners in deficit reduction; they've had to make difficult choices. I understand that. And I thank them for their cooperation.

But we have to see this issue in perspective. Yes, it is true that over the last three years we have reduced grants to urban municipalities by 29 per cent. But let's look at that in perspective. Alberta is decreasing grants by 72 per cent over three years.

Recently I was in the city of Lloydminster and was told by the people in that community that three years from now the city of Lloydminster will be getting \$350,000 a year from the Government of Saskatchewan in third party grants; from the Government of Alberta they'll be getting a goose-egg — zero.

So I understand the problems of third parties. But again, we've done our best within our financial circumstances to work with them.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Speaker, and, Madam Minister, Saskatchewan people have been taxed out of this province. In an article in today's **Leader-Post** it says: "In the short run, businesses will be looking for some positive signals in the Saskatchewan budget this week", Madam Minister. Signals so that they can reinvest in the province.

Alberta's tax load is about 76 per cent, Madam Minister, 76 per cent of the province of Saskatchewan. Will you put into place an opportunity for the people of the province of Saskatchewan to begin to evaluate, on the basis of opportunity in Saskatchewan, the reason why they would want to stay here? Because of

your taxes, you have driven them out. In fact, Madam Minister, a former director of your Gaming Commission moved his business to Alberta, and that is what is happening all the time. The train has left the station, Madam Minister.

Will you allow the people of the province of Saskatchewan some equity in the tax base so that they can stay in this province and become involved in the business opportunities that are here?

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members opposite to calm down for just a minute and to listen to some basic facts. And I challenge them to deny these basic facts.

The province of Saskatchewan has gone from having one of the highest deficits in Canada to, as of today, before the budget even comes down tomorrow, we have the lowest per-capita deficit in Canada.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — There's another fact that I would challenge the member opposite to dispute, and it has to do with taxes. With a family at \$25,000 a year income, Saskatchewan is now, when you take taxes and basic utility costs, the third cheapest place in Canada in which to live.

And let me give you a preview of the budget tomorrow. That number will change tomorrow. Saskatchewan will move from being the third cheapest place in Canada to live to being the second cheapest place in Canada to live.

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

### Child Hunger Programs

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I address my question to the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Minister, on page 18 of the NDP (New Democratic Party) 1991 platform document it says: the first job is to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. Can you tell me where child hunger ranks on the NDP government's list of priorities?

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to inform the member that while child hunger was a priority for the government, for us in opposition, it continues to be a priority for us in government. And we've made many strides, we've made many strides, Mr. Speaker, to address that issue.

The key, Mr. Speaker, is economic development and jobs for Saskatchewan people. And I'd be pleased to advise the member that in fact January of this year the social assistance case-load went up the least — 126 new families — went up the least that it's gone up in five years, Mr. Speaker. That's an indication that the

economic development plan is working. That is the key.

Mr. Speaker, the member may also be aware that last Friday it was just released that we provided another \$1 million to school lunch programs to address the issue of family poverty.

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

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Mr. Speaker, we provided increase to social assistance benefits, not decreasing them like they did in Alberta and Manitoba. We provided family income benefit increases to Saskatchewan working poor. I've been talking to your federal counterpart about assisting us in that area further. And so I would welcome — as I talked to the member this morning about a debriefing from Ottawa — I'd be welcome to solicit her support on how she could get her federal counterparts to be supportive if she's really serious about dealing with the issue of poverty, which I think she is.

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

**Mrs. Bergman:** — In your recent announcement you approved projects of \$858,500 for child hunger programs. Can you tell me what the per capita allotment is for each child served by these programs?

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Mr. Speaker, the member gave me a written question last week on this same issue and I have provided a four- or five-page response outlining in detail all the measures that we have taken dealing with the issue of child poverty.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, as I said, the economic development plan that we put in place, *Partnership for Progress*, is well on the way. There are very positive indicators relating to retail sales, housing starts, oil and gas activity, and so on. The business community in my home town of Saskatoon are very optimistic about 1994, and many are expecting to hire additional staff, Mr. Speaker. And I would encourage the Liberals to be positive and optimistic as well. And we're still waiting from the Liberal leader for her idea a week on how to create new jobs for Saskatchewan people.

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Minister, actions speak louder than words. The fact is that the combined grants for Moose Jaw Native Friendship Centre, Prince Albert Share-A-Meal, Nipawin Nutrition for Kids, Hunger in Moose Jaw, Pleasantdale Central School, Meadow Lake school, North Battleford school, Tisdale school and Parkland Gospel church were \$87,600. Those grants cost the taxpayers less than it did to increase the pay cheques of 17 political staff in Executive Council.

Mr. Minister, is this evidence of how the New Democratic government sets its priorities?

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm a little bit disappointed in this line of questioning because a month after I was appointed Minister of Social Services, by invitation, I requested that the Liberal

leader join me to gain some of her ideas about what we could do in the area of social services, social policy reform.

We had a good two-hour meeting. I left her with a number of documents related to our strategic plan. This was back in October 1993. I invited her to get back to me with her ideas and suggestions. The next time I hear anything it's in question period. I would be delighted to sit with her and discuss what we've done.

Now since we bring in MA (ministerial assistant) salaries, Mr. Speaker, the member took a fair advantage of that issue in election and she failed to mention that her leader got a 37 per cent increase when they became a caucus.

What she was criticizing, Mr. Speaker, what she was criticizing by the MAs' salary increases, we're talking about single parent and women who are at the secretarial level who got some marginal increase whilst her leader gets a 37 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker — 37 per cent increase. That's hypocritical, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mrs. Bergman:** — Mr. Minister, your meeting with our leader was before the raises to the political staff.

Mr. Minister, in your news release you said, in these difficult economic times, it is important that we protect the most vulnerable members of our communities. Do you believe that the political staff whose salaries have been raised are more vulnerable than the hungry children, and if not, how in the world can you justify your expenditure decisions for \$89,000 of taxpayers' money going to political staff instead of child hunger programs?

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder who's playing politics here, Mr. Speaker. That's the party, that's the party that's talking about the new politics. I sat down with her leader in good faith a month after I was appointed. Three months later I haven't heard from her. All of a sudden we hear . . . we get this question in question period, Mr. Speaker. It's her leader that got a 37 per cent increase — 19 or \$17,000, Mr. Speaker.

So how concerned are we about child poverty, Mr. Speaker? In the last . . . since we formed government, Mr. Speaker, we have increased the money to low income people by \$130 million. Mr. Speaker, low income programs by \$130 million. I can tell you that no other government in Canada is going that way. Alberta is cutting like crazy; so is Manitoba. The Maritime provinces, the Maritime Liberal provinces, are the highest-taxed provinces in Canada.

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

### Aboriginal Control of Program Spending

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, and it also deals with a

matter that may have long-term tax implications on the people of Saskatchewan. Yesterday it was reported that your government intends to turn over as much as \$550 million a year to aboriginal people to fund health, education, social services, and justice. That's \$550 annually for every man, woman, and child in Saskatchewan, about to be turned over to a level of government that doesn't even exist yet, Mr. Minister . . . or Madam Minister.

Madam Minister, this report raises far more questions than it answers and I would like to ask some of these questions today. First of all, what is the time frame for the transition of this money to native groups?

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — The news reports yesterday were based upon a leaked draft document which is still under consideration by the government. The reference to \$550 million was, as I understand it, in an appendix to that document which set out, Mr. Speaker, the level of funding which is already provided to Indian and Metis people. So there's no new money involved here.

We are embarked, as is every province in Canada, upon a process of discussion with aboriginal groups leading towards self-government. As those discussions continue and as agreements are reached, it will involve inevitably the taking over of programs for the delivery of services by aboriginal people for aboriginal people. And every government in Canada agrees that that's the way in which we should go.

Now inevitably that will involve some money which the government is now spending being spent by aboriginal governments with respect to those programs which are moved over to aboriginal management and aboriginal control. That's what that document is all about.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Minister, I think that everyone in Saskatchewan agrees that we must work together to ensure that aboriginal people become equal partners in our society. But with equal rights and equal partnership, come equal responsibilities, Mr. Speaker.

You are going to turn over up to \$550 million a year to fund native programing. Are aboriginal people also going to be expected to start developing their own revenue sources to fund self-government? Is that what your plans are, and if they are, would you mind telling this Assembly what they are?

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — First of all, I want to repeat to the member that we are not turning over \$550 million to aboriginal government, unless — unless — it should happen that in the process of negotiations involving the federal government and involving the other provinces in Canada, that kind of jurisdiction should be involved. But we don't expect anything like

that to happen.

Now as to the question of aboriginal governments looking to their own sources of finances, I believe that will happen. Statements have been made by Indian leaders in particular across this country to the effect that they intend to look to their own sources for financing their own forms of government before they look to the federal and provincial governments.

In the end, I think it will be a mix of all three and I think that's appropriate, and all members of the House would agree with that.

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

**Mr. Martens:** — Mr. Minister, this whole issue raises a very interesting question about how we in Saskatchewan are going to be governed. You're planning to turn over as much as \$550 million — that's \$550 for every person in the province per year. That's going to concern a lot of people because they will have no say as to how this money is spent. They will have no ability to vote or be for or against the spending of this money. In a sense, for the majority of the people of Saskatchewan this could amount to a form of taxation without any representation.

And, Mr. Minister, how will these expenditures be made accountable to the people of Saskatchewan who are providing this funding?

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Mr. Speaker, the member is reading his questions from a paper, and he's determined to get through that paper no matter what answers I give to him.

I repeat again, this is not a question of turning over \$550 million. This is a question of Saskatchewan participating with the federal government, as every other province and territory in this country will, to realize the dream of aboriginal self-government in this country. Every jurisdiction in this country has agreed and continues to agree that aboriginal people have the inherent right to govern themselves.

Now the member is concerned about accountability. And the member will know — because when you were in power they had a lot of arrangements with Indian and with Metis people involving the transfer of money — they will know that those transfers were accountable. They continue to be accountable. They will continue to be accountable. Indeed the former premier initiated the treaty land entitlement, the treaty land entitlement process which involved the transfer of something like \$450 million to Indian people in Saskatchewan. That money is accountable. It's earmarked for certain purposes and it is to his credit, as my members have said. And that's . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. I think we've run out of time in question period.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 7 — An Act to amend The Research Council Act**

**Hon. Mr. Anguish:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill to amend The Research Council Act be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Bill No. 8 — An Act respecting Fisheries**

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill respecting Fisheries be introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**MOTION UNDER RULE 42****Closure of Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw**

**Mr. Swenson:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to request leave of the Assembly to move a motion under rule 42.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has asked leave to move a motion under rule 42, but I believe the member must state what the subject matter is and then we'll ask for leave.

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker a matter of urgent and pressing necessity has arisen as a result of the federal government's intentions to close several military bases across the country. A particular concern to Saskatchewan citizens is the future of CFB (Canadian Forces Base) Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, this morning government representatives at all levels, from all parties, joined to voice a united support for the base at Moose Jaw, and wish to echo that endorsement in this Assembly. House leaders have agreed, Mr. Speaker, to keep comments concise and speakers to a minimum — as such, our request that a vote on the motion be taken after a maximum of 20 minutes debate. Again, Mr. Speaker, given the short time frame before the decision on base closure is made, I request leave to move a motion under rule 42.

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

Leave granted.

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be moving the following motion seconded by the member from Moose Jaw Palliser:

That this Assembly join with the broad coalition representing all Saskatchewan political parties, elected representatives from all levels of government, business, and labour, in expressing its support for CFB Moose Jaw, and call on the federal government to keep 15

Wing, CFB Moose Jaw in operation.

I so move.

I'm going to be very brief, Mr. Speaker. This morning the leaders of all three parties in this Assembly and representatives of local, provincial, and civic governments, met in this building to express a really united front to the federal government in Ottawa on this issue. I think the arguments that were made this morning about the historic significance of the role of CFB Moose Jaw and 15 Wing in our province were made most eloquently today. Time has proven that Moose Jaw has played an integral part in the entire question of defence of our country and the issues surrounding the air force and its role in our country.

The Snowbirds demonstration squadron aerobatics team that are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year have been a symbol for all Canadians to be proud of. I think I'll leave to the seconder, the member from Moose Jaw Palliser, to make some of the economic arguments. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, from representing that air base in the provincial legislature for the last nine years, that the pilots that are produced there are without any parallel in Canada today. And certainly they're world-class people and they've proven it. And that's because the base is such an efficient, low-cost deliverer of quality products, in this case air force jet pilots. And they are recognized around the world.

I think it behoves this Assembly to add its weight to all of the people that were gathered here in a very non-partisan, united effort today. So once again, Mr. Speaker, I for the record would move:

That this Assembly join with the broad coalition representing all Saskatchewan political parties, elected representatives from all levels of government, business, and labour, in expressing its support for CFB Moose Jaw, and call on the federal government to keep 15 Wing, CFB Moose Jaw in operation.

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

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, for moving this motion, and also all members of the Assembly for allowing us to take a brief time to recognize an important issue in a timely manner on this last day of debate in response to the Speech from the Throne.

All members of the House will be aware that concern has been raised across the country recently in areas in provinces, all provinces, and particularly in areas which are homes to military bases, in light of the federal government's announced de-emphasizing and reductions in military spending, and the expected announcements possibly as soon as next week as to whom is affected.

Mr. Speaker, there was, I think, a memorable gathering of people in this building earlier this

morning. It can be said very accurately that there was a unified voice of support expressed across the province of Saskatchewan. And I point out that in the entire nation there is only one province that has spoken in support of a single base. That province is Saskatchewan and that base is 15 Wing Moose Jaw. And it took place this morning in this building.

(1445)

I will also then obviously be asking all members of this Assembly to join unanimously, to join in that unified voice from the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, if someone would have walked by room 218 of the legislature this morning, they would have looked in and they would have seen gathered in the same room Tories, Liberals, Reform Party members, New Democrats, provincial politicians, federal politicians, labour representatives, business representatives, rural municipal government, and urban municipal government in the same room — all gathered together to express common support for 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

Some people would say, Mr. Speaker, if they looked in, what's wrong with this picture? And I would say, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is, nothing. The fact of the matter is that what is right is that partisan and parochial interests have been set aside by a large number of actors in our province to express their support for 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

Letters of support will be going forward today to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Finance, and to the Minister of Defence who, by the way, will be visited later this week by New Democrat, Liberal, and Reform MP's (Member of Parliament) from all the parties that are represented in the province of Saskatchewan, expressing their support.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said he'd like me to comment, and I'll do so briefly, about the economic significance of the base to us here in Saskatchewan. CFB Moose Jaw is our only base. It employs about 1,600 people with a total net salary of nearly \$50 million. Military spending in Saskatchewan is about half . . . we have about 4 per cent of the population and about 2 per cent of the military spending here; in other words, about half of our per capita representation.

CFB Moose Jaw provides a practical and safe setting for the training of pilots. And as I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, as all of us do, that as long as there's an air force we need pilots; as long as we need pilots they need a place to be trained; and the place that we suggest in the province of Saskatchewan is at 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

And so in concluding, Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to that of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. My appreciation to all of those who attended this morning. And ask that all members of this Assembly add their voice to strengthen Saskatchewan's message to Ottawa in support of 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise in this House and speak to this motion. While we as legislators understand the dilemma of the federal government in making difficult decisions about reducing defence spending, we also understand that there will be considerable pain and dislocation of many individuals and groups affected by the decisions regardless of where they occur in Canada.

And although I have already communicated my concerns to the Minister of Defence a few weeks ago about the possibility of 15 Wing Moose Jaw closure and the impact that this would have on our province, it is important that we all be on record today as urging the federal government to spare the city of Moose Jaw and the province of Saskatchewan in this round of necessary defence reductions.

This base is extremely important to our province, as the member has spoken — important historically, economically, and socially. And while we realize that other towns and cities across the country are likely lobbying for the retention of their defence facilities, there are several reasons why the Moose Jaw facility is unique and should be spared.

15 Wing Moose Jaw, as has just been cited, is not just Saskatchewan's only major defence training base for basic pilot training, but it is also the regional service and supply base for all reserve, militia, and cadet units for our province.

And furthermore, Saskatchewan has received few procurement defence dollars relative to all other parts of Canada, and that's been traditional over many, many years. On a per capita basis, our province receives less than half the national average for payroll and operating defence expenditures and is far lower than every province except Prince Edward Island. In economically depressed regions such as Nova Scotia, they receive more than 10 times the per capita defence spending.

I want to bring it to the attention of this House that it is not my role to speak for the federal government on this or any other issue, nor is it the federal government's role to speak for the Saskatchewan Liberal Party. My first commitment, our party in Saskatchewan's first commitment, is to further and promote the interest of Saskatchewan people regardless of what government is in power in Regina or in Ottawa.

In closing, I want to applaud the mayor of Moose Jaw, Mayor Don Mitchell, who has carried the torch on this issue and has been so outspoken on his city's behalf. I wish to acknowledge the commitment of all political parties, the business and labour leaders, political . . . or provincial organizations in different levels of government to see this issue resolved on behalf of our citizens. And I truly hope that everyone's tremendous efforts will not be in vain.

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



The division bells rang from 2:52 p.m. until 2:56 p.m.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

### Yeas — 50

Van Mulligen	Serby
Wiens	Cline
Tchorzewski	Scott
Lingenfelter	Crofford
Shillington	Stanger
Koskie	Kluz
Teichrob	Knezacek
Johnson	Harper
Atkinson	Keeping
Kowalsky	Jess
Carson	Carlson
Mitchell	Langford
MacKinnon	Swenson
Upshall	Muirhead
Hagel	Devine
Bradley	Neudorf
Lorje	Martens
Pringle	Boyd
Lautermilch	Toth
Calvert	Britton
Renaud	D'Autremont
Murray	Goohsen
Hamilton	Haverstock
Trew	McPherson
Draper	Bergman

### Nays — Nil

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Crofford, seconded by Mr. Whitmore.

**Ms. Bradley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am happy to be taking part once more in a debate on the throne speech.

I'd like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by praising the mover and seconder in this debate, my colleagues and my friends, the members from Regina Lake Centre and Biggar. I congratulate them not only for their fine speeches but because I think it's fair to say they have pushed this debate into an area of speculation and vision which is a valuable lead for the rest of us to follow.

I think it helps us in our duties if we take the time to think not just about what we are doing here but why and for what purpose. I would like to return to that theme in a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to convey my own

congratulations and appreciation to you for the fine job you do. As a former teacher, I appreciate your role in keeping a well-run, fair classroom, or I mean to say Assembly, with a sense of justice and decorum. But above all, to allow democracy to be achieved.

I also join with all my colleagues in welcoming the new member from Regina North West. I congratulated her personally the other evening at Government House and we spoke a bit about what the job involves. It is a challenging job — often frustrating, but more often a very rewarding one. And we don't often say this enough, is that it even can be fun.

I look forward to hearing her contribution to the debates in this Assembly. Her presence in this Chamber at this time is a consequence of our democratic reform. And not that I wouldn't prefer a New Democrat in her place, but what is more important is that the people of Regina North West are represented in this Assembly today because of our six-month by-election legislation. This is truly democratic reform.

And I can recall my constituents being appalled at the lack of democratic principle when seats were left vacant for months and even years when there was no political will to hold a by-election. Never again will people be denied their voice and representation from this Assembly for periods longer than six months.

Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, I want to comment, as did the member from Regina Lake Centre, on why and for what purpose I am here. One of the fundamental reasons I ran for election was based on strengthening representation — more accountability of government to the people. In other words, bringing government closer to people.

I am proud to say that this throne speech, along with many of our past initiatives, supports a government achieving economic and social justice through the power of community and cooperation. Cooperation, community, and consensus building are essential elements in bringing government closer to the people.

I am proud to represent the constituency of Bengough-Milestone, a constituency where farming, entrepreneurship, oil, small business, are an integral part of the economy. I represent people who are hard-working, creative, adaptable, and resilient — people who believe in community and cooperation as an integral part of rural Saskatchewan.

As the elected representative of the area, I have taken seriously my role in bringing government closer to the people. I have had numerous accountability meetings in my constituency along with several public meetings with ministers and the Premier on issues of concern and importance to my constituents. These meetings have ranged from discussions on health care reform, the Co-op upgrader, agriculture, finance, and economic development.

In December the entire government caucus met in various towns throughout Bengough-Milestone.

Caucus committees with their associated ministers met with community groups and listened to the concerns raised in our communities. I heard nothing but praise for our government for holding these meetings throughout Bengough-Milestone and Weyburn in December. It was not that everyone agreed with all of our initiatives, but it was that the government was willing to listen to the ideas and concerns of the people in our area.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier, the cabinet, and the MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) for holding these meetings in our area. And I also want to thank my constituents for attending these meetings in their communities.

I again heard words of praise from several caucus members, not only for the excellent hospitality of the area but also for the excellent thoughts and ideas raised to our government. This type of two-way communication is essential to keep a government responsive and accountable to the people of this province.

I know as we have moved government out of Regina throughout the province, I have gained a better understanding of the whole province and its people. And although there is a great diversity of landscape, economic activity, and people, there is a commonality of tremendous pride, fairness, community spirit, and cooperation.

I feel the Saskatchewan spirit was well summed up in a quote from a Saskatchewan sports dinner honouring Saskatchewan athletes last week. The quote, or how it was said, is that when you are in Saskatchewan it feels like all of Saskatchewan is your home town. What a wonderful thing to be said about our province. The provincial winter games held in Kindersley are a tribute to our home town spirit.

The role of government is to be a tool of the people, therefore decision making must involve these people. I feel decision making is at its best when consensus can be reached. And although this cannot always be reached, it must be attempted so that governments can be constructive tools in building a better, more just society.

(1500)

And, Mr. Speaker, this throne speech is a speech of renewal. Renewal, not in the sense of doing things exactly the same as was done in the past, but renewal in the sense of optimism for our future, a renewal of our economy, a renewal of the Saskatchewan spirit.

It is also appropriate that two important 50th anniversaries in 1994 were mentioned in the throne speech: the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, honouring those who fought to preserve democracy, and the 50th anniversary of the election of Tommy Douglas and the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation), North America's first social democratic government; a social democratic government that shaped not only important changes in Saskatchewan,

but right across Canada. Both these anniversaries mark important victories for democracy and remind us of the important responsibilities we all have as elected members and citizens to take an active part in safeguarding democracy.

And, Mr. Speaker, as a New Democrat, I am proud to see in our throne speech today that the power of compassion and cooperation will motivate our government as it did 50 years ago in the formation of the CCF — to govern for a more just, more cooperative community in which all can enjoy a better life, both now and for all of us and for all our children's futures.

Mr. Speaker, this throne speech is a speech of continuity which outlines from where we started and reminds us of where the government is going in a four-year plan. It reminds us that our journey over the last two years has often been difficult with unprecedented challenges along the way. But together with all Saskatchewan people we have made great progress; progress only made because of the willingness of Saskatchewan people to make sacrifices today in order to secure a better tomorrow — a better tomorrow for their province and their children.

To my constituents and to the people of this province, I thank you for your cooperation these past two years. Because of your participation, we are making progress. The achievements are yours. They are a reminder of what we can accomplish together.

In 1991 we campaigned on, first things first: common sense financial management. We said we would get our financial house in order, and we've done that. The day we took office the annual budget deficit for the coming year was \$1.3 billion. Two years later the deficit is \$295 million, a billion dollar turnaround.

And how did we do it? Through progressive taxation, compassion for those most in need in our society, and sacrifice by us all. It's not been easy but we are now on target to present Saskatchewan taxpayers with a balanced budget in 1996 as promised.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, now we are all proud to say that in just two more budgets we will reach the place that all governments should naturally be in, a balanced budget. The four-year plan is on track, and when we achieve that it will be time for great fiscal rejoicing in the land. The first government, federal or provincial, to balance a budget since the Deputy Premier's last budget for the Blakeney government.

But, Mr. Speaker, we should be a bit subdued in our satisfaction when that day comes. The elimination of deficit budgeting will be a great accomplishment, the day our revenue covers our expenditures. But we have to remind ourselves that when we get there it's only then that we can begin to pay off the accumulated debt, and that will take a long, long time.

Some critics say we're too focused on the deficit. But as our Premier said at our last provincial convention, we don't seek a balanced budget so that bankers will

say nice things about us; we seek a balanced budget so Saskatchewan will never again have to care what the bankers are saying about us.

Reducing the deficit gives us the fiscal freedom to make our own economic and social policy decisions. So as you can see, a balanced budget is not the end in itself, it is simply the means to an end, the end being a better quality of life. Money spent on building programs for our Saskatchewan communities rather than over \$2 million a day being sent out of the province to pay the ever-increasing interest on the debt.

Balancing the budget will take four years with our plan. But, Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the way we have not ignored other priorities of jobs, agriculture, health, education, and families, as we're restoring public finances.

But some would ask, what are the alternatives to our plans? And as a former teacher, a science teacher, I think it's important to examine all options in seeking your solution. If we look to the opposition in this Assembly for alternatives, what do we hear?

Well from the Tories we hear very little, in fact. We hear they don't want to think; that they have no suggestions. I found it remarkable that the Opposition House Leader urged the government to halt the debate before even a fraction of his members had spoken.

What that tells us, and what it certainly tells the people of Saskatchewan, is that there are no ideas across the floor. No ability to contemplate, no ability to blue-sky. As the member from Regina Lake Centre said, just a raw desire for power so they could once again do to the province what they did in the '80s — to which I say, not a chance.

From the Liberal leader, we've heard various solutions. Reduce taxes, but spend more. Don't cut programs, but reduce the deficit faster. Even in an elementary classroom, students would easily see that these solutions do not add up, no matter what kind of math you use.

As a matter of fact, in just a few days in this House, the proposals of the Liberals would cost an additional, probably well over I should say, \$300 million — 300 million more in spending, but no new revenue. Sounds a lot like the economics of the '80s — totally irresponsible unless your motive is to turn the province over to the bankers.

I wonder if the member from Shaunavon really took time to analyse the Liberal solutions, or is it just easier to be in opposition? Easier to suggest solutions of spending more when you don't have to be responsible for the implementation of them.

No, Mr. Speaker, our plan, our solutions, make sense for the people of Saskatchewan. Our plan as laid out in the throne speech is a plan for the year ahead of government action with purpose, with compassion, and cooperation.

From day one we have made jobs and economic development a priority. We have changed Saskatchewan's economic development strategy from one geared to give-aways to large out-of-province corporations, to a strategy that puts local businesses, cooperatives, and communities first. It is set out in our *Partnership for Renewal* paper.

The thrust of our jobs policy is to build on our natural strengths — agriculture, forestry, mining, communications, tourism, and people — in such a way that our economic community is home-grown with deep roots, independent, and yet globally competitive.

We're bringing communities together in economic development authorities, using our principles of cooperation and community to identify and pursue opportunities. It is a comprehensive strategy of training, education, and economic planning.

In the throne speech we see a number of positive initiatives which will help facilitate these partnerships for growth in jobs, in the formation of regional economic development authorities to help economic planning, promotion, and marketing for our region. Some of these have already been established. In my area of the province, communities are interested in working together with government as a facilitator for economic development.

And our communities do not want government throwing money at economic development that is not viable. And that is why they are happy to see SEDCO (Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation) being replaced with Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.

This new corporation will have a much sharper focus and mandate than SEDCO. It will foster and facilitate economic development in Saskatchewan: first, by providing a range of financial services including lending guarantees and some equity to small and medium-sized viable businesses which are located in Saskatchewan; secondly, by taking an active role in promoting economic development for the province by seeking loan and investment syndication with private-sector financial institutions to help cost share projects; by assuming a proactive role in attracting new businesses to Saskatchewan where financing would help to facilitate the transaction.

Emphasis will be placed on financing businesses which export goods and services, and those which replace imports where these enterprises will not compete with other, existing Saskatchewan businesses.

(1515)

All projects will be subjected to commercial viability analysis before economic development benefits are considered. No amount of investment achieves employment and growth objectives if the wrong projects are chosen or if projects are poorly managed.

We all know that lesson all too well. Projects based on viability, not on patronage — what a unique concept.

To help our businesses access export markets and develop products for international markets, there are three initiatives in our throne speech. One is the establishment of a trade development organization; secondly, a new research and technology commercialization plan; and third, a Transportation Policy Council. These were areas businesses asked for help with, and we are delivering.

Another area of economic development that we are playing an important role in is communication technology. There is a proposed Canadian network for the advancement of research, industry, and education, commonly called the electronic highway project — a massive project expanding and upgrading Canada's information technology. We are actively pursuing a major role in this project as SaskTel's information technology is one of the very best in Canada. This could mean more high-tech jobs in the future for our province.

In fact SaskTel International is exporting our telecommunication expertise around the world. The original contract for a communication system for the Chunnel, linking the United Kingdom with France, first went to a European firm. When they ran into difficulty, SaskTel International was contacted and our SaskTel engineers and technicians helped to design and install the communication system.

The area of biotechnology is also becoming an exciting area of expertise that we have established in this province. Saskatchewan was one of the first provinces to join the federal-provincial infrastructure program, a partnership between federal, provincial, and municipal government, to rebuild key elements of our public infrastructure while providing jobs in rural, urban, and northern communities.

Another partnership being established is the joint industry-government tourism authority. It will be responsible for developing and marketing Saskatchewan as a tourist destination. I'm excited about this initiative as Saskatchewan has a great deal to offer in tourism. In my constituency, I have attended meetings on the development of the Claybank brick factory as a tourism and a heritage project. The meetings are an example of how partnerships are being established.

The project will be driven by the community with partnerships being established with the private sector, all three levels of government, as well as interaction between government departments responsible for tourism and community service. The Claybank brick factory is only one piece of a larger strategy of developing a tourism region involving historic and natural sites, native heritage, the Big Muddy, and recreation areas in the South.

Mr. Speaker, the partnerships are working. We continue to have the lowest unemployment rate in the country; oil and gas drilling was way up in 1993 —

174 per cent over the previous year; retail trade in the first 10 months of 1993 is up 5.4 per cent. That's the highest percentage increase on the Prairies, even including sales-tax-free Alberta. We shipped more machinery, more clothing, more textiles, more wood products, and more transportation equipment from Saskatchewan this year than last.

Saskatchewan's economy is recovering and Saskatchewan people are doing the jobs themselves. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot talk economy in Saskatchewan without talking agriculture. Agriculture is a critical component of economic development in my constituency as well as the province of Saskatchewan.

In recent years farm policy has been ad hoc, politically motivated, and unresponsive to the changes in agriculture — billion dollar hand-outs at election time, poorly conceived programs like GRIP (gross revenue insurance program). And actually, to my surprise, yesterday I heard a member opposite asking questions about GRIP as still being the kind of program that farmers would like. It's out of touch.

We saw that second line of support programs that were funded a hundred per cent by the federal government before 1988 being transferred to the provinces. The province now funds 40 per cent of these agriculture programs.

Now well over 40 per cent of the agriculture land base in Canada is in Saskatchewan, with less than 4 per cent of the population. The burden has been enormous. But in spite of these pressures, farmers are adapting. Farmers have responded to the prolonged price decline in cereal grains by seeding less wheat in Saskatchewan — 12 per cent less in 1993 than the year before — more cash crops sensitive to the markets; mustard, canaryseed, lentils, canola. An agriculture revolution.

At the same time we've also seen a steady growth in livestock production. Livestock cash receipts are expected to be at a record \$1 billion in 1993, and continued growth is expected over the near future.

Game farming has also emerged as a potential growth sector. Game farming scarcely existed in 1986. But by the beginning of 1993 the province recorded 118 registered game farms.

Mr. Speaker, not only has there been the shift in what kinds of goods we're producing, it's also how we're producing them. New technology has spurred change in how we're producing them as well. For example, no-till methods of seeding, which were hardly a factor in 1986, were used on 10 per cent of the seeded acreage in 1991.

Another major trend is the emergence of cottage industries. Many in the constituency of Bengough-Milestone have seen farm families develop new opportunities in food processing, greenhouses, children's toys, and garment manufacturing, to name just a few.

To my mind, these are positive signs. Farmers are indeed trying to reclaim their future.

Mr. Speaker, there's no denying that agriculture has endured enormous hardships through the last decade. But from the problems that we've seen in the cereal grains sector, a stronger, more aggressive industry is emerging.

Last year our provincial government asked Saskatchewan producers and farm organizations to come together to determine a new future for the industry. This strategy, *Agriculture 2000*, suggests a number of key initiatives and partnerships for the farm sector.

But one thing has been clear — the need to diversity and add value to our products. *Agriculture 2000* suggests a number of key initiatives for doing just that. Among them is strengthening alliances between producers, government, the research community, and processing industries; encouraging partnerships of community groups and individuals, for example, to undertake economically viable processing ventures; and forming strategic partnerships with companies outside of Canada that capture market opportunities and give us the competitive advantage for agriculture products.

Two other initiatives announced in the throne speech are tied closely to our Ag 2000 document — they encourage development of agriculture products — the agri-food equity fund, and the beef industry fund.

Mr. Speaker, we can already see exciting things happening in Saskatchewan in biotechnology and value added agriculture businesses. A few examples are Pound-Maker, an ethanol feed-lot complex at Lanigan; and the POS (protein/oil/starch) pilot project's creation of Canamino, a plant that will separate oat growth into compounds for the cosmetic industry, increasing their value from 30 cents a kilogram to \$200 a kilogram; Biostar, a biotechnology company which will manufacture vaccines for the livestock industry and export them worldwide. These are only a few examples and there are many others, large and small, around the province. The point is that there is much can be done through commitment, partnerships, and innovation, to help producers move back into vital markets.

I also want to commend the Farm Support Review Committee for working diligently, consulting farmers and the industry, to put together their report on safety net options. In their report they have outlined three options for our government to use in negotiations with the federal government and other provinces to create a national, whole-farm, safety net program that better reflects the needs of the family farm.

Still, for many farm families these are very tough times. Our government knows this and understands it. The cash crisis has not been solved, farm debt is still a serious problem, especially for younger farmers. The level of our farm income is proof that farm receipts are

still very low. For many it's not a problem of understanding what direction to take, it's that the resources simply aren't there.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to maintaining effective debt mediation and the farm leaseback program. And I urge our government and our Minister of Agriculture to continue to seek new solutions to the problems of intergenerational land transfer such as community-based land trusts. This is still one of our more pressing challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident in the direction of Ag 2000. With continued cooperation, with new and changing partnerships, with the innovative spirit of our farmers, our agriculture industry will develop, grow, and prosper. Our family farms and rural communities depend on this.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no greater initiative in our term than our health care reforms — wellness. Wellness is a renewal in health care. It is a renewal and it's of new partnerships. And it's been said in this Assembly before by other speakers to the throne speech, but I'm going to repeat it myself because I think it is so key to the whole issue of health care reform, that Tommy Douglas had said: when we began to plan medicare, we pointed out that it would be in two phases. The first phase was to remove the financial barrier between those giving the service and those receiving it. The second phase would be to reorganize and revamp the whole delivery system.

And of course that's the big item. That's the thing we haven't done yet. And that's what I can say today, is what we're doing.

But many still ask why. New technology, improved communications, sky-rocketing costs, and new philosophies of health demand our current system to be adjusted. We see health care reforms taking place right across Canada. But I'm proud that in Saskatchewan our reform is with a plan, a plan that involves communities.

If we look to Alberta, their health care reform involves drastic cuts, increased privatization of services, but no plan. In Alberta you can get an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) test in a private clinic if you have \$1,200 to pay for it. This is not the health system we want for Saskatchewan.

We must have a rational and fair system in place to ensure that our residents have a reasonable access to it and that all the other new technologies of medicare are available. Health care must be viewed in a holistic manner — jobs, education, nutrition, and family. The whole human environment must be tackled if we are to prevent illness and maintain wellness.

How are we going about this? You should listen carefully on how we're going about this. Thirty health districts now empower Saskatchewan people, communities, and health professionals to come together to plan and deliver services which best meet their community needs. It dramatically reduces 400

governance boards to 30 health districts, and creates and integrates streamlined systems which will help us get the most from our health dollars.

Today many health districts are entering the second stage. They're developing the programs they need to build a healthier future — the actual wellness plan. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the people in my area who are sitting on the district boards. They face many challenges in assessing the real health needs of our communities and being able to implement a delivery program to serve these needs.

I have been very involved in health care reform in my area. The changes are not easy and often have been contentious. But I know that we will succeed. And there have been problems and there have been mistakes, and that can be expected any time when you're pioneering any new initiative. But change would never occur if we were afraid of mistakes. We would never move ahead; we would never advance. Instead we would wait for collapse.

(1530)

But what is most important is if we learn from our mistakes and make adjustments. And I've said this over and over even to my children, is a mistake is an opportunity to learn. And we are learning. Because of the process we have set up, with partnerships in cooperation in health care, we will adjust, we will learn, and we will succeed.

An example of cooperation is being announced later today, where the Rural Health Coalition and the Department of Health have reached an understanding on the coalition's concerns about the provision of health services in rural Saskatchewan. And as I said earlier in my speech, consensus must be attempted for government to work well, and it is working. Discussions have been successful. Consensus has been achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in the year ahead, with the implementation of each district's wellness plans based on real needs, that we will see more responsive health care services in our communities. I commend the communities of Bengough-Milestone for having patience with these reforms. I am proud of the ideas and initiatives I hear coming from these communities. Meetings have been held where communities are identifying their needs.

And it has been made clear in the area I represent, they see emergency services as essential; improved respite and palliative care as needed; long-term care needs being met locally; and a variety of community health care services ranging from preventative programs, educational services for youth, parents, and seniors, just to mention a few.

Bengough held a wellness fair in which the whole community, along with outside agencies, took part. I saw evidence of a whole community pulling together to improve their health status in a holistic way — home care offering wellness clinics, a druggist

demonstrating safe usage of drugs, Sask Housing encouraging independent living skills, Emergency Measures explaining emergency procedures, students involved in SADAC (Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) and fitness programs, sports and recreation involved in programs for all ages, Saskatchewan Mental Health explaining their services, dental education, fire-fighters with a safety display, and the list goes on.

The possibilities are limited only by our creativeness. And looking to the future, I see improved emergency response for rural areas, health care centres both rural and urban providing a variety of services — chiropody, speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, preventative services, educational programs, crisis intervention, dental services — but the beauty of the reform is that these will be crafted to suit the needs of each individual community.

I see more opportunities for nurses to have direct access, nurse practitioners having an active role in our communities. I see more support for seniors in our community where ageing is treated not as an illness but as a natural process which needs various support mechanisms. I see mental health service being available for children, youth, and adults; programs developing parenting skills; physician services integrated with our district health services; and physicians being trained for rural practice. I see communities and citizens taking more responsibility for their lifestyles, their environment, their services in meeting the whole needs of each individual — physical, mental, and spiritual.

This is an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, an opportunity for exciting change. Mr. Speaker, so closely connected to the wellness is the theme in the throne speech on family. If we can truly strengthen our families, we will be improving the health status of our population. In this the International Year of the Family, it is fitting that we move ahead with the action plan for children and amendments to legislation which will improve the working condition of Saskatchewan families.

The action plan for children focuses on the needs of children and families. Projects have been initiated to address child hunger, family violence, illiteracy. A children's advocate within the Ombudsman office will have a protective role, meeting the needs of children and youth. The expansion of the Unified Family Court is also a positive initiative so that a court has the expertise in dealing with family law issues involving children in a more responsive, supportive, and less adversarial manner.

The feeling of security, whether it be for our children or for their working parents, may have the most profound effect on improving our health status in this province. It is well-known that populations with high unemployment and underemployment and less community well-being are at greater health risk; higher drugs and health intervention costs. Our greatest impact on wellness may well be strengthening our families and their security along

with our community's development.

Mr. Speaker, there is still one more area I want to highlight in the throne speech — education, an area dear to my heart. As in all other areas I've spoken of, education is also involved in partnerships. Partnerships in post-secondary education that must meet the economic and social needs of Saskatchewan people.

Education and training must be coordinated and responsive. High school apprenticeship programs are being piloted, linking school to the workplace. Students will receive high school credits and credits towards apprenticeship. Now more work needs to be done in this area, and I feel very strongly that improving apprenticeship programs and co-op programs is an initiative that we must encourage. This is an excellent example of integrating theory with practice and education with training.

The second initiative I want to commend the Minister of Education for is introducing amendments to The Education Act. This will allow areas who wish to voluntarily amalgamate to proceed. Some areas have felt these amalgamations will save them money in administration, money that can be used in programing. We do not want to stand in their way. We will monitor these amalgamations carefully to see their impact on education. I believe this is a very positive approach as again it is community and local driven.

Education and teachers have constantly dealt with change. Education is not stagnant but a very vibrant, changing, reforming field. Because this is Teacher Appreciation Week, I'd like to salute teachers both as a parent and as a politician. Classroom teachers today are facing the challenges we are facing as politicians on a real-life basis as they deal with our children and youth each day in their classrooms.

The theme of the throne speech has been woven around the power of cooperation and compassion. These elements are part of every teacher's day. It has been well documented that cooperative learning is essential in our classroom to help prepare students in their roles as productive citizens and workers.

An example was highlighted to me just the other evening when my daughter was studying for her grade 6 social test. She was reviewing a unit called "Independence" and I was amazed at the issues the grade 6 students were studying — the cutting down of the rain forests, GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), the building of the Chunnel joining England and France, CFL (Canadian Football League) expansion into the United States, and grain subsidies.

They had worked in groups developing pros and cons to these issues, debated the issues, and presented their views to the class. These skills of cooperation and critical thinking being developed in these students should be praised; and all too often we criticize teachers for what they're not doing, but fail to praise

for what they are doing and doing well.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of the throne speech and my speech has been centred around renewal — renewal which is powered by community, compassion, and cooperation; renewal which is a partnership of all aspects of our society.

The interconnectedness of the functions of government reminds me of what biologists call the web of life. Seeking consensus in decision making is like the balance of nature. Our economic strategies must balance worker and employer interests and balance out development and jobs with environmental sustainability.

Our fiscal strategies must balance revenues and expenditures, cut-backs with jobs. Health care must balance services with needs. Our decision making must balance the interests of our province. The lesson we can learn from nature is that partnerships, balance, and cooperation are important parts of maintaining our communities, our web of life.

The journey of renewal has been difficult. Saskatchewan people have had to sacrifice for building a brighter future with renewal, optimism, and hope.

So because I endorse our commitment to progress with compassion, to innovation through cooperation, I'm happy to support the motion in support of the throne speech. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to have a few remarks to make in conjunction with the throne speech.

First of all, I'd like to welcome Anita . . . the member from Regina North West into our midst. I'm sure by now she has got her feet wet, as the saying goes, and is starting to feel more comfortable.

And the other thing I'd like to say, Mr. Speaker, I noticed there was two themes seemed to be running through all of the speeches given by the members from the other side. And one of them was the decorum that was in the House, and they were congratulating you, sir. And I believe that I should maybe be entitled to some of that credit because you haven't chastised me once yet. And so I would like to acknowledge also that you're doing a very good job.

And the other theme I noticed running through the speeches, Mr. Speaker, was the name Tommy Douglas. They were rolling him around quite a bit during their speeches. And, Mr. Speaker, I wondered why. It took me a little while to figure this out, but I think I have it figured out.

My colleagues have outlined a few of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, why they thought — and I think I concur — that this particular throne speech was a bit of a waste of time and money. It was very vague. And when you

realize we're spending \$35,000 a day just to listen to an NDP throne speech, it was really drivel. We could be going toward many other more useful causes, Mr. Speaker. And in keeping with our original position, Mr. Speaker, I intend to keep my remarks very brief.

**An Hon. Member:** — Thank goodness for that.

**Mr. Britton:** — And one of the colleagues has said, thank goodness. Well I concur with that. You folks should have been doing the same thing. We could have been well into a couple of Bills by now.

However, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I noticed the two themes and I mentioned the first one. The other was, why are they digging up poor old Tommy all the time? Well it came to me when the member from Kindersley mentioned his friend, Jimmy Socialist. That's when it triggered why poor old Tommy was being . . . I would suppose they were told over there, each and every one, mention Tommy Douglas. Why? Well as the member said, they're running scared over there. They have lost the support of the unions.

Why are they looking to Tommy? Well the only other explanation, Mr. Speaker, is they have legislation what we suspect is going to bring the labour unions back into the fold. But how do you look after those old CCFers, those old folks that used to vote Tommy Douglas, populous socialists?

Mention Tommy Douglas because the old CCFers were going and voting Liberal. And they got panicky over there and they said, how are we going to stop that? Mention old Tommy. Roll old Tommy's bones around a few times and those old CCFers will come back into the fold. That's the only explanation. That's the only thing I can think of.

Because when you think about it, the member from Kindersley put it I think quite fairly, and not viciously but fairly. He said, I don't know Tommy Douglas. I don't know who he is. I know he was a premier and he's entitled to the respect that we give our premiers in this province, but I don't know. That was the trigger. It's the old folks they're trying to get back into the fold.

And that explains why, Mr. Speaker, when I listened to the Premier I detected panic in his voice. We have been listening to the Premier many times and he's been very articulate, very strong — good speeches. But that speech the other night had a tremor of panic through it. He's hurting. He's worried. So talk about Tommy. Get those old folks back into the fold. We're going to fix the labour unions up.

(1545)

And why does he do that? Because he has to make sure that those old CCFers don't realize they're voting for a labour government when they vote NDP. They're not voting for a socialist, old-Tommy-Douglas-populous type of political reform, they're voting for a labour government. And those old folks won't do that. So drag up Tommy. Drag him up every time you can.

And that's why I think they were doing that, Mr. Speaker. So after I got that kind of settled, then I decided, well I will make a few remarks — I wouldn't say in support of the throne speech because there wasn't too much to support, but I did pick up on a couple of things that were said there. And one was the bogus billion, and I want to talk a little about that later, Mr. Speaker.

The government members have been saying, Mr. Speaker, we're right on track when they speak about the direction in which the government has taken — right on track. Well, Mr. Speaker, they use that line, trying to defend the cuts to rural health care facilities that have jeopardized rural families to a certain degree. They use that line, Mr. Speaker, when trying to defend slashes to education, to municipalities, and to seniors' programs like the seniors' heritage funds. Mr. Speaker, they're bouncing seniors all over this province. And that bothers me. I'm a senior. Now are they trying to cut down the medicare costs or what? I don't know.

The only problem I can find, Mr. Speaker, is many of these things need not be done. They didn't have to be done. All we have to do is look to Alberta where they have tax breaks for corporations and no sales tax. And that's played a significant role. That has played a real role in creating what is now being called the Alberta advantage. Well, Mr. Speaker, here we could call the NDP government programs the Saskatchewan disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, the decisions of the members opposite have been drastic and in some cases, according to the Finance minister, brutal. She said they were brutal. And what do they use to base these decisions on, Mr. Speaker? Fiscal responsibility. That's the basis they use to be brutal — balance the books.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there are figures that members opposite pop out of nowhere just to try and justify their actions. We were, for example, Mr. Speaker, examining the workings of the Crown corporations and there were some questions that remained unanswered. In fact the Provincial Auditor couldn't explain them. That's very serious.

The first is the removal of \$180 million of debt from the financial statements of Sask Water Corporation. The second relates to \$197 million write-off of assets.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Provincial Auditor states: in our examination we have not yet seen sufficient or appropriate evidence to support those write-offs. You heard that, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Auditor can't see a reason for these write-offs. Just like the Canadian association of chartered accountants could not understand why the NDP government was adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the deficit figure two years ago through such additions as \$19 million for the Fair Share Saskatchewan program, just to create a bogus billion dollar deficit.

Well just a minute here. Fair Share, they cut that; they



axed that. But they still use the \$19 million anyway. No wonder the auditor's confused. I imagine half the people in Saskatchewan are confused.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, again I point out to you the bogus billion — the bogus billion dollar deficit. And it was bogus. How about the \$250 million dividend from the Crown Investments Corporation? By foregoing that dividend from CIC the projected deficit basically doubled in size. Again more of the bogus billion.

Then there's the government's failure to include 45 million in revenue from the retained earnings of the Saskatchewan Liquor Board. Again, Mr. Speaker, \$45 million more into the bogus billion.

Well that's just a few examples. Mr. Speaker, the list could go on and on as to what they did to create that bogus billion dollar deficit, which we will be — I'm sure you'll understand — looking at when the budget comes down.

Mr. Speaker, of the 14.2 billion accumulated debt left in 1991, 7.7 billion is reimbursable debt while 6.5 billion is operational debt. Well, Mr. Speaker, this reimbursable debt includes loan guarantees on economic development projects for which the provincial government is paid interest. They collect money on those guaranteed loans, Mr. Speaker. Commercial fee — regular, everyday occurrence; it's done all the time.

I'm sure some of the back-benchers over there don't even know that. They don't even know that Saskferco pays the Saskatchewan government for the loan guarantee.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these are things the Canadian association of chartered accountants say they should not be included in the deficit picture. But that's exactly what the members opposite have done. They have created a bogus billion-dollar deficit.

And from the beginning, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have been manipulating figures on paper just to justify their massive tax grabs. They slashed health, education, cuts to municipalities. They upped utility rates, and every other hurtful decision that has been made. And this is just the kind of thing that members opposite are famous for. They've done it before and they're doing it again.

Mr. Speaker, this smoke and mirrors show will enable the members opposite to rise right before they call the next provincial election and say, we balanced the budget.

**An Hon. Member:** — Houdini rises again.

**Mr. Britton:** — Houdini rides again. Right. The magician, the magician over there with his three-coloured pencil — the truth, the facts, and the what might be's.

Well there again we hear some of the members talking

about we have reduced the deficit by a billion. Well you can sure do that when you didn't have a billion to start with. There was no billion-dollar deficit to start with. It was bogus, false, misleading. And I can show you the figures right out of your own books. But you won't look at them, and you won't let your back-benchers look at them either. Because they're there. They're there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, any farmer, any farmer — and there's a few of them here — can move grain from one bin to another. All it takes is a little auger and you can do that. But that don't change the amount of grain you've got. If you've got half a bin of grain and you put it in another bin, you've only got half a bin. So we'll be looking for those kind of transfers, Mr. Speaker.

That's the same thing in the end, the same amount of grain. That's just what the members across the way started telling the public. It's about time they started telling us which bin the grain is in. Is it in CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan)? Is it in the Crowns? Well, Mr. Speaker?

I'm not going to have much more to say, Mr. Speaker, because as I mentioned before, there isn't a whole lot to talk about. But I will be watching when the budget comes down tomorrow to see how the Finance minister transfers funds from one bin to another; if we still have any loan guarantees left that they used in their bogus billion and all the other false bogus figures they used to create that bogus billion. We're going to be looking for those things and we're going to be pointing them out. And we're going to try and follow those transfers of funds that they're using over there to manipulate the figures.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, and I will take my seat.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to participate in this throne speech debate in the short time available this afternoon. I hope to focus most of my comment around health and the renewal of health care in Saskatchewan.

But before I begin, I do want to make an observation coming from the remarks of the member from Wilkie that we just heard in the House. He was chastising us somewhat for, in his view I take it, the overuse of the name of Tommy Douglas, the overuse of some of premier Douglas's comment and vision that he left with our party and our province.

Now what I find passing strange, Mr. Speaker, is that the member from Wilkie never mentions his former premier. I find it passing strange that he never mentions the name of their party's former premier who actually still continues to sit in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I tell you, I and every member of this government, when we bring the name and the vision and the writings and the comments of premier

Douglas to this House, we do it with a great deal of respect and gratitude for his contribution to the life of Saskatchewan.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I do want to focus my comment around health care renewal in our province and I want to quote to you again this comment that comes directly from the throne speech.

In our throne speech we heard the Lieutenant Governor read these important words. She said:

Together we will renew our health system to keep it secure for our communities, our families, our children, and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in a very short sentence that is precisely the challenge and the opportunity which is before us in this House, in this government, in this province. It is, Mr. Speaker, to work together to renew our health system to secure it for our communities, our families, our children, and our grandchildren. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am humbled to have a small part in this process of renewal that is happening across the province.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am proud — proud to be part of a government that has the courage and the will to undertake this essential renewal of health care for the people of Saskatchewan.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, beyond that I stand in awe today, in awe of the people of our province who in this process of reform have worked, have cooperated, have sacrificed to begin the change that we see happening, to begin the strengthening of health reform for the future.

I stand in awe of the contribution that Saskatchewan people are making to this process. And we who are legislators owe to all of those across the province who are working so hard, a deep debt of gratitude.

(1600)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, 60 years ago, 61 to be precise, a group of men and women met here in Regina and formulated a vision for health care. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was at that time a very radical vision. They called it, and I know my colleagues across the House don't like the word, but they called it socialized medicine.

Sixty years ago, sixty-one to be precise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a group of men and women came to Regina and formulated a vision for health care. One sentence in their vision captured its essence. It was placed in a document called the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Program, and one sentence captured that vision. They said in the 1930s:

A properly organized system of Public Health

Services including medical & dental care, which would stress the prevention rather than the cure of illness, should be extended to all our people in both rural and urban areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is a vision that is 60 years old, that is as current today as the day it was written. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that vision took 30 years to become a tangible reality, the tangible reality we call medicare, a vision placed on the principle that no family's health should depend upon their wealth. A principle based on a properly organized system of public health services.

It took us 30 years in this province, Mr. Speaker, to put that into the tangible form we know as medicare. And here we are these 30 years later, now called upon to renew and rebuild this medicare.

I would like to share with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and with members, a little parable that for me is an accurate parable of the choices we are having to make today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm told that in Greece there is a monastery which monastery is only accessible through a basket which is attached to a rope which is then hauled up the cliff to where the monastery is located, by the monks. The only access is in this basket.

Now the story is told, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of a visitor coming and wishing to visit the monastery, ready to board the basket, notes that the rope is frayed, worn, under stress, and frayed. The visitor then with some concern says to the monks, just how often do you change the rope? To which the monk replies, well of course we change it every time it breaks.

Mr. Speaker, I find that to be, number one, an extremely valuable parable when we're talking about preventative health; but more to the point, when we're talking about the need to renew health care delivery in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice, because health care delivery over the past 30 years has been put under stress. It has worn. It is frayed. And I'll talk a little bit in a few minutes about some of the points where I see we have been under stress and where the system is frayed. We have a choice, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We can either let the rope break completely or we can choose to reweave, to renew the rope of health care in this province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are those in Canada today who would let the rope break, who would let our system of publicly delivered, publicly funded, universally accessible health care services break and collapse and move us right back to the old two-tiered system of health care, one for the rich and one for the poor, that we knew in this country before the vision that was born here in Saskatchewan. We know we have a political party not represented in this legislature but represented in this country and represented in the House of Commons, who in the

recent federal election were talking about just that — two-tiered health care; one for the rich and one for the poor.

We can let the rope break and let health care collapse, not unlike what we see happening in our sister province of Alberta, which I'll, if time permits, talk about in a few moments — or we can make the choice, the choice to renew that rope, to rebuild, reweave the rope.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the choice of this government and this political movement is to rebuild, renew health care, not just for ourselves but for our children and our grandchildren. That's the choice we're making.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say just a few words about where I see the need and the requirement for change and where I see our system having become frayed, worn, and under stress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you might find interesting these figures. I have in front of me the total spending of the Department of Health over about the last 20 years in total dollars and factored in 1993 dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we are spending today, in Saskatchewan, in the budget of the Department of Health, in actual 1993 dollars, 130 per cent more than we were spending in 1971. In 1971 in '93 dollars we spent \$614 million. This year we are spending near \$1.5 billion in 1993 dollars. It is clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are spending a great deal more money in Health. The question then becomes, are we as a result any better; are we any happier?

And so I refer them to some relatively recent health care indicators, broadly based. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1989, which is the last year I could get completely accurate statistics, in 1989, 2,591 people died of heart-related disease. Mr. Speaker, in 1971, 20 years before, the number was 2,567. In fact, the number of people dying from heart-related disease is greater today than it was 20 years ago.

In 1971, Mr. Deputy Speaker, 1,363 Saskatchewan people died of cancer. In 1989, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that total had grown to 1,827 — a phenomenal increase.

We are spending more money but, Mr. Speaker, are we actually affecting the real health indicators of Saskatchewan people? As you well know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the year 1971 we had never heard of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) or sexually transmitted diseases as we know them today.

Over 20 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, our suicide rates in Saskatchewan have remained virtually unchanged. And yet what is alarming to me is that I am told suicide is now the second highest cause of death of teenagers in our province.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971 the Saskatchewan divorce rate was 88 per 100,000 people. In 1992 the divorce rate in our province is 230 per 100,000 people. Mr. Deputy Speaker, are we getting better? Are we happier?

It's time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we begin to look at the broader picture in health and what makes us healthy people and healthy communities and a healthy society.

Our system, Mr. Speaker, has been under stress. We have found in our system growing over the years a number of inefficiencies. We've had up until very recently, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over 400 overlapping health care boards and jurisdictions, each of them operating singly, each of them delivering a single service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've had in our province what I describe as an inequitable distribution of health care providers and professionals. For instance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have two-thirds of our population, two-thirds of our population live outside of the two major cities of Saskatoon and Regina, and yet only one-third, one-third of our doctors. I say that is an inequitable distribution of health care providers. We can note and each can document a lack of integration in the delivery of services.

We're living with changing demographics which puts stress on our health care system. We have interestingly enough a fast-growing seniors population in Saskatchewan. We are an ageing people. And yet at the very same time, the other extremely fast-growing portion of our population are the young, teenagers and under 20. Both segments of our population presenting their own demands on health care. We've new, in our time, new technological demands, very expensive technologies, that we desire and we need.

We live today with environmental factors that 20 years ago we didn't consider. Perhaps one of the most obvious is the change in the ozone layer and the rise of skin cancers as a result.

We live in a time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of societal change. I referred to some of the divorce statistics. We know that we have an extreme problem with child poverty in our province.

And another very significant change that directly affects the provision of health care in our province is that in the year 1981-1982 we were making no interest payments on a public debt from the Consolidated Fund.

**An Hon. Member:** — Wasn't even a line on the budget.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Wasn't a line on the budget, as my colleague points out. Today we have a line in our budget of \$850 million in interest payments, the third highest in the provincial budget.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the health care cord of delivery, the rope of delivery is frayed, it's under stress, and it needs to be renewed. And this government has taken the challenge, with the people of Saskatchewan, in renewing our health care.

And so just very briefly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to share with members what I believe are the three stages of that renewal. The first stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was not an easy stage. And that was simply our need to put our financial house in order; our need to bring down our expenditures to deal with the debt and the deficit. And that has had an effect on every aspect of government, and health care is no different.

And so we had to make some very difficult decisions respecting programs like the drug plan, respecting programs like chiropractic care, and the children's dental plan. Physician payments were reduced; reductions in long-term care and acute care reductions. These were very difficult choices but necessary if we are going to have the available resources to make our system continue in the future.

Now I want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in making these very difficult decisions, at each and every point this government laboured long and hard to protect those most vulnerable and most in need.

I contrast this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with what I see happening immediately to our west, into the west in Alberta. In Alberta we're hearing of Draconian cuts to health, ranging up to 30 per cent of the budgets of hospitals in one blow.

I read in the press from Alberta just this very week in **The Edmonton Journal** on Wednesday, speculation that health care workers in Alberta are looking at having to accept 12, 15, 20, and as much as 30 per cent in wage cuts, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I see from the Alberta press this week, the *Calgary Herald*, again on Wednesday 9, an article that talks about some group of people not identified, described in fact as a secret cost-cutting master plan being delivered for the Government of Alberta and being provided to the Government of Alberta, which plan talks about in Alberta introducing health care premiums for seniors who can afford to pay them, Blue Cross premiums. It talks about including as an income taxable benefit, our health benefits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in our difficult choices, financial, and difficult they were, at each and every point we sought to maintain benefits for those who need the benefits most. And to work in public, not in some secret fashion, but to work in public with Saskatchewan people in developing our means of proceeding. That was the first stage, Mr. Speaker. It's not been easy, it's not been easy for Saskatchewan people but it was an absolute necessary first stage.

The second stage of renewing our health care structure and delivery was to move to the district board model, long recognized as an appropriate model for health care delivery. The Murray

Commission, in our consultations with Saskatchewan people, recognized as the appropriate method of health care delivery for the future.

Now I recall the debates last year, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I recall sitting in this House and listening to members opposite saying to us, it'll never work, it can't work. You can't go out and ask communities to come together, to negotiate, to work, to discuss, and to form districts on their own. They told us, it can't work. Health care gurus from other parts of the country were telling us, it can't work; you'll never get people to agree to this.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to report to the House this afternoon, it worked. It worked, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because Saskatchewan people are the kind of people who will work together, who will cooperate. And over the course of the past year we have seen communities across our province come together, form their district organization, and begin now to work together in a real way to deliver health care.

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

(1615)

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, some said, you see, some of our political opponents and others in the health field who were opposing were saying, no, no, what you should have done, you see, is just taken a map and drawn the districts yourself and imposed it, as the Liberal government did in the Maritimes; as the provincial Conservative government in Alberta intends to do. They're talking about doing 10 or 12 regional boards, just slapping them on.

Well I compare this situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the situation I encountered as a student over at the University of Regina some few years ago. When I was a student over at the University of Regina there weren't that many buildings on the campus. We had a classroom building and a lab building and the education building was still new, and there was just a new phys ed building. And you know, the very creative landscape artists or whoever they are — landscape architects or whoever do these things — they planned the sidewalks over there, and they were all very nice geometrical designs all over the campus and they were very nice. Of course we students arrived on the place and we went from one door to the other door straight across the lawn. Now when I travel over to the University of Regina I find that the sidewalks have moved to where the people walk.

In the formation of district boards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that was our approach — to allow communities to decide where people walk; to allow communities to decide where those districts will best suit their needs.

And, Mr. Speaker, with all the scepticism that we were confronted with a year ago, it has worked, and the people of Saskatchewan have come together.

And what's happening now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're . . . It's early, it's early. Some of our districts have been in place now for some time, others are now just getting up and running and they have massive tasks ahead of them. They're all working on the needs assessment process. They're all putting their staff in place. I'm encouraging them to work as much as they possibly can with health care workers in their districts, to make them a part of the decision-making process. They will be working this year on global funding.

A very significant, if not revolutionary, reform has taken place over the course of the past 12 months in health care delivery in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, for those who have been a part of it in all parts of our province, we owe them a large debt of gratitude.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, our time is drawing to a close. I could share with you thoughts for a long time on the subject.

Mr. Speaker, we are now moving into a very exciting phase of health care reform, the phase where we're beginning to look now at the renewal of programs and service delivery mechanisms. We will, in the course of the next few weeks, months, and years, be looking at issues such as physician management in our province and ensuring that we can provide basic physician services to all residents of our province, where they are. We need to be looking at multi-disciplinary approaches to health care in the treatment of clients.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most engaging hours I've spent was to visit in the community of La Ronge where that community has planned a replacement for its now-existing acute care hospital. They have planned, as a community, a health care centre where the needs of the whole person will be met in one centre. And so there will be under one roof, there will be acute care beds, there will be long-term care beds, there will be addiction treatment beds, there will be community workers, and the first person that you will meet will not be a doctor, but will very likely be a public health nurse.

There are exciting things happening in communities all across our province, Mr. Speaker, and this reform is only just beginning.

But even beyond that, as I look to the new century, to the year 2010, our understanding has only just begun of what in essence makes for good health. And we are beginning to understand, as some of our native brothers and sisters have understood for a long time, that we need to treat the whole person — the whole person. Mental health, spiritual health, physical health, economic health — that's the whole person, Mr. Speaker. And as we begin to understand that more and more in the provision of health care, more and more we will become happier and healthier people and a happier and healthier society.

I've seen some amazing work, Mr. Speaker, done by a Dr. Fraser Mustard, an extremely well-known and renowned physician from Canada. Dr. Fraser Mustard addressed our Provincial Health Council and he showed us the direct relationship, Mr. Speaker, between our community life, our employment, and our health. He showed us documents, statistical work from Great Britain, showing that in communities where unemployment is high, so is prescription drug use high. And where communities where employment . . . where unemployment is high, so is the prescription drug use. In communities where there is good employment, prescription drug use falls.

He showed us work done in Jamaica among young children, and the health benefit that is added to a child's life through basic nutrition and basic nurture — amazing changes in children's life through very basic things.

Mr. Speaker, that's the future. That is the future — to look at the whole person in the context of health care, to look at our education, to look at our employment, and to look at our physical needs and our spiritual needs, Mr. Speaker. And that's where we're going, Mr. Speaker.

Now I was provoked by the member from Wilkie. I had not planned, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon to share in my portion of the debate comments by former Premier Douglas. But he has provoked me to do so.

And so I want to come to some conclusion, Mr. Speaker, by sharing with this House words that were spoken in this room on March 21, 1945, and spoken from that bench that is directly in front of me by the then Premier Douglas. He gave a major address to this Assembly that day on health services. It was part of the budget debate that year. I want to quote, and I ask members to hear these words again. He said, Mr. Speaker:

The people of this province are health conscious. We may not have the (expensive) health equipment to be found (in other places) . . . but we have something in Saskatchewan which is beyond price: we have in Saskatchewan, a people who are health conscious; a people who are prepared to work together for health, (a people who are prepared) to provide health facilities for others.

Mr. Speaker, that has not changed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, Premier Douglas said in this House in 1945, I quote:

We are in the vanguard of public health on this continent, because we have a health conscious people who regard health as something beyond price, who are convinced that health is a public utility and the right of every individual in the nation. Having gone thus far we intend to stay in the vanguard . . .

Mr. Speaker, that has not changed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — In this great and worthy task, Premier Douglas said:

... let us take again as our slogan:

“I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England’s (Saskatchewan’s) green and pleasant land.”

Mr. Speaker, we who believe in socialized medicine, we who believe in a social democratic vision of health care, have not changed in our principles. We yet believe that no person’s health should depend on that person’s wealth.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, we who share a social democratic vision for health believe that we must so structure our health care system that it meets the needs of the person and not vice versa. Mr. Speaker, we who believe in social democratic health care provision are committed to the renewal and the reweaving of that rope which will deliver health care services not just to ourselves and our communities, but to our children and to our grandchildren. And to that vision and to that commitment we will not fail, Mr. Speaker.

Because in this throne speech, health care and health care renewal is clearly identified — but not only for this reason but for many others, Mr. Speaker — I will proudly stand and vote yes in the very few moments when we are called upon to vote for the Speech from the Throne.

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to enter into this debate on the throne speech. First of all, I want to welcome the new member to the House from Regina North West. I hope she enjoys her stay here. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, it will be a short one.

I also, Mr. Speaker, want to congratulate my colleagues, the member from Regina Lake Centre and the member from Biggar, for moving the throne speech and seconding it. And I really appreciate the thoughtful addresses that they gave us, very meaningful, and certainly gave us all in the House here something to think about.

Mr. Speaker, I’m very, very proud to be a part of the throne speech and the throne speech debate. I’m very proud of the very positive throne speech that our government has put forward, a throne speech that is full of hope, full of direction, full of direction for the province to rebuild and renew itself.

And, Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Opposition House Leader suggested that he wanted to throttle and put a gag order on his back-benchers and didn’t really want them to participate in the throne speech. And that, Mr. Speaker, at the time puzzled me. But then after listening to what the rhetoric that has come from the back benches of the Tory caucus, I can understand why he’d be ashamed to have them speak.

Mr. Speaker, as we all well know that 1994 marks the 50th anniversary of a number of great events that have taken place in the world and affected Saskatchewan and affected Canada. Of course we all know of the June 6 invasion by the Allied troops of Normandy that as Sir Winston Churchill said, marked the beginning of the end of the Nazi tyranny that had engulfed Europe.

I find it quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, that nine days later, on June 15, the voters in Saskatchewan stormed the polls to use their power, through the ballot box, to rid Saskatchewan of the Liberal tyranny that had engulfed it at that time.

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Mr. Speaker, if you look at the circumstances in which Tommy Douglas inherited the province of Saskatchewan in 1944, a province that had been devastated by debt and brought to its financial knees by the Liberal government of the time, compare it to the situation that we inherited as government in 1991, a province that was devastated by debt and brought to its financial knees by the Conservative government, you can’t help but agree with what my constituents have told me, that there is really no difference between a Liberal government and a Conservative government.

But my grandfather who raised his family in this province, Mr. Speaker, in the 1920s and 1930s under Liberal and Conservative governments, used to insist that there was a difference. A very slight difference, but a difference. My grandfather used to say that a Conservative government will skin you from the top down, while a Liberal government will skin you from the bottom up.

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I’m sad to say that the former Conservative government in this province not only skinned us, but they fleeced generations to come with their debt and deficit programs.

Mr. Speaker, our government has adapted a constant common sense fiscal policy in rebuilding Saskatchewan. We have a plan, and even the **Leader-Post** is saying that our plan is better than the one in Alberta.

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

**Mr. Harper:** — For, Mr. Speaker, they are saying that slow and steady wins the race, not the slash and hack

policies of the Conservative government in Alberta.

The Liberals, as the Premier has indicated, the Liberals in Nova Scotia aren't only pretty bad, Mr. Speaker, they're extremely bad.

(1630)

**The Speaker:** — Order. I must inform the Assembly that under rule 13(4), it is my duty at this time to interrupt debate and put all questions necessary to dispose of the main motion.

The division bells rang from 4:31 p.m. until 4:37 p.m.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

**Yeas — 47**

Romanow	Calvert
Van Mulligen	Renaud
Thompson	Murray
Wiens	Hamilton
Simard	Trew
Tchorzewski	Draper
Lingenfelter	Serby
Shillington	Whitmore
Anguish	Sonntag
Koskie	Flavel
Teichrob	Roy
Johnson	Cline
Atkinson	Scott
Kowalsky	Crofford
Carson	Wormsbecker
Mitchell	Stanger
Penner	Kluz
Upshall	Knezacek
Hagel	Harper
Bradley	Keeping
Lorje	Jess
Lyons	Carlson
Pringle	Langford
Lautermilch t	

**Nays — 12**

Swenson	Britton
Muirhead	D'Autremont
Neudorf	Goohsen
Martens	Haverstock
Boyd	McPherson
Toth	Bergman t

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

**MOTIONS**

**Support for Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Thunder Creek:

That by leave of the Assembly that Mr. Speaker transmit to the Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, and Hon. David Collenette, Minister of National Defence, and

the Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, a copy of the resolution supporting continued operation of 15 Wing CFB Moose Jaw, adopted unanimously this day, including the transcript of the debate as well as the record of the division on this resolution.

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

**Ways and Means**

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

That the Assembly pursuant to rule 87 hereby appoint a Committee of Finance to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty and consider the ways and means of raising the supply.

Motion agreed to.

**Address be Engrossed and Presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor**

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for The Battlefords:

That the said address be engrossed and presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are of the Executive Council.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:46 p.m.