

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
February 7, 1995

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of motions that I'd like to introduce with respect to readings of first Bills.

I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move the first reading of An Act respecting the Protection of Saskatchewan Taxpayers.

I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move the reading of An Act to repeal The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 1994 and The Trade Union Amendment Act, 1994.

I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move the first reading of An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (Four Year Term).

I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move the reading of a Bill, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

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I give notice that I shall on Thursday next move a reading of first . . . Pardon me. I give notice that on Thursday next I will move first reading of An Act to amend The Government Organization Act.

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mrs. Bergman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce three guests from Manitoba this morning. They are in your gallery. I would ask them to stand when I introduce them. They are Dr. Gerry McKinney, who is president of the Manitobans Against Assiniboine Diversion; Mr. Fred Tait, regional coordinator for the National Farmers Union; and Mrs. Sandra Tait, observer and vice-president for the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

I'd like to ask the members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming our guests this morning.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Rolfes: — If members permit me, I have a couple of guests that I notice are in the galleries that I would like to introduce. First of all, I notice a member from my constituency, Mr. Mike Shutlak. Welcome, Mike, and I ask members to welcome Mike to the Assembly this morning.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Rolfes: — Secondly, I would like to introduce my brother-in-law, Mr. John Kraus from Muenster, Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've just noticed there's someone from my constituency in the gallery, and I'd like you to welcome Allie Irvine to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also welcome Dr. McKinney and the delegation from Manitoba. The delegation will be meeting with various MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) this afternoon regarding the very important and controversial Langenburg east drainage project, and we look forward to meeting with you later.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

West Central Regional Economic Development Authority

Ms. Stanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday His Honour announced that so far nine regional economic development authorities have been created in Saskatchewan with several more soon to be up and running.

In my part of the province, close to the constituency of Cut Knife-Lloydminster, the West Central REDA (regional economic development authority) is off to a great start. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Wayne Nargang of the town of Alsask, the west central authority founding members are the towns of Eatonia, Eston, Kindersley, and Kerrobert, with the RMs (rural municipality) of Snipe Lake and Kindersley.

As well, a number of other villages and RMs are joining as associate members. This is the kind of teamwork we need to see to create economic activity and jobs. And the foundation of this REDA along our western border is just further proof that there is activity and optimism in every area of our province.

Mr. Nargang said that there is already a history of regional teamwork and a commitment to economic development in this area. This new organization, he said, will help focus our efforts and strengthen our ability to work together to build our future. That, Mr. Speaker, is what the REDAs are all about: working together to build our future.

I congratulate the members of the West Central REDA, and we all look forward to great results. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Langenburg East Drainage Project

Mrs. Bergman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today there are a number of Manitobans at the legislature, some of whom have travelled more than 400 miles to present their concerns to the government. They join the concerned ratepayers of Churchbridge in expressing their concerns about the Langenburg east drainage project, especially their concerns about how the proposed project would affect Manitoba.

Members will recall that I asked the question about this project nearly one year ago. At the time the minister said the department would be investigating the effect of the project on soils, wetland habitat, and groundwater in order to determine whether the project should go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, this Manitoba group consists of members of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Manitobans Against Assiniboine Diversion, Shellmouth RM officials and farmers, the Oak Lake First Nation, the Water Table Preservation Association, Dorothy and Bob Hutchinson who represent a group of farmers in Manitoba, and the National Farmers Union.

They are joining the concerned ratepayers to present a document to the Minister of Environment. In the document, they express deep concern about the impact of the project in the Assiniboine Valley — not only at the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border but all the way across Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I trust these weary travellers will receive a full hearing of their concerns today. Thank you.

Kipling Hog-breeding Business

Mr. Knezacek: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has had many success stories in the agricultural field over the years, and today I would like to tell you about another positive venture, this time in the hog industry.

It was three years ago that six farm families from the Kipling area started a diversification of their farming operations and formed the value-added pork group. Over the past year, this group negotiated successfully with an international hog breeding company from the Netherlands, called Dalland. Now the home office for all of the North American operations of Dalland is located right here in Saskatchewan — truly a proud accomplishment.

And further to their success, 900 animals have been imported to Saskatchewan from Europe, and they have made their first sales in the Saskatchewan market-place and to the third largest pork integrator in the United States. Dalland is the second largest breeding company in the world. Last month, I had the honour of attending the grand opening of this business in Kipling. Mr.

Speaker, this is another example of how value-added diversification is working in the agricultural sector of Saskatchewan.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the farm families who had a dream realized in setting up this business, and I am sure we will be hearing more exciting news from them as they seek new opportunities. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Expansion of Prairie Malt

Mr. Whitmore: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many positive signs across Saskatchewan that the economy is on the upswing. In my riding there's a specific example of this and the optimism is picking up steam province-wide. That optimism has triggered a \$10-million expansion of Prairie Malt in Biggar.

The first phase is scheduled for completion in June and I know they want to initiate the second phase soon. This expansion will boost the total malting capacity to 180,000 tonnes from the current 125,000 tonnes, and comes in a year when Canada is expected to emerge as the world's dominant malt exporter.

In October it was announced that Prairie Malt, along with its Wisconsin partner, bought a 25 per cent interest in a China-based company. This joint venture has important implications for Saskatchewan. It makes Prairie Malt the only malting house in Canada with a joint venture in China. It will also give Prairie Malt a stake in the world's most densely populated region, and the fastest growing beer market with a potential of 1.2 billion customers.

This company is demonstrating the innovation . . . Saskatchewan companies have much to offer in this global market-place. This kind of initiative is responsible for the economic turnaround we're experiencing right now in our province, Mr. Speaker. Prairie Malt buys its raw barley from its local producers, employs 70 people full time, and has a total payroll of more than \$2 million a year.

It's partnerships like this one that is a key to our economic renewal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Passing of Jack Wolfe

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while we'll all have an opportunity to express our thoughts during motions of condolence later this session, Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to inform the Assembly that today marks the passing of a friend and a colleague of this Assembly, Mr. Jack Wolfe. Later this afternoon in Rockglen members will say farewell to the former member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, and for that reason, Mr. Speaker, our numbers on this side of the House will be minimal.

I just want to add that for those who really want to know who Jack Wolfe was and what he represented, I encourage them to read today's column in the *Leader-Post* and the *Star-Phoenix*. Dale Eisler's tribute was an accurate reflection of Jack's honesty and integrity and a moving account of the tribulations of public life.

Mr. Speaker, Jack will be missed by all who knew him and we look forward to the comments of all members of the Assembly during condolence motions.

Prince Albert Curling Champions

Mr. Kowalsky: — Mr. Speaker, the city of Prince Albert can once again boast about having two provincial champions in curling. Last month Glenn Pryor and his rink won the Saskatchewan senior men's championship then placed second in the nationals. His rink consists of Gordon Widger, Ed Fusick, and Stan Toporowski.

More recently, Sherry Anderson's foursome captured its second straight Saskatchewan women's curling championship in Regina. I know Prince Albertans are very proud of skip Sherry Anderson, lead Elaine McCloy, second Donna Gignac, and third Kay Montgomery. They came from the "B" event to win the provincial crown, and in doing so, this foursome displayed the tenacity that it takes to be a champion.

Last year Sherry Anderson's team finished a respectable third at the national championships. These Prince Albert curlers will be a force to be reckoned with at the national championship again this year as the rink competes at the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the national event in Calgary Feb. 18 to 26.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to recognize in this legislature the curling skills demonstrated by these two Prince Albert teams: Glen Pryor, the senior provincial champion; and Sherry Anderson, the women's provincial champions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

White Cane Week

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The week of February 5 to 11 is White Cane Week, the week sponsored by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to publicize the services available to the blind and visually impaired, and to remind us all of the need for those services.

The Saskatchewan division of the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) has over 4,000 clients, Mr. Speaker — 74 per cent are seniors; 263 are children. With only 20 per cent of its funding from governments, the 33 staff members provide a wide range of services across the province. These include counselling and referral, orientation and mobility training, career development, and employment services. As well, Mr. Speaker, the CNIB gives awareness and information workshops and a number of other services to complement individual attention. We recognize these services for this one week. They

take place daily, every year, every week of the year.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in Regina and tomorrow in Saskatoon, there will be open houses to officially launch technical aids demonstration centres. These centres will provide information and access to technical aids which will increase independence in daily living and daily activities. These aids include new computer and software technology, reading scanners, and voice synthesizers. Mr. Bob Waugh, national chairperson, will attend both openings.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we all owe our thanks and our admiration to the work of the CNIB. We wish it and its clients a successful week. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Job Creation

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my questions today to the Premier of the province. Mr. Speaker, the Premier's throne speech once again refers to the myth that his administration has created 12,000 new jobs in 1994. It appears that, like an addicted gambler, the Premier refuses to admit that he has a problem and refuses to see the truth because the truth hurts.

Mr. Speaker, StatsCanada has recently shown that Saskatchewan has lost nearly a thousand jobs last year — the only province in Canada to do that. The throne speech has not . . . has been made partisan by the government opposite and now it's also been made inaccurate by the government.

My question to the Premier is simply this: will you begin this session of the legislature by admitting that you have a problem; that the great Saskatchewan comeback refers to the fact that Saskatchewan people want to see their jobs come back from Alberta?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to be back in the House again for the opening of the session and the beginning of a new session with question period. And I do want to respond to the Leader of the Opposition as it would relate to jobs and job creation in the province.

I think the member should be very clear in his approach to job creation. And he knows very clearly that jobs are being created in the province by the thousand — not by government. Because if you look at the same StatsCanada numbers you'll find that when it comes to the number of people employed in government, we are not creating a lot of jobs. And I'll readily admit that. If he expects the government to go out and hire a lot more people, that simply isn't possible with the mountain of debt that was left by that very administration when they sat on the government benches.

But when it comes to small business creating jobs, I think the president of the Saskatchewan chamber made it clear in her year-end comments that governments should facilitate job creation, but business will create jobs. And they're doing it in Saskatchewan by the thousand.

I need only remind the Leader of the Opposition that Bourgault, for example their expansion, creating 400 new jobs in the small town in Saskatchewan, where Mr. Bourgault many years ago started the plant, this year, 1994, and the previous year, created 400 new jobs.

In the Swift Current area . . . I met with the employment centre people in Swift Current a few weeks ago where they said: urgent need for workers in the south-west part of the province in the oil fields. Many hundreds if not thousands of young people coming back to that area from Alberta, where they went when you were in government, to get jobs in Saskatchewan in the private sector.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my questions once again to the Premier of the province. Mr. Speaker, it's the Premier's inability to recognize a problem and subsequent failure to address the problem, correcting this loss-of-job situation in Saskatchewan.

In the *Leader-Post*, University of Saskatchewan economics professor Eric Howe placed the blame for poor job growth squarely on the provincial government. He said that higher taxes and higher utility rates implemented by the NDP (New Democratic Party) government weakened job growth.

Mr. Premier, the province of Alberta is balancing its budget by reducing government rather than increasing taxes and utility rates. Ralph Klein's government is the envy of this country. In the midst of these cuts his administration has generated a 3 per cent increase in jobs in Alberta — an increase in jobs even with massive downsizing in government.

Mr. Premier, isn't it time to swallow your pride and look to Premier Klein for guidance?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the members opposite have visions of grandeur from the good old days of Conservative governments here in Saskatchewan. The sad part is — maybe not so sad — but the public of Saskatchewan have caught on to that myth; not that you can cut government but you can do away with it, which is what Ralph Klein is talking about doing. Eliminate government.

Some would argue with you that government does have some responsibility, for example in helping parents with day care, which Mr. Klein has no commitment, no compunction to help out families in the province of Alberta.

I want to say to the member opposite that there have been many, many stories written — not only in Saskatchewan but in

Alberta as well — about the comparison between Saskatchewan and Alberta. And I have here a *Lethbridge Herald*, November 23, 1994, an editorial which says "no splashy award for the Romanow approach". But it goes on to say that the approach contrasts strongly with the Klein government's use of deficit reduction program to hide behind its real agenda which is to dismantle government. That's the issue.

And the members opposite, the member from Maple Creek nods his head because he knows that's what they are talking about. And they tried in the 1980s. Privatize SaskEnergy. Privatize SaskPower. I say it was rejected . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Next question.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, it's interesting that your minister likes to take shots at Premier Klein here in Saskatchewan. I understand that you also called Klein a slash-and-burn Premier while you were at a recent NDP convention in Ontario.

But funny, Mr. Premier, that's not what Premier Klein says when you're talking to him away from the cameras. In fact, in a speech delivered in Toronto, this is what Premier Klein had to say about you. And I quote from Mr. Klein: Roy was asking me how Saskatchewan could share in our prosperity and how we could do things together. And what's more, I'm really not NDP, you know.

That's what you told him. It's amazing . . . Mr. Klein went on to say: it's amazing what they get away with when they're away from home, Klein concluded.

Mr. Premier, if you're not, if you're not really NDP, then how about reducing government instead of spending more on everything from arts grants, to 90th birthday celebrations, to your own million-dollar pension. Will you do that, Mr. Premier?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, while I'm very pleased to agree with the member opposite that Mr. Klein is not a New Democrat — that we totally agree with — I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition though, that when it comes to the style of government, there is a difference between what's going on in Saskatchewan and what's going in Alberta. We'll readily admit that.

What we are doing in Saskatchewan is something that is very, very much more humane. When you look at the health care reform, when you look at job creation strategy, when you look at the fundamental changes that are going on within municipal government, within education, you'll find that it is being done as a partnership — a partnership of the people of the community working with their government to make fundamental change.

That's very different than the top-down approach taken from

Edmonton with Mr. Klein dictating to the public what economic development, what changes should take place, and I say the people of Saskatchewan will agree with the approach that the Saskatchewan government and the Romanow government is taking.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the New Democratic Party tells the Premier of Alberta that — and I quote again — that I'm really not NDP, you know, you really have to wonder about an identity crisis.

Mr. Speaker, my question is again to the Premier, the leader of . . . what party is that again . . . No, not the NDP, I understand.

Mr. Premier, at a time when jobs are a priority for Saskatchewan people, your solution is to spend more taxpayers' money on gimmicky programs like JobStart and Future Skills. These programs sound more like you planned some kind of Sega game rather than anything meaningful to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Premier, you have made bold predictions before and I'm wondering if you could tell us how many more jobs are you going to create this year?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, when you travel around the province speaking to business organizations and community groups, the optimism there is for example in that member's own home riding of Kindersley; and we were recently up there for the announcement of an expansion of a small helicopter plant in his home town — a great deal of optimism. His mayor, who he knows very well, is very optimistic about the future of that community.

If you go to Swift Current, what they talk about down there are all the jobs and the problem with getting enough workers in, in Spar industries. And the member from Morse will know that. Too many jobs being created and difficulty getting enough trained workers to fill those positions.

And the government comes forward to facilitate training for young people to take those jobs, and the Leader of the Opposition mocks that. I don't quite understand where you're coming from.

But the clear objective of the Leader of the Opposition is to preach gloom and doom about how bad it is out there. That is not what we're hearing. I spoke at the chamber of commerce in Weyburn last night. Mayor Brown was saying it's as good as it ever has been in the community of Weyburn for job creation.

Now you can preach gloom and doom all you want, but you're going to have to convince a lot of people out there if you're going to have success on that line and I would urge you to become more positive.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, you know very well that the job growth in Kindersley is not a result of anything you are doing at all, your government is doing, but it's in spite of what you are doing the job growth is happening in Kindersley.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the Premier's Minister of Finance is NDP, and we know that. She believes in welfare economics. Just before the new year she said in a letter, and I quote:

While increased investment and job creation that result from an E&H tax rate reduction would translate into higher tax revenues that could offset the provincial revenue loss associated with the E&H tax reduction, federal equalization payments would be reduced, leaving the province worse off fiscally.

Now that's typical NDP policy, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, now that you are not a member of the NDP any longer, will you admonish the Finance minister and instruct her that Saskatchewan people want tax relief and economic development rather than a hand-out from the federal government. Or do you believe in that same kind of welfare mentality in economics?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. MacKinnon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to answer that question. As I've explained before, that particular quote was taken quite out of context and does not accurately reflect the situation.

But I do want to deal with the members opposite with respect to taxes. We laid out before the people of this province a plan to balance the budget. One part of the strategy was to grow the economy. We have achieved that. Retail sales in this province are the highest in all of the Prairies and the highest since 1981.

The other part of the plan was to make cuts and, yes, to increase taxes. Both the opposition parties are running around the province saying, oh trust us; we would have balanced the books and we wouldn't have increased taxes. Don't trust them; make them show you.

How would they have balanced the books of this province without increasing taxes? How would they have gone from a deficit of \$842 million to zero as we have done and not increased taxes? We have to be accountable. So do they.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Gaming Expansion

Mr. Neudorf: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be back here again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the new minister of gambling. And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my personal congratulations

to the new minister, one of many over the last few years; and that perhaps condolences might be more in order, Madam Minister.

However I think, Mr. Speaker, we recognize a bit of irony here. We have finally heard the Premier admit that really he is not NDP. We have also noted that he supports job creation and at the same time is morally opposed to gambling, Mr. Speaker. So what do we get as a result? We get expanded gambling and no job creation.

So with that in view, Madam Minister, I would want to give you an opportunity to address the people of Saskatchewan by giving us your personal views on the gambling expansion. Do you personally believe we should have government-run VLTs (video lottery terminal) and casinos in this province?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member from Rosthern for his question, and start out by saying that I don't think any of the decisions around gaming had to do whether anybody personally prefers gaming or not.

There was a condition existing in the province which I might compare to some of the trade agreements, where a recognition occurred in the business community that Saskatchewan is not an island. We're surrounded on three sides by provinces that have gaming options for their people in the tourism industry and in the hotel business. It was these people who came to the government and said that they couldn't compete as people in tourism and people in the hotel business unless they had a level playing-field with people in the other provinces.

Now I might want to remind the hon. member opposite that under the Tories bingo revenues increased from 4 million in '82 to 100 million in '91. And I'm not sure why that wasn't of some concern to him if he's really concerned about people's personal positions on the gaming issue.

And I would just like to reiterate that, having spent some eight months in a democratic caucus where this issue was discussed at length, that I feel that the positions that we've taken on gaming are the ones that have to be taken for a practical situation on gaming.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, I believe that you're the fifth NDP minister of gambling over three years. And I repeat that for your benefit — I believe you're the fifth NDP gambling minister now in three years. In fact your government changes gambling ministers almost as often as the Liberals change press secretaries.

But I'd like to give every new minister the benefit of the doubt. Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order.

Mr. Neudorf: — I must stay on track.

Madam Minister, you're fifth gambling minister. Now I'd like to give you the benefit of the doubt, and assuming now that you have been appointed as the new minister because you are supposed to set this gambling direction of your government on track, assuming that, I believe then, Madam Minister, that you will have learned from your predecessors and your Premier's past mistakes; that you are now heading in the right direction.

This is an opportunity for you to set the gambling direction properly in this province, and that is by referring to the people of this province who say they want a say in the direction that you're taking. In other words, Madam Minister, are you prepared to get up now and commit to holding a referendum in this province on your gambling direction? Are you prepared to hold a referendum in conjunction with the next election, so that indeed you have the mandate from the people of this province who so far have had no say in this direction? Would you make that commitment, Madam Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — I'd like to thank the member opposite for his question. I, unlike the member opposite, don't believe in government by referendum. I believe that there are circumstances that exist that governments have to deal with, and I don't think that a referendum would change the reasons why, in 1969, gaming began in this province, and gaming products have been added continuously over that time period, including bingos, break-opens, raffles, horse-racing. It has been a continuous movement of various gaming products as that particular industry has developed.

So a moratorium is not going to change any of that. That circumstance will still exist. And a moratorium or a referendum is not going to change the fact that there's gaming on three sides of us. You still have to deal with the issue of revenue drain from the province and you still have to deal with the issue that customers are making a statement about where they spend their dollars. There would not be these dollars if people weren't making some of those choices.

I think that we have taken a measured approach. We've certainly looked at it every step of the way. And for myself in looking at this issue, the kind of things I used to evaluate our position is whether what we were doing was fair; whether we were regulating gaming in a responsible way in terms of crime and other issues; whether we were sharing community benefit in a way that would benefit the majority of people with these dollars rather than putting those dollars in specific pockets here or there — the principle of revenue sharing. And those are the principles that I've looked to in development of this policy. And I don't think that a referendum would change that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Neudorf: — In your evaluation, Madam Minister, why don't you ask yourself the fundamental question: what do

people want? What do people want? You have never answered that. Because you've been involved in a shameless bidding war, Madam Minister, in which your government is attempting to buy support for your gambling . . . for your gambling policies by outdoing and by increasing the gambling take.

And even worse, the Liberal leader has been trying to raise the stakes by promising to give away more than what you're prepared to give away. So your government and the Liberals are acting like two addicted gamblers in a high-stakes poker game. And do you know what, Madam Minister, and Mr. Premier? You're not even using your own money in that game.

We, as our party, do not believe in that, Madam Minister. We believe that you should be deciding . . . you should start deciding who gets how much revenue. Before you do that, you've got to answer that fundamental question. And here it is, Mr. Speaker. And here it is: do Saskatchewan people want expanded gambling?

Why don't you have the courage to get that question answered once and for all by having a province-wide vote so the people can have a say, Madam Minister? Will you commit to that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member from Rosthern for his question. It is a very emotional issue. We're concerned about the impacts of gaming; obviously you're concerned. But the fact is that 86 per cent of the people in this province gamble. And there may be people who think that one form of gambling is better than another form of gambling. Some might think horse-racing is a little better; some might think break-opens are a little better; some might prefer VLTs; and there's some who prefer casinos.

But the fact is that 86 per cent of people participate in some form of gaming. And I think it's a mixed feeling because they're feeling bad about the fact that there's some side-effects; at the same time that it's something that they obviously are participating in and want to engage in.

And again I would have to say that I do find this a bit confusing in the sense that if you really felt this way, why did you make the changes you made to bingo which changed it from a little church kind of basement activity to a major industry in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Job Creation

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Statistics Canada numbers, Mr. Speaker, released last week show that Saskatchewan ranked dead last in the country in terms of job creation in 1994. That's the 10th out of 10 provinces in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, according to *Sask Trends Monitor*, the number of employers has decreased every single year since this

government was elected. NDP policies and taxes have made it so tough for business to be competitive that this province has lost 1,331 Saskatchewan employers. These businesses used to issue pay cheques to real people.

To the Premier: how can this government claim to be creating jobs when you're actually exporting or destroying the job creators?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, this may appear to be a bit repetitious because these questions in a different format were really put by the Leader of the Opposition. I might say, maybe more succinctly by the Leader of the Opposition. But at any rate I will try to give a response that will satisfy the Leader of the Liberal Party.

But I say again that the gloom and doom that you are spreading across the province wherever you go, and I've talked to people who have attended your meetings, but they say that you are like a dark cloud floating around the province trying to dampen the optimism that exists almost in every community in the province.

"Saskatoon on a roll" is the headline from the *Star-Phoenix*, and it says, the mayor paints a rosy picture of the province's economic engine. That's the mayor of the largest community in the province of Saskatchewan. And when you roll into town, you would have them believe and you preach to the business people, how terrible it is. Now why is that? What is the purpose of you wanting it to be so terrible and so bad in the province.

Well everyone knows what you're up to; it's politics — old style, Liberal politics — to try to get yourself elected.

Saskatchewan-Mexico deal opens doors for businesses — literally hundreds of calls from businesses who want to go to Mexico to invest, to make money, to create jobs in Saskatchewan as a result of that investment. Upswing in Estevan, boom in agricultural and natural resources; the media is full of it until Lynda rolls into town. And then on the eighth page, there's usually a little clip, Leader of the Liberal Party in town saying how terrible the economy is. It ain't working.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's 1,331 Saskatchewan employers, Mr. Speaker.

Since the 1992 budget, this government supposedly set out in pursuit of jobs. The Department of Economic Development has spent a cumulative total of \$112.201 million of Saskatchewan taxpayers' money. This department has on average 215 people per year dedicated to the priority of jobs in the economy.

Once again, my question is directed to the Premier. Is that value for money, Mr. Premier? Can you table for us today a list of every company you've attracted to Saskatchewan and all of the jobs that this investment has produced since 1992? What did our taxpayers actually get for their money, sir?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Leader of the Liberal Party that she had promised me a project a week that she was going to bring to me, and I'm still waiting. I haven't had one project yet, but I'm still waiting. I sit in my office from morning to night, waiting for her to bring those projects — not one, not one yet.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party rolls around the province, gloom and doom, in her limousine, in her limousine, with her senator, out there trying to create bedlam, trying to preach gloom and doom. And for what purpose? To elect more Liberals, not to create an economy, not to deal with the issue of job creation; because if she were reading in the press, especially at the local level, she would find that thousands of jobs are being created, not by the government as she believes has to be, but by private sector businesses, many of them based in Saskatchewan.

Now she's jumping to the conclusion that what you have to do is follow the 1980s Tory line that you have to attract people from all over the world and buy them to come to our province. That's not how this economy has ever developed. It's companies like Flexi-Coil, Bourgault, doing their own thing right here in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: — Point of order.

The Speaker: — What's your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Neudorf: — Mr. Speaker, the point of order that I want to raise is one of the accuracy of transcripts in this House. And I refer specifically to the *Hansard* as it is printed from yesterday. And *Hansard* on the introduction part of the throne speech indicated this, and I will just quote:

. . . but of an expanding local business sector and job growth;

That is what the Lieutenant Governor is purported to have said. And if you take a look at the throne speech that we received prior, it says:

. . . but of an expanding local business sector and job growth.

So it would appear then that the two are similar. However, I was sitting here very carefully during the presentation of this throne speech and following in my copy. And the Lieutenant Governor did not say, job growth. It was not read into the record. However, when I take a look at my transcript of *Hansard*, it is indicating job growth.

My office contacted Hansard, Mr. Speaker, and the response

that we got from them was that because it was tabled and because it was on a prepared manuscript, they — and I want you to listen to this, Mr. Speaker — they stated that it was their judgement call that he had meant to say job growth.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that if *Hansard* is supposed to be an accurate reflection of what was actually said in this Assembly and not what should have been said, then I think we are on dangerous grounds, Mr. Speaker, and I would say that it then becomes open to interpretation.

My point is simply this, Mr. Speaker. I would like you to look into that and see what *Hansard* is supposed to do — accurate reflection or what should have been said. Thank you.

(1045)

The Speaker: — I think the member makes a valid point. And I have not seen *Hansard*. I will certainly look into it and if an error has been made, a correction will be made.

I think I listened very intently to the member and I wish the member would just give me a few minutes to . . . or a few moments to say that I will look into it. If an error has been made, correction will be made.

An Hon. Member: — Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, on the issue that's being dealt with here, I think there's a motion moved as a standard procedure that would make the writing of the speech in *Hansard* in the appropriate format. And I don't know what the concern of the member opposite is, and I don't think there is a point of order here because I think it's already dealt with in the motion we moved, seconded, voted on. That member opposite voted for the motion when it was carried in the House yesterday.

The Speaker: — I respect the member's comments. As I indicated before, I will check with *Hansard*. If an error has been made, a correction will be made.

Order, order. Order.

MOTIONS

Referral of the By-laws of the Professional Associations and Amendments to the Standing Committee on Regulations

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I have several routine motions I would like to move. The first motion, moved by myself and seconded by the member for Churchill Downs, that by leave of the Assembly:

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

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

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

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

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

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

**Referral of Annual Report to the Standing Committee on
Communication**

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

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

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Ms. Bradley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to move the motion in support of the throne speech, the fifth throne speech of this government. I am honoured to follow in the eloquent paths of the members from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, Meadow Lake, Cut Knife-Lloydminster, and Regina Lake Centre. My colleagues set high standards of eloquence, and I hope today to approach their excellence.

But I am fortunate because rich material makes for good speeches, and this throne speech, like the previous four, is rich in substance, bold in promise, and sure in delivery. It gives a message of security, hope, and opportunity. It is easy to speak to its message because, simply, this throne speech proclaims that our long climb out of the Tory dungeons of debt, disarray,

disaster, and despair is at last completed.

It announces that we can now continue our ascent towards the compassionate, fair, prosperous, and tolerant society that has been the destination of every CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation)-NDP government since 1944. That journey has never stopped; it's just been put off course for a while. The backpack of debt left us still slows our step, but finally as we promised when we resumed the journey, the weight is not increasing with each step. In short, the first balanced budget in 15 years is but one announcement in this speech I am happy to endorse.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — Before I continue, Mr. Speaker, I want to say how pleased I am to see you once again in your proper place, directing our business with your customary sternness and fairness. As a former teacher, I appreciate your role in keeping a well-run, fair classroom . . . no, I mean Assembly, with a sense of justice and decorum but always with democracy as your foundation.

I also want to congratulate the member from Kindersley on his recent election to the leadership of his party. It does take a dedicated, hard-working, healthy individual to take over the leadership of any organization, especially when it's in — let me say — maybe its ebb in its history. I and all the members do wish you well, but of course not too well. My only question I suppose is, why would any young person with most of his life before him choose to lead a party so committed to the past?

Mr. Speaker, I, and all members, were surprised and saddened last week to hear the announcements of the members from Regina Hillsdale and Swift Current. Excellence in any endeavour is rare, and I have no hesitation in saying both met the test.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — I'm sure other times and other places we will take at length to talk about them. Now I simply want to say to both, well done; we will miss you.

I wonder though if anyone else was as surprised as I was at the total lack of grace in the response of both opposition speakers. All I can say is that the minister from Greystone . . . or the member from Greystone, with the fastest revolving door in the province, is the last person that should be commenting on anyone's resignation.

When I was asked to move the throne speech, I was actually out in my constituency. Ironically my constituents do not get the legislative channel, so my first thought was that here was an honour my constituents could not share immediately with me. But as I reflected I realized that this truly is an honour, an honour that is shared by the people of Bengough-Milestone because their representative has the privilege of speaking to their concerns, their plans, and their successes. And as the

member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster said two years ago, we will represent our constituencies, but we are also servants of all the people of Saskatchewan. I am speaking to them through the perspective of Bengough-Milestone.

Mr. Speaker, in the past three years, I have put more than a few kilometres on my car travelling my constituency and meeting with the people. One of the fundamental reasons I became an MLA was to strengthen the ties between government and the people, to bring government closer to the people. I am proud to say that this throne speech, like the previous ones, supports a government that is achieving economic and social justice through the power of community and cooperation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — 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 all integral parts of the economy. I represent people who are hard-working, creative, adaptable and resilient, people who believe in community and cooperation.

As the MLA for this area I've taken seriously my role in communicating the wishes of the people to government and in turn communicating to them the initiatives of government through numerous accountability meetings, meetings with school boards and health boards, meetings with local governments. I am also pleased that the Premier and several cabinet ministers have attended some of these meetings with me.

I look forward with equal pleasure to meeting the people of the new constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy — many of the same people and much the same economy. They share the same sense of pride, fairness, community spirit and cooperation that define all Saskatchewan and make up much of its rich heritage.

We have a remarkably varied province which far exceeds the standard guidebook impressions of Saskatchewan, and it would be good for all of us, I think, to experience this variety firsthand. My constituency is rich in its people, in its agriculture base, in its natural resources, and in its share of our province's history.

We have the Big Muddy badlands, once the temporary home of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, but more recently the site of the re-enactment of the boundary commission mounted police trail ride of 1872 to '76. Mr. Speaker, this exciting tourist attraction recalls one of the most significant and least-known events in western Canadian history, significant for what it accomplished and for how it marked our character.

The boundary commission was charged with defining the border between the new country of Canada and its southern neighbour. The members of this commission went about their business in the uncharted prairie wilderness in a professional

and quiet manner. They created what the original inhabitants of the prairies — the Cree and Assiniboia and other tribes — called the medicine line, so called because south of the line, marked by the stones left by the commission, was violence; north was the law and peaceable order of the Crown.

The commission withstood blizzards, mosquitoes, black flies, bad water, and the feeling of being lost in a sea of grass, but they persevered and finished their work. They were quiet, unassuming, unheralded and thorough. And they defined our nation for us, the line that separates us from the more flamboyant, more individualistic, more violent society to the south.

I am proud that my province honours this event in our history. And I think it's not too big a leap of the imagination to suggest that today we are continuing in the spirit of the boundary commission and in the tradition of the first Mounties in the West who made their mark by doing a job, a job with a plan and a purpose. The achievements of this government in its first three years have been solid, necessary, and trail-blazing.

As the member from Cut Knife-Lloyd said two years ago, we have acted in a spirit of inclusion for all our citizens.

As the member from Regina Lake Centre said last year, we have treated government as a tool . . . Excuse me. We have treated wisely and judiciously the authority of government in the assumption that government is the instrument of the people, not their enemy.

We have worked side by side with the people of Saskatchewan to bring about the great comeback of our province. All citizens have been a part of the process of rebuilding. All equally deserve to share in the celebration of our accomplishment. Saskatchewan is on the move again. It is our year to celebrate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — Mr. Speaker, the past four throne speeches and budgets have of necessity been about fixing the mess, about restoring the infrastructure and foundation of our province. The throne speech is about building, building on that firm foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about how we are building with all our resources. I want to talk about how we have returned our province to the people of Saskatchewan from whom it had previously been mortgaged. I want to talk about how we have combined responsible fiscal planning with progressive adjustments to our social foundation. I want to talk about youth and their opportunity in our province.

(1100)

In particular, I want to talk about the way we have been guided by those old Saskatchewan principles: community, compassion, cooperation, economic and social justice. These are still our guide words, the words on which this province was built.

Mr. Speaker, His Honour referred in his speech to Saskatchewan's comeback. That comeback is in every sector of our economy. Things are on the move, and there's optimism in the air not felt for years. The indicators are everywhere, and we will all enjoy hearing the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party tell us how the numbers don't say what they do so plainly say.

Our population has grown steadily every quarter since October 1992. Twelve thousand more people are working in Saskatchewan than a year ago; our unemployment rate is consistently the lowest in Canada. Retail trade is up. Exports are up. Manufacturing shipments are up. Oil production hit a new provincial record of 94 million barrels in 1993, and that has been exceeded in 1994.

It is a mini-boom, and in my area of the province, as across the province, it relates to more jobs and economic activity. Uranium sales are up. Potash production and sales are up. And just last week, Canada Housing released its yearly survey which stated that housing starts in Saskatchewan increased by nearly 12 per cent in 1994. In the fourth quarter alone, starts in both urban and rural Saskatchewan increased by 73 per cent over 1993. And CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) says it expects the same impressive growth in 1995 — more optimism.

And, Mr. Speaker, new houses are built for young people — that goes without saying — new houses for young people with new jobs. In every area of the province, every MLA here, I'm sure, can relate many more success stories. I'm only going to briefly describe one success story in my constituency: TWC, an investment firm, a financial firm, with its head office in western Canada, right here in Radville, Saskatchewan. It has expanded twice in the last few years. It employs over 40 employees, and it is one of the fastest growing firms in western Canada. Its success is partly due to the advance communication technology that can be offered through SaskTel.

And that leads me to another area of excellence: telecommunications, with SaskTel leading the way. We are in the passing lane on the information highway.

What rural electrification was to Saskatchewan in the 1950s, communications technology is to the society of today and tomorrow. The SaskTel announcement about making Internet accessible across Saskatchewan is vital to our economy. It's important in keeping small business alive and viable, whether it be in rural or urban Saskatchewan. And like the fishermen on the new ads on television, we are all looking forward to surfing the net. All of this is good news.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt the Leader of the Opposition will say that all this very good news for Saskatchewan people is just good luck, that we just happened to be around when the markets changed. We would never deny that behind every successful plan is a pinch of luck. But I can remind the opposition of a comment by the 18th century historian, Edward

Gibbon: "The winds and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator."

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — We were lucky the sun rose and set but all of the people of Saskatchewan worked and planned and sacrificed so that opportunity could be seized when it presented itself. That is the difference between this government and the previous one. We use the plan. It's called *Partnership for Renewal* and it's obviously . . . it's working.

We have changed Saskatchewan's economic development strategy from one geared to megaprojects to a strategy that puts local businesses, cooperatives and communities first. It is set out in our *Partnership for Renewal* paper. We are facilitating economic development. 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 are 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.

And I am pleased to see continued funding for the continuation of forming REDAs in the throne speech. I know the success of many of these authorities are exciting. And I know and I encourage the formation of a REDA in my area of the province as many of the communities are presently working on it.

Another partnership I just briefly want to acknowledge is in the establishment and operation of the Saskatchewan Tourism Authority. There are many emerging opportunities such as the T-Rex fossil discovery, the eco-tourism value of the Big Muddy, historic sites like the Claybank brick factory, only to mention a few in southern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it is a relief to be able to also comment on good news in agriculture. Our farmers have travelled a rough road these past few years and deserve some good fortune. I hesitate to say much more than that for fear of changing their luck, except of course we are dealing with far more than luck here. Certainly the markets have changed for the better but our farmers have been primed and ready to meet those changes.

Our Ag 2000 policy seeks to further diversification and value-added food processing and biotechnology. And the new, whole-farm safety net program allows for diversification without penalty while offering an affordable level of risk protection. Diversification is the key to agricultural health and we are seeing diversification in spades. Saskatchewan farmers have increased production of canola, flax, and other specialty crops by 119 per cent in the past four years. And it is paying off.

As well, livestock operations are diversifying. For 1994 Saskatchewan farm market receipts will reach a promised 4.3 ... projected 4.43 billion, a half billion more than last year. That is good news.

This government supports our farmers, and supports them in practical ways, ways which encourage and support their moves to take advantage of the changing market-place. The Agri-Food Innovation Fund Act announced in the throne speech encourages partnerships of government, private sector, and producers in developing diversification projects, while the agriculture operations Act helps to diversify our livestock sector.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is not called next-year country for nothing. And as I said, although things are turning around, no one is home free yet. And as His Honour said, the federal Liberal government appears to be determined to counter the progress our farmers have made. The elimination of the Crow benefit will wipe out all the gains that our farmers have realized.

Mr. Speaker, there is still one area I wish to touch on in agriculture. This is the exciting expansion of the biotechnology sector in our province. We have the fastest growing biotech industry in Canada, with almost one-third of Canada's ag biotech firms. And the number of firms operating in Saskatchewan has grown by 300 per cent in the past three years, far ahead of the other provinces.

It is also interesting to note that all of our agriculture graduates from the University of Saskatchewan last year have found jobs, with the greatest majority of those jobs being right here in Saskatchewan. We are becoming leaders in agriculture research and development and this again translates into jobs for our students.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday after the throne speech we were privileged to listen to a youth choir from Balgonie school. Other young people assisted in making the festivities surrounding the legislature opening a success. It was good to have them right here in the building, to remind us of why we are here in the first place. And because all MLAs want the best for our children, we should all be happy that the throne speech emphasized the government's commitment to education and training. JobStart and Future Skills are both programs which will match young people with new jobs.

I am also very pleased to see the expansion of distance education. This initiative is vital to keeping our education affordable and accessible right across our province. These initiatives — JobStart, Future Skills, distance education — will ensure our young people have the opportunity to live, work, and build their futures here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no greater initiative in our term than our health care renewal, wellness. Wellness is a renewal in

health care, and as was aptly stated in the throne speech, as the world watches, Saskatchewan has secured the future of medicare and is providing new services that will keep people healthy longer.

There is little dispute, except from the opposition perhaps, that changes to the health care system were absolutely essential. Other provinces and other countries are looking at making changes as well. Many other areas are looking at Saskatchewan as the model on how to handle reform. Many of those areas will have an easier time of it in some ways because they can learn from us.

Our government has had the courage to take the route of greatest political risk. We have taken action to make changes. As bumpy as the journey has been, at least there has been movement forward. We did not take the cowardly approach and do nothing. To make no changes at all would have spelled the end of public health care.

Our government has forged ahead with important changes to health care. I am pleased and proud to be part of these changes because I do believe that over the course of history the changes that we are now making will be seen to be just as significant as the changes that were made when medicare was first introduced in 1962.

And we made these changes the Saskatchewan way, not the Liberal way as seen in the Maritimes by imposing districts on communities — remember, imposed from the government down — and not the Conservative way as in Alberta by massive cuts and privatization of health care whereby you move to the front of the line for treatment if you have enough money in your pocket.

No, we did it the Saskatchewan way. We had communities and people working together across the province to form districts on their own. Many said it couldn't be done, but it was done, and we did it because Saskatchewan people are the kind of people who will cooperate and work together.

Today health districts are into the second stage, developing and implementing the programs they need to build a healthier future — the actual wellness plan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the people in this province who are sitting on the health 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 have often been contentious. But change would never occur if we were afraid of mistakes. But importantly, we have learned from our mistakes and we have made adjustments, as we will continue to do.

We now have a rational and a fair system in place to ensure that our residents have reasonable access. Health care is now being

viewed in a holistic manner. The whole human environment must be tackled if we are to prevent illness and maintain wellness.

(1115)

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. This is a dramatic reduction from the 400 governance boards which existed previously. This new system is integrated and efficient.

And, Mr. Speaker, from listening to the opposition and our critics about health care renewal, I still keep hearing words like closures and lack of services, especially in rural Saskatchewan. Well I have continued to talk about conversions and changes of services that better meet the needs of rural Saskatchewan.

And I know, as politicians, we often worry that we're not making ourselves understood or clear enough in our speeches, or at least the media seems to struggle with our messages. With something so new and radical as wellness, we all wondered from time to time if the implementation matched our rhetoric. I can honestly say that in the past few months in my constituency, I have seen enough evidence to convince me that what we are experiencing is indeed the second stage of medicare.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — A reality matching the words used to describe it, an increasing fact of people's lives. Like the Boundary Commission members, we are getting the job done.

Wellness is becoming a reality in our communities. And let me take you just on a brief visit of health care renewal 1995 as I've witnessed it over the last few months.

Health renewal is about community control. The South Central Health Board held four accountability meetings in Coronach, Ogema, Radville, and Weyburn. I attended three of those meetings and saw health renewal firsthand. The board explained its structure, budget, and decisions to the communities. They in turn responded with questions, concerns, and ideas. These were positive and constructive meetings, both board and community understanding each other and their reliance on each other.

Health renewal is about my visit to a constituent in Ogema who had just returned from the cancer clinic in Regina. He told me how he had been a bit perturbed with us for putting up the deductible on the drug plan, but after his recent experiences, he now told me he understood. He said he could afford the increased deductible on his drug plan. But \$25,000 for a bottle of medication for his blood he couldn't afford. And he had four of those bottles in his chemotherapy and that was only part of his treatment. He is thankful he lives in Saskatchewan and he knows he can trust us to preserve the system which provided

his care and will provide similar care for his children and his grandchildren.

Health renewal is about a pilot project funded by the Regina Health District in Milestone to be used by Carrington Court, the senior housing unit. This project will address health needs of seniors in my community. And the community is deciding in consultation how the funds can be best spent.

Health renewal is my father having hip replacement surgery and being allowed to go home four days after the surgery, with a home care nurse coming to give an injection daily, saving seven days of hospital care.

Health care renewal is youth being consulted about their needs in one-day workshops, and my son coming home to discuss health care problems that he thought only occurred in Toronto or Vancouver.

Health care renewal is about establishing first responders in isolated communities.

Health care renewal is about a new health care centre being built in Bengough and being integrated with the long-term care facility. It will offer emergency services, lab and X-ray facilities, a doctor's office, and visiting health professional offices, observation beds, and it was funded by the local community and the provincial government through infrastructure money. A local community advisory board worked closely with the district board and department to achieve a plan. They are still discussing phase 2 as there are still some needs they would like to address.

Health care renewal is about an ad in the *Radville Star* advertising the dates that the mobile breast screening van will be in their community.

Health care renewal is about a constituent graduating as an advanced clinical nurse from the first graduating class from SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology). She can now do diagnosis and treatment of minor illnesses and emergency intervention.

Health care renewal is working in real, practical, down to earth, visionary ways, and it's occurring across this province. Health reform is exciting in its possibilities. Our government is very deliberately shifting the focus in health care. In the past, health care has been limited almost exclusively to hospitals and other institutions. Institutional care is important and necessary, but it's only part of the equation. With health reform we're able to explore a much broader definition of what health services should entail, and 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 this reform is that these will be crafted to suit the needs of each individual community.

The one last structural change that will be in place this year is to move to the election of district health board members. This will be another first for Saskatchewan, another area where the government has shown great courage and great leadership. Mr. Speaker, we have revamped health care to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people now and into the next century. And unlike Mr. one-way-ticket Klein, we have kept pace with the needs of those among us who are most in need of support.

Just last week, for instance, The Victims of Domestic Violence Act came into force, an Act lauded by police, social workers, and victims alike. We have expanded the action plan for children in a number of ways — in nutrition programs, in child care expansion, by creating the Children's Advocate, and so on. We have much yet to do because no one can be happy as long as any child in Saskatchewan is hungry, but we have made progress.

Fiscal responsibility does not have to mean casting the unfortunate out of sight. Living within our means does not have to deprive others of no means at all. We can worry at the same time about the debt and about our duty as human beings.

Mr. Speaker, it is the Saskatchewan way to do both; to pay our way and to make sure we all go along together. Others might attempt to restore their finances by penalizing the helpless, but that is simply not to be tolerated here.

Mr. Speaker, much has changed in Saskatchewan in the 120 years since the members of the Boundary Commission made their historic and heroic trek across western Canada and forever marked us as a distinct region of a distinct country.

As we move closer to our second century as a province of Canada, I think it is fair to say that we can look back over our first one with some pride and satisfaction — pride in what the generations before us began; satisfaction in how we have carried forward their gifts to us. And because we owe so much to our forebears, I trust and believe we will conduct our own affairs in a way that will do honour to our children and their children.

In its first century Saskatchewan has truly been on a roller-coaster ride. We are the province which gives definition to the phrase, boom and bust. We've had years of 40 bushels to the acre. We've had years of grasshoppers and hail. Years of plenty. Years of drought. Perhaps it is the nature of this land to experience those ups and downs, landlocked as we are and dependent as we are on outside markets and environmental conditions beyond our control.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, that given the evidence as outlined in this throne speech, we have set the stage for gradual, steady, solid, sure growth and progress in Saskatchewan for the future. We have climbed out of a huge financial hole and are looking to a brighter day. We have not only turned the financial corner,

we have set in place the programs and policies which will prevent a government from ever again mortgaging our province's future.

And we have learned that we can achieve respectability at the bank without sacrificing our collective soul — and I do not use that term lightly. We can make Saskatchewan a community of communities where shelter, food, and opportunity are available for all. That is the final and the most important message.

Our 90th birthday will be celebrated across our province by many cultural and community events this year. The Grey Cup will be the highlight of our celebrations. Saskatchewan truly is a good place to call home and the throne speech is its endorsement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of the government which has had the courage to make the hard choices necessary to bring about this great comeback. It was a tough task. I am confident that the decisions made in our first four sessions, combined with the direction announced in this throne speech, will build a better quality of life for all the people of this great province. That is the vision.

The vision and the task as set out by our government reminds me of a quote that our Premier used shortly after winning the '91 election. It is a quote that I felt had meaning of how we as a government and people of the province do things in Saskatchewan. And I quote:

A vision without a task is merely a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery. But a task with a vision is the hope of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this speech sets out the vision and the task before us, and it offers hope and opportunity to the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bradley: — I therefore move, seconded by the member from Saltcoats:

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

To His Honour, the Honourable John E.N. Wiebe, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased, as I'm sure all my colleagues are, to be back within the halls of this Assembly. It's great to be back in what I believe will be a calm, quiet, reflective and, above all, decorous atmosphere of the legislature where under your wise guidance and counsel, Mr. Speaker, we seek to conduct the affairs of the people of this province with appropriate dignity and deliberation.

Before I begin my address, Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment you and thank you for the leadership you have shown and for the firmness you have exemplified in the rulings you've had to make over the last year. I anticipate a positive and productive session, and you can count on my cooperation on achieving those objectives, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to welcome Margaret Woods to the Assembly and wish her well in her duties as Clerk Assistant.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1130)

Mr. Knezacek: — Members of the Select Committee on Driving Safety enjoyed and appreciated the assistance and expertise that Margaret provided to the committee as it conducted its hearings across the province of Saskatchewan. I know she will serve the Assembly well.

As well I want to congratulate our pages for this session and recognize the important role they play in allowing the members to get their work done in the House. Welcome to the legislature.

I don't want this to sound like the confessions of an MLA, but I'd like to point out that one of the pages, Trevor Hande, is from the Saltcoats constituency, and more specifically, originally from Esterhazy, my home town. And not only that, but would you believe that I've had the opportunity and privilege to teach Trevor in junior high? Despite having me as his teacher, he went on to graduate from the high school and went on to University of Saskatchewan where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with double honours in English and political science.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to have the opportunity to second the motion in support of the Speech from the Throne. I'm honoured as well to follow my colleague from Bengough-Milestone who spoke so eloquently in moving the motion. She pretty well covered the waterfront and covered it brilliantly. Congratulations.

In my remarks I will try not to simply echo her speech. I will say, Mr. Speaker, that one of the side benefits of this job is the opportunity to listen to and to learn from one's colleagues in this House, colleagues like the member from Bengough-Milestone. There's a lot of talent here on both sides of the

House and a diversity of interests, just as there is in our province, and I am pleased to be part of this Assembly.

I too want to congratulate the new Leader of the Opposition. He has assumed a tough position at a tough time, and I know we all wish him well in his 15 minutes in the spotlight, the 15 minutes that Marshall McLuhan said we all get.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague from Bengough-Milestone in expressing admiration for the accomplishments of the former minister of Health, the member from Regina Hillsdale.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — Just one quote from the book, *Strong Medicine*, suggests the magnitude of her achievements. The authors say, and I quote:

Something wonderful is happening in Saskatchewan again. The country watches with awe. Pretty soon all Canadians will be singing from the same hymn book.

And the member from Moosomin still says health reform was a mistake. Amazing.

What, I wonder, would it have taken both the member from Moosomin and the member from Greystone to have said we are also in this game. Understand the desire to leave it. Could they not have said, we disagree with your principles but we appreciate your effort? Would it have been too much to expect a farewell and best wishes from the harbinger of the new politics? Apparently so. Mr. Speaker, I thought from everything that the member from Greystone had said that she was bringing a new sense of graciousness to this House. I guess I misunderstood.

Mr. Speaker, I take it as an honour to the people of Saltcoats, as well as to myself, that I've been asked to second the motion. It is a privilege as well as a challenge to represent this vast and varied constituency. As the member from Bengough-Milestone said, I would love the opportunity to show you around the constituency. From the Qu'Appelle valley in the south, north to Saltcoats, from the Manitoba border on the east, to the Melville constituency on the west — a big constituency, great people, and a varied economy.

Everyone knows that the Saskatchewan potash industry got its start in my home town of Esterhazy, but we are all blessed as well with many successful small businesses and hard-working professionals. We have some of the best mixed farms in the province, about which I want to say more in a moment.

Mr. Speaker, I got into this business to work for the people of my constituency and my province. They deserve good representation. And I, and we all, work very hard to fulfil their expectations. In three years I have already amassed many memories and made many friends to last a lifetime, and I hope to continue serving my constituents for some time to come.

One way we serve the people is to provide them with the best government we possibly can. Franklin Roosevelt once said, and I quote: the first essential of doing a job well is the wish to see the job done at all. Unquote.

And as the new minister for SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) said last year: one of the differences between the New Democratic Party and the two old-hat parties is that we believe that the government is the instrument of the people, not their enemy, and with their guidance government can serve our desire for a fair and prosperous society.

I think this throne speech, like the ones before it, shows that the job is being done well. There is much to praise here, as the member from Bengough-Milestone has said, much beyond the announcement of a balanced budget, although that by itself is something to celebrate.

We don't really need to go over this ground again in detail, Mr. Speaker, but we should never forget that we are talking about a \$1.5 billion turnaround in less than four years — a turnaround that didn't involve the scorched earth policy of Alberta. And we should remember that this turnaround took place in a province of a million people and growing. That is absolutely remarkable.

We should also remind ourselves that balancing the budget and beginning the long, slow pay-down of the Tory debt are not ends in themselves; they are simply means to a real aim of reaching that ideal society never to be achieved but always nearly within reach. We strive for that goal on two fronts, economic and social, and both obviously are connected — the lesson of the wellness model.

The member from Bengough-Milestone talked eloquently of the social aspect, particularly health. She also had some very good economic news to report and I would like to elaborate more in this area.

First in our province, of course, is agriculture. Agriculture is turning around in Saskatchewan because farmers are leading the way in diversification and value added, and because the government is investing in the future of our farm economy. Our government set up a 20 million agri-food equity fund to invest in value added rural businesses. We now have the fastest growing biotechnology centre in Canada — 300 per cent larger than it was in 1991 — attracting important investments from leading European firms. The payoff? New sales for farmers, new jobs for young people, and increased exports for Saskatchewan products.

Mr. Speaker, last month I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of an agri-business which is typical of the new entrepreneurial spirit of Saskatchewan rural people. In Kipling, Dalland Value-Added Pork Incorporated is now the home office of all North American operations for the parent company in the Netherlands. It is capable of marketing hog genetics throughout North America and expects rapid growth because of the need for superior genetics. This is an operation begun by six farm families interested in diversifying their operations, and who

realize the value of a cooperative effort. Those who have predicted the end of rural Saskatchewan might want to check with these families first.

As previously mentioned, diversification is occurring in many areas. Acres seeded to canola increased by 43 per cent in 1994, field peas by 53 percent, and mustard by 75 per cent. The same can be said for other crops like flax and canaryseed. This is a spectacular increase in diversification, and more is promised. As well, as is already said, the government is actively working to bring about sustainable national farm safety net support program which hopefully will finally put an end to the ad hoc programs so favoured by the previous Tory administration.

One thing this government is committed to is returning to the people control of their institutions and of their economic destiny. The days of big government knowing best are long gone. This is one of the many virtues of the new health wellness model, and the same idea forms our approach to economic development.

As the throne speech states, nine regional economic development authorities, or REDAs, have already been formed in Saskatchewan, and another 17 are expected in 1995. These authorities are finding local solutions to local economic challenges. They are creating jobs, and they are promoting development, and they are doing it with only seed money from the government.

Mr. Speaker, REDAs were introduced in June 1993 as a major part of the *Partnership for Renewal* announced by the Minister of Economic Development. This is a rational and achievable 10-year plan to improve our economy, and it is working.

The *Partnership for Renewal* is meeting its targets and is sparking economic growth in Saskatchewan. Some of those targets include the following: 173 million invested in infrastructure projects in our province, the founding of the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, the establishment of the Saskatchewan Tourism Authority, a new partnership between government and the tourist industry which is taking over many of the functions previously done by government.

I should add parenthetically here that the hard work of the Tourism Authority and of the hundreds of volunteers involved in Grey Cup '95 guarantee that the first Grey Cup held in Saskatchewan will be a memorable one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — At this point I think it is appropriate to mention Saskatchewan's 90th birthday and the wide range of activities and festivities that are being planned in communities across the province — just another example of the Saskatchewan spirit and pride.

We need to recognize as well the hard work and accomplishments of two other organizations that are also celebrating 90 years of existence, namely our municipal

governing bodies of SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) and SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association), organizations which will generate a great deal of economic activity on the local level.

And, Mr. Speaker, to support all this economic activity and to ensure that our workers and our youth can take advantage of the opportunities it provides, we are adapting our education and training systems to meet the needs of changing technology. Mr. Speaker, like you and like several other members, I am both a teacher and a parent. I have devoted much of my life to preparing young people for adulthood, and I have more than a passing interest in what others are doing to prepare my family. Education, training, jobs — these are not subjects of just passing interest to me or to you, Mr. Speaker, or to any other parent of a young person ready to strike out into the world.

Therefore I am more than happy that this government will be introducing JobStart, a program designed to help young people bridge the gap between school and that first job. JobStart will be a fine complement to the Future Skills training program announced in November. Future Skills will provide employers with up to 50 per cent of recognized training costs per trainee placed in a long-term, full-time job. Future Skills is another example of government working with the appropriate groups and institutions, not trying to do things on its own. SIAST and the regional colleges will work with employers to develop and deliver short-term training for jobs that will meet immediate industry needs.

Mr. Speaker, we have said that job creation is our top priority. To create jobs, it seems to me that you need two things: one, economic activity; and two, available trained personnel. As the member from Bengough-Milestone said, there is economic activity aplenty taking place. And this government and its able ministers of Education and Training are seeing to it that people will be ready to join in. Indeed that is already happening. As His Honour said in his comprehensive speech, 12,000 new jobs were created in the past 12 months, and our unemployment rate remains the lowest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one more word about education. I am proud to serve on the government caucus committee on education. We on the committee have worked closely with the ministers to try to bring education in line with the realities of today. New training programs are a part of what we have done, but all the technical training in the world means little if you have workers who know not who they are, where they're from, or what preceded them.

(1145)

In other words, Saskatchewan students and Canadian students need to study Canada in Saskatchewan. I am pleased that the Minister of Education, as part of the recent high school review, made it her personal commitment to strengthen the Canadian content of our high school curricula.

The Canadian author Margaret Atwood once said, and I quote

that: sometimes being a Canadian is like looking into a mirror and seeing the reflection of someone else. We need to look at ourselves and our accomplishments, not just those of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say one brief word about population in our province. It has been an opposition party cliché since at least the 1940s that the governing party is depopulating the province. It has been the campaign promise of those parties to bring the children home. And since 1932, regardless of those promises, our population has gone up and down, following the boom-and-bust cycles that the member from Bengough-Milestone mentioned. That is the nature of this province. More to the point, that is the nature of young people everywhere, any time — the desire to see something more of the world. Many go elsewhere to school, for jobs, or for just adventure. Some come home eventually, and some don't.

Saskatchewan youth are just like youth anywhere else in the world. Some young people from elsewhere even come here. Looking about me, for instance, I can see members from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden, Saskatoon Sutherland, Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, Saskatoon Westmount, Regina Victoria — all who were born elsewhere and ended up here in Saskatchewan. And I'm sure there are others. So we shouldn't worry if some of our children have wandering shoes. We should worry if there is no corresponding influx. And since October 1992 our population has grown steadily, grown at the same time that optimism and hope have been restored to the provincial vocabulary.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — Coincidence, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps. Let's check the numbers in another year or so. Meanwhile the members of the opposition can carry on with their tired old one-note song.

In a few days, the all-party Select Committee on Driving Safety will submit its report to the Assembly. I was privileged to serve on this committee under the very able leadership of the member from Moose Jaw Palliser.

Mr. Speaker, we travelled over 5,000 kilometres and held 37 meetings throughout Saskatchewan — all safely, by the way. We listened to the people, and our report will be based on what they told us. We heard some very strong arguments. And, Mr. Speaker, we heard some heart-rending stories about how lives have been changed suddenly and tragically in an instant. I said earlier that the chief pleasure of being an MLA is serving and representing the people and responding to them. Serving on the Driving Safety Committee reinforced this feeling.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to praise in the throne speech. There is much to give us hope for the future, hope that justifies the hard work and sacrifice of Saskatchewan people over the past three years. I have mentioned a few items. I have not mentioned the promised improvements to transportation, to the environment, to forestry, or to energy.

The throne speech indicates that this government is on target and on budget. It demonstrates that we have delivered on our promise of October 1991 to restore the province's financial integrity, to maintain and to improve our network of social services, and to get the economy moving again. Three out of three isn't a bad average.

Mr. Speaker, the 19th century British prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli said and I quote, "A nation defines itself by the institutions it creates." In Saskatchewan I believe we have a set of institutions which very accurately reflect the kind of people we are and the kind of society we are trying to develop. They are institutions which, for the most part, attempt to bring each of us into the community.

Our health system, for instance, the finest and most progressive in North America, does not discriminate. It ministers to those in need; that is the only criteria. Our schools, our churches, our pools, and co-ops, all in their own way have tried from the beginning of our province to be inclusive, to bring people together so that together they could do the things not possible for the individual alone.

Our social agencies do the best they can to salve the wounds of those left behind and to pick up the fallen, so they can once again join in the community. Our Crown utilities were created and still operate so that their services are extended to the farthest reaches of our vast province. They operate on a profit basis certainly, but profit is not their only motive.

And all these institutions did not assume this cooperative, caring attitude by accident. They were created by and for Saskatchewan people to be the tools of Saskatchewan society. And Saskatchewan people know that in a land that demands much but offers more, working together is the way to success and security. Institutions may define the nation or province. Individuals create the institutions. Saskatchewan people designed cooperative, caring institutions.

This government takes its cue from that spirit. It provides leadership by listening. As an English teacher I call this the oxymoronic approach to government. This government was able to achieve what it has achieved in three short years and will take us boldly and securely into the next century because it has learned the meaning of planning, of sacrifice, and of perseverance from the people we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a member of this Assembly and honoured to represent the people of the Saltcoats constituency. I chose my party and my leader very carefully, and I believe I made a wise choice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knezacek: — Because I trust my Premier, his cabinet, and my colleagues in caucus, and because I believe the course we have set for the province of Saskatchewan for the next year is the right one, I am pleased to second the motion in favour of the throne speech. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Martens: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin my remarks this afternoon . . . this morning I guess, by complimenting the member from Swift Current and the member from Hillsdale on their work and their service to the province of Saskatchewan. I may not have agreed with them all the time in their efforts, but I know that not only the responsibility but the hard work that is required to be a minister and serve the people of Saskatchewan is indeed an honour. And I think they served their province well, and I want to compliment them on that.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the role that the Lieutenant Governor played in his Speech from the Throne yesterday . . . not only was I privileged to be here to hear it, but it was a privilege for me, as a member from the Morse constituency, to have an individual who has served that constituency in the past in this Legislative Assembly as now the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan. Not only does he represent my constituency as well as the province nor did he . . . as well as represent at one time my constituency, but he has served the people in his community exceptionally well in the various areas of responsibility that he has assumed. And so I want to congratulate him on his speech yesterday.

I also want to say that his position is accented by the fact that his wife is a very strong supporter of not only his position but his responsibilities in the community. And it was a privilege for me to have her on the Consensus Saskatchewan committee, travelling around the province, and Mrs. Wiebe did a very excellent job of that. She was not only a good participant, but she did a lot of the things really very well. So to them and to their family, it's an honour for them to be a part of the province of Saskatchewan.

I want to deal now with some aspects, as I see, in relation to the throne speech. It starts out with an introduction that deals primarily in a very political way — and I found that not unusual, but I found it rather interesting — talking about the years prior to '91 as those years of problems in the province that they probably had nothing to do with.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out some of the things that I think that they had involvement with. They didn't have involvement with the weather which we had to deal with in the 1980s — extremely tough, extremely hard to handle — and a population that was very, very demanding, coming out of the 1970s when they were the government of the province, with the expectations that were very, very high and very difficult to meet.

I want to make one remark about a short part of a sentence that says there ". . . but of farm families who are enjoying their highest level of optimism in years." Well, Mr. Speaker, that has nothing to do with the people opposite. It has a lot to do with the changes in the markets; it has a lot to do with the changes in the markets. It has a lot to do with the world situation as it relates to the value of the products that they grow in the province of Saskatchewan. It has almost nothing . . . In fact,

Mr. Speaker, the government opposite has been a negative influence in agriculture in the past three years.

And I want to point that out in a couple of ways. One is the role in crop insurance, taking from the people of Saskatchewan that the farmers in Saskatchewan what was rightfully theirs, not only in how they changed the GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) Bill and taking that money away from the farmers of Saskatchewan, but now in this past year taking the premiums away from the farmers of Saskatchewan — very, very unsettling in how they did it and the precedent that was established by them.

So is there a level of optimism in relation to this government? No, Mr. Speaker, it's not. In fact they're very cynical about what this government does and how it's presented itself. I want to point out that the new safety net program that they have suggested that is going to be a part of what the farmers are going to use and be able to serve their communities in their farms is in fact held in some very strong cynical views.

And I want to say that the majority of them will tell me that they do not trust the government because the moment they decide to trust the government, the government's going to change the rules, and they will have absolutely no recourse even in a court of law to any of those changes. And that, Mr. Speaker, is very, very concerning to them.

I want to deal just briefly with the aspect of the financial stability and public accountability. We will wait to see what your Bill has in relation to the balanced budget Act. We will challenge it on a number of areas, Mr. Speaker. Those areas will include . . . Does the public agree with the kind of accountability that you have put in the balanced budget Act? Will it represent the kinds of things that the people of the province of Saskatchewan deserve and are expecting?

That, Mr. Speaker, are some of the questions. Those are some of the questions that we will be asking of the minister and the ministers responsible for the balanced budget Act.

The other thing that is very important to consider and that is the area of taxation as it relates to the government opposite. They can say that they balanced the budget. Yes, but, Mr. Speaker, did they balance the budget on the basis of fiscal restraint, fiscal accountability, fiscal responsibility in dealing with allowing the people of Saskatchewan to make investments that are going to improve the conditions for jobs, improve the job creation capacity? No, they haven't, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact the amount of taxation dollars that flow into this government from the various sectors are almost astronomical. In the four areas of income tax for small business, tax on corporations, and the various kinds of things that lead directly to job creation in this province have been taxed, Mr. Speaker, to the amount of over \$150 million over and above what was taxed prior to the year '93-94.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is very significant in job creation. Why do we have fewer jobs created in Saskatchewan than we have

ever had before? As a matter of fact StatsCanada says that we have the most dismal record of anyone in Canada and that we had a negative job creation in the past year. And, Mr. Speaker, that reason behind that is that the taxes flowing into this government are exceptionally high.

(1200)

And I want to say that I read an article by Mr. Eisler that was very significant. It was significant, Mr. Speaker, in a number of ways. But he pointed out, in his view, that this government had lost touch. And the reason they had lost touch is they have a fundamental belief and the belief is this: that what's good for the government is good for the people.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is why they have said that we will tax the people of Saskatchewan and not allow them to create the wealth of the province. If you tax too much you're going to have no development in job creation, and which is exactly what we have had in the past year. And that is a very dismal record.

So when we talk about tax reduction, we're going to have substantial changes in the way the federal government is going to do this. We're going to have substantial changes in payments to the provinces, as I see it. What are you going to do about that?

We're going to ask those kinds of questions in our budget estimate questions on the Department of Finance, and we're going to have to have some very serious answers because we have some very serious questions to face, and not only in this Assembly but in every Assembly in Canada, including the House of Parliament.

We're going to have some very serious questions as it relates to the structure of Canada, and that is going to have very serious implication in an economic way in this province — very serious. And that, Mr. Speaker, is going to have to take some will on the part of the people of this province and also this government to deal with that in a very serious and a rational way.

And the discussion that is taking place today — it started yesterday in Quebec — on sovereignty is going to have an agenda of its own. And that agenda, Mr. Speaker, is going to seriously implicate or involve the people of the province of Saskatchewan, perhaps not as it relates to how we would respond to their vote, but how we would deal in an economic way in relation to what their vote is going to say. And that, Mr. Speaker, is very serious.

I want to point out too another thing that I noticed in the throne speech that was of some interest to me, and that is The Environmental Management and Protection Act dealing with used oil containers and filters. Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to very seriously consider some of these things, but we're going to have to very seriously consider not only the protection of the environment but also whether the people of the province of Saskatchewan can afford to have higher taxes paid or

premiums paid or whatever the requirement will be to have these items collected. Somebody's going to have to dispose of them; somebody's going to have to be paid to do that. And can the people of the province of Saskatchewan afford the cost that is going to be delivered in that Act? And so we have serious questions in relation to that.

One other thing that I want to point out as it relates to agriculture is that we have had serious discussion in a number of areas in agriculture. But one of those that is going to be discussed this year — and negotiations are taking place — is the changes to the method of payment. Method of payment has been discussed long and tediously by people in the province of Saskatchewan for many, many years. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what we are going to have to deal with at the conclusion of this session or during this session or perhaps by the end of the crop year.

That is something that is going to have to be addressed. And what we're going to be doing is asking the Minister of Agriculture some of the questions as it relates to those kind of influences that the federal government is going to make on the economic capacity of Saskatchewan's agriculture to compete in the international market. And that is going to make a very interesting discussion.

Our caucus have made the decision, and I think it's right, that we have to deal with this, but we have to change it fundamentally so that we will not impede in the international agreement in GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) so that we will not have a problem with that. On the other hand we also need to say that, because some of the problems in relation to grain transportation into United States have developed by how the payment was made to producers. And so we strongly support a payment directly to the producers. We can discuss how that is to be done. We can talk about the various ideas about how it should be done. But we need to deal with it in a very real way.

I think that the last item I want to deal with is the anniversary of the province of Saskatchewan. It's a unique experience to be a member of this Assembly. It's a unique experience at any time in the province's history, but today we have an opportunity as the province celebrates its 90th birthday that we have a very capable honour to preside over the various things that are going to happen, not only in my constituency but throughout the province.

This comes in the face, Mr. Speaker, of people in Quebec who are deciding that they don't want to be a part of this country any more. And that really bothers me a lot. I listened to television yesterday, and their commissions are going throughout the province and tearing the very fabric of Canada apart and saying it hasn't contributed. It hasn't done this, and it hasn't done that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask the questions. Are our expectations anywhere close to reality in what the country can give us? And I have to think about what John F. Kennedy said at one time, in 1960 or thereabouts. He said, it's not what we

can do for you; it's what you can do for the country. And I believe that that's a part of what we have to consider in relation to how we debate, how we discuss, and how we view Canada as a whole.

There are many people who their first reaction is going to be to say, let them go. Let them go, and they will find out. But in any kind of a divorce, Mr. Speaker, there are no winners. There are absolutely no winners. And I believe that when we celebrate Saskatchewan this should be our message, when we celebrate our 90th anniversary in this province that we carry this message that we want to have Canada as complete as it has been. In fact, we could easily expand it into a province position for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that's what we should be considering rather than tearing this country apart.

Mr. Speaker, in lieu of a number of things that transpired in the last few days I want to say to the Government House Leader and to the members opposite that we appreciate their willingness to change the schedule for today. And due to the circumstances of the day, I want to move adjournment of the debate on the special order on the throne speech.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:08 p.m.