

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**February 15, 1995**

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of petitions I'll read the prayer for.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to allocate adequate funding dedicated towards the double-laning of Highway No. 1; and further, that the Government of Saskatchewan direct any monies available from the federal infrastructure program towards double-laning Highway No. 1, rather than allocating these funds towards capital construction projections in the province.

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

I'll present those. And also we have a petition; that prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to the present legislation regarding firearms ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

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

On this matter as well. I'll present these now.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions to present. I'll read the prayer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crimes control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the south-east corner of Saskatchewan — Carnduff, Manor, Storthoaks, Estevan, Weyburn. I present them now.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions I would like to lay on the Table, and I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

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

And these petitions are signed by individuals from the communities of Redvers, Kennedy, Carnduff, Alida, Carlyle, Kelso, Wawota, Gainsborough, Antler, Moosomin, Whitewood, Broadview, and a number of other communities in that surrounding area.

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have received some more petitions, and I would like to read the prayer:

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to the present legislation regarding gun control, firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on the abusers, and urge the federal government to recognize that gun control and crime are not synonymous.

As in duty bound, your petitioners humbly pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions come from a wide cross-section of the province. They are all the way from the west side of the province to the east. And I would like to lay them on the Table at this time.

**Mr. Swenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I also have petitions, two different ones, the first being from citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the condition of Highway 42. And I'll just read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to allocate the total amounts of funds garnered from the taxpayer for fuel tax, vehicle license fees, and provincial sales tax on new vehicles, toward the maintenance and capital costs of Saskatchewan roads; and further, that the Saskatchewan government dedicate any monies available from the federal infrastructure program towards Saskatchewan's road system, rather than provide these sums toward capital construction of casinos in Regina and Saskatoon.

And I also, Mr. Speaker, have petitions, over a dozen pages, of Saskatchewan citizens concerned with the federal government's initiatives in the area of gun control, and I would like to table both sets here today, sir.

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my colleagues in tabling over 200 petitions that I received since yesterday. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

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

Mr. Speaker, from the south-east corner of the province, from Alida, Oxbow, Langbank, Estevan, and Weyburn, Gainsborough, Manor, and some other places as well.

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions and the prayer reads this way:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with the gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

And I have signatures here from Estevan, Carlyle, some from Manitoba, Frobisher, Saskatoon, etc. Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I as well have petitions to present this afternoon. I'll just quickly read the prayer into the record:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing the provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions come from, primarily from the south-east part of the province — Wawota, Alameda, Glen Ewen, and Carnduff areas of the province. And I would be pleased to present them today.

**Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions to present from constituents in my area who are concerned about the federal government's gun legislation, and I'll read the

prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to the present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with the gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

The petitioners, many of who are first nations, from Patuanak, Keeley Lake, Meadow Lake, and Green Lake, and I do present them now.

**Mrs. Teichrob:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions to present on behalf of concerned citizens in Saskatchewan. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to unequivocally oppose changes to present legislation regarding firearm ownership, and instead urge the federal government to deal with the criminal use of firearms by imposing stiffer penalties on abusers, recognizing that gun control and crime control are not synonymous, and allowing provinces to deal with gun control legislation on a provincial basis.

I'm pleased to lay these on the Table on behalf of these concerned citizens today, Mr. Speaker.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to allocate adequate funding dedicated toward the double-laning of Highway No. 1.

And of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly to oppose changes to federal legislation regarding firearm ownership.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to my colleagues in the legislature, two students, grade 12 students, from Greenall High in Balgonie. And I'm going to ask them to stand, Mr. Speaker, because there are a lot of fine looking people up there today. They are Jeff Leibel and Bill Reinkens.

These students have been selected to represent Saskatchewan at the Forum for Young Canadians which takes place later this

spring in Ottawa. And the Forum for Young Canadians gives young leaders a practical understanding of government by allowing them to go and watch how it works.

Now both these young men are very involved in their local school governments as president and as treasurer. And they've been with me since 8 o'clock this morning trying to get some idea of what an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) does during the day.

I assure you that we've had wonderful conversations, met some fascinating people, and they are very committed and very informed. And I ask all of you to welcome them here to this Assembly today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several times each year, as members will know, we are favoured in the Legislative Building with study tours by public servants who come to the building, spend the day here, and study the things that we do here in this Assembly, in the various caucuses, in the MLA offices, and in cabinet. We have such a tour today.

Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are 24 public servants engaged in the study tour today from the Departments of Justice, Finance, Indian and Metis Affairs, Labour, the Public Service Commission, Environment, Municipal Government, Highways and Transportation, and the Legislative Library.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to all members of the House, I'd ask that we welcome the public servants on the tour here today.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

**Mr. Scott:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow is the beginning of the 66th annual convention of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. The three-day convention will be held at the Ramada Hotel here in Regina.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation has a long, distinguished, responsible and effective record of achievements in Saskatchewan. The federation has focused its attention on habitat protection and has played a key role in the establishment of the wildlife development fund, and more recently, the fisheries enhancement fund.

In addition, the federation was instrumental in the establishment of the Saskatchewan heritage marsh program, Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, North American waterfowl management plan and the federation's own habitat trust land acquisition program.

To achieve its objectives the federation has prided itself in working cooperatively with a number of interest groups, including the Saskatchewan Stockgrowers Association,

Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, as well the government of the day no matter the political stripe.

With over 30,000 members, the federation is the largest per capita wildlife conservation organization of its kind in North America, if not the world.

Hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreational activities in Saskatchewan generate an annual expenditure of over \$346 million which in turn supports over 5,300 jobs in our province. We wish the federation a very successful conference in Regina. And many of us in this Assembly look forward to attending part of the convention and visiting with delegates during the three-day conference. Thank you.

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

### Quest For A Cure Campaign

**Ms. Lorje:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest per capita rate of multiple sclerosis in the country. We have more than 2,000 cases of this disease of the central nervous system, a disease that affects young adults around the world.

It is an ugly disease that I am all too well aware of since both my sister and cousin are victims.

The cause and cure of MS (multiple sclerosis) are unknown, but in Saskatchewan we have a fund-raising campaign underway, a campaign called Quest For A Cure, which will contribute to finding that elusive cure by raising \$1.6 million.

I will be taking part in a benefit to support that campaign. Radio station CKOM and Cameco Corporation are co-hosting a 40th birthday party and roast of radio personality Brent Loucks. As a politician I get to roast a media person, a rare and pleasant opportunity.

Cameco Corporation, with its headquarters in Saskatoon, has committed \$400,000 to pay the fund-raising campaign expenses for Quest For A Cure. Cameco's involvement makes it possible for every cent of every dollar raised to go towards equipment and research costs at the MS research centre.

Research into MS is performed at the MS research centre at City Hospital in Saskatoon. The centre works with the University of Saskatchewan neurosurgery department and is collaborating with the Mayo Clinic as well as 10 other Canadian MS clinics.

Individuals, several service organizations, and businesses, have contributed to the success thus far of the campaign. It is truly an effort of many to combat and finally conquer this disease which has baffled and plagued us for so long.

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

### Major Heavy Oil Find

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased this afternoon to inform the Assembly of a very, very large heavy oil finding in the Mantario area which is within the constituency of Kindersley, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that the field may be the largest in Saskatchewan's history with approximately 135 million barrels of oil in place, with recoverable reserves in excess of 30 million barrels.

Grad & Walker, a Calgary-based oil company, has made the discovery. I understand they have reserves of approximately 60 per cent, or 18 million barrels. And the remaining 12 million barrels are owned by Wascana Energy of Regina, formerly of Saskoil, Mr. Speaker, a very successful privatization initiative of the former administration.

We would like to congratulate the men and women in the industry for their very, very hard work, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. It just goes to show you, Mr. Speaker, that less government results in strong economic development.

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

### Formation of Dura-Fibre

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The optimism about our province's economy is being felt in all regions of Saskatchewan. Today I would like to tell you about a project in the agriculture sector which will create jobs in the Canora region.

Sask-Can Fibre and Cargill Limited recently announced a formation of a joint venture company, Dura-Fibre, which will undertake a two-year pilot project to assess the commercial viability of processing natural fibre from oil-seed flax straw.

This coming spring the partnership will establish a pilot plant at Canora utilizing the novel processing technology developed by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute. Production from this plant will be test marketed to a variety of industrial fibre users including pulp and paper.

Sask-Can Fibre is a farmer-owned straw cooperative located in Canora and it will supply Dura-Fibre's straw requirements.

Cargill will be responsible for marketing the plant's production, Mr. Speaker. This plant is expected to employ five persons in the pilot phase of its operations, which is positive news as the economic turnaround in Saskatchewan continues.

I would like to offer my congratulations and best wishes to these two companies as they make their contribution to the Saskatchewan economy. Thank you.

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

### Contribution of Wildlife Federations

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to take a moment as well to recognize the work and the role of the wildlife federations, certainly in my constituency and across the province. I want to recognize the hard work of the locals, Rocanville, Wapella, and the Wawota Wildlife Federations.

Mr. Speaker, what they have done is developed a wildlife habitat. Certainly there's been a lot of tree planting in our community because of what they've done. The gun control legislation has been certainly initiated and pushed by the Wildlife Federation in bringing forward strong and responsible ideas as to proper use of firearms.

As well there's a project in Wawota that I want to recognize, and the Wildlife Federation's working towards developing a dam that will provide recreational facilities as well as water to that community and surrounding areas.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, wildlife federations throughout the province have certainly worked to build this province and I welcome each one of the delegates from my area that will be coming to the annual meeting.

### Optimist Club in Govan

**Mr. Flavel:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly we have heard many members talk about the spirit of cooperation and community that they find in their constituencies. Well I have my own example.

In the town of Govan in my constituency, the Optimist Club has just won two prestigious community service awards. These awards are to be presented by Optimist International in recognition of the outstanding contribution the Optimist Club of Govan has made to youth and to the community during the 1993-94 club year.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can add that the service has continued into this current year.

Mr. Charles Wiles, president of Optimist International, said of this recognition, and I quote:

These awards exemplify the highest level of service by an Optimist Club to its community. My sincerest thanks and congratulations go out to this club on these great accomplishments.

These accomplishments Mr. Wiles refers to might seem small in the great overall scheme of things, but to a small community like Govan they are vital to its life.

The 42-member Govan club has been involved in several projects including the sponsoring of the Scouting association, youth ball tournaments and ball diamond upgrading, hockey rink upgrading, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Cal Shaw, president, and Mr. Denis King, secretary-treasurer, and all 42 members for their outstanding service to their community.

Thank you.

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

### **Sutherland Recycling Depot Closure**

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share a textbook primer of the do's and don'ts of recycling from my constituency.

Three years ago the Sutherland School in Saskatoon initiated a recycling project initiated by the vice-principal there, Yves Bousquet. It was a very popular project with the students at the school and members of the community.

Last week in the *Star-Phoenix* of Saskatoon there was an article that the project was closing. Why?

First of all, people were not cleaning the materials that they were dropping off at the recycling depot. Secondly, people weren't sorting them properly according to materials. And thirdly, vice-principal Bousquet was essentially standing alone with the children. There were other adults in the community that failed to step forward to help with this project.

I want to say today that there's a valuable lesson for all of us to learn from this school experience. Unfortunately the problems encountered at the Sutherland depot are all too common in the recycling business, especially with improper drop-offs and the tendency for people to recycle anything and then think that they've done their job. And that isn't good enough.

If recycling is going to work all of us has to re-examine the role we play. Not every environmental recycling project that starts ends up in success.

But I spoke last night with the vice-principal and the two of us agreed that it wasn't the children who failed in this project. In fact the two of us are convinced that out of the ashes of this project, the children will ultimately succeed in teaching us all a lesson about recycling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

#### **Balanced Budget Legislation**

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions this afternoon are for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, later today the official opposition will be introducing balanced budget legislation which will include a provision to protect the largest interest group in Saskatchewan — the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, our legislation will contain a provision which forces the provincial government to go to the people that they serve before they raise any more taxes. That means that in any given circumstance the Premier must, first of all, cut his own spending, first and foremost.

My question is to the Premier, is very simple: do you believe that the taxpayers of Saskatchewan should have a direct say in any and all tax increases, or do you believe that you are the only one that has the right to do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, what I wish to say to the official Leader of the Opposition is that his stated interest and concern for the taxpayers of Saskatchewan today comes a little bit too late. After nine years of decimation and destruction of the taxpayers. After nine years of an administration which put the province of Saskatchewan in a total cumulative hole of \$15 billion where the interest payments a year — from the taxpayers — amount to \$850 million, approximately, which interest payments go to Hong Kong and to Tokyo and to New York and to Paris and to Zürich and to London and to Montreal and Toronto rather than staying here at home. It ill behoves the Leader of the Opposition to be talking about interest and concern for the taxpayers of the province of Saskatchewan.

You didn't need to have a balanced budget legislation, all you needed to do was to be a responsible government. All you needed to do was example common sense and decency in taxpayers' dollars and interests. I tell you we are going to balance the budget. We're going to introduce balanced budget legislation as the Speech from the Throne has indicated, and the people of Saskatchewan have a right all the time — as they will in this province of ours as well very shortly — always a right about taxes at election time and in the legislation that we shall introduce.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, you don't get it. You just don't get it, and you never will because you don't listen. You don't listen. You just want to talk and that's exactly what you're going to do on the TV show this weekend we understand. And that's because you believe this legislature is your own personal soapbox. That's the reason why the need for this kind of legislation.

If you were listening, if you were listening, Mr. Premier, you would hear from people like Waverly Stechyshyn, a baker from Saskatoon, and he said in today's paper:

How do (you) . . . feel when I hear (a) . . . government talking about balancing its budget? I feel depressed. Why? Because where does it come from? It . . . comes from small businesses, from taxpayers . . .

Mr. Premier, our legislation protects taxpayers from people like you. It protects the people of Saskatchewan from people like myself. It protects people from the third party leader, who's already pledged \$350 million of increased spending, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Premier, will you support balanced budget legislation that hamstring the spending habits of government, of all provincial governments, in the future of this province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stechyshyn's concerns are quite proper and valid. Mr. Stechyshyn's concerns are proper and valid, because as I said in my answer to your first question, it was your administration, sir, which sunk this province into a \$15 billion abyss. Those are the facts.

It is your administration which has forced the province of Saskatchewan to ask the taxpayers of this province every year to have their hard-earned tax bucks go to New York and to Hong Kong and to Zürich in order to balance the budget. It is your government that has indentured and has strait-jacketed the working men and women and the small-business people like Mr. Stechyshyn.

It is our government that has worked hard, with the support and the help of the public like Mr. Stechyshyn, through a judicious approach to balancing the budget — as you will see tomorrow — and the progress, and the hope, and the optimism that we lay out for the future.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition, I am as concerned as you are about what the Leader of the Liberal Party has in mind. After all, we are told by her executive director, Mr. Emmet Reidy, all the Tories are leaving you and are going to her. And if they're the same Tories that got this province into the hole under your administration, it'll be the same Tories — heaven help us if they should ever get to power — that'll further sink us back. But the people of Saskatchewan are too smart. Neither you nor she are going to get that chance because they've got responsible government for a change.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, you're responsible all right. You're responsible for \$500 million more spending in this province today than in 1991. You said \$4.5 billion was enough. That's what you said, Mr. Premier. And now you're spending \$5 billion in this province today. And that is why there's a need for balanced budget legislation that protects people of this province, taxpayers of this province, from spending governments like yourself, Mr. Premier.

You've told the chamber of commerce in recent weeks that a government can't control or plan for calamities like drought or a bad harvest or a sudden decline in resource prices. Well isn't that a revelation, Mr. Premier. That's exactly what happened in 1980 and through the 1980s, Mr. Premier, and you viciously

attacked and said that that was Saskatchewan's darkest hour. And any unforeseen event calls for deficit budgeting.

Mr. Premier, Mr. Premier, make up your mind. Make up your mind. We have. We say no to deficits and no to taxation without consent. Will you do the same, Mr. Premier?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for the official Leader of the Official Opposition because, as a new member of this Assembly and one who did not sit on the treasury benches, he is trying desperately to divorce himself from the history of the party — members of whom were in that government of the day and who surround him and still advise him. And I know how difficult that is.

But I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition the following. In 1990-91, operating expenses of government — these are figures tabled by your minister of Finance at that time — amounted to \$4.544 billion a year. In the 1994-1995 mid-year report tabled by our Minister of Finance, the operating expenses were \$4.24 billion.

Now you and the Leader of the Liberal Party, you and the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, no, you and the Leader of the Liberal Party go around the province of Saskatchewan, saying no, the figure is 5 billion. You know why the figure is 5 billion? Because on top of the \$4.2 billion operating expenses, add \$850 million interest payments on the public debt, thanks to you. Thanks to you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — We said that 4.3 billion was adequate to operate the government, and we're doing it on less than 4.3 billion. And if we didn't have the \$850 million interest payments on the public debt, we'd be doing below 4.3 billion. But no, you, the Tories, and you, the Liberals — because now you're getting the Tories, so I'm told by the Liberal Party — you want us to continue down that same ruinous path.

Look at, just accept, the fact that it isn't going to happen. It will never happen that the people of Saskatchewan are going to ever return to the dark days again of spend, profligate waste, patronage gone rampant, of the two old-line parties — the Conservatives and the Liberals.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, I don't ask for or want your sympathy. What I want from you is to have some sympathy for the taxpayers of this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Premier, 18 of 24 departments of your government have a higher budget today than they did in 1991 — 4.5 billion was enough. That was your promise. Five billion is what is being spent by your government today. And that's why there's a need for balanced budget legislation.

The Alberta government announced it will be bringing forward similar legislation. They know that the taxpayers have hit the wall and they're not going to take it any more. And they know that their taxation in Alberta is minuscule compared to yours, sir.

Mr. Premier, it's time, it's time for the taxpayers to start restraining government rather than the other way around, Mr. Premier. If you don't embrace this, you'll have failed to learn from the past mistakes, you'll have failed to learn from your own mistakes, and you'll be destined to repeat them over and over again, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Premier, if you believe so strongly in balanced budgets, so strongly in the belief of taxpayer protection, why will you not support our legislation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition says that he doesn't ask for my sympathy. I have to tell the Leader of the Official Opposition, he's right, he's not asked for my sympathy. But I have to tell him, you have to get some sympathy from somebody because this is a very difficult job that you've inherited.

And what makes it difficult and why I am sympathetic is because of your conversion, after nine years, to balanced budgets. You did not practise what you preached. You campaigned in 1991 as an MLA in full support of the former premier's position — full support. You supported the former premier until, all of a sudden, you got the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Now I've said to you, we're going to be introducing balanced budget legislation. There is no doubt about that. I tell you that we are coming in under \$4.3 billion in the operations of the government. There's no doubt about that either. But I want to say something else. As was pointed out by my colleague, the Associate Minister of Finance, yesterday, the *Prairie Messenger* none the less says this:

The current Saskatchewan government inherited a mess proportionately far greater than that bequeathed to Klein, and Saskatchewan has not known the oil and gas revenues which have graced its western neighbour. Yet the success Saskatchewan has achieved in balancing . . . (the) books makes its neighbour's accomplishment seem quite trivial in comparison.

You don't have to accept my words, and you can tell the *Prairie Messenger* and those who support that view that you don't accept their words. But I tell you the *Prairie Messenger* speaks for the average person of Saskatchewan. We are providing responsible government and balanced budget legislation — unlike you, unlike the Liberals.

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

## Government Tendering Policy

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan). Mr. Minister, last week on February 8, I asked you whether your government was developing a new union preference tendering policy. You said, and I quote:

. . . we are not pursuing the policy which I understand the member to be alleging. We have had a policy in place for some time . . . And we think it's working reasonably well. But the answer is that we have a policy which we think is satisfactory.

Mr. Minister, that same day, February 8, you signed a letter to the ad hoc labour fund committee which reads, and I quote:

The Crown Investment Corporation has been instructed to undertake a review of current policies with a view to developing a Crown corporation policy that deals with the union preference issue.

Congratulations, Mr. Minister. It usually takes the members of your government at least 24 hours to change their policies. This time you even did better; you did a complete about-face in one day.

Mr. Minister, were you misleading the House or were you misleading the ad hoc labour fund committee?

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — No, I was not misleading the House. I may say, with reference to my comments, the language was perhaps not as carefully chosen as it might have been.

We have, Mr. Speaker, we have had the whole question of tendering under consideration for some time. The policy which we inherited from the members opposite, the policy which we inherited from the Progressive Conservative government, was really unworkable and really destructive and we have been attempting since then, Mr. Speaker, to work out something which is fair, balanced, and reasonable for all concerned. And we continue to do that.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. Mr. Minister, clearly your government is developing some kind of a new union-preference tendering policy for Crown corporations. Could you tell us, is a similar policy being developed for other areas of government, like government departments? Are any departments in your government currently awarding any contracts on a union preference policy or basis?

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — I appreciate the member's interest. Mr. Speaker, when we have anything to announce in this area I

know the member will be interested, and I'm sure you'll be the first ones to know.

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

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I understand a tender has been let by the East Central Health District to do about \$2 million worth of work on the Langenburg Health Centre. I have here a copy of a letter sent by the architects on that project to all companies who are bidding on the project. It says, and I quote:

Saskatchewan Health has inquired as to whether your company is union or non-union. Please advise. This question is being addressed to all firms who bid on the above project.

Now let me repeat that first part for you, Minister, so that you get it perfectly clear — Saskatchewan Health has inquired as to whether your company is union or non-union.

Now, Mr. Minister, if your government's departments do not have a union-preference tendering policy, why on earth is Saskatchewan Health making such an inquiry? Mr. Minister, will you now admit that the NDP (New Democratic Party) union-preference tendering policy is now spreading like a cancer to other government departments like Saskatchewan Health?

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, because the member has referred to the Department of Health, I will endeavour to address his question.

Mr. Speaker, as members opposite should know by now, the decisions will be made on a local, regional district basis in terms of contracting, in terms of making the decisions for the provision of facilities in that district. Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite has some documentation to show me otherwise, I'd appreciate him providing that documentation to me.

**The Speaker:** — Last question to the member from Maple Creek.

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It won't take more than one question any more because obviously there is a flip-flop going on here that is so evident that it won't take much to explain it.

Mr. Minister, in the past your government has told us that it does not have a union-preference tendering policy for Crown corporations. Then we found out that you did have such a policy. Clear fact. We found out.

Now you told us that you were not developing a new union-preference policy, and then we found out that you were developing a new policy.

You told us that you were not expanding the union-preference policy to government departments, like the Department of Health, and now we're finding out that you are expanding the policy. Everything you say that you haven't done, you've done.

Mr. Minister, why can't you just tell the truth? It'll come out anyway. People will find out. The health boards aren't going to take the rap for you on this one . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The member has asked his question.

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say to my current friend from Maple Creek, the problem is not that we have been attempting to avoid the questions; the problem is some of these questions are so convoluted they really are difficult to make sense out of.

What I say to the member opposite is, the policy which we inherited from you was an acknowledged disaster. The industry . . . And there is general agreement about that. We have been reviewing that policy. When we have something to announce, we will share it with you and we're sure that you'll join with us in supporting it.

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

### Cost of Government

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite very well know where the excesses are in their government, Mr. Speaker, because they created most of them.

One does not have to look very far to realize that we have far more government than we need, and much of it exists to give pals and buddies bogus jobs for which they have no qualifications — high-priced jobs in the Gaming Corporation and even in Executive Council. Truly professional civil servants are insulted by the crass politics of this administration and the one that went before it.

The Premier of Saskatchewan pays 88 staff to run his office. This costs every man, woman, and child in the province of Saskatchewan \$7.10 per year. The Premier of Alberta gets the job done with 47 people at a cost of \$1.17 per person in the province of Alberta.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, what is it that you do for any individual in Saskatchewan that is worth more than what the premiers of every other province do for their people at a cheaper price?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I wasn't quite sure whether to believe or not the statement of the executive director of the Liberal Party that the Tories were flocking over in Saskatchewan from the Tory Party to the Liberals, but I am now confirmed in my mind that he is correct, that this must be the case.



Because here we now have the Liberal leader getting up and citing with admiration and affection the operation style of the Conservative leader in the province of Alberta. She is saying . . . And I might add, Mr. Speaker, much to the applause of the Conservative Party to her right.

The Hon. Leader of the Third Party has bought this line of less government lock, stock, and barrel in a desperate attempt to try to be more right-wing than the right-wingers that sit to her right. And you know something? She may be succeeding.

But the Leader of the Liberal Party is so confused on so many issues, namely jobs and StatsCanada; namely on expenditure levels or nonexpenditure levels; on gaming, is she for it or against it? Oh yes, she's for it, but not the way that we're doing it. Walking both sides of the street.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan won't accept for a moment, as I don't, the figures that she cites in this House respecting Mr. Klein or any other premier.

I can tell you, we run a Premier's shop, an Executive Council's shop, which is less than it was in 1990-91, including all the growth. Mr. Klein can run his office the way he wants to run it. I'm running it as sparely and as efficiently as we can. And when it comes to patronage — I don't need any Liberal lessons about patronage. I do not need any Liberal lessons about the Governor General or any other . . . the list of the Liberal patronage, which you and your colleagues administer.

Will you get up and tell us why you support Liberal patronage to the extent that you do?

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to assist the Hon. Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, of the 29,000 members of the New Democratic Party who've torn up their memberships, they're flooding to our party as well.

And it appears, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier of Saskatchewan is one of the greatest cheer-leaders of the Alberta Premier.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order, order. Order.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has provided overwhelming evidence that it can spend every dime the public will part with, every lucky penny it finds, every ill-gotten dollar it can win from the public. But, Mr. Speaker, governments across the country recognize that smaller, less expensive government is the government of the future.

But here in Saskatchewan, this New Democratic government and this particular Premier are going the wrong way down a one-way street of high taxes and bigger government.

My question to the Finance minister: will tomorrow's budget lead by example and force your government to finally tighten its own belt by reducing the cost of government that

Saskatchewan taxpayers pay for?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I say, with the greatest respect to the Leader of the Liberty Party — she may not accept this from me; I suspect she won't but I will say this — drawing on a few more years of experience in this legislative Chamber than she does, that at the essence of any political argument has to be some attention to facts.

We may disagree on philosophy or approaches, but we cannot change the cards that have been dealt us and the facts that are there. I tell you that in 1991, operating expenses of this government were 4.54 billion — and check that out.

I tell you, operating expenses, mid-year report, '94-95, were 4.24 billion. That's \$300 million less. I tell you that on a basket of services which we provide, say, compared to the same basket of services the Albertans receive and the Alberta government provides there, their per capita expenditure is roughly in the neighbourhood, if they were to follow our books, of about 4,500 to 4,700 a year; ours are 4,100 a year. Those are the figures.

Now those are the facts. You can ignore them; you can continue to come back to gaming, come back to StatsCanada figures, come back to any you can. But please take one little piece of advice from me. In order to have any shred of credibility left for you — and all of the various positions you've taken on rhetoric and not on fact — pay some attention to those facts. Understand that if we're over \$5 billion, it's because of interest rates.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — With leave, to introduce a guest, please.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — I'm pleased to introduce and welcome to our Assembly today, seated in your gallery, sir, Mr. Carter Currie, a resident of the constituency of Moose Jaw Wakamow, a close friend and family friend, and a man who I can say in various endeavours of his life devotes himself to the assistance of others.

I want to welcome Carter, and I would ask all members to welcome Mr. Currie to the legislature.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — To introduce a guest, please, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I'd like to introduce in the gallery a gentleman, Paul Meid, from my constituency. And Paul is a person who is so interested in what goes on at the House that he also receives *Hansard*. And I see he's here today, and I hope he enjoyed it. Would you join me in welcoming him. Give a wave, Paul.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Microgro International Research Inc.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure today to rise and announce to the Assembly an important endeavour undertaken in Biggar and announced this morning. I want to say as well that I join with the Leader of the Opposition on his announcement today of the huge oil find in his area of the province.

But I want to say that just this morning, Mr. Speaker, I and my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, as well as the member for the area, for the Biggar constituency, had the privilege of being invited to participate in an event in Biggar that exemplified the job creation opportunities already being seized upon through the enterprise and hard work of many Saskatchewan people.

The occasion, where 300 people joined with us, was the news conference and ribbon cutting held by Microgro International Research Inc. to celebrate the completion of the province's largest micro-laboratory and greenhouse in Biggar, creating 20 new jobs in rural Saskatchewan.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm especially pleased to acknowledge the key role played by the officials and people in my department in facilitating this project through various support and assistance programs and through the diligent efforts of dedicated departmental staff. One staff member in particular, Royal Hinthier, was instrumental in bringing together two of the key partners that made it all possible in the first place.

By way of explanation, Mr. Speaker, this project is a technical system by which an infinite number of perfect copies of plants can be produced from a single original plant. It's just one of the many complex terms we're going to become familiar with in Saskatchewan as our biotechnology industry continues to rapidly expand. Saskatchewan's agriculture biotechnology industry has grown by 300 per cent in the last three years, Mr. Speaker, much of that located in your city of Saskatoon.

More and more successes in this field are positioning our province as a big-league player in the global economy as it affects biotechnology. The biotech industry now includes many leading edge Saskatchewan-based firms. It's also attracted large multinational corporations such as Cameco, AgrEvo, the former Hoechst out of Germany, Monsanto, Pioneer Hi-bred, and Plant

Genetic Systems. They're located in Saskatoon to benefit Saskatchewan's world-renowned research capabilities.

Many of these firms are developing products and services for the agricultural industry and we will hear much, much more about that in the weeks and months to come.

However, the industry is also expanding into the value added food processing, environmental detection, and cosmetics, as well as health care areas. One of the initiatives under the government's long-range economic development plan, *Partnership for Renewal*, is the research and technological commercialization strategy and action plan. It clearly states the importance of industry-led strategic partnership such as we saw today in Biggar. Strategic partnerships and alliances are critical to the successful adoption, development, and commercialization of research and technology.

Mr. Speaker, under *Partnership for Renewal* we've started the great Saskatchewan comeback. And I say, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's budget will build on that momentum over the coming year.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Biggar. But first of all let me say that the great Saskatchewan comeback, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan say it's about time that some of these jobs come back that they have driven out of the province over the last three years.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, I could not help but notice during the minister's remarks . . . and I understand that he has never really been an NDP, and I can understand now why the Premier is saying to people across the country, I'm not really NDP, you know. Because finally some of these folks are getting the message, I believe.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I believe that these people are getting a message. And that message is that they have had a dismal, dismal record of job creation. That even though we have had a so-called comeback over the last year or so, we are still below the 1991 levels of jobs in this province, Mr. Speaker, and let us not forget that.

This is not a positive growth. This is still an attempt at a comeback that those people forced upon the people, forced upon small business in Saskatchewan over the last three years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think quite frankly I have to say something positive because Biggar has been successful in landing jobs. And I want to commend once more the people of Biggar because the technology is extremely significant. Because what we're talking about is simply cloning, Mr. Minister. Your fancy word there of micro-propagation laboratory greenhouse complex is going to have the ability of cloning the perfect plants so that we can reproduce more of those.

So, Mr. Speaker, the issue that I would like to also address is that finally we have this government admitting that multinational corporations are not an evil thing. They recognize our own Pool in Saskatchewan as being one of those creatures, the ones that they took great delight in bad-mouthing.

Now that the responsibility and the mantle of leadership rests upon their shoulders, they are showing from time to time certain signs of grasping what business is about, what job creation is about.

So, Mr. Speaker, once more I congratulate your staff, I congratulate the people of Biggar, and I commend them for the opportunity that has been presented to them. And, Mr. Speaker, charitably, I would say that probably the minister has had some role in this as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am very, very pleased on behalf of the Liberal caucus to indicate that whenever jobs are created in the province of Saskatchewan, we'll be the first people to applaud.

Furthermore, we are very delighted that the biotechnology industry is being promoted in Saskatchewan. We think it appropriate, however, that the federal government's financial contributions to this particular field should be acknowledged and we find them woefully lacking in acknowledgement from the Minister of Economic Development today.

The provincial government always seems to take all of the credit, Mr. Speaker, and I find that most interesting, especially when comments are made regarding the amount of dollars that have gone into the Saskatoon project.

It is indeed interesting, this particular announcement this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that 15 to 20 jobs are going to be created, while at the same time I have on my desk a letter from a greenhouse owner in Saskatchewan who has written on several occasions to this government, and in particular to the Premier, stating that in fact his rural greenhouse business has been put out of business, and all the jobs that it has created, because of the energy policies of this particular administration.

So while we may be potentially gaining 15 to 20 jobs for Biggar, there is another part of this province where people have been put out of jobs by the policies of this government.

At the same time, we are delighted that there are going to be individuals who will in fact receive an opportunity to have the dignity of employment in Saskatchewan. We applaud the efforts of all who were involved in this project, and we're pleased today to hear that something positive is happening in the community of Biggar. Thank you.

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

### 30th Anniversary of Canadian Flag

**Hon. Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members have on their desks today, a Canadian flag and some other informational material which I know members will find of interest. Let me explain the reason, Mr. Speaker, for what is on the desks today.

The reason is because this is a very special day in our great country of Canada. Today marks the 30th anniversary of the national flag of Canada. It was on February 15, 1965, that the distinctive red and white maple leaf flag was proclaimed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, as the national flag of Canada, and was first raised over Parliament Hill in Ottawa and in hundreds of communities across this country. At home and abroad the maple leaf flag symbolizes a united, a proud, and a confident nation. And those of us who have travelled abroad will know that to wear the maple leaf on one's lapel anywhere in the world brings a warm response and a recognition of the fact that we are Canadians, because of the respect that Canada has around the world, and we can be very proud of that.

(1430)

This year also, Mr. Speaker, marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. And Canada remembers a war in which tens of thousands of Canadians marched off to defend those values which I have mentioned just a moment ago, many of them never to return. It was a war of sacrifice which led to a legacy of peace.

This year also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, of which Canada was a founding member. We've gone on to play a leading role, making significant contributions to the United Nations in initiatives such as the eradication of hunger and disease and international peacekeeping.

So we have much to celebrate this year, much for which to be thankful. And in the words of George Vanier, Governor General of Canada, spoken on that anniversary day on February 15, 1965, and I quote:

Bless this flag and grant that this banner of our nationhood may proudly fly over a people devoted to the pursuit of righteousness, justice, and unity.

And, Mr. Speaker, as our country struggles with some of the issues which confront us, be they financial troubles or national unity or others, it is important to know that our history, the respect in which we are held throughout the world, the fact that we are a nation of people who have come here from every single part of the world and therefore have created a sense of community and compassion and understanding of each other, this fact, Mr. Speaker, indeed will be the basis on which we will succeed in overcoming our problems and continue in building, as the United Nations has said, the best country in the world in which to live.

Our flag symbolizes all of that, and today we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Canadian flag and I ask all members of this legislature and all Saskatchewan people, as Canadians, to recognize this very important event.

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

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly join with the minister in sharing the pride that we all feel in Canada and the flag of Canada.

People from across this nation all share today's marking the 50th anniversary of the flag of Canada . . . 30th anniversary, pardon me, of the national flag of Canada. It is with a great deal of pride that we all have in our country from coast to coast.

We must, as you said, remember the veterans of conflicts around this globe, Mr. Speaker. People who . . . men and women who have fought for our country, the pride that they share in our country and the pride that we share in their accomplishments, the freedom that we all enjoy across this nation.

It is with a great deal of envy that the rest of the world has for Canada and the flag of Canada. It is a symbol of a peaceful, law-abiding nation across this world in which all share the envy, as I said, of wanting to come to Canada to share in that legacy of peace and tradition.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I as well join with the minister in celebrating this day, and I'm sure all Canadians from coast to coast to coast would also celebrate this day as a very important day in the history of Canada.

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

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few months after the birth of my daughter in 1964, there was a passionate debate over whether or not our country should have her own flag. And I know that I had mixed feelings at the time, having been raised to honour the Union Jack each and every day in school. However, I also sang with pride very frequently in those years, "The Maple Leaf Forever."

I think what has transpired over the last 30 years has brought us all to a position of feeling very, very good that we do have our own flag. Our flag has come to represent what people around the world envy: tolerance, stability, peace, and generosity towards others.

The Liberal caucus is very pleased to join with the Deputy Premier today and all members of this House in congratulating our country and in acknowledging the 30th anniversary of the flag of Canada.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 11 — An Act respecting the Protection of Saskatchewan Taxpayers

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I move a Bill respecting the Protection of Saskatchewan Taxpayers be now introduced and read the first time.

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

### Bill No. 12 — An Act respecting the Application to Saskatchewan of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption

**Hon. Mr. Pringle:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill respecting the Application to Saskatchewan of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption be now introduced and read a first time.

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

### Bill No. 13 — An Act to amend The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Act

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill to amend The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Act be now introduced and read a first time.

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

### Bill No. 14 — An Act to amend The Crown Minerals Act

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill to amend The Crown Minerals Act be now introduced and read the first time.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would ask leave to change a couple of members on committees.

Leave granted.

## MOTIONS

### Substitution of Members

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

That the name of Ms. Teichrob be added to the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

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

That the name of Mr. Serby be substituted for that of Mr. Pringle on the Special Committee on Regulations.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

**Mr. Johnson:** — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to enter the debate on the throne speech, especially on this day where we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Canadian flag. I would first like to indicate to the Assembly that I am going to be supporting the motion, supporting it for a number of reasons, but mainly because I feel it indicates a turning point in the province of Saskatchewan.

A turning point from a period that is the longest and darkest period that we've had in financial administration in this province, to a period where it is my belief we will achieve a lot of benefits for everyone.

I'd like to take the opportunity, as well, to congratulate the mover of the motion, the member from Milestone in her present ... in moving the motion on the throne speech, and she indicated she was proud to move the motion of the throne speech, the fifth individual to do so in this legislature.

I also would like to congratulate the member from Saltcoats for his remarks in seconding it. And as well, another person that I would like to congratulate is the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan, Jack Wiebe. I had the opportunity to be in this Assembly when he was one of the members, opposition members, at that particular time. And I believe that if he continues in his new position as he did in the legislature at the time that he was elected to the Assembly, he will do an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, the throne speech basically, broken down into a number of different areas, gives you an indication of where this government is going in jobs and where it is going in agriculture and I'd like to just say a few words related to what is taking place in employment in the province of Saskatchewan.

The debate has given a number of different decisions in employment but I think that the issue has now been fairly well covered, but it won't hurt to go over some of the figures just to indicate where it stands at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, on January in '95, total employment in this province was up 12,000 people over the same period one year previous, and that means that we have an increase of people employed in this province. And although the figures did not come out in that particular manner to begin with, after they were reviewed and some changes were made to the analysis that was being done, this is what occurred.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I did not find these figures to be much out of place, because if you spent the time visiting people and talking and analysing what was taking place in the small communities in rural Saskatchewan, you would find that individuals would tell you that sales of ski-dooes were up, sales of — potential sales — of motor boats were up, that there was some difficulty fielding hockey teams, curling spiels were a little bit lower in the number of people that were expected to be there and play in these games, because a large number of the younger people in the communities had gone to work in jobs that previous years they had not been able to find.

So you see the employment from that particular perspective, indications that employment was up, was showing very clearly in the communities and along with it a buoyant feeling of what is taking place.

I'd also like to point out, Mr. Speaker, one particular example where the employment is up from the Turtleford constituency in this way and that is at the Weyerhaeuser mill in Big River. They have put on an extra shift to handle material, to handle the logs that they've been harvesting and sell them into the market.

(1445)

This shift is driven by the market and it's expected that they will maintain the increased shift of some 35 people for at least two years before the market has been filled with the product that they are producing, namely the dimensional material.

It's interesting as well, Mr. Speaker, to realize that Saskatchewan unemployment rate is the lowest in the country — an employment rate that is running 2 or 3 per cent below the national average — at 7 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, there's been some comments made as well about the taxes in the province of Alberta and taxes here in the province of Saskatchewan and elsewhere. And I'd like to just talk a little bit about that, and I bring to the attention of the Assembly an article in *The Edmonton Journal* of January 12 where the headline reads: Alberta's claim of having the lowest taxes just a Tory myth.

The individual writing it goes on to indicate what is meant and where the people ... which groups of people are actually paying an increased amount of taxes in Alberta as they would

pay in other provinces, saying that those people at the lower end of the income scale, with taxable incomes up to about 10,500, would find themselves in a position where they would be paying less taxes if they were to move out of Alberta into some of the other provinces.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the strange things that occurs in this particular . . . in the Alberta system of taxation is that although some particular taxes are lower, you find some very unique taxing situations in Alberta. For instance, depending upon the . . . not the municipality but the county in which you live, as to whether it is a rich or a poor county, you could find yourself as a parent paying \$500 or more transportation cost for each and every student that you have that is attending school. And this then is a tax, as far as I'm concerned, but it is a tax that impacts on individual families directly at a time.

As well, in the education field you could be facing a tuition if you wanted your children to attend kindergarten. And, Mr. Speaker, that does not bode well to offering a system of education that is available to everyone in a reasonable and non . . . well so that there are no economic barriers to achieving an education.

Mr. Speaker, it's also an indication why — since this has been operating in the province of Alberta — it may also be an indication why the federal Liberal government has taken a look at the cost of education and said that they . . . and indicated that they thought they could get . . . to get away with increasing tuition fees for students in university. It's not a fair system and would cause a lot of problems.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the area of utility costs, one of the things that has occurred in the province of Saskatchewan is that we've been able to drop the cost of natural gas by some 6.5 per cent and made this, Mr. Speaker, retroactive to January 1.

This occurred because . . . if we take a look at the history of the gas utility in the province of Saskatchewan, the previous government stripped it of its base of natural gas so that now it is more tied to the fluctuating rate of gas as it is sold on the market, rather than being able to minimize rate increases and rate . . . and therefore rate drops when there is a large fluctuation in gas, whereas before it would be able to maintain a very level cost of gas irregardless of the fluctuations in the market.

And that I say, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of the Assembly, is the difference between running a system and managing it well and just allowing a system to go up and down without any management in it at all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the area of agriculture we're seeing a number of changes occur, and the changes that are occurring will have some major impacts on people in agriculture. But I wish to say that I hope that the agricultural community, as it goes through these changes, remains supportive of the Canadian Wheat Board and the single-desk marketing system that that provides. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is that basis that has

maintained the agricultural community in this province as stable as it has been throughout the ups and downs that have occurred and been brought about by other . . . by political factors from outside the country as well as those within the country.

Mr. Speaker, one other area that I'd like to comment on a little bit has to do with the health reforms that have taken place in the province of Saskatchewan. In the Turtleford constituency, the Parkland Health District Board, I believe, has proven that the transition from the system that we had into a wellness program was potentially possible to do, and that they have done it in a very effective manner.

Just to indicate some of the things that have taken place while they've been doing that, I'd like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that although the district has maintained something like 54 hospital beds available, they've been able to reduce the utilization of those beds down to something like 35 by simply being very . . . or by managing the people that are admitted to those beds and ensuring that the people that are . . . when they are sent home, everything moves through the system and there is home care being provided.

And this means that they've been able to keep those beds in place, although they have not been using them. And I think that that's something that indicates what the problem was under the old system of health care, is that there wasn't the local management there or the will to do that local management, which the new funding system has brought about.

Mr. Speaker, as well, they've been able to increase funding for services through home care by 25 per cent. And this means that the home care in the Parkland Health District has increased substantially. But as well as doing just the increase in funding, they've also decentralized home care into a number of 10 facilities, Mr. Speaker, providing the home care to be provided and administered from the four hospitals, a number of . . . a municipal office in one area, another . . . nursing homes throughout the rest of the home care district.

And this decentralization of home care has meant that it provides service when needed, where needed, and is saving the constituency a lot of cost.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that, as I said to begin with, that this throne speech is a turning point — the turning point. And I want to indicate of when we . . . of coming to an end of deficit budgeting and the financial difficulties that that passes on to the next generation, to a time when the budgeting will be balanced and we will pay as we go, and therefore do things that we can afford in the manner that we can afford to do them.

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

**Mr. Johnson:** — I'd like to indicate again that I'm going to be supporting the motion and take this opportunity to thank those for allowing me to speak.

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

**Mr. Britton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, myself and my colleagues have stated on many occasions that the throne speech and long replies take up too much time in this Assembly. And while the taxpayers are picking up the tab for \$35,000 a day before we get to the real business.

In other words, we will spend, Mr. Speaker, a quarter of a million dollars — as a matter of fact, it's \$180,000 — before we get to the budget, to debating changes in legislation, to dealing with the important issues facing Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I found hard to accept when I came down here first was the time that we wasted here. And I will admit to you, sir, and this Assembly, that I have been part of it at times when we have wasted time, and rang the bells, and done things like that. Because we were forced into it, and things like that.

It's too bad, Mr. Speaker, that this government hasn't taken a page from the Alberta lead and delivered a 30-minute speech in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and then getting right down to the business of the legislature. And keeping this in mind, Mr. Speaker, I will make a few points and I'll keep my remarks quite brief.

Every government has tough decisions to make, whether it's dealing with the province's finances or with reforming social programs. That comes with the territory and every government has to do that.

And for instance, Mr. Speaker, Alberta and Saskatchewan have taken opposite approaches to deal with deficits. Saskatchewan chose to raise every tax and every fee in sight while Alberta held the line on all taxes — two different approaches. And I believe it's more beneficial, Mr. Speaker, to take the Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's approach: tackle deficit by first cutting government spending and not raising taxes.

In fact recently, Premier Klein delivered his annual report to Albertans in which he declared the Alberta budget was balanced two years in advance of his projection. In so doing, Mr. Klein fulfilled his election promise of acting through spending cuts rather than tax increases, and it was signed, sealed, and delivered two years ahead of schedule.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted, it should be noted that . . . especially to the members opposite that an Environics poll the very following day showed Mr. Klein leading the most popular provincial government in our country. This NDP government, I think, should take note of that. Mr. Klein's government is leading in many other areas as well, Mr. Speaker, and as the official opposition member responsible for Social Services I'm especially interested in reforms taking place in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, welfare reform initiatives implemented in Alberta since 1993 are very impressive in my opinion. Welfare expenditure on client benefits dropped by \$200 million in 1993-

94, while total spending has been reduced by 300 million during the same period. In addition the welfare case-load declined 38.9 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The department has reduced the case-load from 94,087 people in March of 1993 to 57,521 in September of 1994.

(1500)

And at the same time the Alberta government is set to trim it's social services department by 23 per cent by turning over the delivery of child welfare services to community groups. Mr. Speaker, these groups in turn will contract services from various non-profit agencies.

Compare this, Mr. Speaker, to Saskatchewan's welfare numbers. In December of 1991, there were 57,199 individuals on social assistance in our province. July 1994 figures show the number has sky-rocketed to 83,039 persons. Mr. Speaker, expenditures have grown from 367.4 million in 1991-92 to 530.8 million in 1994-95. Just compare those two.

So instead of reforming our province's welfare system, the NDP administration fired welfare abuse investigators, eliminated Saskatchewan works program, and therefore increasing the chances of further generations trapped in the welfare cycle, and increasing the cost to the already strapped Saskatchewan families that are not on social services.

Income assistance programs have become a welfare trap. This trap can trap the recipients in the status quo of dependency. It can also trap the government in the status quo of perpetuating dependence. It has no value to either of the parties, Mr. Speaker. The government gets trapped and so do the recipients.

**An Hon. Member:** — Lose, lose, lose.

**Mr. Britton:** — It's a lose-lose proposition, as one of my colleagues says.

In order to leave social assistance, a client must give up the certain benefit of a government cheque for the uncertainty of returning to work. The government's even managed to make trying to get out of welfare difficult. A client faces deductions from social assistance for every dollar that they earn privately.

Mr. Speaker, this does nothing to alleviate the problem. Instead it creates a high marginal tax rate upon the welfare clients trying to learn new skills and to make future job contracts. Governments created the welfare trap, Mr. Speaker, and governments can break it — just like the government in Alberta.

Firstly, Alberta ensured that incentives within the social policy network encourage rather than inhibit the required economic adjustment. Secondly, they ensured that social safety net involves a manner that reflects the changing needs of citizens. What this means basically, the Alberta government believes social policy has to facilitate and assist in the occupational and industrial relocation in the new economy that is required of the

current creation generation of Albertans. It is to rebuild confidence in the social safety net. It must be simplified and redirected to those who are really in need.

The Klein government implemented an initiative called support for independence, which emphasizes the responsibility of individuals and families to look after themselves, and targets the most vulnerable groups in Alberta's society. And it's working, Mr. Speaker. The numbers speak for themselves.

In order to keep a social assistance case load down, every government must ensure that social assistance remains an unattractive alternative to employment. This must be maintained as a hand-up instead of a hand-out.

The argument that generous welfare encourages people to abandon jobs, Mr. Speaker, is well supported by available evidence. I would like you to consider the Bob Rae NDP government in Ontario, the province with the highest level of benefits in Canada. A couple in Ontario with two children receives \$1,770 per month plus benefits. Ontario has about 63.5 welfare cases per 1,000 population.

Compare that to New Brunswick with the least generous province. The same couple would receive \$877, and has only 49.3 cases per 1,000 population. Those two figures should indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members opposite, that by over-generous welfare benefits people will not try to increase their chances of a job.

Mr. Speaker, it's my belief that social assistance should be a springboard to independence rather than a net to become entrapped in. Unfortunately it seems the members opposite do not share this view.

Before the NDP members opposite start to moan and groan about how uncompassionate the Ralph Klein government has been, I think they should keep a few things in mind. They talk about the slash-and-burn policies of the Alberta government. Well firstly, let's look at what they have done. First, no taxes have been raised in the province of Alberta. Secondly, while the NDP government in this province has promised thousands and thousands of jobs, they have actually created zip.

Now whether the old StatsCanada reports are examined or the new ones, the more recent ones, our province is down anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 jobs since 1991. And the members opposite can holler and moan and groan, but the facts are there. And let us look at what has happened to Alberta in the meantime in terms of job creation.

Well, here we are. The Klein government can boast, legitimately so, of 80,000 new jobs created in the last two years. So the Klein government almost tripled the Saskatchewan NDP's promise of creating 30,000 jobs by the year 2000. They done it in only two years, Mr. Speaker. And they didn't raise any taxes; they didn't do any of the things that this government has done; no fees have been raised.

Mr. Speaker, no wonder the welfare numbers are down and Mr. Klein can boast of heading the most popular government in this country. Mr. Speaker, he has created a positive business climate by not raising taxes, cutting government spending, and in turn he has created thousands and thousands of jobs. It will work if you do it.

Now the members opposite will say, well but they have no health care premiums in Alberta. Mr. Speaker, that is also true. But if you add up all the taxes and fees and loss of jobs in our province, I think most people would rather pay a few hundred dollars a year for health care and have a job. They would rather pay a few hundred dollars and have a job rather than be out of a job -- what's happening in Saskatchewan -- and then bear most of the highest taxes in Canada as we do in Saskatchewan. It's a double hit for the working people in Saskatchewan. They also pay the highest taxes and they have to help feed the most unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, I have other issues to bring up with the government and I will do so at the earliest possible time. But my Wilkie constituents in the meantime are saying to me, let's get on with the business of the people of Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keeping:** — Mr. Speaker, it's always a privilege to stand in this House in my place and represent the people of the Nipawin constituency. It's enjoyable to be back here and be with the colleagues on both sides of the House.

It's also enjoyable to be back here with you, Mr. Speaker. Your wise counsel and your fairness are much appreciated. I know the people of our constituency and I believe of the province recognize and support your efforts in improving the decorum of this place, although there is, no doubt, there's still room for a little improvement once in a while.

I would like to compliment my colleague and friend, the member from Bengough-Milestone, for moving the Speech from the Throne. I would also like to compliment the member from Saltcoats on seconding the speech. I and others recognize that it is an honour to be asked.

I also want to recognize two special people: firstly, the member from Regina Hillsdale, the former minister of Health. Her vision, her steadfastness, and her wise judgement is being recognized by people of this province, people in the health care field of this province and in Canada and indeed in other places in the world.

The former associate minister of Health . . . I should say the former associate minister of Finance, the member from Swift Current, I believe has been an example for all of us in this House in the way he has served the province and the way he conducted his business with his wise counsel, with firmness and fairness. Many of the misguided megadeals of the former



government needed to be and were renegotiated under his guidance for the betterment of all in this province, especially the taxpayers.

I also, as others have, I want to congratulate the member from Kindersley on being elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. I have grown over the last three years to appreciate his ability, as I'm sure we all have. The task ahead of him is a big one, but I am sure that he will address it with his usual vigour and enthusiasm as he has displayed in the House.

And as well, Mr. Speaker, as others have, I want to welcome our new Clerk's assistant, Meta Woods, and the pages. And I should, as well, congratulate the member from Athabasca and the member from Regina Lake Centre on their appointment to cabinet. Their talents and their dedication have been recognized and rewarded, and deservedly so.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Nipawin, as you know, lies in the north-east part of the province. It's just south of the forest area. It's the furthest north-east-most agriculture area in the province. And forestry is one of the major industries in our area. The pulp wood goes to Prince Albert, of course, the small, locally owned saw mills, post operations, and the government-owned mill in Carrot River.

Our agriculture in that area is very diversified and has been for years. There's a lot of cattle in our area. There's three provincial pastures, provincially operated community pastures. There are several alfalfa dehydrating plants. Their product is exported overseas. And it provides much appreciated jobs to young people and farmers and ex-farmers in the area.

CanAmara Foods is a canola crushing plant at Nipawin. It's a major employer and much appreciated by the people that work there, the town of Nipawin, and the farmers.

The leaf-cutter bee business is another industry that's somewhat unique to that area. It's used, as you know, to help pollinate the alfalfa and that little bee that's . . . is exported all over the world.

The honey bee business also in my constituency, Mr. Speaker — I understand that in the constituency of Nipawin we produce about 25 per cent of all the honey in the province. So it's a sweet place to live. And I suppose that comes from the large number of blossoms on the canola fields and the clover fields and so on that have been there for years.

(1515)

Another major influence on that area of the province are the two hydroelectric dams in that area. They have created two lakes and an exciting tourist attraction. They add very much to the natural beauty of that part of the province.

And I think most of all, most significantly, they have provided one of the best places in the world to fish. This is world-class fishing in that part of the province. We have people that fly to

that area to fish from all over the world. And the main fish caught there, the record-size fish, are the northern pike — we call them the jack. And of course the wall-eye, and we call them the pickerel. These are record-size fish that are fairly easily caught. I've been able to catch a few significant sized ones myself, and I don't consider me to be a fisherman of any renown.

I remember last summer, Mr. Speaker, in the local paper one day a picture of a young boy and his father, and the young boy was holding a big pike and the father was holding a big pickerel. And the story under it went on to say that the son had caught — I forget how many pounds it was now, 18 or 20 pounds, pike — and the father was holding the Saskatchewan record in the history of the province. He had come up and caught this record-size pickerel in three days of fishing.

The story went on to say the father said, in his interview, that he had drove over 1,000 miles for that, and here he had a Saskatchewan record in his hand and his young boy standing beside him with an 18- or 20-pound fish as well. He said, I drove over 1,000 miles. And we that go fishing with our sons and our daughters know what it means to have that kind of success. He said, I drove over 1,000 miles and it was worth every one of those miles.

Then he went on to say, and this is almost unbelievable but the story was in the paper and I believe it, that they had decided on the way up — because they had heard that fishing was so good up there — they had decided as they drove along on the way up that any fish they caught under 10 pounds they were just going to throw it back.

And believe it or not, that same day that they caught that Saskatchewan record, they threw back two wall-eye — 9 pounds, some ounces — and they were rewarded with catching the Saskatchewan record. I think that anybody that'll throw back two 9-pound fish, with your son in the boat, deserves to catch a Saskatchewan record, and I'm glad he did.

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

**Mr. Keeping:** — The Nipawin Regional Park . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — More of a fish story than the throne speech.

**Mr. Keeping:** — I'm going to tie this together with the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Another thing I'm thinking of when I think of the government, especially in eastern Canada — the Upper House — in Carrot River-Arborfield area . . . A lot of people don't know this, but it is unique too. It's the only one in the province; it's the only one in Canada. In the Carrot River-Arborfield area, along the banks of the Carrot River, they discovered an 85-billion-year-old crocodile — 85-billion-year-old crocodile, prehistoric, older than most of the dinosaurs. He is preserved in the museum here

just on the north side of the lake here in the Saskatchewan museum of natural history. It's the only one in Canada, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I have seen the fossil. He's perfectly preserved. One of the best examples of a preservation. I haven't seen . . . I've seen fossils in the Upper House in Ottawa that weren't preserved as well as this one.

This is the only one in Canada and it was found in my constituency. And I think that everybody should take the opportunity, go to the natural museum of history here in Saskatchewan and see this crocodile that's called Big Bert, affectionately, and see what you think of him.

With this new throne speech, Mr. Speaker, with this new throne speech, I think that Saskatchewan has reached a new day, a new day of hope and opportunity. For the last three years we have been on a journey of renewal, the transition period from a period of waste and mismanagement and overspending; a period where we had promised in our first term of office to get our financial books in order and to balance the budget in the first term of office.

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

**Mr. Keeping:** — And now we have reached a major milestone, the first major milestone, our first major goal. Tomorrow we will be unveiling our balanced budget — the first balanced budget that Saskatchewan has had since the New Democratic Party were last in government.

I know that people have had to make hard choices. A lot of people in government have had to make hard choices. A lot of ordinary, everyday people have had to make very difficult and very hard choices. We all know that as we go through our constituency. But we realize that they were the necessary ones and they were the right ones. And this is what government is about — is making the hard choices and making the right choices and doing the right thing. And now at last we have good government restored.

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

**Mr. Keeping:** — This budget speech outlines our plans for sustainable resource development. I want to underline the word sustainable. Anybody can go out and have resource development. Just pour money into it, pour money into it, prop it up with taxpayers' money, and don't worry about the future generations — our children, our grandchildren. And don't worry about the debt you're putting over here, and don't worry about if it's sustainable or not.

We are outlining in this budget . . . in this throne speech our plans, and tomorrow it'll be the budget for sustainable economic development and resource management.

We have also tomorrow, and will be putting the financial figure on, the plans in the throne speech that we outlined for continued agriculture diversification. We know in the future, as much as anybody can see, that that's the way to go. I think — I

don't know if it was our grandfathers or our grandmothers or whoever coined the phrase — don't put all your eggs in one basket, still is a good rule to go by.

A job strategy was mentioned in the throne speech. A job strategy that is going to train and build jobs, sustainable jobs. And training for jobs that there are; not training just for training, but to build bridges between training and jobs.

We have, as you know, are continuing on a modern health care plan that is going to be copied and envied by a lot of other provinces and other places in the world.

I think one of the major things about our health care plan that should be recognized and admired is the local decision making, the local boards, taking away from people a long ways away from the situation making the decision. But the people that live there, the people that know the needs of the community, matching the needs with the service provided.

As you know, this is the 90th birthday of our province and we celebrate our past. We also look forward to the future. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I love to read history books, especially of my area where I recognize some of the names and the families. I have most . . . I think I have all the history books of my area and I have them close to my bed actually and I can reach out and read them at night and get to know some of the families that lived in that area before me, the families that are still there now.

People moved into that area from southern Saskatchewan; people moved into that area from the United States; moved into that area from Europe. It was all bush and swamp and water and flies and cold weather, and it always amazes me how forward-looking those people were in their plans for the future. How forward-looking our parents and our grandparents were when they planned for a better future for us. They planned and worked for a better future for us. They planned and cooperated with one another for a better future for us and we've enjoyed a better life than most of them have, far better. And they deserve our respect.

We can learn a lot today from that example that they set for us and on this past three years of transition, from the former kind of managing the business of the province and the affairs to what we have set now — a new outlook, new hope, a new day. We have been working, cooperating and working, planning together with labour, with business, and government, for the benefit of all and especially for the future and the benefit of our children and their children and their children.

That's what the kind of example that we were set if we look at what people have done in the 90-year span of this province — 90 years is a short span. There's some people living in the province, a lot of them, that are older than the province. And if we look what in the short term of 90 years how they worked and sweat, with no roads, no schools, no health care, no social assistance, no markets, no anything, and what they built and left for us, we have to pay more attention to what we're doing for

the future. And that's what we've been doing, Mr. Speaker, over the last three years and now it's starting to pay off.

Mr. Speaker, it was an independent spirit I believe that brought people to that part of the province, a spirit of independence. But they soon learned as they faced the bush and the harsh weather and the flies and the fact that there was no schools and no resources, they soon learned to cooperate. Cooperation was a learned behaviour and they learned it. And it benefited our province well.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's what we've been doing this past three years. We have had to temper some of our idealism with pragmatism. We have had to temper some of the things that we would like to do and be realistic because this is all we can do.

The highlight for me, Mr. Speaker, in the budget speech will be the balanced budget. The highlight for me in the throne speech was the fact that we are going to balance our budget and we are going to pass balanced budget legislation.

That was the main reason that I ran, when I let my name stand and people were asking me to run, and now here it is. Just three and a half years later, here it is. I am absolutely elated. I am absolutely overjoyed that it's here. And not only it's here, it's here a year earlier than we had predicted.

Sure, things worked well. You always expect the good luck. I've noticed when I played ball, Mr. Speaker, we played on a team that was a very winning team. Wasn't because I was on it, but it just happened to be a very winning team. And people would always say, you guys are so lucky. And I said, yes, I noticed one thing, the more you practice the luckier you are. The harder you work and the better plans you make, the more lucky you will be; watch hockey teams, it's the same thing. Saskatchewan has had some luck but I think the people of Saskatchewan, the way they've worked and the way they've sacrificed and cooperated, in lots of cases put our idealism aside. We deserve to have some good luck and we're all the better for it.

This throne speech marks the end of the transition to good government. This throne speech marks a new beginning, a new day of new hope and new opportunity and I am proud to support it. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was happily to enter this debate today — happy because, as the last speaker said, we are starting to govern the province the way the province should be governed, and was governed in the past. Having a balanced budget is not everything to the province but having the balanced budget takes the handcuffs off the government as far as facilitating jobs, programs. It takes the handcuffs off government as far as having options, because when you have a budget that is negative, when you spend more than you take in, your options are very limited.

And this province has had a number of years — and indeed this province and other provinces — have had a number of years of governments that believe in handcuffing government. They believe in handcuffing government because they don't believe in government.

Witness our neighbours to the west. A great article, editorial, from one of the Alberta papers telling how Jack . . . Ralph Klein, rather, is destroying government. And they want to destroy government. They want to destroy confidence. His ministers are going to be — in Alberta — are going to be given the power to privatize parts of their department without even coming to the Legislative Assembly for debate.

(1530)

Get government out of the lives of people. That's what the catchword is — get government out of the lives of people. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, government is people; the government is the people.

Now I want to make a comparison, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have proposed balanced budget legislation in this throne speech for this session. I particularly don't think there should be a need for balanced budget legislation. I think many of us think that.

We look back in history of this province and we have to then project to the future — and heaven forbid that we should ever not be government; there will be another Tory or Liberal government that will need balanced budget legislation.

Now the opposition benches also put forward balanced budget legislation. But the difference between it is this. The opposition's attitude as the right-wing Conservative or Liberal attitude is this: you have to protect the people from its own government.

Just think of the logic: protect the people from its own government. The people who elected the government have to be protected from that government. Well I think there is some necessity for that, but as far as we're concerned, it's the government job to work for the people and to protect the people.

That's the difference in psyche. And what it leads to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the fact that if you can convince the government . . . if you can convince the people that they have to be protected from their government, you promote anarchy, because the people who think they have to be protected from government think, well maybe we should get rid of government. And that's what Ralph Klein is doing. That's what the United States has done.

Because as you get people wanting to get rid of government and the institution, then they become disenfranchised because they think, well if it's there it's not worth voting for anyway. As they become disenfranchised then you could argue, well there's less need for government.

But I argue the opposite, Mr. Deputy Speaker; there is more and more and more need for governing — not government but governing — in Canada and in the United States.

In the United States, 40 per cent of the people vote in a national election — 40 per cent — 60 per cent of the people feel disenfranchised. That's no accident, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's what's being promoted by the right-wing Liberal and Conservative governments in Canada and in Saskatchewan. Get rid of this institution and then let business take over.

Well, get rid of the institution, how do they do this? How do they promote this? Well here's how they do it. You see Ralph Klein, Preston Manning, standing up and saying, balance the budget but no tax increases. You don't have to increase taxes to balance the budget.

Well when you think this through, first of all, in Mr. Manning's case, the people who are surrounding him are all . . . the people in Ottawa for a number of years and their advisers who are now moved over to the Reform Party, they're all old Conservatives who created a major part of the budget . . . I should say, created a major part, finished off, the Liberals' creation of the major part of the deficit rather.

But he stands up and says, balance the budget; no more taxes. Well yes, you can do that and it can be achieved. You can sell off the health care system, get it out of government, privatize it. You can sell off the educational institutions, the universities, and privatize them and the technical institutes, as we have seen in the United States, as we are seeing in the move in Alberta.

But the result of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the result of that is that the people are still paying but no one's there to govern the province to make sure that the wealth that is moved around the province is distributed evenly through social programs, medicare, unemployment insurance, social services. Nobody is there to make sure that the money that is taken from the people goes to roads, to access to health care institutions, opportunities, to kindergarten.

Just think of that logic — get rid of the institution. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that is what Ralph Klein in Alberta is calling loud and clear. And to hear the opposition benches in this House, both Liberal and Conservative, applauding Ralph Klein, tells me one thing — that they would take this province down the same path. No more taxes; get rid of the institution; disenfranchise the people; control by whom? Control by the people with money. And if you look at the United States of America, you will see exactly that happening.

You hear Ralph Klein jumping up and down about members promoting, and in this province we heard members of the opposition, when they were government, promoting the fact that members of this Assembly are not very well respected. I remember Mr. Lane saying, after explaining why he had 120 per cent slip in his budget, saying, well I'm just a politician. Promoting the fact that his colleagues in this institution are somewhat less than the respect they deserve.

Why would we do that? Why would we promote . . . an institution promote degrading people who are elected to govern? Well you would do that because you don't believe in governing. And if you don't believe in governing, you want the people to say well, everybody's the same, so we don't have to.

Mr. Speaker, this government believes in governing. This throne speech is designed deliberately to promote governance — governance for the people.

**An Hon. Member:** — Leadership.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Leadership, as my colleague says. Because without leadership of government, it becomes anarchy.

And like I said before, it is controlled by the rich. And that's what . . . that's where this country is heading for. I mean I'm not saying tomorrow, but that's what's being promoted by the Liberals and Tories to take us down that path to anarchy.

Disrespect for members of this institution, just think about it. The people who are out there in the province who vote for members of this Assembly and then members of the elected bodies of our country downgrade their colleagues. I mean there is no purpose other than to get the government down in the depths of no control.

Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget legislation in this province sadly is needed because of what happened in the past and put there as a protection for the future.

It's just like fixed election dates. If you go through from 1944 to present in all the NDP governments . . . in fact, 1944, June, when the first Douglas government was elected, until 1964, every four years, there was an election held in June. Like clockwork. We didn't need legislation. We didn't need legislation. And it flows fairly consistently through the years of NDP governments to try to have an election every four years.

The fact that people are asking for fixed election dates is a recent phenomenon. Just because you see the last government go nearly 10 years in two terms was an anomaly. The people want to guard against that. And all you have to do is put a government in who believes in governing, who believes in not disenfranchising people but it believes in people's right to vote and elect and have some control over their own affairs by putting in the party that they think will best serve them.

That's what governing and government is all about. That's what this throne speech is all about. Four years ago we set out a plan. We set out a plan to try to get this province back on its feet again. And the Liberals and the Conservatives are saying, well you're taxing the people to death. You're taxing; you're mean, cruel people. Do like Ralph Klein does.

Okay, let's do a little comparison to Ralph Klein. Ralph Klein . . . how much medicare do Alberta people pay? No taxes in Alberta, by the way. No, but how much medicare?

**An Hon. Member:** — Nine hundred.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Nine hundred for a family of four or thereabouts. What's the car insurance compared to Saskatchewan?

**An Hon. Member:** — Three times, three times as high.

**Mr. Upshall:** — At least three times as high. And if you're a younger person it can be way more than that. Oh but there's no taxes in Alberta. No, no. What about kindergarten? Oh, I guess I got to pay 500 bucks to send my child to kindergarten. But no, there's no taxes in Alberta. We'll never have taxes to balance the budget.

What about hospitals? Two major hospitals are going to be shut down in Alberta; the purpose is to privatize them. No taxes, no. You wait and see. There's going to be . . . the scrap has started already between Ottawa and Ralph Klein about privatizing health care. No, not raising taxes.

The next thing that will be is the universities. You wait and see. In fact they've started already. Already across Alberta and some other provinces where there's major funding from private institutions into the universities, major funding. Granted that is not all bad, but what's the end result? What's the end result? Who's going to be in control of the universities, what's it going to cost and who will be able to attend? No, you don't have to raise taxes.

But I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, if that vein is kept, you don't need taxes. You don't need taxes because you'll have a class of people who are down without any possible way to earn a living. Don't have to take care of them. Cut back social services. Cut back social services. Make them work. Well that sounds good but, Mr. Speaker, the problem with that is that if there is no control by government to help the people, who's going to do it? Who's going to take care of the poorest of the poor? Who's going to take care of the medically unable to work? Who's going to take care of the special needs people? Who's going to do that?

We've seen Alberta cut those areas. In Saskatchewan we haven't. And this is the comparison I want to make, Mr. Speaker. In Saskatchewan we put together a budget . . . we put together a throne speech rather, to be followed by a budget. Budgets over four years that were announced . . . the targets were announced four years ago. We have maintained right on those targets. In fact, last year we were ahead of our own projection, ahead of our own projection, right on the money.

Mr. Speaker, when you have a taxation system, when a government who wants to govern, you have a government that maintains basic services. And that's what we've done in Saskatchewan. I'll tell you there has been very few . . . in fact, if you can find somebody in Saskatchewan who has not been affected on the road that we have had to take to recover this province from the grasps and the bowels of debt, then that would be something because I think everybody's been affected.

I don't care if it's been the drug plan or the E&H (education and health) tax or whatever, but the point is, it was a plan, a plan to govern. A plan to release ourselves from the debt that's handcuffing us so that we cannot take care of our poor, to get them back into jobs; that we cannot take care of our special needs people who need taking care of. So that we can again take care of the people who through no fault of their own are sick and can't work.

In the right-wing Liberal Alberta Conservative model those people are forgotten about. Fritz Pearls, an old sociology professor, wrote a book one time, and his theory was, out of sight out of mind — the toilet theory. Give them a flush and get them out of your sight and don't worry about them. And that's their approach. Saskatchewan took a different approach, maintain basic services, social services, health care.

It's not the way it was, but we have achieved something that no other province in this country has achieved in recent times and that is to be able to come in with a budget where you don't spend more than you take in. This allows the province, Mr. Speaker, to have options. When all of a sudden then you have a surplus, it'll be small, but then you can decide whether to pay down the debt. You can decide whether you wanted to put it back into services for the people; you can decide whether you wanted to put it into job creation, or assisting job creation. You give yourself the option to make choices. And that's what governing is all about — making choices.

But to hear the opposition talk, they would like to create the feeling that government is somehow separate from the people, as witnessed by their balanced budget legislation protecting the people from its own government.

What kind of a logic do we have? What kind of logic is it when we have to put forward a thought that we have to protect the people from its own government?

(1545)

Mr. Speaker, in this province we have a number of exciting things that are happening. I'll tell you, in my area, in the Humboldt area and the Watrous area, I defy anyone to go up in that area and find someone who doesn't have a job if they want it — anyone.

Things are moving. The manufacturing sector, implement manufacturing sector, went up something like 56 per cent last year.

And oh, some people say, well the government can't take any credit for this. It's the economy. It's turning around, and the Saskatchewan government has got nothing to do about it. They got nothing to do about it.

**An Hon. Member:** — Hear, hear.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Well the Liberal member says, hear, hear. See, that's just what I've been talking about. You want the people to

think that government is nothing and nothing to do with anything.

But I'll tell you what this province has done, Mr. Speaker, is we've positioned ourselves to be out front, ahead of everybody else in the race in this province to turn their economies around. We're so far ahead of them they can't see us because we're coming in with a balanced budget. And as this economy recovers and there's more people paying taxes and as more people working, we will be the model for Canada — the model for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Canada needs a model. I look at the provinces in eastern Canada. The provinces in eastern Canada are governed by the Liberals. Debt, despair, taxation greater than Saskatchewan's. Combined taxation in Saskatchewan is the second lowest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with this province has not been the people; the problem with the province has been the government. And that's why we see the attitude. And when now we are successful in becoming government and governing again, we see the cries of foul, overtaxation, and everything from the opposition benches.

When I'm out in Humboldt, Saskatchewan in the north-east section . . . corner, in the manufacturing sector, you know what? I don't hear a howl, like the members opposite say, about people saying there's no jobs, the economy and everything's lousy. I hear exactly the opposite. I hear exactly the opposite. If you talk to the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association, they say the position this province has taken is fantastic because the province's job is to create the climate, create the climate for recovery in this case, create a climate of economic activity. And that's what we've been doing.

The business tax decreases over the last few years has helped. Oh no, government's got nothing to do with recovery. Well I talk to the people who think that reducing of the business tax was a particularly fine thing in that point in time because they were feeling the pinch.

And I hear things like, well — from the opposition benches — well your energy rates are too high. A little bit hypocritical coming from the opposition when they're the ones that gave away our energy reserves and now all we are is buying on the spot market, transferring it through TransGas, and selling it to the customers.

**An Hon. Member:** — . . . remember they sold the coal mines.

**Mr. Upshall:** — A very good point. My colleague said they gave away the coalmines as well, all the energy systems. And then they say, well your energy rates are too high. If our energy rates are too high maybe we should get rid of SaskEnergy. Like they did. Well rates didn't go down. All we do now is buy on the spot market. But if you compare, Mr. Speaker, to some provinces where they have a private energy sector, power or energy, the rates are no lower, in fact higher in many cases. But

where do the profits go? Do the profits go back to the people like it is in Saskatchewan through the Crowns? No, it goes right to the private hands.

I don't hear people out in rural Saskatchewan squawking about the energy rates. They don't like to pay; nobody does. But you know what they're talking about? They're talking about opportunity. And that's what this budget document . . . this throne speech document and that's what this budget will be all about, Mr. Speaker -- opportunity.

You give people a little glimmering of hope for turnaround in economic fortune for themselves and I'll tell you they will take that and run with it like you wouldn't believe. And that's what this province has done. We've taken the glimmering of hope, off in the distance, step by step. And it's been hard, you know, and I really feel sorry. I really feel sorry for the people of this province because it hasn't been easy for them as we all know around here.

It certainly wasn't easy for me to sit in opposition and see the last government building the debt. But the poor people of this province have taken a double whammy. First of all they went through the debt building and then they went through the hardship of trying to get it turned around, and that's unfair. That's unfair for the people of this province to have to go through.

But you know what? At first they were angry at our government. They said, you can't do this. In fact some of my own supporters, Mr. Speaker, some of my own members said you can't do this, and if you continue to do this maybe I won't support you any more. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? Those people are back saying, you were right.

And I don't say aye, because I tell you, as you sit around and you look at what you have to do to people, it hurts inside. And we all took our turns saying, well gee, we can't do this; it doesn't matter if you're a member of this House or whether you're a member of the public. And some people, Mr. Speaker, can't take that. Some people can't take that criticism and they have to go leave it and walk away from it. But it takes leaders to be able to wade through the criticism. It takes leaders to be able to be focused on an objective, the objective of hope, delivering hope to the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen it in education. Fantastic things happening in education: career laddering, having institutions recognize each other's courses. They say, Mr. Speaker, that a young student today going out of university will change careers six times. Six times, and I think when I was going out it was something like twice or three times. So those people are going to be mobile. They're going to have to have a wide range of skills. They're going to have to be credited from job to job for pensions; they're going to have to have portable pension plans. This is the way of the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's what government is there for, to allow them to do that; to kick-start their economic activity as they go

through the university system. And not just selectively like we liked to see — like some of the Liberal members would like to see — not selectively by eliminating the possibility of students going to university. We've seen Mr. Axworthy in Ottawa saying to the students, to this province and Canada saying user pay, user pay theory.

It's going to cost you \$40,000 to go through university on your student loan. Well this is another example, another example of segregating people, because you know that people who can't afford it will not be going to university. Some people can't . . . we have situations today where you have a family with a decent income of \$40,000 but if they got two children in university right today, they have to watch their pennies. They have to watch their pennies.

And what's Mr. Axworthy and the Liberals saying? We don't care about you. You go to the bank and get your student loan and we'll guarantee your student loan and you go out in the workforce. Well I'll tell you, if I've got an income or a reserve that will allow me to go to university and not worry about the \$40,000, I'll be there.

But I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you that there will be numbers and hundreds of students who will not go to university, who will not go to university because they can't afford the \$40,000 student loan. Can't afford to take the chance, because if they get out of university and can't find a job, who's going to be paying for it? Their parents are going to have to be paying for it and they can't afford it.

So I mean, the thought . . . It's a different way of sort of privatizing the institutions and having them serve only the elite of society. I say elite in the monetary sense.

See that's Liberals, Tories, same old stories. And that's proven again, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that the people in the Liberal Party are saying openly: we've got Conservatives coming to us left, right, and centre. Well . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Ted Urness. Yes, Ted Urness, I believe, is over there. There's a number of them. In fact it's nothing to do with governing, nothing to do with government or parties, Mr. Speaker; it's just there's a number of people who just hate to see the New Democratic Party govern. They hate to see the New Democratic Party govern because we try to put some respect back in government. And when your objective is to destroy government, to have the elected members of this House debating hardly anything, you lose.

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

**Mr. Upshall:** — Mr. Speaker, as I was saying earlier, there are a number of encouraging signs in this province. The people in my constituency, the constituency of Humboldt, are excited about what's happening. They have not sat back and said, the world is falling, the sky is falling in. They have created REDAs (regional economic development authority). They've taken on the new health reform with gusto. Economic development in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, is booming.

And it's probably one of the better areas in the province because it's got a history of manufacturing and it was maybe a little easier to recover. But I'll tell you, they didn't say, that's good enough; we're just going to let things go. They grabbed a hold of the REDA concept. They're working with the communities, they're working with the government, to try to make it even better.

And oh no, government hasn't got anything to do with the economic turnaround. No, no. That's what the naysayers say. But I tell you, when you create a regional economic development authority and talk to them about how they can improve their life and their neighbour's life by building on their strengths, people get excited. And that's what the government has done.

We facilitated the REDA program, not for government to deliver economic development programs, but for the community to take hold of themselves, take hold of their own affairs: to decide whether or not their strength is tourism; to decide whether their strength is agriculture, agribusiness, manufacturing.

They're going forward with gusto because — do you know why, Mr. Speaker? — because they've had enough of the past, the debt-building, the squandering of money. They've had enough of the federal Liberal governments who, as we're witnessing today, are no different than the federal Tory government. I mean I can go example after example. Transportation rate. The transportation system with the Crow benefit. Canadian Wheat Board. It's the same thing. Nothing has changed. The policy has not changed since the federal Liberal government came forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, I still have to keep going back to my point. My point being that the people in my constituency — and I get around rural Saskatchewan quite a lot — many constituencies, are not sitting back. They're taking the bull by the horns and they're going to be part of this economic recovery. They see the opportunity.

And that's why I question the strategy of the members opposite. Standing in this House, standing on their podiums, wherever it may be, spouting doom and gloom. I think if they were to be a little more rational about building credibility, they would get with the times, get with the people, and try to keep up to the people.

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems that we've seen in this government, in this House, is the accuracy of facts from the Liberal front bench. A little lack of accuracy of facts from the Liberal front bench. Standing up on her hind legs saying, well there's no jobs. Jobs are gone down. Well I'll tell you, the very next day StatsCanada says, well you're wrong; the jobs have gone up.

(1600)

The front bench in the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, has problems

with staying accurate from one day to the next on policy. She wants gaming. Well maybe she doesn't want gaming. Well yes, she wants gaming, but she wants it different than it is now. Well how different? Well I'm not sure how different, but we don't want it the way you guys are doing it; we want something different.

Mr. Speaker, that's not leadership. That is not leadership, Mr. Speaker. What that is is desperation.

Not only in gaming. We've seen it time after time after time, the flip-flops of the Leader of the Liberal Party. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I question that strategy; I really question that strategy. Because I think if you want to build credibility, you do it by being credible. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure that out.

But in desperation to be government, in desperation to be government filled with advisers from the old Tory government, to get rid of a government who in four years has balanced the budget, she grasps at straws. A policy a day. Well there's a Monday policy and a Tuesday policy and a Wednesday policy and a Thursday policy — none of which may be the same.

**An Hon. Member:** — Whatever happened to the idea per week?

**Mr. Upshall:** — That same member, Mr. Speaker, I could remember a couple of years ago, said she was going to give one job creation a week.

**An Hon. Member:** — Hundred and sixty weeks ago.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Hundred and sixty weeks ago?

**An Hon. Member:** — Hundred and sixty weeks ago, she said.

**Mr. Upshall:** — Well somebody's kept track. Well there hasn't been one put forward. There hasn't been one put forward. And even though the job stats in this province have shown that we're moving quickly in the right direction, she keeps saying no, the naysayer is out.

Mr. Speaker, it must be hard to be a Liberal these days because I think you're in a bit of a box. And I understand this because I talk to a lot of the business people who . . . many business people who traditionally have not supported our government — not supported our government.

But I'll tell you, there's a change, Mr. Speaker. There's a change because they can understand, business people understand business. And the business of government is running a tight ship, just like any other business. They can see what we've done, and they like it. They had something to compare to, the old Conservative Party, and they don't like that.

But here's the question. Why aren't the Liberals running to the Liberals? I see nominations from around the constituencies. I see nominations with parachute candidates for the Liberals

coming in. I see candidates being elected who either had a Reform . . . ran for the Reform Party last time. I see candidates nominated for the Liberals who ran for the Conservative Party. Why are the Liberals scared of being Liberal?

**An Hon. Member:** — I think it's called leadership.

**Mr. Upshall:** — I think it's . . . exactly what I was going to say. I think it's called leadership. You have to be able to promote leadership. To be a leader you have to promote leadership.

Well I'll tell you that's the problem with the member from Greystone, the Liberal leader, and that's why the Liberal Party is having problems keeping its members. You would think at a time when with the aid of the press and other people, with the destruction of the last Tory government, that there's a certain number of people who just will not be New Democrats and they're shifting across. And they are. But where are the old Liberals? Oh, I ask the Liberal members, where are the old Liberals?

I come from Humboldt, which was traditionally a Liberal area at one time long, long ago, and the old Liberals have no confidence in the new Liberals because they see the new Liberals as Tories. And why would they see it any different? Why would they see it any different? Because as I've stated, you have a flood of Conservatives. You have members . . . you have people getting nominated in the Liberal Party who ran for Reform, who were Conservatives, who worked for Conservatives, Western Canada Concept. The old Liberals know the difference and that's why you're going to be in the opposition benches for a long, long time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks by saying that I am very proud. I'm very proud of the fact that I was . . . They say timing is everything and it's true. I am proud of the fact that I was able to be in this institution, like in '44, like in '71, like in '91. To be a part . . . maybe take a little bit of small credit for it myself, but to be part of an organization of a group of colleagues who had the intestinal fortitude to stand up, to take the heat, to take the criticism of the people of the province, and then to be rewarded by a thank you from the people. And that's what they're saying now. I am very proud to be able to stand in this House and be a part of that.

Mr. Speaker, we've had a plan to balance the budget and we are going to succeed. We will continue planning in the future. We will continue to put our plan out and the plan basically is working around getting people working in jobs. And that's a tough . . . that is tough to do when you're starting to get the economy going again.

But I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, it couldn't have been any tougher than making some of the decisions that we had to make to get this province back on track. I thank my colleagues and I thank the people of this province. I am honoured to be able to be in this House, in my seat, at this point in time. Thank you very much.



The division bells rang from 4:08 p.m. until 4:19 p.m.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

**Yeas**

Romanow	Upshall	Serby
Van Mulligen	Hagel	Sonntag
Thompson	Bradley	Flavel
Wiens	Koenker	Roy
Tchorzewski	Lorje	Cline
Lingenfelter	Teichrob	Scott
Shillington	Pringle	Kujawa
Anguish	Lautermilch	Stanger
Johnson	Crofford	Kluz
Goulet	Renaud	Knezacek
Atkinson	Murray	Harper
Kowalsky	Hamilton	Keeping
Carson	Trew	Jess
Cunningham	Draper	Langford
Penner		

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**Nays**

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

— 11

**MOTIONS**

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

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

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

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

**Ways and Means**

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

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

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

**CORRIGENDUM**

On page 153 of *Hansard* No. 6B Monday, February 13, 1995, 7 p.m., left-hand column, second paragraph, the word “equally” should read “easily;” and the right-hand column, first paragraph, the word “pull” should read “hope.”

[Note: The online version has been corrected.]