

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

I so present.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition come from the community of Wawota. I so present.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

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

These petitions come from my constituency — the communities of Heward, Stoughton, Bienfait, and Corning, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

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

The communities involved, Mr. Speaker, are Arcola and Kenosee Lake. I so present.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition from people that have signed it from across Saskatchewan, and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well on behalf of citizens concerned about the impending closure of the Plains hospital. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from Regina, Stoughton, and Weyburn, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition to present today:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre until they conduct a comprehensive review into the health crisis we are currently experiencing.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

People that have signed this petition are all from Stoughton.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition of behalf of Saskatchewan people this afternoon concerning the Plains Health Centre and the moratorium. This petition comes from the Regina, Pense areas of Saskatchewan. I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise again today on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan to present a petition. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to save the Plains Health Centre by enacting legislation to prevent the closure, and by providing adequate funding to the Regina Health District so that the essential services provided at the Plains may be continued.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from the communities of Melville and Lemberg. I so present.

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present petitions on behalf of citizens who are concerned about the closure of the Plains hospital. The prayer reads as follows. Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to save the Plains Health Centre by enacting legislation to prevent the closure, and by providing adequate funding to the Regina Health District so that the essential services provided at the Plains may be continued.

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

Those who have signed these petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from communities of Gainsborough, Carievale and Estevan. I so present.

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty today to rise with petitions from citizens concerned about crumbling health care in this province under the NDP (New Democratic Party), particularly the issue of the impending closure of the Plains Health Centre. Your petitioners this afternoon all come from the town of Lemberg. I so present.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join my colleagues in presenting a petition on behalf of people in the communities of Ituna, Melville, Kelliher, and Goodeve concerned about the closure of the Plains Health Centre and the health care system in this province. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of citizens who are seeking justice for men and women who have lost spouses in work-related accidents.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to have the Workers' Compensation Board Act amended for the disenfranchised widows and widowers of Saskatchewan whereby their pensions are reinstated and the revoked pensions reimbursed to them retroactively and with interest, as requested by the statement of entitlement presented to the Workers' Compensation Board on October 27, 1997.

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

The signatures today are from Saskatoon, from Kenaston, from Aberdeen, Wynyard, and Warman.

Mr. Goohsen: — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I continue today to present petitions on behalf of people concerned about the double-laning of No. 1 Highway. These petitions today come from the community of Cabri, Saskatchewan and I'm happy to present them on their behalf.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 12(7) they are hereby read and received.

Of citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly on the following matters: to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway; to save the Plains Health Centre; and to put a moratorium on the closure of the Plains Health Centre.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Wednesday next move first reading of a Bill, the child protection Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Hon. members, we are honoured today to have 17 special guests who are seated in the Speaker's gallery.

These guests are all Saskatchewan Olympians from the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan, the 1998 Para-Olympics in Nagano, and the 1997 Special Olympics in Toronto. We want to recognize them in the legislative chambers today.

In just a moment I will invite the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Third Party to make a few brief remarks. And following their remarks, the athletes will be each introduced individually by their own MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly).

I'll now recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure, as I'm sure it is for all of those participating today, to join with my colleagues in recognizing and paying tribute to a very special group of Saskatchewan and Canadian athletes and officials, a group that we proudly call the Olympians, the Saskatchewan Olympians. And after question period a further presentation and ceremony in the lobby, with tea in room 218, and tonight they'll be honoured with a dinner at Government House.

Mr. Speaker, we know that some of those here with us today had the opportunity to stand on an Olympic medal podium, some more than once. And I know I speak for all of us when I say how proud I was to see those athletes, some of them carrying small Saskatchewan flags — for me that was particularly heart-warming — receiving the medals that they earned in the highest arena in the highest form of competition.

But the proudest moment of all was to see the flag of Canada be raised and to hear "O Canada" played and to be sung, and to see these wonderful people, all of them representing this province, this nation, so well.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we are here today only to celebrate victories; those glorious but fleeting moments that dazzle us like a camera flash glinting off a gold medal or a silver medal or a bronze medal. Rather I believe our purpose here is to recognize and celebrate the greater values these athletes represent — commitment, dedication, perseverance, the pursuit of excellence. And it's entirely right and proper that we do this.

The writer Thackeray observed that the next best thing to achieving excellence is to recognize and to appreciate it. And to truly appreciate this excellence, we must appreciate the effort behind it.

Of course it's easy to appreciate when we see some of the tangibles — medals and records and the actual performances. But we must also appreciate the things that we didn't see — the hours, the months, the years of practice and training, family sacrifice, and personal sacrifice.

And we must appreciate not only the things we didn't see, but the things that we can't see, qualities like determination, commitment, and discipline.

Mr. Speaker, one more quotation. Ovid said once: "There is no excellence without difficulty." I think he's right: no excellence without difficulty. That's partly why we're here today — to

recognize that difficulty, to honour it, and to thank those people for enduring it in the pursuit and in the ultimate achievement of excellence. Because the excellence we see in these very special Saskatchewan-Canadian citizens, reflects well on all of us.

The excellence we see here today and honour here today, reminds all of us of what we can be, and indeed we have been. We see in them, refined and refocused, the Saskatchewan values of determination and commitment, perseverance and resolve — the same values which enabled us to build our great province, to build our great country, the best in the world, and values which will enable us to move forward into the next century with strength and confidence.

And so on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan and my colleagues in the government, I want to thank these people, these special citizens. I say to these Olympians, for their commitment to such a high, high purpose, thank you, and well done.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour to add a few words of tribute of these great athletes and coaches today. I don't think I'm the only one in this Assembly who suffered a severe case of sleep deprivation in February during the Nagano Olympics. More than a few nights I found myself up at 2 or 3 in the morning cheering on our great Canadian team. And I was filled with a sense of pride, as I know all Saskatchewan residents were, that so many of the Canadian team hailed from our own province. In fact I remember in particular a night earlier in the Nagano Games when after a Saskatchewan athlete had claimed gold, the commentator pointed out that the province of Saskatchewan now laid claim to more Olympic gold medals than did the United States.

Mr. Speaker, they showed us, they showed the world, that this province of 1 million people can produce world-class athletes that stand second to no one. And even though many of our Saskatchewan athletes now live and train in other parts of Canada by necessity, they still represented Saskatchewan with great dignity and honour. And I would like to thank them for that in particular.

And, Mr. Speaker, when you speak of dignity and honour, there is no better example than the athletes who competed in the Para-Olympics and the Special Olympics. The skill and courage these athletes showed the world is a testament to what all of us can achieve with dedication and determination no matter the obstacles that have been put in front of us by life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my caucus and all those people in Saskatchewan we represent in this Assembly, I congratulate all the athletes we honour today. And I know that all Saskatchewan residents will have plenty more to cheer about when our athletes take to the world stage once again, both in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. And I look forward to the day when we can gather to honour those athletes as well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also my privilege to extend congratulations not only to the Olympic athletes with us today but to all of the fine people from Saskatchewan who participated in Nagano and Toronto. Your hard work and your dedication and success have made the entire province very, very proud of you.

Our caucus followed your games, your trials, and your triumphs very closely. You are following in the footsteps of so many great Saskatchewan and Canadian athletes who have also participated in the different Olympic ventures. They too had many trials and tribulations.

At this time, I would just like to take us back a little bit in history to an earlier Winter Games. It was the year 1924, the very first official Winter Games. The Games were just outside Paris, France, at a town called Chamonix. I would like to share with you a few notes made by Harry Watson who played left wing for Canada's ice hockey team.

They had to travel eight days by ship to reach England. After the first full day on the ship, only five players made it to breakfast. One of the players, Duncan Munroe, was so ill he was afraid he was going to die. The next day he was so ill, he was afraid he was going to live. When they finally settled in France, they found out that there were no boards around the rink. Goalies were not allowed to fall down on their knees, and in the final game the team with the oldest captain got to choose the end they wanted.

Those were different times and different trials. Nonetheless, Canadians persevered and brought home the Olympic gold. This is a tradition that has continued and is the reason we are gathered here today to celebrate the accomplishments of each and every one of our Olympians.

I would like to share a quote from Walt Disney, Mr. Speaker: "If you can dream it, you can do it." I think that quote, in many ways, epitomizes what each of you has accomplished. It takes years of perfecting your abilities to be able to represent Canada internationally, whether your sport is curling, skiing, speed skating, hockey, or snowshoeing. It has meant countless hours away from homes and families and it has meant hundreds and hundreds of hours devoted to practice.

I would also like to quote the Special Olympics Athletes' Oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win (then) let me be brave in the attempt."

Every athlete here today is a champion in their own way. They strove to win the right to represent Saskatchewan and then Canada at the Olympics, and they were successful. They have followed their dreams to the top. I know that they are an example to many, many of our young people that they too can make their dreams come true. You are proof that hard work and determination is a way to achieve whatever you put your mind to.

I'd like to again offer congratulations not only on behalf of our caucus and our constituents, but all the people of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan residents have joined the Premier in doing that.

You have made every one of us very, very proud of you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — We'll now introduce each individual Saskatchewan Olympian. And I ask the Olympians to stand while being introduced by your own MLA, and then to remain standing for the applause that I know you're going to receive.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly, Ms. Sandra Schmirler, skip of the gold medal women's curling team at the Winter Olympics.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege today to introduce to you, Ms. Jan Betker, who is the third on the gold medal-winning women's curling team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce Joan McCusker, who is the second on the gold medal women's curling team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kasperski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Marcia Gudereit, the lead of the gold medal women's curling team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure this time to introduce to you Ms. Atina Ford, who is the alternate on the gold medal women's curling team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thomson: — Curling is obviously big in my riding and it is my pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Anita Ford, who is the coach of the team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Stanger: — Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Fiona Smith, member of the silver medal women's hockey team at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Hayley Wickenheiser, member of the silver medal women's hockey team.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Koenker: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Catriona LeMay Doan, gold medal winner in women's speed skating for the 500 metre track, and bronze medal for the 1,000 metre track.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Murray: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege and my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Mark Knoll, competitor in long track men's speed skating.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Benoit Morin, member of the mission staff at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jess: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Ms. Marny Winder, alpine skier who won silver in super G and bronze in GS slalom at the Winter Para-Olympics at Nagano, Japan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jess: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Dale Winder, alpine skiing guide for the Winter Para-Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Haverstock: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure and great privilege to introduce to the Assembly Miss Kelly McRuvie, torch carrier and gold and silver medal winner in the 1,000 metre speed skating at the 1997 Special Winter Olympics in Toronto.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — It is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Margaret Forgay, snowshoeing at the Special Olympics. She won the silver medal in the 4 x 100 metre relay, the bronze medal in the 100 metre; she was fourth in the 200 metre, and fifth in the 400 metre.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly, Ms. Jo Anne Lautermilch, who competed in Alpine skiing at the Special Olympics and won the silver medal in Super G, the bronze medal in downhill skiing, and fifth in grand slalom.

Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind, I would just want to say to members of the House, she really is my special Olympian.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's also my pleasure to introduce Ms. Roxanne Arndt who competed in cross-country skiing at the Special Olympics, and she won the gold medal in the 500 metres and the silver medal in the 1 kilometre race.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's an honour to introduce to you and through you to members of the

Assembly, some very close relatives of mine and good friends: my mother's sister, Daisy, and her husband, Dave— aunt and uncle Dave and Daisy Harries. And they're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Not wanting to take up too much time but I know they are sitting close to proud parents. I had to squint a bit with these old eyes to see friends from United Church camp days, Mr. and Mrs. Arndt, who are also seated beside them in the Speaker's gallery.

And finally to ask members to join with me in welcoming the Olympic dancers from Grade 7, W.F. Ready School in the constituency of Regina Wascana Plains. I know they've been practising and want to pay special tribute to the athletes today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This truly is a day for introductions and I would like to introduce some other very important men, special guests, who are here with us today to kick off Saskatchewan Mining Week. And I'd ask them to stand and perhaps we could welcome them after I've introduced them all.

Mr. Phil Reeves, the Saskatchewan Mining Association; Mr. Harvey Haugen, of Big Quill Resources; Mr. Bruce Lambert from the Estevan Coal Corporation; Mr. Gordon Forbes from Agrium; Mr. Howie Stoughton from IMC Kalium in Colonsay; Mr. Kent Cahoon of PCS (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.) in Lanigan; Mr. Lou Coderre of Big Quill Resources; Mr. Moe Davyduke of PCS for Cory and Patience Lake division; Mr. Josef Spross of Cameco Corporation; Mr. Rick Kusmirski, also from Cameco; Mr. Doug Barnstable from the Estevan Coal Company; and finally, Mr. Norm Beug from IMC Kalium Canada.

Please join with me in welcoming all these distinguished folks to the Assembly. They do some very good, positive work for us in the province and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have with us today, seated in the east gallery, two very highly esteemed members of the aboriginal community, Mr. Ahab Spence and his wife Bette. Mr. Spence has taught senior Cree classes as well as humanities 250 at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College for the past 18 years. And in 1982 Mr. Spence was a recipient of the Order of Canada, and in 1995 he received the Aboriginal Achievement Award.

I happened to meet Mr. and Mrs. Spence at the 1997 Canadian parliamentary conference held here in Regina, and since then I have benefited greatly from their knowledge, their support, and their advice in conjunction with my efforts in fighting the exploitation of children through the child prostitution trade.

As well and most importantly, I treasure the friendship of Ahab

and Bette. I ask you, Ahab and Bette, to please stand and be recognized by the Assembly. And I ask all the members of the Assembly to acknowledge our guests with a warm round of applause.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize Ahab and Bette Spence. Since recognition has been done already in English, Mr. Speaker, I'll do it in the Cree language.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of North Battleford, I also want to welcome Fiona Smith here this afternoon. Although Fiona was raised in Edam, she graduated with my daughter from North Battleford Comprehensive High School and her parents are now residents of North Battleford, so we also claim a share of the Olympic glory. Welcome, Fiona.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly two well-known business people from south-west Saskatchewan: Ivan Eng from the Four Seasons Resort in Cypress Hills — many of you will know Ivan — and also Gerry Pickel, a successful business person with the Massey corporation at one time, past council member of the town of Shaunavon council.

I want to welcome them here today. I'm sure all members will join with me in greeting them here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly a number of members of the Saskatchewan Credit Union system who are seated in the west gallery and who are here to participate in the first reading of the new credit union Act. Welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the east gallery, if my eyesight isn't failing me, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly, Maria and Henri Lepage from Gravelbourg I believe, if you wouldn't mind standing. Henri Lepage is the mayor of the town of Gravelbourg. I'd just like everybody to welcome them here this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Saskatchewan Mining Week 1998

Mr. Ward: — It is my pleasure to inform the Assembly that May 11 to 18 has been declared Saskatchewan Mining Week. We have many reasons to be proud of this industry.

Saskatchewan has a tremendous diversity of mineral wealth. No other province in Canada has such vast reserves of potash or uranium. We also have significant coal, base metals, gold, and industrial minerals. These resources and the people who mine them are integral to Saskatchewan's continued economic well-being.

Last year, the mining industry sold 2.2 billion worth of product and earned 219 million in resource royalty tax revenues for the people of Saskatchewan, which this government uses to fund essential services like education and health care.

Mr. Speaker, let me commit to this House right now, that this government fully intends to grow the mineral industry even farther. Saskatchewan is the world's number one supplier of potash and uranium and we intend to keep it that way. This government believes in the mining industry and the jobs and communities that can depend on it. And we will do what we can not only to preserve it, but to see it grow and prosper.

Let me finish by congratulating the SMA (Saskatchewan Mining Association Inc.) for all the work they do in promoting this important Saskatchewan industry. And I ask all members to join with me in wishing the SMA a very successful Saskatchewan Mining Week.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Child Care Week

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the first day of Child Care Week in Saskatchewan.

There are many issues that members of this Assembly disagree on, but clearly we can all agree that our children are our most precious and vulnerable members of our society. In his or her early years a child's world is very small. It is made up of parents, brothers and sisters, and possibly a child care worker that parents entrust with the care of their child.

Because the child's circle is so small, these individuals play an important role in a child's development, which in turn has a direct effect on the rest of their lives. That is why the role of the child care worker is without a doubt one of the most important jobs in our society. Yet unfortunately it is one that is not always recognized and valued.

I think it is entirely appropriate that this week, the week following Mother's Day, has been set aside to express our gratitude and appreciation to those individuals who devote their life to nurturing and caring for our children.

In today's world it is becoming increasingly difficult for mothers and fathers to stay at home with their children on a full-time basis and that is why they need to have quality child care programs to turn to.

I would also like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to say that we need to do more as a society to assist families who choose to have either a mother or father stay at home with their children.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Women's Groups Receive Grants

Ms. Stanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently had the pleasure of presenting grants of \$14,000 as part of the women's organization on-line program to two women's groups in Lloydminster, the Lloydminster Sexual Assault Centre and the Lloydminster Metis Women.

The Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre provides counselling services for the victims of sexual abuse and it also delivers public education, training, and support programs as well as operating a small sexual assault crisis line.

The Lloydminster Metis Women build a bridge between cultures to support Metis women and their families, to provide Metis women with the skills and the self-confidence necessary to succeed in a paid workforce, and to take their part in everyday life and in society.

Mr. Speaker, these two organizations do important work in Lloydminster and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the people who are working so hard to help others in unfortunate circumstances. In particular, I would like to thank Muriel Ralston, Elizabeth Huether, Ada Schell, Sharon Bielecki, Joanne Marlatt, Shauna Zellweger, Rhonda Whitstone.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

File Hills Agency Health Building Plans

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to share with this Assembly and my colleagues that on Friday I attended a sod turning ceremony for a \$1.4 million File Hills Agency health building.

This facility at Okanese First Nations is scheduled to be completed in October and will house child and family services, home care, and a national native alcohol and drug addiction program.

These services, created and offered in the spirit of care and cooperation, will be an asset for all those involved. I would like to take an opportunity to thank those people for their hospitality and commend the five bands that made this project a reality. They consist of Chief Irvin Starblanket of the Star Blanket Band; Chief Clarence Bellegarde of Little Black Bear; Chief Eugene Poitras of the Peepeekisis Band; Chief Marie Anne Day Walker of the Okanese Band; and Chief James O'Watch of the Carry the Kettle Band.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Art Walker, executive director of File Hills Agency, and everyone, all the people that worked behind the scenes, to bring this project to a fruition that will benefit not only people in the area presently but for future generations. And that is our most valuable resource — our young people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association Model Historic Legislature

Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also had the pleasure on the weekend of spending some time with some young people. This Assembly in fact was a host to the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association model historic legislature.

I was quite impressed by it. I have to tell you that the member for Cannington on Saturday — or the young member for Cannington — gave a passionate speech about the need to improve and strengthen labour unions. The member for Arm River had become a hippie and was speaking out against the Vietnam War.

And, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased that I got to be the Speaker. Things were going great. Then, unfortunately, they told me it was 1964 and I had to be a Liberal. Then the Liberals that were on this side of the bench did what Liberals do and brought in — yes — user fees, the first Bill. Mr. Speaker, it was all downhill from there, I'm afraid.

But I want to say that the young people who did come out this weekend did just a fantastic job of debating the issues that were before them and I suspect that from them there is a very good crowd of future legislators. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Multiple Sclerosis-related Events

Ms. Haverstock: — Saskatoon residents rose to the occasion once again, Mr. Speaker, when 575 strong turned out for the MS (multiple sclerosis) walkathon. It was a special Mother's Day for those of us who have children with multiple sclerosis.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the MS Society. The goal was to have 500 people participate for the 50th anniversary and raise \$50,000. Well I'm delighted to say that this goal was surpassed on every front.

Yesterday was also the first anniversary of my oldest granddaughter being able to walk with grandma and grandpa for 6 kilometres. We had a terrific time and any concerns I had about Carson being old enough to go the distance were quickly put aside as I watched her run most of the time; and quite frankly it was grandma who had a hard time getting over the finish line.

Another important event occurred last week with the second anniversary of the MS neuro-science centre in Saskatoon. The occasion was marked by a very special announcement. Dr. Walter and Mary Hader, both of whom have spent years working in the field of multiple sclerosis, have established a bursary to encourage students to do research in neurology.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to contribute to this important undertaking and to thank one and all for the support they provided me in my MS Walk for a Cure.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

National Nursing Week

Ms. Murray: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May 11 to 16 is National Nursing Week. This year's theme is, appropriately enough, "Guiding the future of a profession." Eighty-one years ago this province passed legislation creating the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. Today there are 9,200 registered nurses in Saskatchewan.

Nurses play a vital role in Saskatchewan health care. As their knowledge, education and duties have expanded, their profession has become integral to health care delivery. I am confident in our nurses' ability to adapt and improve their profession as health care continues to evolve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Mining Week

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to rise today to comment on Saskatchewan Mining Week and to welcome the SMA representatives that are with us today.

This morning we had an excellent opportunity to watch a video about mining in Saskatchewan plus the opportunity to see the demonstrations by Saskatchewan science students in dealing with mining. They were all excellent.

In particular interest though, was a demonstration by the grade 4 from Humboldt on the operation of a potash mill. This young lady understood the mill and exactly how it operated and was able to explain it all in detail. She will make an excellent CEO (chief executive officer) for a mining company in very short order. Chuck Childers had better watch out.

Congratulations to the students from Leader, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, La Ronge, and from Humboldt on their demonstrations. I would also like to wish the Saskatchewan mining industry success and profits for many years to come. Yours is truly an integral part of the Saskatchewan way of life.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Challenges for Agriculture Industry

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Agriculture or his designate.

Mr. Minister, Saskatchewan is right in the middle of our most important economic development project, spring seeding. Despite the highest provincial income taxes in western Canada, NDP offloading that pushed those local property taxes higher every year, and the driest spring soil conditions in more than a decade, farmers across this province are putting in their crop. But this year there's reasons to believe that things might not turn out as well as we hope. This year's grain prices are down and there's a threat of drought stealing the crop.

What, Mr. Minister, are you doing to prepare for either a

drought-induced crop failure or significant decreases in farm income because of low commodity prices?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mrs. Teichrob: — Mr. Speaker, we know that at this time of the year when we have had very little snow and in a large part of the province the spring rains haven't come yet, that there's a certain amount of anxiety in the farm community.

I was out looking at my own alfalfa that was seeded last fall that's peeking up like this this morning. But it's only May 11 and there's ample time for rainfall to come that will salvage the situation yet.

In the meantime, we're carefully monitoring the situation and we will be giving all the support that we possibly can to the farmers in that very important industry in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Minister, have you indeed been talking to your colleagues in Ottawa about a contingency plan, either case of drought or low commodity prices if they persist? Madam Minister, have you had any discussions or has the Department of Agriculture to your knowledge had any discussions with the federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Vanclief? And have you talked to people within the PFRA (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration) organization? Have you raised any concerns with Ralph Goodale about the very dry spring moisture conditions here in Saskatchewan? And have you taken any actions at all to prepare for what could potentially be a very disastrous farm season?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mrs. Teichrob: — Mr. Speaker, of course there are at this time, as there always are and particularly this season of this year and at this juncture in the crop year, ongoing general discussions about the welfare and future of the farm economy with the federal government, with their counterparts across the country.

But again I say that it is too early in the year to talk of doom and gloom and that there is optimism as well in the farm community about a good year, and it's May 11, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Doctor Shortages

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, a new study by the college of family physicians of Canada shows that Canada is facing a shortage of family doctors and Saskatchewan could be among the hardest provinces hit. Clearly more and more Saskatchewan doctors are choosing to leave to other provinces or to the U.S. (United States).

Mr. Minister, Saskatchewan is already facing a health crisis. Ninety-one per cent of the *Leader-Post* readers think NDP health reforms are failing. And this survey suggests it's only

going to get worse as more hospitals close and more doctors leave.

Mr. Minister, what specific plans do you have to deal with this problem and how are you going to keep Saskatchewan doctors here when your health care system is failing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite, as the member well knows that in this province we just completed signing an agreement with physicians. That agreement for the next three years is worth about \$48 million. And as the member knows, the agreement also includes two very important aspects — one is the recruitment and the other is the retention of physicians in the province which the Saskatchewan Medical Association gave us their commitment that they would assist us in providing.

Since the signing of the agreement at of January 1, I want to say to the member opposite that we have now seen a very slight increase in the number of specialists that are practising in Saskatchewan. And we're also seeing a very small growth in the number of general practitioners that are practising in the province which is part of the initiatives of the programing that we put together over the last couple of years to add additional enrichments to Saskatchewan for physicians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, your agreement doesn't seem to be helping a lot. Pull your head out of the sand. The NDP health reform is a complete disaster. The overwhelming majority of Saskatchewan people think the health care system is deteriorating. Hospitals are closing, waiting-lists are growing, and doctors continue to leave.

This survey is just one more indictment of the NDP's destruction of the health system. If the health system is working as well as you say it is, why are so many Saskatchewan doctors saying they're going to leave? You are closing even more hospitals, including the Plains; patient waiting-lists are getting longer with over 6,600 people now waiting; doctors continue to leave.

Mr. Minister, when are you going to admit your NDP health care is in crisis and what are you going to do to stop the exodus of doctors from Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I want to answer the question on behalf of the government to say that the notion which is propagated day in and day out by the opposition that the health system in Saskatchewan is in crisis, is inaccurate by every objective statement that is made.

Mr. Speaker, not only is it inaccurate, but as the Minister of Health has just explained, we've initiated new programs with respect to rural physicians and the retention of rural physicians; and is not accurate to say, as he has said, that there's a departure or mass exodus of doctors.

But I tell you what is accurate to say. The national government

in Ottawa, the Liberals, cut \$7 billion from health care nationally since 1995. He says we're responsible — you're right. We've back-filled every penny of that cut from Ottawa and we've added \$19 million more to the base in the face of all of these cut-backs and we have the leading edge reforms in health care right now.

What the hon. member ought to do is take it up with a few of his former Liberal colleagues, now members of the Tory Party here, and take it up with the Liberals and tell Ottawa to stop savaging medicare. That's what we're doing. We're trying to prevent it, we're trying to build it up, we're going to make it the best in the 21st century.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plains Health Centre Closure

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, the Saskatchewan Party is continuing to call for a free vote on the future of the Plains hospital. Last Tuesday the NDP blocked this motion from even being debated, much less voted on. However, we will be moving this motion again tomorrow. This time there will be a debate. The only question is, will you allow a vote to take place? Will you allow a vote . . . that vote to be a free vote?

Mr. Premier, the Saskatchewan people want MLAs to stand in their place and declare where they stand on the future of the Plains hospital. Will you allow a free vote to take place tomorrow?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, on private members' day, private members speak their thoughts and they vote to the way they speak by their thoughts. But when the hon. member opposite talks about a free vote, it would be very, very interesting and important if he admitted that he would practice what he preaches.

Because without giving his constituents a chance for their free vote, he jumped from the Liberals to the Conservatives. And all the Conservatives, without giving them a chance to give their voters a free vote, they jumped and they formed a dead-of-the-night Tories by any other name party, that sits over there.

And you talk about a free vote on health care. Then I ask you to tell your policy consultant, the man who is making \$24,000 a year off taxpayers, \$24,000 a year, your policy consultant — Mr. Hermanson. If he wants a free vote, let him go out there to Saskatoon Eastview for a free vote. Do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, if skating around the question were an Olympic performance, I think that would have been a gold medal performance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Premier, there was a free vote conducted

by the *Leader-Post* over the weekend. Ninety-one per cent of the *Leader-Post* readers say NDP health reforms have made the health system worse — 91 per cent, Mr. Premier. No wonder you won't allow a free vote on the future of the Plains hospital.

You are clearly on the wrong side of this issue. Mr. Premier, all you have to do is take the muzzle off your members; allow them to vote freely; let them vote on behalf of their constituents and keep the Plains hospital open.

Mr. Premier, will you allow a free vote on the future of the Plains hospital? And will you allow that vote to take place tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I ask the Leader of the Opposition, will he allow a free vote, right now, to the people of Canora constituency for what he did when he betrayed them? Will you allow the people of Canora to have a free vote? I ask the hon. member there, will you allow the people to have a free vote?

The hon. member . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, order. All hon. members . . . Order. Order, order, order.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know how it is when they get . . . they are so allergic to the truth here, they are so allergic that they get this reaction which is going on.

I asked the hon. member here . . . He tells me about muzzling our members. Our members aren't muzzled. He muzzles 10,000 voters in the Canora constituency on this issue.

Now look. If you want a free vote, then I ask you to ask your policy consultant, the man who is making \$24,000 a year of taxpayers' money. I see him in the gallery all the time over coffee break. Get Mr. Hermanson to come down from the gallery and get him to have a free vote in the Saskatoon Eastview by-election. And let him speak on where the \$7 billion cut comes from, from the Liberal Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Health District Deficits

Mr. Aldridge: — Mr. Speaker, it appears that at least one health district is preparing to dig in its heels and prevent this government from slashing any more local health care services. I've been advised that the Southwest Health District will be announcing in the coming days a \$200,000 deficit. I've also been told that the board cannot cut services any further. They refuse to cross the line, and now plan on carrying this deficit into the next year.

The board is now awaiting a response from the Health department. Mr. Minister, what immediate steps are you taking to resolve this issue and to ensure no cuts take place in the district?

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite, as the member knows that the district health boards across the province have just recently received

their allocations for 1989-90, are in the process now of determining what level of services — or '98-99 — are in the midst of developing their strategies in terms of what level of services they're going to be providing across the district.

The department is working very closely with each of these district health boards across the province to ensure that the level of services that they're going to be providing to people in each of their districts will be equitable and fair and fashionable, and to ensure that each of the people who live in each of those districts receive the quality of care that will be essential for the delivery of those services in each of the districts, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Aldridge: — Mr. Speaker, the Liberal opposition revealed in this House last month that the Regina Health District faces a \$5 million funding shortfall this year. We've now learned that the district's operating deficit for the current fiscal year is \$1.9 million — \$600,000 more than first projected.

Health district CEO Glenn Bartlett says additional operating dollars are needed if the board hopes to reduce the workload of front-line staff. Mr. Minister, Bartlett says he's been discussing this problem with your department and expects an answer by the end of this month.

Mr. Minister, health services have already been slashed to unacceptable levels. What is your response going to be? How are you going to help the Regina Health District address its severe cash crunch without cutting further services?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the member is spending most of his time over the last six or seven months, but clearly it hasn't been reading the budget for 1998-99. Nor has he been paying any attention to the investment that we've made in health care in this province.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that in Saskatchewan today we spend \$1.72 billion on health care, which is the largest single expenditure in this province by a country mile ever, Mr. Speaker, ever.

And I say to the member opposite: if he makes the argument today that \$1.72 billion is not enough money for district health boards to function, then I say to the member opposite, get out your pen and pad, write to the people in Ottawa who have cut our health care funding — which are your Liberal cousins who have cut their funding to Saskatchewan and across the country by \$7 billion over the last several years — and have them place another additional injection of funding for the people of Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aldridge: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Health won't accept that I'm saying they need the extra funding, listen to your own health districts who are telling you that.

Mr. Speaker, there are many districts which are in a deficit situation — Southwest, Living Sky, The Battlefords, East Central, and of course Regina and Saskatoon. The minister provided \$30 million in additional funding for districts in the

provincial budget, but these funds will not improve health care; they'll simply allow some districts to tread water.

Mr. Minister, last fall the Liberal opposition urged the Minister of Health to develop a plan to help address the fact that this government is underfunding our districts. Mr. Minister, you've had months to develop such a plan. Will you table that plan in the House today?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether the hon. member fully understands what's happening in the legislative process here. But we introduced a budget about a month ago and the budget tabled a health care expenditure for this year alone of \$1.7 billion, the highest health care expenditure in the history of Saskatchewan since 1905 — one-third of the yearly expenditure on health care.

We not only back-filled every penny that your federal Liberal cousins withdrew from us, we added a hundred million dollars to boot to the health care system. And we're getting the cooperation of people in order to reform the system to make it the best.

You want to do something positive on the health care operation? Then you get your good friend Jim Melnychuk, the good doctor, and you to write a letter right now wanting the restoration of the \$7 billion that the Liberals took away from health care. Write that letter today and give it to the Conrad Black press and they may just print it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Melville Child Protection Case

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Melville are still in a state of shock following the death of Corinne Walchuk and the fact that her estranged husband was charged with her murder. Last week the courts granted the accused access to the two children, in spite of the fact that he is charged with the murder of their mother. Fortunately, the children are now safely with their maternal grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, the father came within a few hours of gaining unsupervised access to the children. It's been three days since the children were rescued by the maternal grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Social Services: on Friday your ministry assured the grandfather things were going to be taken care of. Nothing has happened. Why is your ministry doing so little to help these children? What assurance can you give us today to the grandparents that you will protect the interest of these children?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1430)

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising the question. My understanding, following events on Friday and throughout the weekend, was that officials of my department were closely in touch with the circumstances; that we're anticipating at least making an intervention to ensure the

protection of the children.

Mr. Speaker, if that has not been the case, I will seek to get that information to the member this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This situation here clearly, clearly underlines the need for greater protection of our children. I'm told that the seven-year-old son is so frightened that he's been hiding under his bed for most of the weekend. These two children fell through the cracks, Mr. Minister.

The Liberal opposition supports the Office of the Children's Advocate, and now it's even more apparent that the office needs some real teeth when it comes to helping children when the system fails them.

This case is a prime example. Lucky for these children they have grandparents that love them and a community that stood behind them. And I would just like to send over to the minister some of the documentation — in the very short period of time — that came to me from those concerned people.

We need somebody to stand up for them when the system fails. The Liberals will introduce the child protection Act that will add teeth to the Children's Advocate office. Will you support such an Act, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Point number one, Mr. Speaker, let me say this again: I will have reviewed by my department immediately after question period the exact course of events which happened on Friday. It is my understanding that the issue of discussion in Melville on Friday was the issue of the court; the court made a decision.

It was my understanding the department officials were intervening for the protection of the children. I repeat: if that did not occur, Mr. Speaker, we'll find out immediately after question period.

Now to the member's final question. Of course I'm not going to commit to any legislation which we haven't seen. But just to remind that member and all members, there is no government in Canada, no government in Canada, including the federal Liberal government, that has taken such dramatic steps to protect children and enhance their well-being. No government like this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Child Prostitution

Ms. Julé: — Mr. Minister, my questions today are going to be for the Minister of Justice and it is my hope that actions not taken by the Minister of Social Services will be taken by the Department of Justice.

Mr. Minister, Manitoba Justice Minister Vic Toews has put forward legislation requiring police to seize vehicles used for prostitution-related offences. And the only way those vehicles would be released is if the accused provides a security deposit equal to the value of the vehicle. If convicted, perpetrators would lose their vehicles and their security deposit in addition

to facing criminal consequences.

Now both Alberta and Manitoba have taken concrete action to fight this deplorable activity. What has Saskatchewan done? Saskatchewan has hung up posters.

Mr. Minister, I am imploring you as well as the Premier and your entire caucus to show us some leadership through similar strong action. Pass the Bill I have put forward, or formulate one of your own that is equally as strong in order to protect Saskatchewan children enslaved through the child prostitution trade.

Will you do that, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Minister, again the member stands in this House and belittles the work of community agencies, individuals, organizations and groups across this province.

Mr. Speaker, she seems to have it in her head that one small change to legislation is miraculously going to lift the children off of the streets of Saskatchewan or Canada. Mr. Speaker, I tell you that's not going to work. What will work, and what we're being told by the people who are working on the streets, is resources at the street level to work with those children, to work with their families.

Mr. Speaker, I have said to that member on a numerous number of occasions in this session that we are studying her Act. We are taking her Bill, we're communicating with the community, we're discussing it with them.

If I may say, Mr. Speaker, the response is not unanimous. There are many who would oppose that piece of legislation. Simply lifting up legislative proposals that have been done in Alberta or done in Manitoba, hoisting them on to the people of Saskatchewan is not the solution, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, doing nothing is not the solution either. By its very inaction, this government is in effect condoning sexual abuse of children by pimps, johns, and pedophiles. How much longer, Mr. Minister, will child victims be subjected to the destruction of their minds, their bodies, and their spirits, to a potentially slow death through HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and other diseases, to the pain of exploitation?

Mr. Minister, when will Saskatchewan and our legislators send a clear message and take concrete measures to let the rest of Canada and the world know that we will go to any lengths to protect and enhance the lives of our greatest treasure, our children?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in this budget debate, which we are not engaged in, the member will know and all members will know there is an amount of \$750,000 dedicated to working with these children on our streets — \$750,000, Mr. Speaker. That's an increase of \$500,000 — an increase of half a million dollars from last year, Mr. Speaker.

Those funds are being directed to use with community-based

organizations, with individuals and organizations who are actually on the streets — who, by the way, participated with us and fully supported the poster campaign which she belittled just moments ago. Mr. Speaker, that's a tremendous resource to be investing in the children who are being abused on our streets.

Mr. Speaker, it is not helpful, it is not helpful — and I can tell her this — it is not helpful when the member stands in the House and belittles these people who are giving so much of their lives, so much of their time, so much of their own resource to this tragic situation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is quite amazing to recognize that other provinces know that this is a many faceted problem, as does Saskatchewan. People here that are in the know, know that there are many measures that must be taken to combat this problem.

Funding of street teams is, of course, important. Other provinces have recognized that. We need to do that, but we need to bring in legislation that will certainly, certainly cause some deterrent for the pimps and johns that prey on our children.

And, Mr. Minister, we have the chance to do that right now. To take action to save our children. My question is, do you have the will and the compassion in your heart to do it?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, we as government are anxious on all fronts to find those solutions which work. We don't need solutions which don't work. We need solutions which do work.

It is our conviction that the solutions that will work are those solutions which are born in the communities where the problem exists. That is why, Mr. Speaker, we will work 100 per cent of the time with those people who are right there on the front lines, not trying to grab political headlines by making legislative change.

We have taken the proposals that have been introduced in Manitoba. We've taken the proposals that the member has introduced which are almost identical, if I may say, to the Alberta legislation. We're talking with those various groups and individuals, Mr. Speaker.

I can report today, the opinion of Saskatchewan people is by no means unanimous and there are many, many legal questions. I and this government, Mr. Speaker, want stuff that works. What works in this case is working with people at the community level.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 46 — The Credit Union Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 46, The Credit Union Act be now introduced and read the first time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Bill No. 47 — The Saskatchewan Insurance Amendment Act, 1998

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 47, The Saskatchewan Insurance Amendment Act, 1998 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

Bill No. 59 — The Jury Act, 1998/ Loi de 1998 sur la jury

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 59, The Jury Act 1998 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

Bill No. 60 — The Wildlife Act, 1998/ Loi de 1998 sur la faune

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 60, The Wildlife Act, 1998 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

Bill No. 61 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 1998, (No. 2)/ Loi n° 2 de 1998 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 61, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 1998 (No. 2) be now introduced and read the first time.

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

Bill No. 62 — The Highway Traffic Amendment Act 1998 (No. 2)/ Loi n° 2 de 1998 modifiant le Code de la route de 1996

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Minister, I move that Bill No. 62, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 1998 (No. 2) be now introduced and read the first time.

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

MOTIONS

House Recess

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I move, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly do now recess until 4 p.m. this afternoon in honour of Saskatchewan's Olympians.

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — Now, hon. members, during the recess, members and guests will have an opportunity to meet our Saskatchewan Olympians at a tea held in their honour in room 218; and at 3:15 there will be a presentation ceremony in the main rotunda just outside the Assembly. Following the presentation, the grade 7 Olympic dancers from W.F. Ready School in Regina will perform also in the rotunda.

I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to have the bells rung at 3:55 to call the members back and the House will resume sitting at 4 o'clock. This House now stands in recess.

The Assembly recessed for a period of time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund Finance Vote 12

The Acting Chair (Mr. Whitmore): — I would like to ask the minister to introduce his officials that are here today.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me to my immediate left is Bill Jones, who is the deputy minister of Finance; and to his left is Bill Van Sickle, who is the executive director of administration in the Department of Finance. And directly behind Mr. Jones is Kirk McGregor, who is the assistant deputy minister of taxation and intergovernmental affairs in the Department of Finance.

Behind me is Len Rog, who is the assistant deputy minister in the revenue division of the Department of Finance. And right behind the Provincial Secretary is Jim Marshall, who is the executive director of economic and fiscal policy in the Department of Finance.

Subvote (FI01)

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, Minister, and officials from the Department of Finance, welcome here this afternoon.

Minister, what I'd like to do if that would be a logical way of operating, you have about seven or eight categories on the expense side, different sub-departments if you like, on the expense side and as well the potential of talking about the revenue side. What I'd like to do is start talking and asking some questions about the revenue side.

First of all, on taxation. There is a number of types of taxes that the province collects. The province is estimating something like

1.26 billion will be taken through the provincial income tax system this year. Can you tell me what the breakdown will be in specific areas? For example, can you tell me, of that total amount, what would be the basic provincial income tax?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes, the estimate is \$1.26 billion from income tax, Mr. Chair. And in answer to the member's question, of that, the estimate is \$925.3 million would be from the basic Saskatchewan tax.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Minister, and maybe to make the process simpler, could you give me the breakdown with the other areas — for example the 2 per cent flat tax, the debt reduction surcharge, and the high income surcharge — how that full amount breaks down?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes. As I said, basic Saskatchewan tax — \$925.3 million; Saskatchewan flat tax — \$311.7 million; low income reduction — this is a negative figure so you might want to, Mr. Chair, the member will want to put into brackets — \$49.9 million in brackets; high income surtax — \$38.2 million; debt reduction surtax — \$64.8 million; unapplied tax it says, I guess it's sort of miscellaneous income tax — \$5 million. Maybe that's the member's tax bill, Mr. Chair. And there's some very minor items that I won't go into, but that's basically it.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Minister. I think we both can only wish. Can you tell me, Minister, how these individual amounts would compare to the last fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes. With respect to the basic Saskatchewan tax . . . Well I should start actually . . . let me start this way. The revised forecast for last year for personal income tax is 1.327 billion. This year the estimate is 1.262 billion for a reduction in income tax receipts to the Government of Saskatchewan of about \$65 million. But I should explain that of that \$65 million reduction in personal income tax estimated this year, there is a prior year's adjustment of \$29.7 million which, as I understand it, would be due to an overpayment last year. So that in other words, the federal government gave us too much money and now they will take it back. So to put it another way, it would appear that about \$36 million overall reduction, but I think I'll go through them individually because it might be easier.

Starting with basic Saskatchewan tax, last year it's estimated now that we took in . . . will take in \$949.8 million; this year, as I said, \$925.3 million, for a reduction of \$24.5 million. I would point out to the member in that regard that in 1999 that reduction would be doubled in the sense that the income tax reduction introduced in the budget took effect July 1 so you could calculate next year's reduction on that basis, roughly.

Saskatchewan flat tax, as I said, this year will be estimated \$311.7 million; last year we think it will be about \$303 million, so that would be an increase of \$8.7 million. Low income reduction — that's the negative figure — this year low income earners get that reduction of 49.9 million. As I said before, last year it was 49.6 million, also a negative figure, for a difference of \$300,000 more reduction this year if, Mr. Chair, you can have more of a reduction.

High income surtax this year, as I said, we will take in \$38.2 million. Last year it was \$39 million — for a reduction of \$800,000.

Debt reduction surtax this year projected to be \$64.8 million, as I said. Last year was 63.4 for an additional amount this year of \$1.4 million.

Miscellaneous has gone from \$5 million this year . . . Last year it was 8.2 million for a difference of \$3.2 million less this year.

And there are some other minor figures that I won't go into because I think that answers the member's question, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Minister. Yes it does. In a general sense then — and I don't need the specific numbers for each breakdown — is there trends that are developing or is there a concern in your department because you certainly see a bit of a trend down pretty much across the piece? Does your department do an analysis of these trends in an attempt to see if they are following any kind of a general direction? Or what's your evaluation of the downward turn?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — No. In answer to the member, Mr. Chair, the Department of Finance is not concerned about the fact that we will be taking in less income tax in the sense that income tax has been reduced in 1995 and 1996, and again in the 1998 budget. So the fact that we take, you know, somewhat less from each individual is not a concern.

Overall the economy continues to grow. So even though the individuals may pay less tax individually, collectively we're still getting more income tax, except for the prior year's adjustment of approximately \$30 million. And that's something that the department has planned for.

So the department has planned to reduce income tax expenditures . . . or I'm sorry, receipts. We knew we would be getting less money. That's a deliberate policy of the government on the income tax side, and we knew that there would have to be this adjustment because we were overpaid by the federal government last year.

So these are things that we have planned for, taken into account, and therefore not matters of concern. They're what was expected.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Minister, I have a few more questions in this area and my colleague would like to ask a question, from Humboldt, and then I'll pick this up again.

In terms of the income tax, what I hear you saying, Minister, is that the reduction in growth dollars is the result of the rate being reduced. Has the actual base amount then, where the calculation is based on, has that actually increased? And I understand that if the percentage that you're calculating is less, that would result in less income potentially, and you indicate that the department's planned for it. But has our base increased?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I'm advised that we expect the base to grow, Mr. Chair, by roughly about 3 per cent this year. But because of the reduction in tax we . . . and some of the other changes in the budget, I would imagine. There's the personal

income tax reduction but there's some other changes occurring too. We expect the base to grow, people to be earning more money in the province, by about 3 per cent. But we expect the income tax that we will charge on what they earn to be less.

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Welcome to your officials, Mr. Minister. I have just a couple of questions put to me by some constituents. Many, many people are saying, Mr. Minister, that the cost of living is certainly going up a great deal in the past few years. They are bombarded by taxes, people are finding it very hard to find profit at the end of the day in order to feed their families and to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Minister, the question put to me was, is there any possibility that there would be an increase in the personal income tax deduction within the next few years. Is that the responsibility of the provincial government or the federal government, or how is that calculated and who determines it?

(1615)

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I thank the member for the question, Mr. Chair. Changes to the tax base are under the control of the federal government and we don't have the right, by virtue of our agreement with the federal government, to make them unilaterally. That would be different in the province of Quebec in the sense that they made a decision years ago not to have Revenue Canada collect their taxes. Which we could do too, but if you elect to have Revenue Canada collect your tax, then you're also bound by their rules. And so that's the situation that we're in and every other province is in also except the province of Quebec.

So we can adjust the rate of taxation. We can say that our percentage of the basic federal tax will go from 50 per cent to 48 per cent, for example, as we did this year. But we can't increase the personal deduction or bring in tax credits of various kinds without the consent of the federal government.

Ms. Julé: — Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Minister, for that response. And I'm taking it from what you said then, that there is nothing within the parameters of provincial jurisdiction that could increase that personal deduction?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — That's correct.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of the general category of individual income, the debt reduction surcharge, this year you told me \$64.8 million. As the name implies at least, this money is directly targeted to the reduction of the debt. Can you tell me if that indeed is the case?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes, Mr. Chair. In answer to the member's question, the revenue from the debt reduction surtax is paid into the General Revenue Fund. And then . . . But I will say this in addition, that this year it's estimated that we will take in, as I said, about \$64.8 million debt reduction surtax. But we also estimate that we will reduce overall government debt by about \$301.9 million.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Where will the 300-and-whatever-odd million dollars come from that reduces the debt by that amount?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Chair, in answer to the member's question, I would refer the member to page 69 of the budget document. And the total debt of the government — I said a few minutes ago that the debt, government purpose debt, would go down by about \$301.9 million, that is the government purpose debt, but the overall debt will be reduced by about \$500 million this year — and that is detailed, as I said, on page 69.

The Crown corporation debt will be reduced by about \$430 million, by my calculation very quickly, while the other debt will be reduced from 415 million to about 366 million. Overall the debt will go from 12.1 billion to 11.6 billion for a reduction of about \$500 million.

Mr. Gantefoer: — So without the benefit of the details of the calculations, the vast majority of the dollars that are going to the reduction of debt are coming from the Crowns. That would, I assume, be by way of the dividends pay-down of principal and liquidation of assets, one-time asset sales.

On the General Revenue Fund side, can you tell us if the \$64.8 million was used to reduce the General Revenue Fund debt?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — To repeat, Mr. Chair, the debt reduction surtax is estimated to be bringing in this year about \$65 million and we will be paying down the overall debt of the government — of the province, of all of us, by about \$500 million.

So our position would be that we're paying down the debt far in excess of the debt reduction surtax.

Mr. Gantefoer: — But I think clearly by your statement a couple of questions ago you said that, as I recall and quickly jotted down, over \$400 million is coming from the Crown debt reduction. Can you tell me is that . . . how's that broken down in detail? How much of that amount is sale of assets which are one-time debt reduction opportunity? And how much is by way of dividends and/or profits and/or principal debt retirement?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Chair, I would refer the member again to page 69 of the budget document, because you will see that it's difficult to give a simple answer to the question — for this reason, that if you look at the document you will see that there are at least three kinds of debt. There is the gross debt of the Crown corporations which are being reduced in the amounts indicated. There is general government debt. So that the Crown corporation debt is going down, as I indicated before, the general government debt is going down. But what you have to remember is that there's also guaranteed debt. That is being reduced on the Crown side and otherwise.

(1630)

Also there are sinking funds where money is set aside to pay debts. And in the Crown corporations, the sinking funds are being reduced over the year from 811 million to 518 million, presumably because they're actually using some of the money to pay down debt rather than debt that is due.

But on the general government side, the sinking funds are going from 254 million to 317 million. So in addition to the reduction in government debt that I referred to before and that is outlined here, we have to bear in mind that we're putting more equity in

sinking funds to pay off debt on the general government side. And that has to be taken into account as well.

And all of which is to say that when you get into the numbers it is a bit complicated. And I acknowledge that and it's difficult to say, when money is going into the General Revenue Fund and it's pooled, which of that money is going to pay down debt immediately, which of it is going into sinking funds, and so on.

But I would repeat the point that when you take into account the fact that money is being set aside to pay debt in the future — which are sinking funds — and when you take into account the other matters that we've talked about, the overall debt will be reduced by about \$500 million over the course of the year. And the debt reduction surtax is only about \$65 million this year.

So clearly, most of the debt payments will in fact come from other areas — areas other than the debt reduction surtax. But certainly that tax going into the General Revenue Fund is obviously going to affect the amount by which the province can pay off debt or put monies into the sinking fund to pay off debt in the future, because otherwise that money wouldn't be available to pay debt.

So I apologize for that rather longwinded answer, Mr. Chair. But it's a fairly complex matter and it's the only manner at this time that I can think of to answer the member's question.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Minister. And I think it's clear that we can quite easily separate the Crown debt and the Crown sale of assets and the Crown dividends from the general revenue.

The question to hopefully simplify it: is it the commitment of the government to apply the money collected under the specific purpose of debt reduction, in this case \$64 million, is it the commitment of the government that at least that amount of money goes from the General Revenue Fund into direct debt reduction?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Let me say to the member, Mr. Chair, that one of the things that we've been most successful at as a government, I would argue, is reducing the amount of the debt of the province.

In 1993, the debt that we had was equal to 70 — that's seven zero — per cent of the gross domestic product, which is all the goods and services we produce. Today that figure is down to about 45 per cent of the gross domestic product. So our debt, as a percentage of what we produce, has gone down quite a bit.

We were paying 19 cents on the dollar in debt, interest charges on the debt; today we are paying 14 cents. Our debt was \$15 billion; today it's \$12.1 billion. When we talked to the investment bankers and the bond rating agencies and so on, as I recently had the opportunity to do, they are of the opinion — these are not people from Saskatchewan or people involved in any of our political parties — they're of the opinion that the job this government has done in terms of debt reduction is — they will tell you — remarkable. They think that it's a major success.

And so what I'm trying to say to the member, Mr. Chair, is that last year and this year we will reduce the overall debt of our

province — for which all of us are responsible — by \$1.2 billion. We will go from 12.1 billion at the present time to 11.6 billion at the end of this fiscal year. We will make very, very large payments on the public debt; as we've done in the past, we'll continue to do.

So the fact that we collect 66 or \$65 million for debt reduction is far, far less than what we will actually pay to reduce the debt. We will reduce the debt by half a billion dollars in this year alone.

So I would argue, Mr. Chair, without trying to be argumentative, that we're doing a good job paying down debt. Some would argue we do it too quickly; I wouldn't make that argument. Certainly we will pay down the debt far, far more than the \$65 million that will come in from the debt reduction surtax.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Minister. And I too will not get into a debate with you on the details. However, you did indicate to me that by far of the amount of debt that's being reduced in this past year — and I suspect and you can correct that if it's not the case — that the vast majority of the dollars that have been used to apply against debt have come from the Crown sector. Is that true?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I can advise the member, Mr. Chair, that both the Crown corporation debt and the General Revenue Fund debt is tax-supported debt. And both of those debts are debts that we have to take some serious steps to reduce, as we've been doing.

Certainly the reaction of the bond rating agencies and the investment bankers to the way in which we're handling our debt has been very positive. They have said that we are doing the right things when it comes to trying to reduce the overall debt that we have. And as the member will know, we've had three credit rating upgrades in the last few years, and Moody's recently said that they are adjusting the outlook for Saskatchewan from stable to positive. So they think things are going in the right direction as well.

And I can't really add much more than I added before — that we're reducing the Crown corporation debt, we're reducing the general government debt. Some of that money will come from Crown corporations obviously, some of it will come from the General Revenue Fund. The numbers are all laid out on page 69 of the budget document, and I would invite the member to examine those numbers.

The main point I think I would make about the upcoming fiscal year is that the debt will be reduced by about half a billion dollars. And that's a very significant reduction in debt, and certainly something that will put us in a much better position in the future.

So we do want to continue paying down debt. So far our record has been very good. We'll endeavour to continue to reduce the debt as much as we can while still maintaining the programs that are so important to the people of the province.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Minister, you referred to the fact that we're going to plan to reduce the debt about a half a billion dollars. If

I remember your comments a moment ago, you said about 430 of that would come from the Crowns and some will think in the magnitude of 70 from the General Revenue Fund for the total of the half a billion dollars. Is it true that something in the magnitude of \$430 million is debt reduction by way of the Crowns?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well the numbers are all laid out, as I say, on page 69 of the budget document, and if you look at that document you can see all of the Crown corporations debt by Crown corporation listed, and specifically the amount by which each is going to be reduced; or in a few cases the debt of some of the Crowns is going to be increased because of capital activities.

And you can see that the guaranteed debt is going to be reduced, the equity and sinking funds on the Crown side would be reduced, and the general government's side would be increased. So that I mean you could look at the fact that Crown corporation debt, just looking at that figure, is going from \$4.5 billion to \$4.06 billion. But on the other hand, as I tried to indicate a few minutes ago, you have to realize that equity in the sinking funds for the Crowns is decreasing from 811 million to 518 million.

So that you have to take that into account. Whereas on the general government side, the debt, the debt of the government, is going down not as much. But on the other hand, the sinking funds are being increased by about over \$60 million and that has to be taken into account as well.

But the sinking funds to the Crown corporations are being decreased by almost \$300 million. So I'm simply making a point that all of those things have to be factored in together.

But the bottom line is that the total debt is going to be reduced from \$12.1 billion to \$11.6 billion — a reduction of \$500 million.

Mr. Gantefoer: — I accept the overall amount and I recognize that you have to make the adjustments between the general debt and the amount that's applied to the sinking funds to get an overall picture of what's happening in both the Crown sector and the general revenue side.

The point I'm trying to make: is there something in the magnitude, if you take the pluses and minuses adjusting for the sinking funds of that \$500 million, is it reasonably fair to say that in excess of 400 million of that is going to come through the Crown sector and less than \$100 million of the 500 million is going to come through the general revenue sector, recognising the need to make the adjustments because of the adjustments to the sinking funds?

(1645)

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Chair, I'd like to make these points in answer to the member's question. As the member can see by an examination of page 69 of the budget document, the gross general government debt — that is the General Revenue Fund debt — is going from \$8.17 billion to 7.97 billion, which is a difference of approximately \$190 million. So general government debt is going down by about \$190 million.

If we then look at sinking funds to pay down debt, the sinking funds on the general government side are going from \$254 million to \$317 million, which is a difference of another approximately \$63 million.

So the point I'm making to the member in answer to his question, is that on the general government side — as the member will see if he examines the budget document — the general government debt will be reduced by 102 . . . I'm sorry, \$192 million. Plus another \$63 million will be set aside, approximately \$63 million will be set aside in sinking funds to pay debt. So the member can do his own calculations.

But the point is, and I repeat this point, on the Crown side — because the member is trying to say that most of the Crown debt is being paid — the document also shows that while the Crown corporation gross debt is going from 4.5 billion to 4.07 billion approximately, which is a big reduction, the sinking funds are being reduced by approximately \$300 million.

So I think if the member examines those figures, as I know he has — but we've just had an opportunity to review them — the member will see that in the upcoming year we will reduce Crown corporation debt, yes. But we will also reduce the debt of the General Revenue Fund, the general government debt. And both of those will be reduced in a very significant way.

And at the end of the year, the end of this fiscal year, we will have reduced the debt of the province by half a billion dollars — half a billion dollars. Last year we reduced the debt of the province by \$700 million. You can look at the figures in various ways. You can pick out one line of different documents. But the bottom line will be this, the bottom line will be that over the course of last year and this year, we will reduce the debt of the people of the province by 10 per cent. We will pay off a full \$1.2 billion in debt.

Last year a big chunk of that. This year another half a billion dollars. And the debt is steadily going down. Last year we paid about \$760 million just in interest payments. This year that will go down to 725 million, and next year it will be less again — I think closer to about 700 million. It used to be 860 million.

So we're going in the right direction. And all of the independent observers confirm that — that we should keep doing what we're doing. And we are going to make very significant debt payments. We're going to pay the debt down, both the Crown corporations and the General Revenue Fund.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Minister, using your numbers, over the past two years of overall debt reduction of \$1.2 billion, how much of that total is by virtue of sale of assets?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Chair, in answer to the question, we received about \$700 million a few years ago on the sale of the Cameco shares — and I'm mentioning that because I think it's one of the things the member would be thinking about — but that sale was in the fiscal year 1996-97. And the two-year period that I'm referring to is the '97-98 and '98-99 period. And the money from the sale of the Cameco shares was received in '96-97, and some of it was paid into the General Revenue Fund, I believe in the fiscal year '96-97. But I'm talking about the fiscal years '97-98 and '98-99.

I believe the government netted about \$123 million from the sale of Wascana Energy shares in the fiscal year '97-98, and \$308 million will be received on the sale of the Lloydminster upgrader, but I believe that is over the years '98-99 but not '99-2000. But it was my understanding we were receiving money in the General Revenue Fund over the course of two years, not all in one year.

In any event, there are four fiscal years perhaps involved, maybe three, and so it's difficult to answer the question, what out of those sales during the two fiscal years in question comes from the sale of those Crown assets. And I think what I might like to do is undertake to provide a more detailed explanation to the member at a different time because I think the member can see that we're mixing up some fiscal years.

The first one that's relevant to the question is probably '96-97. But I believe you're intending to ask me about events in '97-98 and '98-99 . . . or the member is asking, sorry, Mr. Chair, to you, to the member, that I think that's what the member is referring to. So hence my difficulty answering the question.

The committee reported progress.

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — With leave, I move, seconded by the member from Regina Dewdney:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Battleford-Cut Knife, Kindersley, and Melville from Tuesday May 19, 1998 to Thursday May 21, 1998 inclusive to attend the Midwestern Legislative Exchange at Columbus, Ohio on behalf of the Assembly.

I so move.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Krawetz1063
D’Autremont1063
Bjornerud1063
Heppner1063
Gantfoer1063
Draude1063
Boyd1063
McLane1063
Aldridge1063
Hillson1064
Osika1064
Haverstock1064
Goosen1064

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk1064

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Osika1064

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Speaker1064
Romanow1064
Krawetz1065
Osika1065
Hamilton1066
Thomson1066
Nilson1066
Kasperski1066
Stanger1066
Aldridge1066
Koenker1066
Murray1066
Jess1066
Haverstock1066
Lautermilch1066
Julé1067
Goulet1067
Hillson1067
Lingenfelter1067

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Saskatchewan Mining Week 1998
Ward1067
Child Care Week
Draude1068
Women’s Groups Receive Grants
Stanger1068
File Hills Agency Health Building Plans
Osika1068
Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association Model Historic Legislature
Thomson1069
Multiple Sclerosis-related Events
Haverstock1069
National Nursing Week
Murray1069
Saskatchewan Mining Week
D’Autremont1069

ORAL QUESTIONS

Challenges for Agriculture Industry
Boyd1069
Teichrob1070
Doctor Shortages
D’Autremont1070
Serby1070

Romanow	1070
Plains Health Centre Closure	
Krawetz	1071
Romanow	1071
Health District Deficits	
Aldridge	1071
Serby	1071
Romanow	1072
Melville Child Protection Case	
Osika	1072
Calvert	1072
Child Prostitution	
Julé	1073
Calvert	1073
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 46 — The Credit Union Act, 1998	
Nilson	1074
Bill No. 47 — The Saskatchewan Insurance Amendment Act, 1998	
Nilson	1074
Bill No. 59 — The Jury Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 sur la jury	
Nilson	1074
Bill No. 60 — The Wildlife Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 sur la faune	
Nilson	1074
Bill No. 61 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 1998, (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 1998 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard	
Nilson	1074
Bill No. 62 — The Highway Traffic Amendment Act 1998 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 1998 modifiant le Code de la route de 1996	
Nilson	1074
MOTIONS	
House Recess	
Shillington	1074
Leave of Absence	
Shillington	1079
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
COMMITTEE OF FINANCE	
General Revenue Fund	
Finance — Vote 12	
Cline	1075
Gantefoer	1075
Julé	1076