

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to present a petition on behalf of residents of the communities of Carrot River and Arborfield concerned about the decision of the North-East Health District — the impending decision — to close the hospital in Carrot River. I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well to present a petition, and this petition is urging the government to reconsider its decision to close down X-ray services in Melfort. And I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action to ensure that the required level of service in radiology is maintained in the North Central Health District and that priorities of its board be adjusted accordingly.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners that have signed this petition come from the communities of Melfort, St. Brieux, Star City, and Weldon. I so present.

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to put an immediate halt to all investments in foreign countries by all Saskatchewan Crown corporations and instead invest Crown corporation profits in Saskatchewan.

As is in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The communities involved, Mr. Speaker, are Watson and Regina. I so present.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition signed by people from the Gainsborough and Carnduff areas. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to put an immediate halt to all investments in foreign countries by all Saskatchewan Crown corporations and instead invest Crown corporation profits in Saskatchewan.

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

I so present.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well on behalf of citizens concerned about adequate funding to support

a regional radiology service in Melfort. The signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, in addition to the community of Melfort, are from St. Brieux, Arborfield, Carrot River, Kinistino, and Saint Front.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition to present today on behalf of the good people from Pleasantdale and Melfort:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action to ensure the required level of service in radiology is maintained in the North Central Health District, and that priorities of its board be adjusted accordingly.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present to the Assembly this afternoon dealing with the issue of Crown corporations and the view of many people that there should be an immediate halt to investments in foreign countries by Crown corporations. This petition comes from the Kamsack area of the province and I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud today to rise again 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 community of Ponteix.

I so present.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to present a petition:

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.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition I believe are primarily from Eastend, and I so present. Thank you.

Mr. Aldridge: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present petitions on behalf of citizens that are concerned about the closure of the Plains hospital. 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Those who've signed these petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from the community of Ponteix. A number of them we expect to be here at the legislature tomorrow . . .

The Speaker: — The hon. member of course will want to avoid engaging in debate while presenting petitions.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise on behalf of concerned citizens with respect to the closure of the Plains Health Centre, and the prayer reads:

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.

And the people, the good citizens who have signed these petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from Melville, Regina, and Yorkton. I so present.

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions from citizens concerned about deteriorating health care and specifically about the impending closure of the Plains Health Centre. Your petitioners this afternoon come from the communities of Ituna and Ponteix.

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join with my colleagues here today and bring forward petitions to prevent the closure of the Plains hospital.

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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition are from Aneroid and Ponteix areas of the province, and I look forward to seeing them tomorrow.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of petitioners who wish to present the following prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of government to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada

Highway in Saskatchewan so that work can begin in 1998 and set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project with or without federal assistance.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, from the communities of Golden Prairie and Maple Creek and Fox Valley. And I'm happy to present it on their behalf today.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order two petitions regarding the Carrot River Hospital presented on May 27 have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 12(7) they were found to be irregular and therefore cannot be read and received.

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 reverse the decision to remove pay phones in Pelly; to reach necessary agreements to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway; to save the Plains Health Centre; to halt investments in foreign countries by Saskatchewan Crown corporations; and to take action to ensure required level of service in radiology is maintained in north Central Health District.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING, SELECT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Clerk: — Mr. Johnson, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills, presents the seventh report of the said committee which is as follows:

Your committee has considered Bill No. 302, The Fondation Fransaskoise, 1998. Pursuant to rule 68, the committee held public meetings to hear witnesses for and against the Bill and received written submissions. The committee wishes to thank all those who participated in this process.

Your committee has agreed to report Bill No. 302 without amendment.

Your committee recommends under the provisions of rule 66 that fees be remitted, less the cost of printing, with respect to this Bill.

Mr. Johnson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Northwest:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills now be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Monday next move first reading of a Bill, the highway fatality marker Act.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 59 ask the government the following question:

Of the Minister in Charge of SaskTel: what reasons are given by SaskTel for placing pedestals in farmers' fields when they, the farmers, have specifically asked to have these obstructions placed on road allowance, hub lines or in tree rows; what is the department's interpretation of an ohm; is there any variation in the number of ohms on a line that varies with the length of the line or the placement of the pedestals; is the policy of allowing property owners the right to pay SaskTel to move pedestals off of property to other locations, i.e. road allowance, hub lines still in place; who determines where SaskTel lines run; what criteria is used in considering changes to planned routes.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Monday next move first reading of a Bill, an Act to reduce the pay of MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) who go on strike down to the same rate of pay received by other working people who go on strike. Short title, the MLA's strike-pay Act.

And by leave, Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on Monday next move first reading of a Bill, an Act to require members of the Legislative Assembly to return to work and stop wasting taxpayers' money. Short title, the MLA's back to work Act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions if I may have your concurrence and that of my colleagues.

First, Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to you and to the members of the House, a very special guest seated in your gallery. And I would ask Ms. Erin Nordgulen of Assiniboia to stand please — Erin. And to advise the members of the House and you, Mr. Speaker, that she is the reigning Saskatchewan high school rodeo queen. Erin won her . . .

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Erin won her title last June in Melville, and since that time has had a busy time representing Saskatchewan and the great and challenging sport of rodeo.

Mr. Speaker, besides countless events around Saskatchewan, Erin has been introduced to 50,000 rodeo fans at the Calgary Stampede, participated in the national finals rodeo in Pueblo, Colorado, I'm told the Super Bowl of rodeo competition. She's participated in the Cheyenne, Wyoming Frontier Days in which she was the only Canadian to take part, and spent hours signing autographs there. And she also met with Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer.

Erin's reign as rodeo queen, Mr. Speaker, comes to an end next month, and it will be my pleasure to meet with her briefly after

question period. She's joined in the gallery today by her father, Norm; her mother is unable to attend. Erin's brother, Cody, would be here with us as well but — wouldn't you know it? — he broke a leg, and quite naturally, at a rodeo event.

In the meantime, I'm glad to have the opportunity, Erin, and to ask all hon. members to join me in welcoming her and her family, this very distinguished young Saskatchewan personality today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Also and to the members of the House, Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to you and through you to the colleagues of this House, some young Canadians who are working very hard to prepare themselves for their future and for the future of this great nation.

M. le président, je voudrais vous présenter, et par votre entremise, présentez à mes collègues, un groupe de jeunes Canadiens et Canadiennes qui travaillent avec acharnement pour préparer leur propre avenir et l'avenir de cette grande nation.

(Translation: Mr Speaker, to you and through you to my colleagues in the House, I would like to introduce some young Canadians who are working very hard to prepare themselves for their future and for the future of this great nation.)

These very special people are guests seated in your gallery, 44 students from grades 5 and 6 of the Saskatoon French School. The students are accompanied by two teachers, Lucien Deux and Marie-Pierre McGregor as well as five chaperons, Judy Ng, Ken Babich, Barry McEwen, Donna Nagy, Sylvia Van der Hurk. I hope I have those names right.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon French School, which is in my constituency of Saskatoon Riversdale, accepts students from all over Saskatoon in French immersion programs through grade 8. The program allows children from predominantly English-speaking backgrounds to acquire fluency in Canada's other official language. This will surely prove to be a valuable asset for them in their futures, and I dare say for the future of our nation as we continue to build bridges to our friends and neighbours in Quebec.

The students are in Regina today to have a tour of the Legislative Building including a few moments observing these proceedings. Mr. Speaker, as if these proceedings were not entertaining enough, they have seen one IMAX film already this morning and will see another one this afternoon as well as taking in the exhibits of the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

M. le président, j'aimerais féliciter ces élèves pour l'application qu'ils démontrent dans leur apprentissage et de la langue française, leur souhaiter un succès continu dans la poursuite de leurs études et accueillir chaleureusement chacun d'entre eux à l'Assemblée législative ici aujourd'hui.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate these students for their dedication to their studies of the French language, to wish them continued success, and to welcome all of them to the House

here today.

And I ask all members in welcoming these students, teachers, and parents to Regina. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted today to introduce the first group of students this year to come in to my . . . from my constituency. This group is from Wadena. There's 30 grade 4 students in the east gallery. Wadena of course is the home of the very popular shore bird festival.

With the students are teachers Mr. Glennie, Mrs. Nelson, Brian Stasuik, Kathy Christianson, Marilyn Cannon, and also Earl Desjarlais, Tina Kostuik, and Patti Flanders.

And we'll be meeting with them afterwards and I hope you enjoy your time here.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the member from Yorkton I'd like to introduce to you and through you to other members of this House some special guests seated in the west gallery. And I'd ask each of them to stand as I introduce them.

We are joined today by Rachel West from Wollongong, Australia, who I had the pleasure of meeting earlier when I was in Yorkton recently. And she's been visiting Saskatchewan for the past five weeks. She'll be leaving here shortly to tour eastern Canada and from there will be going to the United States to work in a children's art camp.

And I might add for the interests of the members, Mr. Speaker, that Rachel is fascinated by daily question period here in the legislature and she watches it every day. And so I hope the live version will be as entertaining as the TV version.

And joining her, Mr. Speaker, is her good friend Jennifer Williams who's from Yorkton. And I've also had the pleasure of meeting Jennifer when she's been visiting the legislature before, and she's a student in the master's program in audiology at the University of South Dakota.

And last but not least I'd like to introduce Shirley Williams who is Rachel's host in Yorkton. And Shirley, as some of my colleagues will know, is also a hard-working constituency assistant in the MLA office in Yorkton.

And I know that all members in the Assembly will want to join me in wishing Rachel well in her travels, and Jennifer in her studies, and Shirley in the hard work she does on behalf of the people of Yorkton. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I would like to introduce 27 grade 6 students from the Redvers School seated up in the east gallery. Along with these students are their teacher Diane Dubé, and chaperons Sharon Jacobson, Lilly Carlsen, Jan Hoff,

Caroline Martel, Anita Boutin, and Cheryl Alexander.

I would like to welcome them here today and I'm looking forward to meeting with them right after question period. And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to welcome Mr. Glennie from Wadena who used to be a member in my constituency. I'd like to welcome all these people today and ask the Assembly to do likewise.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly today, two people seated in your gallery all the way from Union Bay, British Columbia, which is up island on Vancouver Island. Seated in the gallery is my aunt and uncle, Hazel and Harry Nixon, who are on their way to Winnipeg to the annual general meeting of the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) vets.

Hazel is my mother's sister and Harry is a veteran of the RCMP and retired from the North; spent 22 years in the North because of their love of the North; retired as the chief superintendent from the Yukon.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to greet them as they rise to be welcomed by the Assembly in Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in your gallery and in the west gallery we have 42 students from the Hartley Clark Elementary School in the community of Spiritwood. They travelled yesterday some 450 kilometres to be here today. I hope that the chaperons and the teachers were able to get some sleep last night while they maintained order with this group.

The grade 5 and 6 students, Mr. Speaker, are here with teachers Mr. Jenner, King, and Goodfellow; chaperons Mrs. Ledinski, Maczei, Heisler, Thomas, and Mr. Neilson. Their bus driver is Mr. Baptiste.

And I'd ask through you to the Assembly that we welcome them here today and wish them an interesting tour of the sights in the city of Regina.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join the member in regards to the students from . . . welcoming the students from Spiritwood.

Mr. Speaker, we have in Spiritwood Mr. Hugh Jenner who used to teach up in northern Saskatchewan, so I'd like to give him a special welcome. And also with due respect to Ms. Thomas and the Cree speakers, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say in greetings in Cree you usually say, how are you, and of course with the French students here we also say, *ça va*, and in Cree we say, *tansi*.

Now I guess, Mr. Speaker, in Cree tradition I would also like to say *tawow* to all the visitors of the legislature today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on behalf of the Liberal caucus, I'm not sure where Mr. Jenner is, but I also want to say a big hello to him from the past students of the Ile-a-la-Crosse School. I can't recall if he taught me because I spent many of my hours in extra time for some of the classes I couldn't pass and also in the gym. So, Mr. Jenner, wherever you are, a big hello from a former student of Ile-a-la-Crosse, and welcome to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Cost of Bell-Ringing

Mr. Aldridge: — Mr. Speaker, the cost of ringing the legislative bells is \$28,000 a day. What's most unfortunate about this waste of taxpayers' money is to suggest it's being done in the name of saving health care.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what \$28,000 a day will provide for in the health care system? It would pay for one person on Betaseron for a year and a half; it will pay for a nurse for eight months; 1,494 routine office visits to a family doctor.

It would pay for one day of chemotherapy for all patients in the province who receive chemotherapy; one person's dialysis treatment for over six months; 13 baby deliveries; three hip replacements; 13 cataract operations; 10 air-ambulance trips; 325 mammograms; 114 MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans; 254 CAT (computerized axial tomography) scans.

It would cover the transplantation and treatment costs of a person receiving a kidney transplant for over two years. And, Mr. Speaker, it could pay for the operation of over 350 special care home beds for a day. Sadly for the Tories, this exercise in bell-ringing isn't about saving health care, it's about them trying to save face.

Renal Dialysis Now Available in Tisdale

Mr. Renaud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In cooperation with the Department of Health, three health districts, a number of community groups, and individuals have been working hard for the past several months to make an important upgrade to health care in north-east Saskatchewan. I was extremely pleased to see the fruition of this cooperative effort yesterday when the grand opening of the Tisdale satellite dialysis was held.

For people in the North Central Health District, the North-East Health District, and the Pasquia Health District, it means those who need this vital service no longer have to travel to Saskatoon for renal dialysis. It means less travel time, less waiting, and a better quality of life for our residents.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Tisdale Satellite Dialysis Centre is part of a network of centres which includes Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, and Lloydminster. Staff are also undergoing extensive training in Yorkton as it is the location of the next centre.

Under the old system, Mr. Speaker, patients could only receive these services in Saskatoon and Regina. The renal dialysis satellite network is just one example of how health care renewal will better serve the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Closure of Plains Health Centre

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Party believes it is the duty of every member of this House to speak and vote on behalf of their constituents. That's why they sent us here — to represent their wishes, including on the future of the Plains Hospital.

Unfortunately the other parties in this Assembly do not share this feeling. They ignore the wishes of their constituents on the floor of this Assembly. I can understand the NDP's (New Democratic Party) reluctance to bring the Plains issue to a final vote. As we've seen from this government over and over again, the NDP caucus doesn't really care what the people think and the NDP cabinet doesn't care what the caucus thinks.

What I find bizarre however is the third party, the Liberals, also oppose the idea of a free vote on the closure on the Plains. But I think the member from Thunder Creek told us why they were opposed yesterday. It's because the Liberals are more worried about who gets the credit. For them the issue isn't saving the Plains, it's saving the Liberals.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is not who gets the credit. In fact any credit should go to the people of Saskatchewan, not to any member of this legislature. The issue here is allowing members of this legislature to stand in their places and vote freely on whether they truly believe this hospital should close.

This legislature is now the only body that can save the Plains.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

University of Saskatchewan Neuroscientists Receive Funds to Probe Paralysis

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall that we were visited by Rick Hansen last year. Rick has been an extremely active fund-raiser for research regarding cures for paralysis.

U of S (University of Saskatchewan) neuroscientists recently received \$50,000 to probe paralysis from the Rick Hansen Institute. Doctors Andrew Gloster and Gillian Muir will use the grant to fund a two-year study of neural precursor cell transplants.

The major stumbling block to finding a cure for paralysis has been that neural precursors cannot be regenerated on a severed spinal cord. The two U of S researchers however have found that neural precursors in the nose are similar to those found on the spinal cord.

The two will attempt to isolate, grow cultures of, and transplant those cells into the spinal cord in the attempt to bridge severed

areas of the spinal cord and thus reconnect the spinal cord as a neural passageway.

This is extremely exciting news for those who suffer from paralysis and is also evidence that research going on in Saskatoon is of a world-class calibre. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Humboldt Students Win Science Honours

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with a great deal of pride to recognize two young inventors from St. Dominic School in Humboldt — Courtney Saliken and Bridget Kurysch.

Courtney Saliken, along with science teachers Peter Pavelich of Humboldt, and Garry Sibley of Bruno attended the Canada-wide science fair in Timmins, Ontario, held May 11 to 16. Courtney displayed a scaled-down version of his Springtacular Cattle Oiler. The oiler, which was originally invented by Clifford Luther, was redesigned by Courtney to be more efficient. Mr. Luther was happy to hear that Courtney had done so well and intends to include him in his advertising. Courtney brought home a bronze medal from Timmins.

Bridget Kurysch's project, a potash mill reproduction, was one of six provincial projects chosen by Saskatchewan Mining Association for display at the Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina from May 11 to 17.

Congratulations, Courtney and Bridget, on your innovative projects.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Pharmacists Like Pasqua Expansion

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand on behalf of the people of southern Saskatchewan, with great news coming from the May 24 *Free Press* where the headline reads: "Pharmacists delighted with Pasqua expansion."

Mr. Speaker, the General Hospital staff of pharmacists is being upgraded from 10 to 16, and the Pasqua's from nine and a half to twelve, and part of the process is there are going to be pharmacists out on the wards and dealing with patients, taking drug history and that sort of thing.

The director of pharmaceutical services for the Regina Health District, Murray Wolfe says, and I quote: "There's absolutely no doubt that patients will benefit from this consolidation." And he goes on and explains the many benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted on behalf of all users of the two hospitals in southern Saskatchewan with this great improvement in the pharmaceutical care.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Liberal Campaign Office Break-in

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

there must be one very disappointed thief somewhere in Saskatoon today. I understand someone broke into Jim Melenchuk's campaign office yesterday. After getting by all the white flags that are stored there in that office, the crook or crooks found Mr. Melenchuk's computer and apparently walked off with it. This was probably unnecessary, Mr. Speaker. If the culprit was looking for the current Liberal membership, I understand all three names were written on the computer screen with magic marker. And one of those, Mr. Speaker, was whited out. But if the culprit was looking for the past Liberal membership list, they could have simply asked us, because it closely resembles the membership of the Saskatchewan Party. We now have most of their members.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Melenchuk has stated second place is satisfactory, and this at least gives Mr. Melenchuk yet another excuse when he finishes third on June 24.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Funding to Enhance Programs against Family Violence

Ms. Murrell: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform you that last week the Minister of Justice was in Battleford to present a cheque for \$40,000 to enhance the programs against family violence to the Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services of Battleford.

This funding is part of a provincial initiative which is providing \$350,000 in total for programs that work to stop the cycle of family violence and abuse in this province. Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services, along with seven other organizations in the province, received start-up funding in 1997-98. This funding will enable Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services to hire an additional counsellor who will provide individual therapy and facilitate men's teaching circles.

Mr. Speaker, violence and abuse in any form is unacceptable. This announcement is another example of how our government is continuing to work in partnership with communities, families, and individuals to foster family relationships that are free of violence and abuse.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Free Vote on Plains Health Centre Closure

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, the Saskatchewan Party is calling for a free vote on the future of the Plains hospital. What a radical idea — actually expecting MLAs to stand in their place and vote according to the wishes of their constituents. Wouldn't that be something?

Because, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, this is the only body in the province that can stop the closure of the Plains hospital. After the letters, after all the rallies, after all the petitions, the only way that this decision can actually be reversed is if the men and women in this legislature stand in

their place and vote on behalf of the people they represent.

Mr. Premier, will you allow that to happen? Will you allow a free vote on the future of the Plains hospital?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, there have been free votes all along on this issue. The freest vote of all was the election in June, 1995 where the people of the province of Saskatchewan re-elected this government. I recall full well campaigning in that June 1995 election campaign where there was a rally that our governing party was sponsoring in support of the government and a rally by those that had expressed concerns about the Plains. It was an election issue raised at that time by the then leader of the Liberal Party who today's questioner so unceremoniously knifed and stabbed in the back and now tries to talk to us about conscience.

I simply would draw this editorial opinion from the Nipawin Journal which simply answers the question. The date of it is May 13, quote:

If for several weeks now opposition MLAs have been beating the issue to death (referring to the Plains) now they're calling on the provincial government to call a free vote on whether the ageing health facility should be allowed to close. If the health of Saskatchewan people weren't such a precious commodity, the posturing by the representatives would be laughable. As it is, their actions are reprehensible.

And they are.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SaskPower Proposed Investment in Guyana

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for SaskPower.

Mr. Minister, the bill for Guyana just keeps getting bigger. First you tell us your botched Guyana deal cost \$800,000, then we find out it's actually \$1.4 million. Then you give Jack Messer, the author of this hare-brained scheme, a \$300,000 severance package. Then we find out that Guyana is suing you for another \$3 million. And now you forked out about \$180,000 in severance for two more of the managers you fired over the deal. It's getting to be quite a bill for all this activity where we shouldn't have been in the first place.

Mr. Minister, when are you going to stop throwing money down the drain over Guyana?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the easiest money we could save would be the \$28,000 a day it's costing us to ring the bells while those members opposite, while those members opposite refuse to work.

And the House Leader for the Liberals, the member from Canora, hollers from his seat about credibility. I say to him, where's the credibility of yours, sir, the member who left the Liberal Party after dumping the leader who had taken that party to official opposition status, dumped her out, and now stands here as a Conservative and won't work, and costing the

taxpayers \$28,000 a day.

The easiest money we could save for taxpayers is simply by going back to work today. And I ask the member from Melfort if he will make the commitment that he will save \$28,000 a day by doing some work today as soon as we get past orders of the day.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SaskPower Labour Negotiations

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a sliding scale here. Jack Messer loses \$5 million and he gets a \$300,000 severance package. SaskPower Commercial loses \$2 million and its two managers get a \$200,000 severance package.

Meanwhile all the other employees at SaskPower who are doing their jobs effectively are talking about going on strike. You really can't blame them for expecting your government to reward competence. After all, they see the way you're rewarding incompetence.

Mr. Minister, SaskPower's union is making an announcement this afternoon. Do you expect them to be giving you strike notice? And what plans do you have in place to ensure SaskPower service is not interrupted in the event of a SaskPower strike?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: — I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that the member ought to concern himself unduly about a strike at this point. The collective bargaining process is continuing today.

And I think as we speak the parties continue to meet under the mediation, under the mediation of the Department of Labour. And we're content to let the process continue to work and to try our best not to interfere with it. And I would suggest that the hon. member take that advice to heart.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Minister — thank you, Mr. Speaker — Mr. Minister, SaskPower has cut back on the number of out-of-scope employees over the past few years, which leaves us wondering: does SaskPower have the managers left with enough experience to operate the power grid in the event of a strike?

Mr. Minister, since the last SaskPower strike in 1976, SaskPower has added Poplar River, Boundary dam no. 6, Shand, Nipawin. These are all very sophisticated generating stations requiring hands-on experience to run properly. This is not a criticism of SaskPower's managers; they simply are not trained to do this job. And they'll be in a very difficult position if there is any kind of a sudden problem during a strike.

Mr. Minister, what contingency plans are you using, in the event of a possible strike, to safeguard the safety of the system for SaskPower residents?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that such plans exist. Of course I would not know the detail of those plans, and I don't think the hon. member would like to, would expect to, hear those plans publicly discussed in this Assembly.

I'm a strong believer in the collective bargaining process, as I know are all members of the House. And I think we just simply allow that process to continue. The parties are close together. We all know that. The differences are not large and I would expect that the collective bargaining process would bridge them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Estey Report on Grain Transportation

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Minister, some very disturbing comments have come from Justice Willard Estey this morning. Willard Estey is to submit the first phase of his report on the grain transportation system to Liberal Transport minister, David Collenette, this weekend.

But Mr. Estey is doubtful his work will lead to any changes, he says. He says that the issue of grain transportation is tremendously important in western Canada — and he's certainly right — but attracts little interest east of the Manitoba border, he reports.

Seeing as how most Liberal MPs (Member of Parliament) come from the East and as how Ralph Goodale doesn't seem to be doing much good for Saskatchewan, Justice Estey has every reason to be concerned.

Mr. Minister, have you contacted the federal government? Are they going to act on the recommendations of the Estey report or are farmers' interests going to be ignored by the federal Liberals once again?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Upshall: — I'd like to thank the member for the question.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the interests of farmers have been neglected by the federal Liberal government for some time now. But I can tell you that on behalf of farmers, that we have been working diligently to accomplish what has to be accomplished, and that is true competition in the rail system to determine what lines are viable.

We have seen the Estey process carried forward. We are concerned that nothing may happen but we are letting the process develop and it's going to be developing throughout the end of the year.

I appreciate your concern. But if you want to do something too, with the Liberal opposition over there, we would get all on the phones, as we have been doing, telling the federal Liberal government that in order to sustain agriculture in Saskatchewan, in order to get the highest, best returns for our producers, we should go to joint running rights and let the railways act like everybody else in the telecommunications field and have true

competition to establish viability.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, I think farmers are sick of hoping the federal government and the federal Liberals like Ralph Goodale will protect their interests. The only way there is going to be meaningful changes to the grain transportation system, the only way the federal government will act on the Estey report, is if the Prime Minister puts it at the top of his priority list.

Mr. Premier, have you spoken to the Prime Minister about this issue? Will you call him and demand immediate action on the Estey report and in . . . pardon me, move to improve the western grain transportation system which is so desperately needed for farmers in this province?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the government has raised this issue at the political level and at the bureaucratic level with the federal government. I can say, speaking for myself, that I've discussed this with the Prime Minister and in fact have written to him on the importance of grain transportation and the importance of the Estey report.

With respect to this morning's developments the hon. member alludes to, I have not had an opportunity yet to get this in my office and analysed. I can tell you that we generally endorse and have been advocating, I might remind the member from Kindersley, the position that he here has stated today. We've taken this position right from the beginning. And the Minister of Highways and the Minister of Agriculture are working jointly on behalf of the government on a four-provinces — western provinces — strategy to put as much pressure as we can to solve this problem to the benefit of our farmers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plains Health Centre Closure

Mr. McLane: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like it or not the Premier is the only person who has the power to save the Plains hospital. Like it or not the cone of silence that sits over the entire NDP caucus is not going to be lifted — vote or no vote. And like it or not this is a decision that can only be reversed if we continue to pressure the government to address the real issue in this debate — the escalating bed crisis in Regina and southern Saskatchewan, and the concerns many rural people have about accessibility.

Mr. Premier, only you have the power to reverse this decision. Will you make that statement today? And will you stop the closure of the Plains hospital?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, in 1993 the government and subsequently the district health boards announced that as part of health care renewal, there'd have to be adjustments made to the hospital system involving the closure of the Plains.

We fought an election on that and other issues in 1995, and we were re-elected with a mandate to proceed. Now within the next three or four months, the Plains hospital will close.

In closing, it will have 250,000 square feet more in Regina than you have on the current situations involving three hospitals. It'll have the best renal, the best cardiac care, MRI, and modern technology.

I say, Mr. Speaker, as I close my remarks, what the *Nipawin Journal* has said on this issue, closure of Plains — it says:

Is anyone else as sick and tired of hearing about the Plains hospital in Regina as we are. (*Nipawin Journal* writes).

And then they say this, talking about the Liberals:

Why has there been minimal public outcry about the closure of the Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert and transfer of all health services in that city to Victoria? Is the reason behind all this Plains brouhaha the ready exposure to the issue-starved media in the capital of Regina?

That's basically where it stands. The hospital is closing and we're moving on to better health care for the future in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLane: — Mr. Speaker, I have a document here from one of those media-starved papers in the city. I'd like to table this and I'll quote from it:

But what made Romanow's comments truly ironic was that in nearly the same breath, he accused the Liberals of planning to cut 1.3 billion from the Health budget and support a \$900 health care premium, both of which were patently untrue and bordering on fabrication.

Quoted from the paper, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, why would anybody believe this Premier in this province. In '95 he campaigned on the promise that the hurt was over — no more pain, no more suffering, the hurt is over. His candidates ran around the province campaigning on no more hurt, no more pain.

Three of his Health ministers since then have all said, no more bed closures, no more facility closures, no more cuts, Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, tell us: how can anybody believe what you have to say?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, it has been my honour to have been elected the head of my party and to have been elected with my colleagues to represent the people of the province of Saskatchewan in two general elections — 1991, '95 — and with that, given the mandate to govern in the areas of health and other concerns that face the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

And I repeat again, Costa Maragos of the CBC (Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation) asked Jim Melenchuk where they, the Liberals, would find \$1.3 billion. His first answer was, in health care. When Maragos said, where'd you get the number, Dr. Melenchuk said he didn't know because he didn't have access to the books. When Maragos said, then how can you say that the money exists, he said, I'll have to check the books.

But then he went on to say, I do know you can find savings in health care. His words were "inefficiencies in health care." That is in black and white.

It's correct to say that later on in the interview he said he could find the 1.3 billion by attacking the oil companies as well, by the way, suddenly which has been ignored — that is the truth. And I am asking you and I am asking Jim Melenchuk, since he is a doctor and he knows the inefficiencies, where do they exist? Liberals, stand up and tell us where the inefficiencies exist and what else you would cut.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Highway 13

Mr. McPherson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like the Premier is a little ashamed of his actions here today.

Mr. Speaker, if a picture tells a thousand words, a photo of Highway 13 near Admiral clearly shows how this route resembles a war zone more than it does a highway.

I recently received a letter from Fern Bonnell of Ponteix who had a first-hand experience on Highway 13. Broken pavement punctured a hole in the gas tank of her van; the damage to the vehicle totalled almost \$600. I advised her to submit the bill to the Highways department. She did so and has been advised that the cost to these damages would be covered.

I'd like to send a copy of this picture now over to the Madam Minister. Madam Minister, Highway 13 is part of what is called the Red Coat Trail, but why are you allowing it to deteriorate to a point where it will once again be just that — a trail?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Bradley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said previous times in the legislature here, we are addressing that we needed more dollars in highways and road conditions. We recognized that and we put more dollars in. We put \$30 million more last year, \$20 million more this year. That's part of the plan that we need to work on these.

The second part of it is to work on the different areas — to also help set priorities on the number of pressures and conditions on these. I've certainly had some experience in driving on Highway No. 13. I've met with a number of the communities in that area and we certainly are addressing the issue. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McPherson: — Well, Madam Minister, perhaps you would like to table a list of the projects and how you are addressing those problems that you're finding out there today, because we are hearing from those communities you're doing

nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the minister is accepting responsibility for the damage claim I talked of, but I have another bill to submit today on behalf of a Gwen Coburn of Shaunavon, who recently tried to drive a section of Highway 37 just north of Climax. I say try to, because her vehicle suffered almost \$900 worth of damage after a piece of broken pavement flew through her grill, left a hole in the radiator, and punctured the power steering and air conditioning hoses.

Madam Minister, I want to send you a copy of that bill today and I would like to know, are you prepared to take care of this? Can you tell us the total number of claims received by your department this year, the total cost of those claims, and what immediate action you're taking to make the public aware of exactly what your department is prepared to do when their vehicles are damaged by your highways?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, here we have it, they're back at it again. The Liberals are back at it again.

You know, Mr. Speaker, in the United States of America, in the United States of America — a federal form of government much like Canada, where there's Washington and where there's Ottawa, and where there's states and where there are provinces — you know what they do in the United States? Up to 90 cents on the dollar for construction of interstate highways comes out of Washington budgets — up to 90 cents.

You know how many cents the Liberals in Ottawa put out in our federal state? They put out zero — zero cents, Mr. Speaker — zero. And not only that, but the federal government charges 10 cents a litre and they spent 4 cents or less on the highways in general; they take out \$200 million a year from Saskatchewan.

And these Liberals get up and they've got the gall to ask that question. Why don't you get some credibility and some honesty in your questions and stop yelling from your chair because obviously truth hits you in a very, very bad way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Health Information Network

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, where is your SHIN (Saskatchewan Health Information Network) legislation. It's now day 55 of the session and it has still not been introduced.

You have \$20 million budgeted for SHIN in this year's budget. Some of that money is now going toward new nurses, but what about the rest of it? If you're not proceeding with the SHIN network this year, Mr. Minister, then why not take the rest of this money and put it toward keeping the Plains open and the hiring of more nurses.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister, will you be introducing the SHIN legislation this session? And if not, will you use the money budgeted for SHIN to address the ongoing health care crisis?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker — on the process towards building the SHIN network in our province — we're working, as the member well knows, with the broad base of Saskatchewan people: the health districts, the SMA (Saskatchewan Medical Association), and so on. And as that work progresses, it's being done carefully so that we ensure when that SHIN system begins in this province, we'll have the finest medical technology, information-sharing technology, that you can find anywhere in the world.

Now the member says we need to cut here to find money there. Well I'll tell the member one of the problems this government has. Every morning the Minister of Finance gets up and writes a \$2 million cheque — 2 million straight out of health care, straight out of Education, straight out of Social Services — to do what? To pay the interest on the debt that you people ran up — \$2 million every day. Now if we had that \$2 million, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of stuff we could do in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it a little ludicrous that the minister would suggest that they have no responsibility for debt. We just take a look — Guyana; will you take a look at Channel Lake; take a look at . . . where a number of areas that the NDP have raised debt. You take a look at the other debt they've created, some of the debt that was left in 1982. But, Mr. Speaker, the question to the minister was regarding the SHIN program, not about spending more money.

But, Mr. Minister . . . Mr. Minister, you don't have a SHIN network yet; you don't have the SHIN legislation. Where is the SHIN legislation? If you're not going to bring forward the SHIN legislation, Mr. Minister, you do have a SHIN board and your hand-picked NDP candidate Judy Junor is on the SHIN board.

Mr. Minister, as far as we know the NDP candidate of Saskatoon Eastview is still on the SHIN board. Can you confirm that Ms. Junor is on the SHIN board or if you've asked her to step down from the SHIN board while she's a candidate in Saskatoon Eastview?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the member, we're working with the whole community of Saskatchewan in building the SHIN network and as that work progresses the appropriate steps will be taken.

But I think, as I visited with some of my constituents in Moose Jaw this morning, the question wasn't about SHIN, it was about the antics of what's going on in this legislature. They say will these people, will these people who sit in opposition quit playing politics with health care.

We've got the Liberals. They get up here in December and they have a free vote in the House; we have a vote in December. That's on the Plains. And then they have a new stunt — then they say we should name it after Tommy Douglas. That's the next plank. Then they have this notion — they tell us we're

going to have 10,000 people here on the steps of the legislature tomorrow . . .

An Hon. Member: — No, 15,000.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — . . . 15,000. Then Dr. Melnychuk says when the rally is over, he's going to chain himself to the doors of the Plains.

Well not to be outdone, not to be outdone by the antics there, now we have the antics here — calling free votes and ringing the bells — \$28,000 a day. The member says we need more money for health care. Well we can find \$28,000 this afternoon. Let's get some health care work done in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's obvious the Minister of Health isn't willing to answer the question. The Minister of Social Services doesn't know. So, Mr. Premier, maybe you can tell us. Is Judy Junor still on the SHIN board, or have you asked Judy Junor to remove herself from the SHIN board, or have you putted her from the SHIN board?

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I'll have to check the composition of the board to be absolutely certain of my answer before giving out the answer. I haven't looked at it lately and when I do I will provide an answer in this regard. But I want to come back to the issue which is before us, and that is the issue of the funding of health care and the provision of the top flight health care services that all of us in this province and this House desire.

Now you just take a look at what's happening. We've been talking all afternoon about the \$28,000 a day lost. Ten days of bell-ringing during the Crown corporations on Channel Lake, or whatever it was. How many days? Five days? Money lost. How long are you going to ring the bells on this — how long? If it depends on me, I've said there are no more free votes other than the free votes that the June election had in 1995 and the vote in December. That's what I'm telling you. So you tell me how long you are going to allow the bells to ring. I've given you the answer.

Every day that they allow these bells to ring, they are starving the health care system. They're like the Bourbons: they don't understand anything, they don't remember anything, and that's why they're going down to defeat again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1430)

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order! All hon. members will be well aware we just finished question period and we don't need to repeat the questions and the answers when it's all over. Order.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Citizen's Advisory Council on Anniversaries

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this

opportunity to inform this House and the people of Saskatchewan of the formation of a Citizens Advisory Council on Anniversaries. The formation of the council was announced earlier today by Premier Roy Romanow, and the council is at this time holding its first meeting at Government House here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the Citizens Advisory Council has a very specific and important mandate to provide recommendations to the government regarding celebrations for the millennium and the provincial centennial in the year 2005. Between the years 1999 and 2006, Mr. Speaker, a number of communities, including the cities of Regina in 2003, Moose Jaw in 2003, Prince Albert in 2004, and Saskatoon in 2006 will also be celebrating their centennial.

Through the advisory council an effective means of coordinating all activities — be they sponsored by local communities, non-profit groups, or businesses — will be put in place. In addition, the council will provide a mechanism for coordinating activities with the federal government and other provinces, particularly Alberta who also celebrates its centennial in 2005.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that a major role of the council will be to consult with the people of Saskatchewan to get their views and ideas about what type of celebration should be pursued. I am pleased therefore to inform the House that effective June 1 anyone in the province can forward their views and ideas by calling toll-free 1-888-390-2005.

Mr. Speaker, the council is composed of 19 distinguished Saskatchewan citizens from all walks of life, from all corners of Saskatchewan who have graciously agreed to volunteer their time, services, and expertise to this important task. I wish, by listing their names now, to publicly express my appreciation and the appreciation of this House for their willingness to serve on the council.

The members are: Dr. John Archer, Honourary Co-Chair of Regina; Alan Sapp, Honourary Co-Chair North Battleford; Paul Rezanoff, the Chair from Swift Current; Bob Ellard, Vice-Chair from Regina; Colleen Bailey from Yorkton; Veronica Balon from Prince Alberta; Gail Bowen from Regina; Marjorie Brown from Regina; Gary Carlson from Regina; Doug Cuthand from Saskatoon; Jack Greening from Christopher Lake; Dr. Stewart Mein from Pierceland; Jeremy Morgan from Saskatoon; Theresa Stevenson from Broadview; Natasha Stinka from Saskatoon; Laverne Szejvold from Saskatoon; Irma Taylor from Regina; Kate Waygood from Saskatoon; and Peter Zakreski from Saskatoon.

As the minister responsible for anniversaries, I look forward very much to working with the council and receiving the advice they will provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the minister for the advance copy that we received on today's announcement.

I note a couple of things, Mr. Speaker. I note that of course as

we're nearing the new millennium there will be a number of cities, including not only the province of Saskatchewan but the province of Alberta, who will be celebrating a particular anniversary. And I would hope that the committee will be one that will be able to coordinate affairs so that we see very little duplication, so we see very little waste.

I notice also that the minister has not indicated the costs of such a council — the bureaucratic team that will be required to be employed to put in place this anniversary system.

I also note, Mr. Speaker, that the announcement is that there are 19 men and women who have come to serve to this committee. But I also take notice that of that 19, Mr. Speaker, 16 are listed as having come from cities in Saskatchewan. Only 3 of the 19 individuals represent communities outside of the major cities in this province.

And while we see that there is a 1 800 number listed, I'm wondering whether or not we're going to get a good representation across this province so that we could have had people that would have represented all corners of this province, rural ridings, rural communities. We don't see that, Mr. Speaker, and I would question the minister as to whether or not this community . . . this committee actually represents all of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Mr. Osika: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to thank the minister for the advance copy of his statement. As each and every one of us in this Assembly know that plans for the future require people to commit themselves, give of themselves, organize and be made available to participate in events that require a lot of planning, a lot of cooperation, a lot of coordination. So I congratulate the people that have come forward and have been appointed to serve on this type of an advisory council.

I had the privilege of meeting with some of these people at a luncheon today and I recognized some of those that have contributed in other areas. And I know that they will give of themselves to make the plans for our future celebrations in this province the best and ones that we can be very, very proud of.

And I'm sure that communities throughout this great province of ours will offer their input and their cooperation to ensure that we achieve those goals, the goals of this particular advisory committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 204 — The Balanced Budget Act, 1998

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 204, The Balanced Budget Act, 1998 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

Bill No. 207 — The Crown Construction Tendering Agreement Revocation Act

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move

first reading of a Bill, Bill No. 207, The Crown Construction Tendering Agreement Revocation Act be now read a first time.

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

Bill No. 429 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Northern Village of Cole Bay)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 429, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Northern Village of Cole Bay).

The division bells rang from 2:39 p.m. until 2:49 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 5

Bjornerud	Toth	Gantefoer
Heppner	Goohsen	

Nays — 22

Flavel	Van Mulligen	Mitchell
Atkinson	Whitmore	Goulet
Kowalsky	Calvert	Teichrob
Bradley	Trew	Renaud
Scott	Nilson	Stanger
Jess	Kasperski	Ward
Murray	Langford	Murrell
Thomson		

Bill No. 430 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Coleville)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move first reading of a Bill No. 430, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Coleville).

The division bells rang from 2:51 p.m. until 3:01 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 6

Krawetz	Bjornerud	Toth
Draude	Gantefoer	Heppner

Nays — 19

Van Mulligen	Mitchell	Atkinson
Whitmore	Goulet	Kowalsky
Calvert	Bradley	Trew
Renaud	Scott	Nilson
Stanger	Jess	Ward
Murray	Langford	Murrell
Thomson		

Bill No. 431 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Colgate)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move first

reading of Bill No. 431, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Colgate).

Nays — 18

The division bells rang from 3:03 p.m. until 3:13 p.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 5

Bjornerud	Toth	Draude
Gantefoer	Heppner	

Nays — 19

Van Mulligen	MacKinnon	Mitchell
Atkinson	Johnson	Whitmore
Goulet	Kowalsky	Calvert
Trew	Renaud	Scott
Nilson	Stanger	Ward
Murray	Langford	Murrell
Thomson		

Bill No. 432 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Town of Colonsay)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 432, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Town of Colonsay).

The division bells rang from 3:16 p.m. until 3:26 p.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 7

Bjornerud	Toth	D'Autremont
Boyd	Draude	Gantefoer
Heppner		

Nays — 20

Romanow	Van Mulligen	MacKinnon
Mitchell	Atkinson	Johnson
Goulet	Kowalsky	Calvert
Trew	Renaud	Nilson
Hamilton	Stanger	Jess
Ward	Murray	Langford
Murrell	Thomson	

Bill No. 433 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Conquest)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 433, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Conquest).

The division bells rang from 3:28 p.m. until 3:38 p.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 4

Toth	D'Autremont	Draude
Heppner		

Romanow	Van Mulligen	MacKinnon
Lingenfelter	Mitchell	Johnson
Kowalsky	Calvert	Trew
Renaud	Lorje	Hamilton
Stanger	Ward	Murray
Langford	Murrell	Thomson

Bill No. 434 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Consul)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move first reading of a Bill No. 434, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Consul).

The division bells rang from 3:40 p.m. until 3:50 p.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 2

Toth	D'Autremont
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Nays — 18

Van Mulligen	MacKinnon	Mitchell
Atkinson	Johnson	Kowalsky
Calvert	Trew	Renaud
Lorje	Hamilton	Stanger
Jess	Ward	Murray
Langford	Murrell	Thomson

Bill No. 435 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Town of Coronach)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 435, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Town of Coronach).

The division bells rang from 3:52 p.m. until 4:02 p.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 4

Toth	D'Autremont	Draude
Heppner		

Nays — 19

Flavel	Van Mulligen	MacKinnon
Mitchell	Atkinson	Johnson
Upshall	Kowalsky	Calvert
Renaud		

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Trew): — Order. Now members will appreciate there is a need for the Clerk to hear the answers to a vote. A request has been made for a standing recorded vote and we will honour that. I ask all members to allow the vote to be conducted properly.

Lorje	Cline	Stanger
Jess	Ward	Murray

Langford Murrell Thomson **Yeas — 4**

**Bill No. 436 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act
(Resort Village of Coteau Beach)**

Toth D'Autremont Draude
Heppner

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of a Bill No. 436, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Resort Village of Coteau Beach).

Nays — 20

The division bells rang from 4:05 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

Romanow Van Mulligen MacKinnon
Lingenfelter Mitchell Atkinson
Johnson Upshall Kowalsky
Calvert Bradley Trew
Renaud Lorje Hamilton
Stanger Ward Langford
Murrell Thomson

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 4

Toth D'Autremont Draude
Heppner

**Bill No. 439 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act
(Village of Creelman)**

Nays — 21

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 439, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Creelman).

Flavel Van Mulligen MacKinnon
Mitchell Atkinson Johnson
Upshall Kowalsky Calvert
Bradley Renaud Lorje
Cline Hamilton Stanger
Jess Ward Murray
Langford Murrell Thomson

The division bells rang from 4:41 p.m. until 4:51 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 5

**Bill No. 437 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act
(Town of Craik)**

Krawetz Toth D'Autremont
Draude Heppner

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 437, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Town of Craik).

Nays — 18

The division bells rang from 4:18 p.m. until 4:28 p.m.

Flavel Van Mulligen MacKinnon
Lingenfelter Mitchell Atkinson
Johnson Upshall Calvert
Bradley Trew Renaud
Hamilton Stanger Ward
Langford Murrell Thomson

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 3

The Assembly adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

D'Autremont Draude Heppner

Nays — 20

Romanow Flavel Van Mulligen
MacKinnon Mitchell Atkinson
Johnson Upshall Kowalsky
Renaud Lorje Cline
Hamilton Stanger Jess
Ward Murray Langford
Murrell Thomson

**Bill No. 438 — The Channel Lake Indemnification Act
(Village of Craven)**

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move first reading of Bill No. 438, The Channel Lake Indemnification Act (Village of Craven).

The division bells rang from 4:30 p.m. until 4:40 p.m.

Motion negated on the following recorded division.

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