

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reach necessary agreements with other levels of governments to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan so work can begin in 1998, and to set out a time frame for the ultimate completion of the project.

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

Mr. Speaker, all the signatures from this petition . . . on this petition come from the community of Gull Lake. I so present.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present today on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders and wildlife and sportsmen organizations in the province of Saskatchewan in an immediate effort to end the destructive and dangerous practice of night hunting in the province for everyone regardless of their heritage.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the people of Porcupine Plain, Carragana, Chelan, Bjorkdale, and Melfort. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as well to present petitions. Reading the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders and wildlife and sportsmen organizations in the province of Saskatchewan in an immediate effort to end the destructive and dangerous practice of night hunting in the province for everyone, regardless of their heritage.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present is signed by individuals from the Kelvington, Naicam, Wadena, Rose Valley areas of the province. I so present.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present on behalf of concerned sportsmen in Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders and wildlife and sportsmen organizations in the province of Saskatchewan in an immediate effort to end the destructive and dangerous practice of night hunting in the province for everyone, regardless of their heritage.

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

The communities involved, Mr. Speaker, are Kelvington, Lintlaw, and Yorkton. I so present.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present petitions signed by people from around this province; people who are concerned about the severance payment to Jack Messer and asking the government to cancel them. I so present.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of people concerned about adequate funding for radiology services in Melfort. The prayer reads as follows:

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 the priorities of its board be adjusted accordingly.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Melfort, Kinistino, and Smeaton. I so present.

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders and wildlife and sportsmen's organizations in the province of Saskatchewan in an immediate effort to end the destructive and dangerous practice of night hunting in the province for everyone, regardless of their heritage.

People that have signed this petition are from Kelvington, Rose Valley, Melfort, and St. Brieux.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to present to the Assembly this afternoon as well dealing with the issue of night hunting and the destructive and dangerous practice of night hunting. It is of a concern to a great deal of people. This petition comes from the Kelvington area, and I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy 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 petitions on this . . . or the signatures on this petition are all from the community of Bethune. I so present.

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present petitions on behalf of citizens gravely concerned over 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've signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from communities of Coderre and the city of Moose Jaw. I so present.

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join my colleagues in presenting a petition on behalf of citizens concerned about the loss of the Plains Health Centre.

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 signatures are all from the good citizens of Moose Jaw. I so present.

**Mr. McPherson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward petitions from people in Saskatchewan that are concerned about the terrible condition of the highways. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately start work on rebuilding of our secondary highway system to provide for safe driving on what are becoming known as pothole roads; to enter into negotiations with SARM and SUMA for a longer-term plan of rural road restitution reflecting future need, and to provide safety for all drivers as the new trucking regulation changes safety factors on these roads.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed these petitions are from Stalwart, Imperial, and Liberty area of the province. I so present.

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just getting over the shock of hearing one of my petitions being read by the opposition. I'm happy today, Mr. Speaker, to present petitions on behalf of the people of south-west Saskatchewan. And their prayer for relief continues to be of course a plea with this

government through you to double-lane the No. 1 Highway.

I won't read the prayer today because they've heard it every day of this session. They are today though from the community of Morse, and I pay tribute to all of those that have sent these petitions in.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

Of citizens humbly praying: for agreements between governments to fund the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway; praying to save the Plains Health Centre; to work with aboriginal and Metis leaders in an effort to end the practice of night hunting; praying to cancel any severance payments to Jack Messer and to call an independent inquiry surrounding the Channel Lake fiasco; to immediately halt all investment in foreign countries by Saskatchewan Crown corporations; to have the Worker's Compensation Board Act amended to reinstate pensions for disenfranchised widows and widowers in Saskatchewan; to reallocate Highway 40 at the entrance of North Battleford; to reduce the high cost of power rates in the North; for the survival of the Carrot River Hospital; and to ensure radiology is maintained in the North Central Health District.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues in the legislature, today I would like to introduce to you members of three generations of the family of a distinguished premier of the province of Saskatchewan, the late Tommy Douglas.

Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I might ask them to rise and be recognized as I introduce them are Shirley Douglas, Tommy's daughter; Tom Douglas and Rachel Sutherland, two of Tommy's grandchildren; and Trevor Langford, Tommy's great-grandson. At the last moment, one of Shirley's . . . the other son, Keifer Sutherland, was not able to make it because of a commitment in the movie industry at Seattle. These are three generations of the family of Tommy Douglas and I would welcome them to the legislature. And I'll say a few more words with the permission of the House in a moment. Welcome to the Douglas family.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, these members of Tommy's family join us today and I want to thank all members of the Assembly — Saskatchewan Party, the Liberals, and independents — for showing the non-partisan spirit of Saskatchewan in welcoming this very distinguished family and exhibiting the class that they have in doing so today.

These members of Tommy's family join us in the spirit of generosity and public spirit that characterized T.C. himself during his many years of service to the people of this province — as premier for 17 years, a goal which some of us aspire to, as

a founding father of medicare, as a MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), and Member of Parliament, and as the first leader of the federal New Democratic Party.

The Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada honoured Tommy Douglas for these great years of duty and service to the province and the nation. Mr. Speaker, they did so with the highest honours. Tommy Douglas was invested as a companion of the Order of Canada and as a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

And a few moments from now, precisely at 3:30 p.m. when we'll be adjourning, outside this chamber, Shirley Douglas and these other family members will present to the people of Saskatchewan the medals of Tommy Douglas — the medals that accompanied these great honours and these great accomplishments. They will then be put on permanent display in the Athabasca Gallery of the legislature, accompanied by an oil sketch of Tommy, being presented by Eleanor McKinnon who was Tommy's long-time private secretary.

Mr. Speaker, I should just add that this demonstration of public spirit and kindness is nothing new or out of the ordinary for Shirley. She is truly her father's daughter. Of course I'm sure that hon. members who enjoy the movies and know theatre, will recognize her from her long, successful, and distinguished career as a national and, I would say, international actress. But Shirley Douglas also has maintained a commitment to other issues in society such as human rights and social causes which she learned from her dad, and many causes and activities ranging from Artists Against Racism, the Canadian Health Coalition, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I've already had the chance to speak with our special guests today. I know in talking to her that Shirley feels a very strong sense of home-coming. Again I say to Shirley, Tom, Rachel, and Trevor, welcome home to the province of Saskatchewan, and thank you.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Party caucus, I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the Douglas family on their return to Saskatchewan. I know Saskatchewan is a great province, and I hope that you enjoy your stay. And I ask all members to again join in welcoming them back to Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, on behalf of the Liberal caucus, the third party in the legislature, also add our words, our sincere words of welcome to the Assembly. And thank you for coming to visit with us. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one other introduction to make and that is of another former premier, very distinguished premier of long standing, Premier Allan Blakeney, accompanied by his wife, Anne Blakeney. If

they'd please stand and receive a welcome of the House, coming back to the legislature.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Al Blakeney served as premier for this province for not 17 years as Tommy did, but for 11 years. I might add that's another goal to which I aspire as well.

I want to say that it is quite an honour however on this special day for me personally, having met Tommy and gotten to know him a little bit and having worked so closely with Al Blakeney, it's a particular honour for me to be occupying the chair that people who are truly giants of this province and this country: Blakeney, Douglas, others, Thatcher, Devine, Lloyd — it is really quite a moment for me. And to see Al Blakeney so fit and well and the Douglas family commemorating Tommy Douglas is a special, special honour. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, thank you members.

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

**Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm particularly pleased on this very special day in this Assembly to welcome a group of school students who are joining us here from Massey School.

I think we must have been put on the tour. This is I think the third group from Massey this week, but it's a real pleasure. These are grade 4 students, 23 of them, and they're seated in the west gallery. If you'd join with me in welcoming them, I'd appreciate it.

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

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the other members of the Assembly, if you will recall last week we had a group of students from Schell School in Holdfast with us and they're back again today; they liked it so much last week they came back. However it's a slightly different group, Mr. Speaker.

Seated in the east gallery, we have a group of grade 7 and 8 students from Holdfast along with some teachers and chaperons and I'd ask that they stand when I recognize them. With the group today we have the teacher, Linda Folk. With them we also have Jessica Fox. We have Ron Harms with us again today. Ron was here last week as well with the group as a chaperon. We have Jim Thorson and we also have Bernie McWilliams. I'd ask you all to give them a nice warm welcome. I'm looking forward to meeting with them later.

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

**Mr. Renaud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly I would like to introduce in the west gallery 14 grade 8 students from the Arborfield School. Their teacher, Mr. Brown, and parents Mrs. Mutimer and Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Warnock are with them.

And, Mr. Speaker, Arborfield is in the north-east part of Saskatchewan and if you go in that area you will see these little huts in the alfalfa fields. And there are huts everywhere and

people wonder what they are. Well that's the centre of leafcutter bees for the province of Saskatchewan and alfalfa seed production. Right now the people of Arborfield are certainly fighting for their rail line and hopefully they will be very successful.

Please join with me in welcoming our guests from Arborfield to the Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Ward:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we get near the mid-point of this session, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the members' secretaries from our caucus office that has been helping us.

And I see Ms. Jaime McCormick and Kendra Hahn is seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. And also with them is their mentor and manager, Ms. Gail Fehr from our caucus office. So I'd like everyone to bid them welcome.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Comment on Legislative Session

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last evening turned into what can only be described as a very sad end to this legislative session. We saw the Tories resort to the lowest form of debate by screaming, yelling, and launching personal attacks. And I was just as disturbed to see the Premier goaded into this form of debate.

Actions last night were particularly strange because I recall my former colleagues from Melfort and Canora-Pelly, who talked about bringing debate in this House to a higher level. I guess this just underlines who is influencing the actions of that caucus and oh, how proud they must be.

The most troubling part of last evening was the fact that people actually witnessed what was going on and some left the galleries disgusted by what they saw and heard from their politicians. And I would not be surprised if there are political science students who are now rethinking their future careers.

As I sat here and listened it reminded me of the 1980s and how the atmosphere in this legislature was poisoned by that kind of debate. Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that some of the members who spoke last evening are willing to show their faces here today. They should be ashamed for their behaviour because they do us all a disservice.

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

### Economic Boost for Swift Current Area

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again rise to inform the House of good news for the economy of Swift Current and area, again.

Earlier today the Minister of Energy and Mines announced that the June sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights realized

17.45 million in revenue. Promising drilling results, in a relatively unexplored area near Swift Current, drove industry interest in utilizing a new type of disposition called exploration licences and thereby creating the major part of the bonus-bid revenue.

Seventeen exploration licences, all located approximately 30 kilometres south of Swift Current, were sold for 13.38 million. Another 117 standard leases sold throughout the province brought in an additional 4.07 million.

The interest in the Swift Current area not only brings immediate revenue to the province but also assures drilling in the near future. The June sale marks the first time that the new exploration licence was offered, replacing the older exploration and drilling reservation permits. The greatly simplified process allows companies to proceed more quickly to the production phase.

Mr. Speaker, this is terrific news for the Swift Current area and this great province. Thank you.

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

### Waving the White Flag

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not often that the member from Thunder Creek and I agree on any issue, but I think it's safe to say we would both like to thank the *Leader-Post* for printing today's correction on the editorial page.

Mr. Speaker, we don't want anyone confusing us with the Liberals because recently the Liberals have been showing their true colours on a daily basis. It's not red; it's white, as in waving the white flag.

A few days ago Jim Melenchuk conceded in the Saskatoon Eastview by-election. Just today the member from Shaunavon confirmed that his leader is going down to defeat. And then he conceded, in the fight to save the Plains, that that's also going down to defeat.

And then, Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, it's getting hard to keep up with all the areas where the Liberals are giving up, so in order to keep track we would like to present them with an easy-to-wave white flag. Feel free to wave it whenever you feel like giving up on another battle.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### TREEmendous Foundation Plants Millionth Tree

**Mr. Ward:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The TREEmendous Foundation has planted its millionth tree. TREEmendous is a non-profit organization which plants trees for environmental purposes. Trees are given to projects of an environmental nature across Saskatchewan.

The program began only seven years ago in Prince Albert but has expanded greatly since then. The trees are now grown in

SaskPower's Shand greenhouse in Estevan and shipped to 13 distribution points across Saskatchewan.

The millionth tree was planted in Estevan in Torgeson Park last week — this week — by the Rotary Club. There were several celebrations across the province to commemorate this tremendous environmental achievement. And the celebrations in Estevan were sponsored by SaskPower, the city of Estevan, and the Rotary Club. I would like to acknowledge the people at TREEmendous and the Shand greenhouses for their dedication to this very important cause which affects all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Liberal's Policy on Medicare**

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, all session I let the Premier know where the Liberal caucus stands on medicare. I warned the NDP (New Democratic Party) members of losing their ability to care or to listen. Mr. Speaker, I've advised this House before, and, for the benefit of all those present here today, I'll advise once more of the fact that my caucus colleagues and our leader spent last fall consulting with Saskatchewan residents and our supporters to develop policy.

And as a result, on November 23, 1997 resolutions, which originated from those consultations, were passed by the Liberal convention. One states that we:

Uphold the principles of the Canada Health Act and support a publicly funded, publicly administered, universal medicare system, and oppose those who seek to undermine it with a two-tiered health system.

Mr. Speaker, instead of wrongly implying we don't support it, NDP members should be glad Liberals solidly support medicare. After all it wasn't the Liberals that closed 53 hospitals, cut 968 acute care beds, 461 long-term care beds, laid off over 500 nurses, and leave 6,600 people to languish on waiting-lists in the province.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite should simply be glad that the Liberal opposition truly supports medicare. Thank you.

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

#### **Tisdale Student's Business Venture**

**Mr. Renaud:** — Mr. Speaker, Kelly Lupien is a grade 12 student in my home town of Tisdale. Kelly took advantage of an entrepreneurship program offered at her school. She now operates her own business with the help of the youth internship program. Kelly's business — Ancient Secrets Mehndi Art By Kelly — is a result of her involvement in an entrepreneur class in high school. Kelly went ahead with the final phase of the class and developed a business plan. Kelly's research indicates that a tattoo parlour would have a potential in north-eastern Saskatchewan. So with the help of the youth internship program, Kelly started her own business. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish good luck to Kelly in her new venture.

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

#### **Saskatchewan Party Apology**

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been asked by the NDP caucus to apologize to the NDP for referring to the NDPs as reds. Frankly, I'm surprised anyone took offence at this comment. On many occasions I've heard the NDP refer to themselves, and the area around Yorkton, as red square. Well, we know, Mr. Speaker, it's not red square anymore, it's now green square represented by the Saskatchewan Party.

But I've heard the New Democrats use this term many time themselves and that's why I'm surprised anyone took offence at this comment. But if I've offended anyone over there, I apologize.

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

#### **Records Set by Young Hafford Athlete**

**Mr. Jess:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't long ago that I stood in this House and told the Assembly of the athletic talents of a young man by the name of Scott Linnell from Hafford. Today, I'm going to tell you about his sister, Tracy.

Tracy Linnell is a grade 10 student from Hafford Central School. On June 6 and 7, Tracy went, as part of her school's team, to the provincial track and field competitions in Prince Albert. Tracy must have springs in her legs because her jump of 11.3 metres not only set new records and earned her a gold medal in the junior girls' category, but it also beat any jump made by girls competing in the senior category.

I know Tracy's parents, Howard and Mary Linnell, are proud of the athletic accomplishments of Tracy. And I would like to congratulate her and wish her well in the future. We expect to hear more great things from all three family members, as there are in fact three athletes in the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just would like to take a moment to recognize the achievement of one of the reserves in my constituency. On July 5-9, the Cowessess first nations will be hosting the Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games. Every one in this Assembly knows what it takes — the effort, the work, the voluntarism that is needed to host such an event.

And I would like to extend my congratulations to Chief Terrance Pelletier and the Cowesses first nation for their worthwhile efforts and wish them well as they host the Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games in July. Thank you.

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

#### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Record of Government**

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, I see in today's paper where the

Premier is going to be “studying the entrails” of this session. That’s an interesting choice of words. I agree there’s been a few ministers who’ve been bloodied and beaten on the floor this session and the rest of the NDP back-benchers are circling the carcasses like jackals, waiting for the cabinet shuffle.

Mr. Premier, this session has been an absolute disaster for the NDP. You have no plan to deal with it. No plan for health care, no plan for lower taxes, no plan for highways, no plan for agriculture, and no plan for fixing the Crowns. That’s the NDP record, that’s the NDP way, but it’s not the Saskatchewan way.

Mr. Premier, why have you completely lost touch with the Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member opposite says that we have lost our way. I think he is the one who is lost.

In this session we introduced our fifth-in-a-row balanced budget, something which the Conservatives didn’t achieve at all. In this session we introduced a tax cut of 2 per cent on personal income tax compared to 1.5 in Alberta and on the heels of the 2 per cent cut in PST (provincial sales tax) last year. In this session we spent \$1.72 billion in health care — a 5 per cent increase in health care — back-filling every penny that the federal government has taken away from health care.

In this session we’ve increased spending for highways by 13 per cent. In this session we introduced the National Child Benefit plan and the “building independence . . . ” program which speaks to the issue of poverty and kids in poverty and working families, which is a trail-blazing program . . . which is the first national social program in Canada in over 30 years.

Lost our way? I don’t think so. You people have lost your way. You lost your way when you, in the dead of the night, left your party, stabbed your leader in the back, and formed this little collection called Saskatchewan Party when you’re really the old Tory Party.

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

### Health Care System

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier says he’s very proud of his record. And let’s just take a look at that record starting with health care: 52 rural hospitals closed; the Plains hospital closed; bed closures; doctors leaving; nursing shortages; record waiting-lists; patients suffering; families suffering. That’s the NDP record, Mr. Speaker, that’s the NDP way. And it’s not the Saskatchewan way.

Mr. Premier, what are you doing to address the total chaos in your health system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, the only chaos that exists is in the Saskatchewan Party. And when he says that I’m proud of our record, I am indeed proud of our record. Because

one thing I do not have to do, Mr. Speaker, is defend a record of the Conservative Party in Saskatchewan. I do not have to defend a \$15 billion debt that those people ran up to the people in the province of Saskatchewan. I do not have to defend tax increases. I do not have to defend a variety of deals that these people made in the dead of night with any entrepreneur that came in with an envelope and said, here’s the deal. And these boys were suckered in to signing the deal.

No, I don’t have that record to defend. The record that I have to defend is more people working in the province of Saskatchewan today than ever in our history; the highest budget for health care than ever in our history; people returning back to the province of Saskatchewan after 60,000 left under the Conservatives.

That is our record. I’ll stand on our record any day. And I’d bet you the people of Eastview support our record over yours any day too.

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

### Performance of Crown Corporations

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Premier, let’s look at your NDP record in Crown corporations: NST, 16 million gone; Guyana, 2 million gone; Channel Lake, 5 million gone; Jack Messer, 300,000 gone; SaskPower rates way up; SaskEnergy rates way up; SaskTel rates way up; SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) rates way up.

Ministers are not being held accountable in any measure at all. Patronage, mismanagement, and incompetence — that’s the NDP record. That’s the NDP way. It’s not the Saskatchewan way.

Mr. Premier, what are you going to do to fix the family of Crown corporations?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — I’m going to tell the hon. member from the Saskatchewan Tory Party what we’re not going to do.

We’re not going to privatize the Crown corporations as you people are going to do. We’re not going to privatize them as your leader, Elwin Hermanson, says — that if the people of the province of Saskatchewan, in his words, had 10 minutes to think about it, they would privatize the Crown corporations and give away our heritage. That is not what we’re going to do. I’ll tell you instead what we are going to do . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Now I had no difficulty being able to hear the question being put, and I’m having much difficulty being able to hear the response being put because of the constant commentary by some of the members of the opposition benches. Now I ask for the cooperation of the whole House to enable the answer to be heard.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I’m afraid that they’re afraid of hearing the truth, these great democrats — these accountable, open people who want to listen. I’ll tell you that’s what I’m not going to do, but I’ll tell you what I am going to continue doing.

I'm going to continue to provide the services and the cost and the rates for the people of the province of Saskatchewan on our Crown corporations at the lowest level in this country in — the lowest in this country in the province of Saskatchewan.

I'm going to continue to look at divesting ourselves from the investments that you entered into. You talk about some of the losses which were recorded. Why didn't you get up and give us credit for the over \$100 million profit that we made on By-Provincial, one of your other schemes that you got into. That's what we're not going to do.

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

### Drought Assistance

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, in case you haven't noticed, Saskatchewan is smack dab in the middle of a drought. And now we hear today the federal Liberal Agriculture minister saying from Ottawa that he will not provide one red cent in drought assistance to Saskatchewan farmers. Nothing. Not a dime; zipo for Saskatchewan farmers. And it would appear that the NDP is planning on matching their funding directly.

Mr. Premier, you've attacked farmers and farm families. You ripped up GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) contracts. You're gouging cattle ranchers. Mr. Premier, that's the NDP record, that's the NDP way; that isn't the Saskatchewan way. Mr. Premier, when are you going to stop attacking farmers and cattle ranchers in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the problem that we have in Saskatchewan is that we're the only people in this House that can do anything about it. We've got a federal apologist Liberal Party. We've got a Tory Party with no connections in Ottawa so all they can do is sit here and chirp.

But I'll tell what we're doing. We started planning several years and now we have a crop insurance program that is 33 per cent cheaper than it was two years ago. We have put money into the NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account) program and there's \$1.2 billion in it — three times the maximum drought payment in 1988.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we're going to do is, if this doesn't cover the problem in Saskatchewan, we then have to go and grab the federal — and we're talking to them already — the federal government saying, what more can we do.

I thank him for his question but I think you'd better get off your . . . get up on your hind feet and start talking to Ottawa instead of chirping in the wilderness.

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

### Maintenance of Highways

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. But first I must commend the Premier, Mr. Speaker, he reminds me of the Eveready Bunny this session: he takes a lickin' and he just keeps on tickin'.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, Saskatchewan highways are falling apart. A 10-pound chunk of road being hurled through the window of an oncoming car, potholes that outnumber the gophers, highways magically transformed into cattle trails; even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has passed judgement on Saskatchewan highways — they're terrible.

Mr. Premier, the NDP has absolutely failed the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to building and maintaining safe roads. Mr. Premier, that's the NDP record and that's the NDP way. It's not the Saskatchewan way.

Mr. Premier, how many more people have to get maimed or killed on Saskatchewan roads before your government finally starts to do something about it?

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

**Hon. Ms. Bradley:** — Mr. Speaker, we have a 10-year plan that we have put forward — as of last year, \$2.5 billion into highway spending — in which we've been increasing the budget last year and this year.

But what was the plan of the opposition across there? They had a 10-year plan. Their 10-year plan was running deficits, as I said yesterday, in which we're spending \$2 million a day — which is the biggest pothole that we have to fix as a government.

**An Hon. Member:** — That's not the Saskatchewan way.

**Hon. Ms. Bradley:** — That isn't the Saskatchewan way. The Saskatchewan way, as I said, we're putting more money in, we are working with the communities, we are working through area transportation planning, and we're meeting the challenges today and into the future.

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

### Tax Rates and Out-Migration

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, financial planners across the country are flocking to Saskatchewan to promote their newest idea for avoiding high taxes, and it's called: move to Alberta income expansion plan. And it's taking Saskatchewan by storm.

Mr. Premier, since the NDP took office in 19 . . . (inaudible) . . . what have we seen? Income taxes, through the roof. Sales tax, up. Capital taxes, up. Surtaxes, up. Property taxes, soaring.

Mr. Premier, your government has added more than a billion in new taxes in just seven short years, the largest tax increase in the history of Saskatchewan. Mr. Premier, that's the NDP way and that's the NDP record, but it's the Saskatchewan way.

Mr. Premier, what are you going to do to dig this province out from the mountain of taxes you've put us under?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, the reason that we're collecting more taxes in this province today is because we have more economic activity in this province today than we had under those people over there. And I want to contrast the

rhetoric of that member, Mr. Speaker, with the facts.

Fact: our population is growing.

Fact: we've seen five straight years of economic growth, we've made significant progress in terms of economic diversification.

Fact: there are more people working in Saskatchewan today than ever before in the history of our province, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly more people than were working under their administration when 15,000 people per year, Mr. Speaker, were leaving the province — 15,000 people every year. We've created a positive environment here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And it's been recognized by the people, it's recognized by the investment dealers, it's recognized by the credit rating agencies which have improved our credit rating back to the straight A's. A long way from where they were under their administration, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Hospital Bed Closures

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health stated recently that reducing the number of acute care beds in Regina below the current 675 would be inappropriate. In spite of that, 79 more beds will be closed during the summer months.

In Saskatoon there'll be no more bookings for elective surgery this summer, and the Saskatoon Health Board confirmed today that 70 hospital beds will be closed down in that city for the summer.

Mr. Premier, hospitals in our two biggest centres are in the grip of a bed crisis already. How can you allow these summertime bed closures to occur?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, the member full-well knows that summertime bed closures have been going on for years, not only in the province of Saskatchewan but in every province across Canada, occasioned by a number of reasons.

If they're elective surgery, which is what you're talking about, people have vacation plans, the medical people have vacation plans, and the hospital administrators take that into account. So please don't try to put the elective category and the tradition into some sort of a crisis, which it is not.

I remind the hon. member opposite of two facts. No. 1, according to *Maclean's* magazine, Saskatchewan has more beds per capita than any other province in Canada. And no. 2, we have achieved this and all of our successes in health care in spite of the fact that you and your Liberals have cut \$7 billion from health care across the piece in Canada, to your shame . . . and to your attack on national medicare.

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

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, a total of 149 beds will be shut down in Regina and Saskatoon this summer. There'll also be a

slowdown in a number of the surgeries performed. But the Liberal opposition has now learned that the Moose Jaw Union Hospital will be shutting down all — and I repeat, all — of its operating rooms for a 10-day period this summer from August 7 to August 15.

Mr. Premier, nurses at the Union Hospital in Moose Jaw are expressing concerns about the timing of this closure because patients are generally transferred to Regina or Saskatoon if an operation can't be performed in Moose Jaw.

Mr. Premier, if no surgeries will be performed in Moose Jaw over this 10-day period and there's a huge reduction in our major centres at the same time, where are patients supposed to go?

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health it is my understanding that during that 10-day period in the Moose Jaw hospital, major renovations are taking place to improve regional care facilities in this province, Mr. Speaker. I can't believe the member from Thunder Creek would get up and oppose that major renovation.

Mr. Speaker, while I have my place today, there's been a great deal of debate during this session and I want to share with members of this House an assessment of health care reform in Saskatchewan which I received from a man who we recently honoured in this House, Dr. Orville Hjertaas — one of the true pioneers of medicare in our province.

Some time ago Dr. Hjertaas wrote to me and he said the following, quote:

The dream of an affordable, efficient, compassionate, consumer-driven medicare plan is more real today than it was in 1962. Millie and I sincerely hope that in the trials and struggles of your term, you will find the strength and the wisdom to steer a course in keeping with our dreams.

Mr. Speaker, that's what this government is doing, steering a course in keeping with the dreams of people like Tommy Douglas and Orville Hjertaas.

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

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister missed the point. Where are the people supposed to go when they require their renovations, when they require the surgeries? That's the point.

The Liberal opposition has revealed that more than 6,600 people occupy waiting-lists in this province. And the people requiring surgery in Saskatoon are waiting more than a year for an operation. That, coupled with the operating room slow-downs in Regina and Saskatoon and the summertime closure of 149 beds, is nothing more than a recipe for disaster.

Mr. Premier, what action will you be taking to ensure services are not reduced in Regina and Saskatoon during this period that operating rooms are closed in Moose Jaw?

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



**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence in the medical staff and the administration of the Moose Jaw-Thunder Creek District Health Board as I have confidence in the medical staffs of our health boards across the province. Obviously the shut-down time for renovation will be accounted for, Mr. Speaker. That will not be a concern.

But again, Mr. Speaker, while I have my feet. Given the history of this day and what we will do later this afternoon, I thought it might be interesting to share with the House another quote today, quote:

The Liberal Party had better be warned right now that they have never been able to bribe the people of Saskatchewan in the past and they are certainly not going to be able to intimidate them in the future.

Now listen to this, Mr. Speaker, “Ottawa’s arrogant attitude and bad manners have done more to weaken the bonds of Confederation than anything else that has happened in the last quarter of a century.” The author of that quote, the Hon. T.C. Douglas, 1952. Nothing changes, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Canadian Union of Public Employees’ Hospital Workers

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, how do people get operations in Moose Jaw? Mr. Speaker, yesterday 130 health care workers in northern Saskatchewan walked off the job. The Liberal opposition has learned that 12,000 health care workers who belong to CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) are preparing for a strike vote on June 24.

Mr. Premier, what contingency plan are you working on in the event thousands of health care workers go on strike?

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, this government — every member of it — is a firm believer in the collective bargaining process. That’s what’s happening, Mr. Speaker. It’s the collective bargaining process with CUPE and SAHO (Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations) in the North, and CUPE across . . . SGEU (Saskatchewan Government Employees’ Union) and SAHO in the North and CUPE across the province, Mr. Speaker. If I may say, neither of the opposition parties support collective bargaining and we’re well aware of that.

Contingency, Mr. Speaker. The member speaks of contingency, which speaks of the future. I want to assure that member, yesterday in this House, Mr. Speaker, during the debate in this House a line was drawn — a clear line for the people of Saskatchewan. On that side of the line those who believe in privatized medicine — it was clearly drawn yesterday, Mr. Speaker — on this side of the House those who stand firm for the principles of medicare.

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

**Mr. Aldridge:** — Mr. Speaker, this government refuses to admit that our health care system is in chaos. We have a bed crisis. We have more than 6,000 people on waiting-lists. We

witnessed 130 health care workers walk off the job in northern Saskatchewan yesterday; another 12,000 may strike in the near future. Mr. Premier, if this doesn’t fit your definition of a health care system in crisis what does? What steps are you going to take in the coming months to repair the damage that you’ve done to our health system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — The member asks me to give him my definition of what is in crisis. The Liberal Party of Canada and Saskatchewan is my definition of something in crisis. It is in crisis because nationally the federal government, I say to its shame, has withdrawn from a commitment to national medicare. Rather than 50 cent dollars to medicare, which was the case in 1967-68 . . . that’s how medicare got started nationally after we in this province funded it 100 per cent for five, six years. Today’s share is 13 cents and going down . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Just listen, 13 cents and going down — 13 cents and going . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Now I will ask for the cooperation of the members of the House to provide the answer to be heard uninterrupted.

#### Drought Assistance

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier.

Mr. Premier, as you know, yesterday in the House we raised the concern of farm families with regard to the impending drought here in Saskatchewan. We asked the Minister of Agriculture a very straightforward question that if your government would respond if this drought persists, by recalling the legislature later this summer if necessary.

Mr. Premier, if this province-wide drought does persist, will you support farm families, ranch families, by recalling the legislature to deal with what will be a crisis in agriculture in this province that a drought will cause.

**Hon. Mr. Upshall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I answered this question yesterday and I appreciate his concern. This doesn’t get solved by calling a fall session of the legislature unfortunately, as the obvious lack of planning capabilities of that party suggests.

This is solved by having a good crop insurance program that we do have, that is 33 per cent cheaper than it was two years ago. This is solved by having NISA contributions up to \$1.2 billion that gives the farmers an additional service of funds available to them.

What we have said and what we are doing . . . I’ve written a letter to the federal people two months ago. We continue to talk to them through their bureaucracy. We’re meeting in July at the federal-provincial meeting and I have given notice that that will be top on the priority list if it hasn’t rained by then.

Mr. Member, I think your problem is that you’ve got no one to talk to. We’re going to carry the ball on this side and I don’t

think anything that you do would help that.

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

### Employment Supplement Program

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My one question that remains in the time today will be for the Minister of Social Services.

Let me begin by congratulating the department on the professional manner in which the personnel at the call centre are responding to inquiries, especially those regarding the Saskatchewan employment supplement.

This is however an issue that I think deserves clarification, given the number of calls that I've had to my office, Mr. Minister. According to the minister, Mr. Speaker, the employment supplement is designed to be friendly and time-sensitive. But there are concerns about the definition of employment income with regards to maternity and paternity benefits.

Now understandably one does not want to encourage people to be unemployed by providing a supplement, but people on maternity leave, Mr. Minister, will return to work in five or six months.

My question this afternoon to the minister is: will you explain please, sir, why Employment Insurance benefits such as maternity and paternity benefits are regarded as regular EI (Employment Insurance) benefits, therefore penalizing many needy new moms and dads.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for her timely question. And I'm not sure I can give her a full and complete answer, but I commit that I will further look into this matter and get her and all members a complete answer on this.

The employment supplement program is intended to supplement earned income or income from other sources, maintenance support primarily, to ensure that no one should fall into the welfare trap, and to ensure that everyone who is in welfare and making some effort to get over the welfare wall will be assisted to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I will provide for that member and all members a clear description of any income that may be coming in through EI, and I thank her for raising it.

Just again while I have the floor, Mr. Speaker, I want to report to the House that the numbers of phone calls being received by our call centre for the employment supplement program and for information on the Child Benefit have reached record numbers. We're taking more than 900, 1,000, 1,100 calls a day, Mr. Speaker. This program is well suited to the needs and homes of Saskatchewan people.

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

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Mr. Speaker, I seek leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are deeply honoured today to be joined by some distinguished visitors from Germany, some parliamentarians from the Länder or states.

I think before introducing them I just want to say very briefly, Mr. Speaker, that we share many ties with Germany. I think the most important of them are the large number of German settlers which came to Saskatchewan, who brought with them a very rich culture and a particular talent in engineering and industry. And I think all members will want to join with me.

I'm going to ask the members to stand as I call their names. This is a little dangerous because they may not recognize their names when I pronounce them. I'll ask them to listen closely.

Mr. Klaus Leroff, head of the delegation from the state of Saxonia; Mr. Karl August Geimer from the state of Rhineland; Ms. Rite Henke from the state of Saxonia; Mr. Volker Hoff from the state of Hessen; Mr. Joerg Jaeger from the state of Bremen; Mr. Bernard Nitschmann from the state of Brandenburg; Mr. Dirk Pinnow from the state of Saxonia; Mr. Hans Richter from the state of Saxonia.

Ms. Dorothee Stapelfeld from the state of Hamburg; Mr. Heinz Van Schewick from the state of North-Rhine Westfalia; Mr. Hubert Vogt from the state of Berlin; Mr. Juergen Weber from the Schleswig-Holstein; Ms. Cornelia Wiedemeyer from the state of Bremen; Ms. Christina Zitzmann from the state of Thuringia, this is one of the new states from the east; and finally, the Canadian coordinator, Mr. Adriaan De Hoog, the Canadian coordinator.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these distinguished visitors.

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

**Hon. Ms. Bradley:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

**Hon. Ms. Bradley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, some friends and constituents of mine that are seated in your gallery, from Weyburn, that are here for the celebration that we have today.

Seated in your gallery is Doug and Mayvis Goranson, Helen Davidson, Al and Betty Yeaman, and I also just want to extend a warm welcome also to the Douglas family. Being the MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy is truly an honour to follow in the footsteps of such a fine person as Tommy Douglas.

I want to also just say very quickly, as one of our major road projects this year, is a road to Avonlea that we're spending millions of dollars in upgrading. I join a very warm welcome to my friends from Weyburn.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Leave to introduce a guest please?

Leave granted.

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a friend, a staunch supporter of the great party in Saskatchewan, a farmer from Aneroid, a compassionate, caring, individual and a former well-respected MLA. Members of the House, I'd like you to give a warm welcome to Allan Oliver.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to also recognize the German delegation.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Party caucus I too would like to welcome the German delegation here to the Legislative Assembly and to the city of Regina and to the province of Saskatchewan.

I know that there's a function planned this evening, which I will be attending and we'll have hopefully the opportunity to share comments with one another. I also noted that one gentleman there had indicated he was from Eston, and my colleague is also from Eston so we'll have to have some . . .

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was proud last fall to be part of the delegation that . . .

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted to the hon. member from Arm River as well?

Leave granted.

**Mr. McLane:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have leave to introduce . . . As part of the delegation from Canada, I went to Germany last fall. I too would like to welcome the delegation here and look forward to talking to them tonight.

The exchange that we had last fall in Germany, I truly agree that . . . I'm not sure whether there's as many faces there that we met, Mr. Speaker. It's been a little while, but I look forward to meeting and talking with you this evening.

So welcome to Saskatchewan, welcome to Canada, and welcome to the legislature.

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

(1430)

**The Speaker:** — Leave to the hon. member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Leave granted.

**Ms. Lorje:** — Mr. Speaker, and thank you for anticipating what I was going to be asking. I would like to join with my colleague

across the way and obviously also with the Speaker in welcoming our special guests from Germany. I too was privileged to be part of the Partnership of Parliament, a Partnership of Parliament delegation to Germany last year and I would like to say, Damen und Herrn, willkommen an Regina.

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

**The Chair:** — Is leave also granted to the hon. member for Humboldt?

Leave granted.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add to the welcome that has been extended from all members of the Assembly to you, our guests from Germany.

And I am wanting to say that I am very privileged and honoured that you will be coming into the Humboldt constituency. And I will have the privilege of accompanying you on the bus out to Humboldt. And the visit to the farm that you will be undertaking is a visit to the farm that my husband and I and our partners own. And we are looking very forward to having you. So welcome.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

##### General Revenue Fund Executive Council Vote 10

**The Chair:** — I would ask the Premier to reintroduce his officials please, in case we have new people watching.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, I have my deputy minister, Dr. Greg Marchildon, Bonita Heidt, Jim Nicol, and my chief of staff Judy Samuelson.

#### Subvote (EX01)

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Premier, and to your officials, welcome. Mr. Chairman, this is our first chance to address the Premier, and since he's only going to be here a short time, what I plan on doing is making a statement for the Premier to think about rather than to ask him numerous questions.

Mr. Chairman, prior to the beginning of the legislative session the Liberal opposition did some old-fashioned politics. We didn't do any focus group testing or any big polling. What we did was go out and talk to the people of Saskatchewan. We asked them about their biggest concern — what were their biggest concerns; were they happy with the direction that this province was going.

Mr. Chairman, what the people of Saskatchewan told us was they were fearful. They were fearful that health care was headed

in the wrong direction. Saskatchewan is the cradle of medicare in this country. What the people of this province feared was that it was also becoming medicare's grave.

Having travelled all over this country, the one thing that makes me proud to be from Saskatchewan, Mr. Chairman, is that in this province, people really do care for one another. When generations before us broke virgin grass on the prairies, and sowed the seeds of future prosperity, they also sowed the seeds of our compassion.

Just as our parents and our grandparents depended on this land for their survival, they depended on their neighbour, they depended on one another. When you needed help you knew you could depend on your neighbour. When an accident occurred on the farm, you knew your neighbour would help you get to the doctor or bring the doctor to you. If you didn't have enough horses to do the ploughing or finish harvest, you knew you could rely on your neighbour to help you in that effort.

That is the history of Saskatchewan — compassion and cooperation. That's the Saskatchewan way. Sadly, as the century turns to a close, we see those basic tenets, the underlying beliefs of our province, eroding — not in the hearts of the people, but the corridors of government power. Almost 20 years of combined Conservative and NDP rule it seems the people are losing faith that governments still care about them.

However, we in the Liberal opposition wanted to let the people of Saskatchewan know that one party has not broken faith with them. That is why, when the spring session began, the Liberal opposition explained that its goal was to be the voice of the people and address their number one concern — health care.

And this session is ending exactly the way it started — with the Liberal opposition assuming its role as defender of health care and demonstrating how this NDP government has abandoned its health care principles. From day one we raised health care concerns of people from right across Saskatchewan and we have been rewarded with their confidence and support for this very important fight.

When the NDP started this process it calls health reform, cracks developed in our health care system. But those cracks have now become gaping holes.

Mr. Chairman, the Liberal opposition began this session by joining forces with the Save the Plains Committee and announcing a series of public meetings across southern Saskatchewan. From this campaign we saw the best and the worst that politics had to offer.

Thousands of people attended these meetings and thousands more sent us letters of support. The first phase of this campaign may have come to a close but we will continue to fight to keep that hospital open.

Unfortunately during that time, the NDP demonstrated that it will not stand for anyone questioning its authority. Darlene Sterling, who co-chaired the Save the Plains effort, suffered an attack like I have never witnessed. It demonstrated to what depths governments can sink.

The need to save the Plains has been underlined by the bed crisis which is gripping Saskatchewan. It has been all too often that people requiring care have been turned away, and in a province which is supposed to be the home of medicare, that is a pity. Accessibility, Mr. Chairman, has also been a major concern which has been registered by the people of Saskatchewan, of rural Saskatchewan.

But the member from Regina South suggests that they have to be dumb not to find the General Hospital. Once they've found it, however, where do they park?

And let's not forget this project to consolidate services in Regina is already \$25 million over budget — \$25 million over budget — and this process isn't even close to completion. What is the final price tag going to be?

If anything, we have proved that the decision to close the Plains does not make sense in health care or in financial terms.

But what have the New Democrat MLAs from Regina and southern Saskatchewan had to say about the pending closure of the Plains? Absolutely nothing. The member from Regina South campaigned in the last election to keep the Plains open, but what do we hear from him? Nothing. Perhaps this member has been dealt the same treatment as the member from Estevan, who suggested that once he had an opinion on the Plains, but had it brainwashed out of him.

But what about the rest of the NDP members? Why do they refuse to speak out on behalf of those that they are supposed to represent? And I say suppose, because they're certainly not speaking out on behalf of their constituents.

Mr. Chairman, the present government has a much different philosophy about health care than previous NDP governments. When waiting-lists approached the 2,000 mark under former Premier Allan Blakeney, the minister of Health was called on the carpet and given an alternative. He was told to get the waiting-list down to an acceptable level or a new minister would be found.

Today more than 6,600 people occupy waiting-lists in the province. However this doesn't seem to concern the Premier. People are waiting more than one year for surgery in this province, but that does not seem to concern the Premier.

Just this week we raised the fact that cancer patients in Saskatoon are being forced to wait an unacceptable length of time for treatment and surgery. And of course this situation threatens to get even worse because two of six oncologists at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre are retiring.

The Premier suggests that patients be booted out of hospital even faster than they already are. We saw the consequences of this ill-thought-out plan when an 81-year-old Regina woman was forced out of hospital only four days after surgery to remove blood clots from her leg. Only hours after being released from hospital she suffered a stroke and sadly, only days ago she passed away. Of course the only remedy for the current bed crisis is the injection of new beds into the system.

The Minister of Health announced a year ago that a study would

be done to determine the effects of bed closures under the first phase of health care reform. But before this study has even been completed, the NDP have launched into a new round of cuts in the Living Sky and Battlefords Health Districts.

It makes you wonder what happened to a promise made by the minister that any further cuts would in his words — in his words, Mr. Chairman — be inappropriate. What responsible government begins a round of bed closures before it has completed a study on the effects of the first round of cuts.

Mr. Chairman, finances are obviously at the crux of this problem. As we pointed out this week, 10 health districts are anticipating deficits this fiscal year, and that can only mean one thing, and it's frightening — even more cuts may be in store. Of course this government seems more concerned with finding scapegoats than they are in addressing the real issue here.

When we provided this House with proof that a Yorkton man died because no critical care bed was available for him in Regina, how did the NDP respond? Well the government didn't admit that perhaps they may have gone too far. This government didn't acknowledge that perhaps there is a bed crisis. Instead the NDP lashed out at a physician and suggested that he should be subjected to an investigation. But that, Mr. Chairman, seems to be par for the course where this NDP government is concerned.

And how do the NDP plan on addressing the fact that 675 acute care beds in Regina is not enough? They plan on cutting another 79 beds for the summer months, which will undoubtedly drive the current bed crisis to a new level.

Two-tier medicine may also have been the enemy of past NDP governments, but not this one. The present government is allowing two-tier medicine to enter this province as never before — not by design but through neglect. Because the present level of health care simply does not address health care concerns of many people, we hear on a daily basis how residents of this province are taking their health care needs outside of this province to other provinces, to other countries. Those who can afford to simply aren't willing to put their health at risk.

(1445)

But what about those who cannot afford to seek out-of-province care? How is it fair that they are left to make do with a substandard level of health care; some of them waiting for surgery, becoming addicted to Demerol, morphine, codeine to ease their pain and their suffering.

Mr. Chairman, the facts do indeed speak for themselves, and Saskatchewan people are looking to this government for answers and not excuses. They are tired of excuses. They are tired of the Premier pointing his finger at other places. They are tired of this government lashing out at those who dare to question them.

Mr. Chairman, the Premier stands in this House and arrogantly winds his finger at those who dare question his government. His government stands in the House and trumpets the findings of a recent *Maclean's* survey. A glossy magazine is little solace

when you have cancer and you're waiting for an operation because there are too few cancer specialists. A glossy magazine is little comfort when a spouse or parent dies because there were no beds.

They wave articles in the air when they support the government. But anyone, anyone dare print anything that questions the Premier or his administration, he cries foul. He questions the integrity of the reporters, insinuating that the reporters have their stories dictated to them by Conrad Black. Maybe in the Premier's world he tells everyone else what to say, but the rest of us don't operate in such a world, Mr. Chairman.

You're a leader, Mr. Premier, so why don't you lead. Stop blaming everyone else for your problems. You're the one who has to make the choices for your government. You're willing to accept praise when things are going well, but when things are going bad you blame others.

What we hear the Premier telling us from time to time — when people are in trouble — is sorry for the wait to see a cancer specialist, sir, but did you see the great story about my government in *Maclean's* magazine?

It's going to be 20 extra minutes driving time to get you to the General instead of the Plains hospital, so while you're in the ambulance, we have a copy of *Maclean's* for you telling you how the NDP is bringing health care closer to home.

That's your way of dealing with the wait. Give the people a copy of *Maclean's* to read. Waiting for a cancer specialist? Here, read *Maclean's*. Waiting to ride to the hospital in an ambulance? Here, read *Maclean's* magazine.

The only reason Saskatchewan may have more hospital beds is because your government is including Howard Johnson Hotel rooms.

Mr. Chairman, let's hope that the Premier is now prepared to provide the people of Saskatchewan with some answers. Because while medicare may have been born in this province, it certainly will die here if left in the hands of the NDP government.

Mr. Premier, do you not care any more? You used to be a man of compassion — a young lawyer who was willing to fight the system. You were a young lawyer eager to go to Regina and change the system. Well, it's not the system that's changed, Mr. Premier, it's you who has changed.

If I can just read briefly some excerpts from *Hansard*, August 22, 1991, Mr. Chairman, and the Premier may recall and may recognize these comments.

And finally, what about the health-care system. Much can be said about this, and much will be in the days ahead as I bring my remarks to a close — a health-care system that we see today where doctors and nurses and other care-givers are worried about intolerable working conditions, and difficulties of stress which manifest themselves today with the nurses coming to this Legislative Building to protest what's happening.

What in the world's gone wrong with medicare and health care — 197 beds, 197 people, 113 beds in Saskatoon, about 200 in Moose Jaw, Yorkton, and Regina, I think in round terms, closed down. What in the world has gone wrong?

And I find myself standing here and asking the same questions on this side of the House that the member in the House asked in 1991. I quote, continue to quote:

I mean, but what in the world has caused all of this bed closures, and professionals leaving, and communities on the edge? I'll tell you what's caused it. What's caused it is a government that has more interest in the well-being of Cargill than in the well-being of Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon or City Hospital in Saskatoon.

Well, we could change Cargill for Guyana and for New Zealand. But everything still fits, nothing has changed. I carry on just to quote a few more words:

Where in the world were these people, where in the world was the Minister of Health when he was making these planning decisions? Where in the world was this government?

I do not understand how this can happen except for a government that either doesn't care about the sanctity of the health care system, or a government which doesn't understand the importance of health care and the tradition of this province.

Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker (and I'm still quoting), I don't believe the people of this province have ever, ever trusted Conservatives. I won't say all Conservatives. They will have never trusted this Conservative government with health care. Putting this government in charge of the health care system in Saskatchewan's a bit like putting Colonel Sanders in charge of the chicken coop. It's downright dangerous to the health of medicare . . . downright dangerous.

And I find myself standing here virtually repeating and wanting to say the very same things that the Premier said when he was in opposition. Mr. Chairman, what has changed? Where has that compassion and the feeling for the people of Saskatchewan gone?

Mr. Chairman, instead of promising HBO (Home Box Office) to everyone in New Zealand, why not fix the roads of the people who paid for your schooling, Mr. Premier? Instead of doing power deals with an unstable South American country, why not lower the taxes for those that subsidize your government's boondoggles.

You jet around the country promoting the Saskatchewan miracle. Well your miracle came with a price. It's the suffering of the people in the North because their roads or schools are third-world quality at best. Is that something to go around bragging about?

Do you brag to other premiers that you have children in this province living in conditions of poverty that would even shock

the late Mother Teresa? Do you brag about the extremely high suicide rates of first nations youth? Do you brag about the low high school completion rate? Do you brag about your government's inaction to combat substance abuse in the North? Do you brag that you and your Deputy Premier are elected representatives in two of Canada's highest crime-ridden ridings? Are you happy with those accomplishments, sir?

Are you happy that you've said take it or leave it to the innocent victims of hepatitis C? Are you proud that your government was able to reward your former provincial campaign manager with a fat, taxpayer-funded severance of almost \$300,000? Mr. Premier, it sounds like you have a lot to be happy about.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Premier if he has in fact lost his moral *compos*. I'd ask a question but it will just be turned around and blamed on others. I'd ask for reasons, but I'd get excuses. And I know if I ask for compassion I'll get silence.

So I'll simply say to the Premier, you used to care. You used to care a lot. Why have you stopped caring? The words that I spoke were that of a caring, young lawyer who came to this legislature to make a difference, to change things. Why has that changed? I don't understand that.

And I don't expect that you may find it necessary to stand up and give us a political response, but I would really like you to think about what I've stated, what I've raised and answer the people with actions rather than words. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Premier, you know that actions speak a lot louder than words. The people will be watching and will be hoping.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to get into a lengthy dissertation or rebuttal to the Leader of the Third Party, but I think it deserves some brief response and I'll try to be very, very brief on this.

First of all, the question about Plains hospital has been well debated in this legislature and I will give credit to the Liberal Party for having raised the issue and the profile of that. And the Saskatchewan Party as well.

I will simply repeat our position that at the end of the day there will be no bed loss. There will be 250,000 more square feet added to the overall system and an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), the best of technology. And the people of Regina and southern Saskatchewan can expect, I think, even better health care than they have now.

*Maclean's* comes up frequently in your comments. I refer to *Maclean's* because in a political forum such as this we're all guilty of it to some extent. I refer to *Maclean's* because I'm trying to point to an objective source which would be some evidence that we might neutrally agree upon.

I know one thing, that if the *Maclean's* magazine report said that we did not have in Saskatchewan the highest per bed capita count of any province . . . I know if *Maclean's* had said we were third or fourth, you'd use it against us. You'd say there it is, proven by *Maclean's*.

So all I'm trying to do is to say with respect to *Maclean's*, look that is an indication of what outside observers say. May I make one point about my favourite other people, other than politicians, and that is some of the journalists — not the journalists but the Conrad Black press. I'll tell you why I say it.

You know what that *Maclean's* story that we referred to has? The headline in the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix*. You saw it, front page, the headline is, "It's your health". Big, bold type. And then down below is the subtitle, "People in Saskatchewan more sick than elsewhere." Then if you read the story, it's a very simple answer to that. We have more beds in Saskatchewan than any other province in Canada and therefore they're used more often and therefore the conclusion is we're more sick.

Logically one could argue — I don't — perhaps no beds, no sickness which would be a ludicrous position to adopt. Now don't tell me . . . I shouldn't say this in any aggressive sense. No one can tell me that that isn't Conrad Black fighting the government of the NDP with that kind of a headline, just like Tommy Douglas was fought tooth and nail by the Sifton press. That's the reason I refer to Conrad Black and not the journalists, who I think are trying to do their job well.

Last point I want to make, and I'll take my place, is the question about compassion. I don't believe there's anybody in this room who does not have compassion. I do not accuse that of you; I do not accuse that of the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party or anybody. We're all compassionate. It's one of the characteristics of Saskatchewan people. You can accuse me of not having any compassion, that's your judgement call. But I believe we're all compassionate.

But I want to make this one point as I take my chair in response to your comments. The system in health care is changing and has changed and will continue to change. In 1962 — this is not a harangue — when medicare was introduced, thousands of good Saskatchewan people came forward to fight medicare because they felt that it was the beginning of the end of a system that they knew, they admired, and they wanted to preserve and they wanted to protect. Thus, Keep Our Doctors because they said the doctors would flee.

Today the parallel is we are changing medicare in the light of technology, new science. The bed usage is being downed everywhere just by virtue of the fact that you can get in and get out of hospital, not on dollars, but through technology. We're changing it into wellness and prevention and other circumstances. And we're ahead of the provinces in doing so, and *Maclean's* notes that we're leading the other provinces. It is changing and again history repeats itself.

Some of the same voices come out and say, you know you're destroying the system that I know and I'm familiar with, just like they did in 1962. And I guarantee you that the changes that we've implemented, if we were out of government today at 5 o'clock, you wouldn't undo, the Saskatchewan Party wouldn't undo. You simply wouldn't undo it because it is the direction to go.

(1500)

Have we made mistakes. Yes, we've made mistakes. Will we

make mistakes in this complex matrix of reorganizing health care in the future? Yes. That's inevitable too.

But is it fundamentally in its structures compared to other provinces as good if not the best health care system in Saskatchewan. Here's where you and I disagree. I say, I'll point to *Maclean's*. If you want to take the glossy and throw it out, the picture, I'll point to academics in the health area, Michael Rachlis and others who have written saying this is the model to follow.

The system has changed. All I can say to you people, if you want to protect the principles of medicare as the member from Thunder Creek said in his member's statement today, we welcome the support of that. Well, tell us where it should be improved, where we could refine it, where we could finesse it.

But don't be back like they were in 1962 saying no change, no change, no change. Because that's a prescription for eventually no medicare, no medicare, no medicare, no medicare.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, I'd like to ask a number of questions today if I might in the area of education. We had a chance to begin discussions yesterday on a general sense regarding the position in the province of Saskatchewan, and I'd like to begin with the kindergarten to grade 12 system, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Premier, last fall in the month of November, your cabinet was presented with a document, and I know that you were part of the group that received that document. A document from the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials, and the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents.

In that document, Mr. Premier, all the players in the field of education — the four groups that I've just identified to you, Mr. Premier — indicated to your government that there was a need to seriously address education as a whole in the province of Saskatchewan.

Your government has stated, your government has stated many a time that education is a priority; that you believe that we have a quality education system, and that . . . I think one of your quotations from a few years ago, Mr. Premier, stated that we simply must find the money for education.

Mr. Premier, the gist of that document was to present the position on behalf of not only those educators, but the students and the parents who are sending their children to schools in Saskatchewan. You're very well aware that the traditional 60/40 split as is referred to of the funding of education where 60 per cent of funding traditionally has been from government and 40 per cent has been from the local taxpayer. We haven't quite been at that level back when it was really called the 60/40.

But what has happened over the last 10 to 15 years, Mr. Premier, is that that formula has changed and reversed itself where today in fact the statistics that I have been told that are

coming from the Minister of Education are that it is 40/60; that indeed government is funding only 40 per cent and the local taxpayers having to pick up 60.

Mr. Premier, in that document groups . . . those stakeholders in education were lobbying you and cabinet to address this serious problem. Not only for the fact that we need to ensure that quality education is delivered in schools, that we need to have the supplies, the materials, the teachers, the staff that's necessary to deliver quality education.

Because what we see happening, Mr. Premier — and these are statistics that I'm sure your departmental officials have shown you when you received that document — since 1991, if we look at the grant allotment to school divisions in 1991, if we just took that as a base and we look at what happened since 1991, the cumulative loss to school divisions in the province of Saskatchewan is over \$300 million. That's what has been taken or downloaded from school divisions.

Now what is the result, Mr. Premier? You know that taxation has changed. We have now mill rates increasing to pick up that difference.

So what the group was doing, Mr. Premier, is they were lobbying the Minister of Education, yourself, the entire cabinet to look at the entire funding of education, and to say what is the plan of this government to reverse that funding. To look at how we can begin to change a 60/40 formula that has now become 40/60, or for that matter maybe even 38/62 this year, where only 38 per cent comes from government. There is that responsibility of the province to be able to assume a greater amount of funding.

So, Mr. Premier, I wonder what happened with that document. I know that the groups at that time felt that the reception that they had from your cabinet, from yourself, was very, very positive, and indeed they were looking forward to a plan. A plan that may not have begun with this year's budget, but a plan that would begin shortly to address the concerns of educators, to address the concerns of students in schools to ensure that there is sufficient monies there, but most importantly to address the concerns of taxpayers to be able to change that formula around.

To my knowledge nothing has happened and your government has not put forward a plan. Mr. Premier, I'm wondering if your government has a plan in place to attempt to reverse the 40/60 formula to a traditional 60/40.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, the answer to the member is as follows. We want to raise the provincial share of funding approximating to 60 per cent. We think the submissions made carry a lot of weight. And that is where our direction is heading.

We have made albeit very modest steps in this budget. Budget operating expense is up by 5.2; foundation operating grant is up by 5.7; foundation operation grants and grants in lieu increased by 6.2; capital budget is up by 43 per cent. So there is a modest step only.

And what we told the folks then is what I will tell the member opposite. We take that paper and we are going to try to

implement it, as finances permit, as quickly as we can.

I will simply close by saying, not in an argumentative sense but in a reality sense, this is a lot of money, and as the members will know by my estimates, they stand in competition on highways, they stand in competition for more money to health care. You name the various competing demands.

And so what we're trying to do is to move education, which is a priority, up to a greater level of provincial funding. And what's happened to that document is it is being actively worked on by officials right now and put into the planning mill for the budget coming up and the successive budgets.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, I know you've stated in this House that to reverse the funding procedure would take, I believe millions — tens of millions of dollars. And you've indicated that in questions that I asked of the Minister of Education that you fielded during the session.

But I guess what trustees and what school boards are looking for is a plan of action, a plan of actions from your government to say, while we realize that we are in competition for the dollar, for the tax dollar, we want to see whether or not there's a plan in place by your government to move us in that direction. And while you say your officials are studying it, I commend you for that and indicate that that is important.

But what taxpayers and what school boards are looking for is that there has to be a commitment from your government that says yes, we are going to move in that direction. While we cannot find \$90 million to reverse that immediately and end up in a 60/40 split, but we're going to begin that process.

Mr. Minister, you did make . . . or Mr. Premier, I'm sorry, you did make comments about the changes to the funding of the K to 12 system this year. And while we see that there has been larger amount of monies allocated to the school boards, we also are very aware that this year, a tremendous amount of increase in terms of school division costs. And while there was a hope that indeed school divisions would have to have . . . would have a catch-up and would be able to rely on the so-called new monies, in fact the reality is there isn't any new money because all of the new monies have been eaten up by all of the new expenses.

So we're looking in a situation where school boards again have been forced to increase mill rates at a time when your government, your Minister of Education, has indicated that school division funding has become a priority again of this government and the amounts of increase.

How do you tell school boards that, no, you're still going to have to continue to foot the largest portion of the bill in a year that you're saying is a very positive year for your government. It's one that school divisions can't quite understand how they are left holding that entire increase of costs and not getting the help that your government is supposed to be assisting with.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Well our answer has to be the answer which is the truth, and that is that our increase is there but it does not cover the costs. I admit that. And as for a plan of



action, I have indicated to the SSTA (Saskatchewan School Trustees Association) in public speeches and in private meetings that our objective is to reach the 60 per cent as the funding is available. You can't detail it much more than that.

When we sit down to prepare a budget for example in November, December of this year and January of 1999, we'll have to take a look to see what the economy looks like. The members on your side are raising issues about whether or not the agricultural economy is going to hold up, the forest fire situation, and the like. You can't write out a five-year plan.

All you can say to the stakeholders of the people in education is this is our objective. And that is our objective. I've said it to them in speeches publicly, I've said it in the meetings, I've used the document as a base of demonstrating it, and I'm repeating it here in this House.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, another very significant change in delivery of K to 12 education occurred last fall when after the Minister of Education attempted to have a negotiated provincial contact involving all of the partners in education, she deemed that the agreement drawn up between herself and the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association that had been in place for a number of years that she indicated would work because she would make it work, was, for lack of better words, deemed expendable. And with one stroke of the pen the protocol agreement was cancelled.

My question is short and simple. Mr. Premier, were you supportive of the cancellation of the protocol agreement, and how do you think that that type of cancellation has affected your relationship personally with the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and your relationship collectively with that body.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, the decision taken by the minister was taken by the cabinet and the government and supported by the caucus. So obviously I'm a part of that decision.

The next aspect of the question is why was it done. It was because we were basically at an impasse, an impasse in the negotiations. And under the circumstances of four-four — four teachers, four trustees and the fifth person, nobody could break the impasse. We felt we had to act in order to break the impasse. And it was broken, and I think in a way which is positive.

How are our relationships? From my point of view they're still good. We're working, we're talking, we're dealing with them. I think that's the way they feel as well. They didn't like it, I know that. And they've told us, and you've repeated it.

But that is the reason why we did it, and that's why I as the government and the caucus supported it.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Premier, the point that I want to make here on behalf of I think taxpayers in this province is very clear. Taxpayers in this province are paying, well obviously 100 per cent of the cost of education. Because either they're paying it at the local level or they're paying it through other grants that the

province then funds by conditional grants. Sixty per cent on average is paid by the local taxpayer.

And the protocol agreement is just a little different than you alluded to. The combination of the nine people is a group of people that deal with the negotiations before they actually are at the table with the teachers' federation. The group of nine, as was referred to, is four government people, four trustees, and one ninth member who acted as a mediator, who acted as a person who could take that committee to a negotiation table and carry out the mandate.

Now the Minister of Education — I know you've heard her, Mr. Premier — said it was impossible to reach a mandate. That mandate was not impossible to reach with the teachers' federation; that mandate was impossible to reach within that committee, a committee of four and four. And she's indicated in this House that they had . . . I believe she's used the number, nine meetings; they could not arrive at a mandate to take to the teachers' federation.

(1515)

It wasn't as if there was a problem negotiating the contract with the teachers, because they hadn't even got to the table yet, Mr. Premier. They were talking about a meeting between the members of the team, the nine members who were trying to develop a mandate. She's indicated that there was a reason . . . that that was the reason to cancel it.

Now, Mr. Premier, I think you know full well that collective bargaining obviously is the correct way to achieve an agreement, but what we are talking about here is the failure within government committee to decide on a mandate. What has occurred, Mr. Premier, is now the government's majority rules on the committee. And as a result, we have five people who have decided, on behalf of the committee of nine, that this is the position that will be taken.

**The Chair:** — Order, order. My apologies. Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Wall:** — With leave to introduce guests please.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I would like to introduce to the rest of Legislative Assembly 51 students from Swift Current, from Oman School, one of the nicest schools in Swift Current; beautiful surroundings. And I know that they're going to enjoy their visit here. I'm glad that they were able to come here while the House was still in session.

The teachers are Dallas Kolb, Sherri Andrjewski, and Patti Gatzke. They are accompanied by chaperons Garry Ritchie, Wendy McConnell, Ila Wilms, Fernand Alie, Lorie Dyck, and Amy Donnelly. I'm sure that they will enjoy their stay in Regina and I'll look forward to meeting them afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

**General Revenue Fund  
Executive Council  
Vote 10**

**Subvote (EX01)**

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, my question is, after the introductory remarks that I made regarding that question, is one that indicates how do the trustees feel that they are going to be represented in a situation where you have removed them not from being a majority player, but from being an equal player with four of your government-appointed members to try to arrive at a mandate, at a plan to take forward in negotiations. You have changed that, and now the trustees are in a situation where they didn't sign the last collective agreement.

I think we have a very serious problem on our hands. We have a damaged relationship and it's because the Minister of Education said, I'll make this deal work, but now since it's run into some difficulties, I'm going to cancel it, and as result, we'll just go ahead and do what we want.

I think we have a problem and I'd ask you to comment on that.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Well we have a problem, but I don't think it's an insurmountable problem, and it's a problem occasioned by the fact that there was an impasse. We cannot have an impasse, unless you want to have a strike or some other industrial action. If you want to try to have the solutions worked out, then this was the only option available.

It's a problem, but is it insurmountable? The answer is no. We are going to talk to the SSTA about ways of developing an effective relationship for bargaining for the future. Maybe interest based bargaining is something we need to explore — I don't know.

But there are a variety of models which can be worked at, and I think with goodwill on both sides, we can find an appropriate model to repair any damage which may have been occasioned by this decision which, I repeat again, was done by virtue of the fact that there was an impasse.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Premier, one final question. Do you believe that everything was done that was possible by the committee members before a recommendation was made to your cabinet, that your cabinet supported, to cancel the protocol agreement?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, I say to the Leader of the Opposition, I supported the protocol agreement. Actually when the idea first floated by, maybe you did, as president of SSTA. And it was a radical departure from the way things proceeded. I supported it. I thought it had a lot of merit.

It ran into a big stumbling roadblock this time around. I don't blame anybody except that it did.

And you ask me, am I satisfied everything was attempted to try to achieve the agreement under the protocol. The answer was

yes. But the government was being absolutely pressured by two sides of which we could find no middle ground.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Premier, I understand that our time remaining here this afternoon, prior to the recess, is fairly short. And I also understand that you may be unavailable for further questioning after 5 o'clock and that's fine if you have prior commitments. We wanted to just touch on a couple of very, very important concerns in agriculture before we wind up the questioning in this particular section.

Mr. Premier, as you know that there is a number of concerns that agriculture producers have in Saskatchewan today, not the least of which deal with things like grain transportation, grain marketing, the condition of our highways, many, many things like that; certainly the frost and whether the re-seeding benefits are adequate to deal with all of those concerns in the production cycle that we have entered into.

However, probably the most immediate concern for farm families and ranchers across this province is the persistent drought that we are likely facing this summer.

Mr. Premier, the federal Agriculture minister I understand . . . Vanclief has said just recently, perhaps as recently as this morning, that there will not be any disaster assistance for farmers in Saskatchewan or anywhere else for that matter, unfortunately, and we are . . . and I'm sure you are too very concerned about that situation.

Mr. Premier, this is a very dire situation for farm families across this province. We find ourselves in a circumstance where many farm families don't feel that the safety nets in place currently are going to be adequate at all. Crop insurance, NISA, all of those types of programs that are still remaining. We have, generally speaking, unilaterally disarmed ourselves in an international trade war.

Many, many concerns, but the immediate concern that we want to ask you, Mr. Premier, is if this drought continues to persist in Saskatchewan . . . We will know in a very, very short period of time. I don't think we're talking months or waiting until harvest is complete. I think we are talking days, weeks, and we'll have a pretty good idea what's going to happen. If the crop in many areas isn't out of the ground by this time of the year it's very unlikely that you're going to see much yield potential from any crop this year.

If the drought persists, Mr. Premier, and we see no help from the federal government forthcoming, will you call an emergency session of the legislature later this summer to deal with what will be a unparalleled crisis in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Chairman, I have to support what the Minister of Agriculture said in question period. I do not believe that an emergency session of the legislature, apart from providing for a talking forum that's beneficial enough, really provides any on-the-ground relief to the farming community.

And for sure, I will tell you one thing: I would not in any bargaining or negotiations with the federal government at all give away any card or chip that I might have which says that if this does take place that the federal government has a major,

major obligation here with respect to disaster relief. And to indicate a positive question to your . . . answer to your question, for any other reason, let alone just that, I would not do today.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Premier, at a time when farm families are asking for your help, asking for this legislature to debate the question that this drought persists at a time when farm families will be in their most difficult period of time, what we can offer to them is the opportunity to have this legislature reconvene to have a unanimous, unanimous resolution go forward to the federal government calling on them for an immediate drought assistance program — that is something that is concrete, that is something that at least that we can offer farm families in Saskatchewan all across this province today.

This will be the same type of disaster on the magnitude of 1988, the drought of that year. It'll be on the same kind of magnitude as the ice storms in Quebec. It'll be in the same type of magnitude of the disastrous floods in southern Manitoba.

Mr. Premier, surely, surely you believe that this is something that would call for immediate action, and surely the least we can do to support farm families is recall the legislature, pass the unanimous motion calling on the federal government to do something to help in terms of a disaster-relief program. At the very least, at the very least we have an obligation or a responsibility to provide farm families with that level of support.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Well I have a slightly different perspective on this from the member opposite. Our duty is to provide action for the farmers who might be so affected by the drought situation. That's what we're working on right now. I don't deny the impact or import of a resolution. If all else fails and if a resolution is given added weight, that's something I could consider.

But for the moment what our game plan is, which I think you would endorse, and I hope you would, is to make sure that we have a situation where the federal government knows fully — now, as it does now — that we are looking to it to provide the disaster assistance in case that crop insurance, NISA, and other support programs don't work, or in the case that the situation is as bad as it might be in the next couple weeks or three weeks.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Well I'm sure, Mr. Premier, and Mr. Chair, that the farm families of this province will be obviously disappointed in that answer.

At a time of need, at a time of crisis, at a time when farm families are down, what does your government offer them? Absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing for the farm families of this province. Not even the simple gesture — not even the simple gesture — of recalling the legislature to try and help.

What role do you have in this, Mr. Premier? Your good old friend Jean Chrétien was out here the other day. You had opportunity to raise this issue and many other issues for farm families. You never said a thing, never said a thing with respect to this, Mr. Premier, never offered any hope whatsoever. That's something that your government, the people of this province, the farm families of this province, have learned to expect from you and your government with respect to agriculture —

nothing.

Nothing from the federal government in terms of support, nothing from the provincial government in terms of support. I'm sure the farm families of this province will realize that and remember that for a long, long period of time, sir. Absolutely not a thing.

At a time of need, at a time of unquestionable need, at the very least what we could do is stand before the people of this province and say we are going to be here to support you. What do you say? You say no. We will not do even that most basic simple thing for the farm families.

If you're not going to offer up some help in terms of concrete programs, at least . . . the very least you can offer up is some support in terms of words and support in terms of commitment, in terms of promise to the farm families, in terms of hope for the farm families across this province.

No. What do we have? The Agriculture minister standing up and saying, I hope our programs will be adequate. You standing up and saying, I hope our programs will be adequate. And at a time when farmers know that they are inadequate, that's what we have to offer from the Premier of Saskatchewan, absolutely nothing. What a disappointment.

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, the disappointment is the member from Kindersley and the Saskatchewan Party. What is his solution? Words. He wants in the legislature to politic with family farms. He pretends that he's pretending to protect the family farmers.

He doesn't want that. He wants to get in here and he wants to get his words. That's all he wants. Words to politic, words to try to associate us with the federal government, try to indicate a political action and political statement, but nothing by way of concrete support to the farmers of Saskatchewan.

This is the same member who talked about the rail-line abandonment problem. And the rail-line abandonment problem — he didn't even have the courage to attend and support the farmers when they're out there on the rail branch-line operation. Wasn't even there. Hasn't shown his face. Was not even there.

Not only is he not there, he was part of the gall-darn government back in 1982 to 1991 which set up a series of programs which absolutely drove the farmers of Saskatchewan over the brink.

This Conservative Party is the same old bankrupt Conservative Party which has absolutely no ideas whatsoever for the farmers of Saskatchewan except convene the session and call for words. Shameful. You have nothing. You have no new ideas. You've learned nothing and you are nothing. That's why you're called the Saskatchewan Party so-called. But you really are the same old bankrupt Tories who want to bankrupt farm families in farm communities.

It's a shameful display on your part. A political display on your part which ought not to have been permitted in this House except for the freedom of speech, something which I think the farmers of Saskatchewan will know, definitely will know.

That's your solution.

We're fighting for programs to aid and you're fighting for speeches in this legislature — a shameful embarrassment display.

Mr. Speaker, I move the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The committee reported progress.

(1530)

## MOTIONS

### House Recess

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave:

That the Assembly recess until 5 o'clock to attend the tea.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to.

**The Speaker:** — And I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrange that the bell will ring at 4:55 to summons members to return to House activities at 5 o'clock. This House now stands recessed until 5 p.m.

The Assembly recessed until 5 p.m.

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### General Revenue Fund Executive Council Vote 10

#### Subvote (EX01)

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Deputy Premier, the officials once again.

Where we left off before the break this afternoon was a discussion about agriculture, a discussion about a view that many farm families are very, very concerned about the despair and the concern that there is in agriculture circles right now.

As you know, Mr. Deputy Premier, agriculture is facing some very, very large challenges. We have a potential for an international trade war looming; we have farm families very concerned about that; I know your administration's concerned about that. The federal government claims to be concerned about that; we've seen very little in terms of any concrete action with respect to it, but they are ultimately — at least they say they are concerned about it — we have seen very little to put that kind of concern into action.

There is concern certainly across Saskatchewan with respect to the fact that we've had significant numbers of acres of farm land that's requiring re-seeding. Many of the areas that we have been in contact with and talked to farmers across this province

are saying that the re-seeding benefits from the crop insurance program are woefully inadequate to deal with a very, very serious situation.

Many farmers are telling us that the problem is compounded by the fact that they're re-seeding into powder-dry conditions, ultimately with the hope that there is going to be a harvest for them. We don't see that at this point. There's large tracts of land all across Saskatchewan that the seed hasn't germinated properly.

And what seed has germinated properly in many, many areas has been impacted extremely severely by a widespread frost all across Saskatchewan. There's virtually no area of the province that's been untouched by either drought, frost, grasshoppers, all kinds of concerns in agriculture.

So, Mr. Deputy Premier, it is, we believe, incumbent upon this administration to act. As to act . . . To determine first of all what can be done on behalf of agriculture producers, what can be done to help this situation. Because as we know, if agriculture's impacted, the entire province is impacted.

We are seeing lay-offs in a number of the equipment manufacturers in Saskatchewan. Flexi-coil has gone through a lay-off. Bourgault has gone through a lay-off. Leon has gone through a lay-off. Numerous companies associated with the equipment manufacturers' association here in Saskatchewan has resulted in lay-offs. We see a tremendous concern developing across Saskatchewan with respect to this, Mr. Deputy Premier.

That is why we feel it incumbent upon this administration to act. That's why we feel it incumbent upon this administration to make some decisions. That's why we feel it's incumbent upon this administration to represent Saskatchewan's interests at the federal table. That is why we feel it's incumbent upon this administration to do what they can to support the farm families and ranch families across this province.

There's an immediate need in terms of pasture land, there's an immediate need in terms of reseeded benefits, there's an immediate need in terms of a disaster plan. All of those things seem to be elusive at this point for farm families.

We've had concern come into our office from all across Saskatchewan that in a time of need, at a time of need, there seems to be no action from this administration. No action whatsoever. And they're very, very concerned about what is going to happen in their situation.

And they are disturbed to say the least; disturbed to say the least, that the response from the administration here in Saskatchewan is a do-nothing attitude. The response that they are receiving from the federal Minister of Agriculture and the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Goodale, here in Saskatchewan is again a do-nothing attitude.

Saskatchewan . . . when we consider a disaster in Saskatchewan, we consider agriculture as a potential for a disaster year after year after year. But drought is the most . . . drought is to a farm family or a ranch family possibly the most helpless feeling that you can experience. And you being a farm boy from the Shaunavon area, you would know very well how

farmers and ranchers feel under those conditions.

It is the most helpless, helpless feeling that you can possibly have as a farmer — to watch your crop deteriorate or watch your crop not even come out of the ground because there isn't sufficient moisture.

Every spring, every spring here in Saskatchewan, farmers embark upon the largest megaproject in Canada. The largest investment into the economy in Canada is registered right here in Saskatchewan. The input costs that we see today are tremendous. Farm families know that \$50 an acre isn't even anything in terms of the kind of production costs, direct cash production costs that we would see in agriculture today.

When you register up all of the costs we're in the \$150 an acre range and that's a modest, a modest cropping cost. You can get into 3 and 4 and \$500 an acre types of things. I've talked to farm producers in my area that are growing things like kabuli beans that are talking 350, \$400 cash costs — cash costs. And their crop after spending 350 or \$400 in cash costs up front is not even out of the ground today.

And they're saying to themselves, where is this administration? Where is this administration when we need the most? Where is the assistance? Where is the hope? Where is the concern from an administration that seems completely of the view that the federal government and the farm safety net programs are there and they're going to have to deal with it the best they can?

Well, Mr. Deputy Premier, it isn't good enough. That's why, that's why farmers and ranchers all across this province are saying to us as an opposition, what is the administration thinking? What are they prepared to do? Are they even willing to discuss the issue let alone put forward any concrete plan? That's what they're saying to us as an opposition. That's what they're saying to, I'm sure, to you as a farm boy from Shaunavon. You know what it's like under the circumstances. You know what it was like in 1988; you know what it was like in the years previous to that in your area of the province when there was drought impacting so severely on the farm operations.

You know what that was like; the farm families know what it was like. The farm families are experiencing exactly the same kind of concern and despair that they faced in years gone by when we've had droughts of a similar magnitude. That's why we have called on you to at least, the very least we can do, is reconvene this legislature, reconvene the legislature so we can at least unanimously agree as a legislative body that there is a need, there is some measure of hope that we can give these farm families that the government of Saskatchewan is not going to leave them out high and dry.

We don't see that from you at this point though, we don't see you at this point. The Minister of Agriculture is saying, let's wait until after harvest to assess what we have to do. Well I would say to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chair, and Mr. Deputy Premier, that it isn't going to take till harvest time. It isn't going to take much more than a couple more weeks to know how bad a situation we have.

The crop that's in the ground today, if it isn't germinated and isn't up by now, it isn't going to amount to anything. Any

agriculture representative, anybody that knows anything about agriculture, any farmer will tell you on June — what are we at today — June . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — 11th.

**Mr. Boyd:** — At June 11 if the crop isn't out of the ground, the yield potential drops off absolutely dramatically. If you look at the University of Saskatchewan, the soil scientists in University of Saskatchewan will tell you that every day that goes by after May 15, yield potential drops off day by day by day.

And what are you prepared to do about it? What are you prepared to do about it? That's what the farm families are saying.

Can we at least not make an agreement between yourselves as government, the official opposition, and we had hoped that the Liberals would join in for a call for an all-party resolution going to Ottawa saying that we have to do something to help.

After all, a disaster of this magnitude is no different than a disaster in Quebec, when it comes to a disaster of the ice storms that they experienced there in that region. Canadians all over, people all over Canada were prepared to respond under those circumstances. Canada responded. Saskatchewan responded. Western Canada responded. Individuals all over this country responded to the call and the need when there was that need in Quebec.

When there was a similar need in Manitoba, when the flooding was taking place in Manitoba, there was a need. People from all over Canada responded. People from all over this province responded, and the government responded. The government responded by putting forward help, both in terms of cash and resources, to help the impending disaster, the very real disaster that there was in Manitoba at that particular time.

If we can respond in other areas of the country to disaster, we should at the very least be able to respond to our own people, to our own people. We have to respond. We can't sit back idly and say it's somebody else's responsibility. Every back-bench MLA sitting over there that represents any farm families in this province knows in their heart of hearts if we want to sit back and leave people hanging out on their own, we've got a huge disaster on our hands.

Mr. Deputy Premier, what we are asking you, and your administration here this afternoon is, will you respond? Will you respect . . . will you stand up for the farm families of this province, reconvene the legislature sometime this summer when we can assess what kind of drought problem we really have in Saskatchewan? Will you do that for the farm families?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — I want to thank the member opposite for expressing his concern about agriculture in Saskatchewan because of course that is a big piece of our economy. And I know the member from Kindersley is involved in farming, and as I understand it, has a seed cleaning plant and sells seed so he's well aware of the problems that are associated with not being able to deliver a crop to the elevator. Obviously

we are as concerned as he is about problems in that area of the province where the rain has not fallen.

Having said that, I want to make it clear to him that at every level, both at the political level and staff level, from our government to the federal government, there are discussions going on; the amount of rainfall is being monitored; areas of our concern are being looked at very carefully. But I think one thing is clear: that farmers in conjunction and in partnership with the government, both at the provincial level and at the federal level, have taken steps to protect themselves. That is fundamentally different than where we were at in previous decades when drought came.

Let me say as well that it is still early in the year and we are very hopeful, as I know the members opposite are, that the rains will fall and the crops will rebound and that we will have an average or above average crop. That's our hope, and I know that other members of the Assembly wish that as well.

(1715)

But what is different is the fact that farmers along with the partnership of provincial and federal government have accumulated over a billion in the NISA fund, a billion dollars. Now we believe that this is a crucial part of the formula for those times when you hit difficult spots like we are in today or may be in by the time that harvest comes.

And what is in place today in changes that have been made to the NISA program — and I'll send this across to the member opposite — but I just want to quote from the briefing document that says: a major complaint of the NISA had been that producers can't make withdrawals during the year in which the shortfall occurs. That they had to wait and prove that there was a shortfall.

As a result of that, if a producer has a declining income during a particular year, that individual cannot obtain the funds in order to complete the tasks and the duties of the crop year. In order to allow NISA withdrawals in a period when an income shortfall occurs, interim withdrawals will be implemented this year. This is a major change and announcement that will start and has started June 1 this year.

So I want to say to the members opposite that when your farmers come to you and say, is there money available, because of planning, and I give credit to the federal government and the provincial government for this, we are now able as farmers to go and make withdrawals from our fund.

This is an important issue whereby members of the farming community will now be able to withdraw a hundred million or two hundred million starting today to be able to complete the task of spraying, to complete the task of harvest and collection of the grains when harvest comes, or to back-fill if crop insurance isn't enough to cover off the expense and living expenses they have.

Now a billion dollars, even in today's terms, is a lot of money. That's a lot more than we had in programs, the ad hoc programs in the 1980s.

And so I say to members opposite, I believe fundamentally that the needs of farm families are crucially important. I couldn't agree more with you. But we are in a much better position as a society today than we were in the 1980s or the 1930s for sure, when the drought came and we were up against the wall.

Farmers, by planning their economic future, have put money into NISA; it's been matched by other taxpayers through the federal and provincial government. That fund is now, I understand the Minister of Agriculture says, for the province of Saskatchewan about \$1.2 billion in this fund that they can now go to and withdraw it. That's a huge change from where we were at in previous years.

So I say to the member opposite, make sure that you get the information, and when farmers phone in about what to do about the problem, that you're able to explain changes to NISA that will, I think, go a long way.

Now I want to say as well that we are working with the federal government on the issue of the cattle and cattle problems, and you know what the issue is of not having enough grass in order to feed your cattle. We're working on changes and nuances within the crop insurance program which will allow green feed and changes that will be helpful to farmers in that area as well.

So any suggestions the members opposite have in a positive, constructive way, we can do that, receive them today. Or if the House winds up in the next day or two, or tonight, we would be very interested in phone calls or letters that would be helpful in a constructive way.

**Mr. Boyd:** — We are offering you solutions. We are offering farm families across this province a voice, and that's what the Saskatchewan Party has been on their behalf, to register their concerns with you. You don't seem to understand that — that farm families want more from your administration than just saying that we'll look at it and that NISA is going to take care of all their needs.

Many farm families view NISA as a . . . almost similar to a company-sponsored pension plan — similar to that is what a lot of farmers view it as — as an opportunity to put a little bit of money away in a nest egg. That when they retire they can turn over their farming operation to a son or daughter, a different type of a retirement savings type of plan for a farming operation. That's what many of them view NISA as, and not as a disaster program; not as something that they can rely on.

The rules have been adjusted in the last little while under the pressure of the Saskatchewan Party and we realize that that will help alleviate some concern. But there are many producers across Saskatchewan that don't have virtually anything in NISA to speak of. There may be collectively a billion and a half dollars. Take that down to an average farm family and what does that give you here in Saskatchewan? It's not a whole lot when it comes right down to it, Mr. Deputy Premier.

The Saskatchewan Party believes that when the Prime Minister was in town here the last few days, the Premier of this province had opportunity to raise these issues with him. He should have been and the Minister of Agriculture should have been hammering home on behalf of farm families — the concern that

there is in farm circles about what's going to happen to the income levels of the farm community here in Saskatchewan, and ultimately what will happen to the future of this province if we see the kind of significant impact that a major, major drought will have on the economy of Saskatchewan.

The disappointment is there. The despair is there. The worry is there. And now at the end of this session, at the end of this session all that this government has to offer them is the Premier of Saskatchewan standing up and berating the farmers of this province, the ranchers of this province, saying to them that they're going to have to do with what's there.

That's what you're saying to the farm families. There is nothing from the federal administration, it would appear apparent, and you people are going to match them dollar for dollar. Nothing from them, nothing from you. The farm families across this province understand that now.

I think it's clear that this administration doesn't even want to reconvene if the drought situation is such that there should be a resolution from this Assembly to the federal government. You are not going to respond. Unfortunately for the farm families of this province, they're going to just have to do for themselves, fend for themselves.

Well there is one party — one party and only one party in this province that will stand up for farm families. The Saskatchewan Party will be there. We will be there all of the time. We will be there to voice the concerns of the farm families of this province.

And I say to you, Mr. Deputy Premier, and to the Premier of this province, the disgust has been registered; the disappointment has been registered; the concern has been registered; the worry has been registered all throughout Saskatchewan from farm families to your administration.

The swan song, the swan song of this legislative session from the Premier of Saskatchewan has been a trumpet . . . to trumpet the days gone by, to trumpet the days gone by. To talk about previous administrations, to talk about the federal government, to talk about anything but hope for the farm families across this province. No hope; no chance; nothing from this administration. That's what the dying days of this Assembly has resulted in for the farm families.

And I say to you on behalf of farmers all across Saskatchewan that at the end of the day, when all is said and done, the despair has been registered, the disappointment has been registered, and they will register to you their vote. And it won't be for this administration, it'll be for the Saskatchewan Party. The Saskatchewan Party, the one that stands up for their interests, the Saskatchewan Party that will speak out for Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers all across Saskatchewan. That will be how this session is remembered.

A Premier standing up and berating the farm families, the Saskatchewan Party standing up for them in the next election campaign, and you people and your administration — the NDP administration — in all its glory and splendour, getting thrashed in the next election campaign.

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

Subvote (EX01) agreed to.

Subvotes (EX02), (EX07), (EX04), (EX03), (EX08) agreed to.

Subvote (EX05) — nil vote.

Subvote (EX06) — Statutory.

Vote 10 agreed to.

### **General Revenue Fund Chief Electoral Officer Vote 34**

Subvote (CE01) — Statutory.

### **Motions for Supply**

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make the following motion:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1998, the sum of \$114,491,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a second motion:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses for the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1999, the sum of \$3,205,476,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

The committee reported progress.

(1730)

### **FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS**

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

Motion agreed to and the resolutions read a first and second time.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly, I move:

That Bill No. 64, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Years ending respectively on March 31, 1998 and on March 31, 1999, be now introduced and read for the first time.

Leave granted.

Motion agreed to and the Bill read a first time.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly and under rule 55(2) I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill read a second and third time and passed under its title.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### Bill No. 25 — The Pipelines Act, 1998

**The Chair:** — I would ask the minister to introduce his officials please.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bruce Wilson, the executive director of petroleum and natural gas division. Right behind me is Myron Sereda, and Myron is the director of engineering services branch. And to his right is Gerald Tegart, the Crown solicitor with the Department of Justice.

#### Clause 1

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that it is probably appropriate that the most onerous Bill that this legislature has seen this session would be the last one to be dealt with here, and that it has stayed on the order paper this long.

The questions that I will ask of the minister, Mr. Chairman, of course will deal along the lines of why it is so onerous and why it should be not put into effect, although I suspect at the end of the day that the government will out-vote us. Perhaps if we present our case properly, people in the future will see the need to correct the things that are done wrong.

As folks will note, Mr. Chairman, this government follows along the lines of a truly socialist government as is shown in this Bill, because what they fundamentally believe in is that the state owns and controls all of the property of the province. Whereas of course in North America we have all lived by the standard that property should fall into the hands of individuals and that property rights should be honoured and respected.

We've always recognized that for the public good, governments do need to have the right to put facilities for the public good onto private property, or through private property, whichever term you prefer. This Bill goes far beyond that though.

This Bill provides the opportunity for private entrepreneurs to make profit by the use of expropriatory powers. And that goes too far. Because it was never intended that in a free society we should allow that to happen.

The second onerous part of this Bill is the fact that it fails to deal with the fundamental problems that we are having with pollution within our society and within our countryside. We haven't got a handle on dealing with the broken pipelines that spill out the pollutants, we don't have a handle on the way that

installations are put into place. We've made it far too easy.

I have an example, Mr. Deputy Chair, that I want to offer to the minister, an example of what his powers amount to. These are tremendous powers. Because a few weeks back we dealt with the Energy and Mines department, and we dealt with it in committee. And I delivered to the minister a message from a farmer who had a pipeline that had been leaking for about two months.

This past Monday, a full crew of people were there. They repaired that pipeline and they are going to dig up the effluent that is in the dirt and replace it with clean dirt. It could happen once the minister decided to exercise his power.

So he has the power. The structure is there. But the will to use it has not been there. And that is what is such a great tragedy in this province. We have learned so many things from other experiences throughout the world about what happens to people when pollution is allowed to get out of control, and yet with the powers to control it this minister fails to recognize his responsibility and to put into the hands of his people in the fields that desire to clean the mess up before it gets too bad.

We know there are going to be mistakes. We know there will be errors. And we know that there will be accidents. But there's no excuse for oil and salt water spills to be left for two months without being cleaned up and taken care of.

And so those are the two fundamental things that we see wrong with this Bill, Mr. Chairman. And we want to say that the other day when we talked to the minister about the problems in the oilfields, we referred him to a document which I have referred to as the Louisiana report.

The minister stated at that time that the comparisons that I made between the Saskatchewan and Alberta oil basins to the Louisiana oil basin didn't really matter because we ain't in Louisiana, were his words.

Well I'd like to say that I tabled for him a copy of this report. I hope he studied it and took note of it. But today, Mr. Chairman, I want to bring the minister a little closer to home. Because today I want to present to this Assembly to be tabled, another document, another report, one from Alberta, a lot closer to home.

Now I know this ain't Alberta, Mr. Minister. But this report cost 250,000-plus dollars. It was done by the Alberta Beef Commission. And I'm going to ask that the pages take this document, photocopy it, give copies to the government member, and table one copy for the Assembly so other people can get it. It is printed on both sides of the paper, as you can see.

This is a very lengthy, comprehensive document. It says it is an impact on the petroleum industry, on the cattle production, critical review of science and other literature. This was edited by R.W. Coppock, K.U. Weyer, L.P. Penney, M.M. Schuler, and F.E. Geddes. These men will be recognized, Mr. Chairman, as the top scientists in Alberta who have drawn this information from the top scientists around the world.



This is reality. In here if you read these documents and take just a little time, you will find stories that you could call horror stories, but they are stories that will tell you exactly what happened to Perry Anton's cattle. And they will tell you exactly what happened to his neighbour's cattle four miles north of him.

Because the evidence is here. The evidence being that these animals die from the effluent that they drink, even though the scientists can't connect through studies of the dead bodies' tissues, the industry's poisons that have killed them.

The animals that have drank these effluents lie dead on the spot. And this study shows how we make that link.

And that's closer to home, Mr. Minister. I suggest you read it.

Now there's \$250,000 worth of material there Minister, so you saved yourself a good chunk of money. And you will say well that document was from Louisiana and this ain't Louisiana. This document is from Alberta and this ain't Alberta.

Well this document, Mr. Minister, is the one that was done in south-west Saskatchewan and it also cost \$250,000, except that the oil company or gas company that commissioned it didn't even have the decency to pay the bill after they had agreed to have the study done and had agreed that they would pay the bill for the study.

This study is the organic, inorganic, and isotopic chemicals and water and gas and ice in three dugouts under ice-covered and related toxicity of water near the Freeflight compressor station known as the North-east at 27-16-24 W of the third meridian.

It was done by WD Consultants Inc. Once again, Mr. Minister, this is a group of people out of Calgary, Alberta. These are known to be and are understood to be the most highly respected scientists in western Canada who once again drew their information from the best scientists all around the world.

This document isn't as long because it dealt with the pollution problems not of an entire province, but the pollution problems that occurred on one ranch — Perry Anton's ranch. This is reality. This is Saskatchewan. This happened here.

I will give this to the pages and ask them to photocopy it and table it. And I do ask that you bring these copies back because it did cost me \$300 to have them photocopied.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, the minister has stated that he needs to have this Bill in order to do his work. But he has stated of course that the amount of monies that come in from the industry are important, and they are, but they're no more important than the people that have to live within the industry and around the industry.

And so I present for you, Mr. Minister, some more reports. And this of course being volume two of the same report that was done by WD Consultants. Once again they have gone to the point of doing a study in south-west Saskatchewan related specifically to the Anton ranch, and it of course goes into more detail on the very same problems.

And I file this with the Assembly and ask them that they send

copies to the minister, table copies, and return the originals.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will want to answer to us how he's going to handle these problems. I think he will want to answer to us how he justifies giving a Bill to private industry with the right to expropriate.

(1745)

Yes, it's important. It's important that we have the gases from the United States pumped into the south-east corner of Saskatchewan in order to facilitate that flooding program for the recovery of the oils that are in the ground in those structures. But remember this. Those companies that are doing this, they might give you big political contributions and that might be important. But the reality is that they are doing it for profit, not for the public good.

There is absolutely no way that this government can connect the public good to those kind of pipelines. Those kind of pipelines are designed for the profitability of the big companies from around the world that come into this province to make money. And yes, they may sell some of that oil and gas to your province. And yes, that oil and gas might be for the public good after you've bought it if you're distributing it to the homes.

But the reality is that most of it is not coming to Saskatchewan people. Most of it is being exported. The pipeline that's going to run from Burstall, out of the big plants there, is going to go through Saskatchewan to the United States. None of that gas is for Saskatchewan people.

And your government hasn't even realized that one of the things they should be doing is taxing that gas as it goes through our province. Taxing it to pay for the problems of the pollution that will happen over the years ahead. Think about it, Minister.

I want, Mr. Chairman, also to table for the minister's information a couple of letters and other things that should be done here. I put in a question — and I'm very happy with the government; I want to pay them a compliment here. I put in several questions in this session and the government was good enough to answer all of them. Most of them the answers were quite good and we appreciated them. Some of them helped me to get some of my constituents' problems resolved.

One of those questions though was about the numbers of arbitration cases that have gone to the Surface Rights Board. And we discovered, of course, after we distributed the information, that they are grossly in error.

And I want to offer to this minister, so that he can give this information to the Minister of Justice who is in charge of that particular branch, and to the Minister of the Environment because also his department is involved in these things; I want to give you documented evidence from one individual farmer who himself has submitted up to 5,000 applications to the Arbitration Board in an attempt to get some justice for his farm where oil companies and gas companies have trespassed on his land. And every one of his claims have been made over the year on a daily basis, on a monthly basis, in an attempt to try to get some justice.

Believe me, Mr. Chairman, this is serious, serious stuff when the government says there are a matter of only a few spills in the province, when in fact we have one individual that can give us records showing that there are actually thousands of them.

These documents here, Mr. Chairman, are the documents and photocopies of the actual claims that this individual has sent in.

He has documented them for us and documented them so that there'd be a paper trail. In our society everybody wants to have a paper trail. So here it is, Mr. Minister, a paper trail showing that your department is not registering the amounts of claims properly, that the Minister of Justice's departments are not registering claims properly, and that we need to tighten up the way that we report and the way that we are accountable to the people of Saskatchewan on this very critical and important issue.

All of these pages, Mr. Chairman, are from one farmer who has shown clearly that the questions were not answered properly or fairly. And so I offer them to this Assembly saying to you that in 1997 this government claims that there were only 74 applications to the Surface Rights Arbitration Board, when in fact these documents show that there were in fact thousands. Mr. Minister, I hope that you will take that into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to offer to the minister another document that will help him in the exercise of the administration of this Bill, which I am sure that he is determined to pass. But if he passes it, at least he should have the information necessary so that he can do a good job of taking care of our environment.

If we can't save the farmers from expropriation, maybe we can at least save the next generation from dying from cancers and all kinds of related diseases that go along with these pollutants.

I heard on the radio the other day, just in passing, Mr. Chairman, a man from the United States, a doctor, who was on one of our radio stations here by telephone telling us about a new disease that he has just discovered and documented. It is a new disease . . . and I can't remember the name of it. It was a mile a half long anyway.

The reality of it being though, Mr. Chairman, that this is a sleeping disorder or a fatigue disorder, and he says that it is caused by our water and our air, but mostly our water, because of the fine metals that are getting into our water systems, including our waters throughout North America. And thousands of cases are now showing up.

I want the minister to have, also for his purpose and because all of these problems are related through these four departments — the Department of Agriculture, Energy and Mines, Minister of Justice, and the Minister of the Environment — all four of you fellows sit down together with your officials and read through this.

I offer to this Assembly to be tabled, a document from an individual that I won't name and whose name I have whited out on this copy because if people were to find out that he had given this to us he will lose his job without question.

This document is a chronology of the events that happened on the Perry Anton ranch over the last six years. This is the most clearly, concisely put together document that I've seen in relationship to this problem. And the reality is that most people just don't think it's as bad as it was because they don't understand it because it is so complicated and so big a problem.

But really, this man went to the trouble . . . he happens to be a professional writer, and he wasn't allowed to publish his work and I find that a great tragedy.

So I will file this with the Assembly so that the ministers can study it because it is a short form . . . in a chronology of the events that surrounded the destruction of one man's ranch.

While I'm here on my feet I may as well continue to send things over to the minister, Mr. Chairman, with relationship to this Bill. I have here letters, photocopies of letters, from individuals who have asked for meetings with the ministers, who have been refused meetings, who have been ignored, who have been pushed aside, people on the land whose concerns should have been listened to.

And I want to file them with the Assembly and I want to have copies sent over to the minister so that he can reply to these people because maybe now he will have second thoughts and decide to sit down and realistically discuss the kinds of issues that we have out in Saskatchewan, out in our fields and in our pastures. Because along with the drought, we also have pollutants that aren't going away.

Mr. Chairman, I have at this point one more document that I want to share with the Assembly or with the minister. This is representative of a lot of letters. I didn't bring them all but I brought this one because it's representative of one very important one and I will just very quickly quote from it. This is from the Rural Municipality of Britannia, No. 502. It's dated April 28, 1998. It says:

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at council April 23, 1998 special meeting, Motion No. 154/98:

That the RM of Britannia concur with the idea that the pipelines should be placed under the jurisdiction of the surface rights Act and therefore letters requesting this change be forwarded to local MLAs, SARM, and the Premier (and the Premier's name is in that spot as well, Mr. Chairman.) The motion is carried and the council looks forward to your attention to the above matter.

I'm not going to table this letter just now because I'll want to refer to it once more before this debate is complete, so I will table it a little later.

I intend, Mr. Chairman, to give this minister an opportunity to at least offer a compromise in this very onerous Bill — a compromise that won't take care of the wrong-headed attitude that this government has to expropriating private property, but will do something to provide a vehicle that will allow people the opportunity to resolve their problems in a more humane way.

I took the trouble . . . I took the trouble of phoning some of the bigger oil players around the city that I know of and know. I asked them what they thought about the concept of placing the expropriatory issues into the hands of the Surface Rights Board. Their reply was to me that industry wants to have harmony. They want to have the right to expropriate; that makes them money. They're naturally going to oppose anyone that tries to take that away from them. But at the same time they would like to have more harmony. And the harmony they said would come by placing this under that jurisdiction.

So, Mr. Chairman, from the oil industry itself — the people that I have spoken to, Mr. Minister — they have said they want to do the changes that will bring harmony, the kind of changes that I'm proposing today in this amendment which would be included under clause 32, and which we will get to as we get to that point.

I want you to strongly consider, members of this Assembly, to at least give people the opportunity to have their day in court, a place where people like those that fought the Condie power line could go and sit down with the board of arbitration, comprised of their peers — other farmers that sit on that board — that would have the power to decide how much compensation should be for crops, for damages, and for the disruption to their lives.

Instead of having to go to court and dig in their pockets for 10 or 20 or \$50,000, they can simply get in their car and drive into the city and go to that board, and tell them their problems, and that board has the power to say, you have to make changes to the way this line is going because it's too risky for the environment, or you'll have to dig it deeper because it's too shallow, or you'll have to go around the farmer's trees because it's too risky to have it in the middle of his yard where his children are playing.

Those are the kinds of things this board has the power to do . . . if you in government mandated to do that. There are problems with that board, I'll grant you that, but the principle is right and the vehicle is there. And that is what I'm saying to this Assembly and to the people of this province is what we can at least cure at this stage, is to give people at least a chance to have a day in court, so that we can have better harmony between agriculture, the environment, and industry.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I want to allow the minister to respond.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have listened with interest to the comments made by the member, and I want today to say to the House and to the members of the House that we do take his comments seriously.

With respect to the documents that he has put on the Table this afternoon, I want to say that we are aware of some of the information. We have, the department has, studied some of the documents and is aware of the contents with respect to them.

I don't intend to speak long, Mr. Chairman. I only want to say that we as a department try and introduce legislation that will create harmony between landowners and the people who are developing our oil and gas sector here in Saskatchewan. And I

think that's the key to success. We don't do everything right. No one would suggest that we think we do. We make our errors. But what we try to do is create legislation that will allow fairness.

(1800)

I want to say that this particular Bill with respect to expropriation makes no changes. The process is the same. And I also want to tell the House that the vast majority of development takes place without the need for expropriation, because for the most part industry and the farming community are able to negotiate reasonable terms that are satisfactory to both. And I mean that's the balance that they try and achieve. So it's not that expropriation is an everyday thing. That just doesn't happen that regularly.

I think the member opposite will have the same concerns that I have with respect to the development of this industry. We all understand there's going to be pipelines to carry this gas, because without pipelines, there's no production; without production, there's no royalties, no taxation, and no jobs. So what we're attempting to do is to find a balance.

I think this legislation is fair. It's been a matter of large degree of consultation and I think that we have created a piece of legislation that will serve the people of Saskatchewan well.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 31 inclusive agreed to.

### Clause 32

**Mr. Goohsen:** — Mr. Chairman, on advice of our Law Clerk here who does exemplary work, I have proposed an amendment to this clause and under his guidance have decided to interject it at this point in the Bill. We believe that it will accomplish the necessary, the necessary end of bringing harmony between industry and property owners.

And so I move clause 32 of the printed Bill, amended clause 32 of the printed Bill by adding immediately after subclause (6) thereafter the following:

“(7) Notwithstanding the repeal of *The Pipe Lines Act* and anything in this Act to the contrary, all matters dealing with expropriation shall be resolved by the authority of The Board of Arbitration under *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*”

And I so move.

Amendment negated.

The division bells rang from 6:05 p.m. until 6:07 p.m.

Amendment negated on the following recorded division.

**Yeas — 9**

Krawetz	Bjornerud	Toth
D'Autremont	Draude	Heppner

Osika Aldridge Goohsen

**Nays — 19**

Van Mulligen	MacKinnon	Lingenfelter
Shillington	Tchorzewski	Goulet
Lautermilch	Upshall	Kowalsky
Trew	Renaud	Lorje
Sonntag	Nilson	Cline
Kasperski	Ward	Langford
Thomson		

Clause 32 agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 35 inclusive agreed to.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

**The Chair:** — That ends the business of the committee, and before we adjourn, I would like to say a few thank yous, if I am permitted to do that.

It takes more than just one or two people, as everybody knows, to make a session run. And I want to say a special thanks now to the Premier, and the cabinet ministers, and all the MLAs for their cooperation and their patience with the Chair to keep the committee going but we have got through it. We need that cooperation to keep going.

The staff in our caucus office, I want to also say thank you for the good job that they've done through all of this. The pages, I think everyone will join with me in thanking them for spoiling the members of the Legislative Assembly because they've done a wonderful job of looking after us.

I also want to say a special thanks to the *Hansard* and the Broadcast Services people for making it possible for many communities throughout Saskatchewan to be able to view these proceedings and watch how the proceedings work and watch the behaviour of the members in action. So a special thanks to them too.

Also I guess really to our spouses for their patience and cooperation with us away from home so much and for us being here for so long, and I guess they have a little tough time at home, maybe tougher than us sometimes, so . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well I think some of them are anyway.

And to me I guess a special thanks to the Clerks at the Table here today, to Greg and to Meta and also to Gwenn, who I guess is on her way back from England now. They sit here all the time and make the chairman look pretty good. We are good at our job but they make us look that much better, so thank you to the Clerks.

To the staff in the Speaker's office and also to the Clerk's office behind us, they do a lot of work behind the scenes that nobody sees too.

And to the end I guess a special thanks to Mr. Speaker and to the member from Regina Coronation Park, the Deputy Chair of Committees, for all the help they have given me throughout this session and the encouragement to keep this committee running.

And to I guess everyone here and to everyone watching tonight, God bless and have a good summer. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — I move we rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

(1815)

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 25 — The Pipelines Act, 1998**

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

**ROYAL ASSENT**

At 6:18 p.m. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills:

- Bill No. 38 - The Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 39 - The Vehicle Administration Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 15 - The Gas Inspection Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 4 - The Saskatchewan Evidence Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 22 - The Electronic Filing of Information Act
- Bill No. 2 - The Correctional Services Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 31 - The Enforcement of Judgments Conventions Act/Loi sur les conventions sur l'exécution de jugements
- Bill No. 27 - The Public Service Act, 1998
- Bill No. 7 - The Pastures Act
- Bill No. 33 - The Provincial Court Act, 1998
- Bill No. 56 - The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 50 - The Urban Municipality Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 51 - The Rural Municipality Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 52 - The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 32 - The Wildlife Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 11 - The Trustee Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 12 - The University of Saskatchewan Foundation Repeal Act
- Bill No. 41 - The Teachers' Dental Plan Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 42 - The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 53 - The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 11 - The Trustee Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 301 - The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act
- Bill No. 302 - The Fondation Fransaskoise Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 sur la Fondation Fransaskoise
- Bill No. 49 - The Saskatchewan Assistance Amendment Act, 1998

- Bill No. 43 - The Queen's Bench Revision Act/Loi portant révision de la Loi sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine
- Bill No. 47 - The Saskatchewan Insurance Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 46 - The Credit Union Act, 1998
- Bill No. 48 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 44 - The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 10 - The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 45 - The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 1998
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- Bill No. 55 - The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 54 - The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 59 - The Jury Act, 1998/ Loi de 1998 sur le jury
- Bill No. 60 - The Wildlife Act, 1998/ Loi de 1998 sur la faune
- 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
- Bill No. 62 - The Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 1998 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 1998 modifiant le Code de la route de 1996
- Bill No. 58 - The Adoption Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 sur l'adoption
- Bill No. 29 - The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 63 - The Film Employment Tax Credit Act
- Bill No. 35 - The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act
- Bill No. 37 - The Noxious Weeds Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 36 - The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 modifiant la Loi sur les services de l'état civil
- Bill No. 57 - The Education Amendment Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation
- Bill No. 26 - The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 1998
- Bill No. 25 - The Pipelines Act, 1998

**His Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

Bill No. 64 — The Appropriation Act, 1998 (No. 3)

**His Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

His Honour retired from the Chamber at 6:24 p.m.

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the Assembly to move a motion dealing with the adjournment of the session.

Leave granted.

## MOTIONS

### House Adjournment

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I move this motion I would like to thank some people involved in making this House work. I know the Deputy Speaker's already done that but I think there are some names that we should read into the record and formally recognize their contributions.

Of course first of all I want to thank all of the hon. members. Although we do not always agree on issues, we all share a commitment to representing our constituents. I'd also like to thank Mr. Speaker for his impartial and fair decisions and for keeping this House running with as much decorum as possible.

I'd like to thank your staff, Margaret Kleisinger, Linda Spence, and Rhonda Romanuk. There are also a number of people who make this Legislative Assembly run very well. Starting with the Clerk of the Assembly, Gwenn Ronyk, assisted very capably by Greg Putz and Margaret Woods. Monique Lovatt, secretary to the Clerk; Pam Scott, secretary to the Clerks at the Table.

And of course without having to even draw his sabre once, the very capable Patrick Shaw, Sergeant-at-Arms and security staff.

As well we have five very capable young people, the pages of the Assembly, and since they cannot repeat as pages, we have a set of new pages every year. This year we are fortunate to have Barton Draper, Pamela Kovacs, Cara Renkas, Angela Smalley, and Jason Trost.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank the *Hansard* staff — Susan Hope, who has recently left us, Judy Brennan, Donelda Klein, and the staff who record all of the words spoken in this Assembly.

The Journals staff, Rose Zerr, Clerk Assistant; Marilyn Kotylak, Assistant Clerk; Marilyn Borowski, director of financial services; as well as Linda Kaminski and the people in personnel and administration services.

Visitor Services under director Lorraine deMontigny, who did an excellent job in providing the public with tours of the beautiful building. Bob Cosman, the Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk.

I'd also like to thank the staff of all the caucus offices, the ministers' offices, the constituency offices, the House business office, Executive Council, and anybody else that I might have missed. Without all of these support staff, the Assembly simply would not operate.

Just to finish off, Mr. Speaker, we'd also like to thank Marian Powell and all of the Legislative Library staff for the work they do for us, and the cafeteria staff who feed us, the staff of SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) who keep the grounds looking so beautiful.

And finally, for those of us who don't want to rely on the press for reports of what happens, we can watch ourselves directly, thanks to Mr. Gary Ward and his staff who beam out our signal on cable TV to most communities in the province.

In closing, I wish all members well as we go back to our constituencies and the work that is awaiting us.

As such it's my pleasure to move, seconded by the member from Prince Albert Carlton:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it shall stand adjourned to the date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government, and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice if possible of such a date time.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to the words of the Government House Leader. I know that she's indicated a lot of people and has identified a number of names of people that we want to thank.

On behalf of my colleagues, I too would like to extend our appreciation to, first of all, our caucus staff, the people in our staff. We owe them a lot of gratitude and a lot of thanks for the hard work that they do.

Our constituency offices basically exist and continue, and continue to function even though we're not there. And for many of us in the Saskatchewan Party caucus, we are a long way from home and we know that those people do a tremendous job and I'd like to express my appreciation to all of them.

Quickly I'm going to indicate that we want to extend our appreciation to Gwenn and Greg and Meta, sitting here in the legislature. To Patrick and to Pam; and the pages, Barton and Jason, Angela and Pamela and Cara. I want to thank you for providing us with just an excellent, excellent service during the course of this year.

As indicated, the people in *Hansard* continue to put out a very fine quality that is respected. I note the comments made by our visitors from the United States when they had the opportunity to review the documents that we have in *Hansard*.

Gary and Kerry and Ihor up in broadcast services. The chance now for people in Saskatchewan . . . many, many locations are now receiving the broadcast from the legislature. And we owe them our gratitude for providing that excellent work.

Visitor Services, Legislative Clerk, of course and the Counsel do a tremendous job for us and I know a lot of tours as we've had the opportunity in this House to introduce a tremendous number of people. And Visitor Services does an excellent job.

I want to just globally thank the staffs in the departments, in financial services, in library, in cafeteria, personnel administration, cleaning, security — tremendous number of individuals who work hard in this building not only during session all year long but especially during session in able to meet the needs of all the people here in this building, and we owe them a sense of gratitude.

Finally to the Deputy Speaker for his work during the session and to you, Mr. Speaker, we want to extend our appreciation to you for your fairness during this session; to the people in your office. Thank you very much for all the work that you have done. And a final thank you of course is to all the colleagues here in the legislature to 50, I guess 57 members here in the legislative — thank you very much for the session.

We know that of course during the session we have the occurrences where we disagree, where we vehemently disagree. But that's here on the floor of this House and I know that immediately after the session does wrap up and we again leave this building we are again in a position of being able to talk one to one on matters that concern us.

I also want to extend, as the Deputy Chair did, a special thank you to our families for indeed 65 days being away from families for those members that are a considerable distant away. Many I know drive long distances and we do not have the opportunity to visit with families very often. So I say to them, thank you. And on behalf of the caucus, a great summer. Thank you very much.

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

(1830)

**Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my sincere gratitude again to all the people that the Government House Leader has mentioned. I will not repeat all the names. They know I'm sure that our feelings have been expressed, and we would like to echo those feelings.

I want to thank all of my colleagues here in this Legislative Assembly, to the government for working on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, and to the other party as well. We may not agree and we don't always agree, but I respect them for their commitments to their constituents throughout this great province of ours.

There are probably some people that we may have overlooked and I hope they will not be offended. I know that there are people who work very, very hard to ensure that we meet our responsibilities that we have been sent here to persevere and we can't forget those. The families have been mentioned, and it's true, there's a great hardship I believe for some who may not be able to spend as much time as they should with their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again reiterate what my colleagues have said, to thank our caucus staff. We may be small in numbers but thanks to them and their many, many long hours of additional work that they put in to assist us in meeting the responsibilities to our constituents.

I want to finally, Mr. Speaker, and again to yourself and to the Deputy Speaker and all the Chairs of committees, I want to say thanks. But most of all, I want to say thank you to the people of this great province of ours who support us in this great democratic process and who continue to encourage us and guide us in a lot of instances to ensure that we don't stray off the track that's intended . . . the purposes for which we have been sent here.

And I respect each and every member for working on behalf of their constituents, to the best of their abilities, to the best of their conscience, and that we continue to do so. And to everybody, I hope that we don't lose complete touch throughout the summer months. I know that from time to time we may cross paths. Hopefully I won't cross paths with some of my former colleagues as I travel back and forth and around the province. But I want to wish everybody a safe, happy, happy

summer, and to you and your families, and look forward to seeing you throughout the coming months. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a very short comment. I would like to echo all that has been said in thanking the staff and the people around the Assembly. But there's one special person who will no longer be a part of our Assembly that I would like to thank and that's Mary Ann Cline, our lady in the Hansard this evening.

Mary Ann was part of the Environment tour when the Environment committee toured the province, and ever since that date, Mr. Speaker, Mary Ann, once a session at least, has sent me a cinnamon bun, and I would like to thank her for that.

Mary Ann and her family will be moving to Alberta this summer. I wish you luck and success and prosperity and thank you for everything you've done here.

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

**The Speaker:** — Will the hon. members provide leave to the Speaker to make brief remarks?

Leave granted.

**The Speaker:** — I appreciate that. Here we go, here we go. My goodness, that does make you want to hurry, doesn't it.

Hon. members, I would like to join with you in acknowledging, and with thanks, the many who have served us over this sitting of the legislature — this the third session of the twenty-third legislature.

And if I may join with those of you who have already acknowledged the efforts of Marian Powell and the staff of the Legislative Library; and Trent Brears, the new manager and his staff at the Dome Cafeteria; and Marilyn Borowski and Linda Kaminski and the staff at financial services and administrative services that support our constituency offices in many ways while we are here; Lorraine deMontigny and the staff at Visitor Services who always do a wonderful job, and who even come to sit into the galleries to watch the conclusion of the session.

To Bob Cosman and Allison, of the Legislative Law Clerk's office; the Sergeant-at-Arms, Pat Shaw, and his very capable security staff who conduct themselves not only with efficiency but also with dignity. To Gary Ward, Ihor, and Kerry at the broadcasting services, and who have been working under the — what many of the members of the Communication Committee will recognize — have been as challenging circumstances at times. They'll be pleased to hear that these matters will be attended to.

I also want to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of Rose Zerr and Marilyn in journals, who are getting our proceedings into print and onto the Internet so efficiently.

Also I do want to recognize the yeomen service of the troops over at *Hansard*, under the new leadership now of Judy

Brennan and Donelda Klein. As hon. members will recognize, during this session they moved to the Walter Scott Building, and they have in fact done double duty for much of this session with the extensive meetings of the Crown Corporations Committee. It was in fact the reality during this session that before the House began each day, the folks at *Hansard* had in effect already produced a set of *Hansard* by that time. And I want to acknowledge the yeomen duty. They have worked with good cheer and they really in many ways are the unsung heroes of the legislative session.

From my office, I want to thank Margaret and Linda and Rhonda for their daily assistance to me and also facilitating the access of all hon. members to the Speaker.

In this room serving us, I want to acknowledge personally some who have capably assisted us, and if I may acknowledge them in the same way on this final day as I did on the first day, by asking our pages to stand as I introduce them, and ask you to express your appreciation to them individually, to our very, very capable pages: Barton Draper. . .

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

**The Speaker:** — Pamela Kovatz.

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

**The Speaker:** — Cara Renkas.

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

**The Speaker:** — Angela Smalley.

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

**The Speaker:** — and Jason Trost.

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

**The Speaker:** — And along with you I wish them all well in their careers and their studies wherever they may take them from this point forward.

I also want to acknowledge the superb services from the Table in the persons of Gwenn Ronyk, our Clerk; our Deputy Clerk, Greg Putz, and the Assistant Clerk, Meta Woods, and their staff in their offices. They have consistently provided sound and reliable procedural advice.

And hon. members I do want to assure you that the sound decisions of the Chair all flowed from the Clerk's Table and that the debatable decisions are solely in the purview of the Speaker.

It's been a privilege for me to serve this House along with the very, very capable support and the services of the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Chair of Committee. Hon. members this is a team of presiding officers who pride ourselves, I should say as presiding officers in serving you well. And I thank them for their efforts.

And finally hon. members I want to say, most of all, thank you

to you. Your efforts have been a combination of reason and passion, always with respect for the institution and you've conducted yourselves with both determination and dignity. You've served your constituents well in this third session of the twenty-third legislature and for your efforts I thank you.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the Assembly do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — This House now stands adjourned until the call of the Chair.

The Assembly adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



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House Adjournment	
MacKinnon .....	1977
Krawetz .....	1978
Osika .....	1978
D'Autremont .....	1979
Speaker .....	1979