

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**The Speaker:** — I hereby inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received from the Chief Electoral Officer a certificate of the election and return of Buckley Belanger, Esquire, as member for the constituency of Athabasca.

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

**Hon. Mr. Romanow:** — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you, Mr. Buckley Belanger, member for the constituency of Athabasca who has taken the oath, signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** — Mr. Belanger, I want to say welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and I hope that your time here will prove to be one of honour to you personally and as well to your constituents. Welcome back to the Legislative Assembly.

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

**The Speaker:** — Let the hon. member take his seat.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Resignation of Members

**The Speaker:** — It appears the hon. members are enthusiastic about the new session but before we get there we're going to have to prorogue the previous sitting.

Hon. members, I also wish to inform the Assembly that I have received the resignations of Mr. Ed Tchorzewski, member of this Assembly for the constituency of Regina Dewdney, effective January 18, 1999, and Mr. Robert Mitchell, member of this Assembly for the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview, also effective January 18, 1999.

### TABLING OF COMMUNICATION

**The Speaker:** — I have a message from the Lieutenant Governor regarding membership on the Board of Internal Economy. I'll ask all hon. members to rise.

It is dated October 14, 1998.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to Section 68.7 of The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby inform the Assembly of the membership of the Board of Internal Economy effective October 7, 1998:

The Honourable Glenn Hagel, Chairperson (Speaker)

The Honourable Eldon Lautermilch (Executive Council nominee)

The Honourable Joanne Crofford (Executive Council nominee)

Mr. Myron Kowalsky, M.L.A. (Government Caucus nominee)

Mr. Grant Whitmore, M.L.A. (Government Caucus nominee)

Mr. Ben Heppner, M.L.A. (Opposition caucus nominee)

Mr. Harvey McLane, M.L.A. (Third Party caucus nominee)

Yours sincerely,

J.E.N. Wiebe

Lieutenant Governor

Province of Saskatchewan

I am also advised that His Honour is here for prorogation.

### PROROGATION

At 10:06 a.m. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne.

His Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislature:

It is my duty to release you from further attendance at the Third Session of the Twenty-Third Legislature.

In thus relieving you, I would like to thank you for the work you have done.

This Session's work is a positive step towards charting a course for Saskatchewan's journey into a new year, and beyond into a new century, and a new millennium.

You have successfully introduced legislation that continues to invest in people, local communities, and the larger community of Saskatchewan.

In keeping with your strong commitment to Saskatchewan children and low income families, you passed ***The Saskatchewan Assistance Amendment Act, 1998.***

This legislation enables the development and implementation of the Saskatchewan Child Benefit and the Saskatchewan Employment Supplement programs, and provides hope and a better future for thousands of low-income families and their children.

You maintained your commitment to the people of Saskatchewan in regards to protecting society from repeat and serious offenders.

Among other measures related to this priority you passed several Bills - all of which are aimed at updating or strengthening elements of provincial law enforcement and

corrections.

*The Wildlife Amendment Act, 1998* increases the fine levels for hunting offences and changes the forfeiture provisions to include vehicles.

*The Vehicle Administration Amendment Act, 1998* allows the use of the provincial driver licensing system to enforce payment of outstanding fines for Criminal Code driving offences.

You also passed *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 1998*, which permits SGI to recover from thieves and vandals moneys paid out in respect of thefts of vehicles and vandalism to vehicles by means of license suspensions.

*The Correctional Services Amendment Act, 1998* provides that the rules of the correctional facility receiving the inmate from another facility should apply during a transfer between facilities.

Also, *The Enforcement of Judgments Conventions Act* was passed, which provides a process whereby civil judgments that have been made by the courts in one country may be recognized and enforced in another country without requiring the parties to re-litigate the matter in its entirety.

Saskatchewan is built on the values of our people - community, equality, co-operation, compassion, and common sense.

You have rewarded the business sector and the people of Saskatchewan for their hard work and sacrifices by passing *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 1998*.

This Act reduces the basic personal income tax rate from 50 per cent of Basic Federal Tax to 48 per cent.

This Act also introduces a 15 per cent, non-refundable Research and Development Tax Credit, a refundable Film Employment Tax Credit, and a non-taxable Saskatchewan Child Benefit.

You have recognized that Saskatchewan no longer competes on cost alone and that innovative, high-quality products are the future for our whole economy, including our foundation industry - agriculture.

You passed *The On-Farm Quality Assurance Programs Act* and *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 1998* to help give Saskatchewan producers an important competitive advantage in export markets.

*The On-Farm Quality Assurance Programs Act* addresses hazards associated with food production and processing of animal products.

This Act also helps create effective partnerships with industry for their delivery and enables the government to eventually consolidate all meat inspection regulations under one act.

*The Animal Products Amendment Act, 1998* provides Saskatchewan with the ability to develop modern, cost effective and efficient inspection systems.

You recognized the importance of Credit Unions by passing *The Credit Union Act, 1998*. This Act modernizes business powers to allow credit unions to offer a broad range of financial and other services to members and non-members, and ensures that members retain control over credit union affairs.

You continued to implement the key recommendations of an extensive review of Crown Corporations by passing *The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 1998*.

This Act eliminates the mandatory requirement that the Minister responsible for a subsidiary Crown corporation serve as chairperson of that Crown's board of directors.

You are continuing your work to ensure these publicly-owned assets remain productive engines of our economy, and benefit all Saskatchewan citizens.

During this Session, you continued your commitment to high-quality public education by passing *The Education Amendment Act, 1998*.

This action will further strengthen Saskatchewan's public education system and provide the necessary leadership and support for locally determined school division restructuring.

To ensure safety in the work place, a right which workers expect and deserve, you passed *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1998*.

As further progress towards democratic reform, you passed *The Election Amendment Act, 1998*.

This Act formally institutionalizes the traditional independence of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer by making this position an officer of the Legislative Assembly.

To facilitate a provincial commitment to the environment, you passed *The Parks Amendment Act, 1998*.

This action designates the MacDowell Bog as a protected area and adds approximately 1,300 hectares of native land to Douglas Provincial Park.

Finally, in taking leave of you, I wish to thank you for the diligent manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of the Session, and wish you the full blessing of Providence.

**Hon. Mr. Wiens:** — Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 15th day of March, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

His Honour then retired from the Chamber at 10:14 a.m.