

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise this morning and present a petition dealing with the high cost of gasoline. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And this is signed by the good people from Weldon, Melfort, and Kinistino.

I so present.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition from the good people of Saskatchewan who would like to see their fuel tax lowered by 10 cents a litre. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And the signators on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Brockington, Saskatchewan; Kinistino; Melfort; Weldon; and Saskatoon.

I so present.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition asking the Assembly to retain the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners will ever pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Watrous and Young.

I so present.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of citizens concerned about the high price of gasoline. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and

provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Melfort, Fairy Glen, Radisson, Beatty, Ituna, and Saskatoon.

I so present.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well to present a petition in regards to the gas tax. And read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present is signed by people from the communities of Star City, Melfort, Saskatoon, Tobin Lake, and Archerwill.

I so present.

**Mr. Peters:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition in regards to the high cost of fuel. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the members . . . or by people from Kinistino and Weldon.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too stand today to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens deeply concerned about the high cost of fuel. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

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

And this is signed by folks in Kinistino and Yellow Creek.

I so present. Thank you.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of people in Saskatchewan who are concerned about the high price of fuel. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and

provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel tax by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And this is signed by residents of Kinistino.

I so present.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to do with the health care situation in Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners will ever pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

The communities involved, Mr. Speaker, with this petition are from Govan, Drake, Jansen, Lanigan, and Lockwood.

I so present.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to present regarding hospital closures. There's a number of people in this province that are concerned about hospital closures. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners will ever pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

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

This petition is signed by people in the Lanigan, Guernsey area.

I so present.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to present a petition from citizens concerned about hospital closures. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners will ever pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

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

Signed by the people from Lanigan, Jansen, Drake, and Guernsey.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here to reduce fuel tax by 10 cents a litre:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

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

Signatures are from Balgonie, Kenaston, Davidson, Strongfield.

There's even a couple from out of province who think we pay way too high tax here — Nova Scotia and Edmonton.

I so present.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned about hospital closures. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners will ever pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

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

The petitioners are from the communities of Guernsey, Jansen, Saskatoon, Viscount, Lockwood, Drake, and Lanigan.

I so present.

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition as well from citizens concerned with the high cost of fuel. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Weldon, Kinistino, and Saskatoon.

I so present.

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring a petition to stop municipal reserve account confiscation. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to abandon permanently and rule out any plans it has to confiscate municipal reserve accounts.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good people from the rural municipality of Paddockwood no. 520.

I so present.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of the citizens of Cupar who are concerned about the continuation of medical services in their community. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take necessary steps to ensure that the

Cupar Health Centre remains open and physician services are retained in the community of Cupar.

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

I so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring forth a petition regarding the fuel costs.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel tax by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And the signatures on this petition are from Melfort and Regina.

I so present.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the threat of possible forced municipal amalgamation, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to halt any plans it has to proceed with enforced amalgamation of municipalities in Saskatchewan.

And this petition is signed by individuals from Drinkwater, Moose Jaw, and Regina.

I so present.

**Mr. Kwiatkowski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan concerned about the high cost of fuel. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by the good citizens of Melfort, Kinistino, and Birch Hills, Mr. Speaker.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

Petitions of the citizens of the province petitioning the Assembly:

To halt plans to proceed with the amalgamation of municipalities;

To reduce fuel taxes; and

To ensure the Lanigan and Watrous hospitals remain open.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present to the Assembly this morning, through you, a former member of this Assembly who served his constituents, this Assembly, and the province with great distinction. Mr. Speaker, behind the bar we have the former member for Weyburn, Mr. Lorne Hepworth.

While Mr. Hepworth was a member of this Assembly, he served as minister responsible for Agriculture, Education, and Finance. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that everyone will realize that Mr. Hepworth certainly did put his mind to the job and served his constituents well, served this province well, and I'd like to ask the members to join me in welcoming back Mr. Hepworth to this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Kowalsky:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government side, I too would like to join my colleague from Moosomin in welcoming Mr. Lorne Hepworth. Mr. Hepworth was the minister of Education when I came in as a rookie critic, and I recall how kind he was to me with the questions that I asked.

I also recall, Mr. Speaker, a by-election that was in the riding of Assiniboia — I think it was called at the time — that I thought I'd go down and help our candidate, Allen Engel. I was knocking on a rural door and a lady came to the door and welcomed me in. She said, won't you come and have coffee. I came and sat down at the table. Guess who was there? Mr. Lorne Hepworth, who'd arrived an hour earlier.

Welcome, Lorne.

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

**Mr. Kwiatkowski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 19 students from L.P. Miller School in Nipawin. And they are accompanied today by their teacher, Ms. Beth McDonald, and a chaperone, Ms. MaryLou Hamilton.

And, Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet briefly with these students a little earlier and I was very, very impressed with the fact that the vast majority of them could actually pronounce my last name correctly, unlike the vast majority of my colleagues in the Assembly.

So I would ask everyone to join with me in welcoming the students from Nipawin.

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

**Mr. Wartman:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to introduce to you this morning two friends and through you to the House. These two friends I've known for a while and as a member of the ag committee we've met and talked over a number of issues.

They're in the west gallery; one who is known to many throughout this province, and one who probably will be through

the years ahead. I'd like to introduce Roy Atkinson and Roy is from the Biggar area, and Bill Rosher who is from the Kindersley area.

These two gentlemen are working very hard with the Prairie Alliance For the Future to try and revitalize the rural farm economy. And we're glad to have you here today meeting with us and observing actions in the House. We hope that you feel welcomed by all of us.

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to this morning introduce to you and through you to the members of the House 30 grade 12 students from Valley Christian Academy, just outside the community of Osler, sitting in the east gallery.

They're accompanied this morning by their teachers Trace Block and Pete Reimer. I'll be meeting with them afterwards and I hope they enjoy question period as much as I intend to enjoy it. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to join my colleague from P.A. in welcoming Lorne Hepworth to the legislature. I was the critic for Education prior to the 1991 campaign and Lorne and I used to have some wonderful debates, particularly during estimates for Education.

I think one debate we had a discussion about the philosophy of education. I have great regard for Lorne. I'm glad that he's in our province visiting with I understand the Minister of the Environment. I know that he is now in Etobicoke, I think, Ontario, just outside of Toronto. I'm sure that someday when he wants to retire, he might consider coming back to the province of Saskatchewan, which is his birthplace.

So welcome, Lorne, to the legislature and I'm sure you're going to enjoy question period.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with my colleague in welcoming our friend, Lorne, here to the legislature; and also a friend of many Saskatchewan people, Gunnar Passmore with the Trade Council, who is with us today, and a friend. I want all members to join with me in welcoming Gunnar here today.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Health Care System

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise today to talk about something that is always first and foremost in the minds of Saskatchewan people — our health care system.

As Liberals we share the principles of single-tier, sustainable,

responsive, and affordable public health care with our New Democratic coalition partners.

All members on this side believe that it is the responsibility of both senior levels of government to support financially and with legislation a publicly administered, publicly funded health care system.

Unlike the members opposite who speak only of audits and frozen health care spending and a user-pay, two-tier system, this coalition government will ensure the Saskatchewan health care system is responsive to the needs of Saskatchewan citizens for many years to come.

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

It is time to review our system from primary community care to tertiary care based on an integrated province-wide approach. We must be mindful that the system of the future, to be effective and sustainable, must be built from the many substantive and positive system delivery initiatives that are in place today. These must be supported through our renewed health care system.

We all look forward to our future system with hope and vigour, knowing that the creators of medicare always envisioned a system strongly supported by the public, by caregivers, and by both levels of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Weyburn Area Students Win Nationwide Contest

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate two Weyburn students for winning a nationwide contest which is sponsored in part through local Kinsmen and Kinette clubs.

Queen Elizabeth School student, Lee Bauer will be going to Fredericton, New Brunswick and Haig school student, Melody Penny has won a trip to Edmonton. Both are grade five students.

The trips are part of a Celebrate Canada in the Capitals, 2000 Program and focus on teaching children about Canada's capital cities. Only 13 children in Saskatchewan were awarded the trips and so I'd like to again congratulate Lee and Melody, and to wish them a most enjoyable and educational trip.

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

### Commemoration of National Cancer Survivors Day

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, June 2 celebrations will take place to commemorate National Cancer Survivors Day in Saskatchewan. The Canadian Cancer Society Saskatchewan Division and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency are planning two events in Regina and Saskatoon.

The Regina program will take place outdoors at the main entrance to the Pasqua Hospital, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The Saskatoon program will take place at the Cancer Centre, 20 Campus Drive in Saskatoon at 2:00 p.m.

National Cancer Survivors Day gives us a chance to celebrate life and recognize that many people have survived this disease. It's also a time to remember the important role that family and friends play in the lives of cancer survivors, as well as the many volunteers, health professionals and researchers who devote their lives to making life more comfortable for people faced with this disease.

The Canadian Cancer Society Saskatchewan Division is part of a national community-based organization of volunteers, whose mission is to eradicate cancer and the enhancement of quality of . . . and to enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is responsible for the provision of cancer treatment, research, prevention and education to the people of Saskatchewan, operating the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic in Regina, and the Saskatoon Cancer Centre, the Screening Program for Breast Cancer and Research Unit.

I would encourage all members to please get out and recognize this day.

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

#### **Fundraiser Held in Whitewood**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday the community of Whitewood had a celebration, and a celebration of significance as we look back about six months to October 1999 when they were devastated by a fire that destroyed the centrepiece of the community, which was their rink.

However, what Saturday showed was a resilience of a small community and surrounding area when more than 300 people bought tickets. In fact they had a waiting list to come to the dinner to raise funds . . . for a fundraiser to raise some funds to help rebuild the rink.

Mr. Speaker, the guest speakers were Bobby Hull, hockey legend, and Gerald Shymko, our famous curler from Saskatchewan, as well as three local boys who have done very well: Bruce Thompson, coach of the Regina Cougars; Brad McEwen, assistant coach and assistant general manager of the Swift Current Broncos Brent McEwen, general manager of the Saskatoon Blades.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw on Saturday was a community rallying together despite the devastation and loss of their rink. And I'm happy to say today that the outline of the building is pretty well up and they're beginning to put the walls on, Mr. Speaker, and they're hoping to be in their rink by this fall.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of that fundraiser, the community and surrounding area raised over \$25,000 for their rink. And I think that speaks well for residents of these small communities. Congratulations to Whitewood and surrounding area on a job well done.

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

#### **1999 Lieutenant Governor's Medal**

**Mr. Kasperski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the words of the former Lieutenant Governor F. W. Johnson

Dedicated public servants contribute much to our society and often their contribution is unrecognized.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, it pleases me very much to inform the House that the Crown Corporation service division of CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) has been awarded the 1999 Lieutenant Governor's Medal of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

The gold medal, Mr. Speaker, is awarded annually by the Regina Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada to a person or a work team showing distinguished leadership and achievement in public administration in Saskatchewan.

This team was awarded the medal for its work since 1997 on the Crown review in improving governance, performance management, and strategic planning systems and processes in the Crown corporations sector in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The medal was presented on Wednesday at a ceremony at Government House. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud that the daughter of my predecessor as government caucus Chair, Vi Stanger, her daughter was one of the recipients of this group.

Thank you very much.

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

#### **Fire at Trailtech in Gravelbourg**

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform you and this Hon. Assembly of a serious fire at Trailtech industries last night in Gravelbourg. The fire apparently flared up around 11 p.m. and destroyed the two original Trailtech buildings which are now dedicated to painting, decaling, and finishing work.

The main production facility fortunately survived the fire so production will continue at least to some extent. Of course at this time Trailtech's plans are still being assessed.

This is a devastating setback and I'm sure that all members of this Assembly would wish to join me in expressing their sympathy and best wishes to Mr. Keith Brown and all of the dedicated staff at Trailtech industries.

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

#### **Student Wins Contest Award**

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — It's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to rise in the Assembly today to tell all the members about a constituent of mine. Miranda Wells, a grade 12 student at Ernie Studer School, is playing a large part in fighting against drinking and driving. And her message is reaching an audience right across Saskatchewan.

Miranda is a regional winner in the CBC's (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) Extreme Attitudes Against Drinking and Driving contest. Segments from the winning entries have been aired on CBC-TV since the middle of May. I'm sure many of the members in this Assembly will have seen a number of her ads.

Miranda's commercial is entitled Class Reunion and stars her own classmates. In Miranda's commercial, a boy approaches a girl and at first the girl is unable to remember who he is, but quickly recalls that he was a drunk driver in high school.

The commercial asks the question, what will you be remembered for? Miranda believes this question is an effective one as people often wonder what they will be remembered for.

Miranda is an example of the many young people in our province who are speaking out against drinking and driving and are taking a leading role in educating the public. I wish to extend my appreciation to her for her efforts to help raise awareness of this serious problem.

I ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in congratulating Miranda, a most thoughtful and exemplary young woman.

Thank you.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Liberal Position on Health Care

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last election the Liberal leader made all kinds of promises. Then he admitted that they were nothing but political rhetoric. Well here we go again.

Now it's the same Liberal leader who's promising to save hospitals. That's some joke. That's the same Liberal leader who's going to chain himself to the Plains hospital. It's the same Liberal leader who is going to get rid of hacks and flacks. It's the same Liberal leader who is going to scrap no-fault insurance. And now he's going to save hospitals. Maybe he'll chain himself to their doors.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's get ready for hospital closures. To the Minister of Education: Mr. Minister, after all the times you betrayed Saskatchewan voters, why would they believe you now?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as our Premier and the ministers of Health have indicated, we have been attempting to get a national review by the federal government to look at medicare in this country and how we can save medicare from the likes of the Canadian Alliance Party, the Conservatives in Alberta and Ontario, and the Saskatchewan Party here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We don't want to go to a two-tier health system. We don't want

to do what the member from Weyburn and what the member from Biggar have said: that we need to consider private health care in the province of Saskatchewan and private surgical clinics, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a health review in the province of Saskatchewan. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? The health review is going to save medicare from the people over there.

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Liberal leader was really talking tough yesterday. He said if the NDP (New Democratic Party) doesn't do what he says, you know what he's going to do? He's going to put stress on the government.

Mr. Speaker, I have news for the Liberal leader. He's been giving the government stress for about nine months now. Every time he opens his mouth, he gives you stress. He never . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order! Hon. member for Melfort-Tisdale, to go to your question.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, every time the Liberal leader opens his mouth, he gives the Minister of Health stress.

Mr. Minister, and Madam Minister, nothing has changed. Nobody believes the hollow threats of the Liberal leader. Are you going to take them seriously now?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the only scary people in the legislature are those people over there, Mr. Speaker. They're the scary people. And let me tell you why they're the scary people.

You know, when I look at the Sask Party platform when they became a political party, what did they say? What was their first point in their health and social policy platform? Allow private surgical clinics in the province of Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is scary. That takes us to an American style of health care in this country.

Mr. Speaker, what did they say about the Canada Health Act? They called the five principles of the Canada Health Act, which the people in this country believe in, as five mindless slogans.

And, Mr. Speaker, when I'm in Toronto trying to work with my colleagues from across the country to get more money from the federal government. What do they do? No . . .

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

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it kind of reminds me of getting up in the middle of night. You want to get back to bed as fast as you can before the bed gets cold. I'm sure that's just the way the Liberal leader is right now; he wants to get back into bed with the NDP before it

gets cold.

Madam Minister, this Liberal leader has no credibility. He's already admitted his election platform was nothing more than political rhetoric. He's already said you can't believe what he says in the middle of an election campaign. And right now there's another election campaign on, a by-election. So who's going to believe more political rhetoric.

Madam Minister, you've been calling for a review of the health care system for some time following the lead of the Saskatchewan Party. When are you going to get on with our suggestion?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, what is their vision for health care? Private surgical clinics; the five principles of the Canada Health Act are called mindless slogans; a freeze when it comes to health funding in this province; and no more money from Ottawa; and they want an audit done by the Provincial Auditor.

Well, Mr. Speaker, their vision is a cold bed for private health care in the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal-NDP coalition government is going to make sure that we keep a publicly funded, publicly administered, single-tiered health system in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, the Liberal leader's little display of independence yesterday lasted about an hour. Then the Minister of Health came out and yanked his chain.

She said that she was thinking about closing hospitals before and she's still thinking about closing hospitals now. Nothing's changed. In fact, she reminded reporters that the Liberal leader sits on the Treasury Board and she said he's going to be part of the process of closing hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is the Health minister obviously isn't worried about his hollow threat because she knows he doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to carry out his threats and walk away from this government.

Madam Minister, why don't you table your health care budgets and let us know what hospitals you're going to close?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, these people over here would sell health care in the province of Saskatchewan, not save it. This government on this side of the House is going to save a publicly funded, publicly administered health system in the province.

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — That's the difference. Mr. Speaker, we don't need another Saskatchewan Party seat — backbencher — that believes in private surgical clinics, believes in a two-tiered health system, that believes that those people that have money

should have access to health and those that don't won't have access to health. We got rid of that in 1962, Mr. Speaker. We got rid of those people in 1991, and this province isn't going to let the private, right-wing agenda come to the province of Saskatchewan.

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

### Watrous Hospital Services for Camp Easter Seal

**Ms. Harpauer:** — My question is for the Minister of Health. You talk about getting rid of those people when in fact you're getting rid of the health system.

Camp Easter Seal, located in the Watrous area, has been offering recreational programs to people with disabilities since 1954. The specially designed, wheelchair-accessible resort is a wonderful facility, and the Saskatchewan Abilities Council has made extensive upgrades to the camp. It is a state-of-the-art facility.

But the operators of the camp are now extremely concerned about the future of the Watrous Hospital. They rely heavily on the hospital for emergency and supplemental health services, especially due to the special needs of the campers that they have each summer.

Madam Minister, will you confirm that the Living Sky Health District plans to downgrade the Watrous Hospital to a health facility in the year 2000 budget?

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this to the member. I was the minister responsible for New Careers Corporation when we significantly upgraded the camp at Watrous. This government upgraded the camp. And you know what . . .

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Here is the problem with their thinking, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in the House they said, let's cut taxes, let's cut taxes — the fuel tax. They say let's cut taxes and let's spend money.

Mr. Speaker, you can't do both. You can't cut taxes and have increases in programs . . . (inaudible) . . . Mr. Speaker. These people would have us as the Alabama North . . .

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

**The Speaker:** — Order. Hon. Minister of Health to complete her answer; I was not able to hear it.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — They don't believe in Crown corporations; they don't believe in government, Mr. Speaker. They don't even believe in the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, they talk about Alberta. Well the province of Saskatchewan doesn't want to be Alberta the second; we want to be Saskatchewan . . .

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

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — . . . talking cutting taxes, but you cut 54 hospitals and you're talking about cutting more.

Mr. Speaker, the health needs of the children who attend Camp Easter Seal are such that 24-hour care and emergency services are needed within a close proximity of the camp. Camp operators say that they have experienced a two-fold increase in the demand for their service, and at the same time the hospital has experienced a corresponding increase in demand to meet the changing needs of these campers.

They say that if the Watrous Hospital is downgraded to a health facility, then their whole camp operation will be in jeopardy. They must provide specific health services at a close proximity to the camp or they may have to be selective as to who they can accept.

Madam Minister, will you assure Camp Easter Seal that they will have 24-hour emergency care available in the Watrous Hospital?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — That's my point. These people want to cut taxes so that we become a tax-free zone and have no money for programs.

I'm in Toronto, I'm in Montreal, speaking with the national Minister of Health. I'm speaking with the Health ministers to try and get the federal government to restore \$4.2 billion. And what does that Leader of the Opposition say? He says, no more money for the provinces. Well you can't have tax cuts, no more money for the provinces from the federal government, and keep spending money for programs. These people don't know what they're talking about.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister opposite obviously wants to brag about what she's done for Camp Easter Seal, but she doesn't want to give Camp Easter Seal the assurance they need now.

Mr. Speaker, as the need for expanded facilities and service at Camp Easter Seal has rapidly increased, so has the demand for the service of the Watrous Hospital. Camp operators say that if Watrous Hospital is converted or if there is any changes in the availability of the emergency services then the camp at Watrous is in jeopardy.

Madam Minister, will you please let them know whether or not you are going to approve the budget plans of the Living Sky Health District?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, every day in the House, in this House, we have these people . . . Their mantra is this: cut taxes, freeze spending, and no more money for programs. And they say to Ottawa, no more money to the provinces for health care.

The number one item in this province's budget is \$1.97 billion

for health care. They say freeze it, they say cut taxes. Well how do you cut taxes, freeze spending, and do everything that these people want us to do?

Well, Mr. Speaker, their logic makes no sense, and their figures just don't add up. And you know what happens to the freeze people, Mr. Freeze eventually melts.

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

#### Tax Receipts for Political Contributions

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every other province in Canada is providing better health care and cutting taxes. Only this government in Saskatchewan is stuck in the 19th century.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Mr. Premier, one of the fundamental principles of a true democracy is fairness. All candidates and all parties must have the same opportunities to compete on a level playing field. That principle does not exist in Saskatchewan today. Right now in Saskatchewan we have two parties, two governing parties who are able to issue tax receipts for political donations and utilize government dollars. We have one party — the opposition party — that is not allowed to issue tax receipts.

Mr. Premier, this unfair advantage has existed since the birth of the Saskatchewan Party three ago. When are you going to fix this flaw in The Election Act, 1996?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite. They will know that as recently as two or three days ago conversations took place between myself and members of their caucus about this very issue. And a decision was made that our staff — from your caucus and our staff — who will deal with this issue will be speaking. Phone calls have taken place.

The issue is not as simple as the member would make out. It has to take changes to the income tax forms that have to be approved by the federal government. And this is being looked at and done.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members opposite, isn't it interesting, when they changed their name in the dead of the night, it was to get away from the connection with a federal party known as the Progressive Conservative federal party. That didn't want any attachment. That wasn't my decision, that wasn't my decision — that was your decision.

Now you find out you lost money as a result. That's one of the benefits of changing . . .

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well if there is discussions going on, our staff certainly don't know about it.

Mr. Speaker, it's usually only Third World countries or banana

republics where the governing party enacts laws that give itself an unfair advantage over its opponents, but that's exactly the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I'm not sitting very far from the member and I'm having difficulty hearing him.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm hollering as loud as loud as I can. If a Saskatchewan resident wants to donate \$100 to the NDP or the Liberals they get a \$75 tax credit, a return of \$75 from the government. So it only costs them \$25. There's not many doing that.

If you want to donate \$100 to the Saskatchewan Party there is no tax credit, so the person donates a full \$100. That's a huge advantage to the NDP and the Liberals and a disadvantage to the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Premier, won't you agree that this is grossly unfair and when are you going to rectify this situation?

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge the logic of the member who was part of the Progressive Conservative Party and had the tax credit — and had the tax credit. Then they decided for political reasons because of certain things that were going on they had to change their name and lost the tax credit.

I would suggest to the member opposite tomorrow, because you're supporting Stockwell Day and Preston Manning, join their party, change your name, you'll get the tax credit tomorrow. You don't need any help from me — just change your name.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier is still fighting the 1980 campaigns, and that's why we're suffering in this province because it's the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, all of us are asking . . . all we're asking for is fairness — either tax credits for everyone or tax credits for no one. Either bring in legislation creating provincial tax credits or bring in legislation outlawing the practice of funnelling money and laundering it through federal parties. We don't care because, Mr. Speaker, we can win either way. All we're asking for is a level playing field.

Mr. Premier, you and I don't agree on many issues but I'd like to think that we both believe in the democratic process. One of the principles is fairness . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I'll ask all hon. members to kindly come to order. Kindly finish your question.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Premier, isn't it time to level the playing field — tax credits for everyone or tax credits for no one. Will you commit to that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite, they had the tax credit paid by the federal taxpayers, the federal government. They changed their name for political reasons and now they say Saskatchewan taxpayers should do the tax credit.

I say to you, no! If you are honest . . . if you are honest, change your name to the Canadian reform alliance party, you'll have the tax credit tomorrow paid by federal taxpayers, not by the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the NDP Party that governs in Saskatchewan a provincial party or are they a federal party?

Mr. Premier, you and I both know that support for political parties goes up and down. Your own provincial NDP secretary says that there are ebbs and flows in politics, and apparently the money isn't exactly flowing into Tommy Douglas House.

Mr. Premier, you may be surprised to hear this, but even the Saskatchewan Party has gone through slow periods in fundraising from time to time the point is it should be fair for everyone. Tax credits for everyone or tax credits for no one.

Mr. Premier, in light of the current by-election in Wood River, later today I will be asking for an emergency debate on this issue. Will you support the Saskatchewan Party's call for a fair election Act?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of co-operation I want to make a suggestion of how the tax credit can happen immediately, and I do this sincerely. There's a way to do it where it's not paid for by the Saskatchewan taxpayers, but paid for by the Canadian taxpayers, which I think we're trying to do.

The Premier and I have just had a small discussion, and we believe that rather than calling yourself the Canadian reform alliance party, or CRAP, say the Saskatchewan Canadian reform alliance party, SCRAP — that would work.

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

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I ask all hon. members to kindly calm . . . Order.

#### SaskEnergy Headquarters

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I will have to thank the Deputy Premier for the introduction to my set of questions. Scrap is a perfect introduction to my question for Ron Clark and the Minister of CIC.

Mr. Minister, the other day both you and Ron Clark told us no decision had been made on the location for the office for SaskEnergy. Well, Mr. Minister, it looks as if that particular

group that owns that building has just gone ahead and received a \$10 million mortgage on that particular building.

Now, Mr. Minister, we know that there's no way that they could receive that kind of a mortgage if you didn't have some rental assurances. Would you, Mr. Minister, care to rethink your answer and tell us whether you've made any commitment to date on that building?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, what I will say, as I said before, that this matter is in the process.

I'm extremely disappointed though that the member didn't ask me about the pipeline or about no-fault insurance. And so what I would like to say to that member opposite is that he has been up advocating in a very strong way for dealing with and getting rid of no-fault insurance in Saskatchewan. And he thinks he takes a very strong position that way; I think that whole side takes that position.

What I would like to tell the House today is that I have received a letter from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; they have a resolution from their convention in March. And it says this, therefor be it resolved:

That SARM go on record as supporting the continued operation of no-fault insurance and advise the independent committee reviewing SGI's no-fault operation accordingly.

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Well it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that we received an answer on no-fault. It seems that's the only thing that he knew anything about today, he probably couldn't get his buddy Ron Clark in here to answer his other question.

Mr. Minister, on SaskEnergy where the question came from. You've raised SaskEnergy rates. Do you plan on raising SaskEnergy rates further this coming winter? Now you need some competition. You've got a pipeline that's only running at half-mast. You've wasted tens of millions in dollars on that particular unnecessary pipeline. Now you have a building that you're looking at renting you don't need.

Mr. Minister, will you reconsider that and give a commitment to the people of this province that you'll not move into that building?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, in our government we have processes that allow for competition in how you deal with and obtain office space. That process is set up. I've explained it to you before. I know that the officials have explained it to you before.

When the process is complete, all of that information will be available, and probably the question that you've asked will be answered. But in the middle of the process, we don't believe in giving all that information out.

What I would say is that the member opposite needs to also acknowledge that some of the difficulties that we've had as a government, has been trying to clean up the mess that was created during the '80s. That includes all the processes around obtaining buildings, and we are going to make sure that we have an open and accountable process and so that everybody can be there. Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

**The Speaker:** — I will ask the hon. members to please refrain . . . hon. member for Canora-Pelly and Deputy Premier kindly refrain from debating when there's a member on his feet asking leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see we've been joined in your gallery by a former member of this Assembly, a member who also served the office of Lieutenant Governor with great distinction, the Hon. Jack Wiebe. And, Mr. Speaker, I would invite members of the Assembly to extend a welcome to Mr. Wiebe.

And I guess the question I would have for Mr. Wiebe is how well he's doing on his model railway that he told us he was going to get right at building once he left the office of Lieutenant Governor.

So let's extend a warm welcome to the Hon. Mr. Wiebe.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave, also to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

**Hon. Mr. Hillson:** — It gives me great pleasure to join with the member from Moosomin in welcoming to the Assembly this morning, Senator Jack Wiebe, who I'm sure will serve this province with the same distinction in his new role that he has in his previous roles.

And Senator Wiebe is joined in the gallery this morning with Emmet Reidy who is known to many members of this Assembly as well. Please welcome both of them. Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Wartman:** — With leave, to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like

to introduce to you and through you to the House, a friend and he's business agent for Local 870 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, John Peterson. John is up in the west gallery. Welcome John.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 80 — The Court of Appeal Act, 2000/ Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel**

**Hon. Mr. Axworthy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 80, The Court of Appeal Act, 2000 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

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

### PRIORITY OF DEBATE

#### **Tax Credits for Political Parties**

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, earlier today at the appropriate time of two hours before the House opened I sent a letter to you requesting, under rule 19, an emergency motion dealing with a matter of tax credits. I would ask for a ruling on that, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Hon. members, as the Hon. Opposition House Leader has pointed out that this morning the Opposition House Leader delivered a notice for priority of debate to the Office of the Clerk as is required under rule 19(2). As members are aware it is the Speaker's responsibility to determine whether the matter should receive urgent consideration and be permitted to proceed.

The Opposition House Leader cites in his case a cautionary letter that I had delivered to each member on June 1, 2000 with respect to the prohibition on the use of public funds to influence the by-election to be held in the constituency of Wood River on June 26, 2000.

The member goes on to make a case that an unlevel playing field presently exists because of certain unproclaimed sections of The Election Act, 1996 as well as because of some other issues. The member states that this state of affairs breaks the spirit of my letter and that because of the pending election the issue should be debated today.

Under rule 19(5) there are a number of conditions that any case must be met, in any case must meet before the Speaker shall authorize a priority of debate. In this particular case the Speaker has no difficulty deciding this is a matter proper to be discussed or that it comes under the administrative responsibility of government and ministerial action. However rule 19(5) also states, and I quote:

... the Speaker also shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within reasonable time by other means.

I point out to all hon. members that the vacancy in the Wood River seat was announced by the Speaker in the Assembly on May 24. The Opposition House Leader could have given notice on Friday, May 26 for the motion he would like to move today and it could have been debated on May 30. As well notice could be given today under rule 18(2) and this motion would be on the order paper on Tuesday, June 6.

In addition, this has been an ongoing matter since 1996. There have been several by-elections and a general election during that time. This by-election does not constitute a new development in this dispute.

I therefore find that the member has not made a sufficient case for the urgency of the matter and the request is denied.

A second matter arising from the request . . . a second matter arising from the request concerns me. In making the request, the member violated the principle that the Chair must not be brought into the debate. The member's letter blatantly attempts to involve the Speaker in the debate by referring to a letter from the Speaker to all members that was sent in the Speaker's administrative capacity regarding members' expenses.

This attempt to involve the Chair in debate and to pressure the Chair is improper and unacceptable in parliamentary practice, as all experienced members know.

I ask for the co-operation of all members in avoiding this in the future.

(1100)

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 55 — The Land Titles Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Axworthy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Land Titles Act, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the existing land titles system is almost entirely paper-based and has not been significantly updated in many years. To address this the LAND (Land Titles Automated Network Development) Project was struck to undertake a broadly based consultative review process aimed at achieving three basic goals.

The first was to re-engineer the land titles system to improve service to the public. The second was the computerization of the entire system. And the third was the replacement of the existing Land Titles Act with a new Bill to implement necessary law reform and to facilitate the re-engineering and computerization processes.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the Assembly today is the product of this extensive consultation process. Expert groups representing legal and land surveyors, communities, were brought together to assist in the development of the project. I'm

pleased to advise members that this legislation is strongly supported by the real estate associations, the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and by a number of other client and stakeholder groups.

Mr. Speaker, I think we'd all agree this overhaul of the current statute is long overdue. The increased efficiencies will mean improved service and a better turnaround on land titles services.

Mr. Speaker, everything's gone quiet; it must be that people are so interested in this Bill.

Realtors and lawyers will be able to conclude . . . Oh, I spoke too soon. Realtors and lawyers will be able to conclude their business transactions much more quickly, Mr. Speaker. Other businesses and professionals like the home builders, surveyors, financial institutions, and the mining industry all stand to benefit from a more efficient land titles system. And as the activities of these and other businesses increase, so too do the benefits to the economy of the province.

The enhancements to the land titles system will allow its integration with the geographic information system known as GIS. That will allow the creation of a seamless system for mapping the province that integrates two related but previously separate systems. The value to businesses such as real estate developers and mineral exploration firms as a result of new-found efficiencies will be significant.

In order to assist in the integration of land titles and GIS, we're developing an e-commerce and imaging system that will have countless applications that will mean improvements in other Government of Saskatchewan departments and corporations. And, Mr. Speaker, it can be sold to other jurisdictions and to private industry, all of which will lead to direct benefits for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this work is being undertaken by SLIS, the Saskatchewan Land Information Services Corporation. The creation of the corporation means that land titles will be maintained as a public program while providing a corporate structure that can take full advantage of the commercial possibilities that will become available through the development of these important new systems.

The corporation will also be able to expand the range of products and services to be offered by our new land information system and market these new products and services outside as well as inside the province.

Mr. Speaker, this major rewrite of The Land Titles Act introduces the following changes: on-line search and registration capacity, separation of all surface and mineral rights, decommissioning of the general record and replacement with an auto-attachment feature for writs of execution and maintenance orders on future acquired property, rationalization of the title and registration procedure, separation of survey and title registration business functions, streamlining of the compensation and review procedures, implementation of one land titles district for the entire province with the continuation of the existing land titles offices as local service points, clarification of the powers and duties of the registrar and the courts under the Act, and finally, Mr. Speaker, provision for the

necessary legal rules for the orderly transition and conversion from the existing legal regime to the new procedures.

Mr. Speaker, the land project is an ambitious task. It has gone well beyond simply updating an existing legislation or even computerizing the land titles system. This legislation is one part of a larger package of initiatives that will see the Saskatchewan Land Information Services Corporation operate as a central hub for the delivery of land services in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as previously noted, this Bill is the product of extensive consultation with the community and represents a sincere effort to meet their needs. I ask that this Assembly join these groups and the government in supporting this essential restructuring of Saskatchewan's land title system.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting the Registration of Title to and Interests in Land and making consequential amendments to other Acts.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the legislation that the minister has just given second reading to certainly is a fairly large and all-encompassing Act. And just looking through the Act I think it's going to take us a bit of time just to get to understand all the details of the Act.

I understand what the minister is saying, Mr. Speaker, when he talks about the fact that we really haven't had a substantial review of The Land Titles Act. And certainly I've had many individuals, from realtors to lawyers, who have discussed some of the areas that they feel really need to be addressed. And it's time they were addressed and brought up in a timely fashion so that areas of concern can be dealt with, especially when it comes to the transfer of title and in land dealings within the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as well we recognize the changes that have taken place and certainly the enhancement of computers in our province and the fact that bringing the land titles themselves up to speed so that transactions can take place a lot more quickly than they have been.

If there has been an issue of concern, it is the time that is needed on a transaction in having land titles . . . the titles changed so that whether it's an individual or a business that have been dealing with a change or dealing with a business deal, they can have the matter addressed in a timely fashion.

So, Mr. Speaker, it appears that we certainly do need a review, and I see the minister . . . as the minister has indicated, there is a substantial review and this legislation is looking at a number of issues and concerns that have been brought to the attention of government by realtors, by individuals within the Land Titles, and certainly the legal community of the province of Saskatchewan.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, it would be appropriate though I think to take the time to review this piece of legislation quite extensively, and it will take that time as a result of the extent of the changes that have been brought forward. And therefore, Mr.

Speaker, I now move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 57 — The Land Surveys Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Axworthy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Land Surveys Act, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I've already addressed the Assembly on the Bill required to make important changes to land titles in Saskatchewan. And as you know, the existing land titles system is almost entirely paper based and has not been significantly updated in many years.

To address this matter, the land project was struck to undertake a broadly-based consultative review process aimed at achieving three basic goals: re-engineering of the land titles system to improve service to the public; computerization of the entire system from plans through to titling; and replacement of the existing legislation to implement necessary law reform and to complement the re-engineering and computerization associated with the project.

The Bill before the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is the framework that provides for the surveying of land, and the creation and approval of plans reflecting those surveys. These plans in turn form a basis upon which a title to land is issued. In other words, Mr. Speaker, this Bill represents a key component of the titling system.

Mr. Speaker, as the first major rewrite of The Land Surveys Act since 1930, this Bill provides for a number of things: the appointment of a controller of surveys with responsibility for the land survey system in the province; surveys in Saskatchewan to be conducted by and under the supervision of a licensed surveyor and in accordance with the Act and its regulations; types and surveys and for the basic legal concepts to support all services; types of plans, approval of plans by the controller, and filing the plans in the system.

It also provides for a process to determine the location of boundaries to land, and, Mr. Speaker, the necessary legal rules to support an orderly transition from the former legal environment.

As part of the consultation process, expert groups representing the land, the surveyor's communities . . . community, and the legal community were brought together to assist in the development of the necessary legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, this Bill reflects those consultations and represents a sincere effort to meet the needs of those communities.

And I'm pleased to advise this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that the land project and its associated legislation is strongly supported by real estate associations, the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and by other client and stakeholder groups.

And I ask that this Assembly join these groups and this government in supporting this Bill which is an essential component of the restructuring of the Saskatchewan land titles system.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting the Surveying of land and the Approval of Plans and making certain consequential amendments.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again we have an Act presented to us that calls for some substantial changes, and especially, Mr. Speaker, talks about upgrades in legislation to deal with the changes that have taken place. And certainly the area of controller . . . of computers, computer networking, and bringing regulations and Acts up to date so that the transactions that we're talking about in The Land Titles Act can be met in a more speedy fashion.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the land surveyors Act, it just seems that this legislation certainly would go hand in hand with the previous legislation, The Land Titles Act.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the legislation though, just looking at the Bill itself, it's quite obvious that there's a number of areas that have had to be addressed, that have had to be dealt with; and we recognize the fact that there are a number of concerned individuals and groups who have put forward a number of suggestions as to how we can simplify the process, how we can bring it up to date so that we can meet the ongoing needs of land transactions in the province of Saskatchewan.

And when it comes to surveying of properties, any group that is involved — whether it's municipal government or whether it's realtors and the sale of property — I believe each and every one of these groups, and certainly lawyers, deal with it on an ongoing basis in regards to transactions of property. It's important that we have pieces of legislation that are up to date and meeting the current requirements versus requirements that may be 10 or 15 or 20 years old or even older.

And, having said that, Mr. Speaker, it appears that this piece of legislation is more of a housekeeping nature, however, it requires a substantial number of changes. And I know our caucus has had some representation in regards to this legislation. My colleague, the member responsible for the Act, certainly has been calling different groups asking for their input. And, Mr. Speaker, we want to indeed ensure that what the minister has been referring to, the groups he discussed . . . that have come to his office to ask for changes, groups that have discussed the specific legislation with us, that the needs of each and every group are being met.

And that we're also looking ahead to the future, because I don't believe we want to just update a piece of legislation for today. But we want to try and look ahead into the future, look through the looking glass and just see what needs we might have down the road so we don't have to address a piece of legislation like this in the immediate future again; we don't have to resurrect it and make some more changes.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we look at all these aspects, that we take the time to review, and that this piece of legislation not only addresses a current need but even addresses some of the projected needs that we will see in the immediate future.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be appropriate

to adjourn debate, review the piece of legislation a little more thoroughly before we move it on to committee. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I at this time move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 58 — The Condominium Property  
Amendment Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Axworthy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of the third of the Bills relating to changes to the land titles system, The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2000.

This legislation, as I say, is consequential to The Land Titles Act, 2000. The changes to the land titles system in that Act result in significant changes in processing of condominium plans and raising of titles during development stage, and also when the condominium land is land is subsequently dealt with.

(1115)

Currently, Mr. Speaker, a condominium plan goes to land titles where it's registered and titles to the units are thereby created. In the new system, a condominium plan will be submitted by a developer to plan processing for approval, and then titles will be raised at land titles. As well, the changes reflect the fact that the corporate information regarding the condominium corporation will be maintained by the corporations branch instead of by land titles.

Mr. Speaker, a number of consequential changes to documents and procedures associated with the formation of condominiums and subsequent changes to condominium plans and titles are required to accompany the changes in the land titling system.

The Act also changes terminology in The Condominium Property Act, 1993 to correspond to the terminology used in The Land Titles Act, 2000.

These changes, Mr. Speaker, will ensure that the benefits of the new land titles system will extend to condominiums. And consequently, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Condominium Property Act, 1993.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the current Bill that the minister has been discussing, The Condominium Property Act, 1993 would certainly appear to have some minor changes that really bring the piece of legislation up to date. It would appear that this is a piece of legislation that certainly is needed, is an important piece of legislation.

However it seems to cover a fairly large area and a broad area as well that, Mr. Speaker, I think certainly we should take the time to discuss. We need to review and determine whether or not it meets all the requirements and all the special needs of the individual groups out there who would be particularly affected by this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I say that because an Act of this nature doesn't necessarily affect a large portion of the population. However, as members of this Assembly, it's our responsibility to see to it that any time a new legislation is brought forward that it is

brought forward appropriately, that it's addressed properly, that it meets the needs of the individuals or the groups that will be affected by the legislation.

And it would be appropriate for my colleagues and I to certainly take time to take the time necessary to review the legislation and to determine exactly the need for the specific piece of legislation and its involvement in regards to the public of Saskatchewan.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 56 — The Land Titles Consequential  
Amendment Act, 2000/Loi de 2000 apportant des  
modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée  
The Land Titles Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Axworthy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to move second reading of The Land Titles Consequential Amendment Act, 2000.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the changes proposed to the land titles system currently before this Assembly in The Land Titles Act, 2000 would result in significant changes to the current real property law in the province. Accordingly it's necessary to make provision for the required legal rules for the orderly transition and conversion from the existing legal regime to new procedures.

And, Mr. Speaker, this Bill provides for consequential amendments arising from The Land Titles Act, 2000 to six bilingual Acts, and makes those changes in both English and French.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Land Titles Act, 2000.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was actually expecting the minister to respond in French to this piece of legislation as we were making the changes, but . . . However, my French is probably as good as his, so I will refrain from saying anything in the French language.

However, Mr. Speaker, this, as you know, this Legislative Assembly, a number of years, adopted a policy whereby certain pieces of legislation would also be translated into French.

And as I understand from the minister, that's what this legislation is doing. While it addresses a number of areas that have been changed as a result of The Land Titles Act, 2000, it also is a piece of legislation that the government feels needs to have the bilingual interpretation as well on this piece of legislation.

So while it seems to be fairly simple and straightforward, I believe my colleagues want to just review the legislation, make sure that it meets the requirements, and therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 71 — The Health Districts  
Amendment Act, 2000**

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Health Districts Amendment Act, 2000. This amendment corrects an error made when we first established the two northern health boards.

Traditionally, district health boards are established by an order in council which confirms the jurisdiction of the district as well as establishing the district health board. After the order in council is signed, board members are appointed to the district health board.

Mr. Speaker, due to an error that we only recently discovered, the Keewatin Yathe and the Mamawetan Churchill River Health District Boards were never formally established as health districts. This has left our northern boards in a very difficult legal position which we are rectifying with these amendments.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment does not provide special legal protection for our northern district health boards. It simply recognizes that the actions of the boards were done in the name of the district health board. This ensures that our northern board members who act in good faith while directing the activities of the district are not put into a difficult legal position.

Mr. Speaker, we accept responsibility for this error and bring this amendment to the legislature to ensure that our northern boards are able to operate freely in the interests of their citizens as all other health districts are allowed to do. As a result, the only amendment we are making at this time is to ensure that our northern board members have the same protection and recognition as other health board members in the province.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of The Health Districts Amendment Act, 2000.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Regarding the second reading of The Health Districts Amendment Act, 2000 . . . and it does look like more of a housekeeping and a simple correcting of an error that was made a number of years ago when the health districts were set up. It is interesting though that I think if you looked at the health districts, there's a lot of errors in the health districts and it can't be corrected quite simply with an amendment to or a change in the regulations like these can.

Fortunately enough, it's as simple as that in these, but there are so many different health districts that are just struggling and struggling and struggling. We've talked many times in this House regarding the budget process that they're going through, and some of the concerns that the people in the health districts have with that. And people that are appointed are frustrated with the whole system.

And I realize that in this Bill it's going to give them some protection, I guess, because the wording will be correct then. But I think when you look at . . . even when the wording is correct in all the other health districts throughout the province, there's great concern with the way things are operated. And

they have concerns and, you know, people are quitting left and right off of these health boards because they're frustrated that they can't go to the people and talk to them prior to making their budget plans.

And certainly I can just think of a number of areas in my constituency alone, Indian Head-Milestone, where I . . . What a number of the communities are doing that have hospitals or having health centres is they're creating a group, an advisory group within that community, and those people are spending hours and hours and hours on how can we save our hospital; how can we save our health centre?

And, you know, they're frustrated because they're being kept out of the loop. They don't get a chance to talk to the health board before these budgets went in, and they're very, very frustrated. And so it really . . .

The poor people on the health districts. Although this corrects it for the northern areas, and the southern areas or the rest of the province is under . . . has the proper legislation in place, the people on the health boards are very frustrated because they can't really . . . they feel like they're trapped in between government and what the local people want. And they're not able to get in the loop and suggest possibilities of changes that may be good for all.

And so although this is just a minor housekeeping, I did want to raise those points. And we'd like to do a little more research on this and make sure everything is exactly the way the minister had mentioned. So I move adjournment of debate on this Bill.

Debate adjourned.

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

**Hon. Ms. Hamilton:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, with leave to extend a special greeting.

Leave granted.

**STATEMENT BY A MEMBER**

**Birthday Congratulations**

**Hon. Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you were in a certain washroom this morning, you might notice a furry chimpanzee. And if you clapped your hands in front of that furry beast, you just might hear a few choruses of the Macarena. And why might that be, Mr. Speaker? Well certainly to celebrate a special birthday.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand in my place to ask all members to join with me in congratulating and celebrating the birthday of Brooke.

Happy birthday, Brooke.

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

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 40**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 40 — The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act**, be now read a second time.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a great privilege to respond to the Bill, The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act, that was put forth a few sittings ago.

And it really is a great idea, you know. We on this side have talked, and it seems that any time we get into the debate on Native issues we get branded by names right off the bat. And it's a . . . I'm glad to be able to discuss this so people understand more of where we come from on this whole issue, you know. During the campaign, we were the only party during the election that would discuss openly the whole matter of charging PST (provincial sales tax) to First Nations off-reserve. And we had a lot of people brand us and accuse us of certain things.

And then it's really quite interesting, shortly after that, that this government would come in and they're not saying a word during the campaign, then put it in the budget right off the bat, as if there should be no talking about it before. It was really, you know, I would be offended if that had happened to me and people that I was representing.

This Bill, talking about the Indian institute of technology Act, is a great idea, and we really commend the government for moving in this direction because we realize that the PST on off-reserve purchases is just a small part of the whole issue of the First Nations people. And so we support that.

But there are a lot bigger issues. And getting more accessibility to education, and proper education, and education that's maybe targeted a little bit more to the First Nations people, is something that we really can favour.

But we do have some concern in the fact that this institute, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, can recognize certificates and diplomas, the post-secondary education and skills training needed for First Nations. In other words they have the ability and the authority to grant diplomas and things like that.

It was not very long ago, in fact only about two or three months ago that we had a situation in our province where Canadian Bible College, CBC, was in our province and they were looking at relocating but would stay in our province if they had certain things that were recognized.

And one of those very things was to recognize diplomas and certificates that they would present, issue. And unfortunately the government opposite didn't think that was a priority and didn't feel they could move in that direction. And as a consequence, we are going to lose that institute, that college, along with all the spinoff jobs and people that come with it. And it's a real shame.

Here in this Act they can automatically put this in place and

now they can recognize the diplomas and certificates that are put forth by this institute and it seems so very easy.

And I guess the concern that I have so often when I look at the members opposite is that it's a cherry-picking. I talked about it yesterday with the film industry and how they can give tax exemptions to certain groups if they feel that to be necessary. And it's the same as this Bill. They can recognize diplomas and certificates for certain groups if they feel that's necessary. And they pick and choose. As opposed to saying yes we can, they pick and choose, say yes you're the winner and you're going to be the loser.

(1130)

Unfortunately the loser in this situation was CBC. They will be moving out of the province and we're going to be losing a number of jobs and another training facility, which is just an absolute shame.

I really feel that the education portion in this Bill is so important because we realize that the better educated people are the better chances of increasing their worth in society and adding back to the society.

And so then when you deal with subjects like the PST it maybe isn't quite as hard to take because they're part of a greater economy and social environment and that's what we all want to see. And this is one area that we feel that is a great step in the right direction. But we do have concerns with that as far as making winners and losers.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move a motion:

That the Assembly do now proceed to item 4 under private members' public bills and orders, Bill No. 211, The Health-care Funding Audit Act.

The division bells rang from 11:33 a.m. until 11:43 a.m.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

**Yeas — 19**

Hermanson	Julé	Krawetz
Gantfoer	Toth	Peters
Eagles	Bakken	Bjornerud
D'Autremont	McMorris	Weekes
Brkich	Harpauer	Wakefield
Wiberg	Hart	Allchurch
Kwiatkowski		

**Nays — 26**

Romanow	Trew	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Atkinson
Goulet	Lautermilch	Thomson
Lorje	Belanger	Nilson
Hillson	Kowalsky	Sonntag
Hamilton	Prebble	Jones
Higgins	Yates	Harper
Axworthy	Junor	Kasperski
Wartman	Addley	

**The Speaker:** — The motion is defeated. Debate will continue on Bill No. 40, The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill, as my colleague was stating, is a very important Bill and is a new step forward, Mr. Speaker, in education in this province in that it allows another institute, another area of training, this one in particular, for the native communities. That they may have their own teachers and deal with the education system in a manner that bodes well for them and allows them to have role models that the students there can look up to as they progress through their education system.

But there are a lot of issues involved in this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker, that need to be examined in a very serious nature and how exactly it's going to integrate into the provincial education system, how it's going to work in with the universities and the SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) system that are already in place, Mr. Speaker. Therefore I would move adjournment of debate.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 39

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 39 — The Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2000** be now read a second time.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to speak on Bill No. 39 which deals with post-secondary education and skills training. This Bill is of particular interest to me because I have two daughters who will be graduating from high school in only a few years and they'll be looking into post-secondary education opportunities. And of course I would like for them to have as many opportunities available for them to choose from as possible, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Post-Secondary Education gave us a brief explanation of this piece of legislation a few days ago, and in his explanation he stated that many sections contained within were clearly just housekeeping. And I agree wholeheartedly that that is a very good thing to do. It just makes sense sometimes to clean up the clutter created by having too many repetitious and overlapping Bills of legislation; and this should be very helpful in simplifying and clarifying matters for the minister and for the institutions involved and it will definitely . . . it demonstrates responsibility on the opposite member's part.

Mr. Speaker, I was also pleased to hear the minister speak about building partnerships with companies, businesses, and employers because, as I mentioned earlier on, it is very important that as many opportunities as possible are made available for our students and for the Saskatchewan people who wish to train or retrain in one area or another.

The partnership arrangements should also help steer this government in perhaps wiser choices on what programs we need to make available for the people in our province. Skills training are only valuable if there's a need for that skill in the

marketplace and employment can be obtained after the training has been completed.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government's anticipation of the need of the workplace hasn't always been on the mark and that is a concern. This is best demonstrated by the fact that we're now experiencing a serious shortage of trained nurses. And we're being told that very soon we will also be facing a serious shortage of trained teachers.

Partnership arrangements should help alleviate the short sight in some of these areas of training and hopefully the government can learn from their mistakes and improve in their judgment on the number of students that are needed to be admitted into programs at our institutes and universities where partnership programs are not available.

Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, I had it brought to my attention just recently that many universities across Canada offer a type of co-op program to their students. These are rather unique programs that allow the students to study one term and then work the next term; and, more often than not, the result of these programs is that the students who participate in them have a much easier time finding employment once their training is completed because they've already had the work experience necessary.

This seems to be quite a positive program available in these universities and perhaps our Minister of Post-Secondary Education will take a look at this and see if it could be implemented in a constructive manner in our universities here in this province as well.

Mr. Speaker, the minister opposite also briefly mentioned a Partnership for Prosperity program. And if I understood it correctly, it would hopefully assist those who are dependent on social services to access an avenue of training so that they could become more self-reliant. And I view this as an extremely positive step for our province.

Gainful employment means better self-esteem and independence, and clearly many people in our province who, for one reason or another, have to become reliant on social services will welcome the skills training . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order, please. Hon. members, the noise level is just increasing slightly more and not allowing the hon. member to be heard.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the gainful employment helps build self-esteem and independence. And clearly many of the people who have had to become reliant on social services will welcome these skills training programs with open arms.

Gainful employment builds self-esteem. And I know the members on this side of the House have been advocating such a program for some time so it's good to see that the members opposite are also taking a look at it.

Mr. Speaker, when I read through the Bill my initial concern arose about a clause contained on page 2, under the headline of Agreements. It mentions how the minister responsible can:

. . . exercise any of the powers or the carrying out of any of the responsibilities or functions assigned . . .

in reference to federal, provincial agreements.

And then later on page 3, under the headline of Grants, it mentions that the:

. . . minister may, for any purposes relating to any matter under the minister's administration or for which he or she is responsible, make grants on any terms that the minister considers appropriate . . .

Now, Mr. Speaker, the confiscation of this government of the federal government's millennium grant is an obvious demonstration of how unfair and irresponsible this government can be in this area. The federal government intended the millennium grant to be put in the hands of the most needy students in our province. And our government on the other hand decided that they were more needy than our students were and simply pocketed the money, to be allocated later where they decided it should go.

Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation does nothing to protect our students in the future from this same action happening again and again. Our government was clearly . . . it was underhanded and borderline unethical in handling of the millennium grant and this legislation will only grant them the power to repeat these actions with future programs. Mr. Speaker, I believe this raises a lot of concerns and perhaps should be looked into a little farther to protect our students in the future.

There was also some concerns which arose when I was reading through page 4 of the legislation. There is an extensive list of what the minister's responsibilities will include. But included in this list is phrases such as: "encourage and stimulate job creation and job development efforts"; and "improve the employability of the workforce."

Now, Mr. Speaker, considering how this government continues to alienate the business community at every chance that it possibly gets, I'm not sure how the Minister responsible for Post-Secondary Education is going to accomplish all these responsibilities of stimulating job creation and job development efforts and improving the employability of the students involved.

It's interesting to note, and perhaps a unique concept to the members opposite, that in order to obtain employment you need a company, a business, or an establishment of some sort that's going to employ you. So with the high taxes, never-ending red tape, regulations, restrictions, and, of course, unionization from this obviously business-unfriendly government, we can train all the people that we want but there could possibly nowhere for these people to work.

This government's idea of stimulating job creation and job development efforts will only assist our middle-aged citizens who want to retrain to gain part-time or full-time minimum wage jobs and to assist our university graduates in finding the road out of the province where they can obtain employment they would like.

The \$350 tax credit that the minister is so proud of isn't going to be enough to keep our students here even if they do find employment because the high taxes will absorb the \$350 in a matter of a few short months. The reason why they're calling it brain drain, Mr. Speaker, is because these students have enough brains to figure out that that's going to happen and that's why they're leaving our province.

Page 4, Mr. Speaker, of the Bill also refers to the minister's responsibility to "levy fees and charges for any programs" in the case of colleges and institutions. On page 5, to "receive, allocate and distribute capital, and operating funds" for the universities. Again I'm concerned because we're all well aware that one of the biggest obstacles of our students today is financial accessibility.

This has been the minister's responsibility up until now and it will remain so in this piece of legislation. But I don't feel that this government has demonstrated a lot of concern in this area in the past and it's definitely not a concern of theirs in their most recent historic budget.

This government has underfunded our universities to the point that the buildings are crumbling around them. And they forced them to raise their tuition fees to try to make up for the lack of funds that they're getting.

Now in the budget the government is telling our students that they will no longer be granted the six-month interest free period on repayment for their student loans. And this is going to be an enormous hardship to our students, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that it demonstrates the total lack of commitment that this government has to the students in this province.

Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects of this Bill that my colleagues and I would like to look at a little further and so at this time I move to adjourn debate on the Bill.

Debate adjourned.

#### Bill No. 29

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Axworthy that **Bill No. 29 — The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2000** by now read a second time.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an amendment to a Bill that was brought into the House about two years ago to correct a considerable number of inequities in the rental area of our province in the renting of homes.

Prior to the changes in '97, damage deposits were extremely difficult to deal with. They were set at a level of \$125, Mr. Speaker, maximum of \$125, regardless of the actual amount of the rent.

The changes in '97 changed that from \$125 to one month's rent. And that took, Mr. Speaker, a lot of lobbying by the people who rent out homes and accommodations — and even one of the members opposite from Saskatoon who wants to claim credit for it. But it was the executive director, Bonnie with the rental

association that was doing a lot of the lobbying, and perhaps the member opposite finally listened to her entreaties and provided the change to it.

So whomever made the changes, Mr. Speaker, and whomever wishes to have the credit for it, they may do so. But what it has resulted in is now we discover that there were some flaws in that Bill that need to be changed. So while there may be some credit, perhaps that credit is a little tainted in spots, Mr. Speaker.

So one of the things that is being changed here is moving from a five-day reporting period. Once a tenant leaves and the landlord wishes to make a claim on the damage deposit, under the legislation that was brought forward with the support of the member opposite, people only had five days in which to file that claim.

It didn't take into consideration weekends; it didn't take into consideration statutory holidays. So you may have had a situation, Mr. Speaker, where a tenant left on Thursday. The landlord had Friday to get the application in immediately. You had Friday and you had Saturday and Sunday as a weekend. You may have had Monday as statutory holiday, or even Tuesday in some cases as a statutory holiday. And so it was extremely difficult, Mr. Speaker, for the landlord to get those applications into the Rentalsman's office to put a claim in on the damage deposits.

These change that the government is presenting now will change that to seven days, and that will not include non-working days. It won't include weekends, it won't include statutory holidays. We were asking for that, Mr. Speaker, at the very time that the original Bill in 1997 was presented. We talked to them at that time — that your time frames are too short.

(1200)

Would they listen, Mr. Speaker? No. Just like today they do not listen to what the people of Saskatchewan have to say, in 1997 they were not listening then either.

So finally, Mr. Speaker, they have realized that there is indeed a problem here and now they're making the moves to correct it — to correct a fault that they put in the legislation two years ago even though they knew at that time, Mr. Speaker, that there was going to be a problem. So I guess, Mr. Speaker, it's a situation where better late than never, but wouldn't it have been proper to have done it right in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, there's a number of other issues in this particular Bill that do cause me some concern. The landlord has to apply within seven working days to put a claim in on the damage deposit. At that time, they have to remit the damage to the Rentalsman.

The Rentalsman holds that damage deposit for 120 days after a decision has been made, Mr. Speaker. So it seems a little bit inequitable that the landlord has seven days and the Rentalsman gets 120 to do the same sort of transfers. I think that that process should be shortened up considerable once the decision has been made.

It should not have been . . . there should be no need to go beyond 30 working days, one month, Mr. Speaker. Surely the Rentalsman office can make those transfers, once the decision has been made, back to the landlord if that's what's happening or back to the tenant if it's being awarded to the tenant. I don't see any reason why that we need a 120-day period in there.

One of the issues also in here, Mr. Speaker, is that if a landlord makes an application to the Rentalsman to retain the damage deposit, they have to provide the Rentalsman with the address of the tenant — the new address — or they have to provide evidence that they sought to find the address of that tenant before they applied to the Rentalsman.

My question to the minister would be, what kind of evidence are you looking for — that the landlord tried to find out what the tenant's address is? In some cases it's fairly easy, the tenant says I'm moving, here's my new address if any mail comes or whatever. In some cases though, Mr. Speaker, the rent runs out at the end of the month and the tenant is gone. And who knows where they went to?

So we need to know, Mr. Speaker, what kind of evidence the government is looking for in trying to determine whether or not the landlord has done a sufficient job of trying to identify where that tenant has gone to. So that's one of the issues here, Mr. Speaker.

The other issue here, Mr. Speaker, in this particular Bill — because it's a two-part Bill; it deals not only with The Residential Tenancies Act but it also deals with consequential amendments to The Saskatchewan Assistance Act — and one of the main difficulties that landlords have had, Mr. Speaker, is dealing with Social Services and their clients as it pertains to the renting of accommodations; that all tenants, Mr. Speaker, when they rent an accommodation put up the damage deposit, up front.

The previous Bill in place here, the one we're operating under today, allows for those tenants who may not have two months worth of salary . . . two months worth of rent to put forward immediately, to pay in instalments. But, Mr. Speaker, the Social Service recipients do not put up any, any damage deposit, while they're in their accommodations. The landlord, if he has a claim against the damage deposit, has to file an application with Social Services after the tenant has left. And that takes a considerable period of time, Mr. Speaker, to work through that process. And perhaps there could be some way to speed that process up.

I'm sure that we don't want to tie up government money on deposit with landlords. But on the other hand, the landlord needs to have reasonably timed access to those funds if they're filing a claim against the damage deposit, and if that claim is upheld by the Rentalsman, Mr. Speaker.

So again, that's another area, I think, that needs to be investigated to be . . . to find a speedier and more efficient method of dealing with those situations.

So there's a number of other areas, Mr. Speaker, that I think the minister needs to be taking a look at in dealing with this. Presently there's about 5,000 security deposit hearings a year.

That's a lot of security deposit hearings, and it's meant a considerable workload on the Rentalsman, has meant that his staff has to have been increased.

And this change in the legislation of '97 has meant that that change has gone from 1,000 a year to 5,000. But of those, Mr. Speaker, 2,000 people, the tenant doesn't show up for the hearings. Even though a hearing has been awarded — the member has applied the . . . the landlord has applied to the Rentalsman and the tenant has said yes, he wants a hearing — 2,000 of them don't show up. And 2,000 of those 5,000, Mr. Speaker, they have no forwarding addresses for them.

So they are lost in the process. But it takes time before that Rentalsman receives . . . that landlord receives his money in return.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is some more work to be done on this particular issue, therefore I would move adjournment of debate.

Debate adjourned.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much to the government members. It's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to introduce a number of students and teachers seated in the east gallery. This is a grade 4, 5, and 6 from the Fort Livingstone School in Pelly, Saskatchewan, part of the Canora-Pelly constituency.

I'd like to introduce 39 grade 4, 6, and 6 students, and their three teachers, Monica Dudeck, Colleen Robinson and Don Budz.

I'd ask all members to welcome this group to, not only to the city of Regina but here to the Legislative Chamber.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday. Have a pleasant weekend.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:07 p.m.