

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition regarding the crumbling state of our highways and the need for twinning and more specifically the need to commit more of our fuel tax revenue to highway maintenance and construction. And the petition . . . prayer is as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to call on federal and provincial governments to dedicate a significantly greater portion of fuel tax revenues toward road maintenance and construction so Saskatchewan residents may have a safe highway system that meets their needs.

This petition was provided to the office of the Liberal opposition but they're . . . (inaudible) . . . Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to present it today. There are people who have signed this petition from Shaunavon, Gull Lake, Rush Lake, Vanguard, as well as Hazenmore.

I so present.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, I too would like to present a petition to this House in large parts similar to the one just presented. The Saskatchewan highways are crumbling and in need of twinning and recognizes that governments have reaped hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue from fuel taxes and motor vehicle fees.

The Speaker: — Order, order. I would just remind the hon. member that debate on the issue; just go right to the prayer, please, and the petition, thank you.

Mr. Elhard: — Lots of lessons to be learned in the House, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to call on federal and provincial governments to dedicate a significantly greater portion of fuel tax revenues toward road maintenance and construction so Saskatchewan residents may have a safe highway system that meets their needs.

And this petition your . . . Mr. Speaker, was signed by the good residents of the constituencies of Wood River and Cypress Hills.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of many people in Saskatchewan, both urban and rural, very concerned about the agriculture crisis that we're in today. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to assist Saskatchewan farmers by withdrawing from the failing AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) program and using the remaining provincial AIDA funding to rebate the education portion of the 1999 property taxes on agriculture lands for one year, whereby providing farm families with \$133 million tax reduction in 1999.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on these petitions come from the communities of Imperial, Liberty, Eyebrow, Nokomis, Leroy, and Simpson. And I'm proud to present on their behalf.

Mr. Kwiatkowski: — Mr. Speaker, it is with great responsibility I rise to present two petitions today, both respecting the automobile insurance Act. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to repeal the provision of the personal injury benefits contained in the automobile insurance Act and adopt a return to an add-on insurance system that would provide benefits on a no-fault basis to all victims without taking away the innocent victim's right to seek compensation from the person responsible for the accident, but with appropriate modifications to reduce overall personal injury costs.

The petition is signed by the good folks of Regina and Weyburn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have petitions from citizens throughout this wonderful province of Saskatchewan. And the petition reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to assist Saskatchewan farmers by withdrawing from the failing AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) program and using the remaining provincial AIDA funding to rebate the education portion of the 1999 property taxes on agriculture lands for one year, whereby providing farm families with \$133 million in tax reduction in 1999.

And the petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from Wiseton, Elrose, Simpson, Young, and Saltcoats.

I so present.

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to repeal the provision of the personal injuries benefits contained in the automobile insurance Act and adopt a return to the add-on insurance system that would provide benefits on a no-fault basis to all victims without taking away the innocent victim's right

to seek compensation from the person responsible for the accident, but with appropriate modifications to reduce overall personal injury costs.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the Wolseley, Sintaluta, Indian Head area; from Regina, and from Saskatoon.

I so present.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I too stand today to present a petition regarding just another school closure in this province. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the Minister of Education to do everything in his power to maintain the quality of education of students attending the schools in Qu'Appelle and to stop the unwanted closure of classes in Qu'Appelle.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the petitions presented at the last sitting have been reviewed and found to be in order and they are therefore thereby read and received.

The petitions are for petitioning the Assembly to call on federal and provincial governments to dedicate a greater portion of fuel tax revenues toward road maintenance.

And petitions asking the Assembly to repeal the personal injury benefits contained in the automobile insurance Act.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: (1) during 1999 how many times has the Sympatico e-mail system been out of service and what was the reason for each of those outages; (2) for each outage occurred by this system in 1999, how many users were affected?

I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, to the members of the Assembly, a number of guests that we have in the House today.

On the floor, Mr. Speaker, we have Terri and Ken Sleva of Regina, Kent and Laurel Brace of Saskatoon, Norbert Kossman of Lumsden, Anita Powless of Regina, Paul Jarbeau of Regina, Carmen Trimble of Regina, Diana Rempel and Darvin Appell of Regina, and Ed Nemeth; Mr. Speaker. And these people are all either involved with or affected by the disease multiple

sclerosis.

In your gallery, as well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Tracy Kuhtz who is the executive director of the Alzheimer's Society, Mr. Speaker. And as well, while I'm on my feet, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to all members, and particularly to new members, my wife Carole.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to the legislature one of my constituents, Mr. Emmett Reidy, who is in your gallery.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — If I may, hon. members, I would like to add my welcome to Mr. Reidy who as you all know, a former judge of the Court of Canadian Citizenship, and a gentleman with a long-time interest in the political affairs of Saskatchewan.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Humboldt to Host Scott Tournament of Hearts

Ms. Julé: — Mr. Speaker, in January 2000, the Humboldt curling club will be hosting the first Scott Tournament of Hearts of the new millennium. Saskatchewan's top eight women's curling teams will be in Humboldt on January 26th through to the 30th to compete for top honours in the province.

Organizers of this upcoming event gathered at the Humboldt curling club for the Scott launch luncheon on November 24th. And I was very pleased to be there, Mr. Speaker, to bring greetings on behalf of the people of the Humboldt constituency and to applaud the many volunteers working on the project.

The Humboldt curling club bid to host the event five years ago and then waited two years before learning the bid was successful. In the words of Madeline Pelzer, chairperson of the organizing committee, "I am so very happy that we get it this year."

If the size of the luncheon, Mr. Speaker, is any indication, Humboldt will be an enthusiastic and hospitable host for the Scott Tournament of Hearts. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

New Doctor for Esterhazy and Langenburg

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from Saskatoon Meewasin acknowledged yesterday, that recruiting doctors for rural areas anywhere in North America is difficult. But she also said that we are doing a reasonably good job at finding and replacing doctors for our rural communities. And she mentioned two doctors yesterday.

And I am pleased today to welcome yet another doctor that's coming to my part of the province, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Taryl Felhaber is now opening her medical practice at the Langenburg Health Centre, where she provides general practice service five days a week. Also, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Felhaber is now a member of

the Kaposvar clinic in Esterhazy where she will work weekends and evenings with a team of physicians in treating patients at the St. Anthony's Hospital.

Dr. Felhaber comes to Saskatchewan from Minnesota where she was raised and educated, then to South Africa where she was trained as a medical doctor and now to east central Saskatchewan.

Dr. Felhaber has an extensive background in environmental science, geochemistry, and, Mr. Speaker, in sports medicine which will come in handy, I'm sure, when the member from Saltcoats injures himself while he's playing right wing.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome her and her husband and family to Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Providence Place for Holistic Health Resolution

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read a letter that I received from Providence Place in Moose Jaw in support of our farmers in crisis. The letter reads:

The Board of Trustees of Providence Place for Holistic Health, sponsored by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul of Kingston, Ontario, a Long Term Health Care facility in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, unanimously approved a resolution at their November 23rd board meeting; the resolution asks that a strong message be forwarded to you, expressing our grave concern for the "farm crisis" in the Prairies, and more specifically in Saskatchewan. Many farm families are suffering mental and physical anguish because of the stresses caused by the economic woes in the farm community. Some are even resorting to suicide.

We are people of Mission in health care, so we urge you to seriously consider assistance to our farmers and their families, relative to improving their health, and support programs to alleviate their problems.

We value our agricultural communities, who are a lifeline to Canadians, and are responsible, dedicated citizens in our rural and urban communities.

We request your positive response to rectify this matter.

The letter's signed:

Respectively, Mr. Henri O'Reilly, Chairperson, Board of Trustees (and) Mr. Raymond E. Mulaire, Chief Executive Officer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Regina Film Company Producing Movie

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I bring good news, Mr. Speaker, for Regina, Moose Jaw, and in turn for the whole province. Right now the feature film, *Borderline Normal* is being shot in Regina. Stephen Onda's company, Heartland Motion Pictures of Regina is shooting the project, and Jeff

Beesley, a 26-year-old from Moose Jaw and a graduate of the University of Regina is directing the film.

This is the only the second film that Jeff has directed but he's jumping at the chance. Some of the stars of the film have been seen on *L.A. Law*, *Dawson's Creek*, and *Top Gun*. The story is about a 16-year-old boy who goes through his parent's divorce and a custody battle over himself. This is a very different story, Mr. Speaker, from the glitz usually coming out of Hollywood.

Besides the fame and fortune, this film is also touching the lives of our communities. Two hundred people will find full-time work during the filming of *Borderline Normal*. Local unions, art guilds, film associations, and our provincial government can take credit for helping the industry in our film friendly province. In fact, some of the film was shot at the Sportsplex, the exhibition grounds, and even right here in the legislature.

I would like to wish Stephen Onda, Jeff Beesley, and the rest of the people working on *Borderline Normal* the best of luck. The film will be shown on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), Superchannel and the Movie Network, and I look forward to seeing it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Private Member's Bill on Dealer Purity

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, the member's statement I would like to make today will be more or less a continuation of my efforts yesterday until I was caught short by a speeding clock. You might call this dealer purity part two.

I wish to reiterate my personal concern with dealer purity issue and its significance to the farmers, machinery dealers, manufacturers — indeed the whole economy of this province. Now being a farm partner currently and the owner of equipment, designed and built in Saskatchewan, and having worked in the area of agricultural machinery sales, I can speak from personal experience on this issue.

Giving equipment dealers some modicum of protection from over-restrictive contractual agreements on the part of multinational giants will be an advantage and safeguard for all parties directly affected.

Honey Bee Manufacturing, my constituency's largest private employer, is one of those companies that will be positively affected by such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we in the official opposition have offered our co-operation on this issue and we look forward to supporting any government initiative in this regard if similar to our own private members' Bill.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate a timely and positive response by the government on the issue of dealer purity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Writers Promote Their Work

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, as you know, I'm proud of

boasting in this Assembly that my constituency of Regina Lakeview has more accomplished writers per square inch than any other in Saskatchewan, and possibly any constituency in Canada.

They write many books to get us through our long winter nights. They also do much to promote our province, making it better known far beyond our borders. They do this directly through their work and they do it by travelling the country, spreading the word about who we are, where we come from, and what are our stories.

Two writers who are not in my constituency but who would be more than welcome, have just returned from the mysterious East of Canada where they did just that.

Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet from Weyburn, author of the best selling children's book, *A Prairie Alphabet*, has just returned from several stops in northern Ontario and Toronto. Her tour was sponsored by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, as was one by Alison Lohans of Regina, who took the good news of her work and of Saskatchewan to Prince Edward Island. Alison has published 12 books including her latest, *Skateboard Kids*.

I thank the Children's Book Centre for sponsoring these journeys. The more we share our writers and artists with the world, the more Saskatchewan writers there will be for all of us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Victim Impact Statement Program

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to speak about a new initiative by our government, the victim impact statement program, which was just introduced on December 1. This program gives the victims of crime a stronger voice in court.

Mr. Speaker, the victim impact statement program provides victims with the opportunity to tell the court how a crime has affected them. Every victim of a reported crime will have the opportunity to complete a victim impact statement. This process will ensure a victim's voice is heard, and is a further step the provincial government is taking to ensure victims are treated with dignity, respect, and sympathy for their ordeal.

What is particularly important about this program is that it gives victims a chance to talk about every way a crime has affected them. Not just the evidence or the incident itself, but how it's impacted on their personal lives, on their family, on their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, victim service personnel are there for victims if they need help with their statements. Studies have indicated that where victim impact statement programs are in place, victims express greater feelings of being dealt with justly. Victims feel valued and empowered by the process and feel a greater sense of satisfaction with the justice system.

Please join me in my support for this new initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Financial Support for Farmers

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning the Premier was asked if he thought farmers were becoming frustrated at the length of time it was taking . . . that they were frustrated, the length of time it was taking to get some help. Now brace yourself, Mr. Speaker, here's what he said:

I don't believe that they are frustrated. This is not really a very long process. Keep in mind that we've been a month and a half out of Ottawa only. That's not all that long. I'm prepared to sacrifice a little more time.

Mr. Premier, you don't have the slightest idea what's going on in rural Saskatchewan. Farmers are extremely frustrated. They're holding tax revolts. They're dumping grain at post offices and at a minister's office. But worst of all, Mr. Premier, every day they are quietly losing hope.

Mr. Premier, wake up. For Saskatchewan's sake, wake up. What are you going to do to address the farm crisis now?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I believe if the hon. member was completely factual in the report that he prefaced his question, he will have told the House that at the symposium sponsored by the Minister of Agriculture and the Deputy Premier this morning, two-day symposium looking into the future, 10, 15 years into agriculture, one of the questioners asked me in effect — I don't have the exact transcript — asked me in effect whether or not the level of frustration was so high that this would prohibit them discussing the future.

My answer was that their level of frustration was high, but it was not so high that it would prevent farmers from trying to look to the future and develop policy for the future, and that that debate of the future would provide them the necessary hope. So we continue to take . . . position.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that sounds like quite a stretch to me. But I would say to the Premier that the rural voters sent him a wake-up call on September 16. It's now clear that he hit the snooze button, rolled over, and went back to sleep.

Mr. Premier, how can you say that farmers aren't frustrated. If anything, they are beyond frustrated — they're angry, they're desperate, and they're despairing. And you just don't seem to get it. You don't have a clue what's going on out there; and you don't have a clue what kind of terrible Christmas many farm families are going to experience.

You've forgotten the resolution that we passed right on the floor of this Assembly calling for immediate assistance. Mr. Premier — immediate. Where have you been? How can you be so out of touch with farm families?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I will say with the greatest of respect to the Leader of the Opposition, I don't think anybody in this House needs to lecture any other member in this House — regardless of political party — on the issue, on the issue, Mr. Speaker, of the gravity of the farm crisis.

We heard it. We heard it in the floor of this House. We have heard it before the election. We've spoken to it before the election. I don't only mean this side; all party members have done it. We are working on this, I still hope, in a bipartisan fashion. And I think it does not advance the debate at all to frame the question in that issue.

We know exactly how difficult it is out there. And that's why we are urging the Leader of the Opposition and the farm coalition members — SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities), SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association), Wheat Pool, the NFU (National Farmers Union) — to continue in a united voice in fighting for the family farms.

And while I'm on my feet, it would have helped if the Leader of the Opposition, himself, had earlier not advocated the abandonment of the Crow rate rather than changing his position now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a coalition; it's fighting very hard. But the Premier doesn't seem to be there fighting with us any more.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, in a prepared statement, the Premier admitted he has no plan for dealing with the farm crisis. He told farm leaders that he is looking for them to provide him with a road map. After eight years of driving Saskatchewan agriculture into the ground, the Premier decides now he wants to look at a road map.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the Premier said he's prepared to sacrifice a little more time. What he really means is he's prepared to sacrifice farm families.

Mr. Premier, where is your road map? Where is your plan for a long-term safety net? Where is your plan for cutting education tax? Where is your plan for saving farm families? Mr. Premier, after eight years — that is quite a bit of time — why are we still waiting for your plan from your government for farm families?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, again I say to — with the greatest respect — to the Leader of the Opposition, he is going to fast lose what credibility he has left by continuing to misrepresent — misrepresent — the position of what this government is doing.

Now the Leader of the Opposition and the agricultural critic were asked to the beginning of a two-day symposium sponsored by the provincial agricultural department which is designed to have a futuristic 10, 15, 20-year look.

I acknowledged in my address that there's an urgent immediate problem on the \$1.3 billion and the action we have taken by going to Ottawa together in a joint way. I will not repeat again the seven or eight points raised on page 5 of the Speech from the Throne.

The Speech from the Throne, which the Leader of the Opposition himself said, stole or took many of the ideas of the Saskatchewan Party itself, and I don't deny the fact that we took from the good ideas that they advanced, we've advocated in specific terms.

So what we are trying to do in this conference is ask the farmers to look to that future in the midst of difficulty and continue to fight for \$1.3 billion. That's our position; it remains our position.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Plains Health Centre Closure Costs

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the Premier's performance has been woefully inadequate. Yesterday it was his Minister of Health who performed badly. All of this shows that the government has learned nothing. Even after the Provincial Auditor clearly showed that the Plains closure is \$50 million over budget, the Health minister continues to make excuses. She refuses to accept responsibility. She refuses to admit that the project is a disaster.

Mr. Premier, you have gutted health care in Regina and in the process you have squandered \$50 million. And worst of all — worst of all — Mr. Premier, you tried to hide it from the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Premier, you got caught yesterday. Will you admit that you have mismanaged this project from start to finish?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member will know, a decision was made by the health district and the Government of Saskatchewan to consolidate services that were located at the Plains Health Centre into the Regina General and the Pasqua. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to remind the leader of the SPs (Saskatchewan Party) that he, on February 15, 1994, said that we had governments that built . . . like to build monuments, that like to build hospitals. We probably have more hospitals per capita in our province than in any other part of Canada.

Our priorities were wrong; in fact I know they were wrong, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, here's a member that acknowledges that we had too many hospitals in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the new consolidated services at the Plains and the Pasqua mean that we have a new dialysis. It means we have a brand new mental health unit; we have a new burn unit; we have native healing centres; and we have an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) along with all kinds of other services, Mr. Speaker. Health care in Regina is better today.

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister can keep on repeating her phony-baloney explanation, but the auditor spells it out in black and white. He says, and I quote:

The actual cost was \$133.4 million. The change in name of this construction project was a change in name only.

A change in name only, Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier, you can run but you cannot hide. You mismanaged this project from start to finish. You blew \$50 million, and then you tried to cover it up.

Mr. Premier, when are you going to take responsibility, shoulder responsibility, for your mismanagement of the health care system?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — What I can say to the member is that we disagree with the Provincial Auditor that what we have today is what was intended. Now, Mr. Speaker, I go back to the Fyke report which was authored in July 1995, and I quote from page 12, and he says:

(1400)

It's unfortunate that the current Toward 2000 capital project has become an all-encompassing project endeavouring to not only address the facility requirements for the move of programs and services from the Plains, but also meet the other hospital capital requirements within the district.

Then he says:

It's suggested that this project could be more readily managed if we were considered as six, more or less, separate projects.

Mr. Minister, we continue to . . . Or, Mr. Speaker, we continue to hold the view that in order to consolidate the programs and close the Plains and add some enhancements that this project went from \$83 million to \$96 million. All of the other costs were enhancements well beyond the scope of the original project and intention, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's very disheartening to hear ministers dodge the questions that we've been asking. The NDP (New Democratic Party) has learned nothing over the past time except for one thing — they've learned how to keep a tight muzzle on the Leader of the Liberal Party; might as well have duct tape over his mouth.

Two years ago the Liberals raised the Plains hospital every single day in this House. They tabled petitions; they held rallies; they called for the minister's resignation. I remember it. The Liberal Leader had his face plastered on the side of buses. He promised to chain himself to the Plains hospital, and yesterday the auditor revealed this disastrous project was \$50 million over budget. What did we hear from the Liberal Leader? Not one word, not a word, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Minister, you are now a minister of the Crown, and you are part of the NDP government that closed the Plains hospital. Recognize that. Will you stand in your place now and defend the government's mismanagement of this project?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as the members know — and I know they can't stand the fact — but we have a coalition government made up of partners in the Liberal Party and the NDP. I know they can't stand it; in fact, it drives them crazy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Liberals in this country and New Democrats in this country agree on one thing: we are not interested in a two-tier health care system as the Reform Party is and as that member has talked about.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, we are not interested in freezing health care spending in time for five years, as that member is.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, it was a CCF-NDP (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party) government that brought medicare to this province and a Liberal government that brought medicare to this country; and we will continue to hold to those principles, not as the Reform Party and the SPers do, Mr. Speaker.

Hospital Facilities in Regina

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health often talks, Mr. Speaker, about a choice that their cabinet had to make between the Plains hospital and the NDP plan to restructure the hospital system in Regina. Well, Mr. Speaker, just for the record, the Saskatchewan Party and Saskatchewan people will choose the Plains hospital over that NDP plan for Regina hospitals ten times out of ten.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that now we are down to two hospitals in Regina, and apparently things aren't going very well there either. Madam Minister, here's what one nurse who works at the Regina General thinks of your handiwork. She writes:

All of the equipment is old and rarely works. Anything sent to get fixed takes weeks to return and there is no guarantee that it will continue working. The rooms are cramped with garbage cans and curtains getting in the way of our work, and this makes for a very frustrating workday.

Madam Minister, is that what we got for \$133 million? How do you explain the deplorable working conditions this nurse describes in one of the hospitals you just spent \$133 million renovating?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — With all due respect to the member from Swift Current, who I understand was a former ministerial assistant to the previous Grant Devine government and cabinet ministers. I would make this comment: it was not an NDP-Liberal coalition that made the decision to put some \$18 million in new capital construction into the Pasqua and the Regina General, Mr. Speaker. That was made by the Devine administration.

Consequently the General and the Pasqua were more up to date than the Regina General . . . or than the Plains. That decision was made by the former Conservative government, Mr. Speaker. There was a report commissioned by George McLeod.

That report was rendered in the early 1990s, that indicated that those two hospitals were the newest and we need to consolidate services, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, another question for the minister. Mr. Speaker, she might want to talk about people's past activities and what they did 10 years ago; we want to talk about health care in Saskatchewan in 1999.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — The letter I just quoted from is from a nurse, Mr. Speaker, who has worked in the maternity ward at Regina General. She goes on to describe what she thinks is the most disturbing problem in the maternity ward. She writes:

The most disturbing situation occurred when the latest renovation project was underway for the new ambulatory care area, the bats came out. We received a memo that these were rabid bats and we were no longer allowed to catch them.

Madam Minister, I'm not sure what's more disturbing: the fact that nurses in 1999 in a hospital in Regina, in the birthplace of medicare, spend any part of their day catching bats; or the fact that they were advised not to catch these particular bats because they might be rabid.

Madam Minister, will you confirm the maternity ward at Regina General is infested with rabid bats? And will you table the memo that was sent to the nurses with the rabid bat warning?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I believe that history is an important lesson, Mr. Speaker, because if you don't know your history, if you don't remember your history, you have no idea where you're going. And that may be a lesson for the member from Swift Current, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he talks about bats. What I can tell the member is that bats have happened to have occurred in the Regina General as a result of opening up the old part of the Regina General while under construction, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of safety — and I happen to live in an old neighbourhood in Saskatoon and we regularly have bats come to visit. As a matter of safety you do not handle bats, Mr. Speaker, because you may not know whether they're rabid or not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there have been bats in various older facilities across the province for some time and I understand that the Regina General is attempting to get the bats out of the area of concern, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question to the minister responsible. He doesn't seem to be very concerned about the fact that rabid bats are in a maternity ward in a

Saskatchewan hospital in 1999.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our third child was born in Swift Current about a year ago and I can recall how busy the nurses were attending to my wife and I can recall that they certainly wouldn't have had any time to go catch bats, rabid or otherwise, Mr. Speaker.

She writes . . . the nurse finishes her letter, Mr. Speaker, by pleading with the government to open their eyes. She writes that "no one should have to bring another human being into this world in this kind of area." Madam Minister, I'm guessing she is referring to the rabid bat area of Regina General Hospital. The nurse ends the letter with this, "It is a disgusting situation that needs to be rectified immediately."

Madam Minister, we agree. Having rabid bats flying around the maternity ward at the Regina General Hospital is a disgusting situation. Madam Minister, how is it possible to spend \$133 million and end up with a hospital maternity ward infested with rabid bats? What are you doing to rectify this disgusting situation?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, obviously we are concerned when there are bats in health facilities in 1999 — obviously we are. But I think one of the things that we all understand, Mr. Speaker, is that when you are under construction and you open up older parts of buildings and attach them to the new construction that there will be moments when this kind of thing may occur, Mr. Speaker.

Now we are not aware that there is a rabid bat that has been found. But what I can say is that the staff have been asked to take extraordinary precautions because we don't always know whether or not certain animals have the rabies disease, Mr. Speaker. So I guess we would caution people to make sure that they are prudent when dealing with this situation.

And I understand that the Regina Health District is attempting to get this situation under control. The situation, I'm told, has happened two or three times and they're hoping to remedy the situation very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

Process for Approval of Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, multiple sclerosis is a terrible disease that many Saskatchewan residents suffer from. Betaseron is now covered under the provincial drug plan for remitting MS (multiple sclerosis), however, there is another stage of the disease called secondary-progressive MS.

This stage of the disease often means more progressive disability for the victims. Betaseron has been proven to be very effective for the treatment of MS. It's been approved by the federal Department of Health. Madam Minister, there should be no discrimination between the various types of MS or the stages of the disease.

Will you commit today to have Betaseron approved for people

with secondary progressive MS?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to add my welcome to the guests representing people affected with MS. As with all the drugs this new use for Betaseron has been submitted to the review committees. That's the two committees, the Saskatchewan Drug Quality Assessment Committee and the Saskatchewan Formulary Committee, and we're looking forward to their recommendations which will be coming to me as soon as possible.

I also want to add that I received an invitation last week in my office to meet with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Saskatchewan . . . or of Canada, the Saskatchewan division, and I look forward to meeting with you as soon as we can possible arrange that meeting.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Health. Alzheimer's disease steals the life of its victims. Madam Minister, there is a drug called Aricept which specifically treats Alzheimer disease. It is again approved by Health Canada and reduces the symptoms of the early stages of the disease. This drug keeps Alzheimer sufferers out of long-term care facilities. It gives hope, it gives the gift of time. Madam Minister, this drug is already available in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. Why the delay for Saskatchewan?

And I know you're going to say it's going to the review committee. The question is can you speed up this process because time is of the essence. Why will you . . . will you commit to having this drug approved quickly for Alzheimer's disease sufferers in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to add my welcome to Tracy Kuhtz, who's still up in the gallery, from the Alzheimer's Society, and we've also met.

I recognize that many people in the province are anxiously waiting for a decision on this drug. And we've also . . . it is at the committee review stage and the committee has made their recommendation but we need other information. And Ontario has had this drug in use since June '99 and we're waiting for information from Ontario so we can make a more informed decision.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, again my question to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, why does this process take so long? Why do you have to delay and delay and delay while people suffering with MS and Alzheimer's disease wait for your government to get into the game and get things done for these people?

Madam Minister, will you review the process that is used to approve drugs in the *Formulary*? Will you get this process happening quicker? Will you commit to getting this done in a

timely fashion so people like those suffering here today will not have to wait for your ineptitude?

(1415)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although Aricept has been under consideration for more than a year, on more than one occasion the drug's manufacturer has submitted new information so that alone delays the process.

Other provinces have used our review process and have found it to be exemplary. We've also reviewed that process and have reinforced that it is the best process that we can have to determine the benefit of any new drug to the health system.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Financial Support for Farmers

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Minister, this morning in the agriculture symposium that you have put in place over at the Delta Hotel here in Regina, your deputy minister of Agriculture made a presentation to the group and I think everyone expected that he would be laying out your plan — indeed, that was what the agenda suggested that he would be laying out.

Mr. Minister, that certainly was not the case. The minister . . . or the deputy minister reiterated what his department does on a daily basis and gave no plan whatsoever for agriculture.

Mr. Minister, can you give the farm community of Saskatchewan some indication, some indication of where your department is headed with respect to a long-term safety net?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the member opposite, and I'm going to table a chart here that shows net farm income by province in Canada which shows the net farm income in Ontario and Quebec up nicely from the five-year average and Saskatchewan's down from almost 700 million to minus 48 million.

I want to say to the member opposite that he knows full well that what is needed here, as the motion indicated, first and foremost is a billion dollar payment immediately to the farmers of this province.

As it would relate to what's the responsibility of the provincial government, the Throne Speech deals clearly with that — improvements to crop insurance, looking at the proposal from SARM as it would relate to property taxation.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say clearly to the members opposite what would have helped a great deal was when the Crow rate was being dismantled, was being dismantled . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No you didn't. No you didn't. I say to the member opposite that his party sat idly by while the Crow benefit dismantled. And I say to the member, here's what he said . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order, order. My colleagues that brings to an end question period, oral question period. Order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 202 — The Respect for Constituents Act

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move Bill . . . pardon me, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move first reading of Bill No. 202, The Respect for Constituents Act. I believe it's 202, The Respect for Constituents Act. I would like it to be introduced and read a first time.

And furthermore while I'm on my feet I would like to move first reading of Bill No. 203, The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Amendment Act, 1999. I'd like to move introduction and first . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. I just want to remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that each Bill needs to be introduced individually please. Each Bill introduced individually, one at a time, with leave.

Bill No. 201 — The Four-year Taxation Plan Act

Mr. Hermanson: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move first reading of Bill No. 201, The Four-year Taxation Plan Act and move introduction of first reading, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill No. 202 — The Respect for Constituents Act

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and get it right this time. It's a little different than the House of Commons. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move first reading of Bill No. 202, The Respect for Constituents Act.

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

Bill No. 211 — The Health-care Funding Audit Act

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, I would move first reading of the Bill No. 211, The Health-care Funding Audit Act.

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

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask leave of the Assembly to move first reading of a Bill that deals with agricultural equipment dealerships and issues surrounding the sale of equipment in the province.

Leave granted.

Bill No. 12 — Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move that — where am I at here — I move first reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — I would ask the Hon. Agriculture minister for a title of the Bill, if he would have one.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the Bill that we will be introducing is The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, now.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Melenchuk: — By leave, Mr. Speaker, to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Thank you for your patience, hon. members. Before I recognize the next member, I'd like to just let the Assembly know that the Assembly's agreed to proceed with the second reading of this Bill immediately. And there are some procedural matters to follow.

I must advise members that second reading debate may proceed on the proviso that the Bill has yet to be reviewed as to proper format and as to the requirement for a money recommendation. So we may require some time to review that — some brief time.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Melenchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a guest in your gallery, Dr. Stirling McDowell, who as many of you would know, is the former general secretary of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. He is also a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. And he is also the man who the Stirling McDowell foundation is named after, and please join with me in welcoming Dr. McDowell to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a guest.

Leave granted.

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this House, a constituent of mine and a former member of this House and a minister of Finance, Mr. Elwood Cowley. So would you please welcome him.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, with leave for the introduction of guests.

Leave granted.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery there are three very important guests that are interested in the piece of legislation that the Minister of Agriculture presented here a few moments ago.

I see Mr. Gerry Bourgault, the president and CEO (chief executive officer) of Bourgault Industries; Mr. John Schmeiser, the executive officer of the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association; and I see Mr. Larry Schneider, the executive director of the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association.

I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming them here to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stewart: — Request leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, seated in the east gallery, Mr. Lorne Ridgway, a friend of mine and a fine young farmer and worker from my constituency. Mr. Ridgway farms at Avonlea.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 12 — The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order, please. Order. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture could speak to the Bill at this point in time.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of a very, very important Bill, a Bill known as The Agriculture Equipment Dealerships Act. And I want to say to members opposite and to all members of the Assembly that I urge them to support unanimously this Bill and to do it as quickly as we can, hopefully today.

And I say to the members opposite, if they need time to read it, take time. We can adjourn the debate, but let's come back to it later today to get it passed so that the dealers of this province are protected and we're not waiting. Let's do that. Let's not hold it up.

Mr. Speaker, I say as well that at stake here are . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well the members opposite yell from their seat when we have a Bill before the Assembly that deals with a very important issue of thousands of jobs in the province, the manufacturers in this province.

And I say that Saskatchewan has built a reputation dealing with the issue of machinery manufacturing, dealing with the issue of people manufacturing and processing things in this province.

And I say to the members opposite, on Monday, or when they introduced the Bill, they were demanding that we dealt with the Bill immediately. They wanted to do it that day. But the problem was the Bill they had, actually would have done harm to many farmers in this province . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well look at it, read it, and you will find your Bill did not meet, did not meet the needs of the farmers of the province. I

challenge you.

And we'll look at that Bill if you like, but it does not meet the needs that are needed to be met. This Bill does.

Well I say to you, read it in the next few hours, and before we adjourn today, let's get the Bill passed. That's all I ask. And that's a reasonable request.

(1430)

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan stands behind a vision of fair, free trade. And I say to members opposite, we believe in a competitive market. And the issue of dealer purity is the worst example, is the worst example of abuse of that power that we could imagine.

Well I say to the member opposite . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, please. Order. Order, please. I would like to . . . I'm sure everybody would like to hear the hon. minister's response. There will be ample opportunity for the appropriate debates.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I say to the members opposite that small business is what drives innovation in this province. And there are a number of manufacturers of machinery in this province that started out in a back shop or the Quonset, that have gone on to become very, very successful manufacturers. And a number of them have appealed to the government and to members of the opposition to get this kind of legislation completed and passed as soon as possible.

And I say that we have an edge in the world market as it would relate to a number of different products. One need only look, one need only look at things like air seeders and realize that it was Saskatchewan innovation that led us to being and being able to compete in the world markets.

I say, why is this legislation needed? Mr. Speaker, many of the mainline manufacturers have asked dealers to sign contracts that would restrict them selling short-line equipment from manufacturers here in the province. This is not good for dealers. It's not good for our manufacturers. And, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not good for our farmers who would be restricted in what products they could buy at main dealers in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that on the issue of dealer purity, we are sure that the industry will support this Bill. There's been a lot of consulting even as late as this morning to get this Bill here. The words are correct. They're drafted with the help of a number of individuals and groups. This Bill is supported by the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association, the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and they have letters supporting it that I will share with the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I ask members of the Assembly to support this legislation and move it along as quickly as humanly possible, and I move second reading of The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have just seen an example that the gall of the government opposite has no bounds whatsoever. The Deputy Premier stands in this House and demonstrates his own inabilities and his ineptitude.

We presented our legislative package the second day this House was open. We have been talking to him ever since this House opened, begging him to come forward with this piece of legislation. His whole response at that time was, no, I haven't got time for that right now, call me later, talk to me about it some other time. We haven't got it ready together yet. We don't know what we're going to do. That has been day after day after day, Mr. Speaker. This minister doesn't know what he's doing and hasn't got the ability to bring one piece of legislation to this Assembly in a proper manner.

He talks about co-operation, Mr. Speaker. Co-operation, the need to work together. The Premier even talked about it in his Speech from the Throne that the people said we have to work together. And this minister walks in today. We haven't even seen the legislation. He didn't have the courtesy to even show it to us beforehand, a draft. And he wants us to pass it sight unseen. That minister, Mr. Speaker, does not represent the people of Saskatchewan in any way, shape or form.

His total disregard, Mr. Speaker, for the traditions of this House are . . . bring disrepute on the members, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very important Bill to the people of this province, to the business dealers, to the agricultural implement manufacturers and dealers of this province, to the farmers of this province. And it is extremely important that this piece of legislation provide those dealers with the security that they need.

The large manufacturing companies are putting a lot of pressure on these dealers to sign a contract, Mr. Speaker, that will tie them completely to that particular brand; and to the disregard of the needs of the people of Saskatchewan, the dealers, the farmers, and the manufacturers in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, to put it plainly, we don't trust that minister to do the job right.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn this debate.

Debate adjourned.

TABLING OF COMMUNICATION

The Speaker: — Hon. members, before orders of the day I wish to inform the House that I have a message from His Hon. the Lieutenant Governor.

The letter dated December 13, 1999, Dear Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 68.7 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby inform the Assembly of the membership of the Board of Internal Economy, effective December 9, 1999.

Hon. Ron Osika, Chairperson; the Hon. Eldon

Lautermilch, the Hon. Jack Hillson, Mr. Myron Kowalsky, Ms. Carolyn Jones, Mr. Dan D'Autremont, and Mr. Bob Bjornerud.

Yours Sincerely, J.E.N. Wiebe, Lieutenant Governor,
Province of Saskatchewan

Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Kowalsky: — I have the response for question one here. I might mention, Mr. Speaker, that there have been 35 questions submitted altogether. I think the members opposite have been busy as beavers generating questions. And as a result, Mr. Speaker, the government departments have been scurrying to come up with the answers. And today we will be submitting the answers to 30 out of 35 of these questions, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the questions require a little more research just to get them all together. The answers aren't quite as easy to get; you can't just simply pluck them out of some book. I'm sure if you could, the members would already have the answers, so if you . . . I would hereby submit the response to question 1.

Mr. Speaker, a response for question 2. Mr. Speaker, I have the written response to question 3. Mr. Speaker, I ask that question 4 be converted to order for return (debatable); also with the leave of the Assembly to convert 5, 6, and 7 to order for return (debatable).

The Speaker: — Item numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 converted to notices of motion for return.

Mr. Kowalsky: — Response to question 8. Mr. Speaker, I have here the answer for question 9, and by leave of the Assembly, I also submit the responses to question 9 through to 27. I request that question 28 be converted.

The Speaker: — Item no. 28 is converted to notice of motion for return.

Mr. Kowalsky: — Mr. Speaker, I have the response for question 29, and by leave of the Assembly, also the responses for questions 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35. And that makes the . . . that completes the list, Mr. Speaker, 30 out of 35 questions answered, and putting the floodlights on what is happening in government, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the members for their questions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Those responses are tabled.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Addley.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to begin my address this afternoon by first recognizing and congratulating the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and the seconder from Saskatoon Sutherland for the excellent moving and seconding of this Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I also want to extend my congratulations this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to all of the members of the Assembly who have been either returned or are new members. And often that we hear that this is clearly one of the highest honours that we have when we're sent here by our constituents to represent their views and to make legislation and to ensure that the Saskatchewan people are well served. So I want, Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, to congratulate all of the members of the Assembly who have been either elected or re-elected.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the election of the Deputy Speaker, the member from Regina Coronation Park. As you well know, Mr. Speaker, this member has been elected now for the fourth time, and I think it's a tremendous reflection of the confidence and respect that the constituents have of the member from Coronation Park, Regina Coronation Park, and I want to recognize his . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment this afternoon to also congratulate you, sir. Because in 1995, I was most disappointed, I must say, that I lost my good friends from east central Saskatchewan in the election of 1995 to the Liberal Party which were all around me, I must say, Mr. Speaker, those days. And truly the area of east central Saskatchewan was very much red with Liberal red.

And it was difficult to watch what happened and the work that was developing around me. But through the course of the first two or three months, I had an opportunity to develop an extremely important and, I would suggest, significant working relationship with the opposition. But over that period of four years, I very much came to know you, Mr. Speaker.

Although I would have had preferred to have a NDP party colleague sharing my newspapers and my television time and my radio time, and would have preferred to have a colleague from the NDP Party standing on the steps of my constituency office doing a press release, as opposed to you, sir, I did in fact gain a very respectful insight into your work as a member.

And today I want to say that this is an extremely important occasion for me to recognize you, sir, in the chair. Your cordial, polite, and gracious manner made it easy to speak with you on any occasion that we did business. And your commitment to try and work out issues, when political expedience in many cases could have been the course, but rather getting the job done and the task solved was more important than political credit.

And that was, I have to say to you, sir, greatly appreciated.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I want to say, Mr. Speaker, your fair and non-personal performance on issues in debate was admired by us on this side of the House, and I know we all felt that way about it. And finally, your outstanding respect for this institution was ever present in your daily work.

And so it is with high standards that you assume your new responsibility of Speaker, irrespective of your party politics which are different than mine. But your integrity, sir, precedes you and I look forward to serving the people of Saskatchewan in this Assembly with you as the Speaker in our chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1445)

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful and humble to stand today in the Legislative Assembly and to thank the people of my constituency of Yorkton who have placed trust in me in serving them again in this Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, this is now the third term for me representing the riding, and it is an unprecedented tribute. And I want to thank the people of Yorkton for that opportunity.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier for giving me the opportunity to serve on Executive Council. Because in the history of the riding of Yorkton, I am the first New Democratic member elected from the constituency of Yorkton to ever sit as a cabinet minister in a government. And so I am greatly pleased and appreciative of the opportunity that the Premier has given me to serve as a cabinet member of this fine government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, it is often said that few know that the constituency of Yorkton is really . . . and the city of Yorkton is really the third largest trading centre of this very great province, only third to Regina and Saskatoon. And in the past nine years we've had phenomenal growth in our city, which has been vibrant and bustling and really is in a boom period in our part of eastern Saskatchewan.

And recently there was an article that was published by the Saskatchewan *Trends Monitor* which says that Yorkton is the fastest growing and the most progressive community to do business in. And, Mr. Speaker, that is clearly the case.

Just to highlight for you a few things that have been happening in our constituency over the last couple of years, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we've had huge retail growth. Just recently we've seen the expansion — first the coming and now the expansion — of the new Canadian Tire store and recently the growth in the new Superstore.

And just this year, in August of this year, we opened the new Wal-Mart. And recently an expansion of the retail restaurant business in that of the Melrose Place.

And at the same time, Mr. Speaker, this government has been

active in promoting some of the value added in our part of Saskatchewan. Just recently we made a commitment this summer to the Harvest Meats-Fletcher consortium which are now going to be processing a larger amount of Saskatchewan pork right in our community. And they retail and wholesale it all across North America, Mr. Speaker. And I'm proud to say that our government has been able to provide financial assistance to the Harvest Meats-Fletcher consortium so that they might be able to proceed down that path.

And further, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about how we've been able to assist the Popowich Milling, which today is milling oats in our part of Saskatchewan and selling milled oats and oats product all over the world. And this government has been involved in helping to provide some financial assistance for that to occur.

And I want to give credit today to the people of Popowich Milling and the economic development committee and the chamber of commerce who've helped us grow this particular industry not only for our part of Saskatchewan, but for the province, and certainly across North America.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also pleased with the kinds of accomplishments that we've been able to achieve in our small community over the last couple of years. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we had the opening of the renal dialysis in our health care centre, which is only the second location in the province where we had an extended renal dialysis services.

And it was through the work that we did with the Regina Health District and with the Regina tertiary centre that we were able to develop this kind of a facility in our part of the province. And I'm really pleased that we are able to now provide services for renal dialysis patients closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, in our part of the province we were able to initiate the first ever project of a joint school facility between the Catholic system and the public system, where we brought the K to 12 education program in under one roof, where we have a common library; where we have a common gymnasium; where we have the city involved in that process with some of their facilities — the very first joint project in K to 12 education in the province.

And we'd look at doing more, Mr. Speaker, across the province in which this school and this project will be a model.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about the integration of the SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) property and the Highways building, where we've used again, a state-of-the-art facility, and integrated two programs within that particular complex.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we have in our part of the province today the very first integration of a post-secondary program offered by the Parkland Regional College, where the Parkland Regional College joined with the regional high school some 25 years ago and developed the strategy in which we can use two facilities, not only to educate students between K to 12, but to do adult education.

That model over the years, Mr. Speaker, has been adopted in

other parts of the province, but we're very pleased to have been one of the first communities in which we have been able to apply that kind of a model.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also say this afternoon how proud I am to be associated with the administration of this government, because over the past nine years we've come a long way — a long, long way in spite of all of the criticisms that we've heard from across the way or from other folks.

Mr. Speaker, today we have in this province got our financial footing stabilized. One that was a difficult task for us over a period of time, and not easy, and required a great deal of careful planning, sacrifice, and hardship. But when we look around the province today we see that Saskatchewan is very much on the move.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we never reduced the expenditures in this province to the areas of social services, at the same time that we were making adjustments, Mr. Speaker, to cut the taxes. And we cut taxes in this province not only during election periods, but cut taxes in this province during periods between elections.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we were able to adjust royalty structures in this province so that we could be competitive with our Alberta friends, as it relates to the oil and gas industry.

But today, Mr. Speaker, in this province we have a new mandate, we have a new arrangement, and we have a new environment. And it amazes me, Mr. Speaker, from time to time when I listen over the last eight or nine days, of how critical the Saskatchewan Party is of this new coalition.

And I ask, Mr. Speaker, why it is that I hear this kind of criticism. And while I think, Mr. Speaker, that some of the reasons exist in the fact that today the Saskatchewan Party, and in the past year and a half or two years, have been mainly driven by the idea of adopting or accepting or trying to achieve power. And what really seems to be at the crux of this whole issue, Mr. Speaker, is that they see that they have to now be in opposition for four more years.

And, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a commentary to the Liberal Party in their decision to form the coalition party. Because the Liberal Party and the NDP Party have been said on a number of occasions today, that they now make up 60 per cent of the electorate, and that's in fact what the electorate wants to see. The electorate wants to see a coalition that chose to make government work, Mr. Speaker, and not to defeat government. This is what . . . this is the thinking of the coalition, Mr. Speaker. And that's what Saskatchewan wanted, Mr. Speaker — they want to see a working government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I've been intrigued by the comments of the member from Cypress Hills because a few days ago the member stood up and he talked about how, in fact, he was the very first member elected to the Legislative Assembly as a Saskatchewan Party member, and I want, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the member from Cypress Hills for being the very first member to be elected for the Saskatchewan

Party.

But he's been critical of the . . . but there's been criticism, Mr. Speaker, of the democratic process of which the coalition has come about. And those comments, Mr. Speaker, are reflected in all of the speeches that I've heard from across the way over the last couple of days.

And what particularly struck me was the past members when they talked about the question of how in fact this arrangement came about. And I want to say to the member from Cypress, you should have not been number one. You should have been number 10 or number 11 in the election process if you in fact believe in democracy in the way in which this institution and members of this side of the House believe.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that when the Saskatchewan Party was formed, that 10 of those members who made up this party didn't exercise the democratic process and do what the member from Cypress did and get elected in each of their constituencies?

And, Mr. Speaker, I think about my friend and colleague from the riding of Athabasca because he was in the same situation as many of the Saskatchewan Party members were. But the member from Athabasca took the high road, Mr. Speaker, and what he did is he went to the electorate. First he resigned his seat, and then the member went and said that he is going to run for the New Democratic Party. He sought the nomination and he canvassed and campaigned and won the nomination.

And then he went, Mr. Speaker, to an election process and won his seat as the new member from Athabasca representing the New Democratic Party unlike the member, Mr. Speaker . . . unlike what happened with the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think some of the answer lies in the question of why it is that the members opposite didn't proceed down this path? And I say, Mr. Speaker, that they were afraid during those early days that they might not be sitting in this Assembly and that's the reason, Mr. Speaker, why they weren't in fact running . . . exercising democratic process during that period of time.

And, Mr. Speaker, during the period of 1991 to today, in 1991 the Saskatchewan Party, those members over there were in opposition in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 those members over there were in opposition. And in 1997, Mr. Speaker, those members changed their name. And Mr. Speaker, in 1999 they're still in opposition, Mr. Speaker, and I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, come the election of 2002 or 2003, those members will still be in opposition, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I want to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to talk a little bit about the agricultural issue, Mr. Speaker. The agricultural issue, Mr. Speaker, I have been committed to for all of my life, Mr. Speaker, and I've been a farmer, Mr. Speaker, for all of my life.

Today, I'm still very much involved with the farming industry, Mr. Speaker. I'm still the guy who goes out and helps seed the crop and I'm still the guy who goes out and helps take the crop off, Mr. Speaker. And I'm still the guy who does some of the marketing of my crop as well, unlike what some of the members on that side of the House are able to say.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know what it means, I know what it takes, Mr. Speaker, and the sweat that it takes today to make ends meet. And for 25 years in this province, Mr. Speaker, for 25 years in this province, Mr. Speaker, I've watched farmers get bigger, Mr. Speaker, watched farms get bigger, and rural communities shrink in this province and across Canada, Mr. Speaker. And the number of farms over the last 25 years going from 80,000, Mr. Speaker, to today 56,000 farms.

And I want to use my own experience, Mr. Speaker, to highlight some of what has happened in this province.

My little community of Theodore, Saskatchewan from where I come from and the community from which the member from Canora, whose wife comes from, which is a wonderful community today. The community of Theodore is where his wife comes from. I don't think she comes from Pelly, Mr. Speaker, but maybe there's something I don't know about.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that in 1968, Mr. Speaker, when I graduated from the high school in our little community of Theodore, we had three grocery stores and we had a lumberyard and we had two great big fuel bulk stations, Mr. Speaker. And we had a theatre and we had three service stations and we had five elevators in our community, Mr. Speaker, in 1968.

In our school we never . . . but in our school, Mr. Speaker, we never had a gymnasium. We had an old hospital, Mr. Speaker, and we had an old rink that never had artificial ice and an old curling rink. And we had an old town hall, Mr. Speaker, and an old curling rink but in the '80s, Mr. Speaker, we did a whole lot of things.

In the '80s, Mr. Speaker, we built a brand new health centre in 1980 and we built a brand new complex and incorporated the rink and the skating rink and curling rink. And we also built the new gymnasium in the '80s; the Tory administration built a new gymnasium onto the school. And, Mr. Speaker, today, 25 years later, in this little community of Theodore, our elevators are gone except for one. And the Pool has just indicated that they're going to be closing it as well. It's one of the 50 . . . one of the 250 that they're going to be closing down.

Mr. Speaker, we now have artificial ice in our rinks, and a beautiful hall complex. But last year, Mr. Speaker, we couldn't find a senior curling team any more in our community, in that little community of Theodore.

And our hockey team was on the edge of not being able to play because they couldn't find enough people to play in that community. And, Mr. Speaker, on a Sunday, Mr. Speaker, today in our little town of Theodore, I can't buy a gallon of gas, Mr. Speaker. We have no more theatre in our small town of Theodore, Mr. Speaker, and we have no more lumber yard.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that throughout the past 25 years, Mr. Speaker, as politicians of this Assembly irrespective of which political party, Mr. Speaker, we've built a huge infrastructure in this province — a huge infrastructure.

In the '70s this government and this administration was involved in building some of that new infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. And in the '80s, the members opposite built a lot of that infrastructure as well. And the member from Moosomin would be, if the member from Moosomin were able to stand up in the House, he'd tell you the kinds of expenditures that the Conservative government of the '80s built.

(1500)

But today, Mr. Speaker, when we look around Saskatchewan we can't support all of that infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, and not just in Saskatchewan but all across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, last summer I had the opportunity of travelling to British Columbia. And as I travelled on the edge of the town of Swift Current and the little city of Waldeck, I forgot to put gas in my vehicle, and as we were travelling along we needed to get some gas so we turned into the little town of Waldeck. And, Mr. Speaker, in the middle of the day, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, I couldn't buy a gallon of gas in the little town of Waldeck.

And as we drove on, Mr. Speaker, and travelled to British Columbia, on the Highway No. 1 which we've never travelled for many years, Mr. Speaker, and over a period of 15 years many of the shops along the No. 1 in some of those small communities no longer exist. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that this trend has been happening now in this province and this country and in North America for better than 25 years.

And what's the case, Mr. Speaker, the rationale for this, Mr. Speaker? Because when we look at our farming community, we used to have a farm, and farms used to be a quarter section farms, Mr. Speaker, of 1965. And today those farms, Mr. Speaker, are half a township, of which people own.

Equipment is huge today, Mr. Speaker, huge. And, Mr. Speaker, there are 300 or 400 . . . 30 or 40 . . . 300 or 400 horsepower equipment today that's used to work these fields, Mr. Speaker. And 50- and 60- and 70-foot equipment that they pull, Mr. Speaker.

And the Saskatchewan landscape, Mr. Speaker, has changed in a major way. Today in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to find, soon, a wooden elevator. Most of our elevators are going to be concrete with high throughput.

And many of our branch lines are gone, Mr. Speaker. And when you look at the transportation of the grain system today, in a farmyard you find the B-train or a large semi-trailer, as opposed to the old half-ton or the old one-tons that used to haul the grain from our farmyards . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . On the cost in hopper boxes, what the member from Canora says, which Canora-Pelly says — which is absolutely true.

And the cost, Mr. Speaker, of the farming operation today is astronomical. Because today, Mr. Speaker, this is big business. It's a million dollar business to operate our farms today.

And that's why, in the last couple of months and the other day, last Monday, in this Assembly, the discussion and the debate as it rages across Saskatchewan today, is the most important debate that we're going to have in terms of the future of the agricultural industry.

And, Mr. Speaker, this debate is about the future of the agricultural industry. It's about emphasizing that 450,000 Saskatchewan taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, cannot support the industry in which I have made a living in as well for the last 25, 30 years. And, Mr. Speaker, this is an important discussion today about how the agricultural industry is going to survive today in Canada.

And let there not be any mistake that this issue requires full commitment, Mr. Speaker, of all Saskatchewan political parties. And, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party should not believe in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they're the champions of agriculture, Mr. Speaker. They should not believe that they're the champions of agriculture. Because last session in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, it was that very — Mr. Deputy Speaker — it was that very party who talked about how we should not be involved in AIDA. And they were emphatic about how we should not be involved in AIDA. And then they pressed us and said, you need to be involved in AIDA.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, we're into AIDA, which we said all along was a flawed program for Saskatchewan people. On many occasions, Mr. Speaker, we said that. And today, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party stand up and say we should be in AIDA. And so, Mr. Speaker, collectively we're in AIDA today.

And I want to say to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, that there is not one political party alone that can win this agricultural battle. And we should not, Mr. Speaker, politicize this issue, because there is no way in Saskatchewan's history that any political party can win this agriculture debate on its own. It requires the consolidation and the co-operation of every party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that we've done a lot over the last couple of months in trying to bring this issue to the forefront. Our trek to Ottawa in which the members opposite, and the coalition, and members from this side of the House, and the Agriculture minister were involved in trying to keep this agenda at the forefront.

Mr. Speaker, the most important message that we need to continue to send to Ottawa, is that Ottawa needs to help us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because this is a national issue. This is an issue that will require the assistance of all of Canadians. And collectively, in this province, we are going to work together to ensure that we make that message clear to Ottawa in our search for the \$1.3 billion, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to take a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to return to the taxation piece. The entire campaign, Mr. Speaker, of the Saskatchewan Party, was to reduce taxes. And the member from Saskatchewan Rivers, I noted, talked about that this shouldn't be a gradual approach to reduction of taxes in this province.

What there should be, Mr. Speaker, is that this should be one huge reduction.

And I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this is a new member of the Assembly. And of course he will in time realize that in order to provide better services in this province, and enhance services in this province, in order to provide tax relief to the people of Saskatchewan, and in order to continue to balance a budget of \$4.7 billion of which \$750 million added to that is the interest, will require an approach where taxation needs to be done in a graduated, balanced fashion with all of the other aspects the Saskatchewan people will be demanding, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that today we have a \$11.4 billion debt in this province and we still continue to pay \$750 million in interest. And we need to address all of the tax issues. Clearly we need to address all of the tax issues in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We have an interest to reduce the personal income tax, and we have an interest to reduce the sales tax in this province, and we have an interest to reduce the property tax in this province. But we also need to ensure on the other side, Mr. Speaker, that we have good education, and that we have good health care, and that we have good social services, and that we have good roads in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And we need to continue to recognize that \$4.7 billion is the amount of dollars we have today to work with in order to ensure that we can meet all of those expectations.

And I've listened with some interest, Mr. Speaker, to question period and the theme of question period. And what I've heard in the last eight days, Mr. Speaker, is a great deal of call for greater expenditure. More money to come for tax relief is what I hear from the other side of the House. More money for highways, and more money for health care, and more money for farm support, Mr. Speaker, and more money for education.

This is the same kind of call, Mr. Speaker, that we heard from the previous opposition that were here, but with very little, very little, Mr. Deputy Speaker, thought about how in fact we're going to balance that approach and ensure that that spending . . .

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we know what the agenda is, Mr. Speaker. The agenda from the other side of the House is the same old Conservative politics that we've heard for many years from that particular side of the House, and we continue to hear it, Mr. Speaker. And we hear it in the issues of the privatization agenda, Mr. Speaker. The privatization agenda continues to be the number one driver for that party across the way. And we've heard it from the member from Kindersley where he's talked about how in fact we're going to be privatizing health care.

And, Mr. Speaker, in this particular province, on this side of the House, we don't support the privatization of health care, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — And on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we've heard from the member from Saltcoats, and we've heard, Mr. Speaker, from the member from Kindersley as

well, talking about how in fact if they were sitting here we would have fewer Crowns.

The privatization of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, is very much on the agenda of the Saskatchewan Party. And if they had their opportunity, Mr. Speaker, Crown privatization would be very much in the forefront, Mr. Speaker.

Sell the assets, Mr. Speaker, is what they talk about. In campaign '99 we heard the new Conservative Party talking about pitting rich people against poor people. We heard about Aboriginal people against non-Aboriginal people. They talked about rural folks against urban folks.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's not what this side of the House represents. This side of the House in government, Mr. Speaker, is about working together, is about building communities, and about making sure that Saskatchewan people are well served in a fashion in which they've grown to respect, Mr. Speaker, and that's what this government is about.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to talk about the health care scene. Today there is an attack on our health care system, and there's criticism on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. And I know a bit about this because it's been the continuous theme, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the members opposite.

And they talk about things like people who are waiting for surgery. They talk about priorities, of course, of waiting lists. And they say that waiting lists are too long, and staff are overworked, and there are shortages, Mr. Speaker. And I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from this side of the House, that some of those criticisms that the members opposite bring forward are clearly correct. And that we're working on solutions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to try to find ways to reduce all of those issues.

But the reality is that we need to pay attention to this system, Mr. Speaker. The health care budget already assumes almost 50 per cent of the entire expenditure of this government — 48 per cent, Mr. Speaker, is what health care now takes from the treasury. And it leaves the rest of the budget to do things, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's 42 per cent. It's 42 per cent, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it leaves the rest of the expenditures to be dealt for roads, and for education, and for municipal government, and for social services, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And nobody wants to see these facilities or services consolidated or rationalized when I hear the members from the other side speak. And the member from Carrot River, I was most interested, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in what he talked about. And not to pick on him, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but just to simply look at what he said in his Throne Speech address about what's happening in the Carrot River hospital.

Now little credit was given to centres of excellence that are in his own district, Mr. Speaker. No attention was given to the centres of excellence from the member from Carrot River. Now why didn't the member from Carrot River stand up and talk about the hospital and the health care services in Nipawin?

I know why he didn't talk about the health care services in Nipawin, because Nipawin community hospital in this province, Mr. Speaker, is one of the finest community hospitals anywhere to be found in this province. And that's not what the member from Carrot River would be talking about, because he doesn't accentuate the positives that happen in this province, and nor do any of the members on the other side of the House.

In Nipawin, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, today there are 12 physicians that are practising there. And they're connected to the tertiary centre of Saskatoon. And when you look at the questions that came from the member from Tisdale, who . . . or the member from Melfort who represents Tisdale-Melfort, I haven't heard him stand up in this House today and talk about the award winning physician from Tisdale, Saskatchewan. Not once has he talked about that.

Not once has the member from Melfort stood and talked about the number of physicians who come to his region on a daily basis from the tertiary centre of Saskatoon, and provide services close to home. Not once have I heard him stand up and talk about that.

Why? Because the intent of the members on the other side of the House and the member whom I point to is about fearmongering that the health system isn't any good, and never talk about all of the positive things that are happening.

When I toured the Melfort hospital several years ago, Mr. Speaker, I found several people who were there receiving chemotherapy for the first time in that environment, very first time in the Melfort hospital. And that is an indication of all of the services that are happening in rural Saskatchewan today in a major way, of which the members opposite provide no credit to.

The third dialysis system in the province, renal dialysis, close to home community service today in the Melfort constituency in the community of Tisdale. You . . . (inaudible) . . . hear of the member from Melfort standing up and talking about the positive services that are provided in his constituency in that, Mr. Speaker.

Never do I hear anybody stand up on that side of the House and talk about the services of the tertiary centres of Saskatoon and Regina. In Saskatoon today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to tell you that we train some of the finest physicians and nurses that this country has ever seen — ever seen.

(1515)

And our physicians and nurses today are capable of working anywhere in Canada or North America, Mr. Speaker, because we provide in that community the very best training opportunities for people anywhere in North America. But I never hear members opposite talking about that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that we have many challenges today in the health care system, and I remember when I . . . And some of the rationale, Mr. Speaker, as to why we're having some difficulties in North America today and sustaining and retaining people within the health care system is because it's difficult for people to recognize that they can have a logistic and full practice in some of these communities.

I remember a visit, Mr. Speaker, that I had to the community of Moosomin in 1998. On that occasion I met a physician who had just arrived, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from South Africa. He'd just been there for four months. And the first words that he uttered to me is that he was going to be moving very soon.

Now I don't know whether or not the physician has moved or not, but he had told me that he was moving down the road to the community of Indian Head. And the reason that he was moving to Indian Head, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because where he came from he did two and three surgeries a day, and when he arrived at the small, little Moosomin hospital, where they did have an anesthesiologist, the rationale was that he couldn't do surgeries every day. In fact in the four-month period that he was there he didn't do one surgery.

And so he said he was moving his practice to Indian Head, moving his family to Indian Head, so that he in fact could practice every day in Regina and do his surgical procedures in Regina and still maintain his family practice.

So in spite, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of all the critics, I think today when we look around North America we still have the best medicare program anywhere in the world, right here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — And every day people from across the country, across the world, still come to Saskatchewan and look at the kind of stability and the kind of work that we do in the medicare system right here in our own province.

Mr. Speaker, there's lots to do today in the health care system, and we're going to work at improving our waiting times and we're going to strengthen, as the Throne Speech talks about, regional centres across the province.

And in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to provide some assistance for ambulance services. And I want to say to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I challenge people in this Assembly to tell me, where in the world — where in the world we have a better health care system than we have right here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Throne Speech is a document and a blueprint for stability and growth and jobs and employment. And it's about accessibility and enhancement of the post-secondary system, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that we can provide the best opportunities for our young people today, who are competing in the global world for jobs.

And that's what our education system is intended to do, so that they can provide students today with opportunities right here in Saskatchewan, but at the same time where they can compete with other students from all across the world for good jobs, and well-paying jobs.

A better education society, Mr. Deputy Speaker, makes for stronger families and it makes for stronger communities and it makes for stronger nations. And we'll have to have more

emphasis, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on early intervention of which the Throne Speech talks about, and we talk a lot about community schools. And last year, the implementation of the role of the school.

Because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have today a changing family dynamic in this country; and where we have more hunger, and we have more violence, and we have more abuse, and more dropouts within our educational system. And the whole idea is to integrate those services in a much fuller way. And that's part of what the Throne Speech talks about.

We talk about safer communities, where we are going to have more police officers. But now just for enforcement, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we're going to see more police officers involved in education programs. And on many occasions today as I travelled last year as the Education minister of the province, to find police officers from municipal forces or RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) members within the gymnasiums of schools involved with kids playing soccer or basketball or badminton.

This is part of what the safer communities in the integration of more police officers is about. Police officers working with Big Brothers and Sisters organizations, and boys and girls clubs, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's what safer communities mean to us and to me on this side of the House.

And a greater emphasis and inclusion of our Aboriginal citizens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, serving on boards and commissions — not as tokens and advisory people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but people who have a voice, and who can help craft and mould policy for Saskatchewan which is reflective of what the Aboriginal and Metis community folks require. That's part of what this Throne Speech talks about. And not discriminating but including and providing opportunities for people for jobs.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a brand new day in our province with a coalition government that's listening and is going to respond to the issues that Saskatchewan people have asked us to respond to. And it's not going to discriminate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're not going to be isolating or segregating rural from urban or people who live in the North. That's not what this government is going to do. And we're not going to discriminate against people who are poor or people who are wealthy.

And the biggest challenge that we'll have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the next four years of a coalition government, is to show the difference between the . . . to show the difference to the Saskatchewan people between the Conservative philosophy of our friends across the way, of the ideologies of division and exclusion and privatization versus, Mr. Deputy Speaker, ours of inclusion, competitiveness, and social democracy.

And that's why today people in Saskatchewan appreciate the fact that the coalition government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is working — is working — Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's why four years from now 50 per cent of those people who are sitting on that side of the House won't be here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, won't be here.

And I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is why today I'm pleased

to support the Speech from the Throne and congratulate the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow as the mover, and the seconder from Saskatoon Sutherland. And I, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will be supporting the Speech from the Throne when the vote comes forward later this day.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to deliver my maiden speech as a member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Redberry Lake.

On election day, September 16, 1999, Saskatchewan people took part in a process that many of us take for granted — an election. An election to form a new provincial Government of Saskatchewan. Our form of government is called a constitutional monarchy which has evolved out of and is based on the British form of parliamentary democracy.

If I may quote then Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill addressing the House of Commons, November 11, 1947:

Many forms of government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, on September 16 I along with all other members of the Saskatchewan legislature were given the honour, the privilege, and the gift. The gift given to us on election day was the right to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly. The call to the legislature is a call to public service — service to our country, service to our province, and service to our constituency. I intend to do my utmost to help better the lives and prospects of the residents of Redberry Lake constituency.

At this time I'd like to thank my predecessor, Mr. Walter Jess, for his many years of service to the legislature and the constituency of Redberry Lake. I wish him well in his future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, the democratic process has always fascinated me. I have followed election campaigns and politics all of my life, but two years ago with the formation of the Saskatchewan Party I saw something that was different. I saw a party that had a different way of looking at the issues of the day. I did not hesitate to join and work for a better way, a better province.

Regardless which political stripe we came from, we have all experienced an incredible process, a process called democracy. An election campaign, in my case as well as many of us, a campaign which has been going on unofficially for many years. During the last two years I have had to take precious time away from my family.

Thank you to my wife Cindy and children Lacey, Marshall, and Alexandra, who kept the home fires burning while I was away working at the best enterprise a person could have — politics.

And a thank you to my business partners and family: my mother and father, Helen and Frank Weekes; brothers, Doug and Owen Weekes, who have grudgingly put up with my never-ending lapses from the farm and business.

But to have enjoyed a successful campaign like I did, there are many other thank you's that needs to be bestowed.

First to the people of Redberry Lake constituency for putting their trust in me on election day and to the Owens from Battleford-Baljennie area. David, who was my first supporter who later served as vice-president of the Saskatchewan Party Redberry Lake Constituency Association, who also volunteered his wife Dianne. First Diane becoming the constituency association treasurer and later becoming my invaluable business manager. Thank you.

To Leo and Agnes Lafreniere from Mayfair— Leo serving as second vice-president. His wife Agnes is not well and we hope for the best. Also to Allen Shakotko from the Biggar area who serves as secretary to the association.

Thank you to the many directors of the Saskatchewan Party Redberry Lake Constituency Association which includes Mr. and Mrs. Chester Miller from Maymont; Philip from Langham; Jack McMillan and Shirley Dupuis from the Biggar area; Genevieve Russell from Mayfair; Mr. and Mrs. Art Meister from Radisson; Al Pashovitz from Sonningdale; also the Parsons family from Leask; Mr. and Mrs. Art Dunlop and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sparrow from Vanscoy; Ken Cheveldayoff from Saskatoon, and the Whitbread family from Borden; and Mrs. and Mrs. Ernie Crowder from Blaine Lake.

Mr. Speaker, my last thank you must go out to Mr. Everett Dnistransky who must take much credit for my success on election night. Everett believed in the Saskatchewan Party and put his efforts and talents first to organizing the constituency executive by being its first president, and then serving as my campaign manager.

Everett died suddenly in a car accident on September 30. We will miss his stories and insight into various topics. His knowledge of the history of the people and the community was of great help and he will be sorely missed. I wish his widow, Evelyn, the best.

Mr. Speaker, Redberry Lake constituency is a unique area in Saskatchewan. It covers the area between Saskatoon and the Battlefords. It includes the Pike Lake area, which has a beautiful park, many small holdings, and mixed farmland. Highway No. 7 crosses this part of the constituency, which includes the towns of Vanscoy and Delisle.

West of Saskatoon on No. 14 Highway, the communities of Asquith and Perdue are located. The constituency boundaries continue north of Biggar and include the small farming communities of Arelee, Sonningdale, and Beljennie.

The constituency is divided by the North Saskatchewan River and the Yellowhead Highway that connects Saskatoon and the Battlefords. Communities along the Yellowhead include Langham, Borden, Radisson, and Maymont. The constituency straddles the Battlefords and includes the town of Rabbit Lake;

the towns of Richard, Mayfair, Hafford, and Blaine Lake populate the northern part of the constituency, and the northeast where the communities of Marcelin, Leask, Mistawasis, and Muskeg First Nations are found, which brings to one of Canada's national treasures.

Redberry Lake recently received international recognition as a globally significant Important Bird Area, or IBA, joining BirdLife International's global network of IBA sites. The site dedication was part of the Redberry pelican project's 10th anniversary celebrations. The IBA program is being delivered in Canada by Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada. As part of a Natural Legacy 2000 initiative the program received \$1.25 million from the Canadian Millennium Partnership Program.

Redberry Lake provides an important nesting habitat for a number of species including the American white pelican, the nationally endangered piping plover, the white-winged scoter, and the double crested cormorant.

Recent estimates indicate that nearly 2 per cent of the entire world's American Pelican population resides at Redberry Lake. It has been suggested that the population of white-winged scoters found at the site is the single largest breeding concentration in the world. More than 200 birders and nature lovers from the surrounding communities turned out to celebrate the 10th anniversary and IBA.

"We all share a common objective — to develop sustainable approaches to economic activity that maintain a balance between the aspirations of our community and the long-term integrity of the Redberry Lake area," said Peter Kingsmill, director general of the Redberry pelican project. The project has previously received the Governor General of Canada's conservation award and the Tourism for Tomorrow award from British Airways.

The Redberry Lake project in the constituency has employed 499 residents in tourism-related industries. There are 62 tourism businesses, attractions, and events as well as \$17.6 million spent directly by travellers in the Redberry Lake constituency in 1997.

I congratulate the people of Redberry Lake constituency for their ingenuity and dedication to this internationally recognized biosphere reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am a third generation Canadian and a third generation farmer. My grandparents, like many people, left Europe in the early part of the 20th century to escape war, tyranny, and poverty. They came to the Prairies with a hope of freedom and a desire to tame a new land. They survived many obstacles including the Great Depression.

(1530)

Today Saskatchewan farmers through no fault of their own need help urgently because agriculture is in crisis. The future of many family farms in the Prairie economy depends on the decisions that are made in Ottawa. Low world agriculture commodity prices are caused by excess production of grains and oilseeds worldwide due, in no small part, to continued uses

of subsidies in the European Union and the United States.

Domestic support by national governments in the European Union and the US (United States) are several times the level of support to the Canadian farmers. For every dollar of income, European Union wheat farmers receive 56 cents from government subsidies; American farmers receive 38 cents; Canadian wheat farmers receive 9 cents.

Federal policy changes in Canada have negatively influenced farm incomes in Saskatchewan. A \$320 million decrease in freight subsidy took effect in August 1995 and the loss of railway productivity sharing is costing Saskatchewan producers an estimated hundred million dollars annually. Freight costs have nearly tripled since '94-95.

The negotiations at the World Trade Organization level must put our producers on a level playing field internationally by eliminating the trade-distorting subsidies of other governments. However, in the short and medium term, the federal government must come to the support of the family farm and the Prairie economy.

Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the Saskatchewan government tore a gaping hole in the farm safety net when they cancelled the GRIP (gross revenue insurance program) program and never replaced it. Now thousands of family farms have fallen through the hole in our safety net.

The AIDA program was an ill-conceived plan which was too little, too late for the family farms of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I agree with the proposal to negotiate with the federal government to withdraw Saskatchewan funds from the national AIDA program and use its share of the funding allocated for AIDA to top up the NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account) accounts of farmers in the province.

The Saskatchewan government should supplement the existing provincial funding with the additional money they have contributed within the federal government's latest AIDA funding announcement.

Let's not lose sight of the necessity for a long-term safety net for Prairie farmers, a safety net that is affordable, that provides protection against natural disasters as well as low commodity prices. I encourage the federal and provincial government to begin developing that long-term safety net immediately.

Mr. Speaker, the Prairie family farm is indicative to Saskatchewan as timber and fish are to the West Coast, the French language and culture to Quebec, and timber and fish and cultural heritage is to the East Coast.

The Saskatchewan farmer is the most productive, efficient, capable, diversified producer in the world. Our deal on the Canadian federation is to produce high quality, affordable food for the rest of Canada. The contract and obligation is when the Saskatchewan farmer is faced with weather-related disasters or a world subsidy war, the federal government is there to help. Well the Saskatchewan family farm has done its part, now it's time for the federal government to uphold its part of the commitment.

The federal government must provide an agriculture trade equalization payment of \$1 billion to Saskatchewan family farms to address the agriculture crisis now facing our farms, our rural communities and urban communities, and our province.

Mr. Speaker, as I watch my children growing up, I ponder their future. Will they have the chance to remain in Saskatchewan, living and working in agriculture? The debate taking place and the decisions that will be made by the provincial and federal governments in the months to come will answer that question.

I, as a parent, a farmer, a business person, and as a member of the Legislative Assembly, hope and pray that the answer will be yes. Yes to agriculture and yes to the future of our youth in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I did support the amendment to the motion put forward by the Leader of the Opposition and I will not be voting in favour of the Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise with great pleasure today to engage in the Throne Speech debate, the first Throne Speech put forward by this Liberal-NDP coalition.

And before I take the time to speak about the substance of the Throne Speech debate, I would like to first of all acknowledge some people that are very important. First of all, I would like to acknowledge my family and first of all, my wife, Carole.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefer: — It's a true . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The members opposite obviously have met Carole before because they are very, very, very graciously acknowledging her presence here in the House in the gallery and welcoming her here. And I know she very much appreciates that.

But I got to warn you as well for the members on the other side of the House, I'm the nice guy in this outfit; she's the one that really is hard on you every time that you make mistakes or things of that nature. And so don't get that sweet, demure, appearance of hers, don't let that fool you. Underneath it all is a tenacious politician. And I want to warn you so that when it happens in the future, you can't say that you weren't warned.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, seriously for a moment. Everyone, everyone in this profession of politics, has to rely on the support of their spouse and their family. If there's anything that I've found in the last four years when I've had the honour to serve the constituents of Melfort-Tisdale, the most difficult thing that I've found over that period of time was how to build and keep and maintain the relationship with your family.

This job takes you away from home a great deal. It puts a lot of pressure and stress on all of us as members of this Assembly. And it is indeed a great challenge to maintain that family relationship that is way more important than anything that we're going to do in this House.

And if I had any advice to any new members on either side of

the House, it would be to never forget the fundamental values that brought you here in the first place. And the most fundamental of that value is the relationship of you and your family. Never forget it, never jeopardize it, because this job is worth a lot of things — it's a great and singular honour — but isn't worth jeopardizing those relationships.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other relationship that is extremely important that you find early on in this type of career, is the relationship to the people that you have the honour to serve.

You know, after election day each and every one of us stopped being a partisan politician in our constituency, if you like, because we now do no longer represent the people that voted for us only. You represent everyone.

And in most instances there is a good number of people that did not support us, and that's democracy. But at the end of the day when you're elected and you become a Member of the Legislative Assembly, you are responsible to represent each and every citizen in your constituency and that is indeed a singular honour and a relationship that is important to remember.

We're partisan people. It's the nature of the British parliamentary system that brought us here, that we have certain beliefs and certain values that we hold and they're not the same as everyone else in this House. And we have the duty and the responsibility to advocate those principles. But when we represent the people in our constituencies, supporters or not, we're bound by our honour and bound by the system to represent them all to the best of our ability. And that is another relationship that is important to remember and important to preserve.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on September 16 I had the great pleasure and honour of being given the mandate by the constituents of Melfort-Tisdale to come back to Regina to represent them in this twenty-fourth legislature. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I certainly want to thank and acknowledge all of the people of Melfort-Tisdale constituency.

You know, in the past four years I recall many, many times where I've met new people in the area. And where you end up . . . one of the most beautiful and wonderful things and opportunities that you have when you're out campaigning, is you go to people's homes. You go to their farms, you go to their homes in towns and villages, and you talk to them over their kitchen table or on their doorstep about the issues and the things that are affecting their lives particularly.

And as the member from Yorkton said, not all those things are doom and gloom all across any constituency. There are a lot of good things happening. In most instances I'm also obliged to respond or to report is they're happening in spite of this government, not necessarily because of it.

It's because of the individual initiatives, the hard work and the time and the talent and the commitment that people all across this province have for this province. And you know, one of the things that is really wonderful to do is to stand on their doorstep

and share in the pride that they have.

And I know many of the members on both sides of the House, when they're campaigning, they meet people who are proud to show them their farm or their shop or their pictures of their children or grandchildren. They're proud to show them something that they built, something that they have done, something that they've accomplished.

All of these things are events that we run into time and time again as we meet and build a relationship that we have with our constituents. And it always is a great source of comfort, and it is something that energizes me, is to meet the people of the Melfort-Tisdale constituency and to understand how fundamentally wonderful the people of Saskatchewan are.

There are people that have difficulties in their lives. There are people that have challenges — if they're health or education or financial or any of those sorts of things — that come up. And that's true. And very often, they're the people that we see in our offices — the people that are having problems. And it tends, if you let it happen to you, it'll tend to give you a bit of a jaded sense of what this province is all about.

And we have to understand that this province, and in particular my constituents, are wonderful people. They're people that will reach out to their friends and neighbours. They're people that care about each other. They're people that have a great deal of pride and satisfaction in all of the good things that this province has to offer and all of the good things that this province not only has for its people and its citizens, but can offer Canada and the world. And, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we keep these things in balance and in perspective in building and maintaining the relationship with our constituents.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when you talk to the people in your area there are the prideful things that I've mentioned but increasingly, when I look back over the four years and looking from the 1995 to the 1999 campaign, I'm kind of concerned that I detected more of a tone of concern in 1999 than there was in 1995.

Up in our part of the world, we have had a good number of extremely profitable and bumper crops in the grain sector. It has been an area that has been blessed by some of the richest soil in the country or anywhere in the world, perhaps. We've had plentiful and bountiful rainfall when we've needed it, and the crops have been very good. And you know, with that all, the people in our area probably are in better shape than a lot of areas of this province in 1999 facing the new century. Because they've had this kind of a cushion to work from.

But a number of people that I talked to on their farms in this fall campaign, were saying to me, you know there's something wrong with this picture in agriculture. Here we are, we've got three bumper crops happening and this particular crop is going to be the best crop that I've ever grown in my entire career on the farm. And some of the people saying it were second and third generation farmers, so they were saying a lot. And they said, you know I think we're going to break even this year with this crop that we've got. And they followed by saying, you know something is fundamentally wrong when you've got to grow the very best crop of your entire life — or the entire

history of this farm — and the best you're going to do is break even.

Now it might have bought the farmers in our area this bounteous crops that we've had; it probably buys most of them another year on the farm. But what happens next year, and I'm not speaking gloom and doom, because you know what's inevitably going to happen is you're not going to keep getting one crop better than next year after year after year. That's just simply not the nature of agriculture.

So what happens if this cycle of booming, bumper crops breaks. We're in deep trouble. And what people don't understand and the comments that are made and said, well these programs are not being focused enough. And they're not reaching out to just the needed people because surely all farmers are not in difficulty. Well, Mr. Speaker, with the conditions that we have today all farmers are in difficulty, including those that have been two and three generations in existence in one family. It's simply not good enough for us to not give our all-out effort.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the reasons — one of the reasons that the Saskatchewan Party was as successful as it was right across this province is the fact that we have understood this for some time.

A year or two ago when the Premier was hosting the Premiers of Canada in Saskatoon, we were saying in this Assembly that agriculture is in difficulty. We need to get the issues facing agriculture on the national agenda. And when the Premier was the host of it, and the individual that set the agenda, you know where agriculture was on the agenda? It wasn't there. It wasn't there at all.

And so when the members opposite say, oh, we understand what's going on, the only reason you even have a clue of what's going on is we've been telling you it for the last two years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1545)

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn as well to some other areas, and I know that the time is drawing nearer when we have to vote on the budget speech. So I want to move along in the Speech from the Throne — my previous responsibilities are overtaking me here — are showing through.

Mr. Speaker, I am now . . . have the great pleasure to be the critic for the Department of Health. And what we have been doing, since it's our assignment, is trying to meet with as many people involved in the whole health care field as we can.

We've met with doctors, we've met with nurses, we've met with licensed practical nurses, we've met with the district health boards. We're meeting with people that are involved and concerned about specific diseases and issues; and we're going to continue to do that as we build our knowledge and experience about the issues facing the health care field.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't say it's a huge

issue of fundamental importance to everyone in this province. And I wish I could say that you could snap your fingers and offer to the minister a solution that would solve all the problems in health care. It's not that simple, I understand that. But you know there's a fundamental problem in the attitude of the way this government has approached the challenge of health care.

You know the former minister of Health, the member from Yorkton, was sitting here railing on about the fact that we never say anything good. Well, I'm about to say some good things about the health care field and again I'm not going to single out anybody for credit or blame.

But there are a lot of good things that are happening in health care. Everyday people come to the health care system and receive some level of service. For some, it certainly is not good enough; for some and for many, too many, the waiting time issue is one that has to be dealt with.

But when you talk to a lot of the people in the profession they are working very, very hard to deliver the very best service they can in very difficult conditions. And the frustration that happens is when they see the Department of Health absolutely have no direction and no plan and a complete lack of common sense.

You know last week, you know, we're accused of raising issues and bringing people here to highlight their concerns. But one of our fundamental responsibilities as an official opposition is to advocate on behalf of people who have not gotten the system to respond to their needs; absolutely, fundamentally part of our responsibility, a very clear one. And the minister doesn't like it, I know that.

But the minister had, and the minister had, for example last week, when we raised the issue of Mr. Ens. Mr. Ens wrote to the minister five or six weeks ago and outlined the whole issue that he shared with us. He waited for five or six weeks for the minister to respond. My commitment to Mr. Ens was, if the minister responds and answers you, then the issue may be dealt with appropriately. We will give her the time to respond.

And so we waited and we waited and we waited and we waited and finally Mr. Ens phoned and he said, Rod, you've got to raise this because I'm getting nowhere with this Department of Health. That's our responsibility.

And so when we raised it and we said where is the logic of this? How in the world can you justify sending someone to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for these past 20 months, paying \$11.5 thousand a month US for the treatment, which amounts to something like \$200,000 Canadian, and then when we received a copy of the letter of the request from the doctor in the University Hospital who said we could buy this machine, we will staff it with existing help, and we can buy this machine for \$38,000 US.

And the minister — you know what her response was, Mr. Speaker, out in the scrum? She said, we're going to send him to Alberta now because they've got a machine. And there isn't just one individual, there's two.

So if you take eleven and a half thousand, multiply it by two, we're willing to spend \$23,000 US a month, when both of these

individuals could have been treated in Saskatoon for a machine that costs less than \$50,000 Canadian. About two months worth of treatment would have bought the machine and we would had had it. You know. Now what's wrong with this picture? Like what's wrong with this?

And then you sit there and wonder why doctors and nurses and health care professionals are frustrated with the department when that kind of attitude is there.

And you know what the department sent them back? Sent them back a letter saying request denied for this machine; it may seem like a good idea on the surface, but it's simply not the way things work around here.

Well it's time for a change. It's time for some common sense in the system and it's time that it happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, it always galls me to hear the members opposite accuse us of two-tiered health care. You know today there were a number of people on the floor of the House that have a terrible disease — multiple sclerosis — and you know what happens? We pushed, we pushed and pushed and pushed and pushed this whole issue, and we said, look it, we've got to get Betaseron on the *Formulary*. And finally after all that pressure it happens.

But now we've got to push and push and push and push and push again so that the minister will consider Betaseron on the *Formulary* for progressive secondary MS. Why does it take that kind of pressure in order for the minister to simply do the right thing? Why is that? Why is that the case?

And you know what really is galling? There were people here today who said to me, my drug plan right now covers it, or my husband's drug plan covers it for the next two months so I'm getting Betaseron because I'm able to pay for it. And if I had the money afterwards, I could continue to have Betaseron because I could afford to pay for it.

Well, Madam Minister, and Mr. Speaker, that's two-tiered health care — if you can afford it, you get it, and if you can't, you're out on your own.

And so it's not a question of gloom and doom. It's a question of us living up to our responsibilities as an official opposition and coming up with ideas and advocating on behalf of people who you, as a government, are neglecting.

That's our job and we'll continue to do it. And we'll do it very well because we have to prepare ourselves to be the government the next time there's an election because that's what's going to happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, it also bothers me a whole lot when I hear the government members opposite say we have no plan. Well I'm sorry, we do. And I'm also sorry to tell you is that it's not a bunch of rhetoric that you can just sort of wrap up when you decide to leave the Liberals and join the NDP and

form a coalition.

We had a plan that makes sense and we had a plan that we put forward by private members' motions on the floor of this Assembly this week so people can look at it and see it again. We're proud of our plan and we were proud of it in September, and we're going to be proud of it on a go-forward way into the future as we build and improve it and make it something that the people of this province will see the value of.

In the health care area alone, I tabled today a Bill that said what we've got to do in the health care field — we're spending \$1.92 billion, almost 40 per cent of the total provincial budget on health care — isn't it time that we took a look to see if we're really getting any value for this money? Or is it simply an issue of trying to throw more and more and more and more money at silly kinds of department rules and regulations like were pointed out in the case of Mr. Ens.

These are the kinds of things that we are prepared to advocate and stand up for and believe in and put in front of the people of this province because they're good, common-sense policies.

Mr. Speaker, we also said that we need things like a health care ombudsman. With all of the people that are falling through the cracks on this health care system that's been devastated by this whole reorganization that the NDP have been stumbling through, surely we need someone that will advocate on behalf of the patients of this province who are not being well served. And we need a health care Ombudsman. The people of this province who are not being well served by the system need a health care Ombudsman.

We need to give the district health boards the respect that they deserve by having them elected, and when they're elected, of providing them with block funding so they can make the decisions that they need to in order for their health district to comply with the Canada Health Act and to provide the very best care for the citizens who they will be elected to serve.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have every faith and confidence that if you've got fully elected boards, answerable to the people in their district, that the system will respond when they understand where money can be spent wiser to that challenge of providing a very quality health care system in this province.

We met last week with the SAHO (Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations) board and I was impressed by the people around that table. They were people that came from across this province and are committed to trying to do everything they can to improve the delivery of health care in this province.

And you know, when you ask them what's your biggest challenge; well, generally what they'll tell you, it's the Department of Health. And they didn't say it's our biggest asset; they said it's the biggest problem, is trying to deal with this sort of thing. Here we got in the Throne Speech where they say, well now, we're going to take over bargaining at the Department of Health; that you people in SAHO haven't been obviously doing a good job so we're just going to dump that on you; we're going to take it over.

You know these kinds of things are very, very frustrating. They're trying to cope and build relationships in their districts with the people they serve and all of a sudden there's a brainstorm that we're going to form regional hospitals. Does that mean you're going to have ... (inaudible) ... centralization? Nobody knows. You can't get any definitive answers from the Department of Health. And these people are frustrated, trying to do a job and realizing that all they are in many instances are scapegoats for the NDP's inefficiency and the mess that they've made of health care. And what they do is they say, oh it isn't our fault; it's the district health board's fault. And these people are frustrated in their endeavour to do a good job.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to join in this debate and talk about a lot of other issues, but I know the time is drawing near when we have to put this whole issue to a vote. And I would like to just conclude by making a very brief overall statement.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan on September 16 voted for common sense. They voted in a majority way for the Saskatchewan Party. This party, who I'm proud to represent, received more votes than any other party in this province and that was from the people of this province who said, we want the common sense that you stand for.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefoer: — That's what they wanted. Instead, they got this unholy alliance that nobody chose, and in four years or three years or two years, or whenever the Premier bails out and we have finally another by-election that we'll win and the government will be in an untenable position with no majority left, and the people will judge again. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll predict right here and now that the Saskatchewan Party will be given the confidence of the people of Saskatchewan and will form the next government in this province and it will continue for decades, because it's based on common sense and principle.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we all serve the people of this province and so on behalf of the official opposition, I would certainly like to wish each and every one of the members of this Assembly, to their families, and to the people of the province a very blessed and Merry Christmas and all of the best in the new year, in the new millennium.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1600)

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

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 29

Romanow	Trew	Hagel
Van Mulligen	MacKinnon	Lingenfelter
Melenchuk	Cline	Atkinson
Goulet	Lautermilch	Thomson
Kasperski	Serby	Belanger

Nilson	Crofford	Kowalsky
Sonntag	Hamilton	Prebble
Jones	Yates	Higgins
Harper	Axworthy	Junor
Wartman	Addley	

Nays — 25

Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MOTIONS

Address be Engrossed and Presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Idylwyld.

That the said address be engrossed and presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are of the Executive Council.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

Ways and Means

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Regina Victoria, by leave of the Assembly:

That the Assembly, pursuant to rule 92, hereby appoints the Committee of Finance to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and to consider ways and means of raising supply.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, by leave I move that we return to adjourned debates.

Leave granted.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 12

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter that **Bill No. 12 — An Act**

respecting Agricultural Equipment Dealerships be now read a second time.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise on behalf of the official opposition to give response to this very important piece of legislation that's before us. And the importance not only to Saskatchewan farmers, Saskatchewan implement dealers, as well as prairie implement manufacturers here in the province of Saskatchewan, indeed all of Western Canada.

And this is an extremely important piece of legislation as everyone on this side of the House with farm backgrounds would obviously know. I hope that some of the people on the other side of the House have taken the time to become familiar with the piece of legislation that they're about to pass here this afternoon.

Now this is an extremely important piece of legislation because it puts at risk a lot of people here in Saskatchewan, whether you are a farmer, whether you are a implement manufacturer, whether you are a dealer, or work for any one of those three people . . . three different groups in our economy. It is a very serious piece of legislation; it has tremendous implications.

And I want to speak to the Assembly this afternoon about the innovation and the kinds of things that have come forward out of the short-line manufacturers. But before I do that, I think it has to be known very clearly to the Assembly the manner in which this piece of legislation came forward. Clearly the official opposition drove the agenda in this area.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — We have been a part of this agenda dating back to the election campaign when our leader, the member for Rosetown-Elrose, came forward and said there needed to be legislation in this area because there was equipment dealers and implement manufacturers and farmers that were going to be at risk here in the province unless we moved quickly to do something like this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — And that is clearly the reason why, during the election campaign, our leader came forward and said to the people of Saskatchewan, this needs to be done now. And he made the commitment during the election campaign that if the Saskatchewan Party formed the next government, we'd be moving in this area.

And I think there's ample evidence that's been demonstrated here over the last couple of . . . 10 days or so in the legislature, with the official opposition laying out clearly a legislative agenda that included this piece of legislation to demonstrate our commitment to the people of Saskatchewan, keep the promises that we made during the election campaign, that this would be exactly what we would be doing if we were forming . . . were the government here in Saskatchewan.

It wasn't based on political rhetoric. It wasn't based on the kinds of things that the member from Saskatoon Northwest has commitments that he made during the election campaign and

then forgot all about. It was based on a clear plan for the people of Saskatchewan — areas that needed to be addressed for the people of Saskatchewan. That's the plan that was put forward by the official opposition.

This is a further commitment to our election campaign and the promises that we made during that campaign. And we are pleased — extremely pleased in the early days of this legislature to come forward, with not just this piece of legislation, as important as it was, but others as well.

And what do we hear from the government? In the Throne Speech they talk about a new day — a new dawn here in Saskatchewan, that they're willing to co-operate, that they're willing to listen to the ideas from this side of the House and implement those ideas.

And so when we bring forward that piece of legislation, we say to the government opposite, that it's important and needs to be pushed forward as quickly as possible. And they asked for co-operation; we gave them co-operation.

We said to the House Leader, the Agriculture minister, and to the Premier, we said to them, by all means take your time to look over this piece of legislation. Take it back to your officials, take it to Justice, take it to Agriculture. Take it to the implement dealers association. Take it to the dealers; take it to the farm community at large. See what they think. And we gave them that commitment that when it came back, we'd be prepared to move forward on it.

So, what do they do as a government? They take the time, yes, to do that. And then they come forward with their own piece of legislation, mirroring almost exactly what ours said, and they try and jam it through in a few minutes in the House.

Give us absolutely no notice of it whatsoever — no notice whatsoever. Bring it into the House and ask for it to come forward and bring it through. And the Premier is saying from his seat, what a bunch of baloney. How else did it happen, I say to you, sir. How else did it happen in the House here today. There were too many people on this side of the House and throughout Saskatchewan that witnessed the actions of the Minister of Agriculture.

We adjourned it, yes we adjourned it, and then we gave you leave to bring it back. We asked for leave . . . you asked for leave to bring it back, and we gave you leave to bring it back. And the only reason it's before us this afternoon is because we are prepared to co-operate on this side of the House, different than your side of the House, sir. Different than your side of the House.

The kind of rhetoric that you guys come forward in this place, day after day after day, demonstrates your commitment to the farm people in this province. And they won't forget; they won't forget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — It's always somebody else's fault. The federal government, the official opposition, doesn't matter who it is, it's Mr. Premier pointing his finger at everybody and saying,

it's your fault, it's your fault, it's your fault. Just as you're doing right now.

Well I tell you, sir, that the new dawn is not all that bright here in Saskatchewan. The people of this province have had enough of that kind of attitude. Co-operate, yes, by all means co-operate, and then point your finger at us and say it's our fault when things don't happen.

Well I'll tell you, the only reason things are happening in this province is because we've pushed you every inch of the way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Do nothing, do nothing, do nothing. Sit in this legislature day after day, point your finger at everybody else and say, we aren't prepared to move on these kind of issues. We have to have time, we have to have time to look it over, and then bring in your own piece of legislation and try and jam it through at the last second.

We agree to bring this legislation back this afternoon on leave, and we'll see that it passes this afternoon because we believe that it's important to the people of this province. We believe it is important to the people of this province. That's why we moved the agenda forward as we did, and that's why we will continue to move the agenda forward in this province. Every single day that we sit in this Assembly, we bring forward ideas. And your attitude over there is do nothing, do nothing, do nothing.

Where is this government's plan in agriculture? I say to the people of this province, where is it, Mr. Minister?

(1630)

The Speaker: — Order, order please. This is a very important debate. I'll ask members on both sides of the House . . . Please, order. Order please. I would ask members on both sides of the House.

Order, please. I recognize now why there is the space between the opposition and the government side. I appreciate that.

Please, hon. members, this is an important debate and everyone will have an opportunity to speak. But please do so individually and not hollering at one another. Please, I beg of you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the Premier shouts from his chair, adjourn it. We're not . . . we have no intention of adjourning this because it's an important piece of legislation. We have no intention of adjourning it because it is an important piece of legislation and it needs to be moved forward. It needs to be moved forward.

And the only reason, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation had opportunity to come forward in the Assembly is because we pushed this government into holding this Assembly. They didn't even want to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — When it came to support for agriculture, when it came for support for agriculture, where were you after the election campaign? We came forward and said the farmers of this province and the farm leaders here in Saskatchewan need to have a say, need to come before this Assembly and tell this government what is wrong with your government. And that's why we have this Legislative Assembly; that's why we have this Legislative Assembly today. And the farm groups in this province have said, and the people of Saskatchewan, yes, the federal government has a responsibility. They said yes, the federal government has a responsibility, but they also said you have a responsibility, sir . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'm having difficulty hearing the member in debate. I ask hon. members on both sides of the House to please . . . Order, order.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And different than the Minister of Agriculture, different than the Minister of Agriculture, we gave the commitment that we'll co-operate on this piece of legislation and allow it to pass. And that will happen here this afternoon.

But I think it's important that the farm leaders in this province and the farmers in this province know exactly how it came forward; know exactly the kind of people on that side of the House that we're dealing with; know exactly the kind of people who at least attempt to move the agenda along. The people who are clearly leading the charge in terms of agriculture in this province today, clearly is the official opposition — the Saskatchewan Party. The only ones, Mr. Speaker, that have any new ideas whatsoever.

And it was demonstrated never more clearly than this afternoon over in the ag symposium when your officials, and the people who are facilitating meetings over there, say to the farm people and the farm leaders of this province, sit back and visualize how you would like agriculture to be. That's their answer to the crisis in agriculture. That's their answer to the crisis in agriculture. Sit back, tip your head back, close your eyes, and say to yourself, how would you like things to be? How would you like things to be?

Well we, in the official opposition, say to you, sir, open your eyes and try and figure out what you're going to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And the Minister shouts from his chair, I hope we're having fun. Well, Mr. Minister, the people of this province are not having fun any longer. The farmers aren't having fun any longer. The farmers in this province and the dealers here in this province and the implement manufacturers here in this province aren't having a great deal of fun in Saskatchewan these days. Because their farms are at risk, their dealerships are at risk, and their manufacturing businesses are at risk here in Saskatchewan because of the things that you and your colleagues have done to agriculture.

And is it any wonder in Saskatchewan today why you have virtually no support in agriculture circles whatsoever? Not a single rural member — not a single member that represents any

degree of agriculture community here in Saskatchewan. Each and every one of the people over on this . . . each and every one of the people on this side of the legislature have connection to agriculture, Mr. Speaker.

And the reason why we are here is because the farm community in Saskatchewan overwhelmingly said no to these people — no to these people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — They said, where is your plan in terms of a long-term safety net? Where is your plan in terms of a short-term program? Where are your plans in terms of education reform? Where are your plans in terms of taxation? Where is your plan at all in terms of anything that would be concrete that could help this province?

It just simply isn't there. It simply isn't there. No plan, no ideas, no focus, no plan whatsoever for the province of Saskatchewan. And that's the kind of co-operation that they ask us to be a party to.

Well I can say to you, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Premier here in Saskatchewan, yes we are prepared to co-operate on important issues and we'll demonstrate that co-operation here this afternoon by allowing this piece of legislation to go forward because of the importance of it. That's what we will be doing here in the House this afternoon, different than you people opposite, different than you people opposite over there.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

Mr. Boyd: — As I said, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation and we are pleased to see that the government has finally decided to act on it. After being pushed for months on the issue, they bring forward a piece of legislation this afternoon and ask us to pass it today and we'll co-operate in doing that.

It's important for a number of reasons, Mr. Speaker. Large numbers of people, large numbers of . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And the Premier shouts from his chair why did we adjourn it, why did we adjourn it? The reason is really simple, Mr. Premier, because we at least wanted to have a few minutes to look it over, a few minutes to look it over — is that too much to ask?

You get days to look over our piece of legislation and you want yours to pass here unquestioned, unquestioned, as always is the case in this legislature. The Premier wants everybody to co-operate and do exactly as he says, but when we ask for a little co-operation from him in his side of the House there's none whatsoever, none whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this legislation, as I said, is extremely important and there's a number of reasons why. There are a number of reasons why. There's a number of reasons why because virtually, virtually the province of Saskatchewan's agriculture system, as we know, is at risk here

in Saskatchewan. And there's all kinds of reasons why.

If this legislation does not pass here this afternoon there will be large numbers of people in this province who will find themselves unemployed. That clearly is the case. There are dealerships at risk of being told . . . there are implement manufacturers who through no fault of their own have had to lay off people because there simply isn't product . . . or the sales available.

And if you look at the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan over the last number of years, and I think a lot of people would agree with me here, virtually all new innovation, virtually all new innovation here in the province of Saskatchewan has come from the implement manufacturers and from the farm community.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — You have to look no further than air seeder technology here in Saskatchewan. It virtually revolutionized the way we seed a crop here in this province.

And the Premier shouts from his chair and my guess is you don't even know what one is.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — My guess, my guess is, my guess is, sir, you don't even know what an air seeder is or the concept of how it works or anything else to do with it.

Well I can tell you, sir, that there are people — person after person after person — not only know how they work, they know how they are constructed, they know how the development of them, and they know how to operate them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Because clearly we are the people who represent agriculture here in the province. It has absolutely revolutionized seeding technology here in Saskatchewan. And you just have to go through all kinds of innovation that's come from shortline manufacturers.

And frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't even really like that term shortline manufacturers. I consider them to be the heart and the strength and the backbone of the agriculture community here in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Look further down the line, Mr. Speaker. Zero till technology, minimum till technology — virtually it all came out of Saskatchewan, the new innovations in terms of that.

Sprayer technology virtually entirely came out of innovations here in Saskatchewan. Many of the manufacturers that the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association represent here today started at the farm level and now have become manufacturers and, in many cases, major manufacturers — world-class manufacturers — and they started right here in Saskatchewan because innovation was needed.

They came up with products here in Saskatchewan. It was extremely important to have those developments come forward. Grain handling technology, fertilizer application technology, and the list goes on and on and on of the kinds of things that have come forward from the manufacturers in this province and from the farm community here in Saskatchewan.

And it's extremely important that we take the steps through legislation like is presented here this afternoon to help those people, to protect those people, and to ensure that they are able to continue. They drive the agriculture economy here in Saskatchewan and we will — we will in opposition do everything we can to protect that industry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — And when you look further down the line, Mr. Speaker, to the dealers of this province . . . and I come from small-town Saskatchewan, as many of the members here in this side of the House do come from small-town Saskatchewan, and virtually, when you look at small-town Saskatchewan today, the equipment dealer in many cases is the largest employer in the community — the largest employer in the community — the absolute backbone of the community. And it's extremely important that we do what we can to help them under these circumstances.

We believe in business. We believe in innovation. We believe in the kind of technology that these businesses and manufacturers have come forward with in Saskatchewan. And we will not allow a government to sit on its hands and not do something to try and help them in this area.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — And that's why during the election campaign we said that there needed to be something — there needed to be legislation to address this.

And then the next step in the very important chain is the farm community. And I want to speak a little bit about that farm community because they're so vitally important, not only to the economy of Saskatchewan but to the dealers and to the implement manufacturers. And the fact is, is that farmers in this province, one of the reasons why they've been able to compete under the most trying conditions you can imagine here in Saskatchewan, is because of the innovations that they have done, the simple sit back or the scrimp-and-save attitude that the farm community has.

I suspect that many members on that House . . . that side of the House simply do not understand that. Many members on this side of the House would clearly understand that — the attitude of many farm families in this province, things like simply saying no, we can't do that; we will stay home; we will make sacrifices; we'll put that new piece of furniture on hold so we can pay to fix the combine this year.

That's the kind of attitude that farmers have here in Saskatchewan. Do whatever it takes to stay in business. Do whatever it takes in the face of international subsidies, in the face of all kinds of adversity, from the weather or from governments, and many of the problems that they are faced with

that they are right . . . you can lay them right at the feet of this government. All of those kinds of sacrifices that the farm community makes here in Saskatchewan to stay in business in light of all of the kinds of problems that they have.

That's why it's so critically important that we do everything we can to protect them. And that's why clearly the official opposition, the Saskatchewan Party, has been pushing the agenda in terms of agriculture right since the . . . during the election campaign, prior to the election campaign, and since the election campaign.

And, Mr. Speaker, clearly everyone in this province in the agriculture community, I believe, knows that and understands that. Who was it that said we should be going to Ottawa and get money for help for Saskatchewan? It was the Saskatchewan Party.

Who was it that said we should have a legislative agenda, legislative session here in Saskatchewan to make sure that this was highlighted in this critically important time to the farm community? It was the Saskatchewan Party.

And who was it that said we should be calling the farm groups before the legislature, before the bar here in the legislature, in an unprecedented fashion? It was the Saskatchewan Party that said that.

Who was it that came up with virtually every idea of how we could help farmers in this province in terms of a safety net, in terms of a short-term help for the farmers here in Saskatchewan and the trade equalization payment? It was the Saskatchewan Party.

We have been driving the agenda in this legislature and in Saskatchewan in terms of agriculture since before the election, during the election, and now. And we will continue to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(1645)

Mr. Boyd: — I'll close by saying, Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. We thank the equipment dealers here in Saskatchewan. We thank the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association here in Saskatchewan, and we thank the farm community here in Saskatchewan for bringing forward a piece of legislation, developing a piece of legislation, asking for co-operation in terms of bringing forward that legislation.

We've co-operated in every fashion right from the very beginning of this piece of legislation, and we'll continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The division bells rang from 4:46 p.m. until 5:11 p.m.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 53

Romanow

Trew

Hagel

Van Mulligen	Lingenfelter	Melenchuk
Cline	Atkinson	Goulet
Lautermilch	Thomson	Kasperski
Serby	Belanger	Nilson
Crofford	Kowalsky	Sonntag
Hamilton	Prebble	Jones
Yates	Higgins	Harper
Axworthy	Junor	Wartman
Addley	Hermanson	Elhard
Heppner	Julé	Krawetz
Draude	Boyd	Gantefoer
Toth	Peters	Eagles
Wall	Bakken	Bjornerud
D'Autremont	McMorris	Weekes
Brkich	Harpauer	Wakefield
Wiberg	Hart	Allchurch
Stewart	Kwiatkowski	

Nays — nil

The Bill read a second time and, by leave of the Assembly, referred to a Committee of the Whole later this day.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Bill No. 12—The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act

The Chair: — Before I call clause 1, I invite the minister to introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — It is with pleasure, Mr. Chairman, that I introduce the four officials I have with me. To my right, my deputy, Terry Scott; to my left our legal counsel, Heather Sinclair; behind me, directly, Hal Cushon, director of policy branch; and Mitch Demeyen, the industry development branch, just seated behind me as well.

Clause 1

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to acknowledge with gratitude the presence of department officials today and I hope that some of the questions we have to pose will be answered forthwith.

We want to acknowledge that this Bill is detailed and comprehensive, and we appreciate the time they have given us here today.

I would also like to acknowledge the involvement of the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association in backgrounding some of this Bill for the House. And I noticed that at one time in our conversations with the people representing the equipment dealers association, they had a concern about the date of 1969. And I think it referenced one of the major manufacturers specifically.

I see no reference to that date in this particular piece of legislation. I notice that the date on this is December 13, and I'm wondering if somebody can explain to me why that 1969 date was of concern to the equipment dealers previously and it is not mentioned in this legislation now.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — I can take notice of the question,

find out from the equipment dealers. But in the discussions that my staff have had, this has not been an issue.

Mr. Elhard: — On the date of December 13, 1999, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask if there are implications of any kind for dealerships that were obligated to sign contracts prior to December 13, and if this Bill addresses that in any respect.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — If I could just read to the member the application of the Act. There's two parts to it:

(a) (Those) in effect as at December 13, 1999; (and)

(b) entered into on or after December 13, 1999.

That's on the front page of the Bill.

I just want to say as well that I appreciate the member opposite doing his work on the Bill quickly and efficiently, because the fact of the matter is we probably both saw the Bill in its final form at the same time.

And I just say that in order to come back to the work of passing this Bill today, obviously it's important that we read and understand. And I just urge the member if there are other issues as we go through this that we can't get quick answers for, we'll do our best.

And I think the vote certainly indicated that all members of the Assembly support this approach, and in large part what is entered into in the Bill is much more the dealers' and manufacturers' and farmers' input than it is department or legal. And I'm sure I speak for all members in saying that if there are issues here we should take time to go through them here tonight.

The Chair: — Order. Before I recognize the hon. member for Cypress Hills, I just want to remind the minister that all comments are to be directed through the Chair.

Mr. Elhard: — I understand that the 1969 date is not as big an issue now because this Act supersedes contracts that were in existence at that time. Can you describe for us the consultative process that was undertaken to arrive at this Bill? And could you advise us with which groups you consulted?

The Chair: — Order. Before I recognize the minister I would like to remind the hon. member for Cypress Hills that all comments are to be directed through the Chair. And while I have the mike, of course that admonishment goes to all members. I know it's been a while since we were in Committee of the Whole — but such is life.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — The discussions have gone on, Mr. Chairman, through a number of different meetings and correspondence that have taken with Canada West equipment dealers, as well as the prairie implement manufacturers. And this is both official meetings and occasions where we might be at events, and the number of times that Larry Schneider was good enough to fill me in, in an informal way. And also we have dealt with the four mainline companies, as well as speaking to the Wheat Pool and SARM and others.

But I just wanted to, for the record, quote from a letter that I sent to John Deere Limited very recently. And in part I said, and I quote:

The area of specific concern relates to the issue of dealer purity. Actions by mainline machinery manufacturing companies to prevent dealers from carrying products of short-line equipment manufacturers, such actions have profoundly negative implications for our short-line equipment manufacturers, our equipment dealers, and ultimately our farmers.

And I went on in the letter to say, the Government of Saskatchewan has been advised by mainline companies, have been moving in the direction of dealer purity. And in all times in the letter I used quotations around dealer purity, because in my mind, dealer purity is not quite the English that most dealers and manufacturers are using about this clause in the contract.

It went on to say:

At least one mainline company has proposed to new dealers that agreements that contain dealer purity provisions viewed as contrary to the interests of Saskatchewan dealers and short-line manufacturers.

And we, in the letter, urged them to back away from and to make a commitment that these clauses wouldn't be included. But obviously legislation is now needed and in order. And so the negotiations that have taken place in discussions over some months have led us to this date.

And I might add as well, I know that your party that you represent has taken strong positions on this. And I might add that at our party convention, a resolution was passed on this issue some six weeks or two months ago.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Chairman, thank you for the answer. Have the manufacturers been uncooperative, resistant, or have they given you any kind of latitude in terms of this legislation? Did they offer any kind of assistance, if I can use that word almost euphemistically?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well in the simplest form, the discussions that we've had have not led us to gaining the confidence that the machinery dealers and manufacturers would need, and therefore the legislation I think is in order.

I might remind members too that this kind of a clause if it were happening in the United States in a number of different states — we've checked in Montana, North Dakota, I think in South Dakota as well — these provisions are not allowed in a number of US states, and so I don't know that it was totally unexpected by the mainline manufacturers because I think they've had to deal with this issue in a number of jurisdictions. And I think in the United States, at least what I've been told, is that it is seen to be against competition and therefore a number of states have moved to disallow it.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister if in clause no. 7, if I can jump ahead that far, (1)(a), it talks about what I know of the language to be a succession plan. And I'm wondering if that particular clause adequately protects the

interests of the dealer, and secondly, does it nullify outright the manufacturer's right to ultimately decide successorship in a given dealership?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well I guess there's nothing certain in life except a couple of items that I won't mention here today. But the fact is the dealers and manufacturers have accepted this as, Mr. Chairman, as doing the job for them. So I think at this point in time we're comfortable that that protection, in fact, is there.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Chairman, I am getting close to the end of my questions. What impact will termination without cause requiring legal action have on the willingness of mainline manufacturers to locate in Saskatchewan? I guess that's the other side of this debate here. And I understand that there is some provision there that might be seen as a negative in terms of locating here at all.

(1730)

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — As the member opposite knows full well, and I think your relationship with machinery dealerships in one of the mainline manufacturers who you probably have more experience than I or others, what is important here is that you can't have it both ways.

By passing this legislation, obviously we are taking the position that strongly supports our shortline manufacturers here in the province of Saskatchewan, the thousands of workers who work in those plants. And I think by ensuring more competition, we're actually doing something to dampen price increases. At least that's the theory of competition that I think you and I both agree with.

On the other hand there is nothing black and white about these kind of issues. For every action there's reaction, and I think you point out very clearly the potential reaction. And having said that, I think that's why it's important that each and every one of us who support this legislation understand that when we pass legislation, obviously once it's passed, it's there, and obviously we're all supporting it.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Chairman, I have talked to a few dealers in the intervening hours and they tell me that this legislation actually goes further than they had anticipated. And I'm wondering if they're not just a little bit concerned about the balance that this Act should present in that area.

One other area I'd like to get into. and it's not dealt with in the Act at all that I noticed, but does this legislation address in any way the holding of reserve accounts by some manufacturers against the net sales of their dealers? I didn't notice that anywhere and I may have overlooked it. But that's a question of considerable interest to a number of dealers.

And finally, I guess, these accounts amount to many thousands of dollars for some dealers, both in business currently and winding down their affairs. And I think I know of a few that could use some of that money before Christmas.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Chairman, I would like to clarify one thing with the member, because I think it's a good

question. And he raised the issue of several dealers raising the issue about clauses. It would be helpful if the member could identify for the committee the clauses that have been of concern, that we would be able to look at them.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Chairman, actually we were in conversation about the termination clauses and how specific and immediate and direct they have been in the past. The particular Act now goes a little further in the area of termination than some of the dealers had anticipated.

I can't say they were displeased. I think they were somewhat concerned, maybe, that it goes a little bit too far.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, in the section 4, prohibitions, I wonder if you could explain for the Assembly clause no. 3 and the reasons that you've included this in the piece of legislation.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — The arrangement here under 4(3), and I'll just read it so that we have it clear:

No mainline manufacturer shall directly or indirectly discriminate in the prices charged for agricultural equipment of like grade and quality sold by the mainline manufacturer to similarly situated dealers.

The intent of this clause is to not allow the kind of pressure that might come, for example, if there were arrangements made where one dealer could potentially get their parts or equipment at a lower price because they agreed, although there's no contract signed, that they would only sell mainline equipment and not sell shortline, which would accomplish the same arrangement with no contract and thereby getting around a piece of legislation using a price in order to do it.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, are you aware of incidents of this type? And that's the reason that has prompted . . . or are there other reasons why you and your officials have come forward with this type of legislation? Or is it just to anticipate things of this type, or have you had representations from mainline equipment manufacturers that this may be the case?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — It's precautionary in nature and it's to prevent something happening through another policy that they were trying to achieve by contract. And so this is precautionary in nature only.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, I think you are aware and certainly we are aware of some reasons in addition to precautionary that you might want to have a clause of this type in there.

Certainly I think you would be aware, and we certainly are aware as well, that equipment manufacturers, mainline equipment manufacturers, mainline equipment manufacturers have a point system in place, points, or demerit points in some cases, in place that makes it very, very difficult for equipment dealers here in Saskatchewan to comply with in many cases.

And things like everything from signage to equipment displays to bringing in new equipment, the volumes, all of those kinds of

things result in demerit points to some dealerships, smaller dealerships, making it very, very difficult for them to operate. And I wonder if you could explain your thoughts or your information, knowledge information in this area.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Again I say to the member opposite that there's no perfection in trying to draft a piece of legislation. But what I can say is that based on a lot of discussion and negotiation with the manufacturers and dealers, this legislation is accepted to be our best effort for the time being. And what I might add is that if amendments are needed or if arrangements were made where the Bill wasn't necessary in the future, this legislature can then deal with either amendments or total changes to the Bill.

So this is the best effort, I believe, of the opposition and government working with the manufacturers and dealers, to come up with some arrangement that would protect farmers on the price side by allowing as much competition as possible. Secondly the dealers, so that they have the right to pick and choose what they want to sell. And of course the manufacturers in the province who employ thousands of men and women who otherwise would not be able to find employment.

And I think if you look at shortline manufacture — and I know the member opposite knows this because he mentioned it in his speech — but per capita in the terms of the amount of shortline manufacturing we have in this province, there is nowhere else in North America or anywhere that on a per capita basis we have more shortline equipment being manufactured; and therefore, we obviously have more to lose.

Some people are saying, well has Alberta got this kind of legislation? No they don't, and I don't think they're going that route. I think they're very careful to avoid this kind of legislation. And Manitoba is wondering whether to do it or not.

So this is in many ways leading edge legislation that has come forward. Again, give credit to yourself, ourselves, but mainly because the dealers and manufacturers have come forward with the concept.

And at the end of day I think this whole debate is a little bit meaningless in terms of who wins and loses today. Because at the end of the day, if the farmers and manufacturers and dealers feel they've won, then obviously, I hope, at the end of the day we've all won.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure whether my colleague asked this question but I'll ask it again if he has. What kind of implication does this have on dealers who may have already signed agreements, dealer purity types agreements.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Now I just want the member to go to the application of the Act because I think I covered this off with the member from Cypress, Mr. Chairman. In clause 3 . . .

An Hon. Member: — What clause?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Clause 3, on the first page where it says:

This Act applies to all dealership agreements:

(a) in effect as at December 13, 1999

As well as those "entered into on or after December 13 . . ." So the legal advice I'm getting, it captures all of them.

Mr. Boyd: — So an equipment dealer that may have signed an agreement back in October or November is indeed protected from this type of discriminatory practice, contractual practice between the mainline manufacturer and themselves?

This then does or does not affect a dealer who may have signed an agreement back in November or October with a mainline manufacturer from any kind of discriminatory practice, contractual practice that they may have encountered.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Yes, it does affect existing contracts, and again if you look at page 1 and then flip to page 3 under clause 8, certain provisions void, it says:

The following provisions in any dealership agreement are void.

And if you go to (b):

any provision requiring a dealer to carry on exclusive dealings with the mainline manufacturer, so as to prevent the dealers from, or penalize the dealer for, carrying on business with any shortline manufacturer in the dealer's facility or in a separate facility;

So my understanding is, it does capture the existing clauses if, in fact, they were in effect.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, it's my understanding that this piece of legislation has no implication whatsoever with respect to warranties. And I wonder if that is your understanding as well.

Apparently in South Dakota, I believe, there was two pieces of legislation that were before the state down there — one dealing with dealer impurity and one dealing with warranty implication. And there was some concern by implement manufacturers here in Saskatchewan that this may have implications to themselves in terms of warranties. And I think we want to be very clear to the implement manufacturers here in Saskatchewan that indeed that is not the case.

Is that your understanding, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Yes, it's our understanding that this does not apply to the warranty issue.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4

The division bells rang from 5:43 p.m. until 5:51 p.m.

Clause 4 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 52

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Crofford
Kowalsky	Sonntag	Hamilton
Prebble	Jones	Yates
Higgins	Harper	Axworthy
Junor	Wartman	Addley
Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Nays — nil

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6

The division bells rang from 5:53 p.m. until 5:54 p.m.

Clause 6 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 52

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Crofford
Kowalsky	Sonntag	Hamilton
Prebble	Jones	Yates
Higgins	Harper	Axworthy
Junor	Wartman	Addley
Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Nays — nil

Clause 7

The division bells rang from 5:56 p.m. until 6:06 p.m.

Clause 7 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 52

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
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Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Crofford
Kowalsky	Sonntag	Hamilton
Prebble	Jones	Yates
Higgins	Harper	Axworthy
Junor	Wartman	Addley
Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Nays — nil

Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.

Clause 10

The division bells rang from 6:09 p.m. until 6:19 p.m.

Clause 10 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 52

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Crofford
Kowalsky	Sonntag	Hamilton
Prebble	Jones	Yates
Higgins	Harper	Axworthy
Junor	Wartman	Addley
Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Nays — nil

Clause 11

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Chair, we have some questions with respect to clause 11.

Is it proper to call, ask for the officials to come in and help the minister answer questions with respect to this or do we just go ahead?

The Chair: — It is really up to the minister whether the minister would require his officials. The minister's indicated to proceed.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Mr. Minister, with respect to clause 11(1), and I'll just read it:

In this section, "cause of action" means any claim, cause of action, suit, debt, account, demand, claim for damage, loss, cost, expense or interest, of any nature, whether arising in or imposed by law, equity, statute or otherwise and includes any judgment or order of a court.

And in clause 2 of section 11 . . . Section 11(2) I mean:

No action or proceeding lies or shall be instituted against the Government of Saskatchewan, any member of the Executive Council, or any officer or employee of the Government of Saskatchewan based on any cause of action arising from, resulting from, or incidental to the enactment or application of this Act or the regulations.

Mr. Minister, in reading that it causes us great concern because it appears that this cause of action may include everyone except yourself and your official and your government. And we're quite concerned about that, Mr. Minister, that if a main line manufacturer decided to sue for some reason that they could sue members of this legislature except Executive Council.

And I seek your thoughts on this, Mr. Minister, and as well your explanation of this. I'm hoping it is a glaring oversight that your department has made with respect to this and not something other than that. Could you give us an explanation based on your information and we would be willing to put forward an amendment to add any member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan for some protection against actions brought against all members of the executive Assembly. And I would hope that your backbenchers might be willing to entertain this amendment because it appears you are exempted as well.

An Hon. Member: — You're not exempted.

Mr. Boyd: — Or not exempted as well. Sorry.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I think the main reason that Executive Council is mentioned as opposed to members of the legislature is because the regulations that have to be implemented following, and the Act or regulation that Executive Council exposes themselves to, is very different than members of the Assembly. And that's why members of the legislature are not covered in this Bill or no other Bill that has ever been passed in the Legislative Assembly, yet the words, Executive Council, are used from time to time in various Bills.

And I just want to say that in the . . . One of the leading lights on parliamentary issues, Joseph Maingot from the *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada* states on page 12 of chapter 2 under general definition, and I quote:

Parliamentary privilege, which is an important part of the law and (the) custom of Parliament, is part of the general and public law of Canada.

Parliamentary privilege is the necessary immunity that the law provides for Members of Parliament, (the) Members of the legislatures of each of the ten provinces and two territories, in order for (those) legislators to do their

legislative work. It is also . . . necessary immunity that the law provides for anyone while taking part in a proceeding in Parliament or in a legislature. In addition it is the right, power, and authority of each House of Parliament and of each legislative assembly to perform their constitutional functions. (And) finally, it is the authority and power of each House of Parliament and . . . each legislative assembly to enforce that immunity and to protect its integrity.

And so our legal counsel advises us that it's not necessary and hasn't been necessary in the past, and is not necessary at this time.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, why then would you bring in a second clause that exempts Executive Council, if that is the case? If that is the case, everyone would be exempted, would they not?

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — For the member opposite, obviously the Executive Council is appointed. And to use I think a broad example, after the election in 1991 when the Devine administration was defeated, and they were no longer MLAs, (Member of the Legislative Assembly) they continued on for a period of time, for 10 days, as Executive Council. And during that period obviously did not have privilege.

And so it's a very, very different circumstance under the law, being a member of Executive Council and being a member of the Legislative Assembly. So the immunity that applies to myself as a member is not extended as Executive Council, while I'm . . . any of us are doing Acts of enforcement or regulation. And certainly not in that period of time when you cease to be an MLA, but still remain on as a member of Executive Council.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, while we still have some concerns because we have had differing legal opinions with respect to this particular clause, we will accept your explanation, Mr. Minister, fully understanding that if one of our members gets sued you're going to be there to help out.

Well one of the members of the Executive Council gives us some reason to be concerned over there, Mr. Chair. We're hopeful that that is indeed the case, because speaking with the Clerk of the Legislature, there is some concern that may not be the case. And speaking with legal counsel, there is some concern that may not be the case, so we're trusting, Mr. Chair, Mr. Minister, that you are correct in this. And you are sitting beside a constitutional lawyer, so we're trusting your okay . . . two of them.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, we still have some concerns in this area because we've had some differing legal opinions with respect to this. But we'll accept the minister . . . and we accept it in good faith and full knowledge that he'll be there to support, and his government would be there to support — in any way, shape, or form — an action that might be brought against a member of the legislature.

The Chair: — Before I call this clause, I just want to caution members not to involve officers of the legislature in debate and opinions that they might have . . . may or may not have

provided. So with that caution.

The division bells rang from 6:30 p.m. until 6:39 p.m.

Clause 11 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 52

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Crofford
Kowalsky	Sonntag	Hamilton
Prebble	Jones	Yates
Higgins	Harper	Axworthy
Junor	Wartman	Addley
Hermanson	Elhard	Heppner
Julé	Krawetz	Draude
Boyd	Gantefoer	Toth
Peters	Eagles	Wall
Bakken	Bjornerud	D'Autremont
McMorris	Weekes	Brkich
Harpauer	Wakefield	Wiberg
Hart	Allchurch	Stewart
Kwiatkowski		

Nays — nil

Clauses 12 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 15

The division bells rang from 6:41 p.m. until 6:41 p.m.

Clause 15 agreed to on the following recorded division.

Yeas — 51

Romanow	Hagel	Van Mulligen
Lingenfelter	Melenchuk	Cline
Atkinson	Goulet	Lautermilch
Thomson	Kasperski	Serby
Belanger	Nilson	Kowalsky
Sonntag	Hamilton	Prebble
Jones	Yates	Higgins
Harper	Axworthy	Junor
Wartman	Addley	Hermanson
Elhard	Heppner	Julé
Krawetz	Draude	Boyd
Gantefoer	Toth	Peters
Eagles	Wall	Bakken
Bjornerud	D'Autremont	McMorris
Weekes	Brkich	Harpauer
Wakefield	Wiberg	Hart
Allchurch	Stewart	Kwiatkowski

Nays — nil

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

(1845)

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 12 — The Agricultural Equipment
Dealerships Act**

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, I move the Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

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

ROYAL ASSENT

At 6:47 p.m. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill No. 12 - The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act.

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name I assent to this Bill.

His Honour retired from the Chamber at 6:48 p.m.

The Speaker: — I trust that each and everyone of you will have a pleasant evening. Until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

