

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the petition I present today is due to the failure of the AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) program. The prayer reads:

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 program and using the remaining provincial AIDA funding to rebate the education portion of the 1999 property taxes on agricultural lands for one year, whereby providing farm families with \$133 million tax reduction in 1999.

The communities involved on the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Moosomin, Moose Jaw, Chamberlain, Saskatoon — pretty well all over the province, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well to present petitions to the Assembly and, Mr. Speaker, this petition comes in regard to automobile insurance Act. And I'll read the prayer:

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 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitions I present are signed by individuals from the communities of Regina, Humboldt, Elfros, Foam Lake, Wynyard, and Saskatoon. I so present.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens concerned about the AIDA program:

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 program and using the remaining provincial AIDA funding to rebate the education portion of the 1999 property taxes on agricultural lands for one year, whereby providing farm families with 133 million tax reductions in 1999.

And the petitioners are from Chamberlain, Moose Jaw, Bladworth, Kenaston, and Regina.

I so move.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition today to present on behalf of . . . regarding school closures and more school closures in the province. The petition reads as follows:

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that the 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 school in Qu'Appelle, and to stop this unwanted or unwarranted closure of classes in Qu'Appelle.

As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

And the petitions are from Qu'Appelle area, McLean, etc.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I too have petitions to present to you and the Assembly. This petition is on the education tax rebate.

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 program and using the remaining provincial AIDA funding to rebate the educational portion of the 1999 property taxes on agriculture lands for one year, whereby providing farm families with \$133 million tax reduction in 1999.

The petitioners are from Chamberlain, Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and from other places in the province.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the following petitions presented at the last sitting have been reviewed and found to be in order, and are hereby read and received.

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to cause the provincial government to withdraw from the AIDA program;

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to cause the Minister of Education to stop the closure of classes in Qu'Appelle;

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to dedicate a greater portion of fuel tax revenues toward road maintenance and construction; and

Of citizens petitioning the Assembly to repeal the personal injury benefits contained in the automobile insurance Act.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) has your department referred the final report and recommendations of the Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax Review Committee to

an independent agency for a detailed economic analysis of the effects that each of the recommendations will have on the finances of the Government of Saskatchewan and forecasts of the impact on the Saskatchewan economy as a whole; (2) if the answer to question number one is yes, which companies have been asked to perform such an analysis.

I so present.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question:

To the Provincial Secretary: how much is the Government of Saskatchewan spending on the program known as the three century club, wherein portions of the Trans Canada Trail is purchased in the name of certain senior citizens to mark the new millennium.

I so present.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 14 ask the government the following question directed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing:

Why was the city of Moose Jaw denied the opportunity to set up its own enhanced 911 system — a system that would have cost taxpayers substantially less than what they will have to pay to get emergency services routed from Swift Current?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, two people seated in your gallery. One is a constituent of mine, Dolly Conway, who is recovering quite nicely from a hip operation. Seated beside Dolly . . . thanks for the wave Dolly. Seated beside Dolly is everybody's friend, the people's friend, Joe McKeown, a former alderman in the city of Regina.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming Dolly and Joe.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Melenchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce Peter Stroh who is seated in your gallery. Peter is the immediate past president of the Saskatoon Teachers' Association. He's been eight years on the executive of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. He is a teacher at E. D. Feehan High School in Saskatoon, and I might add the Liberal candidate in the last election for Saskatoon Greystone. Please welcome Peter Stroh.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to add my welcome to Joe McKeown and Dolly. Joe and I have been in many demonstrations and other things on behalf of our community together. But sitting in front of Joe in your gallery, is a troublemaker with a somewhat a longer history and that's

my father, Mr. Hubert Elkin. Yes, Hubert pay attention here — I'm going to say some rude things about you!

I've often wished I had a few more of his genes because he's still one of the best political thinkers that I've encountered. About once a year he sits me down . . .

An Hon. Member: — You're right about that.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Well you're going to like what I say next. I almost said your name but I won't.

He sits me down about once a year and lets me know what the main political issues are going to be for the year and I haven't found him to be wrong yet. And I might just add that he's quit saying hello to me these days. What he usually says, Mr. Speaker, is he says "when are you going to raise the minimum wage?" So that's how my father says hello to me. So congratulations and welcome to the legislature.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today actually as the minister responsible for Sask Water and I would like to introduce a group of water managers from the province of Xinjiang in western China. They have been here for three weeks to learn how we manage water in Saskatchewan. In addition to numerous presentations on our water management approaches, they have toured several facilities including the Gardiner dam, Buffalo Pound dam, and the national hydrologic research centre in Saskatoon.

I had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to have dinner with them last week and learn that there are many similarities between Saskatchewan and China, including our weather. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, last week it wasn't the weather — it was much warmer here in Saskatchewan than it was actually in China last week.

These men are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, as I said. And I would like to ask them to rise, if I could, as I introduce them individually. And I do apologize in advance for mispronunciation of names. If you would rise please, Mr. Ann, Mr. Lee, Mr. Jzow, Mr. Chen, Mr. Wong, Mr. Kaiser — and if I could ask you to just remain standing please — and also their translator, Mr. Ming. With them also is their consultant Andre Trudel of Roche Consulting out of Quebec, and from Sask Water, Stephanie Choma, the director of communications and Wayne Dybvig, vice-president of water resources and infrastructure management. I'd welcome you to the legislature today and ask all of my colleagues to join in welcoming them too.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome the delegation from China to Saskatchewan. It's good to see water managers coming here to observe our province. And having lived beside a water management project all of my life, Lake Diefenbaker, which was created by Gardiner dam, I too recognize the importance of knowing how to manage water well and I wish them well in Saskatchewan. Had I known they were coming sooner, perhaps I could have

invited them to my farm so they could have seen how we use the . . . manage the water from Lake Diefenbaker.

Welcome to Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you, a man I'm sure who needs no introduction in this House, the former minister of Labour and a long-standing MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from what was then Moose Jaw South, Mr. Gordon Snyder. Please join me in welcoming him.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, the same introduction might apply to another guest who is seated behind us.

I refer to Walter Smishek who I think is also well known to members as a long-time Member of the Legislative Assembly, a long-time member of cabinet during the Blakeney era, which time he served as minister of Health, I believe at one time, minister of Finance, minister of Municipal Affairs, and over the years has made a very significant contribution to public life and public administration in our province.

And I would ask all members to extend Walter a warm welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my words of welcome to Mr. Peter Stroh, who's in your gallery this afternoon. I'm very pleased to see him here.

Mr. Stroh and I share a lot of interests in common in terms of trying to create a safer environment in this province, and he's made a huge contribution to the field of education in our home city of Saskatoon. And I have to say he was one heck of a fine candidate for the Liberal Party in the last provincial election and ran a great local campaign.

So I'm very pleased to have him here this afternoon and I just want to add my words of welcome and ask all members to make him feel very much at home with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, if I might, I just want to add to the words that the Minister of Labour said about her father, Hub Elkin.

Even though she only gets the opportunity to sit down with him once a year and benefit from his wisdom, I get the opportunity to sit down more regularly with him because he lives in my constituency and serves on my executive. And in that capacity, I get lots of opportunity to benefit from Hub's wisdom.

I might say that Hub Elkin is one of the most forward-looking people, and this will appeal to the members opposite. This is a

person who never looks back, he's always looking forward, and we appreciate his advice.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harper: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House, a gentleman sitting in your west gallery, Mr. Art Halushka.

Art and his wife Bev farm at Whitebeech, Saskatchewan. And Art and I have spent many, many of the hours together and travelled many, many miles together during different election campaigns. I know Art is in Regina today for a medical reason. I believe it's one of his family members is receiving some medical treatment, and he's taken time out to come down and take in the House and the procedures here.

So I ask all the members to offer him a very warm welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Osika: — I'm sorry, hon. members. I was going to beg your indulgences in allowing me to also add my words of welcome to our Chinese friends and to all the members of the gallery, but to some very special folks that took time out today to come and visit with the Speaker.

And that's 12 grade 11 and 12 students from the great community of Ituna, and with their teacher Ken Mushka and the driver Ken Koback who brought them in the bus in this inclement weather.

I want you to please welcome them to the Assembly this afternoon and I trust they'll enjoy the proceedings.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you ever so much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently two young farm families were given the distinction of being named Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 1999. One family is from British Columbia, and I am proud to say that the other farm family is from Saskatchewan, specifically the Saltcoats constituency.

They are Warren and Carla Kaeding of Churchbridge. Warren and Carla are third-generation farmers now operating a seed plant under the name Wagon Wheel Seed Corporation. From a modest beginning the seed plant now employs two full-time, three part-time employees, one commissioned salesperson, three summer students, Warren's father Roger and mother Phyllis, and of course Warren and Carla.

The farm's wooden bins have been replaced with steel hopper bins, metal equipment sheds. A ramp and a second scale have been added, in addition to a large amount of railway ballast to enable all-weather traffic. A beautiful yard site to say the least, Mr. Speaker.

The operation includes a custom spraying and trucking business, and market seeds into Ontario, Minnesota, North Dakota, Manitoba, Alberta, and BC (British Columbia), and also here in Saskatchewan.

Annually 3,000 acres are cropped and another 3,000 acres are contracted. In addition the conventional oats, wheat, canola, flax, and peas, some other seeds grown include caraway, coriander, evening primrose, willow herb, and many others — just to name a few, Mr. Speaker.

I extend my congratulations to Warren, Carla, and the Kaeding family for receiving this honoured recognition and ask all members to join me.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Implement Dealership Bill

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm worn out bouncing up and down in anticipation here.

I want to just take a moment to say how proud I was yesterday to be a member of this Assembly, and to be associated with all the hon. members and all the hon. parties.

I was proud that all of us worked together and worked quickly to present, discuss, and pass An Act respecting Agricultural Equipment Dealerships, an Act to ensure that farm equipment dealers can continue to offer farmers a wide choice of machinery, especially those produced right here in Saskatchewan.

I think it fair to say that this Bill arose out of the collective will of this Assembly to meet a pressing need, and that all members and all parties can claim mutual responsibility for it.

It helps, of course, that we were supported in this Bill by the Prairie Implements Manufacturers Association, the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association, the Wheat Pool, and SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities).

Mr. Speaker, our names are on the record of the Bill — all our names. Those of the NDP (New Democratic Party), the Sask Party and the Liberals. We are the ones, who proudly said “yes” to the Saskatchewan firms and “back off” to the big American companies who were trying to take advantage of the current farm crisis by throwing their weight around.

Mr. Speaker, my hat goes off to all of us. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Racial and Ethnic Intolerance

Mr. Kwiatkowski: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week on a CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) Radio open line call-in show, a caller referred to the Premier and the Minister of Education as, and I quote, “two bohunks”.

Mr. Speaker, I was so overcome with anger and sorrow that I literally had to stop my vehicle on the highway. Anger because this was a graphic demonstration of the racial and ethnic

intolerance that still exists in our society today.

And anger that this slur was not detected by the delay system that the CBC has in place. And further that the host was extremely slow in challenging the caller on this slur, and even after doing so allowed the caller to continue.

I felt sorrow because I was immediately reminded of the discrimination and pain that my father and his family were subjected to when they first immigrated to this country. It was a time, when my dad was growing up, that other children of non-Slavic ancestry thought it was great sport to catch the children of Slavic ancestry as they walked to school and physically assault them.

Mr. Speaker, my dad is Polish. My mother is partly of First Nations ancestry, and my wife is of Metis ancestry. I wonder if people really understand the pain they cause when they make these intolerant and racist slurs.

Mr. Speaker, as legislators and leaders in our communities, it is incumbent on us to be united and unrelenting in condemning this kind of despicable behaviour. I would ask all members in this Assembly to join with me in asking the CBC to be more diligent in their efforts to combat this intolerant and unacceptable behaviour.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Coach of Canada's Junior Hockey Team

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago the previous member from Swift Current, John Wall, gave a member's statement welcoming the new coach of the Swift Current Broncos, Todd McLelland. Todd was coming to the Broncos at a particularly crucial time and he brought a valuable dignity and professionalism to the franchise.

And, Mr. Speaker, MLAs were interested in that statement also because Todd's father, Bill McLelland, was and still is one of our sessional security guards.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you'll be happy to know that Todd McLelland has been named as the assistant coach to Canada's national junior team which is on the way to the World Junior Cup tournaments in Sweden.

Team Canada plays its first game on Christmas Day. I know we all congratulate Todd McLelland and wish him and all his players well in the tournament and, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that Bill McLelland and his family will be happy to adjust Christmas dinner if necessary to cheer son Todd and Canada's junior hockey team on to victory.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

United Grain Growers' Expansion at Cupar

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to find good news in rural Saskatchewan these days but I have a little bit of good news that I'd like to share with all members of

the Assembly today.

United Grain Growers has started construction on the \$3.2 million facility upgrade in my hometown of Cupar. They will be increasing both their handling and storage capabilities and also expanding their farm supply facilities. Approximately 5,000 tonnes of additional storage are being put in place and, as a matter of fact, six large steel bins are being put in place today. Both the receiving and loading capabilities are being increased for fast unloads and fast rail car loadings.

What this means to our community is that we will have a modern, efficient, grain handling and farm supply centre in our area in the new millennium. This will ensure the viability of our town through an expanded tax base and an increase in the number of permanent full-time jobs. It'll also ensure the long-term viability of our branch line.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, both the town council and the RM (rural municipality) council are very pleased to see this construction go ahead. All issues involving local government have been resolved. The only outstanding issue regarding this project is with the Department of Highways. Early in the new year I hope to meet with the Minister of Highways to resolve this issue to everyone's satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Danger from Rabid Bats

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, the remedy of foolish fears is knowledge. And to alleviate the hysteria of Swift Current's bat man, the little boy who cried bat, here are a few simple facts about bats.

One. On a scale of mammals likely to become rabid, bats are far down the list after dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, racoons, and even pigs. Somewhere before right-wing politicians.

In the last 300 years of North American history, a total of 25 people have died from rabid bats — none at the Regina General. By contrast, Mr. Speaker, every year in India 50,000 people die from rabid dog bites.

Four. There are eight species of bats in Saskatchewan, four common in Regina. The most common, the little brown bat, has a mouth so small and delicate that it couldn't break human skin if it tried. It is the perfect instrument though for eating mosquitoes, something for which I think we should applaud the lowly bat.

Five. One of the largest concentrations of bats in this city is right in this building in a place I at least have never visited. Look up, look way up.

Six. Finally, Mr. Speaker, bats don't want to be around us or in our *Hansards* any more than we want to be around . . . we want them to be around us. The only difference is bats wouldn't shoot for cheap publicity when our paths do cross. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Christmas Greetings

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year at this time we gather our families and friends near us and with them we celebrate the season of Christmas. It is time filled with happiness and joy. It is also a time when we reflect on last year and look forward to the beginning of a new one.

This new year is especially important to many of us as it only signifies the ending of the past year, but marks the beginning of a new millennium. It is with loud rejoicing and great celebration that we will welcome in the new year.

As we prepare for this grand celebration let us not forget the one which occurred 2,000 years ago. The star shone brightly over Bethlehem, the angels' voices filled the heavens with song, and the people came from far and near to gather together and rejoice. It was on this day that we were blessed with the birth of Jesus Christ. God had sent his only son to give us salvation and to bring peace and justice to the world.

Not only are we celebrating the beginning of a new millennium, we are celebrating 2,000 years of having Christ in our lives. It is with great joy that we will come together with our loved ones on Christmas Day in remembrance of this blessed event.

During the Christmas season many of us as individuals and communities find ourselves reaching out to fellow men and women. We tend to give more of ourselves in the hope of making someone else's Christmas a little brighter. On January 1, 2000 let us resolve to help other individuals to get involved in our communities more — just a few minutes of our time and a couple of kind words can make all the difference in somebody else's day. Let's live with Christ in our lives for another 2,000 years.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan, we wish you all the peace and joy and happiness of the Christmas season — Martin J. Nienaber, state deputy, Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Financial Support for Farmers

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier, it is now oh-so-painfully obvious that you have absolutely no plan to help farm families. Yesterday you held another meeting. You admitted you have no plan — no plan for immediate assistance; no plan for a long-term safety net — no plan whatsoever. But you asked farmers to visualize their future.

Mr. Premier, farm families are visualizing their future. They visualize bankruptcies, foreclosures, bank payments. They visualize and it breaks their hearts. And they visualize an NDP government that sits by and does nothing.

Mr. Premier, it's now clear that no money is coming from Ottawa for months and months — if at all. What are you going to do to help farm families now?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the position of the government is one that I still hope the Leader of the Opposition shares and that is to say that the people of Saskatchewan must remain united at the political level, at the farm producer level, at the individual farm level, in order to make sure that the \$1.3 billion for Saskatchewan and Manitoba is attained.

Every one of us understands the pain and the suffering that's undergoing now in rural Saskatchewan and rural Canada. This is a crisis not only for Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Alberta but for all of the nation. And I'm very heartened by the fact that the federal House of Commons Agricultural Committee has called for this urgent immediate cash payout. I'm heartened by what Dennis Mills is doing in Toronto and the farm aid concert. There are many positive indicators that our message is finally getting through, and I invite the Leader of the Opposition to continue working with us — we'll work with him — in making sure that that message works.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, that's not good enough. We're not satisfied to unite with the government and do nothing. We want to do something.

Yes, Ottawa has a responsibility, but so do you, Mr. Premier. We're getting phone calls and letters, and so is the Premier. Farm families are asking us: what is the provincial government doing? And the answer is: absolutely nothing.

Mr. Premier, we do support the call for a billion dollars from Ottawa. We recognize that trade is a federal responsibility but the federal Liberals have failed. They have turned their backs on us — and you know that. It's time that you step up to the plate.

Mr. Premier, what are you going to do to help farm families now?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, this question has been asked several times and the answer has been provided several times. I simply indicate to the House and to you, sir, and the Leader of the Opposition, that in what I think has been generally acknowledged to be a very innovative and good Speech from the Throne.

We set up in page 4 and page 5 of the Speech from the Throne a specific course of action ranging all the way from the withdrawal of AIDA to the question of input costs, monitoring of input costs, farm leasebacks, the question of transference of farmland in the future, the Provincial Action Committee on Rural Economy, crop insurance, and I could on. This is a plan that is set up specifically and the Leader of the Opposition knows about it because he was here when the Speech from the Throne was debated.

Now that isn't all that is there. We're also asking for additional ideas and input. But let's close on this point with respect to this question. Let us never ever get trapped, I say to the hon. Leader

of the Opposition in letting Ottawa or other Canadians believe that this crisis is a provincial crisis. This is a national crisis and the response, and the response has to be done nationally at the international . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker. This is a national crisis but the Premier knows that it's desperate here in Saskatchewan. His own figures show that farm incomes in Saskatchewan are desperately low. The government just held a two-day farm conference — they called it a symposium. The theme was if you were the government, what would you do?

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party is going to answer that question. Your government currently has \$350 million set aside in a liquor and gaming fund. That money is supposed to be there for emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has said that this is the worst farm crisis since the dirty thirties. Yet he sits with over \$300 million in a reserve fund, and he's refusing to help farm families.

Today, the Saskatchewan Party is calling on the government to use this money to provide \$300 million in immediate emergency assistance to Saskatchewan farm families. There should be an immediate meeting of the farm coalition to discuss how this money should be paid out. And we should use this funding to put even more pressure on Ottawa to provide a billion dollar emergency payment.

Mr. Premier, that's what we'd do. What will you do?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the members opposite that Saskatchewan taxpayers do support agriculture in this province. They support farmers to the tune of \$300 per capita. Each individual in this province supports agriculture, Mr. Speaker, to the tune of \$300 per capita. That's double Alberta, double Manitoba, and six or seven times as much as Tory Ontario.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the meetings that have been held today and yesterday, the groups represented there — that represent the pulse growers, the women's institute, cattle feeders, the bison growers — are very optimistic and upbeat about having involvement.

This, the member opposite can't stand because he wants to play politics. That's what he's upset about. Nothing more, nothing less — because he wants to play politics.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there's . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order please. Let's use this valuable time in question period to hear both the questions and the answers. I ask all members to please co-operate.

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's the

party saying that we're playing politics and they're sitting on \$350 million of an emergency fund that they won't spend. They're refusing to help farm families.

Farm families all across this province have drained their bank accounts. They've drained their life savings. They've drained their NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account) accounts. They've maxed out their operating loans and their lines of credit.

Yet our own government right here in Saskatchewan is sitting on a \$350 million emergency fund and they're refusing to help in light of the WTO (World Trade Organization) failure, in light of the failure to put a first ministers' meeting together.

Mr. Premier, you have a choice: you can do nothing or you can use the emergency funds to help farm families.

Mr. Premier, Mr. Premier, it's time that you began to act like a premier. Will you help farm families?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members opposite that it's interesting — at a crucial point where Mr. Harrison is saying the federal government is softening on making a payment to farmers — these people undermine the process and say the Saskatchewan taxpayer should pay. You're selling out, selling out the taxpayers of this province.

I say to the member opposite this: you were responsible for giving up the Crow rate. You were. And then you say . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, please. As close as I was sitting to the hon. minister, I was unable to hear his answer.

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I say again that at a crucial point where all the indications are that the federal government is softening towards paying a payment to Saskatchewan grain farmers, this member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition is undermining the process, letting the federal government off the hook, and to Saskatchewan taxpayers, saying, Saskatchewan should pay and the Canadian government doesn't have to.

I say to the member opposite, this is irresponsible. This is the second time you've sold the farmers and people of the province out — you should be ashamed of yourself.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier. Mr. Premier, when you speak of selling the farmers out of Saskatchewan, tell us a little bit about GRIP (gross revenue insurance program), tell us a little bit about that. Tell the farm families of this province what you've done to them over the years here in Saskatchewan.

This government, Mr. Speaker, hasn't learned a thing. It's all talk and absolutely no action, as usual, from the NDP.

You held yet another farm symposium. The Premier asks the farm leaders to give him a road map. The deputy minister of Agriculture tells everyone, if you can imagine, to close their eyes and visualize the future of agriculture. That's your solution. Close your eyes and hope the problem goes away. Well, Mr. Premier, Saskatchewan farmers want you to open your eyes for a change. See what's going on out there in rural Saskatchewan and do something about it.

Mr. Premier, the Leader of the Opposition has just asked you to use the available funds in the liquor and gaming fund to provide immediate help for farm families here in Saskatchewan. Will you do that today, sir?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I guess that there's no such principle from the so-called Saskatchewan Party, as consistency. No such principle as consistency. Here they were in 1995 in the *Rosetown Eagle* saying the following. This refers to the Leader of the Opposition. They can yell all they want but they're going to hear this; they're going to hear this. Quote:

There are benefits to losing the Crow benefit. Kindersley-Lloydminster MP (Member of Parliament) Elwin Hermanson said it will encourage development in the West. There'll be no more incentive now to ship grain out and to look at diversification, Hermanson said.

The story goes on. And Boyd, referring to the questioner, said, it's something that should have happened 20 years ago. He said, it is tough love, Mr. Speaker. This from member who defined tough love in a debate a few days ago, in negative terms.

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, please. Order, please. We listened to the question; I'm sure everybody would appreciate listening to the answer.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — And then, Mr. Speaker, I . . . (inaudible) . . . the answer on November 12, 1998 after the Minister of Finance tabled a mid-year financial report, CBC news radio, November 12, 1998, 12 o'clock:

Reporter: Instead Cline says the money should come from the federal government.

Referring to farm aid. The opposition Saskatchewan Party agrees. Party leader Elwin Hermanson, quote:

Mr. Hermanson: Because the Saskatchewan treasury cannot deal with the magnitude of the crisis in agriculture.

That's what he said last month. Today he wants us to pick up the bill. Shame on him on asking the farmers to pay more.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, please.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the

so-called co-Premier over there wants to talk about the past when farmers are losing their farms today in Saskatchewan as a result of your policies, sir. The Premier says, let's just be patient in agriculture, let's wait. Let's just see what the federal government is going to do.

Well the farmers have been waiting for over a year for you sir. In fact, they've been waiting for seven years after you cancelled GRIP for you to finally do something here in Saskatchewan. Farm families in this province, Mr. Speaker, are sick of waiting and that's the reason why there are 25 members of the House in this province on the Saskatchewan Party side because they're sick of your government and they're sick of you two over there.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party is not going to wait any longer. Immediately after Question Period, we'll be calling for an emergency debate demanding the provincial government provide \$300 million in immediate assistance to help farm families in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Premier, will you allow that debate to proceed and will you allow that money to flow to farm families before Christmas as the all-party resolution called for?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — There they are. There they are. The betrayers of rural Saskatchewan and the betrayers of western Canada. There he was, as the Reform House Leader, advocating the abandonment of the Crow rate; \$350 million a year lost thanks to the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party. Thanks to the so-called critic of Agriculture. They undermined us then — \$350 million a year — and now they're asking us to be undermined again at a time when the farm coalition is making progress.

Evidence is everywhere. They are selling out the people of rural Saskatchewan. They are in the hands of the corporate big agribusiness of Canada and the world. I say, shame to you, Mr. Leader of the Opposition. Shame to the so-called Saskatchewan Party. Why don't you go back and speak to Toronto . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order, please. Order, please. I appreciate . . . Order, please. Order, please. I appreciate the enthusiasm on both sides, but I'm sure you will want to use this valuable time to have questions asked and answers given.

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, this was going to be a special session on agriculture here in this session of the legislature — that's what you said — to deal with the farm crisis here in this province.

But have we heard a single — a single — new idea from this government? No, we haven't. We've heard you talk about the federal government and we've had an emergency debate on agriculture, all pointed at the federal government. But the farm leaders one after another came before the bar in this legislature and said, you have a responsibility, sir.

And you have to live up to that responsibility as the Premier of this province. And you have said nothing but no to the farm leaders all along. And they know very well, Mr. Premier, that you have no intention to act.

You point your finger at the federal government; you point your finger at the opposition; you point your finger at every single person in this province day after day after day and you sit and do nothing. Well the farm families of this province say, shame on you, sir. Shame on you, sir. You are the Premier of this . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. The member has been quite lengthy in the preamble. Would you please go directly to the question.

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Premier, Mr. Premier, we are calling for an emergency debate on this item here this afternoon to allow \$300 million to flow through to farmers before Christmas. Will you allow that debate to proceed?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite who asked the question. I want to quote again from the newspaper which says "the Crow benefit payout draws criticism." Mr. Speaker, and the member asks a question but they yell from their seat and I can't . . . I can't answer it. I'm sure they will want to hear.

I wonder if the members opposite would quit yelling. I want to quote what Mr. Boyd said. He said, "and Boyd said it is something that should have happened 20 years ago." That is the removal of 350 million.

And today, when we're at a crucial point in negotiating with the federal government, they choose to cave in, they choose to cave in and say the provincial taxpayers should pay the bill. Three hundred million dollars is \$300 for every taxpayer in this province — \$300 for every taxpayer in this province. That's what they're saying should be transferred from the federal government to provincial taxpayers.

And I say to the member from Kindersley, who urged the dismantling of the Crow benefit of 350 million, to transfer that to provincial tax . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Premier. Mr. Premier, I know you're too arrogant to learn the names of the constituencies of the people who sit across from you, but I represent the constituency of Watrous.

Mr. Premier, Watrous has always voted NDP, but not any more. The people of Watrous couldn't wait to vote against your Agriculture minister. They couldn't wait to vote against your government. And now I see why — you have no plan for agriculture. And what's more, you don't care.

Mr. Premier, farm families are hurting, my neighbours are

hurting. And what are you going to do about it? Absolutely nothing.

Mr. Premier, will you provide the immediate cash assistance that the Saskatchewan Party's calling for?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, this is what on December 7 . . . this is, Mr. Speaker, *Hansard* of this House, December 7, 1999, when the member from Kindersley was speaking and being very critical of the Minister of Agriculture from Ottawa for using the example of tough love — Mr. Vanclief did.

And then the member opposite said I had an occasion to look up what "tough love" means, and it means, I'm reading from *Hansard*, quote:

For parents troubled by the behaviour of their children of any age. For those with past, current, and anticipated problems concerning school, family, alcohol, drugs, or the law.

Then he said this:

Tough love was the message that we got . . . (from) our agriculture producers here in Saskatchewan, and . . . it was extremely disheartening.

That's what he said. And I agreed with him. And what did he say in 1993 about doing away with the Crow rate? It should have been done away with 20 years ago. And he said the farmers should accept it like a little tough love. It's okay if it's tough love under his definition, when they take money away from the farmers and not okay otherwise.

These people have done more to destroy rural Saskatchewan than any other so-called Saskatchewan Party in history.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And this is only Thursday.

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier asked the leaders to give him a road map for the future in agriculture. Isn't that just like a man? He has to be lost for eight years before he asked for direction.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Harpauer: — The Premier wants everyone to visualize the future of farming 10 years from now. That's a little like asking the people of the Titanic what they're going to do when they get to New York.

Mr. Premier, if you don't do something now, there's not going to be agriculture 10 years from now. Mr. Premier, you know the federal government needs to do more but so do you. What are you going to do to help farm families now?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, the solution being advocated by the so-called Saskatchewan Party after having done away with the Crow rate of \$350 million a year — a year — each and every year. Each and every year. And their request is that an amount of money, which just one month ago they themselves said the provincial government could not afford, which just one month ago, they said to the CBC reporters in these quotation marks, quote:

Hermanson says the province should keep up the pressure on Ottawa, to keep up the pressure, to help the farmers and concentrate on giving everyone a tax break . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order, please. Allow the answer to the question. Order.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I am going to finish this quote. I know, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order, please. We continue to use up some pretty valuable time in my having to intercede, and I would ask all members' co-operation to please allow the question to be asked and the answer to be given. That's respectful of one another.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the so-called Saskatchewan Party a month ago said the following. He said . . . this is my answer, this is my answer to the member. This is what her leader said.

The Saskatchewan treasury cannot deal . . . the Saskatchewan treasury cannot deal with the magnitude of the crisis of agriculture.

Hermanson says:

The province should keep up its pressure on Ottawa to help the farmers (and get this) and concentrate on giving everyone in Saskatchewan a tax break in the next budget (now a tax increase).

Now they want to give a tax break, and they know that Saskatchewan can't pay for it, and they say it's Ottawa's responsibility. My question to them is this: why have you abandoned the unified Saskatchewan position; why have you abandoned the family farms?

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

Mr. Bjørnerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. I repeat, the Minister of Education.

Mr. Minister, first you abandoned the people that voted for you in the last election. Now you've joined in and abandoned the Saskatchewan farm families.

Mr. Minister, if you won't take action to lift some of the massive property tax burden, will you at least follow through on your own commitment to help farm families in crisis.

Mr. Speaker, here's what the Minister promised to do for farm families just three short months ago. And I quote:

Within two weeks of being elected, a Melenchuk Liberal government will pay out the provincial funds that are already committed to dealing with the farm crisis and get payments in the hand of farmers by October 15.

October 15, Mr. Speaker. Today it's December 16 and the former Liberal leader hasn't done a single thing to this point.

Mr. Minister, today the Saskatchewan Party called on your NDP government to provide \$300 million in emergency assistance to farm families. Will you keep your word and join with us and support us in that call today?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I say to the, to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the people of the province that we have a situation here today which I find absolutely, absolutely incredible.

Here we are as farm organizations and individuals and political parties at a crucial point where the federal government, in its budget planning, is this close to making a decision to pay the farmers of Saskatchewan in order to make up an equalization subsidy as it would relate to trade. They're this close and we're on the track, I believe, to win as farmers.

And these people, because of political reasons, can not stand that. And they undermine the process to the tune of 300 million, which will mean an increase in tax for every person of this province of \$300 for a family of five, a mom and dad, and three kids; a tax increase of \$1,500. That's what they've given away today for political partisan purposes and you're an embarrassment to the people of this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

I just want to or would like to remind all members and all our visitors that this is an enthusiastic day, and this is not the normal course of proceedings. And my thanks for all members, for their co-operation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 11 — The Electronic Information and Documents Act

Hon. Mr. Axworthy: — Mr. Speaker, I want to proceed with the first reading of The Electronic Information and Documents Act, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 11.

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

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

Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would move a rule 46 emergency debate, on the crisis in agriculture that farm families are faced with here in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — You have heard a request for leave to move a motion without notice under rule 46. Is leave granted?

An Hon. Member: — I get a chance to explain it, Mr. Speaker; you get a chance to explain it, right?

The Speaker: — I apologize. I would ask you to please outline the nature of the motion.

MOTION UNDER RULE 46

Emergency Debate on Crisis in Agriculture

Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's clear to farm families here in Saskatchewan that this NDP government has not a single, original thought in terms of agriculture and the direction of agriculture that agriculture should take here in this province. And for that reason, we propose an emergency debate on agriculture, to debate the very critical problem that the farmers of this province are faced with.

Clearly, there is a need for help from the federal government. But the farm groups of this province also said, clearly there's a need from the provincial government to respond as well. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, we are moving the emergency motion, seconded by the member from Watrous:

That this Assembly urges the provincial government to use its reserves in the liquor and gaming fund to provide an immediate trade equalization payment of \$300 million to Saskatchewan farm families through a payment mechanism determined through consultation with the Saskatchewan Farm Coalition; and that the provincial government use this payment to assist in negotiating a \$1 billion trade equalization payment from the federal government.

I would move this as an emergency debate, Mr. Speaker.

(1430)

Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the government will say no but I would like an opportunity to say, for just a brief outline, of why we would say no.

The Speaker: — No. Under rule 46, there is not the option. There's merely the option to ask the question if leave is granted to move the motion under rule 46 without . . . Leave is granted? Is leave granted?

The Government House Leader is asking for leave to respond.

Hon. members, you have heard under rule 46 . . . you have heard the request — order, please — you have heard the request for leave to move a motion without notice under rule 46. Is leave granted?

Leave not granted.

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. Order, order, please. Is there . . . Order. Is there any other business before orders of the day?

MOTIONS

Special Committee on Children's Issues

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I would, by leave of the Assembly, I would move:

That this Assembly authorizes the special committee appointed on December 13, 1999 to address and make recommendations on the issue of the abuse and exploitation of children through the sex trade and other matters. To elect two Co-Chairs rather than the Chair and the Vice-Chair to preside over the committee's proceedings.

I would move that, seconded by the member for Humboldt, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would ask, by leave of the Assembly, to move three motions of condolence which will be done separately.

Leave granted.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just by way of explanation to the members of the House, today is a day of condolence to remember the contributions of three members. The member from Qu'Appelle, I believe it is, Mr. Douglas McFarlane, Qu'Appelle-Wolseley, the former Liberal minister of Agriculture in the Ross Thatcher government. I'll move that momentarily.

Secondly after we have our condolences there, the death of Mr. Gordon McNeill, the MLA of Meadow Lake recognizing his contribution to the Assembly. And then after that recognizing the contribution of a former member, Mr. William (Bill) Davies.

I will move the motion with respect to Mr. McFarlane. I'd hope that the Leader of the Opposition would agree that the Leader of the Liberal Party second it. And then I'll move the motion with respect to Mr. McNeill for you to second, and for you to second Mr. Davies, if that's acceptable. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, I just want say a few brief words before I make the motion respecting Mr. Douglas McFarlane. Doug McFarlane was in the legislature as Minister of Agriculture in 1967 when I first entered this House, in concert with a number of my colleagues who'd been here earlier than I was even already introduced to you today, Mr. Smishek and Mr. Snyder among others.

The government of Ross Thatcher was, I think by all descriptions, a fair description, a government which was in many ways colourful and bombastic and for sure you knew where you stood on the positions taken by the Liberal premier of the day.

Many controversial issues were on the table for us to discuss, some ranging all the way to national unity, the unfortunate incident of the FLQ (Front de Libération du Québec) crisis, to domestic issues, and, not surprisingly after a rather boisterous question period today, in that period too we had the very important issues surrounding agriculture.

And in some ways the issues are reminiscent, in some ways they're very different. Some of the similarities, the perpetual cyclical nature of large productions of grains, subsidizations, the lowering of grain prices, the increasing of high input costs, and the life of the farming community, and the hurt that is inflicted to individual farm families, it was in that atmosphere that we met in 1967, '68, '69.

Mr. Thatcher, with whom we all had our differences, was, in my judgment, a very honourable individual. And as I say, you knew where you stood and if he made an agreement with you out of the House, it stuck. If he didn't agree, that also stuck, and he certainly was very forceful. And one of his forceful positions was to find himself many times in opposition with the federal Liberal government of the day led as it was by the then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

In the agricultural crisis of that period, the hurt on family farms was every bit as great — perhaps not quite as great as it is today, the income being at the 1930s level — but it was very severe. And the Minister of Agriculture and Canadian Wheat Board at the time, a Member of Parliament from Saskatchewan, Mr. Otto Lang proposed, amongst other ideas, the notion of Operation LIFT (lower inventories for tomorrow).

The idea was to remove from production farmland and that there should be payment to farmers for removing the farm production. It was a means, it was thought, of getting cash into the hands of farmers from the federal treasury, not the provincial treasury. It was a way of reducing the supplies in order to make sure that the supply and demand would equalize itself and prices would go up.

Needless to say this was a very controversial matter. The farmers of this province then, and I dare say today, want to do what they do best. They want to grow their grains. They want to be involved in cattle. They want to be involved in diversification. And the notion somehow that they would be paid for not supplying food to the people of this nation or not paid for supplying food to the people of the world was foreign to them.

And Mr. Doug McFarlane was in the unenviable position of being Minister of Agriculture in a provincial government where the federal government of the same stripe was going in one way and his government was going in another way in a highly charged, emotional political debate.

I cite that example to remind all of us that in some ways it is strange and not so strange to see major issues coming back from the time to time, periodically, and with the solutions still perhaps in some ways not as close as we'd like to have them.

I cite that example because the debate then was every bit as animated as it was today. In fact I would say the debate then was even more animated, and I say this of all of us if it's

thought critically, more elevated than because we were not benefited with the coverage by television or radio. What we had to do was convince our colleagues through the power of oratory and good arguments and ideological clash of debates. And when the word got out that Doug McFarlane was going to be speaking in the House on this issue or Ross Thatcher was going to speak in the House, everybody from the opposition came right away to hear what was being said.

I remember Doug McFarlane as a true gentleman dedicated to interests of rural Saskatchewan. I remember Doug McFarlane as a person who handled this dichotomous position that I've described on Operation LIFT with grace under fire.

I remember the person who had his first commitment to Canada and, equally very close, second commitment to Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan farmers and who tried to work with the opposition and succeeded in many areas, with us at that time in opposition, in trying to navigate the difficult circumstances of the occasion.

So I say we had our partisan differences but by and large at that time we were able to put them aside in many regards to try to work to the benefit of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Doug McFarlane was not bombastic. He was not what one might describe as an orator of a riveting and a compelling nature, but he was a person who provided reasoned thought. A person whose honesty and integrity and passionate commitment to farmers came through very, very clearly. And if you disagreed even with his position, you knew that he was coming from his heart and his mind from the point of view that we had to do the very best that we could as a nation to back up our family farms and our farm communities.

He was interested in many issues; maintained an interest in public life right until the very latter period of his life, as I am told, interested in the issues of the province and the country.

And I'll close by saying as a personal reminiscence, he was the kind of a person and minister that you could talk to privately on individual concerns, rural concerns, any concern that a minister of a Crown might be able to help you out on, Doug McFarlane, was there. And if he couldn't, he would tell you with reason and with civility and gentility why he could not so accomplish.

He truly was an adornment to this Legislative Assembly and it is to be noted that he has made, in my judgement, an outstanding contribution to this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan and Canada.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Leader of the Liberal Party, the Minister of Education, by leave of the Assembly, the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Douglas Thomas McFarlane who passed on May 6, 1999

was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1971, representing the constituency of Qu'Appelle-Wolseley for the Liberal Party. Mr. McFarlane was born on January 4, 1918 in Wolseley. He was raised on the family farm and received his schooling at Summerberry.

In his private life, Mr. McFarlane was a farmer. He was introduced to that way of life by helping on his parent's farm from a very early age. Later he established his own farm in the Peebles area with his wife, Frances Davidson. They were married on April 15, 1945 and had four sons.

Douglas McFarlane was an active participant in the affairs of the communities in which he lived. He was a director of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, a member of the Glenavon Board of Trade, and a chairman of both the local Saskatchewan Wheat Pool committee and the agricultural improvement and conservation committee. His involvement with 4-H clubs began as a youth aggregate award winner for judging livestock and continued as an adult leader.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Mr. McFarlane joined the RCAF. He served in maintenance squadrons and achieved the rank of sergeant before his discharge in 1945. Later, Mr. McFarlane was a member of the Canadian Legion. In 1971, he was appointed to the War Veteran's Appeal Board and served until his retirement in 1983. He was presented with a Senior Officers' Retirement certificate by the Governor General in recognition of his lengthy and dedicated service.

Mr. McFarlane, as I say, was first elected to this Assembly in 1956 and successfully retained his seat in the following three elections. He was appointed to cabinet on May 22, 1964 as Minister of Municipal Affairs. The following year, he assumed responsibility for Agriculture, a portfolio he held for the next six years, of which I've given my few reminiscences.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, seconded by the Minister of Education.

(1445)

Hon. Mr. Melenchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud and pleased to stand in the Assembly today to second the motion on condolences to Douglas Thomas McFarlane.

As we sit here today in the twenty-fourth legislature, I would just like to reflect on a few things.

Over the course of the 95-plus years of the history of this province, we have seen millions of people who have lived in the province of Saskatchewan but very few have had the opportunity to sit in the Legislative Assembly. And even fewer have had the opportunity to sit for several sessions through several legislatures, and Douglas Thomas McFarlane was one of these.

He grew up in a time when pioneers were breaking the land. He grew up in tough times in the 1930s, and he never left his community roots, and he never lost his social conscience. This was a man who was committed to his communities, to furthering the social agenda in the province of Saskatchewan, and who was passionate and civil in all his deliberations.

Douglas Thomas McFarlane's career in serving the people of Saskatchewan was inspired by the stories he had heard as a young boy from his parents and grandparents about Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Ewart Gladstone. He was especially fond of Sir Wilfrid Laurier who, as you know, was the prime minister when many of the immigrants from Eastern Europe came to Saskatchewan and broke the land and pioneered this great province. Grandparents that we all share who brought this in.

Mr. McFarlane was born in Wolseley, educated in Summerberry, and then moved to Peebles where he was active in his community affairs. When the Second World War broke out he joined the Armed Forces like many patriotic Canadians and became a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force. When the war was winding down, he married Frances Davidson of North Battleford and became interested in pursuing politics as a way to better peoples' lives.

Mr. McFarlane was nominated as the Liberal candidate and elected in Qu'Appelle-Wolseley in 1956, was re-elected in 1960, 1964, and 1967; retiring from politics in 1971. During his time in government, he was the minister of Municipal Affairs in 1964 and the minister of Agriculture in 1965.

Mr. McFarlane was an active participant in the lives of the communities in which he lived. He was a director of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, a member of the Glenavon Board of Trade and Chairman of both the local Saskatchewan Wheat Pool committee and the agricultural improvement and conservation committee. His involvement with 4-H clubs began as a youth aggregate award winner for judging livestock and he continued this as an adult leader.

In 1971, Mr. McFarlane was appointed to the War Veterans Appeal Board and moved to Ottawa. When the appeal board moved to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, he followed and made his home there where this became his final home.

Upon his retirement in 1983, he moved to Winnipeg. Mr. McFarlane was presented with a Senior Officers' Retirement certificate by Governor General Ed Schreyer in recognition of his long and excellent service, a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to public service.

I am pleased to second the condolence motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand in this Assembly this afternoon and say a few words in recognition of the contribution that a former member has offered to this Assembly and to this province, and certainly to his family and his community.

Mr. Speaker, while I personally didn't get to know Mr.

McFarlane, Mr. McFarlane didn't grow up all that far a distance from our community and the farm that I grew up on.

Mr. Speaker, in fact when Douglas McFarlane was representing this Assembly and was a member for Indian Head-Wolseley, I was just a high school student at that time. The member for our constituency representing Moosomin at the time was John Gardner. And, Mr. Speaker, it's just the fact of having Mr. Gardner living not that far from us gave me a better understanding of the legislative process and the Legislative Assembly.

However, Mr. Speaker, I can remember listening to Mr. McFarlane as a minister in the cabinet of Mr. Thatcher. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, as we remember Mr. McFarlane today and pay recognition to his life, we want to remember the contribution he made in the area of agriculture specifically.

And certainly it's quite fitting that we are into a debate on agriculture, although I am certain that Mr. McFarlane himself and his family would prefer that we didn't have the type of debate that we end up again in today, a debate that I'm sure he faced on many occasions as the minister of Agriculture in dealing with different situations and crises that faced the agricultural community of his day and, unfortunately, seem to just move on in cycles in the province of Saskatchewan.

We look at the life of Mr. McFarlane and we see his love for the agricultural community. I think it certainly is shown in the fact that he was a director of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, a member of the Glenavon Board of Trade, and the chairman of both the local Saskatchewan Wheat Pool committee and the agricultural improvement conservation committee.

And his involvement with 4-H clubs — something that I was involved with for a number of years in my younger years — speaks highly of his commitment not only to his province but his community. And when you look at the areas of his involvement, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you he did it out of his love for community, love for young people, because most of these committees that he sat on were volunteer organizations. And people don't volunteer to do service and to do work in communities unless they have a real heart and a love and compassion for those areas and that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, it's certainly fitting that we stand in this Assembly today and recognize the endeavours of a former member. While we stand here acknowledging that Mr. McFarlane has now left us, we certainly want to pay tribute to him for his commitment through the years he served his community and served this Legislative Assembly.

And certainly as the member from Moosomin, now representing that area that he grew up in, the Peebles and the Summerberry area that has been added to the constituency of Moosomin. I want to extend to the family on behalf of myself as the member, and my colleagues, we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Douglas Thomas McFarlane. And we trust that they will indeed find solace in the fact that they know that, and are aware of the fact that, their husband, and a father, and a grandfather, played a significant role, played a significant role, pardon me, in our community, in our province and I'm certain in their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Mr. Speaker, I would move, by leave of the Assembly again, seconded by the Minister of Education, the Liberal leader, that the resolution just passed . . . I should ask for some advice from the Clerk. Do we have one motion for all three? Would you recommend that? Then I'll stand up and pay tribute to the other deceased. Thank you Madam Clerk, for your advice.

Mr. Speaker, I will move, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition a condolence motion respecting Gordon McNeill.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon McNeill was a former member of this Assembly. And I have to tell you that I, too, served with Gordon McNeill. There are many warm remembrances and stories, both political and non-political, that come flooding into my mind when I think about Gordon McNeill.

But in trying to summarize what to me sticks out as the most important characteristic about this absolutely free-spirited, engaging, wonderful man, was his community with nature. The rhythms of nature. How we as human beings are but an important facet, but one facet only, of life out there.

His love of the north country and his love of nature, his passion for fishing, living close to the outdoors, hunting, fishing, as I say, all of these exemplified a person who was plain speaking, understood that all of us live short, temporal periods before our time comes. And also spoke to, I think, his tremendous concern that — and understanding — that in a country and in a province like ours, which is so large territorially, and yet so small and yet in some ways geographically and from climate point of view is so challenged, I think it gave Gordon more perhaps than a lot of us, although . . . (inaudible) . . . those kinds of winners or losers of those choices. It certainly instilled, I'll say it this way, in him the belief in co-operation. There's just no way in this part of the world with climate and geography and anything else but that the model of co-operation has to work.

Co-operation, and also with that the streak of individuality. I've often said on past occasions, and I think about this in terms of Gordon McNeill, we unlike the Americans, practice the notion of community and co-operation in concert with the notion of individual freedoms and liberties and entrepreneurial spirit. The Americans concentrate on the latter to the exclusion of the former. I'm not being critical of their society. But I think the fact that we've been able to juggle and neatly balance sometimes these competing values is a testament to who we are, where we are, but really is the explanation for the many great institutions and the many great programs that we've implemented in this province. That was Gordon McNeill.

Gordon McNeill brought that passion and his beliefs of social democracy to this Assembly and to this province with unending enthusiasm — blunt talk. I remember visiting with him on several occasions, in non-political or non-business settings, and he was an easy guy to be with, a warm person to be with.

I have one little story that I related to a few of my cabinet and caucus colleagues. When my late father-in-law was still alive and one of his relatives and myself we were asked by Gordon to

come up to Loon Lake area to do some fishing. These were in the days when we were both in the House together and so my father-in-law, his relative, my relative, three of us go into the car, drove up to Loon Lake area, two boats. And boy the fishing was terrific even for a guy like me. They weren't quite jumping in the boat, Mr. Speaker, but you could catch them very, very easily.

And we were very mindful of the limits, I must tell everybody here, and the licensing provisions and the like, but toward the end of the day my father-in-law, who was on the second separate boat, and Gordon and I were in this particular boat, was bragging about the catch which he had. And he picked up, from the back of the boat on a chain, all of the fish which had been caught and been kept cold by the waters of that area, and was whooping it up — we were some distance away from him; we could hear him and see him — about this catch. "See how good it is?" he said. He turned around and all of a sudden, as if by some magical, mystical development, the chain just fell off and down went the fish and started to float and sinking as they desperately start to turn this boat around to try to rescue the catch. And we, of course, in the McNeill boat, decide we're going to do the same thing. We have to help out right? Neighbours help out neighbours. And for sure, as a son-in-law to this particular father-in-law, I had to be there to help out so we gunned our boat to race to save the fish. In doing so, we lost our catch.

And so now comes a great moral dilemma. Do you help your father-in-law out or do you go back and save your own catch? So . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . well, no the Minister of Economic and Co-operative Development says the father-in-law . . . we turned her off. We lost our catch; he lost his catch. It was the longest, most difficult ride back home that I'd ever experienced in my life with my father-in-law.

But ever since that occasion, Gordon McNeill would pop by and present to Mike Boykowich — the father-in-law, Dr. Boykowich, now deceased — his catch, from time to time, of pickerel, reminisce about nature, life in the North.

(1500)

Any time I'd go up to speak there on behalf of my party or on official government business, he was there — even after he was no longer an MLA — interested, advocating the beauty of the area, advocating the preservation of the environment, making sure there was jobs and employment but making sure that we did so in such a way that our community and our pristine beauty of Saskatchewan was preserved. No pretense, no facades, no position — just an ordinary guy who through self-education, through experience, who with those rhythms of nature understood the importance of getting along with people and all living things and preserving them and bringing that perspective to this Legislative Assembly.

Many such people in this House have brought those attributes or similar attributes. Gordon was born, along with a twin sister Gladys, on August 17, 1922 in Bateman, Saskatchewan, and he leaves to mourn him two brothers, John and Bob, and four sisters, Doris, Gladys, Mary, and Mavis; one sister-in-law, Marion, and many, many nieces and nephews all of whom loved him very dearly.

He was predeceased by his charming partner, Nickie, who I have fond memories of too; his parents, Walter and Lena; his brother, Leonard, and four brothers-in-law, Dave, Jake, Henry, and Emerys.

Gordon McNeill grew up in Shamrock in the middle of a family of eight. In 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force taking his training in Moose Jaw and served until 1945. He later worked for Luis & Son Trucking firm and then the CNR (Canadian National Railway) in Saskatoon where he met with Nickie Smith whom he later married. They moved to Green Lake in 1959 and opened a tourist resort which he later sold.

I didn't know this until I did some further researching, or if I did, I'd forgotten about it if Gordon had told me, but he actually managed Lloyd Lake Lodge. And for whatever it's worth — it's a small world — but the current Premier of the province of Alberta, Ralph Klein, has on many occasions told me how much he admires Lloyd Lake and the surroundings there, and here I am talking about a person who was so instrumental in developing that area way back in 1966 and then later on managing the Stampede Hotel in Meadow Lake during the winter months.

In 1970 he moved to Loon Lake, as I described the incident to you, managed the resort there for the Department of Indian Affairs until 1975 at which time he was elected an MLA representing the New Democratic Party for the Meadow Lake constituency on the government side of the House during the Blakeney years.

He served for four years and was not re-elected but then continued working for Saskatchewan Mining and Development in La Ronge. In 1982 he managed the Pelican Narrows Resort, travelled to sports shows — by the way, he loved sports and athletics — promoting Saskatchewan tourism in winters.

In 1983 he moved back to Loon Lake, worked for a resort there while semi-retired and was fortunate enough to have some pretty good winter months in Arizona with himself and his beloved wife and family.

Mr. Speaker, these are tough things to do sometimes. The next one's going to be equally tough for me with Bill Davies, but I am reminded — I think it's in the sentiment of the member from Cannington who just spoke before me — reminded about how privileged we are to be in this House. Really it's a very small population of MLAs since 1905 and I think of the rich variety of background and character and experience and intelligence that each one of us brings, I hope. And while we clash in debate, at the end of the day there's got to be something which motivates us and unites us — that is our determination to make this province and this country just a little bit better a place in which to live than when we found it, before having the trust of people to serve in this Chamber.

And Gordon McNeill would be the opposite of the background of the late Doug McFarlane we talked about, but he would be similar because of those instincts and those goals and those visions that I've talked about. I viewed him as a personal friend and I've missed him out of politics, and for sure do now with his passing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move now, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, the member from Canora-Pelly, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Gordon James McNeill, who passed away on July 14, 1999 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1978, representing the constituency of Meadow Lake for the New Democratic Party. Mr. McNeill was born, as I've said, in Bateman, Saskatchewan on August 17, 1922. He was raised in Shamrock and later married Henrietta Elizabeth, or as we called her, Nickie Smith.

Throughout his life Mr. McNeill had a great love for the outdoors. This in turn influenced where he chose to live and how he made his living. In 1959 Mr. McNeill moved to the North and opened a tourist resort at Green Lake. In later years he managed the Lloyd Lake Lodge, which I've alluded to, the Loon Lake resort, and the Pelican Narrows resort. During the winter seasons Mr. McNeill kept busy managing the Stampede Hotel in Meadow Lake for several years, and then later promoting Saskatchewan tourism at sport shows.

Mr. McNeill served his fellow citizens in other capacities as well. He served his country from 1941 until 1945 in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served his province as a civil servant for the Department of Indian Affairs and later worked for Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation. Mr. McNeill began his working life in his local community, working with the Luis and Son Trucking firm and the Canadian National Railway in Saskatoon.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Leave granted.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to stand on behalf of the official opposition, the Saskatchewan Party, and join with the Premier in seconding the motion of condolence.

The Premier is so accurate when he talks about the fact that over a period of time there have been a number of MLAs who have been recognized in this House who have passed on. And that's one thing that we must all recognize: is that some day each and every one of us will be recognized by the premier of the day.

And when we listen to the accomplishments and the contributions of people who have come before me, people who I have not met, we have to sit back and recognize that these were individuals who gave of their time, gave of their families, and tried to make Saskatchewan a better place. And I think

that's what every one of us is here to do as well.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I want to express the sympathies of the official opposition to all members of the bereaved family. And I want to indicate as well that my colleague from the Shellbrook-Spiritwood constituency, who of course is a lot closer to the Meadow Lake constituency than I am, will be making further comments on behalf of the official opposition. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I, like many others, considered him a friend and an adviser and a mentor.

Gordon McNeill and I had many, many things in common. Before I was elected in 1991, Gordon was of course the last New Democrat MLA from the constituency of Meadow Lake. Gordon, like myself, had a twin sister. Also, Gordon came from a large family, as I do. And Gordon, like myself, loved hunting and fishing and of course loved politics.

After he left politics formally in 1978, he continued to remain extremely active in our constituency. Gordon helped our constituency association right up until his passing in July. At virtually every public event in Meadow Lake that the Meadow Lake New Democrats held, Gordon actually did our financial appeal. It was an automatic given if you will.

I've often wondered how much money Gordon raised for our Meadow Lake constituency over the years and I'm sure it was, in his countless financial appeals, I'm sure it was very much for which all of us will be eternally grateful.

I just want to make reference to the most recent financial appeal he actually did which was at my nomination this past spring in March in Dorintosh in which the Minister of Environment and Resource Management was also in attendance and we had a wonderful time that evening visiting with Gordon there.

I want to reflect back just a little bit. Gordon as a . . . when he was younger, certainly would include myself when I was considerably younger, came around travelling as the politicians did, it seemed to me more often in visiting every single household in the community. I remember him stopping at the farm at our place soliciting my and my family's support. In fact that was the first election that I was ever able to vote in, any election I was able to vote in, provincial or federal, was an election when I got to vote for Gordon.

We always encouraged Gordon and told him that he didn't have to spend a lot of time at our farm site because he had our support. But if you knew what Gordon was like he always loved to stop and spend time and visit.

I want to speak briefly about Gordon's relationship with the Aboriginal community. Over the years Gordon earned a tremendous amount of respect and admiration from the Aboriginal community, probably more especially First Nations, but the Aboriginal community in general as well.

As the Premier had alluded to, Gordon loved the North and one of the things that Gordon did is, also as the Premier said, he ran a number of the different stores and resorts. And one of the

most recent stores and resort that he ran was the one at Makwa. And I remember often stopping by to say hi to Gordon. And the young children from the reserve were in and around the store all the time. And I sometimes wonder how the store ever turned a profit because Gordon was always behind the counter handing out candies to the children and stuff without any hesitation at all.

And I remember often as well going into Loon Lake to the different restaurants. You would often see Gordon with a young Aboriginal person buying them a meal and just sitting and visiting with them. He truly was a remarkable person in that regard.

Also I fondly remember Nickie, who . . . we referred to her as Nickie anyway, who predeceased Gordon. How they always made their house and home so welcome to all of us and I think Gordon never really fully recovered from Nickie's passing. They were simply a unit and there was no question of that.

The thing I remember about Nickie, in speaking of Gordon and Nickie together, was the treats that she always provided for us every time we stopped there, and often we held constituency executive meetings where there were 15 or 20 people in attendance. Nickie always had the trays of food there and it was just so wonderful, and it is unfortunate now as well that we have lost a location for executive meetings in Loon Lake.

I also want to speak briefly about his . . . the times, or I should say that they're . . . about the number of . . . times that Gordon — and the different places — that Gordon spent travelling around in the constituency. I often wondered over even the last few years whether Gordon was still contemplating running against me. It seemed as if every public event that I was at Gordon was there also and he started to make me nervous. Anyway Gordon was just that kind of individual. He would attend every single event that he could possibly go to largely because he simply loved the people.

I want to speak also briefly about Gordon's support for the Royal Canadian Legion. His support was absolutely legendary. He rarely missed a meeting. You could often find Gordon in the Legion simply visiting and having a drink with friends, and he was always one of the key organizers on November 11th, Remembrance Day. And I know all of his colleagues and friends in the Legion will miss him terribly.

As his successor, as an NDP MLA for the constituency, I think Gordon felt it his, not only his right, but his duty to provide special direction and advice to me. And I do want to say to his family who will read this in the transcripts later that I found that advice and direction absolutely invaluable. We didn't always agree but most often we did, and he really provided an extremely, I should say, down-to-earth perspective on the issue that he might be speaking to me about and for that I will be eternally grateful.

(1515)

And I guess I want to say if the overflowing crowd at the funeral on the day that they buried Gordon was any indication, he truly did have many, many friends. The recreation centre was absolutely packed.

The Premier talked about how Gordon advocated the North and the area and I want to share with you a slightly humorous story that Gordon often told. And I might well, I might well and probably properly use the Premier in this story. It was . . . he used to tell the story of how he and one of his colleagues . . . and as I say I'll use the Premier in this case. He took the Premier from Regina on a trip up to Loon Lake.

And on their way up they stopped in Saskatoon. And in Saskatoon they went into a restaurant and into one of the back offices where Gordon said he wanted to show the Premier something.

And when they went into the backroom there were three . . . there were a number of phones there, but one of them was a bright red colour. And the Premier asked Gordon, what is that phone there, that bright red phone? And the . . . Gordon, I should say, said well, that phone, it's a special phone. That phone you pay \$500 a minute for a call there — this is well before deregulation, Mr. Speaker — but you pay \$500 a minute and you can call to God from there. And our Premier at that time was pretty impressed with that. He didn't realize that you could call to God directly.

But they continued on their way and stopped in North Battleford. And Gordon said to the Premier as well, he says, I want to show you again now something similar to that here in North Battleford. And they went into an office and there were a bank of phones there and again a red coloured phone. And the Premier asked Gordon, what is that bright red phone there for? And he says, well, that's the same thing. He says, you can use that phone to call to God. But he said, it's a \$100, a \$100 to call from here. And again the Premier was quite impressed that you could actually call to God but still \$100 was an awful lot.

And when they got to Loon Lake, Mr. Speaker, Gordon took him into his house and again there was a red coloured phone in Gordon's own house. And the Premier said, what is that red phone for this time, being a bit wary by now. And Gordon said well that's . . . you can call to God as well from here. But he said, he says it only costs you 25 cents here. And the Premier said, why is that? He said, well of course, he says, you're in God's country, he says, it's a local call up here.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, even where I believe Gordon is now, I think he doesn't even have to take that 25 cents out of his pocket. I suspect he can speak to God directly from where he is now.

So, Mr. Speaker, I speak not only on behalf of New Democrats that knew Gordon but also on behalf of his many friends and neighbours, acquaintances of all political stripes, when I say that those of us that were fortunate enough to have had our lives touched in some way by Gordon will miss his guidance, his wit, and his words of wisdom.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I did not know Gordon James McNeill very good. I had one brief acquaintance with him and that's when he ran the lodge at

Green Lake. We were up there fishing and we ran into him. And as the members opposite said, that he was a very, very nice man. He enjoyed fishing, enjoyed hunting, and he was a great lover of the outdoors.

And so, by me going on to telling much about him, I really don't know. All I just want to say is, on behalf of this Assembly here, I wish my . . . or say my condolences to his family and loved ones. Thank you.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I knew Mr. McNeill probably in a different capacity than most people here. In fact, I was in Loon Lake before Mr. McNeill was because I was born and raised there.

When he moved there, I was approximately seven or eight years old and got to meet him as he came to our family home. As a good New Democrat, my father was a good New Democrat as my mother was. He was quite a large, tall man when I was seven or eight years old. I was quite surprised when I met him as an adult that he isn't all that tall, or wasn't all that tall.

And I was one of those children that he gave gifts to. In fact I remember when he was working with SMDC (Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation), he made sure to bring each one of us a pack of playing cards. And I still have those cards. I never did use them, but as sort of a keepsake because he was the MLA for the area. He was someone of quite great stature to a young person.

As well, there was a business relationship between Mr. McNeill and myself because for many years I was his paper boy. And as a paper boy, you have a unique perspective on a lot of people. You see the person how they treat you as an insignificant newspaper person and you see how they treat other people uptown or on television or in different places.

And one of the nice things about Mr. McNeill and Mrs. McNeill was that they treated everybody the same way no matter who you were. And from before he became an MLA, when he was a MLA, after he was a MLA, he treated you the same. And he acted the same way to everybody. And I guess it's the old saying, that he's comfortable in his skin and he can walk with kings or paupers and is comfortable in any crowd.

Which goes to the next point of his dealings with Aboriginal and First Nations people. In coming from Loon Lake it seems one of the keen skills that Aboriginal people have is they can see right through you to the spirit of the person and they know whether you're phoney or not. And he always had a very good relationship with everybody as well as Aboriginal and First Nations people.

One of Mr. McNeill's disciples was Doug Anguish who was a former MLA and cabinet minister and a Member of Parliament here. Doug Anguish started working at the Loon Lake Lodge, just as a labourer; had no interest or expertise in politics in any way. But, after many years of working with Mr. McNeill, suddenly he developed an interest in politics, democratic socialism, social democracy, and he was basically recruited and encouraged and supported and got going into politics, all because of Mr. McNeill.

So, you can credit Mr. McNeill, or blame Mr. McNeill, whichever side of the House you happen to be on. Credit, credit.

But as much as I liked Mr. McNeill, my favourite McNeill was Nickie McNeill because she always had a twinkle in her eye. She was always as kind as Mr. McNeill was. She was even kinder, and I think she was actually the one responsible for the Christmas gifts every year. As a paper boy, that's very important, so I'd advise all those out there in support of newspaper carriers, paper boys and girls everywhere.

I guess the final thing that I wanted to mention is an indicator of a person's character is how they help those who are not in any position to be able to help the original person. And Gordon and Nickie McNeill were those kind of people. They helped countless people, in so many different ways, without any expectations for any kind of reward or compensation.

So, from my perspective, as someone born and raised in Loon Lake, I would like to join in the condolences here and express my sympathies to the McNeill family.

Thank you very much.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's now my duty to rise to speak on behalf of a motion of condolence to the family of Mr. William Gwynne Davies. Although, I must say, that today in the House we have three people who could do a much better job than I — Walter Smishek and Gordon Snyder, Hub Elkin — who knew Bill much better than I. But the task is such that I should give it a try and I'm going to give it my best shot.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to serve in this House with Bill Davies. His last term here was my first term here — 1967 to 1971. And Bill and I were seatmates during the latter part of that first term. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, for a brand new rookie MLA like myself it was really quite a thrill. It was like being called up for the first game in the NHL (National Hockey League) and finding out that you're on the same line with Gordie Howe, the same line as Gordie Howe.

It is customary on these occasions to speak about the contributions, the accomplishments, and the achievements that made up an exemplary life of service, and certainly Bill Davies made those contributions, had those accomplishments, and enjoyed many of those achievements.

But I'd like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by talking about something different — poetry. Because, you see, in addition to all of his other roles as an advocate for working men and women, as a politician and as a legislator, as a husband and a father, Bill Davies was a poet. In fact, he published a book of poetry — I have a copy of it here — called *The Buffalo Stone; Poems* by William G. Davies, published in 1997.

And Bill wrote about our beautiful province and its natural wonders. In his poem, "Song of Saskatchewan," he set a scene in words. And I want to take the liberty to quote his words, the poetry of Bill Davies. "Song of Saskatchewan" went like this,

quote:

I'll sing of broad plains and I'll sing
of wide skies,
. . . I'll sing you a song of Saskatchewan —
Boundless and free!
I'll tell you of hills rolling infinitely,
Waving wheatland in our prairie sea;
. . . I'll sing you in praise of a symbol to me —
Close to my heart;
And what could this be, but the people you see
Who live in Saskatchewan!

In many of his poems, Bill set these kinds of lovely, vivid scenes of our beloved — his beloved — province and in particular of the hills and valleys around his Moose Jaw home; land he loved to feel beneath his feet on the long walks he enjoyed so well; the land, although he was of a labouring background, that he shared with people on farm families and the farming community. Lovely, vivid, poetic scenes.

And yet the poet, Wallace Stevens, said of poetry the following, quote:

The subject matter of poetry is . . . the life that is lived in the scene that it composes; so reality is not . . . (the) scene but the life that is lived in it.

If you stop to think about that, that is probably a very accurate description of the essence of poetry. In any event, it's certainly something that describes Bill Davies. He lived a life in the Saskatchewan scene, and what a life.

In Bill's poem "The Buffalo Stone" for which his book of poetry is titled, he writes about a huge block of glacial granite. In it he wonders, amongst other things, the following, quote:

How immense a history
It has known; (referring to this granite)
In a vast and overwhelming,
Changeful, titanic, and truly stupendous time;
It has been part of; over such tumultuous
Periods, events, and movements.

I just want to read that again. He asks himself about an inanimate object, the granite:

How immense a history
It has known;
In a vast and overwhelming,
Changeful, titanic, and truly stupendous time;
It has been part of; over such tumultuous
Periods, events, and movements.

(1530)

You know that is an exhibition of an approach and philosophy to life and a passage which reveals an intellectual's thinking about he or her position in the short scheme of life and the position of nature, the planet, the constellation — it is a very, very universal contemplative question.

I would say that in many ways that passage could be also a

passage that talks about the life of Bill Davies. A strong and solid presence in a, quote: “changeful, titanic . . . time . . . of tumultuous . . . events and movements.” And I’ll elaborate upon that in a moment.

As many of you will know — perhaps many of you will not know — Bill dedicated his life to many causes but I would argue primarily — notably, I’ll put it that way — to ordinary, working people and their plight. And he was a reasoned and powerful and dedicated and unmoving, almost like that granite, voice and fighter for them throughout his life. True to his beliefs and principles.

He was a working man himself. A packer in the Swift plant in Moose Jaw. In his words, “keeping pace with the chain, the same allotted job on each dead beast.” Working from dark to dark, not seeing the sun for half a year.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in this book of poetry, I described about Bill Davies’s capacity, God-given gift to describe the beauty of our Saskatchewan. But this gift, to talk of the tumultuous events, extended to the real issues which were as much a passion and a reason for the man’s being as the poetry was in describing the beauty of the place.

He wrote one poem called “When I was a Packinghouse ‘Wage-Slave’.” I wondered whether to read a portion of it because, on a moment of this occasion, I thought maybe this wasn’t quite the place. But then, no, this was the era in which Bill Davies as a fighter for workers’ causes and issues lived.

And I’ll just read you the last paragraph. I’ve alluded to it already: “When I was a Packinghouse ‘Wage-Slave’.” He wrote this:

So thus it was for me for 20 years

Describing the hardships, and boy, there were hardships. Grim, dark places of work. Employer surveillances. No freedoms. But returning to his words:

So thus it was with me for 20 years,
Never to see the sun for half or more
Of each long annual span;
And to labour six days of every seven
Within that wearing, searing time.
Thus it was for all of us,
Until we said “an end to all of this,”
Then took our courage in our hands,
Found in unity was our strength indeed,
To break the rope which bound us
To that sorry life
And burst from darkness into light.
And burst from darkness into light.

When I was a Packinghouse “Wage-slave.”

He writes in effect that when you take courage in your own hands, when you find unity, you have strength indeed. Strength in unity.

Bill Davies fought for that unity his entire life. He fought for ordinary working men and women across this province for his

entire life, even in this book of poetry, 1997, which will live these words for a long, long time.

He was a union man, he was a working man, and he was proud of it. And when I sat beside him and you could pick up stories and experiences about this, I could relate to this because my dad was a union man and a working man, and proud of it. Bill Davies was a union man, the packing house workers as we used to call them in those days or they called themselves that, now the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Boy, those were tough days, the organization fights with the big packing plants. The political attacks were difficult. The political attacks ranged from name-calling to legal challenges to the struggle surrounding just that ability to be able to have five working days as opposed to six out of seven, of decent conditions, to be treated with respect.

He was a union man. He was a packing house worker. They were tough. In 1967 to ’71 I was in opposition, but in those days we sat, Mr. Speaker, for about six weeks. That was the extent of the legislature and then we did MLA work, but we also did our farming work, our union work, or in my case, I was a young lawyer. And I was . . . and I’m very proud to say, associated with what I consider still probably has been one of the outstanding trade union labour lawyers this province has ever produced and probably in the country, George Taylor.

George Taylor was tough, and dedicated, and principled, and always fought for the working person. So one day George gave me the case to handle the certification application before Labour Relations Board involving the packing house workers who were seeking to be certified over a group of workers who were, if my memory serves me correctly, cement bricklayers by every description of work that I could see.

And I remember whispering to Bill. I said Bill, how do I do this? How do I convince the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board that these cement workers fall under the jurisdiction of the packing house workers? And Bill leaned over and whispered into my ear, Roy, they eat meat don’t they? And we went before the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Taylor and I. I can’t remember the outcome.

He was a union man. He was a packing house worker, and eventually rose to be executive secretary of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour for some 24 years.

By the way, one of our distinguished guests, Walter Smishek, same position, executive secretary of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, a union man, a working man; Gordon Snyder, union man, a working man — always faithful and true to their principles.

For 24 years Bill Davies was executive secretary to the SFL (Saskatchewan Federation of Labour). In addition, he represented working people in other ways — on two wartime boards as an advocate for working people before countless of other bodies, including the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board that I’ve described, for 12 years; working for the Canadian Labour Congress in various committees there, speaking out in defence of free collective bargaining.

I want to just stop here, Mr. Speaker. I spoke in words of tribute to Mr. McFarlane, a few words about the Thatcher years. And these were as I described, tumultuous and exciting years; you knew where you stood.

In 1967, after the re-election of the Liberal government, they introduced a Bill called Bill 2. Bill 2, in effect, empowered the cabinet by order in council — by order in council — to stop any labour dispute or strike by simple order in council in a whole wide area of trade union relations without even coming back to the House, without having to justify the actions and the public interest as is from time to time, unfortunately, the necessary case.

That was my initiation, part of my initiation. We came out swinging against Bill 2 — Bill Davies, Walter Smishek, Gordon Snyder led that charge. And Bill was there. And he helped by founding the Saskatchewan Occupational Group Council, and I could go on. A strong and clear voice.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was something else which was very important about Bill Davies. In fighting with a strong and clear voice, he seldom raised his voice, seldom yelled and raised his voice. He always comported himself with dignity and respect, earning himself a full measure of the same in return, even from those who might have disagreed with his positions. I think that's a lesson for all of us.

He then moved on to the public arena serving the people of Moose Jaw as an alderman, and then as an MLA from 1956 to 1971, serving the people of this province as minister of Public Works and minister of Public Health under two premiers — Woodrow Lloyd and Tommy Douglas. Bill held the latter position of minister of Public Health during the Lloyd years, or I'll call them the Douglas-Lloyd years, at a tumultuous time — remember my reference to the granite — tumultuous time in our history, the doctor's strike when medicare was being implemented in 1961-62.

Boy, what a tough time it was. I wasn't in the employ of the government; I was just a young student who decided that whatever I could do from Saskatoon, I'd come down to Regina and help out in this campaign. It turned out that my contribution was mainly carrying the briefcase for Al Blakeney or for Walter Smishek or for Bill Davies — but there I was.

They used to have press conferences, Mr. Speaker, about medicare where there would be over 100 or more journalists from the entire world in room 218 twice a day, because of the battle in North America on medicare. The threats on the lives of people on the government side. The toll that it took on Woodrow Lloyd who not nearly gets the degree of credit that he should politically in having implemented and seeing the day through finally at that occasion. But there they were, and there was Bill Davies as minister of Public Health.

And then when it was his turn to serve in opposition, true to his principles we had the fight on Bill 2 that I talked about, but there's another battle. The Liberal government of the day introduced something called utilization fees, which of course the public knew immediately were deterrent fees. The proposal was that for every visit to a doctor you'd pay \$2.50 out of your own pocket, for every day that you were in hospital you'd pay

\$2.50 a day in hospital. This was an attack on the principles of universally funded, comprehensive medicare without a doubt. And that was also between 1967 and 1971.

And with my friends and colleagues at the back, I remember how Bill Davies — being the former minister of Health — all of us who were part of that team at the time, Woodrow, that was one of the first or second filibusters that I was involved in. It was about three weeks, every letter we could get a hold of to read — I mean three weeks is nothing compared to some of the filibusters we've had in recent years in this House — but every letter that we could get a hold of we read and prolonged the debate on deterrent fees, opposing them.

And do you know something? We did not succeed in that fight on that occasion because the government's majority prevailed. We lost that battle; but in 1971, we won the war and immediately repealed Bill 2 and immediately repealed the deterrent fees of the administration restoring free collective bargaining and restoring the principles of medicare to the province of Saskatchewan. I'm proud to have been there with Bill Davies. I'm proud to have been there as part of that battle at that time.

I've said this earlier; I'll repeat it again. It's been my privilege throughout my career in public life to have served with great people on all sides of this House — both sides of the House — interesting people. But I can say that I've met few people in this House and outside of it like Bill Davies and his commitment to principles and his intellectual gifts.

When Sir Francis Bacon said, quote, "reading maketh a full man" he might well have been describing Bill Davies because Bill Davies was a voracious reader. He loved literature, biographies, history — the making of a full man. And friends will tell you when you visited Bill, you could count on leaving his place with a book or two.

All of that reading shaped a person whose lack of formal advanced education, Mr. Speaker, did not prevent him from becoming a true man of letters through his poetry, through his words, and his demeanour — a true man of letters. He was informed. He was extremely articulate in his measured reasonable way, not just on the issues of the day politically but on wide-ranging interests such as archaeology, Aboriginal history and culture, and the history of this great province.

(1545)

And perhaps most important of all, Mr. Speaker, Bill Davies combined his passion for intellectual pursuits with an even greater passion for people — again I repeat — especially for the working men and women to whom he devoted his entire life.

After leaving this House, Bill Davies kept on giving and kept on serving as a member of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Board, on the rural municipal board of reference, on the Saskatchewan judicial council, and on many other causes and concerns too numerous to mention.

And in gratitude, and appropriately so, the University of Saskatchewan bestowed upon Bill Davies an honorary doctorate of laws degree; and the nation presented him with our highest

award, an Order of Canada — well deserved.

And before closing I want to say a word of special thanks to his partner Theresa, Mrs. Davies. We all know the toll that public life takes on those with whom we are associated. She was a companion of strength, of support, solace, just a strong individual in her own right — a very lovely person. I think we owe her a great deal of gratitude, and the family, for giving us Bill.

In a few moments, Mr. Speaker, during the formal reading of the motion of condolence, I shall be privileged to read into the record the formal details of his commitment to ordinary people. But now I would like to close these remarks by again coming back to the theme that I began with — poetry — by quoting the poet Wallace Stevens who noted the following: “A poem should be part of one’s sense of life.”

As a poet, a scholar, a working man, a leader, a legislator, a public servant, a colleague, a friend, a husband, and a father, Bill Davies truly did have a full and boundless sense of life, and as a result lived a life that was truly worthy of his art.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I move by leave of the Assembly, seconded by the Deputy Opposition Leader:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

William Gwynne (Bill) Davies, who passed away on November 9, 1999, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1971, representing the constituencies of Moose Jaw City and later Moose Jaw South. Mr. Davies was born in Indian Head in 1916 and lived there until 1923, when his family moved to Regina. He received his schooling at local elementary and secondary schools in Regina. Mr. Davies was predeceased by his first wife, Rose, but is survived by their four children and his second wife, Theresa.

Mr. Davies was known for his dedicated and lengthy involvement with many labour organizations. He was often chosen as the representative of labour on a variety of boards. He was a member of two federal wartime boards, the provincial Labour Relations Board and the Canadian Labour Congress. He was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Occupational Group Council. Mr. Davies served over 24 years as the executive director of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, as I’ve already noted.

Mr. Davies’ interests were not limited to the labour field. He was on the Saskatchewan Arts Board and on the Saskatchewan Educational Council. He supported the development of a provincial and local Centre Authority and advocated for a similar development in the Moose Jaw River valley.

Mr. Davies was chosen to represent his city at both the municipal and provincial levels of government. He was chosen as an alderman for the city of Moose Jaw in 1949 and served in that capacity until 1956. In that year he

became a 15-year tenure member of this Assembly. He served in the cabinets of two premiers, holding the portfolios of Public Works and Public Health. His tenure as minister of Health from 1961 to 1962 coincided with the debate and implementation of medicare.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I’m honoured to second the condolence motion for William Gwynne Davies. I would like to express, on behalf of the official opposition, our sincere sympathies to all members of the Davies family.

I want to recognize Mr. Davies’ contributions to Saskatchewan, but especially I want to recognize his contributions here in the House as a member of this legislature for parts of three decades. Mr. Speaker, I’m sure that that’s an achievement each and every one of us would be proud to have.

I am pleased to join the Premier in recognizing the accomplishments of this individual. And additional information and additional comments from the opposition, Mr. Speaker, will be made by my colleague, the member for Thunder Creek.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the constituents of Thunder Creek, I wish to add a tribute to the late Bill Davies.

My constituency of Thunder Creek surrounds Moose Jaw and we have many ties to the city.

I didn’t personally know Mr. Davies but many of the people of Moose Jaw and in my own constituency that I speak with did know him and many, many more who didn’t have the opportunity to meet the man know of his great achievements.

Among other things, Mr. Bill Davies, was known for his lengthy involvement with organized labour. Mr. Davies was involved with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Saskatchewan Educational Council, and was a member of this Assembly from 1956 until 1971. During his tenure in this Assembly, he served as minister of Public Works and was minister of Public Health during the great medicare debate.

These are just some of the ways that Bill Davies left his personal mark on the history of our province and indeed our country.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I add my tribute to Bill Davies and my sincere sympathy to his family, to those tributes and condolences expressed by members from both sides of this Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute

to a man whose life was quietly dedicated to the people of Saskatchewan, William G. Davies.

Mr. Davies served as an alderman in Moose Jaw from 1949 to 1956; and he was elected as an MLA for the Moose Jaw City constituency in 1956. He served as a MLA until 1971. Mr. Davies was notably the minister of Health in 1961-62 during the turbulent period when the province made history by introducing medicare.

Mr. Davies was also interested in the development of the provincial and local park system. He was the key figure in organizing the Buffalo Pound Provincial Park. And while serving on the Wascana Centre Authority he advocated a similar development of the Moose Jaw River Valley.

The passing of the Wakamow Valley Authority Act in 1997 came to be in no small part because of this man's vision.

Mr. Davies became a member of the Order of Canada in 1975 and was honoured with a Doctor of Laws Degrees from the University of Saskatchewan in 1978. All through his life, Mr. Davies represented the working people of Saskatchewan, from a union organizer to executive secretary of what is now the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour to an MLA in this House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Davies worked tirelessly for the rights of working people. But for all of Bill's accomplishments and all that he contributed to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Davies was still just an ordinary man, a man who accomplished some very extraordinary things during his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Davies, but I've spoken to people in Moose Jaw who have had this privilege, and the reaction is always the same. The expression on their face softens a wee bit and they get a wee bit of a smile, and they talk about Bill, the ordinary man. They don't talk about Mr. Davies, the politician, the alderman. They talk about Bill, the man.

A man who loved long walks and nature. A man who loved even more long talks and long debates, and a man who worked hard for what he believed, whether it be little league or legislation, Mr. Speaker. A man who earned the respect of everyone he dealt with.

Although Mr. Davies was officially born in Indian Head, we in Moose Jaw have claimed him as our own. And as a Moose Javian I feel that we lent Mr. Davies to the province to work for the people of Saskatchewan for a short period of time, but we still lay claim to him.

But in reality the people of Moose Jaw should be thankful for the time that Mr. Davies gave to us and gave to Saskatchewan, and in return and on behalf of the people in the constituency of Moose Jaw Wakamow, I'd like to pass along my condolences to Theresa and Bill's family and thank them for loaning us Bill for the period of time. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a honour for me to join in this tribute to Bill Davies and particularly to follow directly the hon. member from

Moose Jaw Wakamow who today holds the seat that Bill held when he served in this House at the conclusion of his timely service to the Legislative Assembly.

I arrived in Moose Jaw in 1973 and so I wasn't in either the city or the province in the time that Bill Davies served the province and the city in different capacities. And so I never got to know that part of the political passion of the man at the time that he served, but I certainly had opportunity to come to know him after and to appreciate some of his political commitment and his passion.

As has been referred to here by those who've spoken and others who will, Bill Davies was a man of passion. He loved his province. He loved his mother earth. He loved his fellow working men and women and he loved this place. And I think those who have known Bill Davies would say that not only was Bill Davies a gentleman, he was a gentle man.

And in some ways that seems kind of contradictory because he was always — as has been described already — one who had a heart of gold and a mind of steel and took on, with great passion, many missions to be of service to this world and to make his world a better place to be.

Bill Davies was a parliamentarian in the finest sense of the word. Those of us who come to serve in this House know a very rare and unique and special honour that it is one of the greatest privileges that a society can offer. A free and democratic society that we can come and we can speak in this place freely and with passion, and act for those principles which we support and which we believe.

Bill Davies was one who believed very, very strongly in this institution. After he left his time as a representative for the constituency of Moose Jaw South, he never hesitated for a moment to continue to visit and we saw him many, many times in the galleries here on special occasions at the legislature. Till the day he died he continued to take a great interest in the affairs of this province and the political goings-on.

(1600)

And although he was never overly burdensome in his offering of advice, he was always willing to offer advice in his gentle and wise kind of way. He understood that to be a parliamentarian is not just a job to be done but he approached it the same way he approached every job that he did as a professional as one who gave everything he had to do it well. Bill Davies was also a very, very loyal friend, and I was particularly pleased to see, of his very good friends, Hub Elkin and Walter Smishek and Gord Snyder, here in the House here today, to be here for the honouring of Bill Davies.

And for those of us who didn't serve with him, many of us still considered him to be a special friend, although I think all of us who come here will appreciate that there is a particular quality to a friendship that we develop when it is with a colleague in the House. And particularly with a bench mate, when we serve in the House and comment on the goings-on and the affairs of politics that we see them here.

And so it is all of those things: Bill Davies the passionate man,

the gentleman, the parliamentarian, the loyal friend, that should be acknowledged. As a Moose Javian, I would just want to add to and concur with my friend, the hon. member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, the great service that Bill Davies offered to our city.

As has been pointed out, from 1949 till 1956 he served as an alderman in the city of Moose Jaw. And then the same year that he left his service as an alderman, he took up service in this House as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1956 to 1971.

Which means, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that — and this is a very rare occurrence — that for 22 straight years, the people of Moose Jaw had the benefit of the political passion and the vision, and the compassion of Bill Davies in their political affairs.

I'd just like to . . . I thought it may be of interest to some of the members to just take a quick snapshot look at the political career of Bill Davies who was elected in June of 1956 for the first time. And members may not be aware, but back in those days the city of Moose Jaw had two seats as it does today but they were in fact combined seats. And so Moose Jaw was a single constituency with two seats. And when members stood for election and voters went out to vote, they had two votes. And it made for different dynamics than those of us who are here now would recognize.

And in that first election Bill Davies joined the House with his CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) colleague, Dempster Heming, as Bill came second in the polls with 6,756 votes. And after having served in that period then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he stood again in 1960 and for the first time was elected with his running mate and long-time friend, Gordon Snyder, as both of them stood as the CCF members from Moose Jaw. And Bill Davies led the polls in 1960, topped the polls with 6,794 votes followed closely by his good friend, Gordon Snyder. And both of them came to this Chamber.

And while serving in this Chamber in that period, Bill Davies, as much as anyone and much more than most, was a part of what I think many of us would consider the single most historic moment in time in the entire history of the province of Saskatchewan. Because it was when he served, as the Premier said, as the minister for Public Health, while he held that portfolio, that Saskatchewan brought into reality the greatest gift this province has even given the people of Canada, medicare.

And I think there will be others who will want to refer to those tumultuous years and the great debates that took place in this place, and some of the viciousness that was a part of the opposition to medicare that challenged the strongest of steel wills and required of anyone who was standing firm in the face of not only the political opposition on the other side of the House . . .

It's hard for us in the 1990s to imagine, when medicare has become such a sacred part not only of our province but of our nation, that there was a time in the early '60s in which in this House there was a vitriolic opposition and not only here but the participation that others I think may refer to, of the media who

became involved and other people who spoke out publicly and in personally attacking ways.

Bill Davies stood strong because he believed in the principles of medicare and he believed in those principles for his brothers and sisters of his province and ultimately was one of the authors of Saskatchewan's most wonderful gift to the people of Canada.

And as is sometimes the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, after having fought that valiant battle and having won within these Chambers, in fact the public reaction led in fact to the defeat of the CCF government four years later in 1964 and the ushering in of the Thatcher era that is . . . some reference earlier.

Here, and although there was a sweep in a sense going on in opposition, the author — the captain of the ship in a direct sense — Mr. Deputy Speaker, survived in the election. And he along with again his good friend and running mate Gordon Snyder, both led the polls again in the two-seat city of Moose Jaw constituency with Bill Davies leading the polls with 7,749 votes.

And then he served his first term in opposition. Then finally in his fourth term, Mr. Speaker, as the Premier has said — as the bench mate of the Premier — was elected in 1967 as the first member from Moose Jaw South. And that was the time then that Gord Snyder became the first member from Moose Jaw North, the seat that I'm proud to represent these days. And so the first member from Moose Jaw South was Bill Davies in 1967, and who led the polls there of course with 4,674 votes.

Well that was part of his political record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the hon. member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, so appropriately named constituency to honour Bill Davies. As she pointed out he was one of the proponents of what continues to be a constant and permanent tribute to his political era in the city of Moose Jaw, the Wakamow Valley Authority, the establishment of the urban park which continues to grow and to be a place for families in Moose Jaw and visitors to gather to this day.

And in fact we're very proud in the city of Moose Jaw to say that the provincial government building, the building in our city out of which government services of our province are offered to the people of Saskatchewan bears the name, the W.G. Davies Building, and it's so appropriate that there will be that ongoing and permanent tribute to the accomplishments and the contribution of Bill Davies in our city and in our province.

As I said earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I came to be a member here in the House, that I would see on a regular basis Bill Davies here as part of the gatherings on special days like Speech from the Throne or budgets, and Bill Davies continued always to take a great interest in the goings-on of the political affairs of his province.

And during the difficult times when the New Democrat government returned to office in 1991 and had to wrestle with the horrendously horrific financial affairs that had been inherited from the previous Conservative government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were many decisions made that grieved terribly, many of us who were part of that. And there was no stronger supporter, there was no stronger supporter than Bill

Davies, who I'm sure in many ways found himself just feeling as though he was torn within, seeing some decisions, to have to make decisions to alter some programs that he had been very much a part of seeing brought into play here in the province.

And as has been said earlier, Mr. Speaker, Bill Davies was a man of passion and it is somewhat characteristic of his family that their passions are expressed in artistic ways. And Bill Davies, as the Premier referred to several times, authored a book of poetry which captured his view of the world, and his view of body politic, and commitment to fellow men and women, love of his province, in a book entitled *The Buffalo Stone* which appropriately so leads off with a poem entitled "We Came to Saskatchewan" and then concludes with a poem entitled "The Common Road".

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to conclude my remarks by reading into the record the poem, "The Common Road", the final entry in Bill Davies' book of poetry. This was a very special gift two summers ago. Bill came and asked if I would make sure that a copy of his book of poetry would be passed on to each of the executive members for the constituencies of Moose Jaw North and Moose Jaw Wakamow. And so there are some of us in the city of Moose Jaw who have in our homes one of the finest tributes you could possibly have to Bill Davies, and that's a collection of his words about his life and his view of the world.

And as has been said earlier, Bill Davies, although he made a major contribution to this province, never saw himself as a man above in any way. Bill Davies saw himself as a common man. And it was his humility which was his strength and which drew people to him and enabled Bill to be a leader in so many ways.

And so I think he captured that, and I'd like to read into the record and think about — as I read this — Bill Davies, because I think the poem "The Common Road" is a description of Bill's approach in many ways, his life. And let me quote:

Unknown as the road beyond,
Slipping into mists and dark
So close.

Is it like the one we've trod?
But we all deeply understand
It's futile to think much about
What lies ahead.

That way might be as the old familiar
Paths on which we've gone; often
Stumbling in pain; sometimes in
Great hurt, in sorrow;
Or fear, or trial or trouble.
On others easily and fleetly,
Joyously, reaching out eagerly,
Avidly, on smooth, well-set trails,
In gentle airs and glowing light.

Yes, how well we know that way,
The course of life pursued upon it;
As sure to us today as the uncertain
Road that lies before;
All we can see is that we may not
Tarry long, nor stay our journey:

That however good or bad the road,
We must take it and keep to it
For as long as need be,
Whatever the costs, cares, burdens
Or the wonder, delights, raptures
The road may show.

We hope the best will come;
We brace for anything as we
Have learned perforce to do,
To this part of our journey.

So let the future be for now,
Think of things done, time spent,
The story we have lived ourselves:
Not through books about others.
Really, what a tale it has been,
How much — and yet maybe how little —
We have seen, felt, borne, achieved;
There's been so many hours spent,
In so many, many varied ways.
Then what truly matters,
What is truly worth telling?
Well, I suppose if it was
Important to us
That's all that matters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill Davies was important to us. He mattered.

And I want to pass on, on behalf of my own constituents and New Democrats from the city of Moose Jaw condolences to Theresa and the family and to say thank you to her and the family for having shared her husband, Bill, dad, grandpa, with their province. He left this province a much better place than he found it, Mr. Speaker.

(1615)

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to be able to rise and say a few words in memory of Bill Davies. I'm going to endeavour to keep it to a few words, although this will be a difficult task because Bill Davies had so many endearing characteristics that one could talk about and played such a significant role in the history of Saskatchewan that one could literally go on for a very long time.

I first got to know Bill and Theresa Davies when they became my constituents in 1991 when the boundaries of Regina Victoria were changed to include Douglas Park area where they lived. I can say that it was my very great privilege and honour to have been associated with Bill and Theresa.

What can I tell you about Bill Davies? Some of the things have already been said. People talked about his career in the labour movement, especially the many years that he spent as the secretary general of the Saskatchewan Federation of . . . or secretary treasurer of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

Let me just underline that prior to present day when now the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour is the known and the real central person in the Federation of Labour and the person that we see as the power in that federation, in

Bill Davies' day, it was the secretary treasurer who was the real power in the federation. And for this person to have been the secretary treasurer for the many years that he was, I think is a testament to Bill's many great qualities. The fact that he was a quiet but eloquent voice of reason. He was a solid substantial person and, if you like, a solid rock of stability in tumultuous times.

There is another aspect to his career that members have talked about, some have eluded to, and that was Bill Davies' role during the great medicare debate in Saskatchewan during the time of the doctor's strike when Bill Davies was the minister of Health. It's something we talk about as having happened, and it's something that we refer to and all of us I think remember that it was at that time that medicare was in fact born not only in Saskatchewan but later as well in Canada. And that those were very significant times in our history.

I was very interested to hear the remarks of another former Health minister and former premier, Allan Blakeney, at the memorial service for Bill Davies with respect to those times. And I'll try to give members a brief synopsis of some of the things that Allan Blakeney said to give us an idea of the flavour of the times and the environment in which Bill Davies was the minister of Health.

This time that Allan Blakeney talked about was the time of the doctors' strike which began on July 1, 1962 in Saskatchewan. And he indicated that there was a well-financed, indeed handsomely financed campaign against the government. It was led by the two Saskatchewan dailies, the *Leader-Post* and *StarPhoenix* who he said on this issue stopped being newspapers and became mere propaganda sheets for the combined opposition. I might add that the role of the two papers later became the subject of reporting by other journals from across the country and across the globe.

There were many inflammatory ads in papers across Saskatchewan. There were equally inflammatory public speakers, and points out that at a public meeting at a school in Saskatoon a well-known clergyman from Saskatchewan exclaimed to an aroused crowd: there has been death, there will be violence, there could be bloodshed; I wouldn't be surprised if someone put a bullet in me, I'm as likely to get it as Woodrow Lloyd. Later he said, if the government does not withdraw this Act, the medicare Act, there will be blood running in the streets and God help us if it doesn't.

And as Alan Blakeney indicated, that gives us some idea of the flavour of the state of public anxiety. He also gives us some other facts to indicate just how much of an issue this was, not only in Saskatchewan and in the country, but across the world.

He indicated that the *Toronto Star*, starting with their story on June 30 of that year, their story headed "Fear and hate fill Saskatchewan on the eve of doctors strike," they ran over 175 items by July 26. That's 175 items in the *Toronto Star* in a period of slightly less than a month.

In a *Montreal Star* over 120 items, the *New York Times* 25 or so items, the *Melbourne Australian Herald* 11 items; the *London Times* 18 items, *The Jamaica Daily Gleaner* 5 items, and British television 38 items. As Blakeney pointed out,

Saskatchewan has not likely appeared in the media in the next 35 years as often as it did during those 30 days.

And it was Bill Davies who was the minister of Health at the centre of that storm of . . . that was taking place in Saskatchewan. It was Bill Davies' job in the context of a doctors' strike to try to ensure that there were some medical services being delivered in Saskatchewan and to try to get Saskatchewan through to the end of the doctors' strike.

And I think that gives members in the public, Mr. Speaker, some idea of the environment in which Bill Davies was in fact the minister of Health. I can also tell you that as his MLA and one who dropped by his place from time to time, Bill Davies was indeed well-read and would always offer you a book to take home in case you didn't have something to read. And I would add that the library system in Regina probably lost a great patron in Bill Davies.

He was very aware, very interested in current affairs. Whether it was health, finance, resource policy, Bill Davies always had something to say. That was the politician in him, and also the teacher in him, Mr. Speaker, the mentor in him that made him want to give you the benefit of his knowledge in those areas which was very considerable indeed.

He was also a prolific letter writer — in addition to being a poet and an author — a letter writer on current affairs, and it was rare not to get a letter from Bill on current events. And I might add that was done on his very old manual typewriter at home with whiteout and cross outs and little words added in ink where he might have had letters that didn't quite imprint in the way that they should have. But he was very prolific in that way.

I might add that there is one aspect of current affairs that Bill Davies just didn't like and he absolutely detested, and that was any invitation to go to a political dinner where you might serve chicken or fowl . . . turkey.

We extended him lots of invitations over the years to come to constituency dinners where we might have chicken. And he recounted to me something that I think all members of some experience will be able to say, and those who are new to this legislature will learn over time, that after a lifetime of politics you really, I guess in a sense, very literally get fed up with chicken dinners. And Bill just wouldn't come to those chicken dinners because he said he had a lifetime of it and just had enough chicken to last him for his life.

Bill was also a great walker. He loved the outdoors. It was rare not to see him and Theresa wandering and walking through the neighbourhoods in good weather and in bad weather. He was a very hospitable, very warm, very friendly person. He was always inviting me to drop by for a chat and for a drink. And it was my very great privilege to have found some time during the latter days of the campaign when I was campaigning to end my campaigning one night at Bill Davies's door. To be able to stop by for a drink of Scotch, which Bill liked, and for a chat — although I must admit that Bill usually did most of the chatting in those instances — but to be there and to luxuriate, Mr. Speaker, in his presence.

Well, his voice has been stilled, Mr. Speaker, but his memory

will live on not only for myself, but I think for all those who knew Bill. And for all those who have an appreciation of history and what has taken place in this province, I think all of them will continue to benefit from the contribution that Bill Davies made to our society.

Mr. Speaker, I too want to extend my sincere condolences to Theresa and all of the family. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak just a bit about Bill today because our families were personal and political friends since I was a child, and as you know that's a very long time, Mr. Speaker.

Although in the legislature we tend to think of the political person, I think there's a lot you can learn about the political person by knowing about the private person. And my earliest memories of Bill and family were their house in Moose Jaw where the backyard overlooked the Wakamow Valley.

His first wife Rose, who was taken by cancer, was part of the Sapergia family who had a large ranch near the Montana border. And I had the pleasure on more than one occasion of being invited to that ranch; and on the long car trip down there, Bill would ensure that we spent the whole entire way down to the ranch playing word games and they were all designed to increase our vocabulary and our quick thinking. And I would have to say that he must have been a little bit difficult as parent because he didn't allow for a single uneducational moment.

He was of course a literary person; we know about his book of poetry that resounds with Saskatchewan history. But during those Moose Jaw days, my father, Bill, and I would take long walks and make very big decisions about whether or not a piece of wood was diamond willow, whether the bones we were looking at were cow or bison, and always on the lookout for arrowheads.

But as well, he was the person who taught me how to find that big chunk of granite, the buffalo stone where a buffalo had rubbed his winter hide off. You know they had to get rid of all that loose hair that they accumulated over the winter, and they do that by rubbing against a chunk of granite. I could demonstrate, but I'll do that after. He taught me about making tobacco, traditional tobacco from the inside bark of the willow, but we never smoked any, Mr. Speaker.

And I would have to say that one of the recollections that can't be left out is on my father's birthday every year — which is the same as Bill's birthday . . . they were both born on the same day, both of Welsh parents, so they would get together once a year to celebrate their birthday — and Bill started this thing when I was quite young where we both had to stand on our head. It was the yearly birthday competition. And I can't really remember the last time we did that, but I know that Bill was a lot older than me when we quit that tradition.

Others have spoken about Bill's immense political contributions, but I remember personally many times reading letters to the editor where Bill would be straightening out some historical facts, or giving his perspective on an issue based on his huge sense of compassion and public responsibility.

And of course there was ongoing political discussions in the household that at various times included my father, Hub Elkin, Gordon Snyder, Walter Smishek, and many, many others — all the great heroes of some of our past politics here in Saskatchewan.

So to me, when I think of Bill I think of a person who had a strong commitment to family, a love of the power of words and literature, a thorough knowledge of the history and environment of the province, a great love of the outdoors, a deep commitment to community and to the people of the province.

His only shortcoming was this bit of a tendency to show off his physical prowess during the yearly headstand. But I'm sure he did it for the best of reasons, Mr. Speaker — to encourage the younger generation, namely me, to try harder. And if each of us could only have that effect on one young person that Bill had on me, I think we would have achieved a lot.

And it didn't surprise me when he married Theresa because she also spends every day in dedication to the community. So I think I can safely speak for many and my father when I say that Bill was a good friend to all; and I want to add my condolences to Bill's wife, Theresa, and to the whole family and Bill's friends.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(1630)

Hon. Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I add my words of condolence to those already spoken. Mr. Speaker, upon hearing the news of Bill's passing, I felt I would be brave enough to support Theresa and her family, attending the memorial service at the Centre of the Arts. However, my own sorrow at that time, with the recent loss of my mother, Katherine, prevented me from doing that. I knew Theresa would understand.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell everyone how one life, the life of William G. Davies had a profound influence on mine. Today I can smile as I remember the warmth of Bill and Theresa's friendship. Today my heart is filled with gladness as we celebrate a wonderful life.

Many of you know and have spoken of Bill as a statesman and as a member of the Assembly. I knew him as a Douglas Park neighbour, a community leader, a feminist, and a humanitarian working through his church to better the lives of those around him.

I first met Bill and Theresa when I was working with the community association and quickly came to admire their quiet, down-to-earth approach to living. Through our discussions, the Davies helped me to grow in my awareness of political life. As is often the case, the person who inspires others to action rarely hears about it or understands how far reaching a few words of encouragement can be.

In 1982 Bill Davies and others in my neighbourhood were working on a number of civic issues. One in particular was the concern for a new bypass or overpass that depended on routing traffic through or potentially putting traffic through Douglas

Park area. It would endanger the lives of students, and it would disrupt the beautiful portion of Wascana Centre Authority that's backed . . . that Bill Davies and his wife Theresa's home backed on to.

We enlisted the aid of an intelligent, articulate young lawyer at that time named Louise Simard. She helped us through that debate. I followed up with many presentations of my own.

From this experience, Mr. Speaker, and from these stirrings of political activism, from under the wing of Bill and Theresa, not to mention the friends that others have mentioned today, Hub Elkin and Walter Smishek, I had a solid start on the road to public service.

Bill knew that I was reluctant. He knew from his years in the Assembly that the road at times would be rocky. What did he do? Toward the end of one lengthy political discussion in his home he gave me a soft, smooth stone that fit into the clutch of my hand. This gift, he said, would never let me forget that their support would always be there for me when I needed it.

Mr. Speaker, I still have that stone. I clutch it to my heart often. It gives me comfort during those times when this life of service can weigh heavily on the shoulders or it can, at times, make you feel lonely.

A few years later, I received another stone present, another gift from the heart of a great man, a writer. It was his book, *The Buffalo Stone*, that my colleagues have read from today. And to me it's interesting that there are different passages in the different poems that strike at our hearts and take a chord where we feel the visual presence of Bill in the words that he's portrayed.

For me, I love the idea of "The Purple Saskatoon" because in the summer I like to wander, as I know Bill and Theresa did, through pathways and to be able to pick saskatoons. And another one, "Hold Fast The Net". But the words that speak to me, Mr. Speaker, are the words that Bill has given in a common prayer, have touched my heart the most. And I quote:

Creator Being! Will you not act?
Descend in mighty, crashing stroke,
On everlasting wrong, on wicked sway;
Sweep them from the earthly board?

To give your wretched, broken legion
A chance to rise, to grow, build well
A radiant, truly splendid blest society —
Fit for universal, holy, loving life.

If you must not, do give us then
A mind and purpose, a oneness and a will
To raise a vast and thunderous cleansing wave,
To shape a world as it could be.

These words, Mr. Speaker, will live on and inspire forever.

Mr. Speaker, not by big events in themselves — a cup of coffee, a word of encouragement — two stone gifts that remind me others have fought for social justice and because of them others are inspired to do so into the future. Not big events, but part of

the reason I stand before you now as the New Democrat member from Wascana Plains.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honour to remember today and to honour the memory of William G. Davies and to make certain his legacy carries on, to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God. Sincere words of sympathy to Theresa and all of the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to get up just very briefly to pay tribute and join others in paying tribute to Bill Davies.

When I was the minister of Health, of course I'd heard of Mr. Davies, but I'd never had the pleasure of actually meeting him. But one day when I was in some difficulty, he phoned me up and he said, you know you're having difficulty with this particular issue but I had a similar issue when I was minister of Health, and I'd like to talk to you about it.

The Minister of Labour referred to the fact that Mr. Davies was a person that read a lot, and he liked to get the correct information and he liked to form his opinions on the basis of fact. And at that particular moment there was some crisis of the day in health care and some people were quite hysterical about it, and he wanted to tell me what the facts actually were.

So I went and met with him and in fact had lunch with him, and I think even a drink with him, Mr. Speaker, which was very pleasant, and he gave me some very good information because that's what he was like. He was very helpful.

And I want to say that anyone who has been the minister of Health, as I have and others have, knows that it's actually a very, very difficult job. And sometimes you feel like you're in hot water and sometimes you feel like it's the daily feeding frenzy. And I don't think it matters if it's someone on this . . . from this party or another party that's in government, you're always subject to a lot of heat from the opposition and sometimes from the media.

But I can't imagine what it would be like, being the minister of Health at the time of the doctors' strike in 1962 when medicare was brought forward in this province over, as others have said, a lot of opposition and against some very, very powerful adversaries. And I know from my own reading of the history of that time that some people in our party, Mr. Davies' party at that time, abandoned the situation because it was very difficult and they couldn't take the heat.

But Mr. Davies certainly did not. He was a very courageous individual to take all the pressure he took at that time and I think it's indicative of the kind of person he was.

Well I . . . As a result of what Mr. Davies told me, I actually did some research at the Legislative Library and I found that what he had to say to me was true. And one of the things he said was that when they introduced medicare in the early 1960s, the prediction was that all the doctors would leave. And at that particular moment when I was Minister of Health the prediction also was that all of the doctors were going to leave. But he

pointed out that if you went back to the 1950s, there were 600 doctors and today there were about double that number. And in fact after medicare was introduced the number of doctors in Saskatchewan gradually increased.

I used to think as a lawyer, no doubt because they got all their bills paid and what a pleasure that would be. And sometimes when I was practising law, my clients would come in and say, we're going to do to you what we did to the doctors. And I said, please do. I'd love to send the bill to the government and have it paid. But nobody ever took me up on that.

Well, I'm digressing. I really wanted to make the point that Mr. Davies was very astute and very knowledgeable and he wanted you to know the facts because he was, as I said, a person who formed his own opinions on the basis of fact and information and not political rhetoric, misinformation, and sometimes inspired public hysteria.

So it was certainly helpful to me and it also gave me the opportunity because Mr. Davies would phone me from time to time and correspond because, as it was noted, he was a great correspondent, that it gave me the opportunity to meet both Mr. Davies and Mrs. Davies.

And I'd like to say, Mr. Speaker, that my overarching impression of Mr. Davies, as anyone who met him will know, is that he was an extremely gracious and kind gentleman, and it was just a pleasure to get to know him and Mrs. Davies, who was a very charming and gracious and accomplished person in her own right. And I'd like to express my condolences to Mrs. Davies and the family and to say that I'm very thankful — as many others are — for Mr. Davies' very distinguished record of public service.

And I'd like to end my remarks, Mr. Speaker, as others have, by reading some poetry of Mr. Davies. And my colleague from Moose Jaw North read the last poem in Mr. Davies book, but I'd like to read the first poem because I think it typifies what Saskatchewan is really all about. And the first poem is called:

We Came To Saskatchewan

We came from many, many lands,
we spoke so many tongues
and worked with many, many hands,
took new, wild air, into our lungs.

We heaved together — needs we must —
to build the barest home, plant the smallest field,
heart-centred in these hurtling hours was trust,
to make a life that would the utmost yield.

And now, as we look back to great old days,
much has been truly won for which we strove,
right reason, surely, to give thanks and praise;
recalling, in some pain, those who we love.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. At a time like this I never know whether to say it's a pleasure to add my voice to the many words of remembrance of Bill Davies. I would rather it

were some years in the future when I was adding my voice to those many remembrances but such is not the way it was meant to be.

We've heard a number of members telling us, sharing with us, what Bill Davies meant to each one of us as an individual. And it's an amazing thing to listen and hear what a gentleman of Bill's stature was capable of and how he's being remembered as a gentle and kind person, but a person clearly capable of saying, here's where the line is, and making it stick.

Mr. Speaker, you may . . . members may be wondering, well what possible connection would I have. And I just wanted to share that my grandmother, Beatrice Trew, had sat on the medicare commission that looked at public health schemes right across the world and that they looked at and picked out — cherry-picked — the very best of all of the public health schemes in the world, brought that back to the government of the day, and the government accepted most of the recommendations. And the result was our medicare scheme that was set up right here.

So I know that Bill Davies and my grandmother would have had many occasions to share thoughts and ideas and talk about the importance of public health care to the people of Saskatchewan.

And I'm just so incredibly proud of Bill Davies; I'm proud of everyone of that era for what they did at a very, very, very tough time, Mr. Speaker. And I know that indeed it's been mentioned by one of my colleagues that there were in fact death threats at that time which makes it all the more remarkable because not only is it members but it's members' families too.

And we just . . . all the people in Saskatchewan, and certainly all people in Canada, owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Bill Davies and to many of his colleagues of that day.

(1645)

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to add those remembrances and wish Theresa and the family Godspeed and nothing but the best to them in the future. And bless them for sharing Bill Davies with us.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Romanow: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, and by leave of the Assembly:

That the resolutions just passed, together with a transcript of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

