

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise again on behalf of citizens of the province who are concerned about the high cost of prescription drugs. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately reinstate a reasonable annual deductible amount for prescription drugs in Saskatchewan.

Signatures on this petition this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, are from communities across Saskatchewan — Tisdale, Star City, Arborfield, Moose Jaw, Rosthern, Prince Albert.

I so present on their behalf.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present to do with the overfishing at Lake of the Prairies. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to work with the federal government, First Nations representatives, and with other provincial governments to bring about a resolution in the Lake of the Prairies situation and to ensure that our natural resources as a whole are used in a responsible manner by all people in the future.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Esterhazy, Bredenbury, and Yorkton.

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with this government's tobacco legislation. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence will be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals in the communities of St. Denis and Moose Jaw.

I so present.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, today, I rise to present a petition concerning crop insurance premium hikes and coverage reductions. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to halt its plan to take money out of the crop

insurance program and hike farmers' crop insurance premium rates while reducing coverage in order to pay off the provincial government's debt to the federal government.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by producers in the communities of Abbey and Lancer.

I so present.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province that are concerned about the deductible on prescription drugs. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately reinstate a reasonable annual deductible amount for prescription drugs in Saskatchewan.

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

And this is signed by people from my constituency — Estevan, Lampman, as well as from Regina.

I so present.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Bakken: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the tobacco legislation. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

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

And it's signed by citizens of the good city of Weyburn.

I so present.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of citizens concerned about the tobacco legislation in the province of Saskatchewan. And the prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from the communities of Waldeck, Success, and the city of Swift Current.

I so present.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here to improve Highway 42. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to make the necessary repairs to Highway 42 in the Arm River constituency in order to prevent injury or loss of life and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Marquis, Keeler, and Saskatoon.

I so present.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I have a petition by citizens who are outraged by the changes to the crop insurance program in Saskatchewan and the petition reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to halt its plan to take money out of the crop insurance program and hike farmers' crop insurance premium rates while reducing coverage in order to pay off the provincial government's debt to the federal government.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by good people from Duck Lake, Macdowall, and Prince Albert.

I so present.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens concerned about the condition of the Highway No. 15. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to use a portion of its highway budget to address the concerns of the serious condition of Highway 15 for Saskatchewan residents.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon, Simpson, Regina, Imperial, and Watrous.

I so present.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition today of citizens concerned about Highway No. 15. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to use a portion of its highway budget to address the concerns of the serious conditions of Highway 15 for Saskatchewan residents.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Simpson, Watrous, Imperial, Allan, and Manitou Beach.

I so present.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned about the tobacco legislation. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Spiritwood, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, and North Battleford.

I so present.

Mr. Peters: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by residents of the province concerned about the government's tobacco legislation. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately amend the tobacco legislation that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of any tobacco products; and furthermore, anyone found guilty of such an offence would be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by people from Spiritwood and Hepburn.

I so present.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I rise with a petition from citizens in southern Saskatchewan who are concerned about the lack of cellular phone coverage. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to provide reliable cellular telephone service to all communities throughout the Wood River constituency.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks of Glentworth and Fir Mountain.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby received.

A petition concerning the provision of reliable cellular service in the Wood River constituency; and

Addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 7, 11, 18, 22, 23, 24, 32, and 59.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Environment minister: have the following two sections of land, NW quarter and SW quarter section 1-22-27 W2nd in the RM of Craik No. 222; South half-section 5-22-26 West of second RM of Sarnia, ever been open for grazing in the past?

And further to that: will these two sections be open for grazing in the year 2002; and if not, why?

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: how many people of visible minority are employed in managerial positions in Executive Council?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for the Minister of Agriculture and Food; Industry and Resources; Culture, Youth and Recreation; Finance; Health; Social Services; Northern Affairs; Justice; Learning; Environment; as well as the Minister of Government Relations; Highways and Transportation; and Corrections and Public Safety.

Thank you.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: which firms are currently listed among the qualified suppliers registered in the communications services supplier database per the Executive Council policy on communications procurement?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all the members of the House, five very special guests who are sitting up in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I'll ask them to stand as I name them. First, the Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, the Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Orthodox Church of North America; accompanying the Archbishop here today is the Very Reverend Father Daniel Nenson, the Dean of the Romanian parishes in Canada;

Reverend Father Constantin Turcoane, the parish priest for the St. Nicholas Church here in Regina. Father Constantin Turcoane has been the parish priest here for the last 30 years.

Also Reverend Father John Mancantelli of St. George's Cathedral here in Regina, and Mr. Gordon Crossman, president of St. Nicholas Church.

Mr. Speaker, our guests are here in Saskatchewan and Regina to take part in the 100th anniversary celebration of St. Nicholas Church which takes place this weekend — St. Nicholas Church is the oldest Romanian Orthodox Church in North America — with numerous celebrations planned for this weekend, not the least of which is a banquet on Sunday which I'm going to have the pleasure of attending.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome our guests here to Saskatchewan, to Regina, to our Assembly. I want to congratulate St. Nicholas Church on their 100th anniversary and wish them the best of success in the future.

Thank you very much and I ask all of the members to offer them a very warm welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with my colleague on the other side in welcoming the esteemed guests from the Romanian Orthodox Church to the gallery today in recognition of the celebration of St. Nicholas Church 100th anniversary. That's an outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, my wife's family originates from the country of Romania and a few years ago she had the opportunity to go to the country of Romania and trace back her family roots. And one of her grandfather's brothers was a very senior member of the Romanian Orthodox Church. And she had a wonderful visit with some of those relatives and viewed some of the churches in Romania and found it to be a particularly rewarding experience.

So we're glad that you're here and we extend our congratulations to you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, further, I would like to introduce a grade 6 class that's sitting in the east gallery from the Eston School. There are 19 students sitting in that gallery and they are accompanied by their teacher, Heather Piett. And there are a number of chaperones: Theresa Japp, Carrie Runall, Lillian Hill, Shirley Japp, Susanne Schweitzer, Jenann Thomson, Scott MacKeracher, Jack Piett, and Lynne Warren. So it sounds like quite a crew, Mr. Speaker.

Now there are some connections of the Saskatchewan Party caucus to the group from Eston. One of the teachers in the Eston School, who's not accompanying the group, is the niece of the hon. member for Saltcoats. Her name . . .

An Hon. Member: — Daughter, daughter.

Mr. Hermanson: — Daughter, daughter. I'm wrong — the daughter. So for the students there, when you see Ms. Bjornrud, you can tell her that you saw her dad. He's the guy that's kind of losing his hair sitting just two chairs over. And I'm sure he'd like you to return greetings to his daughter.

Now, Mr. Speaker, secondly, there's a young fellow sitting in the gallery who happens to be my nephew, and I would like Brett Howe to stand. There he is. Brett is my nephew, lives in Eston. He's a great hockey player, and if all of the kids from Eston are as talented as my nephew, they've got just an amazing class.

And I'd ask all of the members in the legislature to welcome him to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(13:45)

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the Assembly I'd like to introduce a good friend of mine sitting in your gallery, Mr. Wayne McCord. And Mr. McCord is from Markham, Ontario where he operates a very, very successful business. Wayne and I went to school together and Wayne comes out for occasional visits.

And I keep asking him to have his business moved out to southern Saskatchewan. And of course we know the answer — as long as there's an NDP (New Democratic Party) government he won't do it. So, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Assembly, would you please join me in welcoming Wayne to the session today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly my father, Darwin Lackey, who is visiting us today. He's sitting in your gallery.

My father's been long . . . for many years concerned with the farm ownership Act that we have in Saskatchewan and he's here today to meet with our Agriculture critic, the member from Watrous. So I'd like the Assembly to help me in welcoming him here.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome to the Assembly and introduce to you and through you a group of students that are here from the Parkland community college in Yorkton. There are 14 students who are here along with their instructors, Kathy Daze, Sandy Persick, and Gerry Yacishyn.

The students are here today to not only take in the proceedings of the question period but are also going to be touring the building. I had an earlier opportunity to show them into my office, and they've said to me now that they're going to be working closely with the member from Yorkton because two or three of them are interested in serving as members down the road as New Democrats.

So I'm very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to introduce the members to the Assembly, and I look forward to seeing them back in my constituency and that they enjoy their day here today, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I too recognize in your gallery Isabelle Musychuk, who is from our area of the province. Isabelle lives in the Buchanan area, has served as an instructor for many years when the licensed practical nursing program was delivered in our community. Today she works as a farmer in our area and pays a great deal of attention to the environmental stewardship in our province.

So I welcome Isabelle to the Assembly and ask all members to join with me in recognizing her presence.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the hon. members of the Assembly, it's a pleasure to introduce some distinguished guests in your gallery this afternoon. Joining us, Mr. Speaker, are two constituents of mine from Swift Current. John and Myra Leyshon are in your gallery. And they're accompanied by John's brother, Glynn Leyshon, and his wife Jackie, from Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Now not only is John a constituent of mine in the city of Swift Current, but as a member of the Swift Current Kiwanis Club, I'd like to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that John is also the lieutenant governor for district 4 for Kiwanis International, which involves Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and parts of Ontario.

And we certainly appreciate his work and leadership in Kiwanis, as well as his volunteer activities in terms of soccer in Swift Current.

So I'd just ask all my colleagues in the legislature to welcome John. And our next meeting is Friday. This Friday is our regular meeting. The member for Rosthern wanted to know. It will be at noon at the Modern restaurant.

But I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming John and Myra, and Glynn and Jackie all the way from United Kingdom, here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, two young people that are currently seated in the east gallery. They're grade 12 students at Thom Collegiate and they're doing a school project in terms of governance here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I'll have the chance to meet with them a little bit later for them to interview me. And I hope their questions aren't too difficult.

Their names are James Fick and Miranda Trail. And they're in the east gallery.

And again, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, today in the east gallery we have 18 students from the Medstead Central School under the teachership of Mr. Rod Enns.

I'd like to welcome Rod here. Rod's a very, very good teacher in the Medstead school system and Medstead School. The chaperones accompanying him today is Deena Haubold, Josiah Rise, Jean Pauls, and Jen Dunsen.

Now the students have come from a long way to get here. I hope they've had no difficulty getting here and I hope that the proceedings today which they are going to be viewing will be informational and won't be as loud as they may think it will be.

So I ask all members to welcome you here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and to members of this House, seated in the west gallery, Mr. Monty Poitras and Rod Gopher from Saulteaux First Nation.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, Amy Kaczowski who is seated in the Speaker's gallery. Amy has come here all the way from Penticton, BC (British Columbia) especially to visit her favourite son, Viktor Kaczowski, who is our Clerk Assistant of committees.

I'm advised that this is her first time . . . this is her first time to actually view our proceedings in person and we certainly want to extend a welcome to Amy to this session.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Historical Model Legislature

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, May 11, I had the distinct pleasure and privilege of assuming the Speaker's role for the 2002 historical model legislature sponsored by the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association.

Forty-two high school students from throughout Saskatchewan took part in a re-enactment of a 1917 legislature on the floor of this Assembly, the purpose of which was to gain experience in parliamentary debate while learning more about the political history of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, awards were presented to both senior and junior students. The F.W. Johnson Trophy awarded to the top parliamentarian and best speaker went to Tanner Morrison from Archbishop O'Neill School in Regina. This was the second year in a row that Tanner won this award.

And the award for best junior parliamentarian and debater went to Carlena Variyan from Yorkton Regional High School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Colleen Yanush, executive director of the Elocution and Debate Association and Darren Steffen, program assistant. They did a great job of planning and organizing the model legislature.

And, Mr. Speaker, after two hours of acting as Speaker, I have a greater appreciation and respect for the great responsibility all Speakers of this Assembly have carried throughout the legislature . . . the legislative history of the province.

If I may make one suggestion to the Assembly, to aid the Speaker, it would be to have large labels of constituency names on each member's desk.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Weyerhaeuser Gift to Saskatchewan Indian Federated College

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, we had some visitors to the Assembly yesterday who had come to town with some very good news for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, which means good news for the University of Regina, which means good news for the future of our province.

Wayne Roznowski and Steve Smith of Weyerhaeuser were here to make a special presentation to the SIFC (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College). The presentation was a big gift in a small package — a cheque for \$500,000 towards the completion of the new SIFC (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College) building on campus.

Mr. Speaker, this building will be a showpiece of architectural design as well as a seat of learning for Canada's only college owned and operated by First Nations people. It is designed by renowned Canadian and First Nations architect, Douglas Cardinal, with special features to identify and highlight its purpose.

Primarily of course, the building will provide a permanent home for SIFC's 1,300 students when it is opened next spring. Mr. Speaker, Weyerhaeuser's contribution along with donations from several other public and private sponsors, dramatically illustrates the close ties between industry, community, government, and our educational institutions in creating opportunities today for Saskatchewan's leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Council of Educational Administration Leadership Award

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Walter Garchinski has been a principal in the Melfort School Division since 1980. Twenty-two years of working in our community, in his words: "To provide the best possible opportunity for our youth."

Mr. Garchinski is retiring at the end of this year and was

especially appreciative when he was one of three provincial recipients of the Saskatchewan Council of Educational Administration Leadership Award.

The criteria for this award requires the nominees to promote the educational administration profession by creating a greater understanding and recognition of the profession and through significant contributions. The nominees must also conduct themselves on a professional level and be willing to provide assistance to their colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, and members of the Assembly, please join me in recognizing Mr. Walter Garchinski for his administrative leadership and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Kinsmen International Band and Choral Festival

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Moose Jaw will be alive with the sound of music this weekend. Bands and choral groups from across the prairies are converging on Moose Jaw to help jazz up the city for a few days.

The 53rd annual Kinsmen International Band and Choral Festival starts today and runs until Saturday. The festival is a non-competitive venue that lets bands and choirs perform for one another, then benefit from a one-hour session with a clinician.

If I may further chime in, Mr. Speaker, concert choirs will also be heard and there will be special performances at Peacock Auditorium. Festival participants will have several opportunities to show off their talent as the festival wraps up on Saturday with "Moosic Day" in Crescent Park from 10 a.m. till 4:30. Pipers and drummers will be performing. Over 226 pipers and 72 drummer entries have been entered, or scheduled, Mr. Speaker.

Moose Jaw has hosted this festival since 1949. The festival has provided musical training for thousands of musicians, many who have gone on to very distinguished careers.

Congratulations, Mr. Speaker, to all the volunteers and organizers in Moose Jaw. I know we're going to have a wonderful weekend.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Elaine Hanson Wins Arbos Award

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to inform the House about an outstanding resident from Outlook. Elaine Hanson has excelled in the field of teaching throughout her life.

On April 4 her career was recognized by being presented the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation annual Arbos Award for outstanding service to the teaching profession.

Colleagues who nominated Mrs. Hanson last November described her as a teacher's teacher. Her long and distinguished teaching career has included teaching at St. Pat's School in Swift Current as well as teaching stops in Cabri, Shaunavon, and Lanigan.

She's had to serve in multiple roles throughout her career including vice-principal, teacher, and even librarian.

Mrs. Hanson came to the Outlook School Division as a program consultant in 1998 and has remained in that position ever since. For a time she held the position of a director of education, has been actively involved in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation at the local level.

Mrs. Hanson has consistently shown dedication to the teaching profession in Saskatchewan, which is one of the many reasons in being awarded this year's award that recognizes the best of what the teaching profession stands for in Saskatchewan.

The award also recognizes her outstanding contributions and the honour she has brought to the teaching level.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Elaine Hanson of Outlook on her remarkable accomplishment for her life's work as a teacher. I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in offering Mrs. Hanson all the best in the years ahead.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Internet Access Funding for Saskatchewan Libraries

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased that in conjunction with the federal government, our government is providing more than \$4.4 million to install high-speed Internet access in 162 libraries across our province. I believe it's very fitting that this announcement is made in the middle of our first ever Saskatchewan Opportunities Week.

This funding will lead to the completion of phase 2 of the CommunityNet initiative and will provide increased opportunities for citizens of our province to access information.

CommunityNet is connecting Saskatchewan residents, especially those in rural and remote areas, to the tools that they need to participate fully in our economy, tools that will spark innovation and growth.

This project is especially important in providing citizen access to the Internet for more than 50 per cent of Saskatchewan residents who do not have computers in their homes.

(14:00)

Saskatchewan Libraries President Isabelle Butters is excited about this project, and I quote:

High speed access is essential to the effective delivery of library programs and services in the 21st century.

CommunityNet is a \$71 million initiative of our government which extends high-speed Internet access to 834 educational facilities, 310 health facilities, 86 First Nations schools, and 256

government offices in 366 communities.

And with every new connection made in our communities across the province it opens more doors and creates more opportunities to our province's citizens.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Prairie Diamond Credit Union

Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to report on good news from the Prairie Diamond Credit Union. This diamond of Saskatchewan credit unions has had a very good year last year. In fact they've seen good growth and profitability in all areas of the financial statement.

Assets of the credit union grew in excess of \$1.5 million to reach almost \$20 million by year end. They've also enjoyed excellent growth in loans and deposits. Loans to members rose by almost \$2 million to \$15 million while member deposits are up over \$1 million to over \$17 million. The membership also carries close to \$200,000 in Ethical mutual funds.

The board once again approved a patronage allocation for 2001. A 5 per cent return totalling nearly \$75,000 will be paid as an interest bonus on all deposit interest earned and an interest rebate on all interest paid. In the last three years the credit union had paid approximately \$217,000 back to its membership.

One of the many reasons, Mr. Speaker, for the success of the credit unions in Saskatchewan is the loyalty they install by becoming involved in the community.

Some of the organizations that Prairie Diamond Credit Union has provided donations for and sponsorships for, include the 4-H, Kinsmen and Kinettes, libraries, the Legion, Lions, First Responders, Telemiracle, Knights of Columbus, Meals on Wheels, and many church groups.

I'm sure all members will want to congratulate Prairie Diamond Credit Union for another successful year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Disclosure of Personal and Confidential Information

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people are shocked at the newest allegations about this NDP government. It now appears that government employees have been disclosing personal and confidential information.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely serious matter. This morning people all over Saskatchewan are wondering, how could this happen? What information was disclosed? Was my information disclosed?

Mr. Speaker, how could the NDP allow this to happen? It appears that people within the NDP government may have been disclosing personal and confidential information. Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable and it should not have happened. How can

Saskatchewan people have any confidence in this government if their personal and confidential information is not being protected by the government?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm responding today as minister of the Public Service Commission. And first of all, I would like to affirm that the government of course takes matters of personal privacy very seriously, and has in place a number of policies and procedures to assure that they are protected.

Now it has come to our attention that the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) are investigating some employees. And what we can't do, Mr. Speaker, is interfere with that investigation.

But what we can do, we have done. We've sent the individuals home as soon as we determined who they were from the RCMP. We've co-operated fully with the RCMP. And we are at this time in the process of undertaking steps for an independent review to make sure that the many policies and procedures are in place, are sufficient, and that they are the right ones. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to do that because it is the right thing to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's bad enough if the police are under investigation for disclosing information. But when you think about it, the police only have information on people who have probably had a run-in with the law somewhere along their lives.

Mr. Speaker, the government though has confidential and personal information on everyone, about everything. They have health information, they have financial information. Mr. Speaker, they have all kinds of personal and confidential information.

Saskatchewan people have a right to know that their personal information is being protected, and the government has the responsibility of ensuring that that information is protected. Mr. Speaker, in this responsibility, it appears that the government has failed — and failed terribly — the people of Saskatchewan.

How can Saskatchewan people trust this government to protect their confidential information?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be generous and ignore for a moment the totally irresponsible fearmongering. I would have hated to see any of these people in charge on September 11 when the job of leadership was to deal with issues, not to further inflame any insecurity that people may have.

Now I will continue by indicating some of the measures that currently exist. There is an employee oath, an employee oath of office — the same kind of oath that members take when they become members of this legislature. In that, they affirm that

they will not, without due authority in that behalf, disclose or make known any matter or thing which comes to their knowledge by reason of their employment.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we have conflict of interest guidelines where people will not personally benefit or take advantage of the fact that they have access to information.

Third, Mr. Speaker, we have the freedom of information and privacy Act. In case anyone is uncertain about whether it's legitimate to access information, there's a process by which you can clear it up.

And fourth, an information technology policy.

I think that's a fair bit of policy and process to safeguard.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Access of Government Employees to Canadian Police Information Centre

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice, a question that has nothing to do with the investigation, so we hope he'll take a chance and answer it.

A government official told the media yesterday, and I quote:

No provincial agencies have access to CPIC.

But we don't believe that to be true. In fact, we do have a document from the Department of Justice appointing employees of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority as special constables. It says:

WHEREAS this requires access to criminal intelligence information that is only available to peace officers.

Mr. Speaker, can these investigators with SLGA (Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority) access CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) because they have been appointed special constables?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Axworthy: — Mr. Speaker, in the context of the oaths of allegiance and so on that the member . . . the confidentiality that the minister for Public Service Commission talked about, there are situations, Mr. Speaker, in which government employees have access to CPIC files.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would have been fine if that information would have . . . given to the media and the other interviews that took place yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, we know the SLGA has special constables that can access CPIC. But how about SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance)? What about SaskTel? Do SaskPower and SaskEnergy have that same access? What about other government departments?

Mr. Speaker, what other government agencies, departments or Crown corporations have employees who have been made special constables and can therefore access CPIC?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Axworthy: — Mr. Speaker, I'll take the member's question under advisement and provide him with exact details after question period. But he is — and I'll do that today — but he is right that there are a number of departments with a number of employees who have access to CPIC files.

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, we just had a comment about fearmongering. I think there's a lot of fear to be mongered.

When the minister, after seeing what happened on the media yesterday, read the front page of the paper today and he can't come prepared to answer a question as simple as who has access to CPIC in his government organization, that's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Disclosure of Personal and Confidential Information

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the deputy minister to the Premier told the media that the type of information that was being released by the government employees was personal information.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier explain what kind of personal information about Saskatchewan people is being released by the Department of Social Services, SGI, and SaskPower?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I'll reiterate that people have every right to expect that their private information is secure, and we will do everything in our power to make sure that that happens along with all the policies and procedures I outlined previously.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, and this is a very direct quote from the directions we were given, the RCMP officials asked the government not to pursue and discuss this matter in any way until the police advised it was all right to do so. And we would appreciate the opposition's co-operation in this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of this province would very much appreciate having the ministers disclose to them what of their information has been pedalled around the province by six of their employees — six of them, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — So far.

Mr. Heppner: — So far.

Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister to the Premier also told the media that he could not confirm that no other government departments, agencies, or Crown corporations were included in

the investigation to date.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier tell this House if other government departments, agencies, and Crowns are now or could be, in coming days, included in this investigation for the improper release of information?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I'll reiterate again that people do have every right to expect that their private information is secure. I will reiterate that the RCMP have asked us, politely, to not discuss this information in a way that might jeopardize the investigation.

But I will say that, unlike the opposition, Mr. Speaker, we will not be convicting people until an investigation has taken place and if it's warranted. And if the member opposite believes in kangaroo courts he should get up and say so right now.

But we have a system in place that's called the RCMP. And we have a responsibility to do our work thoroughly, to follow the procedures which have been put in place by government to protect people. And if these procedures aren't enough, then we will strengthen them.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess one of the questions we would have is, how come is the minister of the Public Service Commission answering questions involving Crown corporations? Who's hiding behind which desk today?

Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for SaskPower and SaskEnergy — that's where the next question goes to. Employees of these Crown corporations are alleged to have disclosed information to unauthorized sources. Mr. Speaker, will the minister explain how this could possibly happen?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — It may suit the opposition's purposes to portray that executive government and the Crowns are separate, but we are all part of one government and as a government we have an overarching commitment to public security and to good, sound personnel practice. So the very good and sound personnel practices that exist in one part of government exist in the other.

And I would like to remind the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, as well as the people at home, that we're talking about six individuals in question at the moment, out of 10,000 employees. And if the member opposite is under some illusion that he will have time to follow all 10,000 government employees around on any given day then I guess that's his notion of governing.

We have a body of policies and procedures in place. We have six people who right now are a matter of concern. The RCMP is dealing with it under their investigation and we will certainly be co-operating and taking action as soon as any facts are known.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer included the fact that they're sticking together. They'd better stick together.

But the answers we're getting — we may have to go to Frank Hart to get the real answer because we're not getting many answers from over there.

Again to the Minister of CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan): will the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation tell us how many other Crown departments and agencies are under investigation for the improper disclosure of information?

(14:15)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, on May 3 we were informed that an investigation was underway. This is the only investigation we have been informed of, and so the member can speculate and speculate and fearmonger and whip up things and have kangaroo courts, but that is not the way we do things, Mr. Speaker.

We have policies, we have procedures, we have trusted employees — trusted employees — and we are fully co-operating. And I will assure the members opposite and the public that as soon as facts are known, if people have broken the law or behaved inappropriately, they will be dealt with strictly and swiftly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is not so much about the 10,000 public employees. The question is about those ministers, those NDP individuals who've been given responsibility to protect the private information of every citizen in this province and they have failed, Mr. Speaker. They have failed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of CIC. Tell us if it is possible that other Crown corporations or agencies could be included in the investigation for this improper disclosure of information.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of faith in our RCMP and I have a great deal of faith that they will conduct a proper investigation, that they will come up with facts, and that those facts will be able to be acted on.

And I just say to the member opposite, maybe you should get in the real world. People . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. Order, please. I would ask the member to continue all her remarks through the Chair.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Maybe he should get in the real world.

The fact of the matter is that we try to have a society where we bring our children up as well as we can, where we have oaths that employees take where we expect certain behaviours. But at the end of the day, humans do have some discretion. And when they use that discretion they will be held accountable for whether they use that discretion appropriately.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in the real world. We're in the real world of Saskatchewan where almost 1 million people have all sorts of personal information in the hands of these government people. That trust has been broken. That trust has been broken. And the people of Saskatchewan need to know which one of those individuals at the end of the day is going to pay for it with their jobs, with their jobs.

Again, to the Minister of CIC. Will he explain what kind of personal information . . . what kind of personal information was being disclosed by the employees of SaskPower and SGI?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — You know, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just for a moment mention that in an age of technology the same information that allows people to serve people well, is obviously the same information that is potentially subject to abuse.

Now I say again we have an employee oath of office; we have conflict of interest guidelines; we have Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; we have conditions of employment; we have information technology acceptable use policy. I think that is a fair range of measures.

There will be a review to determine if that's a sufficient range of measures, but the fact of the matter is 99 per cent of the time employees honour these conditions of employment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answers today have been sadly lacking. The front page of the daily papers indicate that this government is completely out of control. Government employees may have been disclosing personal and confidential information, and the NDP claim they have no idea at all what's going on.

Mr. Speaker, what information, we ask. They don't know. Whose information? They won't say. How it happened — they're pretending that they don't have a responsibility to answer, Mr. Speaker. And now they can't even get their stories straight when they're talking about what they're going to do about it.

The deputy minister to the Premier says they have a plan to launch their own investigation right away. But the Premier says he's going to wait until the police investigation is done. Mr. Speaker, they can't get their stories straight. They're out of control.

Instead of coming to this House to answer the questions, the Premier runs away and hides. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is

ultimately responsible to protect Saskatchewan people from this government's disclosing the private and confidential information of the people of this province.

Yes he doesn't seem to know what's going on, and the deputy admits that it may be even more widespread than we already know.

My question is, why has the Premier lost control of this government?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Well I could just as well ask the member opposite why that leader has lost control of his entire party but I'm not going to go there, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to instead answer the question. And I will reiterate that people have every right to expect that their private information is secure. And every single one of my colleagues is equally concerned because our information is in there just like everybody else's. So there would be no reason why we wouldn't take this completely seriously.

What we will not do is run around having kangaroo courts and fearmongering. What we will do is support the RCMP in their investigation. The employees in question were sent home. We're co-operating with the investigation and there will be an independent review of the policies and procedures. The RCMP are dealing with the individuals in question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, with good reason the people of Saskatchewan do not trust the NDP government and they aren't going to trust an internal investigation. They don't want to see another round of the NDP hiring the NDP to investigate the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a . . .

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a Privacy Commissioner. And he doesn't work for the government, he works for the legislature and all the people of Saskatchewan. And he is here to protect all of our privacy.

Mr. Speaker, today the Saskatchewan Party is calling for the Privacy Commissioner to conduct a truly independent investigation. We want him to investigate the current allegations and we want him to review every government department and every Crown corporation to determine what safeguards are in place to protect confidential information.

Today, immediately after question period, I will move an emergency motion calling for this investigation. Will the government do the right thing and support the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to reiterate how our legal system works in Canada. If there is

something which is reported and thereby followed up with an investigation, the RCMP, who have the independence to be involved in this, investigate. If there are sufficient grounds, the prosecution process takes over and people have their day in court.

And I have to say that for the member opposite to suggest that it should happen in a different way . . . I'm not sure why he would do that. I have great confidence in the RCMP and in our prosecutors and court systems.

Now I will say that the Privacy and Information Commissioner is an independent officer. I know he's paying close attention to this. And certainly if there are matters that he feels he wishes to look at, he has the independent authority to do that.

Meanwhile, we will engage with an appropriate firm to undertake a review of policies and procedures.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sounds like another opportunity for Points West.

Mr. Speaker, section 29 of the protection of privacy Act is put in place to protect Saskatchewan people from the government abusing its power by disclosing personal and confidential information.

Mr. Speaker, nobody trusts the NDP to fix this mess. Will the government support the Saskatchewan Party's call for an independent investigation by the Privacy Commissioner into all government departments and Crown corporations?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, I can hardly believe what I'm hearing. We have the Leader . . . the Leader of the Opposition in this legislature suggesting that every single employee of the government should be investigated.

I can hardly believe what I'm hearing. Because in the normal course of the day, there are 10,000 employees. They all have supervisors and managers. We do not directly interfere with the work of those managers and supervisors. They have a duty, employees . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. The minister for PSC (Public Service Commission).

Order, once again. Order. Order, please. Order, please. Order. I recognize the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there are conditions of employment — an employee oath of office, conflict of interest guidelines, freedom of information and privacy Act, and information technology acceptable use policy. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there's a huge amount of integrity in the public service.

And for that very, very, very small percentage of people who may or may not fully comply with their conditions of

employment, those situations are obviously under investigation and when any facts are known, they will be dealt with strictly and swiftly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Investment in Ethanol Industry

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, approximately 40 ethanol committees were set up around this province in response to the government's invitation to begin the work on ethanol and the commitment by the government that they would not be picking winners and losers and that investment would be driven by private and not public . . . and public dollars would not go into this.

Now my question for the government is simply this: will they be, will they be compensating those 40 communities that invested in ethanol committees and pursued ethanol strategies when, in point of fact, CIC was close to closing a deal that went in the exact opposite . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. Every member in the Assembly has the right to ask a question.

Mr. Hillson: — In view of this statement that they would not be picking winners and losers — when in point of fact that had already happened — will they be compensating those communities that pursued a strategy that had already been pulled out from under them unbeknown to them and apparently unbeknown to the minister; and did the minister know when he gave those commitments to those 40 communities that in point of fact the rug was going to be pulled out from under him and he was going to be overruled by his boss at CIC?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to be very clear and reiterate what I've been saying for the last six weeks. Any investor that wants to come to Saskatchewan today and build an ethanol plant is welcome to do so. Any investor that wants to have an opportunity to meet with local communities, we're willing to help hook them up. Any proponents that want to come and build plants, we are quite willing to do that.

The plan remains the same as it was six weeks ago. We are going to continue to work with investors, proponents, communities to get an ethanol industry — an ethanol industry built in Saskatchewan.

And what I would ask is that that Liberal member ask the Liberal government in Ottawa to do the same thing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Serby: — By leave, Mr. Speaker, to move a series of motions of condolences.

Leave granted.

(14:30)

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Now, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the member from Rosetown-Biggar, 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 contributions he made to his community, to his constituency, and to the province.

Robert Andrew Heggie, who passed away on July 23 of 2000, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1967 until 1971, representing the constituency of Hanley for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Heggie was born on May 13, 1915 in Strasbourg. He spent his childhood in Kelliher, and it was here that Mr. Heggie received his primary and high school education. He continued his studies at the Regina Normal School and graduated with his teaching certificate. And on July 26, 1938, he married Evelyn Rutherford and they had two daughters and one son. Mr. Heggie is survived by his wife, his children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Heggie began his career as a teacher in the towns of Punnichy and Raymore. Then like many men of his generation, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He spent four and a half years as a radar technician, mostly in Africa.

Upon returning to Canada, Mr. Heggie attended the University of Saskatchewan and graduated in 1949 with his degree in Arts and Law. The following year he was admitted to the Saskatchewan bar and began practising law in Saskatoon.

Mr. Heggie donated his time to his community in other capacities as well. He was an alderman in the city of Saskatoon from 1954 to 1963. Later he served as a judge in the Magistrate Court. And in 1969, Mr. Heggie was honoured with the distinction of Queen's Counsel for his service to the legal profession.

Mr. Heggie held a lifelong interest in politics that was evident in his efforts to seek election to this Assembly on two occasions before being successful in the 1967 general election.

Later, after he retired to British Columbia in 1979, both he and his wife were active members of the Liberal Association in Chilliwack and Abbotsford. It was also in British Columbia that Mr. Heggie resumed his judicial career. He became a judge for the disciplinary court in the federal penitentiary system on a part-time basis.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded again by the member from Rosetown-Biggar:

To record our deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly express its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say a few words about Mr. Robert Heggie. He was in my constituency. He served the constituency of Hanley in the Legislative Assembly from 1967 until 1971. And I never even . . . forgot that there really was a constituency of Hanley till this was brought to me. And I unfortunately never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Heggie, but I've heard people talk about him when I was in the Hanley-Dundurn area when I was door knocking.

And I know that talking to them, that he had served his constituents and the town, and the surrounding towns and communities, very well. They were very happy with the job he did and they said . . . I remember one older person in Hanley had said that if I could do as good a job . . . if I promised to do as good a job as Mr. Heggie did when I was here, he would gladly vote for me. So I try and do that, and I think of past members when I'm here.

I just want to mention a few words on the Hanley constituency. I guess it was formed in the general election of 1908, running east to west. The boundaries of Hanley I guess changed in 1934, surrounding the city of Saskatoon. And the last time there was a Hanley constituency was the election of '71, so Mr. Heggie had the honour of serving as last sitting member under the name of Hanley.

I just want to say a few quick words about Mr. Robert Heggie. He was born on May 13, 1915 in the town of Strasbourg but grew up in the town of Kelliher. He received his primary and high school education in the rural area and continued studies at the Regina Normal School, thereby graduating with a certificate on teaching.

Mr. Heggie held a lifelong interest in politics, beginning with his service as alderman for the city of Saskatoon from 1954 to 1963. Later on he served as judge of the Magistrate's Court, and in 1969 he was honoured with the distinction of Queen's Counsel for service to the profession of law.

Mr. Heggie sought election to the Assembly on two occasions, and of course he was successful in 1967. Mr. Heggie and his wife retired to British Columbia in 1979, and he and his wife were active members of the Liberal associations of Chilliwack and Abbotsford. He also served as judge for the disciplinary court in the federal penitentiary system on a part-time basis, while also living in British Columbia. So he was a very busy person even in his retiring years.

With that I just want to, being as the member for Arm River, want to wish my condolences to the family in the passing of Mr. Robert Andrew Heggie.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Rosetown-Biggar, 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 contributions he made to his community, to his constituency, and to the province.

Paul Emile Rousseau, who passed away on October 8, 2001, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1978 till 1986, representing the constituency Regina South for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Rousseau was born on December 20, 1929 in Fort Frances, Ontario. He spent the majority of his childhood in Fort Frances before the family moved to Winnipeg and then to Montreal. Mr. Rousseau married Janine Ducharme on April 5 of 1952 and they had six daughters. Mr. Rousseau is survived by his wife, five daughters, and six grandchildren.

In 1958 Mr. Rousseau and his family moved to Saskatchewan, settling first in Melville and then later in Regina. It was there that he began his successful career in the automotive industry. He rose from the position of sales manager of Neil Motors in 1960 to later buying the company. He renamed it Crestview Chrysler and took the role of president and then general manager.

Mr. Rousseau also participated in his community. He dedicated his time to organizations ranging from the French Knights of Columbus and the Kinsmen to the United Way and then on to the Globe Theatre.

Mr. Rousseau was first elected to this Assembly in 1978 and served as a member of the official opposition. After being re-elected in 1982, he began a new chapter in his political career as a cabinet minister. From 1983 until 1985 he held the portfolios of Economic Development and Trade as well as the portfolio of Revenue and Financial Services.

During this time Mr. Rousseau was also the minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation, Saskatchewan Development Fund, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance. It was his work with the SGI that resulted in what was being called his political legacy, and introduced the Lights On for Life program — was acknowledged as the forerunner to the inclusion of the mandatory daytime running lights on cars in order to reduce accidents.

Mr. Rousseau left this Assembly in 1986 to assume the position of the Saskatchewan Agent General of the United Kingdom.

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to stand this afternoon and say a few words about Mr. Paul Rousseau, the member for Regina South.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Rousseau was leaving this Legislative Assembly, completing his chapter as an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in this Assembly representing the constituency of Regina South, I was entering the Assembly as the MLA for Moosomin. So, Mr. Speaker, while I didn't have the privilege of actually sitting with Mr. Rousseau, I did have the privilege of getting to know the man — an individual who was a man of integrity. He was a very pleasant individual with a

very outgoing personality.

And I think from what I experienced and what I saw in this city, and having run a car dealership for a number of years, you can see why he did so well in business just from his bubbly personality and the fact that he treated everyone as a very special person.

When I came into this Assembly I came in as a young individual just nicely getting involved in the political realm. And I really appreciated that there were people like Mr. Rousseau around that you could go and talk to, that you could make some inquiries about, that you could discuss the process of being a member of this Assembly and how this Assembly functioned and operated, and certainly the wisdom that he had and the advice that he was able to pass on, and the fact that he gave it to you as a person.

Mr. Speaker, there's one thing when . . . in talking to people. Sometimes you can sit down, you can talk to people. But as you're talking to that individual you can almost see that their mind is someplace else — that they're just showing some respect by listening but in reality they were hoping you'd move on.

Mr. Rousseau was not that type of a person. He was the type of person that, if you went up to him or if he saw you, he would more than, more than delighted to just come over and say hi. And in fact just, it was a little over a year ago, I just happened to run into Mr. Rousseau at the Hotel Saskatchewan.

I walked in and Mr. Rousseau happened to be there at the time. And again just to see the man, as soon as he saw you he said hello and asked how things were going and asked how you were enjoying the political sphere and politics in general.

And that's what I remember of Mr. Rousseau, Mr. Speaker, was an individual who really gave to his community, to his family, to his constituency, and to this province in his role not only as MLA but in the diplomatic position that he assumed in 1986 and I believe did a very fine job, an excellent job for the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I wish to extend to Mrs. Janine Rousseau and her family, our deepest sympathy on the passing of a dear husband, a father, and a great Saskatchewan citizen.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy for an opportunity to be able to remember Paul Rousseau and to also share my condolences with his family.

I first met Paul back about 1968. In that time there was a choir in this city called the Gwalia Singers. My sister and Paul's daughter were in the same choir and our parents got to . . . my parents got to know Paul and Mrs. Rousseau at that time.

And also my dad, being an avid buyer of Chrysler products, also got to know Paul through the dealership where he purchased a number of cars. And I was happy in 1970 to be able to convince him to buy a Dodge Charger from Paul. And Paul figured that was the right thing to do; it was the good car to get. And so we really enjoyed that part of the relationship with Paul.

When he ran politically, of course, it was not the party that I would choose to support but I always respected Paul's integrity and the work that he did. And I think it's already been mentioned that his legacy was found in the Lights on For Life. And as I renewed acquaintance with him following my election, he talked about how important that was for him in accomplishing that and that being the forerunner to the mandatory daytime running lights, and how much that contributed to the well-being of the province and to the people of North America really, to have those mandatory running lights.

So he was very appreciative of the opportunity that he had to serve as a cabinet minister and to contribute that to the well-being of our province.

(14:45)

It was a disappointment for him to some extent, as he spoke to me about his life in politics, the direction that things were going. In '86, he just felt he did not want to run again. And yet, he still wanted to serve the community. He went to Britain and served there in Canada House, where again my parents met Paul and had a very good visit with him over in Britain.

He was very gracious always, as has been mentioned, welcomed people warmly when he encountered them. He just had that kind of bearing that people felt special or unique in his presence.

But I want to say as well, as a new member of this legislature, having Paul come in and talk and work with me, and even though we represented different political parties, that he was very supportive. And I had the privilege of working with him on a couple of projects — economic development projects and other projects that would help build the community — in the last couple of years and found him always to be supportive, committed to this province, committed to the city, and to the community.

So it is with sorrow that I recall his passing and I offer my condolences to Mrs. Rousseau and to their family.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to stand here today to pay tribute to Paul Rousseau. As the member, current member for Regina South, I find that, although I did not know Mr. Rousseau personally, it's always interesting to hear stories as you go out campaigning and talking to your constituents of former members and the contact that they had with the constituents.

Mr. Rousseau was a dedicated constituency man. He had a great affection and respect for his constituents, for the issues that they were faced with, and served our city well.

There are two ways, I guess, that we are remembered in this Assembly: certainly from the constituents that we have dealt with and the comments that they pass along to the successors who replace us in this Assembly; the second, of course, are the words that we speak in here that are recorded and transcribed for all time.

What has not been talked about today, thus far in terms of Mr.

Rousseau's time in this Assembly, is that he was a man of great passion and strong conviction, and certainly a fierce partisan. I think that this is an individual who very much enjoyed political life, who enjoyed the debate in this Assembly, and I think had a very high respect and regard for this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of Regina South that I represent today, I certainly want to join with other members, with the Deputy Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing our condolences to his family on the unfortunate and early passing of Mr. Paul Rousseau.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I just want to very briefly enter into the debate and extend my own condolences to Mr. Rousseau's family, and to acknowledge the importance to many of us who were affected by his decisions while serving in this Chamber and in his capacity as minister responsible for SGI.

It was at that time in my own career that I was involved, largely on a volunteer basis, in the world of traffic safety. And I was so pleased to hear reference in the motion today to the legacy of Mr. Rousseau in establishing the Lights on for Life program. I think it is the desire of all of us when we come to serve in these Chambers, through the course of our careers, to be involved in doing something that leaves our mark and contributes to a better world.

And as one who was involved at that time not in the political toing and froing of the province, but in the matters of traffic safety, the decision to proceed with the Lights on for Life program was seen as, in some ways, revolutionary. Obviously as time has passed since then, what was a new idea under Mr. Rousseau's leadership has become commonplace and in fact it would be I think seen as absurd if anyone were to suggest that we should ever go back to where we were before.

And for someone to have been part of taking an action which literally — literally — saved lives, I think is among the highest of legacies that any elected member could have when they're reflecting on a career.

So I would simply want to say, from the perspective of the layperson involved in a world touched by Mr. Rousseau's political leadership at that time, that his legacy lives on and is deeply appreciated. And I want to join with others here in extending sympathies to the family.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the member from Rosetown-Biggan, by leave of the Assembly:

That this Assembly records its sorrow and regrets the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation for the public contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

William S. Howes, who passed away on July 12, 2000, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1971, representing the constituency of Kerrobert-Kindersley for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Howes was born to William and Hazel May Howes on June 23, 1926 in Kindersley. One of two children, Mr. Howes was educated at elementary and high schools in Kindersley. He married his wife, Carrie Lou Naffziger, during the summer of 1947. Mr. Howes was predeceased by his parents and is survived by his wife, their two sons, and several grandchildren.

In his private life Mr. Howes followed in his father's footsteps and undertook a career as a municipal secretary. He augmented this career by becoming a farmer as well. Mr. Howes also inherited his father's sense of duty towards the community. He was a member of his local Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion and a Mason.

He entered into politics and was elected to this Assembly on April 22, 1964. The following year he assumed the position of Deputy Speaker and served in that capacity for two years. Mr. Howes went on to serve a second term when he was re-elected in 1967.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I would like to join with the Deputy Premier in expressing our regret at the passing of William S. Howes, who passed away on July 12, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Howes was a member for the Kerrobert-Kindersley constituency back in the mid- and late-1960s until 1971, representing a constituency that obviously benefited from his leadership, because during that period the area saw significant economic progress. It was an area of . . . it was a good farming area, an area that expanded in the oil and gas industry. And much of the expansion happened during the period that Mr. Howes represented that constituency.

So I'm sure that his family is indeed proud of his accomplishments. All of those who serve in public life are to be commended, and certainly Mr. Howes is no exception. He has made his mark on the province of Saskatchewan in a very positive and constructive way.

I didn't have the privilege of knowing Mr. Howes, but I had the privilege of representing some of the same area that he represented only I did it at the federal level. And I respect the fact that his life was diversified. He was involved as a municipal secretary but then did the unusual thing of becoming a farmer as well. And that's not the normal course of action for a Saskatchewan person to start in one career and then move into agriculture. And certainly that showed vision and confidence in the agriculture sector and I'm . . . and he is to be commended for that.

Mr. Howes was a member in good standing of his community, involved in many organizations. And therefore, on behalf of the official opposition, we recognize the accomplishment of Mr. Howes and we too offer our sympathies and our sense of loss and bereavement to his family at his passing just recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Rosetown-Biggan, by leave of the Assembly:

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

Eldon Arthur Johnson, who passed away on December 29, 2001, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1964, representing the constituency of Kerrobert-Kindersley for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Mr. Johnson was born on October 18, 1919 in Kindersley. He spent his childhood on the family farm and attended the Beadle elementary school. Mr. Johnson went on to attend the McKenzie High School in Kindersley. Following his completion of Grade 12 in 1939, he attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering in 1943. On July 11, 1950 he married Charlotte Heinrichs. Together they had a daughter and a son. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, their two children, and three grandchildren.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Johnson enlisted with the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. During World War II, he served as a Lieutenant in Britain, Holland, Belgium, and Occupied Germany.

In the post-war years, Mr. Johnson found his time divided between the farm at Beadle and the University of Saskatchewan where he taught agricultural engineering in the fall and winter.

Mr. Johnson also devoted time to various groups in his community such as the Beadle Wheat Pool, Kindersley District Credit Union and Co-op, as well as the Kindersley branch of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union.

However, much of Mr. Johnson's life was defined by his passions for archaeology and playing the bagpipes. His love of archaeology would lead to his co-founding the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society and developing his skill as a flint-knapper.

Mr. Johnson was first elected to this Legislative Assembly in 1956 and re-elected in 1960. He served as the Deputy Speaker from 1963 until 1964. Mr. Johnson also served as the Chair for the Public Accounts Enquiry Committee, and in that capacity helped to initiate substantial revision to the structure and role of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In addition to this, Mr. Johnson used the political arena to further the cause of preserving artefacts. He developed legislation to protect Saskatchewan heritage and established a department of Archaeology.

In the wake of his political and farming careers, Mr.

Johnson returned to the University of Saskatchewan to further pursue his love for learning and archaeology.

In 1983, he received a Bachelor of Anthropology. This was followed, in 1986 by a Masters in Anthropology and Archaeology and the creation of his own archaeological consulting practice called Lithic Laboratories.

Mr. Johnson's tireless work in the field of preservation was recognized in 1988, when he was awarded the Parks Heritage Award by the Government of Canada.

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

(15:00)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to stand on behalf of the official opposition in condolences for Eldon Arthur Johnson.

Now Mr. Johnson served this House capably, Mr. Speaker, just as he served his community and his country. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Johnson served in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in World War II serving in Britain, Holland, Belgium, and Occupied Germany. And, Mr. Speaker, having talked to my uncles about that war and the passages through Holland and Belgium, I know that that was not an easy experience, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, while we as politicians tend to think that service in this Assembly is perhaps the greatest feat that we can perform for the people of Saskatchewan. I think that Mr. Johnson performed a feat that was equal if not more so than that in his interest of archaeology, and protecting the archaeological sites across this province and bringing forward legislation that would establish the Department of Archaeology, Mr. Speaker.

I note that Mr. Johnson had a passion for archaeology and the bagpipes. Now I'm not exactly sure, Mr. Speaker, how you tie those two together. But having visited some of the archaeological sites around this province, I can certainly see how playing the bagpipes in those locations would perhaps be fitting, as the bagpipes need an open and expansive space, Mr. Speaker, to really appreciate the music that those wonderful instruments provide. And Mr. Johnson would have had that opportunity in visiting the many archaeological sites that we have across this province and to play the bagpipes.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, we would like to include our condolences to the families of Mr. Johnson.

Ms. Jones: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to extend my condolences, as well, to the family of Eldon Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, Eldon was my MLA serving Kerrobert-Kindersley when I was rather young. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, my hometown is Alsask and our farm was 13 miles south of Alsask. And so as my parents were very involved in the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) and the NDP and I had an opportunity, on many occasions, to attend political

gatherings with my parents and with Eldon in attendance.

And I had occasion to visit he and his family in his home in Kindersley. And I had a great learning from a very great man, I believe.

One of my favourite memories — I believe it was about 1959 or 1960 — I accompanied Eldon Johnson to my very first CCYM (Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement) convention in Saskatoon. And it was there that I had an opportunity to have a good conversation with Tommy Douglas and with many other very committed individuals.

We were heading into the whole medicare issue at that time and it was very enlightening and very invigorating for me. I think it goes without saying that he had a very direct influence on my political development, and in many ways may even be responsible for my presence in this House today.

He was a good friend and a great advocate for the people of this province. He served his constituents and all the province well, and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. And, Mr. Speaker, there were many who knew him. As has been stated before, from archaeology to bagpipes, from an interest in the Public Accounts Committee and its reform, all the way to the Great Sand Hills of Saskatchewan, which again is a very current topic of discussion and was in his time and is today.

He will be sadly missed but I'm grateful for his life. I'm grateful for the benefit of his experience and for his service to this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add my condolences to the Johnson family. I had a chance to know Mr. Johnson because his son, Kim, was one of my law partners. And Kim developed the interest in archaeology and in the anthropology of Saskatchewan, which he spent many hours telling me about the things that he had learned from his father.

And I know that Kim's love for Saskatchewan and for the history of Saskatchewan was something that he had learned from his father. So hearing the members today talk about Mr. Johnson reminded me of what legacy there is for Kim and Melanie and for the grandchildren of Mr. Johnson. So I wanted to add my comments as well.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington, by leave of this 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 contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Robert Kohaly, who passed away on October 24, 2001, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1953

until 1956, representing the constituency of Souris-Estevan for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Kohaly was born on July 9, 1921 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. In the course of his 80 years, he married Dorothy and they had two sons and two daughters. Mr. Kohaly is survived by his wife, their children, several grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

With the start of World War II, Mr. Kohaly joined the 2nd Division of the South Saskatchewan Regiment. He served overseas and was wounded during the raid on the French town of Dieppe, in August of 1942.

Mr. Kohaly took advantage of the overseas education service of the Royal Canadian Legion to pursue his education at the University of Saskatchewan. He completed his law degree in 1948 and settled in Estevan where he would practise law for the next four decades.

Recognizing all that the Royal Canadian Legion had done for him, Mr. Kohaly joined the ranks in 1947. He would remain with them for many years. During his tenure he would serve as the head of the Royal Canadian Legion's Saskatchewan Command in 1961 and later became the national president in 1968.

Mr. Kohaly demonstrated the same sort of dedication to his political career. He was first elected to this Assembly by the by-election on October 28, 1953, becoming the first Conservative to be elected in the province since 1930. Mr. Kohaly firmly believed that his public and political service was a means to him to repay the people of Saskatchewan for the support he had received through veterans' benefits.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak on the condolence motion for Robert Kohaly.

Mr. Kohaly was born on July 9, 1921 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the second unit of the South Saskatchewan Regiment, wounded at Dieppe.

After the war Mr. Kohaly obtained his law degree and practised law in Estevan at the firm of Lynd Kohaly and Associates, a career that would span 40 years. During this period, Mr. Kohaly was elected as a Progressive Conservative member of the Saskatchewan legislature for the constituency of Souris-Estevan. He held this position from October 1953 until 1956.

Mr. Kohaly was also very involved with the Southeast Saskatchewan Surface Rights Association and the Royal Canadian Legion, branch No. 60 in Estevan. He was elected national president for the Royal Canadian Legion in 1968.

Mr. Kohaly passed away on October 24, 2001. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, two sons, two daughters, grandchildren,

and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and the constituents of Estevan, we thank Mr. Kohaly for his services to the people of this province and offer our deepest condolences to his family. Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington, by leave of this 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 contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Harry David Link, who passed away on February 4, 2002, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1967 representing the constituency of Saskatoon City for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Mr. Link was born on January 28, 1918 on a homestead in what is now Hodgeville. The youngest of eight children, Mr. Link was educated at Beechy. He met and married his wife Joan in the fall of 1944 in England. Mr. Link is predeceased by his wife Joan and survived by their four sons and eight grandchildren.

In his private life, Mr. Link began his career in commercial sales before becoming a flight lieutenant gunner for the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. In this capacity, Mr. Link displayed a flair for leadership that would earn him the George Medal and a Mention in Dispatches for rescues where he rescued his crews from burning wreckages. This sense of leadership would continue to show throughout the following years.

After returning to Saskatchewan, he embarked once again on a career in commercial sales. This eventually led to the purchase of Capital Real Estate in Saskatoon in 1954. From here, Mr. Link became the president of the Saskatchewan Real Estate Association.

Mr. Link devoted his time and energy to other organizations as well. He served on the executive of the Saskatoon Co-Op, his local branch of the Canadian Legion, and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and Canadian Travellers.

Mr. Link became involved in the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation during its early years. He served as the president of his local constituency association and as a member of the CCF provincial council.

He became president of the Saskatchewan CCF-NDP in 1961 during the transitionary stages that was marked by the resignation of T.C. Douglas, the assumption of party leadership of Woodrow Lloyd, and the new affiliation of the NDP. Mr. Link completed his service to the province with his election to this Assembly in the 1964 general election.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it's my privilege to offer condolences to the family of Mr. Link on his passing.

Mr. Link certainly showed his leadership abilities early. I note that Mr. Link was a flight lieutenant governor . . . gunner, excuse me, in the Royal Canadian Air Force during Second World War. Normally, Mr. Speaker, gunners were not officers. Therefore, obviously, Mr. Link demonstrated more than normal abilities and leadership in achieving that very distinct position, also earning two medals, Mr. Speaker, during the Second World War.

I know that the leadership of the Canadian Armed Forces did not pass out medals willy-nilly to anyone, that you had to perform exceptionally, above and beyond the call of normal duty to receive any sort of recognition from the leadership of the Canadian Armed Forces. Even to be mentioned in dispatches, Mr. Speaker, was unusual, and to receive a medal was a most rare thing. So Mr. Link certainly demonstrated his courage and his leadership abilities in winning those awards, Mr. Speaker.

(15:15)

And clearly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Link had an interest both in the province and in politics. Serving at the local level with his party affiliation, serving provincially within the party, and finally serving as a member of this legislature, clearly demonstrate that Mr. Link had an interest in progress in Saskatchewan, that Saskatchewan should be able to realize its destiny and its future.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to offer condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Link at this time.

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege this afternoon to get up and say a few words about a good friend of mine, Harry Link, who I shall miss very much.

Harry Link served the people of this province in an exceptional way, Mr. Speaker. But before I talk about his record, which is an extremely distinguished one, as the Deputy Premier and the member from Cannington have already recognized, I want to speak about Mr. Link as a person and a friend.

Harry Link, Mr. Speaker, was a loving father and he was a very loving husband. He was very devoted to his wife, Joan, who he married in 1944. And when he lost his wife Joan with cancer some years before his own passing, it was a great blow to him, Mr. Speaker.

Harry Link always had a sparkle in his eye and he had a special warmth about him, Mr. Speaker, which I think led to him being trusted at a very deep level by all who knew him, and he had many, many friends, Mr. Speaker.

He was a man of enormous compassion and tremendous honesty. And he spoke his mind in a frank and forthright

manner, which I think made him a very effective member of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Link was a man who wanted to see change that would truly benefit the people of this province in a very substantial way, and he was impatient to see that change. It didn't move quickly enough for him. And I think that was one of his special qualities which also made him a very, not only a very effective member of the community but a very effective member of this Assembly.

And he was a private man who was exceptionally modest. He was always very slow to talk about his own accomplishments and anxious to recognize the accomplishments of others. So, Mr. Speaker, I look back with a lot of fondness on some of the times that I've spent with Mr. Link, particularly in the last 20 years which is the time that I knew him best.

As the Deputy Premier has noted, Mr. Link was born in 1918. And I want to quote from some comments that were made by a former premier of this Assembly, Allan Blakeney, who served with Mr. Link and in a political sense knew him better than I.

And one of the things that Allan told me was that Harry Link knew M.J. Coldwell, the member of parliament for Rosetown-Biggart very well, even before he became federal leader of the CCF, and that Mr. Link sometimes drove M.J. Coldwell around his huge rural federal constituency, Mr. Speaker. So Harry Link's involvement in the CCF started very early.

I know that one of Mr. Link's great passions was his belief in the need for a publicly funded medicare system in this province. He was very committed to the principle behind publicly funded hospitalization and publicly funded medicare. And his belief in this grew out of his own personal experience and the experience of his own family and others that he knew in the community, that he saw suffering as a result of the absence of a publicly funded medicare system when he first became involved in politics.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Link had the misfortune as a teenager to urgently need medical care himself and be refused that medical care by a physician because he was unable to pay for it. Fortunately another medical practitioner provided the medical help that he needed at no cost.

And I think Mr. Link never forgot this experience, Mr. Speaker, and it made him deeply, deeply committed to the notion that a publicly funded medical care system should be established in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from some of the comments that former premier Allan Blakeney made at the funeral service for Mr. Link, which I had the privilege to attend. And Mr. Blakeney says, and I'm quoting, Mr. Speaker:

I knew him best as a candidate for election and as a member for the Saskatchewan legislature.

And if I might just stop for a minute, Mr. Speaker, I should say that Mr. Link, as our Deputy Premier has mentioned, was elected as president of the CCF in this province in 1961. So of

course Mr. Link was . . . He served on the provincial executive for the CCF and he then became its president at a very pivotal time.

This was a key transition time as the New Democratic Party was being formed in Canada, and it was also of course a pivotal moment in terms of the establishment of medicare in this province. So Mr. Link came into this leadership position at a time of great importance not only for the CCF and NDP, but for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, because of course the years to follow would be the years of the great medicare debate and the establishment of medicare in this province.

And then in 1964 Mr. Link ran for election, and this is what Mr. Blakeney had to say about him. And I'm quoting now, Mr. Speaker:

Harry stood for nomination, was nominated and then elected as one of the members for Saskatoon City in the provincial election of 1964. While Harry was elected, as were three of his fellow CCFers in Saskatoon, the Lloyd government was defeated. (And Mr. Blakeney goes on to say) I had been re-elected in Regina, and so Harry and I sat together in opposition.

Harry was in some respects not cut out to be a garden-variety politician. Changing society is a slow process. Many of us share a vision of a better society. We know that the progress will be slow. We know that the steps forward will be small and that sometimes there will be steps backward. We are disappointed and impatient but we accept that people change their mind slowly, so that progress will be slow.

Harry was sometimes less accepting of the pace of change (says Mr. Blakeney). (On occasion) . . . patience was not his strongest suit. He tended to speak his mind and . . . speak . . . (it) in a forthright way . . .

And Mr. Blakeney goes on to say:

I remember one memorable incident. The Governor of Montana had come to visit the new Premier, Ross Thatcher. The Governor had come complete with an entourage of large cars, bodyguards in uniform and with sidearms (the full nine yards). The Governor and the new Premier talked. Harry was less than impressed and made some comments (about the Governor) which some regarded as disparaging. Mr. Thatcher's government reacted by introducing a motion to censure the Member for Saskatoon on the grounds that he was undermining relations between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Blakeney goes on to say:

His colleagues in the Opposition reacted with vigour. We mounted a spirited attack on the government move. (We based our attack) on our belief that members should be free to express their views in the legislature (without curbing their tongue because some people may be sensitive). We quoted Voltaire: "I may disagree (with what you say), but I will defend to the death your right to say it." And we went on to say that if there was ever a member who had sat in

. . . (this Assembly) who had earned the right to express his views in a democratic legislature (in a forthright way) it was the Member for Saskatoon, (Mr. Link). The only member in the history of our Legislature up to . . . (that time) and up to now who had, in the course of serving his country in wartime, been awarded the . . . George Medal.

Mr. Blakeney goes on to say:

The (Thatcher) government was not aware of (Flight-Lieutenant) . . . (Harry Link's) war record. Harry was so modest . . . he simply would not permit his workers during (the) election campaign, to talk about his war record. Once the facts about . . . (Mr. Link) came out the government reconsidered their position. They adjourned the debate and the next day they withdrew the motion.

I have rarely seen a more rapid 180 degree turn in our legislature.

By the time of the election of 1967, (Mr. Blakeney says) constituency boundaries had been (had been) redrawn. Harry decided to run in Rosetown, where he was narrowly defeated.

And Mr. Blakeney goes on to say:

I was always sorry that Harry did not have the opportunity to serve with us in Government (after 1971). He would have been a restless colleague, always wanting us to do more and more quickly. But the pace of change between 1971 and 1975 would . . . (at least) have partly met his standards.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think those words from our former premier give us all in this Assembly, and members of the public who are listening, some sense of the man who was Harry Link. This is a man, Mr. Speaker, who as Premier Blakeney noted at his funeral took his full part in the world's work and in the world's struggles and served his constituents in an exceptional manner, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it was a great privilege for me to know Harry Link. And whenever I had the privilege of visiting with him, of course, we always, at one time or another, Mr. Speaker, during the visits would talk about politics. And the conversation would inevitably turn to medicare and what more we could do as a province to enhance medicare and the need for me and for other members of the Assembly to press hard to make sure that medicare is protected and enhanced. And Mr. Link devoted an enormous effort on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan to helping make medicare a reality in this province, as of course did our former premier, Allan Blakeney, who served as Health minister just prior to Harry Link's election to this Assembly and then served with him in opposition.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this point, I want to express on behalf of my own constituents of Saskatoon Greystone and on behalf of myself personally, sincere sympathies to the Link family. Harry Link was a very wonderful person who I will miss a great deal and who I think will be missed by all who knew him.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join in my . . . with my colleagues in expressing sincere condolences and sympathy to the Link family on the passing of their father, Harry Link.

Like the member from Greystone, I came to know Harry through my work as a member of the NDP on a constituency basis and then as an elected member of the NDP. What I will most about Harry is driving up to his Elliott Street home, particularly in the summertime, and seeing him on the front step sitting enjoying the weather with his cup of coffee.

Mr. Speaker, the last time I had the opportunity to do that I was the Minister of Health for the province of Saskatchewan, and I had received a delegation of Harry's friends who were worried about Harry's health and thought that it was now time for Harry to go to the Saskatoon Veterans' Home as a long-term care patient. And they did not understand why, as Minister of Health to the province, that I couldn't use my position to make sure that Harry got into the nursing home.

And I have to tell you that I had a delegation of his friends that represented all political perspectives in the province and they thought that Harry, who had been a member of the RAF (Royal Air Force), that had been a rear gunner, who had been awarded the George Medal for assisting members of his crew who were trapped in a blazing wreckage, that he needed above all else to go to the Saskatoon Veterans' Home because he had earned the right to be there.

And a lot of these friends, Mr. Speaker, were older people. And as you know, in the province of Saskatchewan we have this assessment process that people need to go through. Well I was pleased when Harry went through the assessment process and was in a state where he needed to go to the nursing home, and in fact that's where Harry spent the last bit of time of his life.

As the member from Greystone said, Harry was a bit of an impatient person and he wanted progress to be made and made quickly. And he wasn't at all afraid to share his opinions and he did share his opinions with those of us who he thought could make a difference in the lives of the citizens in our province.

I think Harry was extremely pleased that his four sons were contributing members of Saskatchewan. And I think he was particularly pleased that his son, Dale Link, who was a teacher up until his recent retirement in Melfort, was the Chair of the North Central Health District, contributing another generation's input into health care in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that when Harry's wife, Joan, passed away, Harry really did lose a great person in his life and it created a huge sadness for him. At his funeral, which I also attended, there was lots of references to his wife and how Harry missed her and how Harry would now be able to be with her.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to just say something about Harry's friends. Oftentimes in political life we have . . . we come to know people in politics and we have political friends. Well Harry had lifelong friends. Friends that he knew from his days in the Beechy area, the Rosetown area, friends that he knew in real estate, friends that he knew through farming,

friends who he knew through the CCF, friends who he got to know through other political parties. And his friends were his inspiration and his entertainment, and he had very, very good friends who loved him very much.

So to his family and to his friends, I want to say how sorry I am that Harry's passed away, but Harry made a huge contribution to this province through his work in real estate, through his work in the CCF and later the NDP, and through his work as a member of this Legislative Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington, 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 contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Martin Pederson, who passed away on September 1, 2001, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1967 representing the constituency of Arm River for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Pederson was born on the family farm of Hawarden on December 5, 1921. He received his schooling in Sunrise, Avonlea, and Hawarden schools. While serving overseas, he met and married Kathleen (Kay) Dawson of Lancaster, England on November 3, 1943. Together they had a daughter and a son. Mr. Pederson is survived by his wife, their children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Mr. Pederson joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941. He received his pilot wings and the rank of Flying Officer, and was posted in Britain in 1942. Once there, he was assigned to the Royal Air Force 137 Typhoon Squadron with whom he would complete 92 operational missions from bases in France, Belgium, and Holland.

Mr. Pederson returned to Canada in 1945 and embarked on a variety of careers. He first took up farming near his birthplace of Hawarden. Later he owned and operated a trucking business and worked for the Bank of Montreal. And in 1968, he established his own insurance business, Pederson Insurance in Saskatoon, after selling real estate and insurance for Koysl Agencies.

In 1969 he added the Manpower and Temporary Services franchises to his insurance business. Mr. Pederson rounded out his career by acting as the chairman of the Saskatchewan Liquor Board from 1983 until 1987.

Throughout his life Mr. Pederson maintained an interest in politics. He had a lengthy affiliation with the Progressive Conservative Party and served in a variety of capacities at the local, provincial, and national levels. His involvement began with the position of president of the Saskatchewan Young Conservatives in 1950. Later he served as the

vice-president of the National Young Conservative Association and as president of the Saskatoon Progressive Conservative Association.

In October of 1958, Mr. Pederson was elected Leader of the Saskatchewan Progressive Conservative Party and he remained in that role for 10 years. A defining moment arose in April of 1964 when he was elected to this Assembly.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition and as member for Arm River I offer my sympathy and condolences to the family. I'd give a few words about the passing of a great Saskatchewan man who served as an MLA in my constituency of Arm River from '64 to '67.

Mr. Pederson was active in politics for many years, including service as leader of the provincial Tories from '58 . . . 1958 to 1968 — plus the numerous other ones that the previous member had mentioned — basically single-handedly working the Progressive Conservative Party for many, many years and giving it of great service.

Being leader of that party for 10 years, a lot of people had said that he single-handedly kept that party going through some very difficult times and should be . . . give a lot of his time and a lot of his devotion to the party.

The former MLA was born on a farm near Hawarden not very far — I'd say 20, 30 miles — from our present farm. And I also notice that he was born on the same day I was, although not the same year.

He was enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force shortly after he graduated from grade 12. And he was posted to Great Britain in 1942 and he served as a member of the Royal Air Force Typhoon Squadron where he flew 92 combat missions from the bases in England and France, Belgium and Holland. There were many instances where only good luck brought him home intact.

In a 1995 interview Mr. Pederson said:

One time I had finished my mission and one of the ground crew came over and told me there were 319 holes in my machine.

His only comment was that, well that's a bullet going in one side and coming out the other. But clearly, this man was a great Canadian veteran and patriot.

Upon his return to Canada, Mr. Pederson farmed and operated a trucking company, as well as selling real estate and insurance. All the while he was active in politics.

Indeed, he also ran federally for the Tories in '58. This remarkable business person almost single-handedly — I've mentioned before — kept the Progressive Conservative Party alive during the 1960s.

When he was elected MLA for Arm River in '64, he was the only PC to win a seat in Saskatchewan since 1929. Mr. Pederson formed a one-man caucus in opposition to the Liberal government. He showed a tremendous amount of grit and was a fiery voice in his opposition to government policy.

And I can imagine being here, with the support I've had with many members, coming in here and being only one on the opposition. That takes, I would say, a great lot of courage and great fortitude on his part trying to keep the Liberals and the party that was in power at that time in check, and plus still working in his constituency. He did a great service to the province and to his constituency at the time.

Hugh Arscott, a Saskatchewan insurance broker and political friend of Mr. Pederson, remembered him as a hardworking humorous man who was always willing to share his views with people. As Mr. Pederson I think once said if . . . one time, if we weren't protected by the game laws, we wouldn't have survived.

Former federal cabinet minister, Bill McKnight, said of Mr. Pederson:

He carried the banner. He hung in there when the party had difficulties.

Mr. Martin Pederson is survived by his wife, Kay, two children, six grandchildren, two brothers, and four sisters. And I would ask all members of this House to join me in offering tribute to this great man.

So on behalf of Her Majesty's Official Opposition and Arm River, I would offer my sympathy and condolences to the families of Mr. Martin Pederson.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Cannington 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 contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

James Ripley, who passed away on February 1, 2002, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1952 until 1956, representing the constituency of Athabasca for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Ripley was born on December 28, 1913 in Redcliffe, Alberta. He later moved with his family to Manitoba where his family settled first in Brandon and then to Winnipeg. Mr. Ripley attended elementary and secondary school there and then continued his studies at the University of Manitoba. On October 16, 1948 he married Eve Kozier. Mr. Ripley was predeceased by his wife Eve, and is survived by their two daughters.

When World War II broke out, Mr. Ripley contributed to

the war efforts by working as an aircraft engineer in an aircraft maintenance plant repairing and overhauling engines. Later in 1945, he joined the army but did not see service overseas. After the war he returned to his studies but found that his interests had turned to the wilds of the North.

He trained to become a commercial pilot and flew for Central Northern Airways out of Flin Flon. As time went on he developed a reputation as one of the province's best bush pilots. He was a man who wore many hats: he worked as a prospector, a contractor, a fur trader, and as a general merchant. He also tried his hand in mink ranching and commercial fishing. In the 1950's he purchased his own fur trading post in Sandy Bay and operated it until he retired in Flin Flon in 1975.

Faced with the isolation that is often faced in living in the North, community became even more important to Mr. Ripley. He devoted his time to a variety of community organizations such as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Canadian Legion. He was often called upon to fly the sick and injured to Flin Flon for medical treatment. And as a member of the Sandy Bay council in 1968, he fought for a winter road to be constructed from Pelican Narrows to Sandy Bay.

Mr. Ripley's love for the North was translated into his political career in 1952. In 1951 the family had moved to Island Falls in northern Saskatchewan. The following year he was elected in a general election to represent the Athabasca region that had become his home. During his time in the Assembly he advocated for the development of northern natural resources.

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

(15:45)

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to speak to the condolence motion on Mr. James Ripley on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Ripley obviously made an impact wherever he went, Mr. Speaker. He arrives at Island Falls and one year later is elected to this Assembly as the MLA for the Athabasca area after only having been in the community for one year. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, one has to assume that Mr. Ripley had a good rapport with people of the area that he was seeking to represent.

Mr. Speaker, many people may look in amazement at the fact that Mr. Ripley, even as late as 1945, wanted to join the army when he was in a career that would have declared him as essential to the war effort as an aircraft engineer in maintaining and building engines, Mr. Speaker.

But that was not unusual for the time, Mr. Speaker. People at that time believed that it was their duty, that they served King and country in defence of their beliefs and their ideals. So while we would look at it, perhaps as somewhat unusual, at that day and time, Mr. Speaker, indeed it was a general consensus that it

was everyone's duty to do their maximum in support of the war effort.

Mr. Ripley lived a life, Mr. Speaker, that I think has been portrayed many times in a rare romanticized nature dealing with the Canadian North. When you look at Mr. Ripley's history, Mr. Speaker, as a bush pilot, as a prospector, as a fur trader and trapper, Mr. Speaker, he was even an ad hoc air ambulance, flying people from the North to Flin Flon for medical services, Mr. Speaker.

I think he lived and portrayed a time that we look back on, Mr. Speaker, with a sense of romance to the building of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I think his accomplishments, both in the Assembly and throughout his whole life, is something that his family indeed, Mr. Speaker, can be very proud of.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add our words and our condolences to the families of Mr. James Ripley.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my honour to rise today and speak to the condolence motion of Mr. James Ripley.

As a member for Athabasca it gives me extreme pleasure to stand here today and to express sympathy to the family, and to thank his family and his friends and his community for his fine service to the constituency of Athabasca.

And although I did not know Mr. Ripley, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to talk about some of the things that he certainly stood for. And to basically tell the family that his North is sincerely thankful for his service, that his North is a stronger and better North because of his work and his ethics, and certainly his North is a stronger place for many young people to be at.

And the whole issue of some of the resource industry development that he often spoke about in some of his history talks about the need to have northern people involved with some of the northern resource industry and the opportunities associated with that industry.

And I notice, Mr. Speaker, that he was involved with piloting. He was also involved in trapping, he was involved as a commercial fisherman, and these industries are very near and dear to the hearts of many northern people.

And as a tribute to him I want to express of course my sympathy to the family, but to also point out to them that some of his earlier visions, some of his earlier work is certainly prevalent in the North today. As we see that many northern communities are actively involved with forestry, many northern communities have a very solid commercial fishing industry. The trapping industry itself is certainly strengthening as we speak.

So there's no question that Mr. Ripley seen that this was a very important resource and industry for the northern people. And today we see that his vision, his work is certainly paying off, albeit decades later. It is still something that we are proceeding to work, and certainly it's something that we should admire and thank him for.

I want to point out as well to the family that during this era there's many great men that served northern Saskatchewan. And as one particular time frame in the history of Athabasca constituency, I can tell you that the travel of eight hours from my home to here is probably not much of a challenge when we look at some of the challenge that Mr. Ripley had to face to represent Athabasca.

And I believe Athabasca at that time was a larger constituency, and certainly flying in by aircraft and then driving the rest of the way by vehicle was something that was probably not uncommon to Mr. Ripley.

I would point out that there are many famous names, in the North, of bush pilots and people that have plied their trade in a great variety of fields, like Mr. Ripley. And some of the names we often hear that would be associated with Mr. Ripley is some of the names like Greening, Midget, Clark, Waite, Morris, Gran, and the list goes on of some of the people that had that adventurous spirit in the North in those days; become bush pilots, become merchants, become commercial fishermen, and so on and so forth.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's also very important that we point out that in those days of being a bush pilot, that they didn't have a lot of luxury that the pilots have today. Today of course there's very little chances taken in the air. But in those days, to be a bush pilot, you often had to hazard a lot of weather conditions that were probably not the best for flying.

And I noticed in some of his history here that he flew many patients and perhaps saved many lives of flying people into Flin Flon for medical or emergency services. And in those days, Mr. Speaker, you didn't have the option. You had to sometimes fly off in some very tough weather.

And the reason why I know this, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, is I did not know Mr. Ripley but my father was a bush pilot. And he often spoke of some of the people that were involved in this particular trade and that they had to be hardy men, otherwise they would not make it in this business.

And certainly you see that he not only represented a constituency, Mr. Ripley did, but he also was a bush pilot and a commercial fisherman and a merchant and the list goes on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I also join with my colleagues in the Assembly here, as the member for Athabasca, to stand here today and offer our sincere sympathy to the family. And again, to thank the family and friends of Mr. Ripley for his good service, his long-lasting service to his North. It is well done, Mr. Speaker.

And I can tell him today, if I would, through his family, that his work has been very consistent, it has been very hard work, has been very visionary work, and today it is paying off.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move . . . I ask leave of the House to move a motion of transmittal.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Opposition House Leader:

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

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Biggar-Rosetown on his feet?

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under Rule 46.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader is requesting leave to move a motion. I would ask the member to, at this time, give a brief explanation of the motion.

MOTION UNDER RULE 46

Disclosure of Personal and Confidential Information

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will give a brief explanation.

Yesterday, as everyone is aware, it came to light that the security and safety of Saskatchewan people were put at risk when confidential and personal information may have been released by public servants.

As well, there is concern that the same thing may have been happening with the police services in Saskatoon and Regina.

That being said and that coming to light, Mr. Speaker, and the fact that the public security and safety is at risk, I would like to move a motion, seconded by the hon. member from Rosthern. And that motion reads:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan orders the Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan to conduct a full and complete investigation into circumstances relating to the possible release of personal information by Saskatchewan public servants and/or Crown employees.

That the Assembly orders the Privacy Commissioner to review all departments, agencies, Crowns, and other government organizations to evaluate safeguards that are in place to protect the privacy of Saskatchewan residents; and, that the Privacy Commissioner table with the legislature complete report into these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the Privacy Commissioner is responsible to the legislature and to the people of Saskatchewan and it is under . . . it is for that reason under Rule 46 that I move this urging and pressing motion.

Leave not granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, with wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable weekend for all the members back home and with their families and friends, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — Pursuant to an order of this Assembly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 15:59.