

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by residents of Saskatchewan asking that a dependable highway . . . or mentioning that a dependable highway system is vital to both public safety and economic development in a given area, and that Highway 49 from Kelvington to Highway 35 is in urgent need of construction and repair and without it the future economic development in the area will be hindered. The prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Kelvington and the surrounding areas.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from the community of Kelvington.

And I'm very pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of people from my constituency who are concerned about education tax.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly urge the provincial government to take all possible action to cause the reduction in the education tax burden carried by Saskatchewan residents and employers.

The people that have signed this are from Wadena, Fosston, and Rose Valley.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning on behalf of citizens of Moose Jaw and area concerned about the lack of dialysis services. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause government to take necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

Signatures on this petition this morning, Mr. Speaker, are all from the community of Moose Jaw and I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government's reluctance to renew Crown grazing leases continues to provoke concern in the area of Cypress Hills, and I have a petition on behalf of constituents from the communities of Cabri and Hazlet. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the deplorable and unbelievable lack of a hemodialysis unit in the city of Moose Jaw. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

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

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. Members, I'm finding over the last week that there have been far too many across the aisle here conversations going on during the time of members' statements of petitions. And I find it rather distracting and very, more than that, probably disrespectful to the words that are being said and the efforts of the people that have put down the petitions. And I would ask members to tone it down and stop the comments across that override, that would override any petition or any member's statement that's being made.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This petition is signed by individuals all from the city of Moose Jaw.

I so present.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have a petition with producers who are very, very concerned about the premium rate hike of their crop insurance. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Sask Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the community of Rabbit Lake.

I so present.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of mine who have deep concerns regarding the condition of Highway 47 between Estevan and the Boundary dam resort. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by residents of Estevan, Frobisher, and Bienfait.

I so present. Thank you.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again with a petition from residents of southern Saskatchewan that are concerned about the huge area that does not have access to adequate health care. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the proper steps to cause adequate medical services, including a physician, be provided in Rockglen and to cause the Five Hills Health Region to provide better information to the citizens of Rockglen.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good folks of Rockglen.

I so present.

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of west central Saskatchewan concerned about the state of health care. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure the current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of west central Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Kindersley and Netherhill.

I so present.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here with citizens opposed to possible reduction of services to the Davidson and Craik health centres.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Davidson and Craik health centres be maintained at its current level of service at minimum, with 24-hour acute care, emergency, and doctor services available as well as lab services, public health, home care, and long-term care services available to users from the Craik and Davidson area and beyond.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of the Davidson.

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 with the 2003 premium increases to crop insurance. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Saskatchewan Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

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

The signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Rabbit Lake, Spiritwood, St. Walburg, and Marsden.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 12, 18, 27, 35, 36, and no. 90.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 45 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: during the month of November 2002, how many calls were received on the Government of Saskatchewan's the Future is Wide Open toll-free line; that's 1-866-SASK-HAS.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of other questions that I am also putting forward regarding the Future is Wide Open campaign.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 45 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Culture, Youth and Recreation: for this current fiscal year, how many pledge drives or other fundraising targeted activities has Saskatchewan Communications Network held; how many more are scheduled; and further to that, what is the total amount collected to date from these activities; and how much of that came from public donations; and how much came from corporate donations?

And, Mr. Speaker, also:

To the minister responsible for Culture, Youth and Recreation: for the fiscal year 2002-2003, how many

pledge drives or other targeted fundraising activities did Saskatchewan Communications Network hold; and further to that, what is the total amount collected; and how much of that was from public donations; and how much was from corporate donations?

And, Mr. Speaker, I'll also ask the same question for each fiscal year dating back to and including 1991 and 1992. Thank you.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 45 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: could you please outline the tendering process for the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation for the sound stage for the year 1998; and who was awarded the contract?

Mr. Speaker, I've similar questions for all the years up and including 2003.

I so present.

Mr. Lorenz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 45 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Environment: for the fiscal year 2001-2002, how many SARCAN depots were forced to reduce their hours of operation; and in what communities; and further to that, were there any SARCAN depots that closed; and if so, in what communities?

I also ask the same question for the fiscal year of 2002 and 2003.

I also ask the question:

To the Minister of Environment: for the fiscal year of 2001-2002, did SARCAN implement any new programs of services; and if so, how many; what kind of programs and services; what communities were affected; and what were the implementation costs of these programs?

And also for the fiscal year of 2002-2003.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce guests in the east gallery. We have with us today Leona, Carla, Krystal, and Tyrrell Kwiatkowski.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, they are very close to the Saskatchewan Party caucus. We consider them a part of our family. They are very important to us and we're glad to see them here. I know they also very much appreciated some of the tributes made on both sides of the House a few weeks ago in regards to the passing of Carl Kwiatkowski.

So I would like to ask all members of the legislature to show their appreciation to the Kwiatkowski family by welcoming them to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't sure if I could be here as soon as the House opened today because of another appointment. But I couldn't pass up the opportunity to introduce in the east gallery a fabulous group of students from the community of Allan, and they're accompanied with their teacher, Noel Roche, and Theresa Field. And I met with them earlier and they had lots of questions, and I wish they have a great day and enjoy the proceedings that they're able to watch.

So would everyone please join me in welcoming the students from Allan to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, and all members, if you want to get your toe tapping and your fingers feel like popping and if you have the desire to hum along with some great singing, then as usual, Moose Jaw has the answer for you.

Starting today and through Saturday, the 54th annual Kinsmen International Band and Choral Festival will be taking place at several venues in the band city. Forty-three bands and 20 choirs from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta will perform for renowned clinicians, for each other, and for the public.

This aspect of the festival is not mentioned often enough, Mr. Speaker, but one reason it is so successful and unique is that the students compete not against each other, but against the ideal of musical perfection. A clinician listens to each group and encourages them, rather than ranking them. If I may say so, this is a particular Saskatchewan virtue which we are proud to encourage.

Mr. Speaker, during the day, the performances are open and free to the public. Special performances tonight and tomorrow are only \$5 — and well worth the price. Tonight's featured group is the Swift Current Comprehensive Wind Ensemble, and tomorrow it's the University of Regina Percussion Ensemble. And Saturday all day is, quote, Mr. Speaker, "Moosic Day" — that's spelled m-o-o-s-i-c — it's Moosic Day in Crescent Park at the bandshell, as bands and choirs perform free to the public.

It's just one more reason to come to Saskatchewan's tourist mecca, Mr. Speaker. See you this weekend in Moose Jaw.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Achievements of Young Hockey Player Noted

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize this morning the achievements of a young hockey player from our area. Bud Holloway comes from the community of Wapella and has played most of his hockey and minor hockey in the Wapella-Moosomin area.

Bud is 15 years old. He played this year with Yorkton Bantam

AA Terriers out of Yorkton, and on March 31 was awarded the Clifford Bast Memorial Trophy as the most valuable player on his team.

Mr. Speaker, this year in 64 games, Bud scored 90 goals and had 98 assists. He is a 6-foot youngster and most recently was eligible for the WHL (Western Hockey League) draft. Mr. Speaker, Bud was selected 17th overall, and when you consider there are some 20,000 youngsters eligible for the draft — 243 are chosen to be drafted — 17th overall is certainly an achievement.

(10:15)

Bud was drafted by the Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL. Mr. Speaker, he will be joining another young player who's currently playing with the Seattle Thunderbirds — Brooks Laich from Wawota.

Mr. Speaker, I think this morning it would be certainly appropriate just to acknowledge the work and the effort, the hard work, the skating ability of this young hockey player, and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Regina Highland Games

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sights and sounds of Scotland are coming to Regina once again. This coming Sunday at the Douglas Park track grounds the Regina Highland Festival Association will be presenting the Regina Highland Games.

The Highland Games are an enormous community event that features non-stop programming throughout the day and evening.

There are children's activities, heritage and vendor booths, a pipe band competition, a highland dance contest, and a heavy events strongman contest that will include the hammer throw and that most interesting of all strongman events, the caber toss — a caber toss essentially being a telephone pole that the contestants pick up and throw.

This year there will also be an area of the grounds dedicated to celebrating the rich heritage of Celtic cultures where free workshops for Irish dancing, storytelling, and Celtic artwork will be staged.

In the evening there will be a massive Scottish celebration called a ceilidh. This will feature live music and dance performances and a high-energy Celtic band.

Mr. Speaker, competitors and participants travel from all across the Prairies to meet in Regina for this gathering and annual attendance is well over 3,000 people.

I want to wish all the competitors, organizers, and participants the best for this weekend. I'm sure a great Gaelic time will be had by all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Benefit Concert for Estevan's Craig Family

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tonight at the Estevan Comprehensive School at 8 p.m. there will be a benefit concert for the Craig family of Estevan. The Craigs lost their home last November in a fire, their daughter has been diagnosed with diabetes, and a couple of months ago their three-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, we all realize that with the time taken off work by the parents, travel and accommodations expenses can be a financial strain. So this great community is doing what it can to help. The Estevan Comprehensive School has donated its cafeteria; some chairs have been hauled out so people can dance to the music of polka great, Walter Ostenak and the Saskatchewan Western Senators.

I encourage all people in the city of Estevan and surrounding area who are known for their generosity to support this most worthwhile cause. Hats off to the Estevan Comprehensive School teacher, Aaron Sklar, who within one week organized this event.

Mr. Speaker, I must add that Bruce and Monique Craig were blessed with a new baby born just a few days ago, Mr. Speaker.

But we hope for a great turnout tonight at the Estevan Comprehensive School cafeteria at 8 o'clock. And I ask all members to join me in wishing the Craigs the best. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ag-West Biotech Bioscience Awards

Ms. Jones: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been 50 years since scientists discovered the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) double helix that carries the genetic codes of living organisms and so opened up new avenues of scientific inquiry.

To mark the anniversary of that discovery, Ag-West Biotech Inc., the corporation mandated to support and promote the biotech cluster in Saskatchewan, has given out its own bioscience awards.

Mr. Speaker, Wilf Keller, research director for the Plant Biology Institute of the National Research Council, was recognized with a Bioscience Award in the lifetime achievement category.

Lisa Jategaonkar, the information officer at the Plant Biology Institute, was recognized for her achievements in communications and public awareness.

And, Mr. Speaker, John Cross, co-founder, president, and Chair of Philom Bios incorporated, received the Entrepreneurial Leadership and Vision Award. Since its inception in 1980, Philom Bios has become an industry leader in the development and manufacturing of inoculants used in the pulse industry.

The award for outstanding scientific achievement for a scientist still in the early part of their career went to Andrew Van Kessel, an associate professor in the University of Saskatchewan's department of poultry and animal science.

I ask all the members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating all the recipients of the bioscience awards on their achievement.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Juno Beach Memorial

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 6 the Canadian World War II memorial to the soldiers who participated in the D-Day landing will be unveiled at Juno Beach.

The memorial is long overdue. After World War I, the Vimy memorial was begun within 10 years and opened in 1936. It has taken nearly 60 years for a Canadian war memorial to be built in Europe.

So far seven provinces have contributed to the costs of the memorial. It is embarrassing that Saskatchewan has refused to participate. Mr. Speaker, Nova Scotia is a partner in the memorial for a contribution of only \$25,000.

Juno Beach was where the Canadian troops first landed. The Regina Rifles were among the first to land. All Canadians will celebrate the unveiling of the Juno Beach memorial on June 6. It will be a shame if Saskatchewan residents are not able to fully participate in this significant event because our government refused even a token contribution.

I ask the government to review their priorities and contribute to the Juno Beach Canadian war memorial on behalf of the grateful people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's economy is on a roll and a big reason for that is exports. Mr. Speaker, domestic and international exports currently account for nearly 70 per cent of Saskatchewan's GDP (gross domestic product). Today, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words about STEP, the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership.

Mr. Speaker, STEP was formed in 1996 as a joint venture between Saskatchewan industry and government to help develop the exporting sector of the economy. It is an initiative that has been especially helpful for smaller companies who otherwise may have lacked the resources to break into export markets.

Mr. Speaker, as of 2003, STEP has 273 members, of whom 45 per cent are located outside of Regina and Saskatoon and are providing jobs and opportunities in the rural areas of the province. STEP members are engaged in business areas as diverse as agriculture, manufacturing, and education. And, Mr. Speaker, last year they generated something in the neighbourhood of \$3 billion towards the GDP.

Here is an example of one initiative. STEP members worked

with partners in Ukraine to help them develop expertise in beef and forage production. Saskatchewan companies were able to develop linkages resulting in sales of agricultural equipment to Ukraine at an estimated value of over \$10 million. In addition, over \$200,000 were generated in the services area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate STEP members for their hard work, confidence, and initiative. It's thanks to people like them that the future of this province is indeed wide open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Juno Beach War Memorial

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've talked a bit about some foreign investments, but you know there is one investment overseas that the NDP (New Democratic Party) government should be making and that's in the Juno Beach Centre war memorial on the Normandy coast of France.

Mr. Speaker, the Juno Beach Centre is being built to honour the tremendous contribution that Canadians made in the Second World War to the liberation of Europe and the protection of freedom and democracy all over the world. Seven provinces have contributed to the Juno Beach Centre, some as much as \$1 million. However, the Saskatchewan government has given nothing. They say that this memorial and all that it stands for is not a priority.

Mr. Speaker, will the government change its position and contribute to the construction of the Juno Beach Centre?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm to the member opposite that we will be funding the Juno Beach War II memorial at the same level as Nova Scotia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Out-of-Province Investments

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation. This morning the *Leader-Post* is reporting that executives at Saskatchewan's 10 largest Crown corporations spent \$806,000 on out-of-province travel in the last year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's not unreasonable for senior Crown corporation executives to travel out of province on business. But taxpayers deserve to know what the return on investment has been for this out-of-province travel. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that return is zero — not one red cent of profit on any out-of-province equity investments that the NDP made in the last year. In fact it's even worse than that.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that the NDP has lost money on every single out-of-province equity investment the government has made since 1995?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the members from the Sask Party should know what the return on investment is, Mr. Speaker. It's 9,000 jobs here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; it is partnering with 600 different companies here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; it is buying goods and services from 12,000 businesses here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is returning to the people of Saskatchewan a dividend of \$300 million last year alone, Mr. Speaker, just to provide good service here in our province, Mr. Speaker. It is retaining head offices here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I could go on and on about what the return on investment is for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I guess the minister didn't hear the question because it was about out-of-province investments. The minister knows full well that the NDP has lost taxpayers' money on every single out-of-province equity investment the government has made since 1995. And during that time every single dime of profit earned by Saskatchewan's Crown corporations have been earned providing services in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister admit that every single dime of profit that the Crown corporations have made last year was made in Saskatchewan, and every single out-of-province equity investment has been a multi-million-dollar loser?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer to that question is absolutely no. The Sask Party opposite were actually handing out documents in the rotunda the other day that in fact proves that they are wrong, which is a bit ironic, Mr. Speaker.

The net — the net to the people of Saskatchewan of out-of-province investments from SaskTel alone, Mr. Speaker — is in excess of \$95 million, Mr. Speaker. The net profit, the net benefit to the people of Saskatchewan, in excess of \$95 million, Mr. Speaker. And that money is returned to improve and better services here in our province, here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister raised SaskTel because SaskTel executives spent \$254,000 on out-of-province travel. But every single one of SaskTel's six out-of-province equity investments is losing millions of dollars. Retx in Atlanta, Georgia lost 14.5 million. Navigata in Vancouver lost 13.5 million. Persona Inc. in Newfoundland lost 9.4 million. Craig Wireless International lost 10 million. Tappedinto.com in Nashville lost 2.4 million. And the grand winner, Austar Communications in Australia, was written down by a whopping \$40 million.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that SaskTel's six

current out-of-province equity investments have lost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan a grand total of \$89 million?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well again I will remind the members that SaskTel has provided, first of all, amongst the lowest cost service in the province and the highest quality, Mr. Speaker. And it has provided, Mr. Speaker, it has provided services in all parts of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And while the member from the Sask Party opposite is talking, Mr. Speaker, let me make some comparisons. Let me compare, as an example, Mr. Speaker, what our Crown president for SaskTel gets in remuneration as compared to a fairly comparable MTS (Manitoba Telecom Services), Mr. Speaker, a company in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. The CEO (chief executive officer) from, the president of MTS, Mr. Speaker, makes in excess of four times what our president makes, Mr. Speaker — in excess of four times.

(10:30)

And arguably SaskTel would have probably the strongest telephone company in all of Canada right now, Mr. Speaker, in all of Canada. Rather than criticize we should be proud of what we're doing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might be interesting to note that the president of MTS is in a province that's growing, Mr. Speaker, not in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP doesn't like to talk about its dismal record of out-of-province equity investments at SaskTel. So maybe the minister would tell us about the NDP's return on investment from out-of-province investments at SaskEnergy.

SaskEnergy senior officials spent \$256,000 on out-of-province travel last year. But according to SaskEnergy's 2002 annual report, its out-of-province equity investments in Chile and Mexico have lost \$5.1 million.

SGI's (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) senior executives spent \$62,000 in out-of-province travel last year. And SGI's investment in Coachman Insurance in Ontario lost 17 million.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's Crown corporations are losing money everywhere but in Saskatchewan. Why does the NDP insist on squandering those profits made in Saskatchewan by blowing millions of dollars in high-risk business ventures around the world?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the member opposite says that MTS is in a province that's growing, Mr. Speaker. You're darn rights it's in a province that's growing. And in case people don't know, Mr. Speaker, that's another New Democratic government that runs that province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, and you know what — you know what? The irony of it is, do you know what the opposition are saying in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker? The opposition in Manitoba, during this election campaign, are criticizing the New Democratic government because, Mr. Speaker — and listen to this — because they are not offering as low a tax rate and benefits as the Saskatchewan New Democrats are, Mr. Speaker.

Isn't that interesting? Their cousins are critical of New Democrats in Manitoba because they're not offering as good a rate on services and on taxes as Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, get on with it, get on board, work with us, support our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. Don't on a daily basis stand here and criticize them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan would like to work. They'd like to work in Saskatchewan, with Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, not run around the world. But the NDP doesn't want to talk about their . . .

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP doesn't want to talk about their multi-million-dollar, out-of-province business gambles that are losing millions of taxpayers' dollars. Isn't it time, Mr. Speaker, that the taxpayers of Saskatchewan stopped subsidizing the NDP's foreign adventures and high-risk equity investments around the world?

Last year our Crown corporation executives spent over \$800,000 in out-of-province travel, but the return on that investment for Saskatchewan taxpayers was more than \$100 million of business losses — losses, Mr. Speaker. How much more taxpayers' money is this NDP government going to blow on high-risk business adventures in places like Atlanta, Nashville, Australia, or Ontario before they admit that their . . . the NDP's out-of-province business record is a dismal multi-million-dollar failure?

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well again I'm going to remind the member, first of all, that by their own admission, Mr. Speaker, the documents that they handed around, the net — the net, Mr. Speaker — profit and benefit to the people of Saskatchewan was in excess of \$95 million. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, into the future that number will grow to benefit people so that they get even improved services here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, it is a bit ironic coming from that Sask Party that when in the 1980s when the president of SaskPower at that time, Mr. Speaker, made something in excess of \$400,000, made something in excess of \$400,000, and that doesn't include travel.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we could eliminate all the travel of our CEO, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, would still be . . . would still benefit to an excess of \$100,000, if you consider what was paid when they were in charge of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Sex Offender Registry

Ms. Julé: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in light of the tragic murder of Holly Jones, a 10-year-old girl in Toronto, both Ontario's Public Safety minister and the Toronto police chief reiterated the immediate need for a national system to track known sex offenders. The federal government has been proceeding but it is a frustratingly slow process.

And so, Mr. Speaker, other provinces have taken a leadership role and taken steps to protect their citizens, but as usual Saskatchewan has done nothing. Despite our Premier's statement in the 2001 Western Premiers' Conference that if the federal government doesn't act, then the provinces should move forward on their own, Saskatchewan has done nothing in two years.

Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP government compromising the safety of Saskatchewan people and particularly our children by its inaction in setting up a provincial sex offender database?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this area has been of concern to our government for a long time, and we have worked, we have worked very carefully with our colleagues across the country.

The federal government introduced legislation to set up a national system last December. Our officials are working together with the federal people on setting this process up. We're doing that so that we can have a system that covers the whole country. We think that's the best way to do it, in a careful, reasoned fashion. And that's what we're going to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister claims that this province is working on the national sex offender registry. I happen to have talked to the Solicitor General in another province. The solicitor generals met and say that Saskatchewan is sitting on their hands doing nothing.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the federal government's progress toward the development . . .

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

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only is the federal government's progress towards the development of this national sex offender registry way too slow but there are some serious flaws in the registry legislation that have presented.

And the greatest of those flaws is the fact that the registry will not be retroactive, which means that people who have committed and been convicted of a sexual offence in Canada prior to the registry being put in place will not be listed in the database. They will have to reoffend to be included in the

registry.

Predators like Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka will not be included as it stands now. Mr. Speaker, that is an inexcusable and a very blatant flaw in the federal plans for a national sex offender registry.

Mr. Speaker, why is our minister in Saskatchewan, what is he doing here to lobby the federal government to change their proposed legislation to ensure that it's retroactive so that all known sex offenders in Canada are included in the national sex offender registry at the time of its inception?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to answer that question. In November last fall, the solicitors generals met as basically the ministers of Justice to discuss this legislation. It was then brought forward by the federal government on December 11, 2002. The Bill received second reading on February 21, 2003, was referred to committee.

A number of these issues that the member opposite has raised are being discussed in committee and they're trying to sort out how to deal with some of these things. We have to work within the Charter of the Constitution of Canada as we develop this. Our RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) officers, our Saskatchewan Association of Police Chiefs, together with Justice officials, are all part of this ongoing discussion.

We need to have a system that works for the whole country and works for and protects individual people in our province and in every province. We have to do that together.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Julé: — We do have to do this together.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the delays by the federal government in establishing the national sex offender registry and the serious flaws in their legislation, there have been several other provinces that have taken decisive action and been proactive in establishing their own databases of known sex offenders in order to assist the provincial police forces and to protect their citizens. Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba have all established their own databases and Web sites of convicted offenders who may pose a risk to people's safety.

The NDP government in Manitoba launched their site just last month. Pictures and descriptions of offenders who are considered to be at high risk to reoffend are on the site, which can be used by Manitoba residents and by Manitoba police services as a public awareness tool.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of protecting Saskatchewan citizens and especially our children from known sex offenders, will the minister commit today to follow the lead of those other provinces and establish a sex offender database or public Web site in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, what we need in this country

is a national registry and we're going to work towards that.

What we have in our own province is a legislation which actually protects police forces and police officers if they wish to provide information. That's something that we introduced — the first place in Canada to do that — a number of years ago. So some of the kinds of protections that are there around providing information, we have a system and a committee that works with the police forces in Saskatchewan.

I think it's very important that we make sure we have a system where it covers the whole country because people are mobile — they move from place to place — and we need to work together and we're going to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Call for Election

Mr. Hillson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier says his chances in the next election are excellent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hillson: — He says the polls are sky high. He says the polls are great. In fact things are so good he can just hardly wait to get at it. For two years now he's had to restrain himself from calling an election.

The member for Nutana says there's going to be a rumble in the jungle. Well I predict somebody is going to get gored in Battleford.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hillson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier is this: if he's really so confident, if the polls are really so great, why doesn't he just call the election and make my day?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier will call the election in due time. And the member from North Battleford should prepare himself for an election. Clearly, clearly when the member from North Battleford looks at the polling, he will see that in and across the province today we are in a dead heat for sure across the province, Mr. Speaker.

And the other thing, Mr. Speaker, that the polls will say . . . And I hear, Mr. Speaker, I hear, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition for the Saskatchewan Party chirping from his seat. And it'll be real wonderful, Mr. Speaker, when we get into the election campaign.

And I know that he too, the Leader of the Opposition, is wanting an election in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Because the Leader of the Opposition and the member from North Battleford were both . . . After the next election, Mr. Speaker, one will go back to his law firm; the other one will go back to the farm, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SaskPower Policy on Firefighting Expenses

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, last summer SaskPower equipment was responsible for starting two fires in the Outlook area, fires that the Outlook fire department responded to and put out.

Well last week I asked the minister if SaskPower would pay the firefighting costs. And what was the first thing the minister said was no. But then he said he would have SaskPower review the matter and see if they could compensate the town of Outlook.

(10:45)

Well, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan). Has SaskPower reconsidered their position? Will they reimburse the town of Outlook for firefighting costs incurred while putting out fires started by SaskPower equipment?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I committed to the member from Arm River that I would have SaskPower review that case again. That is happening. I'm expecting a response very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Call for Election

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm tired of sitting here by myself, and the time, the time is ripe for a huge Liberal revival.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is still wandering around the world looking for places to lose money. Hopefully they'll find some Club Med resort that will agree to serve black french fries with the sundowners.

The Sask Party has Schmidt on its hands. I don't know how they expect to run the province when they can't see the forest for the trees.

Will the Premier call an election so that instead of singing solo, I'll have a whole Liberal chorus here?

Mr. Speaker, if the people of Saskatchewan elect 10 Liberals, we'll turn this House upside down. If they elect 40 Liberals, we'll turn this province right side up.

I don't blame the Premier for being scared of the Liberals but will he screw up his courage and call the election?

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, having listened to the member from Battleford through his comments that he made in calling for the election, it is clear that he will have a new career after the next election. He can be a stand-up comedian, Mr. Speaker, and work across Saskatchewan.

But the member from North Battleford should keep his powder dry because the Premier is considering over the weekend about having an election in Saskatchewan.

And the member from North Battleford can start to pull out his law texts and his law books and begin to refresh his mind, refresh himself again on his requirement to go back to his law career, Mr. Speaker, because in North Battleford we have an excellent candidate in Mr. Taylor who understands not only, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan scene, Mr. Speaker, but also understands the federal scene and will be able to deliver for Saskatchewan a far larger chunk of resources for our province from the national government than the member from North Battleford has who's been sitting here as a Liberal now for the last several years.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, there'll be a gore all right in North Battleford, and there'll be the gore of the member from North Battleford when it's done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hillson: — Mr. Speaker, to call or not to call, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or to take arms against a sea of troubles. That's what the Premier's got to decide.

If the circumstances are as favourable as the Deputy Premier says, what's holding them back? Why doesn't he get off the fence? It must be getting awful sore.

I say to the Premier, if you're so tempted to go, why don't you go? Are you going to call the election this year, or will it be up to the Lieutenant Governor to call the election next year?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, the member from North Battleford, as I said earlier, should stay tuned because he'll hear soon enough about the next election. And the member from North Battleford will not want the next election to be over in a hurry for him, Mr. Speaker, because he won't be sitting in that chair when it's finished.

And nor, Mr. Speaker, will the member from the Saskatchewan Party be here, because I say this, Mr. Speaker. They have not called in the last couple of weeks, the Saskatchewan Party, for an election, Mr. Speaker.

Why is it that they haven't called for an election, Mr. Speaker? Because when they look at what's happening in their polls, Mr. Speaker, on quality of life issues, on health and education and highways and environment, they're dropping like a rock, Mr. Speaker.

And they haven't asked about an election, Mr. Speaker, because when they look at the polling on the individual, leader to leader, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition from the Saskatchewan Party trailing by over . . . by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, is what's happening, Mr. Speaker.

And he's got the problem that the member from North Battleford talks about. He's got the Schmidt problem, and he's got the investment problem. And when the next election comes, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House you'll see a government return a larger majority and they'll be gone back to their old professions, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member . . .

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

Mr. McMorris: — For a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Would the member state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I raised the point of order regarding letters that were quoted from by the minister. The minister quoted from two different letters. The Minister of Agriculture quoted from two different letters. He has since tabled one letter but has failed to table the second letter.

And right in *Hansard*, page 1051, it states that:

I have a letter here, Mr. Speaker, . . . (the letter is) written . . . by Mr. Peters. And he says . . .

That's a direct quote, "he says," he's not paraphrasing. And he goes on to quote the letter talking about the potato industry and how he wants to grow 400 acres. It's a direct quote from a letter that I had asked for that letter to be tabled. You've already ruled on it, said that it should be tabled. In fact, the minister himself has stated that he would be glad to table the letters — not letter. And that's all we've received so far is one letter.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, when I, when I said to the House, Mr. Speaker, and to the member opposite that I would table my letters, I made reference, Mr. Speaker, to the letters of which I was referring to.

I quoted from, Mr. Speaker, from the letter from Ms. Buhr, and that letter I had expected would have been tabled on Tuesday when I said I would table it. What I did with the letter, Mr. Speaker, is sent it to the *Hansard* and expected that it would make its way into the House. It did not make its way into the House, Mr. Speaker. And I apologize for it not making it into the House because it was a procedural process that I should have known and it did not occur, Mr. Speaker. So we held that letter for an additional day. It should have been here yesterday to the House and to the members as they'd requested.

The second letter that I made reference to, Mr. Speaker, I did not quote from the letter, Mr. Speaker, I made reference to the letter.

And I made reference, Mr. Speaker, to a third letter, Mr. Speaker. I made reference to a third letter, Mr. Speaker, of which I said I had in possession.

And I said that on the onset I had three letters of which I was making reference to. The one I quoted from, Mr. Speaker, and in *Beauchesne's* . . . The member from Indian Head-Milestone is correct . . . (inaudible) . . . quoted from it. From those letters from which I quote, I should provide them to the House and have. And would have done that yesterday had it not been for

the procedures of not having tabled it and my staff had sent it to *Hansard* as opposed to it coming here, Mr. Speaker.

So I've tabled the letter, Mr. Speaker, of which I made reference to and read from in quote.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, I made reference. And I made reference, Mr. Speaker, not only to the letter from Mr. Peters but I also made reference, Mr. Speaker, to another letter that I have from the, from the environment crop development fund, Mr. Speaker. And I also made reference, Mr. Speaker, and I also made reference, Mr. Speaker, also made reference to a meeting that I had in, that I had in Outlook . . .

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

Members, this is not an item of debate at this stage nor is it an item for some other type of unruly discussion. I'm trying to entertain a point of order and I ask the member to complete his point.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, when I was making reference to my knowledge of the potato industry in the Outlook area I made reference, Mr. Speaker, in my comments, to the letter that I had that I did not table and that I did not read from, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible) . . . Mr. Peters. I made reference from the irrigation crop development letter that I have, Mr. Speaker, that I did not make . . . that I made reference to and did not quote from, Mr. Speaker. And I made reference, Mr. Speaker, from a meeting that I had in Outlook with individuals from that area who are community leaders and innovators and developers. And I made reference, Mr. Speaker, in my comments, to them as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've tabled the letter of which I quoted from, and *Beauchesne's* clearly states that I should, should table those letters. And I have in fact tabled that letter, Mr. Speaker, as was requested by the leader . . . by the member from Milestone.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — On the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Point of order. Would the member state his point.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on page 1050 of *Hansard* to . . . in relationship to the issue at hand, the Deputy Premier said:

. . . Mr. Speaker, I have here a letter here from Lindylou Buhr who is a potato producer in that area, Mr. Speaker, and she writes . . . She said:

And then he provided the quote. And that is the letter that the opposition has received. But he went on to say, Mr. Speaker:

I have a letter here, Mr. Speaker, that's written to me by Mr. Peters. And he says, Mr. Peters says:

And then he quotes him. Mr. Speaker. That letter has not been

supplied by the Deputy Premier.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Moose Jaw North on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, to the point of order as well.

The Speaker: — Same point of order?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Same point of order. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the Minister of Agriculture make reference to the context with which he presented his response in the House two days ago. He made reference to a particular letter and provided a quote and has tabled that letter.

Mr. Speaker, I note when I listened to the very words that the House Leader from the Sask Party just referred to, you'll note, Mr. Speaker, he did not use the phrase, I quote.

We've heard the, we've heard the . . . Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. We have heard the explanation of the Minister of Agriculture who has said that he was paraphrasing. You will recall as well, Mr. Speaker, in making ruling that the context is also to be considered and you will recall, Mr. Speaker, I suspect . . . Mr. Speaker, if I can have the order of the House, please.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically note that — and the tapes, the tapes of the Legislative Assembly will show this — that when the Minister of Agriculture was making reference to the communication from another person, he was looking directly at you, did not look at the paper, was not providing a direct quote, and provides, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to review the record. Part of the record is the tape record, Mr. Speaker, which I think will . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Order. Would the member complete his statement.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I suggest that as part of the review of the record, that the tape available will assist you in determining that, as a matter of fact, the Minister of Agriculture was not providing a direct quote because he was not referring to a piece of paper; he was looking directly at you when he was making his remarks.

And the evidence is available, Mr. Speaker, to point out that the Minister of Agriculture was paraphrasing. Under the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker, clearly the minister has followed the rules of the House and I would ask that you would find the point of order out of order.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — On the same point of order. Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the suggestion was made by the Deputy House Leader of the government that he review the tape, I'd ask that you also look at the comment in *Hansard*, which when the member for Yorkton made reference to the leader and he said my constituency leader, he referred to obviously a direct quote

because he would not have been referring to the Leader of the Opposition as my constituency leader. He was referring to the comments made by Mr. Peters.

(11:00)

I ask, Mr. Speaker, I suggest, that you review the letter to see whether or not the direct quote matches what's in Mr. Peters's letter in making your determination.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, the issue has grown far more complicated than I had initially regarded it with some of the comments made here today. So I would just like to take some time to think about this and then bring back a ruling at a later time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions no. 267 through 278 inclusive, Mr. Speaker, in the atmosphere of being honest, open, and forthright so that the members opposite can do their job.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 267 through to 278 have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 32 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003.

This Bill is one of two omnibus Bills containing amendments to 18 different Acts. The amendments will enhance the ability of the Government of Saskatchewan to respond to the threat of terrorism. This Bill enhances our ability to react to terrorist activity and the threat of terrorist activity by building upon existing infrastructure and existing powers.

The amendments do not create a new emergency response scheme in the province, but instead expand the scope of existing legislation to apply to new kinds of threats. The objectives of this legislation are to enhance the province's ability to protect the safety of the public, protect the health of people of Saskatchewan from biohazards associated with terrorism, protect the environment, protect and control access to Crown lands and natural resources.

It also includes provisions to prevent identity fraud that may be used to further terrorist objectives, to prevent unauthorized access to information related to the investigation, detection, and prosecution of terrorist activities, to place stricter controls on private investigators and security guards, and to prevent fundraising for organizations that support terrorist groups.

The way in which the Bill accomplishes this is through amendments to existing legislation. Wherever possible a common definition of terrorist activity contained in the Criminal Code has been adopted as a triggering mechanism in the amendments. The powers granted under this Bill will be engaged when terrorist activity has occurred or where there is a credible threat of terrorist activity occurring in Saskatchewan as determined by intelligence or terrorist activity in other jurisdictions.

Amendments to The Emergency Planning Act adopt the definition of terrorist activity from the Criminal Code. In addition, the Saskatchewan emergency planning unit will be renamed the Saskatchewan emergency management organization to better align with the name of similar organizations in other jurisdictions.

Amendments to The Public Health Act are made to expand the current authority of the medical health officers over communicable diseases to deal with biohazards generally associated with terrorist activity. In addition, increased reporting requirements for those in the health care and education sector will assist in early identification and control of all kinds of health hazards.

The law regarding isolation and detention orders has also been strengthened to allow officials to better enforce orders made to prevent or control the spread of public health threats. For example, a medical health officer can make emergency isolation and detention orders of up to 48 hours duration when it's necessary to halt the eminent spread of a communicable disease or biohazard. In addition, health officers can now also enlist the assistance of peace officers to enforce such orders where an individual refuses to obey an order. The order can be extended by the Minister of Health.

Amendments to the following Acts are aimed at preventing identity fraud and protecting provincial identity documents from being used to further terrorist objectives. In particular, The Department of Health Act and Medical Care Insurance Act will be amended with respect to Saskatchewan Health cards, and The Vehicle Administration Act will be amended with respect to drivers' licences. The amendments to these Acts strengthen the ability of the province to demand further information and documents prior to issuing identity cards. Power is also given to cancel or suspend an identity card, registration, or licence.

In addition, the fines have been increased to a maximum of \$50,000 to reflect the serious nature of identity fraud and the furtherance of terrorism objectives.

Amendments are also being made to legislation to better protect our environment from the threat of terrorist activity. Amendments to The Natural Resources Act will provide the Minister of Environment with the specific ability to restrict or prevent access to, and/or order evacuation of, regulated areas under the control of the provincial Crown. In addition, the maximum fine for breaches of the Act are increased from 25,000 to 250,000.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act of 2002 is also being amended. The amendments contain broader emergency powers for the minister to prohibit or curtail

discharges of contaminants and toxins and to direct the proper handling and storage of hazardous substances — all with a view to prohibiting the use of such substances for unlawful purposes.

Similar amendments to The Clean Air Act will allow the minister to shut down facilities that are contributing to air contamination and to direct that necessary action be taken to safeguard the public and the environment from threat of airborne contaminants.

The Prairie and Forest Fire Act has also been amended to allow the minister to take preventative action and to restrict access to land where there is a threat of terrorist activities in such lands. In these cases, the minister may make emergency orders without the usual notice required under the Act. Again, maximum fines have been increased to reflect the potentially serious nature and the potentially devastating consequences that may result from a breach of the Act.

Regulation-making power is created under The Oil and Gas Conservation Act as well as The Pipelines Act to allow for regulations that will relate to threats to the security of our oil and gas installations by ordering the shutdown of facilities or such other security measures as may be necessary.

Amendments to The Dangerous Goods Transportation Act allow the minister to respond to terrorist activity or to the threat of such activity by making orders to take action to protect the health and safety of people and prevent damage to the environment. In addition, significant fines may be imposed upon anyone breaching these provisions.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act will be amended to allow the government to refuse to provide access to a record where its release would prejudice or interfere with the detection or prevention of terrorist activity. A further amendment would enable the government to share information relevant to the purposes of combating terrorism with other governments, government agencies, and certain prescribed law enforcement agencies. Similar amendments are proposed for The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act which governs municipalities.

Two additional amendments are included in the Bill. The Private Investigators and Security Guards Act will be amended to allow the registrar under the Act to refuse or cancel a licence to a licensee who has attempted to obtain access to confidential information, the disclosure of which would prejudice or interfere with the detection or prevention of terrorist activity.

A final amendment to The Charitable Fund-raising Businesses Act will provide the registrar under that Act with the ability to refuse or cancel a licence to an entity that has raised, or has demonstrated an intention to raise funds for a charitable organization that has links to terrorist organizations as identified under federal legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the effect of these amendments will not create a new regime to protect Saskatchewan from terrorist activities. The basic framework for emergency response in the province will remain unaltered.

What this legislation does do is complement the federal

Anti-Terrorism Act passed in 2001, and the Public Safety Act now before parliament. In many aspects it parallels the legislation that was passed in Manitoba and Alberta last year.

Although other provinces have not seen fit to legislate in this area, we believe that this legislation provides meaningful amendments that will strengthen and enhance our ability to respond to the threat of terrorist activity.

This is of course not the only response that the government and the people of Saskatchewan made to the events surrounding September 11, 2001.

Part of my duties are to Chair the province's cabinet committee on security, with my . . . where I am joined by my colleagues, the ministers of Justice, Health, and Government Relations. We have worked together in a number of areas to coordinate provincial responsiveness to various possible emergencies or threats.

Improvements in communications with the federal government and other governments have taken place, including a new information-sharing protocol among key provincial departments and agencies. We have quietly made significant improvements in our ability to respond to this new kind of threat.

Mr. Speaker, members will appreciate I must limit my examples today because of the sensitivity of much of the information and the security considerations involved. Many of the front-line people responsible for emergency preparedness however have been actively improving those responses, including police, fire, health, and other emergency personnel.

Although not the only response, we believe that this is a meaningful, measured, and balanced legislative response not only to terrorism but to other emergency situations that may arise.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, of 2003.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, whenever I see an omnibus Bill it makes me nervous, because an omnibus Bill in its very nature is so wide and broad and covers so many of the provincial statutes that it's difficult at times to determine just what effect it's having in all areas.

And, Mr. Speaker, security of the citizens of this province, of our institutions, of the state itself, is very important. We saw an attack of that terrorist activity on September 11 in New York City that I think is still having an impact on us all today, and this piece of legislation is an example of that kind of impact that it's having.

And so while terrorism is certainly very real around the world, we have not seen any direct evidence of terrorist activity, to our knowledge, in Saskatchewan, although there were reports right after September 11 that there may have been some connections with individuals coming to this province on potentially terrorist activities or activities that led to that terrorism, Mr. Speaker.

And so while we feel that we're a long ways away from where the terrorist activity takes place, in this world we're only a few minutes or hours away from it at best, Mr. Speaker.

And it's not just terrorist activity in the sense of someone attacking an individual or institution, but as the minister mentioned, it's also terrorism of a biological nature or of a hazard in some other form as well, Mr. Speaker.

Take a look at the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) situation that is developing around the world. We certainly need to be able to marshal our expertise and our health officials to combat that kind of a situation. And also, Mr. Speaker, to do what is necessary to provide assistance and protection to those people who, perhaps through the lack of common sense, don't recognize that they are a threat to those around them and they need to be apprehended and treated, Mr. Speaker, to resolve the issues and the health concerns that they're involved with.

But you have to ask yourself, Mr. Speaker, in these very broad security measures, what impact does that have on the individuals? Does this type of legislation dealing with terrorism and biochemical threat, health threats, will this legislation deal as well with the individual that is causing a threat to others in the community because they have a communicable disease of some form or another that potentially threatens the life of others? Will they as well be covered under the broad definition, Mr. Speaker, that this piece of legislation brings forward?

(11:15)

We also need to be careful, Mr. Speaker, that the term, terrorist activity, is not so broad as to allow governments — not just in Saskatchewan but across Canada and across the world — to use those kinds of definitions to cover up other issues, Mr. Speaker. You know you look at the situation in China where the SARS health threat was taking place and the government was not releasing that information — not only just to their own citizens but around the world — so that other jurisdictions could take the necessary steps that were needed to prevent a SARS epidemic, Mr. Speaker.

So we need to be careful in these kinds of legislation that we move as far as needed but not so far as to infringe on the basic civil liberties of the people of Canada. We have certain rights, Mr. Speaker, that are protected under the Bill of Rights and under our constitution. And while it's a delicate balancing act, we also need to be very careful that we're not stepping beyond those bounds.

So while this is a very comprehensive Bill — it deals, as the minister said, with 18 statutes — it's going to take some time to go through, Mr. Speaker, to determine exactly what impact this is going to have in all of those areas, what powers are being given to the government, what accountability and constraints remain in place to make sure that the government is moving ahead in a responsible manner, Mr. Speaker, both to protect people and to protect our rights as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I would move at this time that we adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 33 — The Miscellaneous Statutes
(Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (No. 2)/
Loi corrective (gestion de la sécurité) de 2003 (n° 2)**

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (No. 2). This is Bill 33 and it's one of two omnibus Bills containing amendments to 18 different Acts.

Two Bills were needed because of the amendments to The Change of Name Act and to The Vital Statistics Act, both of which have bilingual requirements. This Bill will also enhance the ability of the Government of Saskatchewan to respond to the threat of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that keeping Saskatchewan individuals and communities safe is a top government priority. This Bill also enhances our ability to react to terrorist activity and the threat of terrorist activity by building upon existing infrastructure and existing powers. The amendments do not create a new emergency response team in the province but instead expand the scope of the existing legislation to apply to new kinds of threats and emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 caused people everywhere to rethink security and security management. This Bill is a result of that review process in Saskatchewan. The objective of the legislation is the same as in Bill 32, namely to enhance the province's ability to protect the public and the environment. The way in which the Bill accomplishes this is through amendments to the existing legislation as well.

The amendments to these two Acts aim to prevent identity fraud. We are protecting provincial identity documents from being used for terrorist ends and purposes. The strengthened provisions allow us to obtain more information before issuing identity cards. Again, the maximum fines have been increased to \$50,000 in order to reflect the seriousness of identity fraud offences that may be linked to terrorism. These changes complement federal legislation and reinforce our commitment to keeping Saskatchewan people secure and safe.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (No. 2).

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to add a few words to the comments made by my colleague from Cannington.

This Bill is very much related to the previous Bill. Again it's a very sweeping Bill and it's changing many . . . well, 18 different Acts. And that raises some concerns that what the implications of changing that many Acts . . . Of course making it bilingual, of course, is a necessary requirement that should take place.

Again, Mr. Speaker, concerning 9/11, obviously there was security concerns that were highlighted after the 9/11 tragedy. And we as a province and a nation, working with our friends around the world, need to work together to ensure the safety of our common citizens, Mr. Speaker, but I think we have to look

at changes in legislation that may have changes to individual rights and freedoms in the province and in the country.

There's obviously a balancing act between security requirements and the rights and freedoms of the individual and that is something that we should not take lightly. And we should look at that in more depth as we, as our critic looks at this Bill and discusses this issue with the various stakeholders.

As my colleague had pointed out, there's various types of terrorism — not only the type that happened on 9/11, but bioterrorism is a serious threat, especially in our agriculture economy. There certainly is a threat to the individual far as bioterrorism and not only the other security, potential security problems with terrorism as far as bombs and those types of issues.

Mr. Speaker, it's one thing to change various Acts and legislation and bring in laws and so on and so forth, but it's another thing to have the financial resources to deal with terrorism in our society. And I believe it's very important that the government be in contact with the federal government and the federal authorities, and also the provinces, and also with our neighbours and allies around the world so that we coordinate security concerns, have it done properly so that it works well at the international border with the United States, but also works well with our trading partners around the world.

And we will definitely take a serious look at this Bill and the other Bills that are introduced today, and our critics will be asking some very serious, important questions concerning this. And at this point I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 29 — The Non-profit Corporations
Amendment Act, 2003/Loi de 2003 modifiant
la Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif**

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2003.

According to data for the year 2000 gathered by Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan has the highest percentage of volunteer participation in Canada, with 42 per cent of Saskatchewan residents aged 15 and older volunteering on an annual basis. This government recognizes the significant contributions to Saskatchewan made by people in these organizations, these volunteer organizations, and the volunteers that devote their time and energy to their operation.

The Premier has recognized the importance of the work of non-profit organizations through the establishment of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative — an initiative which seeks to build on an effective and collaborative relationship between the Government of Saskatchewan and the voluntary sector.

The Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan recently issued a report entitled report on the *Liability of Directors and Officers of Not-For-Profit Organizations*. The Law Reform Commission conducted extensive consultations with volunteer groups in the

province, and I would like to quote from their report. And I quote:

During the course of the Commission's consultation with the not-for-profit sector, we found that concern about liability is very real. While many volunteer board members are uncertain about the scope of their potential liability, almost all are uneasy about the changing climate in which they now operate, and many feared that board recruitment will become more difficult for their organizations.

This Bill seeks to amend our legislation in a manner that will address these concerns and maintain a healthy non-profit sector in the province. It does so by following the recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission in their report.

These amendments will enhance the protection from liability for directors and officers of not-for-profit corporations by providing that: (1) directors and officers of non-profit corporations will not be personally liable in any civil action for acts or omissions connected with their responsibilities to a non-profit corporation; (2) directors and officers of non-profit corporations will be covered by this immunity whether or not they receive compensation from the non-profit corporation; (3) however, the immunity will extend only to acts done in good faith and will not extend to fraud or profit taking at the expense of the non-profit corporation; fourthly, the immunity will not relieve directors and officers from certain statutory liabilities, for example unpaid tax remissions and unpaid wages pursuant to The Labour Standards Act.

Mr. Speaker, you will note that these amendments do not provide absolute immunity for directors of non-profit corporations. Directors who engage in dishonest or criminal behaviour or directors who act for personal gain will not be protected by these amendments. Furthermore, directors will remain liable under certain statutes for unpaid wages, for unpaid statutory remissions for income tax, employment insurance, and for certain kinds of environmental damage.

The people of Saskatchewan legitimately require that non-profit corporations continue to be responsible and accountable to the public. The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative seeks to ensure that the voluntary sector and the Government of Saskatchewan remain accountable for maintaining the trust and confidence of Saskatchewan residents by ensuring transparency, high standards of conduct, and sound management.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments contained in this Bill seek to strike a balance between the need for public accountability of non-profit corporations and their board members with the need to provide protection to the many individuals who devote their time and energy to perform valuable community service as board members of non-profit corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased therefore to move second reading of The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2003.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we all know and recognize the importance of our non-profit corporations in this province.

When you take a look at the non-profit corporations, they're in

every community. They facilitate every part of our social existence in this province, whether it's the rink or whether it's a group looking after FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) or whatever it may be, Mr. Speaker. We have a very, very broad range of non-profit corporations in this province.

And indeed, the people who serve as directors in these corporations need to know that there is some protection in place for them when they're carrying out their duties for those non-profit corporations. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of fear, in fact, in some of these organizations, when they participate in community activities, as to just what liability are they assuming by being a member of the board of a non-profit corporation when they partake in community functions.

And one of those that I think that each and every one of us would recognize in our own communities is when an organization is putting on some sort of a social function in which liquor is involved, because the board of directors, the person who signs that liquor permit, is assuming a great deal of liability, Mr. Speaker, and they potentially put their livelihoods at stake in doing so. And this piece of legislation, I think, may very well provide them with some comfort that if they're carrying out their duties in the proper manner, they're carrying out their duties in good faith, that they will be protected.

But I guess the real question has to come down to, then, what is the meaning of the term, good faith? If at some point in time within that corporation there's an indication that the corporation has . . . a particular activity is not recommended and the board of directors carries on with that activity, have they now breached the definition of the term, good faith?

And the minister is listening so I'm going to ask him to come forward when we get into Committee of the Whole sometime later, perhaps next month, to come forward with a definition of what he means by the term, good faith. What is the criteria for that? What would step beyond the bounds of good faith?

(11:30)

So that is one of the very areas I think that people across the province are very concerned about. If they believe that they are doing what is proper and right for their non-profit corporation, for their work in the community, what does good faith mean? Where are the lines on it? What qualifies it? And how will the courts perhaps interpret that as well, Mr. Speaker?

Therefore I would . . . To give the communities, the non-profit corporations, the directors, a chance to review this piece of legislation to determine whether or not it's what they feel they need for protection, I would move that we adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund Corrections and Public Safety Vote 73

Subvote (CP01)

The Chair: — I recognize the minister to introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be joined today by Neil Yeates, who is the deputy minister of the department. Seated behind me is Terry Lang, the ADM (assistant deputy minister) responsible for adult corrections. Next to him is Mae Boa, who is the executive director of management services.

We are also joined today by Ron Simpson, who is the director of custody for the young offenders program; and Tom Young, who is the executive director, protection and emergency services.

Additionally we are joined behind the bar by Nick Surtees, who's the executive director of licensing and inspections.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. And welcome to officials again. We're time-compressed, I gather, today. So I'll have a few questions and then I'll ask my colleague from Sask Rivers to . . . who has a few questions.

My first question, Mr. Chair, to the minister is, we're aware last time that we were up in the House on Corrections and Public Safety we were hard pressed to get answers out of the minister on a number of issues. In fact it became a debate about whether or not one can or should answer questions, as I recall, because there was very little forthcoming in the way of answers.

So my first question to the minister today, Mr. Chair, is if he can provide me with the status of the overtime costs that I'd asked in the previous session.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Well, Mr. Chairman, while I don't agree with the member's contextualization of the last time that we had an opportunity to discuss these estimates, I do nevertheless have the answers to the questions on overtime that he had posed in the committee.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I'd like to thank the minister for the overtime costs because this is quite pertinent in looking at budget and budget rebasing that I was talking about. And I'll have . . . I'll take some time to look at this and the next time we're up I'll have probably some more questions with respect to that.

My next couple of questions, Mr. Chair, deals with a recent notice that I received about a lockdown at the Regina correctional facility during Easter weekend. And I would just like to ask the minister if there was a lockdown during Easter weekend; how long the duration was, if there was a lockdown; and what precipitated the lockdown . . . Regina?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, my officials advise me that there was no lockdown over the Easter weekend at the Regina facility, or I understand, any of the adult facilities in the province — no lockdown.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. To the minister, the Saskatchewan Party has become aware — and we'd like some confirmation rather than hear what could be deemed idle gossip — would you confirm for us that on or

about March 17, through that week, if there was a disturbance at the Pine Grove correctional facility in Prince Albert, and some details surrounding that?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, I am advised that around that point there was in fact a disturbance in one unit at Pine Grove. An investigation has been undertaken. I understand they are in the process of working through the recommendations now to adapt what is necessary to make sure it doesn't occur again.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister. Would the minister be able to provide for us today any information on whether there was any damage caused to the facility because of that disturbance?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, I don't have the detailed information here but the officials advise me that the damage was largely to fixtures, including light fixtures and toilets. I can provide the members with greater detail perhaps next time we meet.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister. I wonder if you could also confirm for us, Mr. Minister, whether there was indeed a fire, a small fire or a large fire, that took place during the time of that incident, and whether outside sources were needed to be brought in to help to quell the fires?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I'm advised that the disturbance did involve some of the inmates setting fire to some items. P.A. (Prince Albert) Fire Department was involved in this as it is a procedure for us to call local fire agencies when these kind of disturbances occur. And they were called in. They participated with us and the matter was dealt with.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister. Would you also be able to confirm for us, Mr. Minister, that an individual who may have been . . . whose participatory rate in the incident may have been significantly higher than other inmates has actually been transferred to a federal facility at this time?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I'll have to check to make sure. It's our belief at this point that none of these . . . none of the individuals involved were transferred although there have been, there have been transfers to the federal facility, although it's my understanding that it does not affect individuals in this particular case.

Again, we'll check back on this and return with a more thorough answer.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. On the incident of the fires and where the Prince Albert Fire Department had to be called in to help quell the fires, is there an extra cost incurred for the department because of that?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, actually the fire department did not extinguish the fire. The fire was out by the time they had entered the facility, although they did assist in clearing smoke out of it. There was also no additional cost incurred by the department for that service.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister, was there a lockdown then in the facility that occurred because of this incident?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, there was in fact no lockdown as a result of this and programming was able to resume the next day in the facility.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister. You had referred earlier to the fact that this is under investigation for internal purposes. Will the document be made public and will that . . . Is it normal then for these documents to be presented to the House just for public information?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, it's not our practice to make public reports, particularly as they deal with security matters. In the case of the Regina situation, there was an executive summary done of the report that was provided to the unions and we've had . . . I did make that available to the members of the media.

We have not yet resolved whether we're going to make that a regular aspect of this. We can explore that issue as we look at it. Part of it depends on what . . . how much of the matters are a result of direct security issues. Obviously we do not want to make public security related matters and so we need to be careful at times with the type of information and the amount of information we provide on this.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just one final comment, Mr. Chair, to the minister. You made a good point about, you know, raising concerns about public safety issues. And maybe as a point to the minister and to his officials, is that in the incident such as at Pine Grove where the incident appears to have been dealt with rather quickly and efficiently, I think it would also be in the public interest if an executive summary could be provided to the media to help them understand that there is sound security measures being taken at all the correctional facilities in the province. And so that if there's a perception of good security, it can be supported by good executive summaries brought forward by these investigations.

So, Mr. Minister, I just wanted to make you aware of that type of thinking that's going on in the province. People want to know that our facilities are safe. You're indicating to him I think a quick executive summary of successful incidences such as that where things can go wrong, and how quickly they can be dealt with by the staff — and effectively — that not only is there an appearance of concern for public safety, but it actually goes a step beyond that and people become completely aware that their concerns in the surrounding neighbourhoods are fully realized by the staff at these facilities.

(11:45)

And so, Mr. Minister, I just want to toss that to you. And I certainly on behalf, thank your officials for coming out today.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the member for his questions. Let me say that I generally agree with the assertion that he puts forward that both . . . there's a public interest in a number of these issues. And also that it, I think, it's helpful for us where we can increase the transparency

of what is happening in these kinds of incidents, through the release of non-sensitive information, that we should endeavour to do so. I think it's good both in terms of the union management relationship but also, as the member points out, in terms of public interest. This is an issue that we are . . . we have had under some active discussion. We'll see how it works. But generally I agree with what the member is advocating.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, you mentioned that there's an executive summary of the report. And I missed the preamble. Is that from the escape from the Regina Correctional institute? And if so, would it be possible to receive a copy of that? If the media have it, I haven't seen it published in the media. But I would like to receive a copy of that executive summary.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, I have a copy here that I can certainly send over to the member. This is the complete copy. The copy that was released to the media did not contain the names of the investigators. But I can certainly share that with the member.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I'd like to thank the minister for that. Just a couple of questions on the overtime costs now that I've received this. And this is just a quick look at the budgeted and actual overtime costs.

And when we look at the totals, it kind of jumps out at one. When you look at 2001-2002, budgeted was 1.5 and a bit and actual was 2.1 and some, give or take \$500,000 in overtime costs, which is a fairly substantial amount.

But then you jump to 2002-2003, where budgeted, basically the same as budgeted in 2001-2002, 1.5 and change, but the actual was 2.8. So that's about \$1.3 million of an increase. Can the minister give some rationale for this huge increase in overtime costs?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, the member does point out that the budget for the last two years has been relatively stable at 1.5. I'm told that we budget on the basis of overtime to cover off running the facility on a 24/7/365 basis — that is around the clock, every day of the year, which takes into account overtime costs related to statutory holidays and such.

The incremental costs that we see on the actuals fluctuate somewhat because it depends on a number of variables that change, everything from inmate counts, which is largely the driver here where we ended up with higher than expected inmate counts; or as the member has asked in the written question, some of the additional costs come from overtime and labour where we have special circumstances, either increased security need or a lockdown situation, these kind of things.

I will say also to the member and members here, this is an interesting question in terms of how we should appropriately budget because there is this large variable here. Obviously we're aware of the fact that there is pressure. Whether we can accurately . . . As the member had stated previously, should we constantly rebase the budget on the previous year's expenditure?

I think this is a good issue of debate. It's one that I know we're

talking about internally as to how we better forecast what the overtime is based on the inmate counts. But it is our view that the . . . At this point it is a fair assumption that overtime costs will be based on those kind of things we can accurately predict.

Should we go back and think again about what our realistic numbers are or what the potential impacts are? I think that's a fair question.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And that's where I was coming from before when I asked about rebasing budgets. Because if one looks at the 2001-2002 and your actual amount was two point something million dollars in overtime costs, actual overtime costs, which rebasing is, you include that in your primary budget, and then add on another amount for budgeted overtime costs. In this case it would be 1.5 million.

And that's what I was referring to about rebasing. And I guess my question is, is that actually what's being done, you're rebasing your base budget by the amount of your overtime costs? One element of it only because there could be lots of other elements where you would be rebasing.

But I understand the variables and some overtime costs. We don't know if there's going to be lockdowns. And I don't know enough within the system because we haven't got a full disclosure of how the management within the system works as to . . . For an example, in a lockdown, why would there be overtime costs in relation to a lockdown where in fact people are locked in cells twenty-three hours or twenty-three and a half hours a day, is some of the information that I have received?

So my question back is, is rebasing used? Is this money included as part of the increase which is rebasing your actual budget estimates?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, it's difficult for us to move beyond the 1.5, \$1.6 million figure for overtime because of the number of variables we have.

I think the member asks a legitimate question. And it's one that we are actively working on within the system as to how do we control the overtime costs, and how do we work with the unions in each of the facilities to make sure that we have a better accounting for . . . or maybe a better forecasting model for what that overtime is going to be. It's our view that we need to bring the overtime costs down below that \$2.8 million figure of last year. And that's something we are working on co-operatively with the folks in the system.

If I can address the other question the member raised, and that is around why there are additional costs as we deal with things like a lockdown. Because of the higher security level that we move the facility on to, we require additional staff. And just because the inmates are locked in their cells doesn't mean there's not a more dynamic approach that needs to be taken. This does increase some of the cost around the facility.

So I don't have the written answer to the question the member posed the other day, but that should be available in another day or so, particularly around the Regina lockdown.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well I'd like to thank the minister for

that answer because that was kind of my next question, was what would cause the extra staff during a lockdown.

I don't know if that was an explanation — you need more staff when everybody is locked down. I think for the layperson involved in this, you would think you would actually need less staff in a lockdown, although there's heightened security. That's why the people . . . the inmates are actually locked in their cells for 20-some hours a day. And I don't think the security levels within the facility have to be increased because people are incarcerated within the confines of a cell. I would think escape is far more difficult from within the cell than it is from an auditorium, for an example.

So I don't know if there's any rationale you can give me, why there's more people that were required for security than in a lockdown period; and if there is, I could understand why there's overtime. But maybe there's something within the management of this that needs to be looked at, because again I don't see why we need heightened security during periods where people are actually locked in their cells. If the minister could explain some of the rationale for that?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Chairman, there's a couple of additional costs that we incur when we're in a lockdown situation. First of all, we will employ . . . more hours of employees to go through and search the cells to make sure that contraband is not in the cells. We make sure that the facility is restored to a safe environment.

Second of all, obviously when we're in lockdown we don't have inmates participating in activities that they normally would. This may include everything from laundry to kitchen duties, and so we need to bring in paid labour to replace that.

Those are the two largest components of it. Obviously there's additional risks that we have when we're in a lockdown to make sure that we don't have disruptions within the cells, and that's part of what we also deal with within it. This is one of the reasons that we obviously try to keep the lockdown periods relatively short, both for the overall welfare of the folks who are incarcerated but also in terms of the costs that we bear.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the opposition critic for the area, the member for Wood River, for his questions, and the member for Saskatchewan Rivers for his questions today. And I'd like to thank my officials for coming out.

I would, just before moving that we rise and report progress, certainly wish members opposite a good long weekend and indeed hope my officials are taking a long weekend also — maybe not quite as long as the members are.

But I would move that we rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank the minister and officials also today. I think it was far more productive than the last time we met. In fact we did get some answers and the atmosphere was actually a lot more cordial than it was in, let's say the last time. So I'd like to thank the minister and again thank the staff for the answers they provided today.

The committee reported progress.

(12:00)

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, before I move adjournment I'd like to wish all members a good weekend at home with their constituents. We're extending, by agreement, the hours of the weekend for members. So I wish all members a good weekend. Enjoy yourselves and see you back here on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming everyone a good long weekend. It looks like the weather is going to finally co-operate for everyone and we're going to have a nice, warm weekend. And I'm sure that all the members and the people working within our offices and within the Legislative Building will appreciate the weekend and the nice weather.

And if, if by some chance there's an election call, we'll see some of you back after that. Have a good weekend.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:03.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Hermanson 1107
Draude 1107
Gantefoer 1107
Elhard 1107
Stewart 1107
Harpauer 1107
Eagles 1107
Huyghebaert 1108
Dearborn 1108
Brkich 1108
Allchurch 1108

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk 1108

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Hermanson 1108
Eagles 1108
Dearborn 1109
Lorenz 1109

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hermanson 1109
Harpauer 1109

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival

Hagel 1109

Achievements of Young Hockey Player Noted

Toth 1109

Regina Highland Games

Hamilton 1110

Benefit Concert for Estevan’s Craig Family

Eagles 1110

Ag-West Biotech Bioscience Awards

Jones 1110

Juno Beach Memorial

Hillson 1111

Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership

Addley 1111

ORAL QUESTIONS

Juno Beach War Memorial

Hermanson 1111

Crofford 1111

Out-of-Province Investments

D’Autremont 1111

Sonntag 1112

Sex Offender Registry

Julé 1113

Nilson 1113

Call for Election

Hillson 1114, 1115

Serby 1114, 1115

SaskPower Policy on Firefighting Expenses

Brkich 1115

Sonntag 1115

POINT OF ORDER

McMorris 1116

Serby 1116

D’Autremont 1116

Hagel 1117

Krawetz 1117

The Speaker 1117

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Yates..... | 1117 |
| The Speaker..... | 1117 |

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 32 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Thomson..... | 1117 |
| D'Autremont..... | 1119 |

Bill No. 33 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (No. 2)/

Loi corrective (gestion de la sécurité) de 2003 (n° 2)

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Thomson..... | 1120 |
| Weekes..... | 1120 |

Bill No. 29 — The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2003/

Loi de 2003 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Hagel..... | 1120 |
| D'Autremont..... | 1121 |

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund — Corrections and Public Safety — Vote 73

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Thomson..... | 1122 |
| Huyghebaert..... | 1122 |
| Wiberg..... | 1122 |