

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today on behalf of people from the Kelvington and area who are concerned about Highway No. 49:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway No. 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Kelvington and the surrounding areas.

The people that have signed this petition are from Okla and Sturgis.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today on behalf of citizens of Moose Jaw and district 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.

Signature on this petition this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, are from the cities of Moose Jaw and Regina.

And I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from citizens that are concerned about the fairness for Crown leaseholders. The prayer reads:

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.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie and Kerrobert and district.

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 government's handling of the Crown land leases.

And the prayer reads as follows:

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.

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

The signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the centre of Spiritwood.

I so present.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Clerk:** — I hereby advise the Assembly that the petition of the Radville Christian College has not met the filing deadlines laid down in rule 64 and accordingly may not be received.

**Mr. McCall:** — On behalf of the petitioners for a private Bill respecting the Radville Christian College, I ask leave of the Assembly to suspend rule 64 to enable the petition to be received and the private Bill process to proceed.

Leave granted.

**The Speaker:** — The member may proceed. Petition 01 is received and referred to the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills for consideration.

**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, 13, 18, 27, 36, 41, and no. 100.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SaskTel spend on television ads?

Mr. Speaker, I have other questions for following months.

Also I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SaskTel spend on radio ads?

And again, Mr. Speaker, I have questions for subsequent months.

And finally I give notice that on day 50 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SaskTel spend on print ads?

And again I have questions for succeeding months.

I'm pleased to present these questions to the government.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you very much, Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce to you a group of school students from Maymont Central high. They are in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker.

And I had an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) visit with this group of students and their chaperones and I wish them an interesting day today in the legislature and hopefully you have an interesting next day and a half as you visit many different areas in Regina and district.

So please join me in welcoming the class from Maymont Central School.

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

**Ms. Lorjé:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery are 52 of the finest students from one of the finest schools in one of the finest cities in the greatest province in the Dominion of Canada.

I am referring to the students from St. Luke School. They are truly an awesome bunch. You might look up there and see students; I look up there and see a budding commercial pilot, a veterinarian, a podiatrist, an optometrist, and I've lost track of all the dreams that that these young people have.

I would hope that everyone would welcome them and their teachers, Donna-Marie Muzzolini, who is involved with the best bakery in Saskatoon — Christie's Mayfair Bakery, and Darryl Holowachuk, as well Stewart Stangby, and Veronica and Elizabeth Fabian.

I would ask all members of this Assembly to make them welcome here.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this afternoon to be joined by my uncle, Ervil Stromberg. He's seated in your gallery. Uncle Ervil farmed for many years in the Hearne district and now resides in Calgary.

And I'd ask all members to kindly join me in welcoming him to the Assembly this afternoon.

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know a lot of people may not be aware of the fact that here in Regina we employ some 100 people at Genex, where hog genetic research is done and in fact represents 20 per cent of Canada's market, Mr. Speaker.

Well this morning I had the pleasure of announcing that we are merging with a company and will now have access to markets across the world, primarily into the US (United States) and into Brazil. We are partnering with a company from the Netherlands, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker — Nutreco — and some of those good folks are here today joining us in the gallery from the Netherlands.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming — and as I say their names, if they would just please stand — Roald van Noort, managing director of Nutreco; Paul Moonemans, manager, planning and control for Nutreco; Niek Streefkerk, business development manager of Nutreco; David Libertini, who will be the new president of the merged entity, Mr. Speaker — it's Hypor international incorporated. Also with our guests, Mr. Speaker, is Zach Douglas, senior vice-president in Crown Investments Corporation and also, John Hicke, vice-president of Crown Investments Corporation.

If you would please join me in welcoming these good folks to the Chamber today.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I would like to welcome the officials who have travelled here from Netherlands, as well as officials from the Crown Investments Corporation.

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to members of the House, sitting in your gallery, Phil Reeves, the executive director of the Saskatchewan Mining Association. And I'm very pleased that Phil could return today to be with us for the afternoon's proceedings. Thank you.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### National Access Awareness Week

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all of us sitting in this Chamber today know a thing or two about leading a busy life. Now imagine trying to live that same life without being able to walk, to hear, to see, or to speak. For many Saskatchewan residents, living with a disability is a fact of their daily lives.

May 26 through 30 is National Access Awareness Week. First recognized in 1988, this week is designated to promote access for people with disabilities. This week also draws attention to the importance of accessing . . . accessibility facilities and services, setting measurable goals, making practical improvements, and celebrating successes to date.

At the request of this NDP (New Democratic Party) government, the Saskatchewan committee on disability issues published a disability action plan in 2001. This comprehensive report dealt with a number of issues that affect people with disabilities, accessibility being one of them. To date there has been no official response to the report from this NDP government. I urge this NDP government to give its official response to the disability action plan. Two years is too long. I would also ask members of this House to recognize National Access Awareness Week.

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

### Child Care Week

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week has been proclaimed as Child Care Week in Saskatchewan when we recognize the dedication of child care workers and volunteers across the province and thank them for the quality care they provide to our province's children. Mr. Speaker, along with child care workers, our government is committed to the well-being of children and families living in our province.

On June 1, our government will be raising child care subsidies by an average of \$20 per month, and we have created 500 new child care spaces this year. These initiatives and others will increase access to quality, affordable child care while parents go to work or school, and they will also help workers provide the best care possible for our children.

Mr. Speaker, we're extremely pleased to recognize the child care workers and volunteers of this province, and we're extremely proud to be part of a government working with them to ensure that the future of our children is wide open.

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

### Weyburn Livestock Exchange

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for many years the livestock exchange in Weyburn has been the market of choice for many cattle producers in the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency, as well as those from surrounding areas.

Last fall the Weyburn Livestock Exchange was purchased by Nilsson Bros. of Alberta. At that time many local producers were concerned that the new owners would hold fewer sales than the previous owners had held, and there was even concern by some that the exchange would be closed altogether. The impact of fewer sales or the closure of the exchange was also of great concern to Weyburn business owners because of the negative effect it would have on our local economy.

Through diligence and determine by local cattle producers to find a solution, I'm happy to report today that the livestock exchange in Weyburn will remain open. Improvements to the site will take place over the summer months. An on-site computer system will be installed to allow for same-day settlement of all producer cheques. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, starting in September regular weekly Friday sales will be held.

This is great news for the city of Weyburn and for all area cattle producers. I would like to thank Nilsson Bros. on behalf of all constituents from the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency for their commitment to the community of Weyburn and their commitment to the cattle producers throughout the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency.

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

### Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Mineral Spa

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here's a 40-second statement that was a few years in the making, Mr. Speaker — years of visionary planning, hard-slogging

development and construction, and vigorous, innovative promotion.

I'm speaking of course of Saskatchewan's tourist getaway or tourist get-to place, the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Mineral Spa. How has the work all paid off? Well, Mr. Speaker, for the fiscal year ending September '02, profits for the spa over the previous year were up, and get this, Mr. Speaker, 158 per cent — 158 per cent — from over 300,000 to over \$800,000.

Mr. Speaker, did I hear someone say that the future is wide open?

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

### St. Joseph's Seniors Club Honours St. Louis Woman

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many of the seniors of our province are remarkable inspirations to their family and their communities, and such is the case of . . . in St. Louis, Saskatchewan, for they have a member of their community named Elmiere Royer. Ms. Royer was honoured recently by the St. Joseph's Seniors Club as a founding member and given a lifetime membership to the club.

Ms. Royer, who is 93 years old, is the eldest member of that club, as well as the oldest member of the village of St. Louis. At a tea hosted by St. Joseph's Seniors Club, Ms. Royer was presented with a certificate and a pin by Marie Rancourt on behalf of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association.

Her children were in attendance, as well as her grandchildren, and they presented her with roses. Sister Helen Moreski presented her with a guest book and a single rose, stating that Ms. Royer was indeed the rose of that community.

Elmiere Royer celebrated her 93rd on April 20 and she continues to be very, very active. Today she continues to be an avid gardener and this spring, at the age of 93, she has decided that she's going to plant strawberry plants. And in order to work those plants, Mr. Speaker, she has just recently bought herself her very first Rototiller and she's going to be tending to that garden.

So this woman is truly an inspiration to those in her community and those around her, and I'm very proud to announce that she's one of my constituents. So I congratulate Ms. Royer again on receiving the very worthy award from the Saskatchewan Seniors Association, and wish her the very best in the future.

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

(13:45)

### Moose Jaw Community Groups Receive Funding

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government put the Community Initiatives Fund in place to help increase opportunities and provide access to a variety of activities for Saskatchewan youth and families.

Last Friday, on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, I was pleased to present six community groups

from the Moose Jaw area with CIF (Community Initiatives Fund) grants totalling more than \$10,000.

The Moose Jaw Parks and Recreation Advisory Board received \$2,000 for its youth activity centre program; the South Central Recreation and Parks Association received \$2,000 for its wellness wagon program; the school-aged refugee children's summer program of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council received \$530; and the Moose Jaw branch of the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living received \$1,575 to help deliver its Kids Kamp program; and \$2,000 will help the integrated case management program launch its summer mentor day camp. Also, Mr. Speaker, the mentoring mothers program, in partnership with the teen and young parent program received \$2,300 for its parent and child aquatics project.

Mr. Speaker, since 1997 the CIF has provided more than 2,300 community groups with a total of almost \$13.5 million. I'm sure all of the members of this Assembly will join me in applauding this further investment in Saskatchewan youth and Saskatchewan families.

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

### House Lights Knocked Out by Lightning

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is reading the polls but now some even more significant portents deserve his attention. If he's looking for a sign, well yesterday he got it. When lightning knocks out the lights, you know that some very important figures are annoyed.

Saskatchewan has appealed to help from the federal Liberals but . . . They want our sound system to get working again. But it seems that an even higher authority is working against the NDP. I'm not the only one who finds the present session barren.

The Premier tells us he isn't going to call an election because he has work to do, and what might that be? There are no Bills before the House that have any purpose beyond boosting sales of pulp and paper. The province's ethanol strategy is in tatters. The Crown corporations and their minister refuse to answer questions. Information Services continues its fruitless search for customers. Most recently, Nova Scotia looked at Saskatchewan's land titles technology and said no thanks.

Does our Premier have to be hit by lightning to figure out that things aren't working?

The NDP has tried to keep this House in the dark. Now they have the proper lighting conditions. Let's not test the fates any further. If the government is not prepared to face the voters, it needs to bring forward some business that deserves the light of day.

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

### Inclusive Educational Environment

**Ms. Lorjé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During National Access Awareness Week, I want to comment on the excellent work of the Saskatoon (East) School Division and its director of education, Mr. Norm Dray.

What society expects of all schools is that they will treat each student with dignity, respect, and fairness — giving all students their best chance to achieve academic, personal, and social success. That's easy enough to say; it's much more difficult to carry through.

However, Mr. Dray, the teachers, and staff of the Saskatoon (East) Division have taken the concept of inclusion and made it a child-centred mission that is the heart of their curriculum. Inclusion means simply that students with special needs and disabilities are included in the general population. The Saskatoon (East) School Division uses a team approach that involves parents, teachers, and students to create programs for students with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, in an inclusive environment, education looks a lot different than it did even 10 years ago. This creates special challenges but in this case they are being met. There are no losers, only winners.

As Mr. Dray says simply and eloquently, quote:

It's our philosophy that all children have a place in our schools and in our classrooms. There's no magic to it.

No magic perhaps, Mr. Speaker, but dignity definitely. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

There has been progress over the past week in the search for answers as to how a cow sent to slaughter in Alberta last January contacted BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). But concerns are increasing among the beef industry in Saskatchewan about the length of time the investigation is taking and that the borders to the United States and other countries who purchase our beef products may not be open as soon as first hoped.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister said that he thought the ban on Canadian imports into the US may only be in place two weeks. We are now in week two of the investigation. Will the minister tell us today whether or not that two-week timeline is still realistic, and whether he expects Saskatchewan beef will actually begin moving to the United States next week?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asks an important question as it relates to what happens in the beef industry over the next couple of days, Mr. Speaker.

We were always of the opinion, led by the discussion that Minister Vanclief has provided for us, that it would take at least a two-week window in order to deal with this very difficult issue.

In our discussions with Mr. Vanclief, and as many may have heard him, in the last day he's indicated that he is in continued conversations with Secretary Veneman and that it remains his hope that the borders to the US will get opened, hopefully, by the end of the week or early into the new week is what Mr. Vanclief has indicated to Canadian consumers and to all of us who've been paying attention to the news.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister and US government officials have spoken about the conditions that must be met before the US will reopen its borders to beef imports.

The minister has spoken very generally about the issue, and he's spoken again generally this afternoon, but there have been no actual details discussed about what specifically the US will be looking for from the Canadian beef industry. It has only been generally said that our international customers want to know that our beef is safe and our system is sound. And we think it is, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has said that federal officials are working with our American counterparts to ensure the process will meet these conditions and move along as swiftly as possible.

Could the minister tell this Assembly very specifically what exactly will convince the US that our beef is safe and that our system is sound?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm not in the position to speak for Secretary Veneman, or for that matter the United States government, or for that matter the other seven countries who in fact have placed a ban on Canadian beef. But I would expect, Mr. Speaker, that any one of those countries today will have this kind of request of us.

One is that they'll want to unequivocally be satisfied that there is no other infected beef in the system. Secondly, what they'll want to be convinced of is that in fact into the future we have a system in Canada that is able to trace and track in a way in which it has in the past, or even in a more significant fashion.

Those I think would be the kinds of issues that the international marketplace will be demanding of our Canadian government and of our Canadian provinces.

Today we can report, as we have on a daily basis, that we have now corralled, it looks like, the number of herds in Canada to 17. We've been tracing back both the feed and the siblings of the cow. We've put some herds down now today. We've done some testing. We've made tremendous progress in a short space of time. And hopefully that will be sufficient, in the next few days, to convince the international community to open up their borders again.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping that the minister is pressing to find out what exactly is required

so that the borders can be opened. We know that he doesn't make the decision but we would ask him to relay that information to the industry here in Saskatchewan in a very timely fashion because it's urgent.

Mr. Speaker, today the Saskatchewan Party is putting forward a private member's motion which reads as follows:

That the Assembly expresses its complete confidence in the Canadian beef industry and urges other nations to reopen their borders to Canadian beef imports as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we believe Canadian beef is safe and that our food system is one of the best in the world. This BSE case is of concern; however, its discovery also proves that our system works.

Mr. Speaker, will the government join us in expressing their support and confidence for our beef industry today? Will they be supporting our motion?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion of the opposition this afternoon and will be speaking to it as well, Mr. Speaker.

I want to also say in response to the Leader of the Opposition Saskatchewan Party's comment, is that I listened very carefully yesterday to Premier Klein when he did his national broadcast. And what he said — which I think applies fully to all of us — and that is that no amount of political pressure, no amount of political pressure will convince the United States or any other country that's put a ban on Canadian beef to open their borders.

What will convince, Mr. Speaker, the other countries to open their borders will be in fact an assurance that we have done due diligence on the process; that it meets with the scientific examinations that are underway, Mr. Speaker. Those are the realities of which will change the minds of those international communities that trade with Canada in the beef industry.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the minister for offering his support to our motion and also for bringing up the response of the Government of Alberta. Because in light of the BSE case, yesterday the Alberta government committed to a farm-to-fork review of agriculture practices within the federal government and the agricultural industry.

The Premier of Alberta also committed to an international marketing campaign for Alberta beef aimed at restoring the confidence of the public and our international trading partners in the safety of beef produced in that province, the exact point that the minister made.

The Alberta beef industry has definitely taken a hit as a result of this BSE case. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say that Saskatchewan has taken the same hit as producers in the province of Alberta. So it's imperative that our reputation as a producer of high-quality, safe beef products is secured and even

strengthened through a review of food safety processes and procedures and through aggressive marketing of our industry.

So I would ask, Mr. Speaker: what is the government prepared to do to support the beef industry in Saskatchewan and help get that message out?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, what should be recognized in this Assembly — and I paid very close attention to what Alberta said and have spoken with the minister from Alberta — what this issue will not be, Mr. Speaker, it will not be a one-of for any province. It will not be a one-of for Alberta; it will not be a one-of for Saskatchewan because this issue, Mr. Speaker, is not about a province. This issue is about the Canadian food system.

And the people who market the Canadian food system are not the provinces, Mr. Speaker, individually. They're done through the Canadian system. And will we be partners in the future to market the Canadian food system? Absolutely. We'll be alongside Alberta and Ontario and Quebec promoting what we have done in this country in a very fashionable way — produce safe food and market safe food.

I heard our Premier yesterday say, Mr. Speaker, that on the agenda of the first ministers' meetings which coming soon will have on it the agricultural issue and the assurances that in the future that we have safe food. We'll be promoting safe food in Canada as a group of provinces absolutely. And we'll do that in concert with the national government.

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

### Support for Agriculture

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, more evidence today of how this NDP government is failing Saskatchewan farm families. Net figures released today show that Saskatchewan was the only province in Canada to have a negative farm income last year. Saskatchewan's net farm income last year was a minus \$242 million — \$242 million, Mr. Speaker.

That number shows what a disaster last year's drought was. But, Mr. Speaker, it also shows what a disaster this NDP government has been in developing farm safety net programs that work for Saskatchewan and for Saskatchewan farmers.

Mr. Speaker, after cancelling GRIP (gross revenue insurance program), this NDP government has had 12 years to develop a farm safety net that works for Saskatchewan, and they've failed. Mr. Speaker, why has this government failed Saskatchewan farm families?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, it is exactly that kind of a comment that has Grant Schmidt in the driver's seat in that riding . . .

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

(14:00)

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — For the member from Saltcoats to stand up, Mr. Speaker . . . For the member from Saltcoats to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and give this House and this government a lecture on what's happening in farm policy, Mr. Speaker, when in four years coming up soon, there hasn't been one iota or one word of farm policy from that group of men and women, Mr. Speaker, who say that they represent agriculture and rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Not one word, Mr. Speaker.

And every time that they do make a comment, Mr. Speaker, I've said on many occasions, it costs Saskatchewan farmers money, Mr. Speaker. It comes out of their jeans.

It's the member from Saltcoats, Mr. Speaker, who accompanied us a couple of years ago to Ottawa, Mr. Speaker. He gets back to Saskatchewan. We were killing AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) when we were there. When we get back here, the member from Saltcoats and the Leader of the Opposition were supporting AIDA, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of farm policy that we had when they were around, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, the policies on this side of the House, as soon as we're government, will look after farm families. They will not neglect them for 12 years as that government does.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, it wasn't like last year's drought was a surprise. 2001 was a bad year also for Saskatchewan farmers. Last year was even worse. Last year's net farm income fell by \$455 million to a negative 242 million, and this NDP government did nothing to cushion the blow, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP has had 12 years to develop a safety net program that works for farm families and once again this NDP government has failed. The net result was a quarter-billion-dollar loss in farm income last year. That's a disaster for Saskatchewan and so is it for this NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, why is there no workable safety net program in place when the NDP knew this drought was coming?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the member from Saltcoats has been in the last couple of years. We've had a drought in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We've had a drought in this province. And the drought has affected, Mr. Speaker, the grains and oilseed sector, Mr. Speaker. The drought, Mr. Speaker, has affected the livestock industry, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of that, what we've seen is we've seen a depression, Mr. Speaker, in the amount of revenues that farmers in Saskatchewan have received. They know that, Mr. Speaker. Farmers in Saskatchewan know what the issues have been around the drought.

Do we have farm support programs in Canada today? Of course we have farm support programs in Canada today. We've had farm support programs, Mr. Speaker, for the last four years. We've had CFIP (Canadian Farm Income Program) and we've had NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account) and we've had crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, nationally supported. And in fact all of the provinces in Canada have contributed to it and supported it, Mr. Speaker.

We shouldn't be . . . We're concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the level of funding that we have in the future for safety nets. We've worked hard at getting that. This Premier has worked hard, Mr. Speaker, in getting the additional \$600 million for Canadian farmers, which we've gotten.

Our Saskatchewan, Canadian farmers, Mr. Speaker, will be far better off into the future, Mr. Speaker, as long as they work together and not listen to some of the rhetoric that comes from . . .

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the member's got one thing right. Saskatchewan farmers will be better in the future as soon as this party on this side is sitting on that side and we're the government.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately moisture conditions have improved this year, because the NDP government has not improved. In fact it's getting worse. Just look at what they did to crop insurance this spring — they jacked up premiums by 52 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the NDP still hasn't developed a satisfactory safety net program.

APAS (Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan) is saying the new program developed by the federal and provincial governments still won't work because it ignores net income. In other words, if we have another drought it still won't work, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister finally admit that after 12 years of being in power, they continually fail farm families in this province? It's time to have an election and help Saskatchewan farm families.

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the member from Saltcoats every day is running about the country calling for an election, Mr. Speaker. Because when you're sitting at the place of which the member from Saltcoats is sitting at, Mr. Speaker, you'd be calling for an election as well. Because you've already had one nomination of which he's been defeated in, Mr. Speaker, and I expect that when they call their next nomination he'll have a difficult time winning the seat again. And I expect, Mr. Speaker — I expect, Mr. Speaker — when he talks about where he'll be sitting, when he says where he'll be sitting, he'll be sitting out on his tractor, Mr. Speaker, after the next election where he'll be sitting, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to just say to the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, he worked in the old Conservative regime, Mr. Speaker, for the old

representative from that area because he used to be an old Conservative, Mr. Speaker. And when he talks about the bankrupt, when he talks about the bankrupt of crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, you just need to look at the crop insurance program under the old administration of the Tories where they bankrupt crop insurance in this province, Mr. Speaker, and it cost farmers 10 years before they recovered and they want to go . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

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

### Future of Crown Corporations

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan).

Last May I gave a speech on behalf of the official opposition to the Regina chamber in which I suggested that the NDP was considering a joint venture with a private sector Alberta company that could involve a change in the structure and possibly the partial sale of one of the major Crown corporations.

But when the *Leader-Post* asked the minister the question shortly after the speech, the minister said, and I quote, in part, he said, "Absolutely not."

Now, Mr. Speaker, today senior Crown Investments Corporation officials admitted that the NDP government spent \$480,000 last year to evaluate the market value of SaskEnergy and consider a joint venture with an Alberta company to potentially partially privatize that part of SaskEnergy.

Mr. Speaker, the question to the minister is this: why, at the time he was asked about this very deal, did he not tell the truth?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well fortunately, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to spend, roughly half an hour ago, some time with the president of Crown Investments Corporation who reported to me exactly what he said in his answer to the response to that question, and I would suggest it resembles absolutely no similarity to what that member just said, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as stewards of the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, it's our responsibility of government to ensure that they continue to deliver services right across the province, Mr. Speaker, at affordable rates, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Speaker, that they are competitive and that they offer that service right across the province.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to ensure, Mr. Speaker, through avenues, Mr. Speaker, like CIBC World Markets, that our Crown corporations remain competitive. It's through that type of analysis that we have been assured that our Crowns are competitive, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Mr. Speaker, officials at Crown Investments Corporation didn't want to tell anybody what the 480,000 to CIBC World Markets was for. I wonder why, Mr. Speaker.

Today they had to do it in Crown Corporations Committee and government officials were very honest. They confirmed that the government spent that much money last year to look at SaskEnergy's assets — to evaluate them, to value them, to consider different corporate structure opportunities, including possibly a joint venture with an Alberta company that could perhaps involve privatization of parts of SaskEnergy.

But an NDP member of the committee, the member for Saskatoon Greystone, said that the NDP would never consider any such change that would involve that kind of giving up of equity to a joint venture. That's what the member for Greystone said this morning.

Mr. Speaker, if the NDP government has completely ruled out these kinds of changes to the major Crowns, why in the world would they spend a half a million dollars evaluating that very thing?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well let me make two observations, Mr. Speaker, in answering that question.

First of all, on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker, that member from Swift Current, from the Sask Party, stands up here and criticizes us for not having in his . . . from his perspective proper analysis, proper due diligence, proper independent advice, Mr. Speaker. Now that advice is provided, what does he do? He criticizes it, Mr. Speaker; there's something wrong with it, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, as I stand here answering the question, Mr. Speaker, I can see the disappointment on his face, Mr. Speaker, that there isn't an agenda for privatization.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely not an agenda for privatization. There is no mandate from this government for privatization.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, it is not inappropriate that we would ask world-renowned analysis be done by CIBC World Markets to determine for us opportunities, Mr. Speaker, to improve in this case, TransGas's gas flow, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're trying to do, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the minister is going to have to do a little clarifying because last year when he was asked about this very thing, the potential of this government approving the joint venturing of a major part of one of the major Crowns, in this case TransGas, the minister said to the *Leader-Post*, and I quote, when he was . . . It says here and I quote:

Maynard Sonntag, minister responsible . . . refused to confirm any deals were on the table for SaskTel or any other Crown (he says). "To the best of my knowledge, absolutely not," Sonntag told reporters.

But he said the government would not be ideologically opposed to divestiture of Crown assets, if certain conditions were met.

So, Mr. Speaker, what's true — what he said a year ago to the *Leader-Post* or what he just said in the House?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, if that Sask Party wouldn't be locked in philosophical ideals, Mr. Speaker — they would say the only option for improving services is privatization, which is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker — Mr. Speaker, they would understand where the people of Saskatchewan are.

Mr. Speaker, when we do analysis with CIBC World Markets, we ask them to explore opportunities where we could, in this particular case, largely improve gas flows for TransGas. Mr. Speaker, I suspect, I suspect, that could include such things as strategic partnerships, Mr. Speaker. That could include such things as alliances, Mr. Speaker. It does not have to mean sell-off, privatization, Mr. Speaker. There are all kinds of avenues where you can improve the gas flow, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in their analysis that is exactly what they do. They provide suggestions to that regard. It is only prudent that we would try to ensure that the assets of Saskatchewan people are protected so that we can gain additional revenues, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understood the member for Greystone to basically rule out — on behalf of the NDP government — rule out any such divestiture of assets. But a year ago the minister said, and this reference in the *Leader-Post* says:

But he said the government would not be ideologically opposed to (the) divestiture of Crown assets, if certain conditions were met.

To the minister: when was he telling the truth, when he talked to the *Leader-Post* a year ago or just now in the Assembly?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, when that member asked the question, he asked about what CIBC World Markets was doing. Mr. Speaker, CIBC World Markets was doing an analysis, Mr. Speaker, of how they could improve gas flows, and making recommendations about how gas flows could be improved for TransGas.

We have an asset, Mr. Speaker, laying in the ground, Mr. Speaker. We have gas here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, where we will be a net importer of gas likely in the next six to seven years. Mr. Speaker, it only makes sense that we would look to Alberta to try to increase gas flows through those pipelines, thereby increasing revenues for Saskatchewan people and maintaining the low gas prices which Saskatchewan people have enjoyed for the past many, many years and we hope into the future, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear. It's pretty clear that the minister has one thing that he tells to the public and quite another thing that's happening behind closed doors at the Crown Investments Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, today the Crown corporation officials indicated they believe it was . . .

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Crown corporation officials indicated they believe it was their mandate and their job to consider changing to the structure, including the ownership structure of the major Crowns, if those changes would add value for the shareholders, the people of the province, and if those ownership or structural changes would contribute to growing the Saskatchewan economy.

Mr. Speaker, guess what? That is the Saskatchewan Party position on the major Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — So we say congratulations to Mr. Frank Hart at CIC and his officials, and we ask the following question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the minister to finally join the rest of us. Will he now stand today in the House and agree with the Crown corporation position of the Saskatchewan Party and his own officials?

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

(14:15)

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, if the people of Saskatchewan were listening to that question, Mr. Speaker, I don't think they'd be disappointed if the lights went out again today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me be absolutely clear. Mr. Speaker, that member accuses us of having different positions, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, he said what his position is today, yet a couple of days ago he said anything and everything was for sale. He wouldn't rule anything out for privatization, Mr. Speaker. He wouldn't rule anything out for privatization.

While this government, Mr. Speaker, this party works with communities, works with our Crown corporations, works with the private sector in partnering, seeking opportunities, strategic alliances, Mr. Speaker. We work with the private sector to ensure that our Crowns remain strong, Mr. Speaker, that they continue to provide services — good services at low, affordable rates right across our province, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — Order. Why is the member from Saskatoon Eastview on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — With leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly some special guests we have up in your gallery today. There's 10 students from Poplar Grove School in Grandview, Manitoba. And accompanying them is Roger Loewen and other chaperones.

They're here today . . . Due to the election call in Manitoba, they've come to observe our proceedings.

So I'd like to welcome them, and have the rest of the members welcome them also.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — With leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I'd also like to take the opportunity to welcome our guests from Manitoba. You can see we have lots of exciting things happening in the legislature here. I'm sure the same thing would be happening in your legislature if it was in session.

I had the opportunity to visit Grandview a few years ago, and it was a very nice place to be. And I'm sure that you're . . . you'll bring back lots of good memories to your fine town when you come back from Manitoba.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### New Mining Regulations

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you and all hon. members that Saskatchewan's long-awaited new mining regulations will take effect on July 16 of this year.

These new regulations will help to ensure the protection of mineworkers' health and safety here in Saskatchewan. They are the result of six years of collaborative work by mine owners, mineworkers, and officials from Saskatchewan Labour.

I'm very pleased by the fact that all concerned, owners and workers alike, support the new regulations. And this is no small accomplishment. Developing stakeholder consensus in an area as complex as mining is not easy. Six years of effort, hard work, flexibility, and goodwill have gone into creating these regulations with the entire process being marked by extensive consultations every step of the way.

The current mining regulations in Saskatchewan were put in place 25 years ago. The technology of mining, best practices in mining, and occupational health and safety programming have all come a long way over that time.

The Mines Regulations, 2003 update and modernize the concepts, definitions, and language used to regulate mining in our province. It's been a long road indeed but the journey is well worth it. To those who have contributed to creating the new regulations over the past six years and helped to make them a reality today, you should be very proud of what has been accomplished. Today we say thank you to each of you whose work has contributed to producing a set of mining regulations tailor-made for Saskatchewan.

These new regulations represent major enhancements in mine safety. There are new standards for mine rescue that require written plans for responding to surface and underground emergencies. There will be more underground emergency drills and there will be more underground refuge stations. As well, the use of remote-controlled mobile equipment in modern mining operations is increasing. The new regulations will make provisions for the safe use of this equipment.

Further, the brakes on new heavy equipment used underground will now have to meet Canadian Safety Association standards. Measures for monitoring and reducing worker exposure to diesel exhaust underground have also been introduced. And standards for underground exits from mines have been clarified. New standards have also been set for underground fuel and lubricant depots.

I want to give full credit to the mining industry, owners, and workers alike, who've put in so many long hours of work to create these regulations — regulations that will guide mining in Saskatchewan well into the 21st century.

I would also like to thank the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the United Steelworkers of America, United Mine Workers of America, Rocanville Employees' Association, and the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers for all their work and support during the development of these regulations.

In the final analysis, Saskatchewan works best when we work co-operatively. The Mines Regulations, 2003, are just the latest example of what we can accomplish working together.

Mr. Speaker, it's been a long time coming but I think these mine regulations have been very well received, and they will truly guide the Mining Association and the mining industry in our province into our wide open future. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the minister's statement and to recognize the new mine safety regulations.

Safety is a primary concern of every workplace. It is the responsibility of all employers and employees, and can only work with the co-operation of both working in a partnership, Mr. Speaker. Mine safety and workplace safety has changed . . . The mine standards, excuse me, and the workplace have changed and evolved very much in the last 25 years, and it is indeed time that the regulations were upgraded to meet modern expectations of the workplace.

My colleague, the member for Thunder Creek, our critic for Energy and Mines; our critic for Labour, the member from Indian Head-Milestone; and indeed the entire Sask Party official opposition wish to commend those involved in Saskatchewan mine safety . . . mining industry — both the employers and the employees — in their constant and continuing concern for the safety of all mineworkers. Their co-operation with the Department of Labour over the last six years in helping to draft the new regulations will make a safe mining industry an even safer occupation.

Mining under the past regulations was one of our safest industries in which to work in Saskatchewan. I wish to congratulate industry leaders and employees in their diligence in making our mines a safe and rewarding workplace in Saskatchewan for people to earn their livelihoods. Thank you.

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

### Child Care in Saskatchewan

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Right on, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak about child care here this afternoon because here in Saskatchewan we truly do mean it when we say our children are our future in our province. And we know that high-quality child care has a tremendous impact on the health, safety, and success, and the happiness of our children both today and in the future.

Parents have repeatedly told us that a significant challenge to employment or attending school is the availability of child care. Obviously if there is an expectation that people will move into or remain in the labour force, it is imperative that they have access to quality, affordable child care.

Our objective is to promote early childhood development and support the participation of parents in employment, education, and training by improving access to affordable quality early learning and child care programs and services. That's why I was pleased to announce yesterday morning, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatoon that the Department of Community Resources and Employment is boosting the number of child care spaces in Saskatoon by 70 this year. There will be an additional 48 spaces in Prince Albert, which I announced last Friday in that community.

These places are among the 1,200 that our Child Care Saskatchewan plan will make available to Saskatchewan families at a cost over four years in excess of \$13 million. Obviously the addition of 1,200 spaces will provide families with more options for the early learning and care of their children.

As you may know, federal funding is very modest in the first year, some \$800,000. But because our government believes it is important to get an early start on this expansion, the province is adding a further \$2.2 million for 2003-04, for a total increase of \$3 million in this fiscal year. This means we will be developing 500 new licensed child care spaces this year, half of which will be subsidized.

Mr. Speaker, these child care initiatives represent the largest investment in child care in the history of the province. This is a

sound investment in the future of Saskatchewan, an investment that helps our children get a good start in life and ensures a future that is truly wide open to opportunity.

The new child care spaces I have announced will make a difference in the lives of many young families in Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and I look forward to making a similar announcement regarding child care spaces here in Regina later this week.

Mr. Speaker, all this is most appropriate this week because this is Child Care Week in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments regarding the ministerial statement we've just heard given by the Minister of Community Resources and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, we're aware of the fact that in today's society education is certainly an important feature and factor in the ability of men and women to gain gainful employment. And for many individuals access to education is sometimes limited as a result of a young child in the family. And for many single-parent families certainly this is the case and I think this is part of what the minister's been talking about.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt we need to find avenues whereby children can be provided with care while a young parent endeavours to increase their education and their opportunities for employment at a future time in their life. And not everyone has the ability to have, say, grandparents or family members available to provide that type of child care.

One of the questions that I think is on a lot of people's minds though, in the province of Saskatchewan is when we look at the number of young, single-parent mothers, and most cases throughout the province, and a question that arises is why so many young girls find themselves in a position of expecting a child and therefore limit their opportunities to further educational opportunities, especially when it comes to raising a child and trying to provide for that child's care as well as trying to further their education.

So I think there's some questions arising here that we need to look at in the long term but at the same time we recognize the need of individuals who would like to better themselves and like to open up the doors for future opportunity. And therefore I think that's where the minister is coming from today when he talks about these child care spaces in meeting some of those needs of individuals who find themselves in those circumstances.

I think, Mr. Speaker, as we look at child care spaces and putting more money into child care spaces we also, as was mentioned on one of the open-line shows this morning, acknowledge the fact and the hard work and dedication of parents who work very diligently and very deliberately to try and provide not only for themselves, but for their family members. So while there is funding being made available today for individuals who find circumstances difficult, we appreciate that; we need to look at ways as well of how we can meet the needs of others as they try

to provide the educational opportunities for themselves.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## 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 305 through 307 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 305, 306, and 307 have been submitted.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and convert for debates returnable questions no. 308 to 388.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 308 to 388 have been converted.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table written responses to questions no. 389 to 401 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Responses for questions 389 to 401 have been submitted.

(14:30)

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to convert for debates returnable questions no. 402 to 473 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 402 to 472 inclusive have been converted to orders for return (debatable).

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased once again to stand on behalf of the government and table written responses to questions no. 474 through 483 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 474 through to 483 have been submitted.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### Motion No. 6 — Confidence in Canadian Beef Industry

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise today to present a motion, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, member for Rosetown-Biggar, to express our complete confidence in the Canadian beef industry and urge other nations to reopen their borders to Canadian beef imports as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I think what this Legislature can do . . . And by the way I want to thank the government for supporting our motion because I feel that this is such an important issue for the province of Saskatchewan, but certainly for the ranchers and farmers in this province whose livelihood depend on exporting a lot of their commodities across the border, especially to the

USA (United States of America).

We now understand that there's as many as eight countries that have banned the exports of our beef to their countries. And, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible we have to create confidence within these jurisdictions, that they will once again accept our beef and become our trading partner that is so crucial to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I thought it might be interesting for some of the public to find out just how crucial it is to this province and how important it is to Saskatchewan farmers, just by the numbers that we grow and sell in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker — and these are approximate numbers of course — but over 2.4 million head of cattle we have right now in Saskatchewan, over 1 million beef cows, Mr. Speaker. We have approximately 15,000 beef producers so you can see how many people, just on the beef side, that are actually raising beef out there that this will affect.

Mr. Speaker, in the short term if this problem is over right away, it's already cost millions of dollars for Saskatchewan. But I think the concern to ranchers and farmers out there that raise beef, to big feedlots out there that have beef probably by this time in many cases ready for market that are already holding them back, costing them thousands and thousands of dollars a day; and not only for what it's costing them to feed these cattle to try and hold them, but the beating they may take on these cattle when they eventually can put them on the market because of being overweight or the lower grades that they may receive for these animals.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan produces over \$700 million in farm cash receipts from cattle each year. Beef production is the largest livestock commodity, second only to hard red spring wheat.

In 2002 the number of cattle and calves marketed through Saskatchewan auction marts and to Saskatchewan packing plants and abattoirs totalled 1.74 million head. In 2002, Mr. Speaker, 373,580 head of cattle and calves were marketed or slaughtered. Mr. Speaker, again in 2002, slaughter cattle shipments out of the province totalled 206,720 head. Exports were 26 per cent above the five-year average.

And, Mr. Speaker, once again these enormous numbers tell just how important the ban on our market and our cattle going to the US especially, but to other markets, how devastating this can be to our economy in Saskatchewan and how devastating it will be if it carries on for long to farm families here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, 1.366 million head of feeder cattle and calves were marketed last year. Feeder cattle shipments out of the province totalled 941,560 head. Of the 206,720 head of slaughter cattle exported from Saskatchewan last year, 103,730 went to the USA. Mr. Speaker, that's half of our exports go to south of the border.

So again it just tells us how crucial it is that we can create the confidence in our cattle and that this is one isolated case, Mr. Speaker, of mad cow disease. And after, Mr. Speaker, slaughtering, I believe, approximately 400 head now, that is the only case to rise and show its ugly face in our cattle herds in

this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I might want to talk about too, Mr. Speaker, just take a minute to talk about the CFIA, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, who I believe, Mr. Speaker, has done a tremendous job of, number one, bringing the problem to light — not hiding it, not sweeping it under the rug — being out front with the public and explaining what has happened here, but being there to find the problem in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

There's probably jurisdictions where that wouldn't have happened. And we've been accused of being a little slow in bringing this to the forefront. Well, Mr. Speaker, I might say that there might be jurisdictions that may never bring it to the forefront.

The CFIA did their due diligence, brought it out, let the public know. It would have been a lot easier maybe to not have done that, but they let the public know because that's part of the confidence that they want to keep with the people that are consuming and purchasing beef in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I maybe just want to talk and just go through a little bit of the last eight days. It seems like a lot longer, Mr. Speaker, but this is out of the *Leader-Post*, and I thought it was quite interesting — chronologically the key events that have happened through this BSE or mad cow's disease. And if you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to go through this, and the history of the cow that we're talking about today.

The spring of 1997, Black Angus cow believed to be born on the McCrea farm in Baldwinton. And I will say again believed to be, because I don't believe that is proven to this point.

Spring of 1998 that cow was sold to Heartland Livestock Services in Lethbridge, Alberta, which then sold it to Stan Walterhouse of Tulliby Lake, Alberta.

The summer or fall of 1998, Bryan Babey, who ranches with his brother near Sandy Beach, 20 kilometres northeast of Lloydminster, bought the cow. She was there for four years and gave birth to four calves. 2002, the Babey's sell the cow along with several other cow-calf pairs due to a lack of feed — probably, Mr. Speaker, probably partly due to the drought.

C.J. O'Grady, a cattle broker in Lloydminster, sells her to Nilsson Bros., a cattle exchange based in Vermilion, Alberta.

August 23, 2002, Marwyn Peaster, a farmer near Wanham, Alberta, buys the cow along with others on August 23, 2002.

January 2003, Peaster notices the Black Angus cow on his farm near Wanham in northern Alberta is unable to stand up. He ships the cow for slaughter.

January 31, Mr. Speaker, cow is condemned as unfit for human consumption on the kill floor; head sent to a laboratory in Fairview, Alberta.

And this again, Mr. Speaker, is where I go back to the confidence that we have and everyone should have with the CFIA because they were there to do their job when it needed to

be done.

On February 8, part of the cow's brain stem arrives in Edmonton lab for testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy — BSE in other words, Mr. Speaker, or mad cow's disease; that's a little easier to say, Mr. Speaker — listed as low priority at that point because it's not common for mad cow disease to be found in Saskatchewan.

May 12 and 13 tests are done on the brain at a provincial lab in Edmonton. May 16, Mr. Speaker, tissue shows positive for BSE and a sample is sent to Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Winnipeg. The result is confirmed and a sample is sent to an international lab in the United Kingdom. The Peaster ranch is quarantined. Already, Mr. Speaker, the CFIA has the wheels turning. May 20, British lab confirms test results. Canadian Food Inspection Agency announces the cow was infected with BSE.

And the problem starts at that point as the public became aware of it, Mr. Speaker. May 21, Sask Ag minister, Clay Serby, says the infected cow may have spent some of its life in the province. The McCreas get a phone call telling them that their ranch must be quarantined because the infected cow may have been born there — and I reiterate, may, Mr. Speaker.

May 22, quarantine increased for a total of nine farms — seven in Alberta, two in Saskatchewan. Investigators look at two possible birthplaces for the infected cow. Investigations expand to British Columbia where three farms are put under quarantine to look at the feed products. Another one in Alberta is added for a total of 13. And the list just goes on and on, Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, we're up to possibly 17 farms that are under quarantine, Mr. Speaker. I believe there's probably about . . . approximately about 400 head have been put down, and to this point not one other animal has tested positive for BSE.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's so important that we have confidence as politicians and the leaders that we are in this legislature and pass that on to our constituents and the people of Saskatchewan. But, Mr. Speaker, also pass it on to our neighbours across Canada from the west and pass it on to all the countries that have put a ban on our beef in Saskatchewan because I think, as is coming to show right here, that the inspection agencies that we have in place, the rules that we have in place, not saying that they can't be improved . . . In fact I would believe, Mr. Speaker, once the smoke has cleared for this, I'm sure that we probably can find ways of improving the system. But we've never had anything like this happen to this degree before, causing this much concern in the public.

So, Mr. Speaker, I personally have every bit of confidence in what our inspection agencies are doing. I have every bit of confidence in eating beef; I did on the weekend. And from talking to other people in my constituency, I found no one that's altering their plans of buying beef, continuing to eat beef. We're in the barbecue season right now, Mr. Speaker. So I believe most here have confidence in the system that we have in place.

It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that unless you eats parts or tissues from the brain or the brain stem or the spine, there is no possibility of contacting or picking up this disease through eating beef. Which, as far as I know, Mr. Speaker, I have never

ate parts of brain or the spine in my life, and I don't think very few probably have.

So, Mr. Speaker, as far as hamburger or steak or roasts or anything like that from any beef cut, to my knowledge — and I think that's the message we're getting out of here — that beef is every bit as safe today as it was three months ago or three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the public will bear with the farming community and the ranchers in this province, because the longer this problem goes on, the more devastating it's going to be to ranchers in this province. And that in turn goes to the packing plants, the abattoirs — there are thousands of people whose job relies on the beef industry in this province. And not just this province, Mr. Speaker, but in Alberta, Manitoba, BC (British Columbia), we have farms quarantined. It's all across this country and it will be devastating, Mr. Speaker, if we cannot bring this to an end, convince our trading partners that our beef is safe. And I would hope that they would open their borders, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible. We can convince them that it should be trading as usual and that we have a very safe product for them to import.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move this motion:

That this Assembly expresses its complete confidence in the Canadian beef industry and urges other nations to reopen their borders to Canadian beef imports as soon as possible.

Seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, member for Rosetown-Biggar.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the member from Saltcoats for moving the motion, not just on behalf of the official opposition but on behalf of the Legislative Assembly here in Saskatchewan, which I believe speaks to the importance of the issue of food safety, particularly in light of the recent BSE case that was discovered in the province of Alberta.

I will keep my remarks brief, Mr. Speaker, because I would encourage others to also express their confidence in the safety of our food and particularly the safety of the food industry. I am pleased that the Minister of Agriculture has agreed to support this motion and, I believe, speak to the motion. We welcome that.

We would also encourage the Minister of Health to speak to the motion, the Minister of Finance whose bottom line is enhanced somewhat by the beef industry and the agriculture sector here in the province of Saskatchewan, and others on both sides who might wish to express their support for not only the safety of our food, but the way this issue has been dealt with over the last seven or eight days.

(14:45)

Mr. Speaker, the safety of Canadian food is second to none in the world. Many of us have had the opportunity to travel to many countries around the world. And I think I can speak with confidence that all of us agree that we don't feel any safer going and eating food or purchasing groceries from a grocery store than we do here in Canada, after having travelled to many countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of our food starts with the industry. And the beef industry is no exception to that insistence upon safety. It starts with the producers in that industry, producers who practise proper methods to ensure the health of their herds and proper record keeping. And, Mr. Speaker, it concludes with the highest global standards to ensure safe food. Mr. Speaker, we want to express our appreciation to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for the role that they are playing in ensuring the continued high and strong reputation for safe food here in the nation of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that as the details of our food inspection process have been revealed in light of this BSE case, we find out that Canada's standards are superior to those of the United States, Mr. Speaker, the country that is at the current time not allowing imports of Canadian beef into their country. And, Mr. Speaker, we believe that because of the high standards insisting upon food safety that are adhered to in our country, that this ban should be removed as soon as possible to recognize the safety of Canadian food and the confidence that everyone in the world can have that the products, the food products that they import from Canada, whether it be beef or others, are absolutely safe.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have talked about the role of the provincial government. And we recognize that in this case the CFIA must take the lead role, Mr. Speaker. But we have encouraged our provincial government to offer all the support that is possible to offer through the Department of Agriculture or through the Minister of Health and whatever other resources that we can put forward to communicate not only to the people of Canada but to people around the world who are following this issue that in fact due diligence is being done, the proper steps are being taken, and that we can assure with confidence that our food will be safe into the future.

Mr. Speaker, we discourage knee-jerk reactions. We discourage people going to extremes and being concerned and spreading a message of fear about Canadian food and particularly about beef in Canada.

We encourage and we applaud those who have shown confidence, who have shown respect for our system and our procedures. We do not . . . We respect the role that science is playing in this issue, where we are not being lax in identifying herds that need to be quarantined.

Mr. Speaker, while we are not lax in actually slaughtering herds if that be required, but on the other hand, we are not alarmists who want to go around just slaughtering herds willy-nilly even upon rumour that there may be some connection with this infected animal, Mr. Speaker.

We are thankful to the professionals, the experts in the food safety area who are very methodically and very carefully

following procedures to ensure that every precaution is taken to maintain the standard of food safety here in our country.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the provincial government and we ask all citizens of Saskatchewan to counteract the nonsense and the fearmongering of those like Senator Dorgan in the United States, Mr. Speaker, a senator in a country whose food standards are not equal to those of Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, we think it'll be more profitable for Mr. Dorgan if he would focus his resources and his efforts upon improving the food and safety of his own nation rather than offering criticism and condemnation for Canada, a country who has set the highest standards for food safety anywhere in the globe.

Mr. Speaker, we are particularly pleased with the Canadian consumers' response to this crisis. As my colleague, the member from Saltcoats, has indicated, that people in Canada, people in Saskatchewan are still consuming beef and have every confidence that when they place a steak on their barbecue or when they drive through the drive-through to pick up a hamburger when they're on the go and in a hurry, that that food is absolutely safe, that that beef product is without a doubt safe and nourishing to them, Mr. Speaker.

It seems that the consumers understand that they can maintain confidence in our beef products and, Mr. Speaker, we are encouraged by that. We are encouraged by the common sense that Saskatchewan people and Canadian people are showing towards this issue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are issues that will have to be dealt with as we move forward on this issue. We know that there's a compensation schedule that the federal government negotiates with the owners of herds who have to be disposed of and we anticipate that that will be done in a fair and equitable manner.

Mr. Speaker, if this is not resolved soon, we know that there is further compensation that will have to be considered for the industry. We trust that that will not happen because of the high standards that we have set.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that the future for the beef industry in this country and in this province is high. We believe that it's an industry that can be expanded and we commend all of those who are working together in this, we hope, short period of crisis to ensure the longevity of one of the most profitable and one of the most worthy industries in our province and in our country, of those who provide safe food, safe meat for the consumers, not only of Saskatchewan, not only of Canada, but around the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure this afternoon to stand, although I was careful about the selection of the word because it's never a pleasure to stand up and talk about an issue of this magnitude, Mr. Speaker, that's affected our country. But I want to join this afternoon in the resolution that's been put forward by the official opposition as it relates to assuring Canadians around a couple of fronts.

One is that we have a system today, Mr. Speaker, that is second

to none in terms of the tracking and tracing. And we also have, Mr. Speaker, today an industry, in that of the beef industry, that we hold in high regard because of the work that it's done, not only in ensuring Canadians that we have a safe food system as it relates to beef but also that in fact they have done a good deal of work in identifying a tracking and trace-back system.

A year and a half ago, Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to speak at a chamber of commerce luncheon here in Regina. And at that luncheon was the president of the Canadian Cattle Association out of the US.

And he stood at his microphone and talked for a long time and gave high praise to the Canadian Cattle Association and our Saskatchewan leadership, which is managed through people like Mr. Jahnke, about how we have been able to take this particular industry in the last couple of years and establish a system of tracking and trace-back in a fashion which isn't done anywhere else in North America, Mr. Speaker, for sure.

And this afternoon I want to, first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, to pay a tribute and credit to our Canadian cattlemen's associations, to our beef industry, today in the way in which they have been able to assure Canadians that we do have a safe and healthy beef system in this country.

As we are speaking in the legislature here today, as you know last night or yesterday afternoon at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, there was a debate at the national level, at the federal level, about this very issue. Provincial governments and . . . or provincial legislatures across the country are raising this as a significant issue, Mr. Speaker, and are wanting to be on record about doing the two things that we are doing here today — speaking about the strength of the industry and the future of the industry.

I want to start out or further my comments, Mr. Speaker, by saying that we have done some things in this province to stay close abreast to this particular issue. We've had a committee established, an industry committee established, that is advising me. Today, Mr. Bob Ivey spoke to the media about the importance of the industry. And as the Leader of the Opposition suggested a moment ago, that we don't react here on a knee-jerk reaction, that we let the science take its course, and at the end of the day what we'll have here is a situation that will serve us well into the future as it has in the past.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we've been spending a good deal of time on a daily basis advising the public of exactly what's happening in Saskatchewan, exactly what's happening in Canada. Those briefings are involving the media, our own provincial media, who have done, in my view, a wonderful job of imparting that information to our Saskatchewan citizenry.

And I can tell you when in fact it is that we're doing a good job of making sure that the public is well informed and when it is that we're not by the number of telephone calls that I get in the minister's office, that ministers get in their office. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I have few calls in my office about this particular issue and I've had few calls in my constituency office about this issue. And partly it's because we haven't taken this matter and politicized it at all in Canada — not in this province for sure.

And nowhere in Canada have we heard anybody say that one individual or one part of the industry is more responsible for this than another because the reality here is that this is not a provincial issue, this is a national issue. And accordingly, we're dealing with it from a national perspective. And I want to this afternoon pay tribute to the work that the media has done in helping us communicate the information on a regular basis to all Saskatchewan citizenry, enabling them to better understand this particular matter.

I want, Mr. Speaker, to also talk a little bit about the confidence that the consumers currently have in the system. I have with me today just a couple of articles. One I see is in *The Ottawa Citizen*. The other article, Mr. Speaker, is in *The StarPhoenix*. They both read this way:

Canadians haven't stopped buying steaks, (or) hamburgers or other beef products, in the week since mad cow disease . . . (has found its way into) Alberta, (and) the head of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (has) said.

So by and large, Mr. Speaker, the kind of work that we've done in highlighting the . . . and capturing or corralling the issue to the 17 farms across Western Canada today, and making the public aware of what it is that we're doing on a daily basis, has, in fact, restored or at least sustained the confidence that the public has in the consumption of beef in Western Canada and for that matter across the nation.

Now I know that the members opposite talked a little bit — from the Saskatchewan Party — talked about the importance of this industry. And I have a couple of statistics, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to share with you and the House this afternoon about really how important this industry is to Saskatchewan.

Canada, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is the 11th largest producer in beef in the world but is the fourth largest exporter of beef, so when people here talk about the importance of opening the borders, clearly Saskatchewan has a large, large dependency on its export outside of Canada and particularly into the US.

My note continues, to say that 50 per cent of the beef production supplies about 12 per cent of the world exports. And Saskatchewan has, Mr. Speaker, the second largest cowherd in Canada — we're at 1.2 million head in this province — and that the Canadian food industry sales are estimated to be about 65 billion, of meat comprising about 11.3 billion. And the Saskatchewan food industry sales are estimated to be about 2.2 billion, and with meat comprising about \$1 billion.

And so when people talk about the importance of the beef industry to Saskatchewan, it is a very, very large industry and has a large number of ancillary spinoffs — we have the trucking industry, we have the feeding industry, we have the feedlot industry, we have the packers, and we have the processors — which are all jobs and most of those jobs are located, Mr. Speaker, in large communities across the province.

So you have your primary producers in Saskatchewan today that are making a huge contribution to this province and the beef industry, and supplying a number of jobs. And when we get into a situation like we are today, we really do recognize the very significant contributions that the beef industry makes to

Saskatchewan.

I view this, Mr. Speaker, as a bump in the road; that at the end of the day we'll be able to demonstrate as we have already through the work of CFIA . . . It's incredible that in a period of eight days, which is not a very long time when you go to examine the number of herds, there's 17 herds in Western Canada that have been identified where there has been association either through the mother or the offspring of these animals, or where the cow who was infected actually lived, or in fact feedstock that made its way on to some of these farms.

So it's not only the examination of CFIA of the animals, but they've also been able to take the feedstock and examine the feedstock back to the various different farms that we have in Western Canada — Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba . . . or British Columbia. That is an incredible piece of work that these men and women have been able to do. And it clearly demonstrates that our system works.

(15:00)

Here you have an animal that has the disease, that was on the slaughter line. Somebody noticed that this animal should not be making its way into the food chain, removed this animal from outside . . . out of the food chain to ensure that today we only have the one cow that's been identified, that never did make its way into the food chain. And that's an incredible piece of examination that takes place today, when we're talking about the importance of the structure, the system that exists.

Furthermore in my comments, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk very briefly about where do we go from here. We all know that there's been a good deal of work done in the agricultural policy framework; that in fact there's a chapter within the agricultural policy framework that addresses itself to food safety. What we'll find I expect in the next couple of months here, or within the next couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker, is that there'll be a larger concentration and necessity placed in investment into the food safety pillar.

And from time to time we'll hear those who will argue that we should not be signing the implementation agreement as it relates to the agricultural policy framework. We'll need to remember this very incident that we're talking about today, Mr. Speaker, about how important it will be to make larger investments into the food safety pillar given that there are a number of examinations that are going to take place here.

One of the examinations that will take place at the national level will be whether or not there should be mandatory registration of all livestock in Canada. Mandatory registration, in that there be a mandatory record-keeping system by all producers of livestock in this country. This could be in fact a residue that comes from this particular issue.

We shouldn't discard the notion that, coming from this incident today, is that there may be tougher penalties here for people who are not complying with some of the regulation that will be established along the way in the livestock industry, given the significance that it's put this industry under today.

We should also be cognizant of the notion that there'll be some

decisions that will need to be made about what we do with rendering, into the future, and whether or not there should be any ruminant product making its way at all into the food chain, the animal food chain.

It's interesting that this morning, Mr. Speaker, coming out of Manitoba is the decision that they're no longer going to be allowing animal beef . . . animal ruminant to enter into the system. That's a huge, huge decision that that province has made and leaves the rest of the provinces today to having to work at making decisions about how it is that we're going to deal with animal ruminant.

I heard just recently from a conversation that I had with my colleagues across the country that if we choose not to render the ruminant of the beef animals, or the animals that are destroyed in this country, we'll have to find a different way of disposing of it. And if it's going to be stored or if it's going to be put in waste sites, this will require huge tracts of land in order to deal with it.

Or will it be incinerated? And many people who have provided advice for us today tell us that this issue will not . . . we don't have the capacity today to incinerate that.

So the offshoots of this particular issue, in terms of the kinds of decisions that will need to be made, will be huge.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we've heard on a number of occasions today . . . or to date, about the importance of enhancing the testing system, on having a more profound way of making sure that we do more tests in Canada of the animals and that we record that in a more timely fashion, to be sure that at the end of the day we have a record keeping system and that we have a system that will meet a standard that is even higher than it is today.

I want to congratulate, Mr. Speaker, the members of this Assembly because we have not taken the occasion . . . this is in Assembly, where we're all politicians, Mr. Speaker, and we come here with our own political ideologies, with our own views, with our own expectations of achievement, and at the end of the day work at doing that through the political system.

On this particular issue I want to say clearly, Mr. Speaker, that I have very much appreciated the fact that the members of the opposition have been colleagues in the approach to how we deal with this Saskatchewan issue and this Canadian issue, and how they, along with what we've been portraying, Mr. Speaker, is that this is a national issue.

And when I speak to my colleague in Alberta, who on occasion don't agree with the same political ideologies or issues, but on this particular issue, Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture for Alberta has been very clear. She has publicly stated in a conversation that I've had with her, just last night — and I know she wouldn't mind me sharing this — has said that when we go to find resolution to this particular issue we need to do that as a national body. This is not an Alberta issue alone, even though they have 12 farms. This is not a Saskatchewan issue or a British Columbia issue.

And we can't accept the language that's coming out of Quebec



by the Premier of Quebec, Mr. Charest, who says that this issue should be captured in the notion of regional decision making or regional management. It is not about regional management; it's about Canadian management, Mr. Speaker.

Because it would not be unusual today to find an animal that could have lived in four or five or six provinces through its lifetime. The way in which we do business today in Canada, in the North America, and with the European world, it would not be unusual for an animal to spend time in this country, to have come from somewhere else, or to be born here and to spend its lifetime in other parts of the world.

And so when we go to address this issue from a broader perspective of tracking and tracing, as much as we're leaders today, we need to address it from a national perspective under the national food strategy and the work that's been done by the national . . . or by the Canadian food agency to do its work.

We're heard and talked a little bit about the compensation piece. Clearly there is regulation in place today to deal with the animals that have had to be put down, and there are now two farms that have been put down, Mr. Speaker — one in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan. There may be others that CFIA may decide need to be put down. And they'll be . . . those decisions will be made from a variety of different perspectives. Clearly it is our hope that those decisions will be made on a scientific basis, that animals will be destroyed, that testing will occur on the basis of what CFIA finds.

But at the same time I listen carefully to what the Leader of the Opposition said about the words of Mr. Dorgan, or Senator Dorgan out of the United States. It won't take much, Mr. Speaker, to have that kind of language attach itself to the seriousness of a statement that says our Canadian beef wouldn't be safe if we continue to hear that kind of language.

And it's incumbent upon us, Mr. Speaker, to do what we can to assure the international marketplace from a scientific perspective, but also to be cognizant about what the international community might demand of us. Because at the end of the day people like Minister Vanclief who is the Minister of Agriculture federally, or Mr. Pettigrew who negotiates trade agreements for the world for our country . . . we don't know yet fully today what the expectations of those countries will be to permit our beef to be back into their environments.

And so we should be careful in our language when we go to express ourselves about what others are saying. Because it may not only be around the scientific evidence that will need . . . lead us to make decisions at the end of the day to open up the industry to where it can serve not only our country domestically, but internationally, and to make sure that it can preserve this industry to the future. And those decision will be difficult ones when it . . . when we get pressed in the weeks, or the days and the weeks ahead here as we deal with our international community.

It is our view on intelligence that we receive from Ottawa in our press . . . or in our ministerial discussions with Ottawa, that what it will take from the international community to open its borders is to be assured that our beef is safe — is absolutely safe.

And we can stand in this Assembly and assure Canadians that our beef is safe, which we've been doing, that there's no evidence to date to demonstrate that it isn't. It's only one cow that we're talking about today that has not made its way into the food system. But our work will continue to demonstrate and hopefully, at the end of the day, through CFIA it'll be shown that it is only one animal, that it was an isolated situation, and that in fact our feedstocks are safe and that Canadians can rest well assured, and the international community, that in fact our meat and our food system is safe.

So as we speak today in the House, Mr. Speaker, the industry is in Ottawa. Agriculture, livestock producers are in Ottawa. This afternoon and tomorrow, they will be talking about how it is that we'll need to deal with the broader issues of compensation, what we do with the issues around rendering, talking about the kinds of communication challenges that we'll have in assuring Canadians that our meat is safe. And that work we'll continue we'll do.

And in the meantime we're going to support as best we can, all of us in Canada, the work of the CFIA. We'll provide whatever resources we need. We'll do the kinds of international protocol that's required to encourage the countries who are traders of ours in the past to open their borders again to our food system.

And at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, we will once again demonstrate that Canadian producers are top shelf when it comes to producing food, that Canadian producers are heads and shoulders on many fronts ahead of other communities in the world in terms of tracking and tracing, and that, when you line Canadian producers up with any other producer anywhere in the world, we'll come out on top.

And so in . . . I, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government are pleased this afternoon to support the resolution of the official opposition. And I expect that this message will be communicated to the national level of government commending them on the good work that they're doing today, and will assist them I think in their work as they talk about not only confirming within the minds of Canadians that we have a good system, but also communicating that message to the international marketplace, from which are producers that we will do . . . will benefit and grow our industry into the future.

So thank you very much for the opportunity. And I'm pleased on behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker, to support the resolution as it makes its way to those areas of the country which will be helpful in our work.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great deal of pleasure to speak on this motion today.

Mr. Speaker, as pointed out, we've all been in the last week, been very, very . . . well really excited about the consequences of the detection of an animal that has BSE. As we know, last Tuesday morning it was announced that this animal . . . the test had come back on this animal and this is the first animal in many years that was recognized as having the disease.

As we know, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency went to

work even before the announcement and has been doing an exceptional job with this issue. And I think it's important that we recognize the job that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has done on this issue.

They've really taken control, and naturally it is the right of the national government to look after this type of outbreak, this type of disease in Canada. It's not a regional issue; it's a national issue. And we must recognize the important role that the federal government has in looking after this very serious concern that . . . when there's an outbreak in the livestock industry.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency naturally has quarantined a number of herds. And they have taken every precaution, I believe, that is reasonable in quarantining the herd that has a possible link to mad cow disease. They have depopulated at least two herds and may be in the process of doing some other herds. The initial tests have come back negative and that's a very important signal that this disease is under control, that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has done their work, has done it well.

It's interesting, a bit of the history of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. They have been dealing with other health concerns in livestock industry in Canada for a number of years. Formerly I believe they were called the health of animals. And we know through testing livestock, with tuberculosis and also Bang's disease, that they have a history and they have a good record of dealing with diseases in Canada; they have done an exceptional job in eliminating brucellosis as a disease in Canada.

And every now and then we still have TB (tuberculosis) outbreaks, but the CFIA has done an exceptional job in quarantining those areas, slaughtering those animals, and keeping the industry in Canada safe and healthy and free from problems.

(15:15)

They've also done an exceptional job dealing with chronic wasting disease in elk. They have done a wide-ranging job of quarantining and depopulating herds that have had . . . come down with chronic wasting disease.

So they have a lot of experience this area. They've done . . . They have a very good track record. They've done an exceptional job, and as it's been pointed out in a number of other speakers, we support the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; the members on both sides of the House do.

I know the livestock industry certainly supports what the CFIA has been doing now and in the past, and will be doing in the future.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, Canada prohibited the use of ruminant waste being put into feed back in 1997. As we go back into the history of BSE, we know that that was one of the potential causes of BSE in Great Britain in the outbreak that they had.

It was not allowed after 1997, but as someone that's in the

industry, I know that it was not commonly used before that. Animal remains, ruminant animal remains were not generally put into ruminant feed even before 1997. As we know, these by-products are being put into chicken rations and pork rations. There's a possible cross-contamination there. Again highly unlikely. Only theoretically possible that this has taken place, but it is possible.

And before 1997 again, the reason that, the main reason that bone meal was not put into animal feed was because of the low-cost source of other sources of protein for animal feed. And they obviously . . . In Western Canada we had an oversupply where a cheap . . . maybe not an oversupply but a very inexpensive supply of canola meal. And I know in our own rations through the years, when we were needing a protein supplement when canola meal wasn't available, it was usually because of the price of soybeans coming out of the US. And so that was the two products that were going into livestock feed.

And far as bone meal is concerned, it was very rarely used. I'm sure it was used at some point, but very rarely. So even before 1997 it was only theoretically possible that bone meal was used in protein supplements for livestock.

As we know, CFIA has not only quarantined 17 herds and depopulated some of the herds — and to date the results have been negative — but the CFIA has also gone into I believe a feedlot that has been quarantined; also into the feed industry and have worked with the industry.

And the owners of the milling industry that owns these operations have gone back into their records to see if there's any possible connection from the sale of their feed to any livestock producer. And to date we haven't heard of any problems in that area. But it's possible, either through error or misjudgment or cross-contamination of some way, that bone meal was put into livestock feed.

And if that has happened, I know the federal authorities to the CFIA will find that and will take steps to remedy that. I do not believe that anyone would intentionally do that, but errors happen and we must find out if that's a possibility. And if that's a possibility, take steps so that it never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there's a lot of talk right now about compensation. The animals that are being depopulated, I believe they can . . . they're eligible for compensation up to \$2,500 a head maximum, and the producers will be paid out based on the market value of their animals before this problem started. So for the most part, producers will be compensated adequately.

There's always cases where there's animals that are purebreds that are higher valued and quite frankly the sentimental value of herds in cases where people have spent their whole lifetime building up the genetic bank in their herds, and that's something that may not be compensated for through this program, but it's certainly an issue with those producers.

When you look at possible compensation, it's just not the animals that have been put down or those producers. As we know right now the industry's been shut down for a week. There's been no exports into the US or other countries for a

week. So we know that there is a loss to the industry.

Probably the first group of individuals that would lose are the feedlot industry that have fat animals that are ready for slaughter. And as we know, those cattle were not slaughtered. They are still at the feedlot. Those animals can wait some time, but the more . . . of course the longer they wait, the heavier the animals will get. And once the border is open and they are slaughtered, there will be a lot of deductions because of being overweight or too fat.

Or there's other options of basically putting these cattle on a lighter ration. That's a very ineffective, inefficient way of feeding cattle, but those are the alternatives producers have that are producing cattle for the slaughter market. And naturally with no cattle moving, the trucking industry is at a standstill, so there's a loss there — the workers there. And the companies that own the livestock industry certainly has had a loss. If the borders are closed for a short, short time I believe a lot of the economic loss can be made up once things start rolling again.

Of course we know that packing plants are either closed or running at a third or a quarter capacity, and people have been laid off. So naturally there's a loss to those workers and their families because the jobs are not there while this problem continues.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we know there's been some beef that was on transport to Japan, and I believe that the ships brought the beef back to Canada and was not unloaded in Japan. And I'm sure at the end of the day that we will . . . We're confident that all of the food in the Canadian food chain is very safe. But there again, there's another economic loss that has happened.

Of course there's not only the trucking industry but the auction barns and their lack of business which obviously affects their business a lot; naturally producers at the ranch and at the farms have animals that they may want to sell. This is a slower time of the year for auction sales, but naturally there are a number of producers that need to sell animals to make commitments, to pay their bills, and they are not able to do that. Of course the price of livestock naturally has declined because of this — really there's limited opportunity to buy and sell cattle now.

But once the borders open, hopefully all the market . . . the marketplace will take over and the prices of livestock will come back and normality will come back to the industry.

Mr. Speaker, of course of grave concern is what our trading partners think about what's happening here. Right now, as we know, there's only been one animal that has BSE really, and that animal did not go into the human food chain. And so it's important to note that there is no risk to human health in any way concerning this issue. The Canadian food supply is safe and will remain safe.

But perception may be as important or more important than reality. The border to the US and to other customers around the world is closed. We cannot export to those customers. So we have to satisfy our American partners, or our American customers that our beef supply is safe and we've taken all the steps necessary to remedy this situation. And I believe the CFIA has done an exceptional job on that.

The federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Vanclief, has said that he expects the border to be opened in a matter of a few days. And we hope he is right and I'm sure the CFIA is working to bring that about as quickly as possible.

We also know that Americans have sent their officials to Western Canada to observe what we're doing and how we're doing . . . how we're looking after this crisis. And to date, I believe, that they are very satisfied with what we're doing and how we're dealing with this particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to take a look at some of the improvements that's taken place in identifying the animals. There was a program brought in the last two or three years — a tagging system — and it has proven very valuable. There was a lot of concern and disagreement about that in some circles.

At the time the livestock industry was completely behind this new tagging system from day one and realized that we needed to improve our tracking system in case of an outbreak of a disease. And the industry has been proven right. The government was proven right to bring in this new tagging system and to date it helped quite a bit in tracking this animal.

Of course it only goes back two or three years but the previous system of tracking also was adequate, and going back to 1997 or pre-1997 to the manifest system and records from producers and information that's out there . . . So we have a very good system in place. We have improved it with the new tagging system.

And in the future we'll need to look at other ways of identifying cattle, possibly microchips. This certainly is available and if that's something that the industry and the government feels that should be done, certainly that could be a more effective way of tracking animals.

And also it has the added benefit of being able to detect disease in animals through higher temperatures and monitoring cattle because they have this microchip in them. So that's something in the future and I don't think that it's too far off in the future, and it's something we need to seriously look at.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at more of the broader picture about the framework agreement in — agriculture framework agreement — we certainly need to know now that we need to know what we're signing. Is it an adequate agreement? And when we look at disease and the environmental side of the framework and the other areas — we as elected officials who represent the people of Saskatchewan and producers around the province — we need to know what we're signing. And it's very important that the government of the day go the extra step and have a lot of the i's dotted and the t's crossed before we sign on to the agriculture framework agreement and make sure that we have adequate safeguards in for all of agriculture, and not only in this particular situation with the beef industry.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, other things that we're going to need to look at in the future after this problem we have with BSE has passed . . . and it will pass. It's just a matter of how long it takes to satisfy our own scientists, our own industry, and our trading partners around the world. And I have the fullest confidence that this situation will resolve quickly and we'll

move on.

But after that, we as elected officials will need to sit down and take a look at what we have learned from this situation. And, Mr. Speaker, I believe what we see today is a system that is working, that will work, and will solve this problem.

We have to look at the future and one of the areas where . . . is of great concern is in our vet college at the University of Saskatchewan. It's a college that is funded both federally and provincially and with our neighbouring provinces. Each province gets a number of seats at the vet college.

As we know in so many other areas of our society, the veterinary profession is aging and we need to bring more people into the profession. And not only to do that work that is so important in an outstanding industry that everyone in Saskatchewan hopes to have in the future, but also to have people basically on the ground — the troops on the ground — in a disease emergency.

As an example of what happen is if a disease that happened that is more infectious, that travelled much easier, it would be more important that we have the troops on the ground to put a stop . . . to quarantine, to put a stop to the disease from spreading.

And we have to look at what we have in place today. We have to look at what we may need in the future for other situations that may come along. And we have to invest in our . . . well in the infrastructure of our industry and the veterinary end of things — pathology departments, testing departments. We need to have adequate testing facilities to do timely tests.

As we know we've been doing tests in the chronic wasting disease situation in elk, and really our testing facilities were tied up with that when this BSE outbreak came along. And so we need to take a look at the expanding area of testing and being able to handle larger numbers.

(15:30)

As we know we've been testing animals right along, high-risk animals in the beef industry have been tested on a regular basis, and this is of course the first positive that we've incurred.

The other area of future concern is not only having more veterinarians but we need other officials that are qualified to help in this outbreak, and we have to co-ordinate that with a particular outbreak of a disease.

We also have to make sure that our vet college at the University of Saskatchewan is adequately funded — not only the infrastructure it has. There's been some funding put to the university but it's . . . naturally it's never enough. But I think we need to take a long look at adequately funding the university vet college and making sure that it is well placed in Western Canada to be really the centre of excellence as far as concerning disease and disease control. It's done a great job in the past, but we need to make sure that that continues in the future.

Mr. Speaker, just in my last few remarks, I might want to just take five minutes before I sit down, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak really to the industry, the whole veterinary system that we

have in place, the CFIA, and governments, that we must all be very aware of the situation of the world we live in. The industry must be more aware of the possibilities of diseases, and that's really an awareness program going right back to the industry and the producers.

This situation which developed was found because we have a very good surveillance program, a surveillance program that detected this animal, that there was something wrong with this animal. And the vet that looked at the animal and identified the animal did the right thing. He condemned the animal; it did not go into the human food system. The head was sent away for testing.

There's questions about how long that took, and I think I addressed that with the testing facilities we had. It wasn't identified as a high priority but it was tested at the end of the day and the system worked.

And we need to make sure that in Saskatchewan we have that high level of surveillance. Federally inspected plants have their criteria, but I believe there has to be possibly improved surveillance at the local abattoirs, the smaller slaughtering houses in the province, so that in many cases some of these animals that have problems on the farm may be directed more towards the local abattoir or the local slaughterhouse because that animal may have developed some problem and can't be transported very far. In many cases, a broken leg for instance, an accident, the animal can be slaughtered and is fit for human consumption.

So we have to identify that, I believe, as a priority and put more resources towards the local abattoirs and our slaughterhouses so that we keep the food system safe in this province and we keep the borders open. As we've seen, it's a very high-risk situation. When something does happen, it affects the whole industry.

So, Mr. Speaker, I certainly will be supporting this motion. It's a very important motion. I'm pleased that the members opposite are supporting this motion, and we will continue to support the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the work that they've done in the past and are continuing to do in the future.

And I'd just like to make the point that our beef supply is safe, there is no concerns about eating beef, and I certainly continue to eat beef and will continue . . . last week and I ate beef a number of times and I will continue to do so in the future.

So at this time I'd like to take my seat, and again will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support this motion and to congratulate the mover and seconder. I think it is definitely appropriate for this House to express its confidence in the Canadian beef industry, and our support for Canadian producers, and our continuing confidence in the quality and the safety of the product that we are putting out to the world market.

However, if I have any reservations at all about the motion, it is that I think it's still incumbent on us as producers to keep in

mind that the onus is always on us to satisfy our trading partners that the product we are presenting to the world market is safe, it is top quality, and that all possible measures have been taken to ensure that the customers receive the very best product possible. I'm glad that we are expressing our confidence in the inspection, the health system, the regulatory system, the surveillance system in Canadian beef.

But we cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that the customer is always right. Sixty-eight per cent of Canadian beef is exported beyond the borders of this country. So as with most product produced in Canada, the industry depends on world customers and those world customers are always right. It is up to us to prove to them, and to take all steps required by them to satisfy them, that this is a product safe to enter their countries and to appear on their supermarket shelves.

It is never a case that it is open for us as producers to tell our trading partners that they are wrong to be concerned and that we are right. It is up to us to say to our trading partners that we are listening to all measures demanded by you and required by you to satisfy you that Canadian beef is safe. I'm confident that we can meet that challenge.

We do not yet know how this one animal came to be infected as it is. It is important that that be tracked down. It is important that we demonstrate, as I think we have, that we are being aggressive about this situation. I think we are showing that we take this very, very seriously. And I think it is important for us to talk and listen to our trading partners to see what measures they require in order that their borders will be opened up as quickly as possible.

However I say I am pleased that the mover has brought forward this motion. I think it is appropriate that all of us stand together, united and unanimous, in expressing our confidence in this industry, expressing our confidence in the regulators that every step necessary to be taken will be taken to get to the bottom of this and to ensure the safety of the product we are offering.

And that this is a \$4 billion industry to Canada, mostly of course to the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. This is an industry that we must protect, but the way we protect it is by demonstrating to our trading partners our very, very deep commitment to providing to the world markets the best and safest and healthiest product possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take a few moments to enter into the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to support the motion put forward by the member for Saltcoats, the motion that reads:

That this Assembly express its complete confidence in the Canadian beef industry and urges other nations to reopen their borders to Canadian beef imports as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at a situation I guess that seems very grave, and sometimes there's a lot of fear and panic that surround an issue such as beef contamination, and especially with contamination that's relating to mad cow disease, we do

look back at another country that had a serious issue with this. And of course we want to ensure that our food product is safe as we feed it not only to people in Canada but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, but the fact remains that the animal that was detected with mad cow disease in Alberta, it has been shown clearly that this animal and neither do other animals, has entered the food chain. And so that should give confidence to the many consumers in our country, as well as the consumers around the world.

The other fact that remains and is very clear, Mr. Speaker, is that the ruminants from the cow that certainly was put down, did not enter any of the beef industry. For instance, it's not in hamburger; the protein could not possibly get into hamburger or into wieners or that kind of thing — it's prohibited by law. And so, Mr. Speaker, we do commend the CFIA on its very wonderful and responsible action as far as protecting our food thus far.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we reiterate how very important the beef industry is here in Saskatchewan and in Canada. It's important for people to know and to recognize that over 2.4 million head of cattle . . . there are that many in Saskatchewan. There are over 1 million beef cows and we have 15,000 beef producers. Saskatchewan is home to the largest indoor, commercial cattle show in North America and that takes place right here in Regina.

Saskatchewan produces over \$700 million in farm cash receipts from cattle each year. Beef production is the largest livestock commodity and it's second only to hard red spring wheat overall.

In 2002, the number of cattle and cows marketed through Saskatchewan auction markets into Saskatchewan packing plants and abattoirs totalled 1.74 million head.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the facts, these are some of the statistics that it's important for people to recognize. And throughout all the years of our beef industry, it's also important to notice that we have had an excellent regulatory system in place, that we have been ensuring that our food chain is safe, that our meat stock is safe for our consumers. And when you look at those large numbers of cattle that have moved through the industry onto the tables of consumers, you can recognize that in the past, because of good regulatory measures, we haven't had any disasters.

Now some of the members in the Assembly here today have made the statement that it is very, very important that we ensure our international friends and consumers, our trade partners, that we do have a safe food supply. Well, Mr. Speaker, the CFIA is taking every measure and has done a tremendously wonderful job to this point.

It is my hope that we will have this cleared up within the next few days so that the many families out there, the families that have beef and they produce many, many cattle for their markets, will be able to get those stocks rolling and do it very quickly. Because Brad Wildeman, the president of Saskatchewan cattlemen's association, has indicated if this goes on longer than two weeks, there is going to be a major disaster in the industry.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that we have this cleared up shortly. And I am completely confident that the CFIA will do that very thing, and that our industry will move ahead and all of the measures will be taken to ensure that we continue to have a regulatory system that nips these things in the bud when they happen.

Certainly we want to make sure that our international trade partners are confident of our livestock and our produce that is marketed around the world, Mr. Speaker. There's no doubt that they deserve to have the confidence that they are eating safe product from Canada and from other countries.

And there may be the need to change some of the regulations a bit. And so, if that is the case, I'm confident too that the CFIA will be on that immediately. And so, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be among those in this legislature today that supports this very important motion put forward by the member from Saltcoats. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion agreed to.

(15:45)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, by leave, I move that the Assembly move to government orders.

Leave granted.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

#### Motions for Interim Supply

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance to introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my immediate right is Mr. Ron Styles, who is the deputy minister of Finance; directly behind Mr. Styles is Kirk McGregor, who is the assistant deputy minister of taxation, intergovernmental affairs; and directly behind me is Mr. Glen Veikle, the assistant deputy minister of the treasury board branch. These are the officials here to discuss interim supply.

Before I move the motion, the first resolution, I would just like to talk a bit about interim supply and what it means. This is our second interim supply motion request. This is based on one-twelfth, which would cover the cost of servicing the public service for the month of June. It is a straight one-twelfth request.

As you know, Mr. Chair, the budget estimates for each department are before the Committee of Finance. We had the budget presented on March 28. We recognize that it's unlikely that the final appropriation Bill will be agreed to within this House in the very near future so this requires an interim supply motion to be presented and passed so that the activities of the government can be paid for in due course.

So that is the intent of this particular motion and resolution and the appropriate Bill that will be moved later today, Mr. Chair.

So with that I would move resolution no. 1:

That a sum not exceeding \$493,721,000 be granted to Her Majesty on account for the 12 months ending March 31, 2004.

I so move.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And to the minister and the officials, welcome this afternoon.

We have a few questions regarding interim supply. And I'd like to ask the Page to have a copy of the interim supply request brought over as quickly as possible so we can double-check, indeed, the numbers.

But before that material arrives for me, Mr. Minister . . . Mr. Minister, some general questions regarding the state of the economy, not only in Saskatchewan but in Canada. A lot of the budget projections of course are based on prices that were determined in about, you know, the months of February and March.

And we've seen tremendous changes in the Canadian dollar since that time. Your comments, I believe, last time at Finance estimates when you indicated that your budget documents suggest that for every 1 cent change in the value of the Canadian dollar, there is a subsequent change in the amount of money that you have available to pay your bills, as you said.

And the question, Mr. Minister, is that the Canadian dollar has risen significantly. It has, as you indicated, been a positive thing for part of the government's undertaking. But on the other hand, we see now articles in the newspaper regarding STEP (Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership Inc.), which is the Saskatchewan exporting agency. They're very concerned about the export market, indeed that Saskatchewan exporters are going to be doing, you know, much, much poorly as the dollar value changes.

Could you, Mr. Minister, indicate to the people of Saskatchewan how you see the current value of the Canadian dollar affecting not only the budget projections for your department as far as revenue, but how it might affect exporters and of course their contribution to the Saskatchewan revenue fund by taxation in light of the fact that their exports may be affected negatively?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. When we talked about the very similar question in the first interim supply Bill, we had just got the figures in for the end of March in terms of the dollar projections.

And our end of April forecasts are very close to the overall forecasts for the calendar year 2003 at this point in time. Even though the Canadian dollar is now in that 73 cent range, it still hasn't had an impact in terms of our projections for the overall year.

When we look at the impact on exporters and importers,

obviously if you were buying products internationally with Canadian dollars you have an advantage. If you're exporting these and having to sell them in an international context, of course you're at a disadvantage.

Without doing a sector-by-sector analysis, and you'd almost need to do that on a business-by-business analysis, it's hard to know what the overall impact will be. There are lots of offsets to consider as well. We're still looking at significant oil and gas prices that haven't really dropped even though we've seen some resolution to the Iraqi conflict.

So at this point in time, I guess the response today is the same response as a month ago. It's too early to know what the changes in the Canadian dollar or some of these commodity prices might have on our overall projections.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, in your budget document you indicated on page 21 of the budget summary pages that the Canadian dollar averaged 63.7 US cents in 2002. And then as you've indicated, the comment about the current Canadian dollar on page 53, you indicate that a 1 cent change in the value of the Canadian dollar compared to the US dollar from the level assumed in the budget would change the estimated cost in 2003-04 of servicing government gross debt by approximately \$2.8 million. So that is, that is significant as we've seen the value of the dollar rise from that 63.7 average in 2002 to an average of . . . I don't know what it is today but I understand it's around that 73, 74 cent range.

So on one hand obviously we're going to see some significant savings in terms of the debt and the interest rate there. But I understand your comment today being that this is a month and a half into the new fiscal year that you foresee no economic, you know, significant economic impact yet.

But on the negative side, if the value of the dollar holds to 74 or continues to grow somewhat — and I think economists are pretty convinced that we're not going to see massive increases in that 74 cent value — what kinds of negative things would there be in the budget if indeed that dollar holds at that 74, 75 cent range over the long period of the budget? Where do you anticipate, or where do your officials anticipate a problem to occur in the appropriate sectors?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. When we look at the potential impacts on our large exporters, an increasing Canadian dollar will have an impact for example on potash sales in a negative way.

If we look at oil and gas prices, of course, and the price that they're trading at now, it's Canadian dollar amounts, it's world market driven. So there's a bonus in that situation.

(16:00)

We have some, for our manufacturing in Saskatchewan, many of their inputs are imported, so there's an advantage to them as well. So again, I guess what we would have to say is that it's too early to tell what the impact would be on the corporate sector in terms of potential corporate income tax revenues, what the impact might be because of the fluctuations that can occur over the course of the year. And wasn't I think just last week,

where we saw a drop of over 1 cent within 24 hours.

So these sort of dollar numbers, until we know the impact of the averaging across the piece it's hard to actually determine what the impact might be in each sector. So I guess the answer again is that we can predict that there might be some negativity associated with potash sales if the Canadian dollar were to remain high, but again it's way too early to determine what the overall impact on the economy or certainly on the revenue projections of government would be at this time, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, and I think as I've indicated in this Assembly before, it's very useful for the taxpayers of this province to understand the quarterly reports. And your government has promised quarterly financial reports, and I'm sure that you're going to continue with that, so we as an opposition and the people of Saskatchewan will be looking forward to that first quarterly report to see the direction that you've indicated. And I thank you for that comment.

Mr. Minister, on that same line you've mentioned of course that the revenue projections for the province in your budget indicates that, you know, we're anticipating almost \$1 billion worth of revenue from our non-renewable resources, things like oil, natural gas, potash. In your budget projections, if I could ask you, Mr. Minister, to clarify what today's value is for each of the sectors.

I notice that you indicated that the US per barrel for oil in 2003 is expected to be at \$25. Are we on target? Is today's price more or less \$25? Natural gas, you indicated that your budget documents are based on 4.29 per gigajoule in 2003 and the potash prices are at \$200 per tonne. Those were the numbers that were used to develop your document.

We know that of course you've indicated wheat and grain and barley prices there, and we've seen some, some decline in those prices. When we look at a canola price estimated in your document at about \$367, that's far above what the current price is, and we understand that there's fluctuations.

So, Mr. Minister, if you could clarify those three significant revenue-generating commodities of oil, natural gas, and potash as far as the current price today versus what your budget document used for 2003 projections.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, with regard to the oil prices, that's up from our projections at the time of the budget. Natural gas prices are up from our projections at the time of the budget. And potash is down slightly in terms of the commodity prices.

But I would just like to indicate, Mr. Chair, that these are projections and they are based on a year average. The year average is our best estimate, using the models and forecasts that most forecasters and economists would use in terms of determining the best guess for their prices.

Those numbers, what they will be at the end of the year we don't really know. But those are the projections, they are the estimates. And certainly we, at this point in time which really is a photograph today, we can say that the oil prices have been up from our projections, as well as natural gas, and potash is down

slightly.

So again, if you're looking at this in context of an entire year, it's too early to tell what the impact might be if we were to have sustained oil and gas prices. Or if potash were to rebound or even to drop, it's too early to tell what that impact might be.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, a question on everyone's mind, not only here in the Assembly but right across Saskatchewan and Canada of course is the crisis that agriculture is facing today with regards to the cattle industry. And we've seen a withdrawal now of revenue in that sector, very significant declines as options have closed and there's closure of borders. And as indicated in question period today, we see as many as eight countries, I believe, now having closed the borders to Canadian beef.

Mr. Minister, you've indicated before when we've had discussions about the gross domestic product, the GDP of Saskatchewan and how agriculture will affect the GDP. And of course within agriculture there is a sector of the cattle industry. And we've seen of course charts that the media has put forward. And we've seen graphs that indicate of course that the livestock industry is a billions — billions and billions of dollars of revenue in Canada, and a very significant portion in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Minister, the question of course is that we want to alleviate the fear. And our goal and our hope is that the border, especially to the United States with cattle being able to cross the border, is going to be open very quickly. But, Mr. Minister, I guess we need to be aware of an impact. And have your officials studied the impact of the livestock industry on the revenue for the Saskatchewan government and looked at what impact a prolonged closure of trading with a number of countries, what effect will that have on Saskatchewan's economy and of course the revenue projections of your budget?

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — Mr. Chair, certainly when we look at the mad cow situation, we've had a long discussion and debate earlier today and both sides of the House are strongly supportive of the agriculture community and livestock in the province of Saskatchewan.

The answer at this point in time, without knowing all the facts, without knowing the extent of the BSE in Western Canada, what the response of the international communities might be, we still don't have enough information. We're very early on. To know the impact at this time I guess would be no more than a guess.

Certainly we're not prepared at this time obviously to make any sort of assumptions that there might be any impact with regard to either our GDP or our revenue forecast. It's way too early to tell. We're hopeful of course that this can be resolved very quickly, that it is an isolated incident, that we will maintain consumer confidence in beef products from Western Canada, and that we can return to a more normal environment in the very near future. If that's the case, obviously the projections from the budget we would go with in terms of the direct and indirect spinoffs.

And at this point in time it's too early to say whether there will

be a direct affect or an indirect affect, and if this is short term or prolonged, what the potential rebound might be once a resolution is achieved. So it's again too early. We're dealing with averages across the piece in our projections for the entire year and it's too early to know what the impact might be on our livestock industry at this point.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, a specific question about the interim supply motion and the one-twelfth share. You've indicated, your explanation to the people and to this House, that this is strictly a one-twelfth of the expenditures necessary in all of the departments. And I have a specific question about the Department of Health, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Minister, in I believe it was your budget speech or in one of your budget documents — and I apologize for not knowing exactly which document the comment was made — I believe you stated that in health we will see, or your government will make, additional announcements regarding capital projects and constructions as time would pass. And I'm sorry for not having your direct quote. But I believe you were suggesting that over . . . as you passed March 28 you would continue to make announcements about capital projects in health.

Your request today is for one-twelfth share in Health, which is about \$210 million. Mr. Minister, the question of course is that there are many communities in the province who are waiting for announcements with the Department of Health and with the regional health authorities to get busy and begin construction. I know Moosomin is waiting for an announcement. Preeceville is waiting for an announcement. And I'm wondering, Mr. Minister, does the interim supply motion hinder that process or does it still allow the regional health authorities in consultation with the Department of Health to make those plans and to get busy with their projects?

When will the department be making the announcements? Is that dependent upon the Department of Finance or is that dependent upon the Department of Health?

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — Mr. Chair, what I stated of course at the time of the budget address is that the type of capital announcements that we made during the budget address — for example with regard to the Ile-a-la-Crosse hospital — similar announcements would be made.

And since that time of course the Minister of Health has announced the Swift Current hospital. I believe he will be making another positive announcement in Regina tomorrow. He will be making an announcement with regard to Moosomin I'm sure in the very near future.

But again, those sorts of announcements with regard to how they're announced or how the Minister of Health announces these are within the purview of the Department of Health.

There is no hindering in terms of the interim supply motions on the timing or the announcements. Oftentimes the capital announcements that are made are often based on final conclusion in terms of the planning, in terms of working with the community, in terms of when's the best time to make the announcement; and those things are worked out between the Department of Health and obviously the communities that are



affected.

So really the Department of Finance isn't involved in that process. But in terms of the dollars applied, because of the planning phase and the long-term nature of capital announcements, interim supply really deals more with the operating side of government and payments that are required on a monthly basis as opposed to major capital projects, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a question around a press release that was issued in the city of Weyburn yesterday from Culture, Youth and Recreation. And I would just like to quote from this press release, Mr. Minister, so that you're aware of what I speak. And it's entitled, "Weyburn community groups receive funding." And I quote:

Two Weyburn community organizations, The Family Place and the Sun Country Health Region, today received grants totalling more than \$34,000 from the provincial government through the Community Initiatives Fund.

"The programs delivered by these community based organizations are important because they promote healthy living and they support vulnerable children, parents, and families," Culture Youth and Recreation Minister Joanne Crofford said. "These programs will help to sustain and further enhance Saskatchewan's healthy and vibrant communities."

The Family Place received grants totalling \$30,000 to help with its operations, program delivery and continued support for children and families. The Family Place programming is based on the recommendations and needs of community groups, individuals and parents. The Family Place is the only family resource and support centre in the Weyburn area.

(16:15)

Mr. Minister, I have to agree with the final statement that yes, it is the only family resource and support centre in the Weyburn area. My question, Mr. Minister, is how could the Government of Saskatchewan go to the city of Weyburn and imply that there was somehow 30,000 new dollars being given to Family Place through the Community Initiatives Fund when in fact this money is just to replace money that has not . . . is now not being received by the Family Place from other departments?

I would like the minister to answer what departments are now not contributing to Family Place, and why it is now being funded through the Community Initiatives Fund?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. The Community Initiatives Fund is not part of the appropriation Bill before the Assembly.

But I might highlight that in the budget documents that were presented on March 28, that the Community Initiatives Fund is a total of 8.6 million for '03-04.

The specific detail with regard to Family Place in Weyburn is not detail that we would have with the officials in Finance. This question would be better put to either the minister of Social

Services or the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation which is responsible for the Community Initiatives Fund.

So I can't provide the answer. I don't know the detail of how these dollars are allocated to needy community groups in the province of Saskatchewan, or what the level of support they may get from base departments. That would be better . . . more better put, of course, to the actual department. And I think the Department of Social Services would be the one that would be able to answer that specific question, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Chair, Mr. Minister, I appreciate your answer. However my understanding is that what we are questioning about today is the dollars that are being requested for interim supply. And if these dollars are now not coming from the departments but are coming from the Community Initiatives Fund, I would like to know which departments are now not expending the \$30,000 that they previously expended.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well certainly, Mr. Chair, as indicated earlier with the 8.6 million in the Community Initiatives Fund, this is a 45 per cent increase.

The question that she asked me specifically is the dollars that are being provided through the Community Initiatives Fund, is that replacing other dollars? And we don't have that answer and we don't know. It may be; it may not be. That is a question that has to be asked for the Department of Social Services, the department that is actually providing the dollars. Certainly our officials don't have that level of detail.

With regard to interim supply, interim supply indicates dollars that would be allocated mainly for operating purposes within the Department of Social Services on a one-twelfth basis, which is a straight one-twelfth of the budget, the estimate, the vote, before the Assembly within the Department of Social Services. And whether that dollar amount would include some base dollars to Family Place in Weyburn, I couldn't say. We just know the gross numbers; we don't have that level of detail, so she'd have to ask that question to the minister of Social Services, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Chair, thank you, Mr. Minister, for the answer. I guess what I find alarming here is that the misleading press release that was issued in Weyburn insinuating that there was somehow new dollars coming to the Family Place through the Community Initiatives when in fact it is not new dollars.

And, Mr. Minister, I would also like to ask another question which also refers to the Family Place, and it does directly indicate that there are less dollars that are going to Social Services and to Family Place in the city of Weyburn.

Some five years ago there were 12,000 hours of community service provided and paid for through Social Services and administrated through Family Place. And now the Family Place is only receiving 7,200 hours of the same service to . . . funding to provide that service for 7,200 hours.

And, Mr. Minister, I would like to know if there is a reflection in Social Service's budget to indicate the reduction in these hours that are being provided?

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — Mr. Chair, again the purpose of interim supply is to provide dollars before the main appropriation Bill is voted off.

The Department of Finance presents the gross allocation; it's a straight one-twelfth of the budget vote for the Department of Social Services, or the Department of Learning, or the Department of Community ... or, Culture, Youth and Recreation.

And so what it comes down to is, we don't ... I can't, and my officials can't, give the detail in terms of the base funding of Family Place, what that funding level is, how it compares to previous years, whether the grant from the Community Initiatives Fund was over and above a grant they may have received last year — we don't have that detail. And it's not the purpose of interim supply to provide that detail.

The purpose of Committee of Finance and the estimates that would come before the department within the Department of Community Resources and Employment or within the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, those questions that the member's asking today would be ... could be asked of those ministers and the information would be right at hand to provide those answers.

So I'd ask that the member wait until those committees come up, or if she likes our department could ask those departments and provide that information to her on a written basis. Certainly we're prepared to provide that to her. It's just that we don't have that information before us at this point in time, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Chair, to the Minister, I appreciate your answer that you cannot give details directly about the funding for Family Place. However because of the funding cuts that have occurred in Family Place from the Department of Social Services, there should be a reflection in the amount of dollars that are requested for Social Services from the Department of Finance.

And I would hope that the minister would have detail of that, and it is very obvious that the funding is now being awarded through Community Initiatives Fund instead of through Social Services, the 30,000, and it is also very clear that the number of hours that are being provided for support workers at Family Place has also been cut considerably, starting five years ago and it continues to be decreased.

So there should be a reflection in the budget. And, Mr. Minister, I will take your information under advisement and I will be asking the minister of Social Services these questions the next time I have the opportunity. Thank you.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, the second page of your interim supply request is lending and investing amounts, where you indicate that for a one-twelfth share for certain companies, or certain agencies and/or corporations, they require a one-twelfth share. Others don't, and your request includes 6.475 million for those various agencies or corporations that require.

Could you explain the differences between why some corporations require a one-twelfth share now, others don't? The

explanation is not given as to why only 6.475 million is requested for very specific ... I believe five agencies and corporations, and the others don't require. Could you indicate why there is a difference?

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — Mr. Chair, when we look at the lending and investment amounts that have been included in the interim supply numbers, we'll note that the lending and investing amounts within the GRF (General Revenue Fund), that some of them have not ... we have not asked for a one-twelfth interim supply. And the reason for that is that the dollars that are provided to these particular agencies within government are statutory amounts so they are provided for in legislation. The legislation has been approved. The numbers have been approved.

So what we're voting on in interim supply would be estimates that needed to be voted before the Assembly as part of the main appropriation Bill. And in this case these dollar amounts are not included for these particular groups because they are already provided for on a statutory basis, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Then I'll just use two examples, Mr. Minister, then, if you could clarify. Because I'm not sure exactly what you meant.

In the Department of Learning there is a \$66 million lending request or investing request for the year, of which one-twelfth ... there is a request for 5.5 million. You have listed Saskatchewan Power Corporation at 193 million and no request.

Could you explain the difference why Saskatchewan Power Corporation appears on this document and does not have a request when Learning, of course which is a department of government then, has the request? Could you explain the difference between the two?

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — With regard to the examples provided by the member opposite, what it comes down to is what are the numbers that were included in the estimates to be voted before the House, and what were the numbers that were basically provided as part of the budget documents but were accounted for on a statutory basis.

With regard to Learning, the 66 million that was included in the '03-04 estimates and to be voted is 66 million; of course one-twelfth interim supply would be 5.5 million. That is with regard to the Student Aid Fund and that is an estimate that is voted on before this Assembly.

With regard to SaskPower Corporation, the 193 million is their estimated borrowing costs and of course this is provided for by legislation and is a statutory amount and is not included in the estimates to be voted, Mr. Chair.

(16:30)

**Mr. Krawetz:** — One final question in this area, Mr. Minister. Then for all of the Crown corporations that are listed on this document that you've indicated, this is the borrowing requirement of those Crown corporations through the General Revenue Fund on an annual basis, is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. And certainly the member opposite is entirely correct that the Crown corporations listed, because the Department of Finance centrally coordinates and manages the debt of the Crown corporations and of course their lending requirements, that they're included on a statutory basis.

But the member is correct that these would indicate what the borrowing needs of these Crown corporations would be as an estimate for '03-04. Some of that may be for capital projects, some of it may be for refinancing, but that would be the borrowing needs of those Crown corporations for fiscal '03-04, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, your officials provided me with the copy of all of the federal-provincial programs and the revenue that Saskatchewan will obtain from those various programs, and I want to thank them for that. It's a good, complete list and it indicates the exact numbers that your province . . . that the province of Saskatchewan will be obtaining.

Question, Mr. Minister, is, like we're talking about a one-twelfth supply of revenue to the various departments. Does the federal government supply you on a regular one-twelfth amount of money or do you obtain the \$194 million upfront?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, each of these federal-provincial agreements are unique in terms of the terms of how the dollars are provided from the federal government. For example, one agreement may indicate that there would be a quarterly payment. One agreement might indicate that a bill needed to be provided by the provincial government to the federal government, that would be concerned with that contractual arrangement.

But each one of these are a unique arrangement and it could be monthly, quarterly, by account, by billing. And so it's not . . . I'm not able to say that it would be provided on a one-twelfth basis. Each one would be unique to the particular agreement that had been signed between the provincial and federal government, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, one specific question and I know you might . . . your answer might be the same in that your officials can't provide you with that answer. But of course Health is the largest amount of money that is received from the federal government. Nearly \$60 million is obtained, and of course, one of the significant amounts of money is in the area of Health Reform Fund, a new amount of federally allocated money to the tune of 31.962 million, if the number that I'm reading is correct.

Can your officials indicate to this Assembly whether or not that money is obtained on a quarterly, monthly basis or has the Government of Saskatchewan received all of that \$31 million already?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, with regard to that specific example on the Health department and federal transfers to support the federal health accord, it's my understanding that the actual, the trust funds that will be dispensing those dollars are still being set up, and the details of how the money will be

allocated from those trust funds have not yet been worked out.

So all I can say is that the federal legislation to support that, I understand, is before the House, before the House of Commons. The trust funds have not yet been set up, and the details of how those trust funds will allocate dollars to provincial departments has not yet been determined, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. My final question this afternoon is regarding the legislative branch of government and you've indicated that everyone was seeking a one-twelfth share but I noticed that the Chief Electoral Officer, there is no one-twelfth share. Could you explain why there is zero in that column when everyone else seems to have some monies allocated to each of those departments? Is this unique?

And I want to thank you, especially your officials for being present this afternoon and assisting us in understanding the interim supply request of nearly a half a billion dollars.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. Again following the logic of answers earlier, the Chief Electoral office as a legislative branch of government receives statutory funding so it doesn't need to have an estimate or a one-twelfth interim supply. So the dollars are provided for, the legislation is there. They draw their dollars as required and it's the same answer as the previous one we gave.

And with that, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my officials who were here today to talk about this Appropriation Bill. And we have resolution no. 1 to deal with.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — With that, Mr. Chair, I would move resolution no. 2:

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004, the sum of \$493,721,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

The committee reported progress.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

Motion agreed to and the resolutions read a first and second time.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move:

That Bill No. 42, The Appropriation Act, 2003 (No. 2) be

now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill read a first time.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly and under rule 55(2), I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

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

### ROYAL ASSENT

At 16:46 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills:

- Bill No. 19 - The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 18 - The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 6 - The Podiatry Act
- Bill No. 7 - The Occupational Therapists Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 14 - The Registered Nurses Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 5 - The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 10 - The Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 9 - The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 25 - The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 22 - The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2003

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name I assent to these Bills.

Bill No. 42 - The Appropriation Act, 2003 (No. 2)

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 16:51.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, leave to move a motion of transmittal.

Leave granted.

### MOTIONS

#### Motion of Transmittal

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, thank the Government of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for their immediate and thorough response to the bovine spongiform . . . BSE crisis, and further that the Speaker transmit copies of the private member's (how did you like that . . . and the private member's) motion and verbatim transcript adopted earlier

today to the Prime Minister of Canada and the federal Minister of Agriculture and all opposition party leaders.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move . . . I would ask for leave to move to government orders.

Leave granted.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

##### General Revenue Fund Environment Vote 26

The Assembly recessed until 19:00.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Draude .....	1215
Gantefoer .....	1215
Weekes .....	1215
Allchurch .....	1215

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk .....	1215
McCall .....	1215
The Speaker .....	1215
Deputy Clerk .....	1215

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Hermanson .....	1215
-----------------	------

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Weekes .....	1216
Lorjé .....	1216
Hillson .....	1216
Sonntag .....	1216
Wall .....	1216
Higgins .....	1216
Junor .....	1223
Draude .....	1223

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### National Access Awareness Week

Toth .....	1216
------------	------

##### Child Care Week

Atkinson .....	1217
----------------	------

##### Weyburn Livestock Exchange

Bakken .....	1217
--------------	------

##### Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Mineral Spa

Hagel .....	1217
-------------	------

##### St. Joseph's Seniors Club Honours St. Louis Woman

Julé .....	1217
------------	------

##### Moose Jaw Community Groups Receive Funding

Higgins .....	1217
---------------	------

##### House Lights Knocked Out by Lightning

Hillson .....	1218
---------------	------

##### Inclusive Educational Environment

Lorjé .....	1218
-------------	------

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Hermanson .....	1218
-----------------	------

Serby .....	1218
-------------	------

##### Support for Agriculture

Bjornerud .....	1220
-----------------	------

Serby .....	1220
-------------	------

##### Future of Crown Corporations

Wall .....	1221
------------	------

Sonntag .....	1221
---------------	------

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

##### New Mining Regulations

Higgins .....	1223
---------------	------

D'Autremont .....	1224
-------------------	------

##### Child Care in Saskatchewan

Hagel .....	1224
-------------	------

Toth .....	1225
------------	------

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Yates .....	1225
-------------	------

The Speaker .....	1225
-------------------	------

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

##### Motion No. 6 — Confidence in Canadian Beef Industry

Bjornerud .....	1225
-----------------	------

Hermanson .....	1227
Serby .....	1228
Weekes .....	1231
Hillson .....	1234
Julé .....	1235
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE OF FINANCE</b>	
<b>Motions for Interim Supply</b>	
Melenchuk .....	1236
Krawetz .....	1236, 1240
Bakken .....	1239
<b>FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS</b>	
Melenchuk .....	1241
<b>APPROPRIATION BILL</b>	
Melenchuk .....	1241
<b>ROYAL ASSENT</b> .....	1242
<b>MOTIONS</b>	
<b>Motion of Transmittal</b>	
Lautermilch .....	1242
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE OF FINANCE</b>	
<b>General Revenue Fund — Environment — Vote 26</b> .....	1242