

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to stand to present a petition on behalf of people of this province who would like to see Highway No. 20 from Nokomis to Strasbourg repaired. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway No. 20 from Nokomis to Strasbourg in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And the signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the city of Humboldt, the community of Watson, of Bruno, and of Bellevue.

I so present.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to bring forward a petition on behalf of people 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 who have signed this petition are from Kelvington and Lintlaw.

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

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

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, of course are from the city of Moose Jaw but also for the communities of Mortlach and Holdfast, and I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I present a petition on behalf of constituents from the Cypress Hills constituency concerning the premium increases to crop insurance this year. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from Lancer, Abbey, and Portreeve.

I so present.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the dangerous and deplorable condition of Highway No. 43, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Gravelbourg, Willow Bunch, and Mazonod.

I so present.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from citizens concerned about Highway No. 20. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 20 from Nokomis to Strasbourg in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Regina, Strasbourg, and Duval.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens from my constituency very concerned about the condition of Highway 47. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by people from Estevan, Midale, Bienfait, and North Portal.

I so present. Thank you.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of Moose Jaw and district who are very concerned about the lack of a hemodialysis unit. And the prayer reads:

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

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Lafleche and Woodrow.

I so present.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of residents from my hometown who have a constructive proposal for a new CT (computerized tomography) scanner for the Swift Current Regional Hospital. And the prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reconsider its plan to allocate the used CT scanner to Swift Current and instead provide a new CT scanner for the Southwest.

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

And again, Mr. Speaker, all the petitioners are from the frontier city, the city of Swift Current.

I so present.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise again with a petition from citizens who are extremely concerned about the highway conditions in rural Saskatchewan. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks of Vanguard, Pambrun, Swift Current, and visitors from Lloyd, Alberta.

I so present.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan concerned with safety for workers in the oil patch in the Coleville area and the lack of cellphone coverage. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to construct a new cellular telephone tower at Coleville, Saskatchewan.

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

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

Coleville and Kindersley.

I so present.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from citizens concerned about the high premium increases to farmers. The prayer reads:

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

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

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie 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 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are all from the village of Rabbit Lake.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 12, 18, 36, 41, 120, and no. 124.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 59 ask the government the following question:

To the minister of Saskatchewan Gaming Authority: how does Wascana Gaming incorporated own the software developed for the SLGA's mega bingo in light of the fact that RFP Western Canada Lottery Corporation reference no. 621-97, section 23, refers to intellectual property rights?

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day. no. 59 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for the environment and resource management: how many pickup trucks did your

department purchase in fiscal year 2002-2003; and further to that, what companies or dealerships were these vehicles purchased from; and what was the purchase price per vehicle?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have questions for several years in regards to this manner.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce someone behind the bar, Senator Daryl Beall from Iowa.

He's a teacher and a journalist, and his claim to fame — or one of his many claims to fame — is he ran for Secretary of State at age 25, and he got nearly half a million votes and he still didn't win. But he does have the record as the youngest statewide candidate in the history of Iowa.

So I ask everyone to welcome Senator Beall to this Assembly.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, Senator Ryan Taylor from North Dakota.

Senator Taylor is a rancher, columnist, and territory manager. And I think a lot of us are going to be familiar with the name because of the column that he writes is *Cowboy Logic* — so many of us have read that column.

So I would like all of you to please welcome Senator Taylor to our Assembly.

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I would also like to welcome one of our guests from Nebraska, Senator Adrian Smith.

Senator Smith is a Republican legislator from the province . . . or from the state of Nebraska and in District 48. And I would ask all members to please join me in welcoming him.

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce Senator Pam Redfield who represents District 12, Omaha, Nebraska.

Senator Redfield is a graduate of the Duchesne Academy and a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is Chair of the National Conference of State Legislators; member, executive board, National Conference of Insurance Legislators; member of Innovations Selections, Suggested State Legislation, and Midwest-Canada Trade Relations committees, Council of State Governments; Task and Fiscal Policy Task Force, American Legislative Exchange Council; and a Chair, Rotary International Foundation; as well a member of the committees of banking, commerce and insurance, and revenue claims.

I hope all members will welcome Senator Redfield.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to our colleagues in the House, Ilene Grossman who is sitting up in the Speaker's gallery.

Ilene comes to us from the Council of State Governors, the Midwest Legislative Conference. Ilene coordinates all of this and makes sure it works.

And I think everyone would be interested to know that Ilene is very involved in the upcoming MLC (Midwestern Legislative Conference) conference that is proposed for Saskatchewan in 2005. And all the members in this House, I believe, are working closely with that and I would ask that they welcome Ilene to our Assembly.

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

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly, 19 students who are sitting in the west gallery of the legislature from Wildwood School in my constituency. These are grade 8 students, Mr. Speaker. And they're accompanied by their teacher, Cindy Dickie, and by four parent chaperones, Mr. Speaker: Maryanne Zuzak, Kathy Litwin, Terry Redpath, and Deb Baker.

And I'd like to invite all members of the Assembly to extend a warm welcome to these students and their parents and teacher. And we wish you a very nice visit to the legislature, an enjoyable time in Regina, and a safe trip home. I'm looking forward to getting together with you later this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and please welcome the students.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Hon. Assembly, I would like to introduce 16 grade 5 students from Scotsburn School in Estevan. They are seated in the east gallery and they are accompanied by their teacher, Carolyn Walliser; chaperone, Bonnie Rittaler; and bus driver, Terry Whitman.

I look forward to meeting with them after question period and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them here this afternoon. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you notice that my buttons are bulging a little bit this afternoon, it's not because of the diet I've been keeping over the session. It's because three of the four best grandchildren in the world are in your gallery this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, they're accompanied, of course, by Carole, who is no stranger, and our daughter Laurie, and they're Hayley, Scott, and Rachael McKharracher from Calgary. Mr. Speaker, it's

always a pleasure to invite and welcome guests to the Chamber, but it's particularly a pleasure to invite your own grandchildren and I'd like everyone to please welcome them.

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

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

#### Women Voyageurs Travel from Cumberland House to The Pas

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, I wanted to tell the Assembly about a remarkable group of northern women who recently performed a feat of endurance in the North for the benefit of northerners.

Twenty-four women from Cumberland House and The Pas, Manitoba, took four voyageur canoes and paddled on the Saskatchewan River from Cumberland House to The Pas. The trip took two days and one overnight camp. One voyageur, by the way, was 71 years young, Marie Louise McKenzie.

The purpose of the trip was to raise awareness of, and to raise funds for wellness and the prevention of diabetes, a disease, as you know, which affects far too many northerners. In fact, four of the participants are diabetics themselves.

These canoes were first used in 1967 to commemorate the historic significance of Saskatchewan's oldest community, and based on the success of this new voyage they are going to be used again during Saskatchewan's centennial for a trek from the Churchill River in from La Loche to Cumberland House.

(13:45)

Mr. Speaker, the funds raised by this modern group of voyageurs will be used to purchase emergency diabetic kits and medic alert bracelets for distribution in the North.

This was a unique adventure by a group of modern women connecting their communities to the past as they help build for the future, and I congratulate each of the 24 for their intrepid adventure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Kyle Multiple 4-H Club

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and offer congratulations to the Kyle Multiple 4-H Club for holding a very well-attended and successful annual Achievement Day this past Saturday.

I want to thank the club vice-president, Nadine Gray, for sending me an invitation to this year's awards presentation covering a host of activities from archery and photography to beef and canine clubs.

The Kyle Multiple 4-H Club holds the distinction of being the largest club of its kind in Saskatchewan, with 53 members and 13 leaders. The club has a huge positive impact on the

communities of Kyle, Elrose, and Lacadena.

This year the club was led by President Alyssa Hamilton and by general leaders, Sherri Hodgins and Ken Hamilton.

Hats off to the Kyle Multiple 4-H Club on doing its part and more in developing Saskatchewan's leaders of tomorrow.

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

#### Meadow Lake Community Excellence Award

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you imagine a community where children with disabilities go to school with no program planning in place, no supports, and very little parental involvement? Where children with disabilities sit on the sideline during a track meet? I'm sure you can.

But can you imagine a single event that leads a school system in that community to prepare with parental involvement? Can you imagine that the school would then ask the parents to act as the team leaders for all the meetings relating to their child?

Where did this happen? Well, Mr. Speaker, this happened in a community where parents and families decided that they would find a positive way to work toward change. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that these changes happened in my community of Meadow Lake.

Two years ago parents organized a meeting between families and community leaders, gathering everyone together with the goals of creating understanding and working towards inclusion. That one single event sparked a host of changes. What happened and is still happening is community building, partnerships, supporting families and individuals with disabilities, and advocacy, all rolled into one. All working toward the goal of inclusion.

Last Saturday, Mr. Speaker, the board of the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living announced Meadow Lake as Saskatchewan's Community of Excellence for its contribution in the area of working with children with disabilities. And this will be recognized at the Canadian association of living as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Meadow Lake Association for Community Living president, Vivian Thickett, and all involved for being recognized for this prestigious achievement.

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

#### 50th Anniversary of Residing in Saskatchewan

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 8, 1953 Simon Vanderstoel arrived in the Pense area from Holland where he had a background in dairy farming, had achieved an agricultural diploma in post-graduate studies, and had just completed two years in the Dutch army.

Simon was placed by an employment agency on the Don McGillivray farm north of Pense and only two and a half miles from where I grew up. Simon worked with the McGillivrays

until they retired. He then purchased the farm piece by piece until he owned all of it and went on to expand substantially after that.

Simon married Jane in 1956 and the couple raised a wonderful family in the area, and their son Chris now lives on and operates the farm. Simon and Jane now reside in Regina in semi-retirement, but Simon is at the farm working hard almost every day through the spring, summer, and fall months.

Simon and Jane Vanderstoel have been very productive and an asset to their community, their province, and their country — the kind of people that ask only what they can contribute.

Congratulations, Simon and Jane, for 50 productive years in Saskatchewan. And thank you for the rich contributions that you have made to your province and your country.

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

### Mine Emergency Response Competition

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, Saskatchewan Mining Week occurred recently.

One of the many positive events of that week was the announcement in this Assembly by the Minister of Labour of new mining regulations to take effect next month. These regulations will help improve the protection of mineworkers' health and safety. They are the culmination of six years of collaborative work between mine owners, mineworkers, and the provincial government. Among the new regulations are increased underground emergency drills to ensure prompt response should the need arise.

As a windup to Mining Week, on Saturday May 31 the Saskatchewan Mining Association held its 35th annual emergency response competition at the Regina exhibition grounds. These are competitions, Mr. Speaker, in a number of critical areas in which mine rescue teams face mock accident situations and have to respond as they would in a real crisis. They are judged in the basic skills of first aid, firefighting, and other major mine problems they would potentially face both above and underground. These are learning exercises and they are good fun with the ulterior motive because of the competition involved.

Mr. Speaker, there are several categories each with several awards. So I would simply like to say that the winners in this competition were Saskatchewan mineworkers who can perform their crucial work in the Saskatchewan economy with the assurance that their safety is well looked after.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Kindersley Couple Celebrates 65th Wedding Anniversary

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to pass along best wishes to an amazing couple from Kindersley who celebrated their 65th

wedding anniversary yesterday.

Clayton and Millan Jaeger were married in Meadow Lake on June 8, 1938. Clayton was born in Simpson and Millan in Saskatoon. Both were living in Regina when they met, Clayton delivering milk for the Co-op creamery and Millan attending Marvel hairdressing school. The couple settled in Regina and a family soon followed — twins Vera and Verna in 1939; a son, Jim, in 1940; and daughter Eila in 1942.

Clayton moved to Brock in the spring of 1952 to work for the PFRA (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration) and the family followed that fall. Clayton worked for the PFRA with Millan by his side, helping with all that that job entailed, until 1976 when the couple retired and moved into town.

Today Clayton is 92 and Millan is 84. The couple is living in their own home, taking good care of each other with minimal help from family living nearby.

Please join me in congratulating Clayton and Millan on this very special milestone, and wishing them continued good health.

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

### Galaxy Cinemas Opens Newest Location in Regina

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a great new Canadian company right here in Regina. Galaxy Entertainment have opened their 16th theatre right in Regina in Normanview mall.

Galaxy, Mr. Speaker, is reinventing the theatre experience. Everyone should experience it first-hand. Galaxy brings great movies and they have great seats with lumbar support, extra width, 49 inches back from the seat in front of you, and theatre seating is 18 inches higher than the seat right in front of you. There is not a bad seat in the house.

In addition, Galaxy theatres is wheelchair accessible and they will provide, free of charge, laser hearing devices for those who require it.

All of this, and each of Galaxy theatres has its own unique characteristic in the lobby. In the Normanview mall it's a space theme so it is literally fitting that they have out-of-this-world entertainment.

Galaxy is a young company that will be a great part of Regina's future. Mr. Speaker, they used their gala opening to fundraise over \$8,000 for Regina's YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) and that was most welcome.

It's an honour to welcome Galaxy theatres. I urge everyone to try the experience, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming Galaxy theatres to Saskatchewan and wish them a very prosperous future.

Thank you.

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

### Welwyn Couple Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while attending a number of events this past Saturday, I had the pleasure of dropping in on Vince and Dorothy Dobson's 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, this couple have farmed in the Welwyn area for almost 70 years, and they've been a couple that have worked together very well in not only building their relationship but certainly building a farm.

But Vincent hasn't only been involved in farming. He's also been involved as a rural councillor, and I believe, for almost 30 years. In fact when I first got involved in politics and met Vincent — that's where I met him; I met him at a SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) annual meeting — and Vincent was always an interesting person to talk to.

The most important thing about this couple is the fact that over the number of years that they've farmed and raised a family, it appears that they've never had a disagreement of any kind. Just chatting with them the other day and in the debate that ensued in their anniversary, they concluded that the reason they were still together and have survived 50 years together is because they always agreed on whether who bought the groceries, who made decisions on the farm — any decision that was made, it was made together between the two of them.

And I congratulate them. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Consequences of Occurrence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister answering for agriculture. We are now answering . . . entering the fourth week since it was announced that a case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) had been discovered on an Alberta ranch.

Mr. Speaker, the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) has been testing any beef animal even remotely linked to the case, going so far as to slaughter hundreds of animals to trace-outs, and that includes another 19 Saskatchewan cattle herds.

At the CFIA's technical briefing this morning, they said they are expecting the test, final test results, in the next few days and that they are very close to concluding their investigation. Now this is hopeful news, but what we are waiting to hear is that our international trading partners, and particularly the United States, will be lifting their bans on Canadian beef.

Mr. Speaker, does the minister have any indication today that the United States may be lifting their trade restrictions to allow imports of Canadian beef?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd be pleased to answer on behalf of the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture who are right now discussing this very issue with our federal counterparts in Kelowna at the Western first ministers' meeting.

And I want to say that we too are very encouraged with the work that has been done. I think it's fair to say that people around the world are taking notice of the work that the CFIA has been involved in.

I noted this morning that Dr. Kihm, who is part of the international team, has indicated that they have never seen such a comprehensive review. And I think it's also fair to say that we all know the Americans will make their decision based on the report that is put together here, based on the scientific evidence that is put together here in Canada and will be then sent to the Americans for their review. And after they've completed their review I'm sure that they'll find what we believe to be the case, that Canadian beef is a very safe commodity, and ready for trade.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A panel of international scientists is in Canada reviewing all of the CFIA's work in the BSE investigation. And they have now released a preliminary report on their findings. However they say that their final report will take yet another two weeks to complete. And the American member of that panel indicated this morning that the US (United States) would be waiting for this final report and all other relevant information before they make any decision to lift the trade restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, this of course is of great concern because of the considerable economic impact that the shutdown of our beef industry is having, particularly here in Western Canada. Mr. Speaker, if another two weeks goes by before the trade restrictions are lifted, the situation will be devastating for our provincial cattle industry.

What is the minister doing on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan to help encourage the removal of these trade restrictions very quickly?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that we recognize the potential impact that these trade restrictions are having on our industry. I know that it impacts on the auction marts. It impacts on our cow-calf operations and on our feeder operations, trucking. So it's quite clearly a major impact on Saskatchewan's economy.

In answer to the member's question, the fact that the Minister of Agriculture is meeting with his federal counterparts right now, that the Premier of this province has brought this to the forefront of the Western ministers' agenda, that the discussions will be taking place this afternoon . . . I can say, Mr. Speaker, that I met with Minister Goodale a week and a half ago in Ottawa. I met with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as the minister of Aboriginal affairs, to raise Saskatchewan's concerns, to raise Saskatchewan's issues.

These are the types of things that we are doing. Our officials right now are in Ottawa meeting with the federal counterparts, and Saskatchewan will continue to take a leadership role in bringing this to a conclusion so that we can allow Canadian cattle into the American markets.

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

(14:00)

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the concern that trade restrictions be removed quickly is one of great concern. But there's even a greater concern that we have. And the minister has already alluded to talks that are going on in Ottawa so that's encouraging. I expect now he'll be able to answer the questions.

We're concerned, Mr. Speaker, that even as of this morning we heard that the federal government is only working on compensation for producers whose animals were slaughtered in this investigation and that no compensation whatsoever is being considered for anyone else impacted by the BSE case.

Feedlot operators, which the minister mentioned, are being crushed under the weight of feeding cattle that they now can't send to market. Packing plant employees are being laid off as close as in Moose Jaw. Auction houses are silent and the losses of trucking companies are mounting daily. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Phone calls and letters aren't getting the message across.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the minister says he has been talking with Mr. Goodale and others in Ottawa, can he tell us what this pressure that he's bringing to bear on the federal government is bringing to us? Are we going to see a compensation package for the beef industry that goes beyond those just for owners of slaughtered animals?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, in direct response to the Leader of the Opposition, I can say that the position of this government has been clear and it's been unequivocal: one, that compensation is a national government responsibility; two, that it not come from existing pools of resource to the agriculture community; and three, that it be done as expeditiously as possibly can be arrived at.

But I want to say that no one on this side of the House is unaware of the impact on Saskatchewan and Western Canada's economy. The Alberta government is well aware of it; the Ontario government's well aware of it; the British Columbia government is well aware of it. And we're putting as much pressure as we possibly can, working with the federal administration, working with the federal politicians.

But the bottom line here is that we convince the people who are the recipients of exports of Canadian beef that we have safe, that we have a safe industry, that we have safe food. And we are ensuring through the scientific evidence that we are putting forth, working with the federal government through CFIA, that that is the case, Mr. Speaker. That's a responsibility of all of us and I want to say that I appreciate the support that the Leader of

the Opposition through his House Leader has indicated this morning.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, people from the beef industry have met with the federal government, and provincial governments have been lobbying for support. And yet the federal government appears ignorant to the fact that the BSE case on our beef industry and our provincial economies is becoming larger and larger. It's important that the federal government provide emergency compensation to help our industries weather this crisis, and that it be delivered to those who need it as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we need action from Ottawa. The Saskatchewan Party official opposition intends to move an emergency motion in this legislature today calling on the federal government to recognize that several industries and thousands of people have been impacted negatively by the single case of BSE discovered in Canada, and calling for the immediate development of a compensation package.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister and the NDP (New Democratic Party) government support this motion?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that he may want to talk to his House Leader because I indicated to him early this morning, or earlier today, that we would be more than willing to second the motion calling upon the federal government to immediately come forth with funding to work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I'm very glad that the members of the opposition are willing to join in our initiatives to ensure that the Western Canadian beef industry is protected and that it's healthy over the long haul. And I think a message to Ottawa from this legislature is more than appropriate. So absolutely we'll be supporting the motion by seconding that motion this afternoon after question period.

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

#### Possible Change in Party Affiliation

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister and former Liberal leader has now decided to make it official. He's joined the NDP. There's only one problem with that, Mr. Speaker. The NDP policy requires him to resign immediately and run in a by-election like the member from Athabasca did.

Now that the former Liberal leader has joined the NDP, will he be following the NDP's own policy and resign his seat today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to members of the Saskatchewan Party that the member from Saskatoon has indicated that he is willing to and going to be joining a winning team in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, it's quite clear that members of the opposition have been calling for an election and it'll come sooner rather than later; I want to promise the Leader of the Opposition that. And I want to promise you that the Finance minister is going to be re-elected in the same seat as a New Democrat and he's going to be joining a majority government in the next legislature, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has now admitted he got the idea to sue the leader of the opposition from watching *Dr. Phil*. Mr. Speaker, you've got to wonder, you've got to wonder what he was watching when he drafted this latest budget. *Fantasy Island*, Mr. Speaker?

A few years ago the NDP made a real big deal about members switching parties. In fact in the 1999 Throne Speech, they promised legislation to force members to resign and run in a by-election before they'd be allowed to sit with another party. But now that that very government needs a former Liberal leader to prop up its shaky government, the NDP seems to be abandoning its own policy.

Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Finance has announced he is joining the NDP, will he be required to resign his seat immediately and run in a by-election?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party and all of his colleagues over there, I know that the member is contemplating joining the NDP. He hasn't done it quite yet. But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, every member on this side of the House will welcome him with open arms if he so chooses.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — But I want to also say, Mr. Speaker, that this member, unlike members on that side of the House that snuck around in the dark of night forming together and cobbling together what's now known as the Saskatchewan Party, this member of the legislature at least has the courage to be public about what he's thinking about doing, being public about why he's thinking about doing. And ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I am very much encouraged that he's going to be joining members on this side of the House in a new NDP government, and I hope the Premier calls that election pretty soon.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, now that the House Leader's confirmed that the Minister of Finance will be running for the NDP during the next election, he'll have all sorts of time after the next election to watch *Dr. Phil*, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read a quote. The quote is:

What it comes down to is, (he's) being bought, paid for, and wrapped up by the NDP.

Those aren't my words, Mr. Speaker. Those are the words of the former Liberal leader and that's what he had to say about the member from Athabasca in 1998.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — In fact, as a result of that defection the former Liberal leader began forcing Liberal candidates to sign notarized statements of commitment saying that they will not run for any other party. And he said violators of that, quote, "could be subject to civil litigation," Mr. Speaker.

We all know the Minister of Finance likes to sue people. He sued the Liberal Party; he sued the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Finance has joined the NDP, will he be planning on suing himself?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can just hear the excitement from members on the other side of the House. And I'll tell you why: they want to see an election soon. And I know why they want to, Mr. Speaker, because the popularity of the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party is dropping like a stone. From 1999 when they were sitting at 50 per cent after a near death by that government, when they were sitting at 55 per cent, they've been going down consistently, led by the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party whose popularity sits at, like, 25 per cent.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to also say that if the Finance minister decides to join the New Democrats, he's not the only Liberal who's going to be supporting the NDP in the next election because they're flocking to the NDP in hordes and in droves. And we're going to use that popularity of the leader of this side of the House, the Premier of this province, to ensure a majority government in the next election.

And I want to say again I hope very much the Minister of Finance is part of that because he's a great minister doing a good job for the people.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I would say that Dr. Phil could open up a branch office here in Saskatchewan after the next election counselling defeated NDP candidates, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the former Liberal leader promised to chain himself to the Plains hospital. Instead, he chains himself to the NDP. He promised to lead a strong Liberal opposition against the NDP government. Instead, he joined the NDP government. He promised to get rid of all the hacks and flacks that the NDP had. Instead, he's got an office full of hacks and flacks, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, he promised to sue anyone who left the Liberal Party to run for another party. Now he's running for another party, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance didn't save the Plains hospital and he's sure not going to save the NDP, Mr. Speaker.



Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Finance live up to his own words and words from the NDP government — resign and run in a by-election?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's clear to see what the opposition members do during the day when they're not sitting in the legislature, Mr. Speaker. They're out watching *Dr. Phil* and *The Edge of Night* and whatever else is on there.

But I tell you what they should be watching, Mr. Speaker. They should revert back to *The Twilight Zone* because that's where their policy comes from. That's where their approach to the civil service comes from, Mr. Speaker. That's where their approach to public ownership of Crown assets comes from.

Mr. Speaker, they might want to revert to the good old days of Grant Devine, but I tell you that that Leader of the Saskatchewan Party will never form a government using Grant Devine theories, Grant Devine economic policy, Mr. Speaker.

People want a moderate, common sense government. That's what this coalition has brought to the province and they're not about to return to the bad old days of the Grant Devine administration. They've had enough of that and they aren't going there.

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

#### **Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan Investments**

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very, very interesting to hear the minister responsible for SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) lecturing anybody about anything.

But, Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the minister for Crown Investments Corporation who also has some . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I just want to be able to hear what's happening here, members.

**Mr. Wall:** — My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the minister responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation who has a few of his own favourite shows, Mr. Speaker. Probably one of his favourite shows is *Let's Make a Deal*, Mr. Speaker. It might be *The Gong Show* or his favourite one of course is *Other Peoples Money*, Mr. Speaker, because that's what they've been spending and losing in the province of Saskatchewan.

The question for the minister relates to last week's Crown Investments Corporation committee meetings where the president, Frank Hart, confirmed that the NDP paid National Bank over \$20,000 to evaluate the potential of moving about . . . part or all of a \$500 million investment portfolio the NDP have into a privately managed mutual fund.

Will the minister confirm that CIC president, Frank Hart, and vice-president, Zach Douglas, are in the process of investigating the establishment of a private sector management company to mutualize and potentially privatize hundreds of millions in

government assets?

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

(14:15)

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well unlike the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker, we always explore opportunities to work with the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party . . . I listened very carefully to the question, Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the question. It was phrased in a way that the only way that they think that you can organize and work with the private sector, Mr. Speaker, is to privatize. Nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we look to ways in which we can work and partner with the private sector if at all possible, Mr. Speaker. Our Crowns are changing, Mr. Speaker. And it is important and critical that we do continued analysis of our Crowns and the investments to ensure that they remain strong and viable to provide the services that people so rightly deserve across our province.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We now have the *Hansard* from Thursday's Crown Corporation meeting, June 5, where we asked Mr. Hart this very question about the government's intention with respect to this \$500 million or so in assets, investments that the government holds. And here's what he said:

What we have found is that we think there's potential to build private sector management around that fund and attract other pension fund money potentially down the road. And so that's an option that we're actively working on and we'll be coming forward to our board (that would be the cabinet ministers, Mr. Speaker) with at some point. And then it's kind of their call as to where we go, if this has merit or not.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the opposition's also been advised that indeed Mr. Hart, the president, and Zach Douglas, a senior official, themselves may well be negotiating the movement . . . who may well be negotiating the movement of this portfolio from CIC (Crown Investments Corporation) to a private sector company, Mr. Speaker, where they would be possibly the principals of that same private sector management company.

Now, Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that CIC officials are actively involved in negotiations to establish this new private sector management company under a 10-year management contract to mutualize and potentially privatize some of these hundreds of millions of dollars worth of taxpayers' assets?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well there's been no secret about this at all, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have always said, where we make investments under Crown

Investments Corporation in the CIC III (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan Industrial Interests Inc.) portfolio, Mr. Speaker, we make strategic investments in the economy where we think we have opportunities to generate jobs and to expand the economy in those particular communities.

We have always said, Mr. Speaker, and we've been very clear about this, in those areas once it's up and going in the private sector and we've leveraged private sector money, we would leave it to the private sector to take over again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that's what we've said. It is our intention, Mr. Speaker, to grow and improve the Crown corporations and their services for the people of Saskatchewan, unlike the Sask Party whose agenda is clear: it is to shrink the Crown Investments Corporation, Mr. Speaker, shrink the Crowns so they can put them in a position so they can sell them off, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I hope you noticed that in the minister's response he didn't come close to answering the question. We're also hearing that part of the reason for the angst and the anger at that recent . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. Order. I would ask the member for Athabasca not to holler over across the way.

**Mr. Wall:** — The reason, Mr. Speaker, for the anger at the most recent NDP caucus meeting in part about this deal is that there's this possibility that senior NDP government officials are potentially setting up a 10-year management contract that they may be involved in.

And so now we're giving the minister to stand in the House and give this basic assurance to the people of the province. Will he do that, Mr. Speaker? Will he assure the House that the NDP's hand-picked officials, Mr. Hart or Mr. Douglas nor any other official at CIC, will be directly involved in a new private sector company or the 10-year management contract involving these taxpayer assets?

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, I've been clear in answering the question. Mr. Speaker, Crown Investments Corporation will explore all options, Mr. Speaker, as it pertains to the investments within CIC III, Mr. Speaker. We've always said that those investments are made in strategic areas in the economy where we think we have opportunity in this province to grow our province, Mr. Speaker, and to create jobs. We think we've been fairly successful in that, contrary to what the Sask Party would suggest, Mr. Speaker.

Last year we were involved in 52 communities, Mr. Speaker, and the CIC III portfolio generated for the people of Saskatchewan a multitude of jobs but generated a net benefit of \$11 million in addition to what our . . . in addition to what the Crown Investments Corporation subsidiaries did for the province, Mr. Speaker.

Will we explore options, Mr. Speaker, to further enhance the services that are provided in the province? Absolutely we will do that, Mr. Speaker. We've been open about that. Our president's been open about that and we will continue to

explore options, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, no wonder so many NDP MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) are very worried about their chances for re-election and are stating their views in caucus, Mr. Speaker. Here we have a government beset by scandal — whether it's SPUDCO or the \$107 million land titles system or the \$24 million dot-com in Georgia or the bingo scandal, Mr. Speaker.

And in that particular government now, its Minister of CIC has the chance to stand up in this legislature and say, listen, there will be no . . . there will be no arrangement. There will be no arrangement with respect to these assets and any 10-year management contract that involves hand-picked NDP officials without a complete and open competition.

That's all the minister has to do. And that's the question to him again, Mr. Speaker. Will he answer the question?

Will the hand-picked CIC president, Frank Hart; or vice-president, Zach Douglas; nor any other CIC official, be directly involved in any new private sector company or a 10-year management contract for these taxpayer assets?

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, will we continue to explore options? Absolutely we'll continue to explore options. And do you know why we'll continue to explore options, Mr. Speaker? I look at what's going on in New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia — every other part of the country, Mr. Speaker, other than NDP Manitoba — where car insurance rates are skyrocketing. Mr. Speaker, that's why we will explore other options, to ensure that we can keep rates down in auto insurance.

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Tied with Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, in the lowest automobile rates in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker; the lowest telephone rates in all of North America, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to close, Mr. Speaker, I want to close with this, Mr. Speaker. I look in the *Leader-Post*, Mr. Speaker, of June 9, 2003 talking about what we've done in the Shackleton area, in that very member's area, Mr. Speaker. And do you know what Clayton Woitas of Profico said, Mr. Speaker? He said:

“Why are we here? (Mr. Speaker, he said, why are we here) I call it the Saskatchewan advantage.” . . .

Mr. Speaker, that's why I'm here, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce in your gallery, four people who are very much important people in my life.

I'd like to begin by introducing my wife, Loretta — and Loretta just nodded her head there; that's good. Along with her are my Uncle John and my Aunt Anne Lautermilch. Aunt Anne by the way, just had a milestone yesterday. She had a birthday and I'm not going to tell you which one it was. I think maybe the 29th or 30th, they tell me here.

And along with them is my cousin Lori. Lori is, again, a very special person in our life; we're very close cousins. And love you all and welcome to the legislature.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to move a motion of urgent and passing necessity under rule 46.

Leave granted.

## MOTION UNDER RULE 46

### Compensation for Beef Industry Workers

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard very recently that the federal government, in relationship to the BSE crisis facing the Canadian beef industry, has announced that compensation that they are considering will only be for producers who have lost animals that have been destroyed by the CFIA.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government is indicating that there is no compensation planned whatsoever for other people who are losing in the industry, including meat packing workers, Mr. Speaker, truckers, and feedlot operators.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minister from Prince Albert Northcote has agreed to second the motion. Therefore, I would move:

That this Assembly urge the federal government to immediately develop a compensation package, which is separate and distinct from the agricultural policy framework, that recognizes that certain economic sectors and thousands of people have been negatively impacted by the single case of BSE discovered in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I move this, seconded by the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Rosetown-Biggar, seconded by the Government House Leader, the member from Prince Albert Northcote:

That this Assembly urge the federal government to immediately develop a compensation package, which is separate and distinct from the agricultural policy framework, that recognizes that certain economic sectors

and thousands of people have been negatively impacted by the single case of BSE discovered in Canada.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Motion is carried.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that on behalf of the government we're more than pleased to join with the members of the opposition in terms of calling on the federal government to ensure . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I would just like to clarify what has happened here, members. I asked whether the Assembly was ready for the question. I saw no one rise so I immediately called the question. I understood . . . I did see the member, the Leader of the Opposition, rising. However he had already submitted the motion and it is our custom that once the motion is submitted that I read it into the record and the member has given up his spot. So if the members wish to have a different procedure adopted, I would ask, request leave of the House.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave of the House to revert to debate on the motion that has been introduced by the Leader of the Opposition.

Leave granted.

**The Speaker:** — I now recognize the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Rosetown-Biggar, for debate on the motion.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the House for leave to introduce the motion.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that compensation handed out by the federal government, proposed to cover the costs of the industry in regarding the BSE case that was discovered in northern Alberta three weeks ago, will only go to the producers of animals who have been destroyed under the authorization of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis is now entering its fourth week. Mr. Speaker, at the time the mad cow case was discovered, members on the government side, certainly members in the opposition, people from the industry, indicated that if this situation was not resolved within two weeks time, a great deal of damage would be caused to the beef industry in Canada and that Saskatchewan would be at the forefront of that damage because, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the second largest cow herd in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, the official opposition as well as members on the government side have been working and speaking and moving resolutions in this House to try to bring a quick settlement to the BSE case. Mr. Speaker, we are trying to resolve the issue by co-operating with the CFIA and by speaking out in support of the Canadian beef industry.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear; one animal — one animal alone — has tested positive for BSE. And there has been an immediate quarantine of other beef herds; many, many hundreds of

animals have been tested. The number is approaching 2,000, Mr. Speaker. Not one other case of BSE has been discovered in any Canadian herd.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Canadian demands for inspection of our beef animals for slaughter are amongst the highest in the world — in fact, that our standards are set higher than the standards within the United States.

(14:30)

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this crisis is now entering its fourth week. And as a result it is no longer just the owners of the herds who have some way been connected or traced to that one cow that was found with BSE, that are being affected. But, Mr. Speaker, the entire industry is now beginning to feel the pinch caused by trade bans put on our beef exports by the United States, by Asian countries, Mr. Speaker.

Now auction marts are sitting empty. The beef cattle that used to be auctioned off on a regular basis are not going to market. Mr. Speaker, the trucking firms that truck livestock to market, that truck them to export locations, are sitting idle. The drivers are not working; the transportation companies are not functioning like they usually do and money is being lost.

Mr. Speaker, we are particularly concerned about the plight of feedlot operators who have many animals that have reached their market weight and have surpassed their market weight, but they are not going to market because the market is simply paralyzed in the light of the BSE case that was discovered.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that beef prices are now down by 30 per cent. The cattle industry alone — and this is without spinoff — the cattle industry alone is losing \$11 million a day. XL Beef in Moose Jaw have handed out 150 layoff notices.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a Canadian confederation where the provinces have certain responsibilities and the federal government have certain responsibilities. And when we have national crisis we expect the federal government to play a leading role, both in negotiating on behalf of that industry that's in crisis and also in providing financial compensation when there is hurt beyond the control of those impacted by the crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as of late, we are experiencing regional tensions in the nation of Canada as a result of this BSE case. We, a week or two ago, had some problems with the province of Ontario that was somehow suggesting that we should regionalize this problem and that somehow other regions outside of Western Canada shouldn't be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the tension over the fact that the federal government responded very quickly — as they should have, Mr. Speaker — to the problems around the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in the Toronto area. They waived the UI (unemployment insurance) premiums for health care workers that were forced to leave the workplace because they were quarantined.

Mr. Speaker, we saw in Atlantic Canada problems in the fishing sector where the federal government moved with great haste to compensate those impacted by decisions that the federal

government had made that restricted people from their livelihood.

Well, Mr. Speaker, now here, particularly in Western Canada, we have many people who are restricted from earning their normal livelihood because of decisions made by the federal government. We're not arguing with the decisions that were made. We recognize that when you have a case of BSE you have to do some tracing. There needs to be herds quarantined. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that some of our international trading partners will respond with a halting of trade. We understand all of these things can happen and we know that we have to work through these difficulties.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent upon the federal government, when they take these kind of actions and as a result of those actions they put hundreds and thousands of people out of work or they substantially reduce their incomes or they threaten the very existence of businesses such as trucking firms, auction marts, and feedlots, that the federal government is responsible to intervene with a compensation package.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Lyle Vanclief, indicated a few days back that if everybody just agrees to this agriculture policy framework agreement that that will somehow solve the problems around the BSE financial crisis that we are facing; that somehow there's something in this new arrangement that would meet the needs of trucking firms who aren't trucking cattle today; that somehow that this would magically, Mr. Speaker, solve the problem of feedlot operators who have animals who are past market weight and have no market into which to place these animals; that in somehow, Mr. Speaker, the agriculture policy framework agreement would solve the problem of laid off workers in the packing industry, in XL Foods in Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, that simply isn't the truth. And we need to rise up and challenge Mr. Vanclief and say, Mr. Vanclief, you're not squaring with the people of Canada. You're not squaring with the producers of beef. You're not squaring with the people whose livelihood depends on a vibrant beef industry. You're not really squaring with the people of Canada who might not understand the impact of Mr. Vanclief's statement.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the federal government to recognize its responsibility to do the right thing to compensate those damaged by this BSE case in the . . . in Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the federal government to say yes, Western Canada is just as important as Toronto; yes, Western Canada and the beef industry in Western Canada, and right across Canada for that matter, is just as important as the fishing industry is in the nation of Canada.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon the federal government to say because we have quarantined herds and because of the discovery of this BSE beyond the realm of coping by producers and others in the beef industry, that their markets have dried up, that they must come to the plate with a compensation package.

Mr. Speaker, we have called on the provincial government to be aggressive in dealing with the federal government on this issue. We have called for them to go beyond writing letters and to get

on the phone and talk to the Minister of Agriculture and to speak with the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Premier today is meeting with other Western premiers in Kelowna and that this issue is being raised, and we thank the Premier for doing that, and we wish and we expect full co-operation from the other three Western premiers and two northern territorial leaders.

And we expect that by speaking together — Mr. Doer and Mr. Klein, Mr. Campbell and the northern leaders — they will add some punch to the message that we are trying to take to the rest of the nation that a compensation package needs to be developed that is fair and recognizes the importance of the beef industry in the workplace, in the economy of Saskatchewan, in the economy of Western Canada, and quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, in the economy of the nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that all members of this legislature have agreed that the issue is important enough that we can have an emergency debate regarding it. And I'm pleased for the support that I received from the member from Prince Albert Northcote in seconding this motion.

And I believe that by standing united in this legislature and calling upon the federal government to take action, it's moved us beyond the realm of partisan politics and it helps the federal government to understand that we're serious about the fact that Canada is a country where the federal government needs to take some ownership and responsibility for the decisions in which it has the primary responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in that regard I believe that the provincial government here should be as equally aggressive as the province of Alberta and the Premier of Alberta, Mr. Klein, who has spoken of the importance of the federal government coming to the plate, who has talked about even premiers putting together a delegation that would go and speak with our American counterparts to ensure them that our product is safe. It's just as safe as the American beef and in fact the doors to our exports of beef should be reopened to the United States and to other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the urgency of this situation, the fact that millions of dollars are being lost daily, that people's livelihoods lie in the balance that we have moved this motion today:

That the Assembly urge the federal government to immediately develop a compensation package, which is separate and distinct from the agriculture policy framework, that recognizes that certain economic sectors and thousands of people have been negatively impacted by the single case of BSE discovered in Canada.

I move this motion, as I said, seconded by the hon. member for P.A. (Prince Albert) Northcote and, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that with all of the force that we are able to muster in this province, that we communicate that message to the federal government in Ottawa, to the federal Minister of Agriculture, to the Prime Minister of this nation, to everyone involved in the putting together of a compensation package, including the Finance minister of Canada and all those who might expedite a quick

development of a compensation package. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say to the House and to members of the House that I'm very pleased to interject myself into this debate.

I think it's no secret that the people of Saskatchewan, the cattle producers, the people involved in the industry, and those who support this industry are well aware of the impact. And as the, I guess, the search to prove through science that in fact Canadian beef is safe to our American counterparts — which are quite clearly our largest export market — there needs to be some consideration from the federal government as it relates to compensation.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, from this government's perspective, compensation needs to be far beyond the cattle who are being slaughtered. There is an impact that goes much broader than that. I think it's no secret that as cattle production has been growing and becoming a larger part of our economy, we in Saskatchewan become aware of just how much this industry does mean for us and to us.

And that, I want to say, is why we are calling on the federal government to supply compensation outside of the programs and policies that are in place across this nation; which is why, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Premier has taken a very aggressive leadership role in this nation; which is why our Minister of Agriculture has taken a very aggressive leadership role, and why our officials are at this point and right now meeting with our federal counterparts in Ottawa.

And I want to say that the motion put forward by this legislature, I'm pleased to see the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party join the government in putting forth our thoughts as it relates to the future of this industry and the federal government's responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, you know, I recall just a few days ago, and it's been mentioned, the SARS outbreak in Toronto, a negative impact on tourism, certainly it impacted on that economy; it impacted on that province of Ontario. And I watched, Mr. Speaker, with support as the federal government moved quickly to put forward some national response financially to that SARS outbreak.

Mr. Speaker, I recall some time ago when the province of Quebec and in Ontario were in some severe difficulties as it relates to electrical outage in a large, large way because of some ice storm circumstances that happened in there. And I want to . . . in those two provinces . . . And I want to say as well, Mr. Speaker, we as a province offered our support to Ontario and Quebec. And, Mr. Speaker, we went through some difficult times with our friends in Ontario and Quebec, and ultimately there was a federal response financially, the issue was dealt with, and life moved on.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a circumstance that is no different than that disaster. This is a circumstance that has visited our agricultural producers as it relates to livestock through, I guess,

the BSE issue that's been dealt with in other areas of the world.

I want to say that I believe the federal officials and the provincial officials from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia have been working diligently to ensure that we put forth an analysis, a scientific analysis, of that industry so that we can present that as a package to our American counterparts and encourage them to open their markets to our Canadian beef.

I indicated a little earlier in the House today, Dr. Kihm who is with an international team who are reviewing the work that's being done here in Canada, here in Saskatchewan, here in Alberta, and he indicated that he has never seen such a comprehensive review, which is what I believe that we need to do to ensure that we have our trade markets open as it relates to Canadian beef.

Mr. Speaker, the process can be urged to be moved forward through dialogue with American elected people, American officials. Certainly we've got to continue to push our federal government as it relates to compensation so that they understand that this is a disaster and that this is a disaster visited upon our industry that needs to be financed and funded by the federal government. Because, Mr. Speaker, we've had evidence of circumstances where we believe here in this province that our national counterparts have not been living up to their responsibilities.

(14:45)

And I want to refer to some of the trade issues as it relates to subsidies on grain, subsidies on durum and subsidies on spring wheat; production subsidies in Europe and in the United States of America. And we're attempting here as a province to deal with them as much as we can, but the federal government I don't believe is living up to their responsibility in that regard.

And we're certainly hopeful that they'll be mindful of this issue as it relates to our cattle industry here in this province and will ensure that they live up to their responsibilities to fund support for this industry.

We've indicated that we as a province are going to be pushing for initial compensation as a feedlot industry because that's where it impacts directly and immediately. Certainly the trucking industry that others have mentioned and we'll mention, here in this province, will be impacted; certainly the feed industry. There are spinoffs that permeate throughout rural Saskatchewan as it relates to this.

We know that the potential impact financially is huge. It's very, very large. Our Department of Agriculture officials indicate that it could be as much in a one-month period, with 17,000 feeder cattle ready to go to market it could be an impact on Saskatchewan alone in a one-month period of \$50 million, which is not a small amount.

So we're saying, Mr. Speaker, that we are not supporting a 60/40 cost share with the federal government. We are not supporting this funding that would come out of existing programs, that will have impact on other disasters that we will have and other market conditions that we will have. So we're not accepting 60/40 and we would want not to see this come out

of existing programs. But the federal government has a responsibility to find new money as they have with the SARS issues in Toronto, and as they did when we were looking, Mr. Speaker, at the unfortunate circumstances around the ice storm in Ontario and Quebec.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have been aggressive as an administration in pursuing our federal counterparts. I can tell you that I've raised this issue — not only with respect to the EI (Employment Insurance) funding — with the minister from Saskatchewan in the federal government, Mr. Goodale. I've raised this concern with him in the context of fairness; I've raised it in the context of a federal responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say that I believe Minister Goodale listened and I'm hopeful that he can convince his counterparts in cabinet to respond similarly to what they do when this circumstance visits Eastern Canada.

So we're looking, Mr. Speaker, for more than compensation of the animals that have been slaughtered because the impact is larger than that, and there's a potential impact that'll be much larger than that. We are encouraging this to be done quickly so that we can get the scientific information that's been put together here in Canada that will be coming to a conclusion in the next few days. We're urging the elected people in the United States, with whom we have negotiated free trade arrangements, this country and their country, and we're hopeful that they will move through their process quickly so that we can have our rightful access as Canadian beef producers and producing provinces to the American market.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say in closing that I will be supporting this motion — as clearly indicated by the fact that I seconded the motion — and I want to urge the federal government to move very, very quickly in terms of developing a compensation package along the lines that I've attempted to articulate here. I'm certainly hopeful that we will continue to see support from other provinces across Canada. The Western ministers I believe will be making some progress on this issue this afternoon as the Agriculture ministers who are meeting there with them.

And I think at the end of the day that fairness and reason will be in the forefront of the federal decision makers. We can only expect no less than a fair shake from the federal government who we believe is responsible to fund this particular support for our industry. And through this motion we'll be urging the federal government to move swiftly and move fairly to support our agricultural community here in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to enter this extremely important debate for our province and for the cattle industry within our province.

I find it quite amazing that it took only one, single, isolated case of BSE to turn Canada's livestock industry into total chaos. Within hours of a single case of BSE being reported, the US border was closed. And soon to follow were, I believe, seven other countries also closed their borders and banned exports of the Canadian beef into their countries. And since then the cattle industry has been losing \$11 million a day in exports.

But that is just the tip of the iceberg quite frankly because we don't know yet the losses that are being experienced by the auctioneers, by the rendering plants, by the individual feedlots, the packers, and the list just goes on and on and on as to who's actually losing money each and every day.

And the member from North Battleford just pointed out, and I shouldn't have missed this one, the trucking industry is also losing money each and every day — and a lot of money.

Saskatchewan produces over \$700 million in farm cash receipts from cattle each year so the impact on our province each and every day if this industry is ground to a halt is going to be crippling to our province. We're going to feel the effect of this for a long time to come.

And of particular urgency in this issue is the feeding industry and the dependent businesses and services industries of the feeding industry, because our province has about 1.3 million head of feeder cattle, I believe. And those that are contained in feedlots are critically dependent upon a turnaround of the animals on a regular basis. They cannot just hang on to these animals and that's what they're being forced to do.

And each and every day that they keep the market-ready animals, they're losing money not only just in the feed that they are feeding them but they're going to lose money when they finally do get to sell these animals because they're going to be overweight and they're going to be docked for that overweight.

So the provincial government has been asking the federal government, we've been ensured by both the Premier and by the Agriculture minister that they've been asking the federal government to consider a compensation package initially for the feeder industry and the affected industries from the feedlots. And the industry leaders themselves have also been asking the federal government for assistance to help out with the immediate damage that's being created as long as the borders are closed.

But you know it was when I first read today's headline I was quite encouraged. I know that the Minister of Agriculture told me last week that he was sending a group of industry leaders to talk to the federal government and see what they could work out. So I read the headline "Mad cow compensation package ready within two weeks, says source", and I found that extremely encouraging.

Unfortunately if you go on to read the rest of the article, Mr. Speaker, you find out it's not so encouraging after all:

(Almost 2,000 head of) . . . cattle have been slaughtered for testing following last month's discovery of . . . mad cow . . . (disease) in Alberta . . .

The plan so far is to provide money to farmers who have had their cattle slaughtered as part of the mad cow investigation. Those farmers already receive some cash for animals that are ordered destroyed.

(But) There are no plans to compensate other farmers, who have been unable to sell their cattle, or feedlot . . . (operations), who are being forced to feed cattle that should

have been sold for slaughter weeks ago.

So it wasn't as encouraging as the headline led us to believe, Mr. Speaker. I was actually shocked and speechless when I read further, when I read the entire article. The federal government is saying, at this point, that they're only willing to compensate producers who have had their cattle depopulated — something which quite frankly they're obligated to do through their own legislation.

But to date there has been no indication by this federal government that they're willing to go one step farther than a compensation package that they're legislated to do. Despite the loss of millions of dollars in the industry and the feedlots, the auctioneers, the packing plants, the rendering plants, the trucking industry, despite the losses — the astronomical losses that we are realizing here in Saskatchewan and in Alberta and any other province that's being affected by a cattle industry — they are going to do absolutely nothing. That's their indication today.

Mr. Speaker, most people in this Assembly know — they're well aware from other talks that I've given — that I am a sixth generation Canadian and I've always been very proud of that, until now. I have never, ever, ever entertained Western separation movement until now. Because I'm not proud of our federal government, I'm not necessarily proud to say I'm a Canadian for the first time in my life.

I never, ever dreamed, Mr. Speaker, that I could say that. But it's just gotten so unbalanced in our country as to the decisions that Ottawa has been making, it's to the point of absolute lunacy.

Mr. Speaker, when Toronto wanted work done to their harbour, guess what? There was a half a billion dollars available. Not a problem. They would just fork over the money. But when we ask for a meaningful package to address trade injury here in our province, there is no money. It's simply not available.

The harbour in Toronto might be quite important. I don't know all the economic spinoffs that would come from that harbour. But I do know the economic impact that the producers of our province have. And yet there was no money for the Western situation.

When there was ice storms out in Toronto, out east, not a problem — there was money.

**An Hon. Member:** — Moved the army in.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — There was . . . Yes. There was help. Move the army in. Let's help out. There was money. There was compensation.

When there's drought here in the West and it has a huge impact on our province — well, there's no money; it's just simply not available.

When SARS devastated Toronto, not a problem. They can overlook, they can waive the two-week waiting period for unemployment insurance. Our Labour minister can ask for the same for the workers that are affected by this BSE and workers

that have been laid off because of it. No, sorry, can't do it. Not possible. We can't make that kind of allowances.

Financial situation or any financial compensation package for the East seems to be absolutely no problem. But whenever it's asked for in the West, it never ever seems to happen.

Mr. Speaker, our federal government cannot possibly — they can't possibly — justify their actions. I cannot fathom, I cannot imagine how they can consider themselves good, responsible international leaders because quite frankly they're so blatantly prejudiced in favour of the Eastern provinces and their policies are shamefully in favour of the Eastern provinces. I find it totally unacceptable.

And so with that, I will be supporting the motion put forward by the member from Rosetown-Biggan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to also join in this important emergency motion and obviously agree that compensation with respect to BSE is of critical importance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak very briefly from a couple of perspectives. First of all, certainly as a minister of the Crown but also as the MLA, and then also as an individual who has grown up in a farming and cattle producing area.

As the MLA . . . A lot of people will not realize this or will be surprised to learn this, Mr. Speaker, but in the Northwest, that region has more cattle than anyplace else in the province. So the area that I represent in fact is probably more impacted by this situation than anywhere else in the province, although it is obvious that it has a huge impact on our entire province.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I was also personally born and raised on a cow-calf operation. Many of the members in this legislature, I assume even my own colleagues here, will be surprised to learn that I myself have been a part of delivering thousands of calves already over the years. It's been a few years since I've been out there. They've tried to entice me back a few times but with not any success in that.

But I assure you that I am fully, fully aware of the impacts of BSE and understand completely the cattle producers, and the — fear, I think it is — the sense of fear that they feel right now.

(15:00)

Mr. Speaker, as well last year in the Northwest we were, in the last few years, we've been impacted with a lack of moisture and lack of rain. And if you add to that this situation now, it is critical for the producers in the Northwest anyway.

Let me also say that for cow-calf producers right now it is probably not quite as serious right at this very moment because there will be some time before the calves come back in the fall. But for those who have culled the cows, for those that are selling feeders into the feedlots, it is an extremely, extremely difficult time; and I speak now from a provincial perspective.

There will be all components across the province, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the cow-calf producers that I've talked about, backgrounders, the auction barns, feedlots, truckers, packers, processors, and the rendering industry is hugely impacted by this. Those are the direct impacts.

And for those who would be indirectly impacted, the retailers . . . the retailers and the stores, I suggest that even they are starting to be impacted to some degree. Although this will take a little bit more time, but it will be significant if there is not compensation fairly soon.

And I think it's fair to say that the debate here today, Mr. Speaker, has not been about whether or not there should be compensation. We are all in agreement, both government and opposition, that there should be compensation. And I'm certain that all members agree that we stand together with our livestock industry here in Saskatchewan.

The trade responsibility . . . the trade, I should say, is a federal responsibility. We all agreed on that, Mr. Speaker, and therefore the compensation related to the trade, to the trade impacts, must also be a federal responsibility.

I know that my colleague from P.A. Northcote alluded to this and the . . . and I think it's important that it is repeated. Mr. Speaker, the federal government must understand the impact and that's why it surprises me that they've not reacted more swiftly than they have.

They themselves have commissioned an Alberta consulting firm to estimate the impacts of the cattle and beef trade ban. And, Mr. Speaker, this consulting firm that the federal government commissioned has concluded that a one-month ban will cost the Saskatchewan cattle industry \$52 million. And a four-month ban — obviously it would take us into the fall when you're starting to ship some of the feeders — a four-month ban would be significantly more damaging and it's estimated the impact of that would be \$300 million on the provincial cattle industry.

Now that's a huge, huge impact, Mr. Speaker, and it is something that the federal government absolutely needs to recognize, what a drastic impact that would have on our province. And therefore it is, as I say, with pleasure that I join in the motion with the opposition and with our government as well here, Mr. Speaker, in calling for that compensation package.

And before I sit in my place, Mr. Speaker, I do want to also say that I am particularly pleased that our Minister of Agriculture and our Premier is joining with the premiers, first ministers, from across Western Canada in raising this issue today as we speak, Mr. Speaker, and pleading with the federal government to quickly and swiftly pull together a compensation package, because it is absolutely critical that this takes place much, much sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker.

So with those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part and agree with the motion that:

. . . (urges) the federal government to immediately develop a compensation package . . . (which) is separate and distinct from the agricultural policy framework (and that's critical),



that recognizes that certain economic sectors and thousands of people have been negatively impacted by the single case of BSE discovered in Canada.

And I am pleased to support that motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm appreciative to be able to take part in this debate today, Mr. Speaker, and to talk on the motion at hand. And I think it's very timely that we have American visitors here today and hopefully they will take our message back on just how devastating this ban that a number of countries have put on Canadian beef, but especially our American friends that is naturally our biggest trading partner.

Mr. Speaker, this ban went on I believe on May 20 and we go another nine days and that's been a whole month. If at the beginning we would have talked about this ban lasting a month I think people, especially ranchers, farmers would have been in complete shock. And before we know it we're even talking possibly two weeks before a decision is made in the US, Mr. Speaker.

I think without a word of a lie that it's going to be devastating to far more than just the ranchers, who it could put many of them under, and the mixed farming operations out there.

But it's far more widespread than that, Mr. Speaker, and I think a number of the businesses out there . . . or the one I heard, a owner of — or I believe he was the owner of — of Roberge's trucking firm the other day said that he's already laid about half of his drivers off, hasn't called back a number of the guys that own their own rigs. It just shows how devastating it is to that one business and to every other trucking firm in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We also go on to the feedlot owners. And we know how many of these businesses operate, Mr. Speaker, that they're on a month-to-month budget where they balance their books by selling their finished stock, finished animals, and then paying their bills and it goes on and on and on.

Even if they work through the futures and so on, Mr. Speaker, a month of this will be something that they may never get over, in fact many of them probably will not be able to handle, and will go under. And, Mr. Speaker, that will be devastating to the province of Saskatchewan but also to the whole Canadian economy.

And I guess that's where the federal government comes into play here once again. And there's a number of comments and quotes today out of the Western premiers' talks that they're having in Alberta right now about how the federal government is once again dropping the ball and kind of excluding Western Canada when it comes to any kind of compensation for this.

I think there's hints that if they do give compensation for other than the farmers that have actually had livestock slaughtered, that it may come out of existing programs. And here we go again. They've got the existing programs so watered down, Mr. Speaker, at this point, that there isn't money to go around and

it's not serving the purpose of Saskatchewan farmers. If they take, which could be a huge amount here, if they actually properly pay farmers the compensation that they need to be paid to carry on, there'll be nothing left for anybody left under these programs, Mr. Speaker.

This needs to be federal money, new money, and paid very, very quickly because many of these businesses, Mr. Speaker, especially if the bankers will not carry these businesses, will not last to see the light of another month go by.

And I think again, Mr. Speaker, it's crucial that we convince our American friends that this ban has to be lifted as quick as possible. We're talking here, Mr. Speaker, one isolated incident of BSE, mad cow disease — one cow out of how many hundred thousand we have in this country and how many millions we have in the US, Mr. Speaker.

And I would hope the Americans really pay attention to this because what goes around, comes around, Mr. Speaker. And sooner or later the same thing will happen across the border in the US. For all we know it may have happened but if it has it hasn't been reported, Mr. Speaker.

But I would say to the Americans to really consider closely how long they hold this ban off. Because if that happens in the US, it will be also devastating to their cattle industry, to their ranchers, and all their cattlemen. So be very careful how long we drag this out because it could come around to bite them in the long run. And I hope they would take that into consideration and being one of our best — without a lie — our best trading partner in the world, will take into consideration the devastation and the hurt that it's putting on our farmers.

And, Mr. Speaker, we go into other businesses. We go into the slaughterhouses, the rendering plants, the abattoirs, a number of the businesses that are tied to those businesses, where they finish beef products. And it goes all through the system, Mr. Speaker. Everything is coming to a standstill and from this point on there's going to be more people losing their job, Mr. Speaker. And whether that family is a young family with four kids, five kids, even a couple with two kids, it's devastating for these people to lose their jobs.

And I think Jane Stewart, the federal minister, had made the comment, well this is different than SARS; they can go out and get another job. That's not that easy. That minister for some of her past record maybe should be the one out looking for another job, not the people in Saskatchewan who through no fault of their own are caught in a bind on this one, Mr. Speaker.

This hurt is going a long way, Mr. Speaker, and it's hurting a lot of families out here. It's going to be the end of a number of businesses if this goes on very long. And, Mr. Speaker, the federal government cannot solve all the problems but they can certainly alleviate a lot of the hurt. They can help these businesses survive this crisis.

I mean, when the Quebec ice storm was on they were there to help them, which they should have been. There was help went from and donations went from Saskatchewan to Quebec. Anywhere in this country where there's been something to this proportion before happened — anywhere in the country,

whether it's Eastern Canada, in the Atlantic province, no matter where — the rest of the country has been there to help them. Well it's time for the federal Liberals to stand up to the plate and help Western Canada.

If you want to defuse the Western alienation and the Western groups out here that are promoting separation, they could really help the cause by putting that to sleep by helping Western Canada people at this point, Mr. Speaker.

So I join in on supporting the motion today. And I join with everyone on both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, in saying that I hope that the federal government comes to their senses, sees the light. And if the Prime Minister wants to leave a legacy of good thoughts behind when he leaves, he could certainly help his image in Western Canada by addressing this issue.

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure . . . Well do you know, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say it gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand and rise in this debate, which it does, but I'm not pleased that we are even debating this. We should not have to.

We should have the support from our federal government in Western Canada for an industry that means a great deal to us. We should not have to be standing here and be debating this today in the House. The federal government should be giving us the support and the support that Western Canada needs during this very, this very drastic, critical time for Western Canada, a major part of the country, and for an industry that means a great deal right across the three Western provinces — four actually, Mr. Speaker; Manitoba also has some effect from this.

Mr. Speaker, when this first came about when this lone case of BSE was first tested positive in Alberta, this government made a request to the federal minister to waive the two-week waiting period on EI with the hope, Mr. Speaker, that if it was needed it would be there, a sign of support for Western workers and people within the industry, and also a sign from the federal government that they understood the importance of this industry in Western Canada and were willing to give the support that was needed immediately. It may only be a small, two-week waiting period that was waived but it would have meant a great deal to Western Canada, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, this whole Assembly believes that there should be compensation. We can . . . We're not here to debate on whether compensation is needed — we know it's needed.

Mr. Speaker, as this situation progressed, in Moose Jaw, my constituency, Mr. Speaker, one of the first results was the shutting down of our XL meat plant. It was reopened, Mr. Speaker, to depopulate some of the herds that had been quarantined, but it is still a drastic hit on our community of Moose Jaw. And, Mr. Speaker, that has just spread across this province.

Mr. Speaker, right in the very beginning when the first case was diagnosed, I was speaking to someone from Eastern Canada, from the East Coast, and I said to them that this case had been diagnosed and it was pretty devastating for the industry in

Western Canada and that I hoped that there would be a swift resolve to this situation because it could be drastic in the effects that it had on our province. And, Mr. Speaker, this person said to me, well what difference does one sick cow make and who would be laid off from that?

And, Mr. Speaker, I took the time and explained what this industry means to Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Western Canada. And when you look at the very basic numbers — you look at primary agriculture, the meat processing, livestock transportation, whether it's livestock or whether it's carcasses that are transported to market after, agricultural wholesale distributors that will be affected, the trucking industry — it is huge. And, Mr. Speaker, those ripples will be felt right across our country and right across our economy as this situation drags on longer and longer.

We have tried through the department to accumulate some numbers to get a better idea of what kind of numbers we're actually looking at when it comes to employees and employers in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, we're looking at 12,000 businesses across our province may be affected by the BSE and this slowdown in the livestock industry. And just roughly, we are looking at 24,000 employees. That's 24,000 employees, 24,000 families in this province that are affected by this outbreak or this one isolated case, Mr. Speaker, of BSE. And that goes from everywhere from the primary agriculture into transportation and all the things in between. And Mr. Speaker, that will grow as the ripples are felt throughout the economy.

(15:15)

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are not here to debate whether compensation should be available but we all agree that it should be and, Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise and support this motion that . . . expressing to the federal government that we feel that compensation and a compensation package that is new and is set up specifically to address this most drastic situation in Western Canada be developed as soon as possible.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say I'm very pleased that our Premier has made BSE and the compensation package a topic on his list for First Ministers' Conference that . . . the meetings which are currently going on in Kelowna, and I know that he and the Minister of Agriculture will speak eloquently and demand the compensation that is deserved by this industry and needed by Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to support this motion.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the motion before the House this date.

I think it is important that the aid package that I think is going to be required for the Western economy not be part of normal and regular farm aid — not only because if the package is developed that takes away from the CFIP (Canadian Farm Income Program) program then that necessarily hurts other producers and the amount of money available for other producers; but in addition, as has already been pointed out by

the member from Watrous and other members, many people are being impacted and laid off their jobs who are not producers.

So non-producers in the areas of the packing plants, the auction marts, the trucking industry, are just as impacted as primary producers. And of course many producers who do not have animals that will be slaughtered also will be impacted as far as price is concerned.

Now some will say that this motion is premature in the sense that we simply do not know at this point in time what the full economic impact is going to be. For a start, we can't even predict today on what date the border will be reopened not only by the United States but by Australia and several other countries. So the full economic impact will largely be determined by how long the trade embargo continues and we simply can't answer that. And it also has to be said that that is not a Canadian decision. That is a decision that will be made by our trading partners, not we ourselves.

All we can do is what we are doing; namely, aggressively take all measures in science and in health to demonstrate that we have done everything humanly possible to track down the source and the extent. And hopefully at the end of today or within the next couple of days we will be able to report that extensive culling and extensive tests have failed to result in a single, solitary additional case of BSE being located. And I think that should give Canadian consumers and our international trading partners considerable comfort that Canadian beef is safe.

I do think that we are going to have to accept the reality that when a compensation package is developed, that some provincial participation is going to be required. I note that other speakers have mentioned SARS in Toronto, the ice storms, the cod fishery of Atlantic Canada. And in all those cases, some provincial participation was required.

However, I'm pleased to advise this House that I did, last week, write to the Hon. Jane Stewart to express my dismay and my extreme opposition to her announced decision not to waive the two-week waiting period for EI benefits and to insist and demand, on behalf of this province and Western Canadians generally, that she revisit that decision.

I think that it is shocking to us in the West that the EI waiting period would be waived for one group of workers in Toronto and not waived for the packing plant and auction mart and trucking employees of Western Canada who have been thrown out of work as a result of the sudden closure and shutdown of the meat-packing industry in the West. So I've written to the Hon. Jane Stewart. I have expressed my opposition to that decision and I have asked for her to revisit that decision.

Mr. Speaker, we still this day do not know the full impact upon our economy. However, the dramatic events in the past three weeks have again underscored how there is nothing so important to our economy as to have a healthy and open trading relationship with our friends and our partners, and that the Canadian economy which — in this as in so many other things — is based on producing large quantities of certain specialized products at which we excel but large quantities which we in the domestic market cannot possibly consume.

We as a country have always specialized in the production of certain commodities. As opposed to producing a little bit of a lot of things, we produce a lot of certain specified commodities at which we excel.

Because of that basic fact of the Canadian economy, there is nothing so crucial or important to us as open trade and a strong and open relationship with our trading partners. And that has again been very dramatically demonstrated to us.

And for anyone in Saskatchewan or anyone in Canada who questions the value of having a full, open, and healthy trading relationship, I trust they have reassessed in the last three weeks. Because I think we've really gotten the final answer in the last three weeks as to where we as a country stand if we don't have open trade and open borders.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I know there'll be other members anxious to come in. I don't wish to take up any more time but I do wish to say that I support the . . . I support this motion. I support the principle behind it.

I do think that there are some details that will require time to be worked out but it is in order for the federal government to begin discussions and to begin gathering together the information as to those sectors of the economy which legitimately require compensation as a result of the events that have overtaken them and thrown workers out of work through no fault of their own.

I do think that — whether the government acknowledges it or not — that if we are expecting a comprehensive package for producers, for rendering plant operators, for the employees of packing plants and trucking firms, that inevitably there is going to be some request for the provincial government to participate in that. I do not think it should be 60/40 but I do think that, as with crises in other parts of the country, if we are going to ask taxpayers in other part of the country to participate, we must also and will have to demonstrate our own good faith and our own commitment to the workers in those industries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the House to introduce the motion of transmittal.

Leave granted.

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

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies and verbatim transcript of the rule 46 motion and debate and vote with respect to the federal compensation to economic sectors affected by the BSE crisis to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of Human Resources Development.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

## 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 question no. 709.

**The Speaker:** — Response to question 709 has been tabled.

(15:30)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

## Bill No. 16 — The Coroners Amendment Act, 2003

## Clause 1

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Seated to my left is Ms. Lorna Nystuen who is the director of coroner's services for the Saskatchewan Justice department. And seated behind me is Ms. Madeleine Robertson, who is a Crown counsel with legislative services, Saskatchewan Justice department.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chair. And welcome to the minister and his officials for this time this afternoon.

With regards to the details of Bill No. 16 and specifically with reference to the collection of tissue and fluid samples, what kind of legal or constitutional issues had to be considered with that?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This provision involves a balancing act between respect for privacy and other rights that people have and the need for coroners to be able to get information in order to properly determine the cause and manner of death for the purposes of The Coroners Act. And so this Act represents a balance.

It would allow coroners to obtain blood samples taken by hospital staff prior to a death and that would allow . . . may assist the coroner to determine the cause of death or the manner of death. There may be, for example, evidence of drugs, alcohol in blood.

But I should add that The Coroners Act itself — not an amendment to the Act but the existing Act — states in section 13(2) that:

Objects removed pursuant to subsection (1) (which is the section that allows a coroner to obtain certain objects) may only be used by the coroner to establish identification and cause and manner of death for the purposes of this Act.

So in other words the seizure of the blood sample, I'm advised by the officials, would be used by the coroner for the purposes

of The Coroners Act but it would not be used for other purposes, for example a criminal prosecution. That would be a matter for the police, I suppose, under their powers of seizure to obtain in order to get whatever evidence they wanted to use for their own purposes.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you. I would like for the minister to comment on the position of the provincial association of coroners, whether this was an issue there that they'd been looking for for a long time or whether this is one that didn't have total, unanimous support from their association.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm advised by the officials that they have spoken with several coroners and, of course, the chief coroner with respect to this matter and that the coroners that they have spoken to have indicated support for this change. They are not aware of coroners being opposed to this change.

We can't say that there isn't some coroner somewhere who is opposed to the change, but any coroners that we've spoken to through the officials have indicated that this is a problem, that they want it fixed. And that's the only information that we've received at the Department of Justice.

So we can't say that there isn't some coroner somewhere that for some reason would oppose this; I'm not sure why. But any that we have heard from say that this is what they want.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you. And as we usually ask with almost every piece of legislation, does this catch us up with other provinces or are we in a leadership position with other provinces on this one? And with some specifics as well, please, as to, if we're catching up, have all the other provinces done it? Are we the last ones? Are we right in the lead or where are we?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm advised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that no, we are not the leader in this sense. The other Western provinces, I'm advised, already have a similar provision. There may be some provinces of Canada that do not have this provision but the trend is toward having this kind of power in the hands of the coroner.

I'm advised that in the Western provinces this already exists. We're not sure at the moment whether it exists in every province of Canada, although it exists in several. And I think what I'll do is say to the member that we're not the leader of — the other Western provinces apparently have this — but what I'll do is send the member a letter which will outline in detail for the provinces and the territories which have this power in their legislation at the present time and which do not yet have the power.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Mr. Chair, through you to the minister. Thank you for that commitment to get that information out. And I think with that particular question it brings us to the end of the questions that we had on this particular Bill, Bill No. 16.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. I would like to thank the opposition Justice critic for his very good and helpful questions. And I'd also like to thank the officials from the Department of Justice and the coroner's services branch for their assistance with the legislation and for the good work that they did today and the good work that they do throughout the year.

And with that, I'd like to move that we report this Bill without amendment.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 16 — The Coroners Amendment Act, 2003

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

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

### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

#### General Revenue Fund Learning Vote 5

#### Subvote (LR01)

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Minister of Learning to introduce her officials.

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair of Committees. On my left is Dr. Craig Dotson, deputy minister of Learning. Behind Dr. Dotson is Wayne McElree, assistant deputy minister. Behind Mr. McElree is Dr. Michael Littlewood. Beside Dr. Littlewood is Glenda Eden, manager of financial planning and corporate services. Right directly behind me is Gillian McCreary, executive director for Learning.

And on the back corner is Don Sangster, executive director of school finance. And right directly in front of Don is Dr. Margaret Lipp, executive director of the ... of Learning department. Behind us in the back row is Dr. John Biss; Nelson Wagner, executive director of facilities; and Edith Hazen, acting associate executive director of student financial assistance.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Chair; and to the minister and her officials, thank you very much. We appreciate your attendance again and I'm sure that we can get some questions answered that everyone is just dying to hear your replies on.

Madam Minister, I'd like to start with the education tax and mostly I'm going to talk about the classifications.

(15:45)

Now we know that the minister has started a ... has a gentleman going around the province talking about the education property tax issue and looking at fairness and equity in determining if he can come up with some solutions to this

immense problem. When we have 17 school divisions that get no money from the government at all and Saskatchewan having the highest percentage of education paid on property of any province, we know it's an issue that has to be dealt with.

One of the PowerPoint slides that is being used is one that talks about education tax by property classes. And this one was 2001 and it talked about commercial and industrial property paying 222 million, agricultural paying 160 million, and residential property paying 264 million. Does the government or does your office have the similar numbers for 2002 and 2003?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We have the numbers for 2001. 2002 we only have the estimates because we haven't got the audited financial statements yet.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, can you supply us with those numbers, please?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We can provide the estimates, yes.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, will they ... are they available now or when will you be able to supply them? We'd appreciate them today if possible.

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We don't have them with us today but we will have them available the next day or two.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. I'm wondering, can you tell me if rental properties like apartments are considered residential or commercial?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Multi-dwelling residential, that's what they're considered.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, you don't ... you'd indicated you don't have the numbers here with you so can you break them down for us by properties and how much is being paid by multi-dwelling properties and how much by single-dwelling properties, and how much is by people in the various categories so we can get a better handle on who's paying what amount of the property tax?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We can give you the information in as fine a disaggregation as we can.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister, we appreciate that very much. And I would look forward to it in the next couple of days if possible.

Madam Minister, I'm going to just ask a couple of questions on the early childhood development and then we'll go on to post-secondary for a few moments.

I notice that there is a slight increase of money this year under early childhood development. Is this money still coming all from the federal government and can you give me an idea of how this money is actually spent?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The early childhood development money is all federal money. And it's spent in three government departments — Learning, Health, and Community Resources and Employment — for an array of programs in nine different

targeted communities, including screening at birth up to parenting skills.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, just for clarification. The money that's coming from the federal government, I believe this is just the one-third of it; the rest of it is divided out into the other departments. Is that correct?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — For 2003-2004 it's divided as follows: in Learning we have 3.032 million; in Community Resources and Employment 3.3 million; in Health 6.669; for a total of 13.010.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. A number of the schools that I've had the opportunity to visit have daycares right within the school building. Can you give me . . . Can you tell us how many schools in the province actually have daycares within the school?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We don't have the exact number. Those are local arrangements made.

**Ms. Draude:** — Is the money that is paid to the workers within the daycares, does that come from Social Services or does that come from the Department of Learning?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The arrangements made with daycares in the schools are done with the individual boards. And we don't have any money directly into daycare salaries.

**Ms. Draude:** — So if the school division themselves were paying the daycare workers it wouldn't be something that the department was keeping track of?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — No.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, the Wraparound program that is considered very successful in a lot of the community schools and within different departments is something that is basically part of School<sup>PLUS</sup>, but it's the idea that it's going to involve different departments. How many of our schools right now actually have the Wraparound program involved in their curriculum or within their workings of the school?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The Wraparound program is in the 98 community schools that are in the province.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Madam Minister. I know there's something that is considered important and yet we have never seen if there's been any measuring outcomes or results from the actual programs. Have you had the opportunity to look at the . . . assessing the outcomes of this issue?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We're currently doing a review of complex case management and we have six case studies under review under the direction of the human services integrated committee.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, we had quite a lengthy discussion a week or so ago about educational priorities of your government at the post-secondary level and I'd like to continue along some of the areas of discussion that we initiated at that time.

When we last spoke I asked about the increases in student loan levels. We had, at that time, discussed the increasing shortfall that student loans provide to Saskatchewan students who are hoping to attend post-secondary institutions. And we had some discussion around the ability of students to access universities and technical schools and so forth based on the currently available limitations of student loans.

I think you indicated in our conversation that the last time there was any look at the levels, the funding levels provided through student loans, you suggested that it was last reviewed in the mid-1990s.

I'm wondering, Madam Minister, if you can tell me, is there any intent on the part of your government to look at reviewing that level of financing once more? And if so, when that might happen? And also when you make that decision, what is the involvement of the federal government in trying to accommodate those increases?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you. We continue to make improvements in our student loan program; in this budget we did with the exemptions and as well as in the year 2000.

There is continuous scrutiny of the student loan program at the federal-provincial-territorial level. In fact next month . . . this month there will be a committee looking at the student loan program at the federal-provincial-territorial level.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Minister, through the Chair. In subsequent discussions I'd like the minister to elaborate a little bit about the factors that go into discussions at the interprovincial conferences with the federal government as to how those loan levels are set, and what factors come into play, and are they different for the various provinces, and so on.

(16:00)

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The criteria for students loans is a needs-based assessment. And the considerations for that assessment are consistent. They include things like education, expenses . . . living expenses, earned income, assets, savings, those sorts of things. And the different provinces can choose different responses to loans and debt, and they can also choose the bursaries, how they apply bursaries to reduce that debt.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister. Are you suggesting, Madam Minister, that the criteria for student loans is need-based right across the country through all provincial governments?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Yes, that's what I'm saying.

**Mr. Elhard:** — How long has that particular program been in effect? I know that we have a joint program with the federal government but can you give us an indication how long that program's been in effect?

And I know you indicated last time we talked that you thought the Saskatchewan program was reasonably successful, but I'm wondering if other jurisdictions are feeling the same way. What is your understanding of how other provinces feel about the current arrangement with the federal government?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. The student loan program, the federal-provincial student loan program, has been in effect for 20 years or more. And Saskatchewan, as of the summer of 2001, has the most integrated program with the federal government. Ontario is the only other province that has a partially integrated program.

We have one of the most generous bursary programs. And the distinction there is that student loans provide students with debt; bursaries provide students with forgiveness of debt.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Madam Minister, the integrated nature of the student loan program with the federal government, has that in your estimation brought us greater efficiencies or more federal funding? What is the benefit of that greater integration?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — There has been no additional federal money, although there has been some administrative efficiencies. But the primary benefit is to students where they have the seamless application and the seamless repaying of the debt.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. I'd like to go now to the Canadian millennium scholarships. This has been a program that the federal government introduced several years ago and has worked reasonably well throughout the country from what I'm told, although I know there was controversy from time to time as to how the money was used by various provincial governments.

Could the minister please explain for us how the province administers the Canadian millennium scholarships that arrive here in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Okay the \$9.7 million that comes from the Canadian millennium scholarship fund has been integrated into our Canada-Saskatchewan scholarship . . . or student loan program. And basically it's to . . . We've given it to the universities to reduce . . . to keep tuitions lower, and also into bursaries to reduce student debt. So this has been added to the university operating grant every year.

**Mr. Elhard:** — If I understood you correctly, Madam Minister, then not all of the Canadian millennium scholarship funds go directly to participants who have applied for scholarships, some of it is spread through some of the institutions prior to disbursement to students?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you. Each province determines how they will administer or disburse their millennium scholarship money.

All of our millennium scholarship money goes to the students and that has freed up money from our program to give then to the universities into their operating grants.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you for that clarification, Madam Minister. Can you advise us today, when the federal government actually writes the cheque that they send to the province of Saskatchewan to cover the cost associated with the millennium scholarship?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you. It comes every year in May

and goes directly to the Student Aid Fund.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Is it the opinion of the minister that the scholarship fund works to the complete satisfaction of the provincial government or are there changes and other things that they would like to see accomplished through this particular arrangement with the federal government?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We are at this point satisfied with our agreement. It was signed in '99-2000, so it's just barely four years old. And we continue to look at whether we would look at enhancements or changes but at the moment we're satisfied.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Madam Minister, the conversation we had last week also entailed the potential increase or demand in the province for post-secondary education among Saskatchewan residents. And I think I talked about the accessibility issue, how possible it would be for students to attend post-secondary schools, and the vast anticipated increase in applicants that many senior university officials have predicted.

I was at a conference recently where it was indicated that the province of Alberta has had a recommendation brought before it that suggests that they double completely, right across the board, all of their post-secondary seats which would — in order for them to accommodate that big a change — would require a lot of what are now smaller, non-degree-granting institutions to be able to grant degrees. And if that's true for Alberta, I'm sure that the demand will be of equivalent and proportionate size in this province.

So, Madam Minister, I want to ask you a philosophical question, I suppose. I'd like to know whether the government of the day has considered the increase in demand and how that might impact on our existing institutions, and what the provincial government would recommend be done to accommodate that demand vis-à-vis the expected increase in applicants?

Would the government look at significantly expanding the options offered, the courses offered, and the enrolment opportunities at our existing schools? Or will the government take a long, hard look at the possibility of offering degree-granting status to other universities and colleges?

(16:15)

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — That's a very large question and I'm going to try and keep the answer fairly short.

We do have our technical institutes, SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology), and our colleges, who continually respond to the market. And SIAST is particularly good at that. So they are always looking at what needs . . . what courses need to be given and how to be offered.

The colleges offer first- and second-year university classes. And they also have a transfer of credit so that people who take something at a college can move it into a university. And there's things like on-line learning and distance learning, and all kinds of things that we continue to look at and change so people have access to learning closer to their home communities.

So those things are constantly being evaluated and constantly changing to meet the demand of the learner.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Madam Minister, through the Chair, with a supplementary question.

I think we covered that base last week but I guess what I'm looking at frankly is, if there is a surge in demand, the on-line potential and the regional colleges and the other efforts that have been put in place now to address the issue of accommodating increasing demand may be insufficient. And if that in fact is true, we're going to be caught in a situation where we will not be able to service the needs of our own students in this province, let alone anybody from out of province who might want to come here.

So I think with an eye to the future, what I'm hoping to hear from the minister is that the department and the government of the day is looking at taking serious steps to addressing what could be a very large influx of students. And maybe moving beyond the government's comfort zone in terms of who may or may not offer degrees.

I think that there's kind of a philosophical issue there, a pretty serious philosophical issue that the government's going to have to come to grips with, and I'm just wondering if any attention has been paid to that particular issue at this point?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We have a fairly flexible regional college system that can increase capacity fairly quickly and significantly. We continue to monitor that and to react to that need.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Deputy Chair, through you to the minister. Will the government anticipate making any changes to the legislation that limits the degree-granting capability to any existing college?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. We have no immediate plans to expand our degree-granting institutions although we are in discussions with SIFC (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College). There are certainly a broad range of things to discuss like faculty, accreditation, standards — all those sorts of things.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Madam Minister, I'm encouraged to hear that you're looking at granting some additional recognition to the Federated Indian College. I think that that's an important step forward.

I'm also aware, having been in conversation with individuals over the last year or 18 months, concerning the move of Canadian Bible College and the Canadian Theological Seminary to the city of Calgary after a long tenure here in the city of Regina, that is a school of outstanding character and has a national reputation — one of the best theological training institutions in the country. And they felt they were obligated to move to Calgary because conversations with the government led nowhere when they sought an opportunity to offer degrees outside of quote "religious disciplines."

Now, Madam Minister, I think it was a tragedy that we had to lose the college over that particular issue. I think it would be an

even greater tragedy if we had to lose more than one to the same possibility.

And I've had conversations with some of the other privately run — in some cases sectarian, in other cases not — but in conversations with some of those institutions, their leadership has indicated to me that they find the restrictions on their ability to offer degrees not just encumbering but really limiting their future growth and development.

And I think those schools offer a high calibre of education and a good opportunity to bring students into the province from outside of our jurisdiction. That's a growth industry that really brings new dollars into the province and into our economy. There is not much chance that people who attend those particular schools are students lost to the University of Regina or the University of Saskatchewan.

So, Madam Minister, I would hope that in the next few years, the next opportunity that review of The Education Act comes up for consideration, that the province would look at providing those kind of opportunities to schools that can meet the very criteria you talked about — whether they can meet academic standards, your professorship standards, or whether they can meet library standards, or whatever is required — because there's no sense in us losing good schools and the opportunity to bring students here when we could in fact be growing that industry in this province.

So, Madam Minister, I would ask that you would give an undertaking to have another look at that particular piece of legislation.

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I just want to correct something I think I heard, is that the Canadian Bible College did have an arrangement with the University of Regina to have credit courses delivered through the college. They had an affiliated arrangement. This is a matter, the private schools and degree granting, is a matter that's continuing to be under discussion. And we will continue to listen to what they have to say as the needs evolve.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Deputy Chairman, I understand, to the minister, that Canadian Bible College did have an agreement with the University of Regina. But they were looking for an opportunity to offer degrees on their own merit and under their own charter. And I believe that it wasn't an unreasonable request. It was something that we really should have entertained, and I'm hopeful that in the future those kind of requests will be given serious consideration.

I do know that some of these colleges feel that their access to the minister and to the department is sometimes constrained, and maybe that's because of the additional or other responsibilities the department has.

But we can't afford to lose those kinds of schools, with all the jobs and all the well-paying opportunities that leave the province. And I appreciate the fact that you have said today, for the record, that you will give serious consideration to those types of requests in the future. I think it's very important for the future of this province. Thank you, Madam Minister.



**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Just on one point that the member mentioned, I am not aware of being asked to meet with anybody and I certainly have not turned down any of those requests if I have been asked. So I'm not aware of any of those. And I would entertain anybody who wants to talk to me.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. To Madam Minister, and to your officials, it seems that whenever we talk about education we always get back to the issue of funding because that is the one question that people keep bringing up. Our school system is working well in most areas and I think that's thanks mainly to the school boards who squeeze every penny till it hollers, and to the teachers who work very hard at what they're . . . what they've been asked to do and going above and beyond.

But, Madam Minister, right now there is a number of questions about deficit budgeting. And I'm wondering if you can give me the department's more formal stand on deficit budgeting within a school division.

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Before I actually answer the question, I do want to say that the success of our education system is also due in large part to the provincial government's contribution of \$1.2 billion to our learning sector.

The Education Act prohibits boards from deliberately deficit budgeting, to answer your question.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. To the minister, well the \$1.2 billion spent on education of course is not just K to 12 (kindergarten to grade 12) learning, it's also . . . it's post-secondary. And the fact that Saskatchewan pays more education tax on their property than any other province leads everyone to believe and to understand that the responsibility for education is going mostly on to taxpayers.

So yes, there's some thank you that goes to the provincial government, but most of the thank you has to go to the taxpayers who are paying the lion's share of the cost of education in this province.

Madam Minister, you said that there is no mechanism for school divisions to actually deficit budget, but we do know that there is some actual work done within the school division that allows them carry over, and some carry back, and it does happen. What are the department's rules on this issue and what do . . . Do the divisions have to report to the government and show their annual returns? And what in turn does the department do if they see that there is a concern with the deficit budget?

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

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

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you. And thank you to the members for giving me the opportunity to introduce a very large class from

Muenster School. We have 20 grade 8 students in the east gallery and along with them are Marvin Renneberg, Florence Schreiner, Gail Rueve, Kris Breker, Wayne Hogemann, and Ben Zimmerman.

To the students, right now we have the opportunity to listen to estimates on Education. I'm asking the minister questions on the Department of Education, or Learning as it's now called. And the minister is replying with answers that I need to have when it comes to talking about this department and spending money.

I hope you enjoy what you're seeing in the gallery and I'll have the opportunity to meet with you in a few minutes and answer any questions you have. So welcome to the gallery and I hope you have a good time today.

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

(16:30)

#### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

##### General Revenue Fund Learning Vote 5

##### Subvote (LR01)

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Deputy Chair, first of all I just want to reiterate that The Education Act prohibits deficit budgeting deliberately. But if that does happen, that there is a deficit budget, then the next budget they're obligated under the Act to pay that off. And each school board has a publicly audit . . . or an audited statement that's publicly available as well as coming to the department.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. So if there is . . . I know that school divisions have the opportunity to have a debt, but that would only be for, I would imagine, for capital expenditures. If it goes over into the actual operating capital and operating budget, then it has to be repaid out of the first money that comes into the department the following year. Is that correct?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. The member is correct that school boards can carry capital debt but the operating debt has to be paid off. In their next budget they have to show the way that they're going to pay off that operating deficit.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, there are a number of school divisions that are involved in amalgamation proceedings at this time.

And some of them have a debt that's involved that's part of their books at this time and in order to amalgamate they're being forced or, in order to have another school division want them, they're going to have to get that debt paid off before they can actually have amalgamation proceedings. So I am aware of school divisions that actually have to increase their mill rate considerably in order to have amalgamation proceedings go forward.

How many school divisions are you aware of that are having this issue and is it something that the department has been asked to deal with to allow the amalgamation process to proceed?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Long-term debt can be carried forward. There is no obligation that before amalgamation occurs the debt has to be paid off. There are arrangements being made between districts with assets and liabilities that can be carried forward and assumed by the amalgamated district.

There have been no requests for the department to intervene in any of this as to this date.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Madam Minister. I've had questions from school divisions who are questioning the League of Peaceful Schools, I believe it's called — the bullying issue — and some schools that feel that the programs, it's very warranted and yet maybe it's not working to complete satisfaction.

Can you give me a rundown of what this issue, the bullying issue or the League of Peaceful Schools, how you're dealing with this issue?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. To answer the question, the League of Peaceful Schools is a national program that we don't have a lot to do with. There are . . . Schools can choose to use it.

We have a caring and respectful schools program that is through the department. And as we proceed with School<sup>PLUS</sup>, that caring and respectful schools program is one of the six areas that schools can focus on.

And I just can read you some detail of what the . . . some of the roots of violence and the effective programs that we're hoping people will look at:

. . . that the programs are centred on an unconditional commitment to all children and youth; that they're open, inclusive, and culturally affirming; that they engage family and community and collaborative action; they focus on strengths; they're comprehensive and integrated.

They share responsibility among educators, families, and community to ensure that schools are caring, respectful, and safe places; share responsibility among educators, family, and community to ensure the personal and social well-being of all children and youth; promote students taking responsibility for their behaviour; promote prevention and early intervention approaches; and undergo continuous assessment and renewal.

And that program of caring and respectful schools began in September 2000 and is working very well with school divisions and communities.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, can you tell me how many schools are involved in the caring and respectful schools and can you tell me how money they're given if they become part of this program?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. We are not giving targeted money to the program. The program . . . The money that we're giving, that targeted money this year, the \$90 per student, is going into the School<sup>PLUS</sup> initiative. And as I said, the caring and respectful school program is one of the six that you can choose to use your money for and do your School<sup>PLUS</sup> focus on. And we also don't track the schools that are, that are or are not using this.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, within the Department of Education Act, is there any laws or regulations to deal with students that are difficult within the school division, that may have had a number of complaints against them and the complaints have gone to the school board or to the teachers, and there may be a . . . school boards may be at a loss as to how to deal with the student?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The Education Act has two general provisions. One permits boards of education for dealing with discipline or behaviour problems by suspension, and the second part of the Act that speaks to this is that no matter what the behaviour or the discipline problem is with the child, the board is obligated to provide an education to that student so they must develop programs that meet the needs of those students even if they are difficult.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Madam Minister. I'm going to go on to another issue right now and that is the issue of busing. Can you tell me how much money the department spends on busing in this calendar year?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The recognized expenditures for busing are 60 million for rural, 11.4 for urban, and 5.5 for special ed.

**Ms. Draude:** — Is there a breakdown between Catholic and public schools?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — There is. We don't have it with us but we can get it for you.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Is there any places where the Catholic and public school systems are sharing a bus?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. There may be an instance but we are not aware of it.

**Ms. Draude:** — Madam Minister, are there any school divisions that are using the public transport system that is paid for by the department?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — We give them the money. The school boards get the money and they determine then how they spend the money. And whether it's on public transport or some other means, it's up to them to decide.

(16:45)

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I just wanted to take a few seconds to talk on behalf of the Sask Central School Division. It's a school division that I think the superintendent of business, Phil Benson, summed up quite well that the increased revenue that was publicized provincially did

not translate into the same good news when it was applied to the provincial funding formula for their particular school division.

And even though they have made the difficult choice to increase the mill rate by 1.5, they still have had to cut three teaching positions, reduce the support staff hours. They've made cuts in areas of maintenance and numerous other areas.

The chairman, Gary Orthner, indicated that the salary settlements with the teachers, support staff, and bus drivers is simply not going to be covered by any increases by the provincial government so they have to figure out within themselves how they're going to finance this.

But the other issue that's happening with the Sask Central School Division, I'm just going to take the information from an article that I have, entitled "Frustration continues to grow at Sask Central School Division." And the statement is:

Maybe the early bird doesn't always get the worm, particularly if the worm comes from the provincial government coffers.

More than five years ago, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Sask Central School Division was formed from two existing school divisions — the Long Lake and the Last Mountain school divisions. And it was a voluntary amalgamation at the time. And at that time the respective boards received \$15,000 each, for a total of \$30,000 for making the amalgamation.

Now to my understanding, the current school year in the province of Saskatchewan is promoting the second round of voluntary amalgamation amongst school divisions. However, they've upped the financial ante considerably since the first round. And that's become an issue for the Sask Central school board.

A statement that was made by Ralph Eliasson, the director of education for the Sask Central, said that if we hadn't shown leadership and waited until the school . . . or the second round, we would have got in the vicinity of a quarter of a million dollars.

The Sask Central Board of Education expressed their concern with the inequity of the process almost immediately with the former Education minister. And in around, I believe it was in around November, they were given the assurance by the former Education minister that the department would look into the request being made by the school division to make the system a little more equitable. However they have since been told that the meeting wasn't all that meaningful and they've tried to set up a meeting with the current Education minister.

As of April 24, no date of meeting has been established. Has that meeting taken place? And is the minister considering some sort of settlement with the school division, for indeed showing leadership and amalgamating well in advance of this round of amalgamations?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Just a couple of points. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. The south . . . Sask Central School Board's mill rate is set this year at 19.5. The average

rural mill rate is 19.31, so it's fairly close to the average rural mill rate.

The transition money this year in amalgamation is not . . . has not been made retroactive. The difference from '97 when 20 school divisions amalgamated, there was a different set of criteria, and all of them accessed that criteria. So the money in this round of amalgamations is a different set of criteria and it is not retroactive.

Oh, and one more point as to the invitation or the request for a meeting, I have not seen or heard of that in the almost four months that I've been in the department.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Deputy Chair, the minister should know by now that the mill rate is dependent — the amount that will be paid by the taxpayers — is dependent upon the assessment of the land. If it's highly assessed property then the mill rate, even a lower mill rate, will mean higher taxes. Surely she can figure that out. She's had this portfolio for a little while now.

I will be informing the Sask Central School Division that she will . . . is looking forward to attending a meeting with them. She's indicated that she has not heard from them so I'm sure they'll be interested to hear that. Thank you.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, my questions are related to post-secondary education and particularly access to the various colleges and different subjects in post-secondary education.

I was approached by some constituents over the weekend about students getting into the department of education in particular. I'm just wondering, what's the criteria and what's the procedures for getting into the Faculty of Education and what are the road barriers that are in the road why students are not being accepted into that faculty?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — The University of Regina had 900 applications for its education program and they have 300 seats available, and they determine their own admission criteria.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. I wonder if you can tell me what that criteria is though? Even though it's set by the University of Regina, surely the department knows what that criteria is.

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. The University of Regina's criteria is different for each faculty and we don't have them with us right now, but we can certainly find you the one for Education if you want it.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Madam Minister, if you would, please. The difficulty that the parents pointed out to me was that in one case one of the students was a physics major, had just graduated from the U of R (University of Regina) in physics, wanted to go into Education to become a physics teacher, which from my understanding is one of the areas that's in very short supply in the education system, that there is a need for physics teachers. That person was rejected.

Another case was a graduate who had just graduated this year from kinesiology, wanted to become a teacher as well, was

rejected in their application. A third student was a student who two years ago was the U of R scholar at her high school, had attended the U of S (University of Saskatchewan) for one year. I'm not exactly sure what she did last year, whether she took a year off, but anyway she applied again this year to the U of R for Education.

All three of those students were rejected. It's not because they're . . . In the case of the U of R scholar, obviously her marks are at the very best level. The other two were . . . had just graduated with good marks from physics and from kinesiology. You would think that the department would be . . . or the university would be looking for these kind of students to become teachers and not be rejecting them.

So why is it that in the case of the students that had just graduated could not get into the department or Faculty of Education?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — I understand the frustration of the people that are contacting you but this is something we have no control over. The U of R determines their own admission standards and their own process for admissions. We do not have any influence over them, so the question would be better directed to the university itself.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Well thank you, Madam Minister. If the U of R was here on the floor, I would ask them the question. But they're not here on the floor and you, Madam Minister, are the minister of Education in Saskatchewan, the one who answers for education, K to 12; the one who answers for post-secondary in this province. Madam Minister, it's your job to be able to, if you don't know the answers today, to be able to supply those answers.

So, Madam Minister, will you gather that information and supply us?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Yes.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Madam Minister.

At this point in time, I would report that we rise, Mr. Chairman, and report progress. And we'll come back to another department after seven.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Just to clarify, that we will report progress on the Department of Learning and move to Justice. Is that agreed?

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Yes, I'd like to thank the members of the opposition for their questions and I'd like to also thank my officials for coming today.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved that the committee report progress on Department of Learning and move to Justice. Is that agreed?

**General Revenue Fund  
Justice  
Vote 3**

**Subvote (JU01)**

**The Chair:** — It is now near 5 p.m. We will stand recessed until 7 p.m. this evening.

The Assembly recessed until 19:00.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

Julé .....	1501
Draude .....	1501
Gantefoer .....	1501
Elhard .....	1501
Stewart .....	1501
Harpauer .....	1501
Eagles .....	1501
Bakken .....	1501
Wall .....	1502
Huyghebaert .....	1502
Dearborn .....	1502
Weekes .....	1502
Allchurch .....	1502

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

Deputy Clerk .....	1502
--------------------	------

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

Bakken .....	1502
Wiberg .....	1502

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Draude .....	1503, 1525
Harpauer .....	1503
Huyghebaert .....	1503
Stewart .....	1503
D’Autremont .....	1503
Prebble .....	1503
Eagles .....	1503
Gantefoer .....	1503
Lautermilch .....	1511

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**Women Voyageurs Travel from Cumberland House to The Pas**

Goulet .....	1504
--------------	------

**Kyle Multiple 4-H Club**

Hermanson .....	1504
-----------------	------

**Meadow Lake Community Excellence Award**

Sonntag .....	1504
---------------	------

**50th Anniversary of Residing in Saskatchewan**

Stewart .....	1504
---------------	------

**Mine Emergency Response Competition**

Iwanchuk .....	1505
----------------	------

**Kindersley Couple Celebrates 65th Wedding Anniversary**

Dearborn .....	1505
----------------	------

**Galaxy Cinemas Opens Newest Location in Regina**

Trew .....	1505
------------	------

**Welwyn Couple Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Toth .....	1506
------------	------

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Consequences of Occurrence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**

Hermanson .....	1506
Lautermilch .....	1506

**Possible Change in Party Affiliation**

McMorris .....	1507
Lautermilch .....	1507

**Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan Investments**

Wall .....	1509
Sonntag .....	1509

**MOTION UNDER RULE 46**

**Compensation for Beef Industry Workers**

Hermanson .....	1511
Lautermilch .....	1513
Harpauer .....	1514
Sonntag .....	1516

Bjornerud .....	1517
Higgins .....	1518
Hillson .....	1518
Hagel (transmittal motion) .....	1519
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Yates .....	1520
The Speaker .....	1520
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b>	
<b>Bill No. 16 — The Coroners Amendment Act, 2003</b>	
Cline .....	1520
Heppner .....	1520
<b>THIRD READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 16 — The Coroners Amendment Act, 2003</b>	
Cline .....	1521
<b>COMMITTEE OF FINANCE</b>	
<b>General Revenue Fund — Learning — Vote 5</b>	
Junor .....	1521
Draude .....	1521, 1525
Elhard .....	1522
Harpauer .....	1526
D’Autremont .....	1527