



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

---

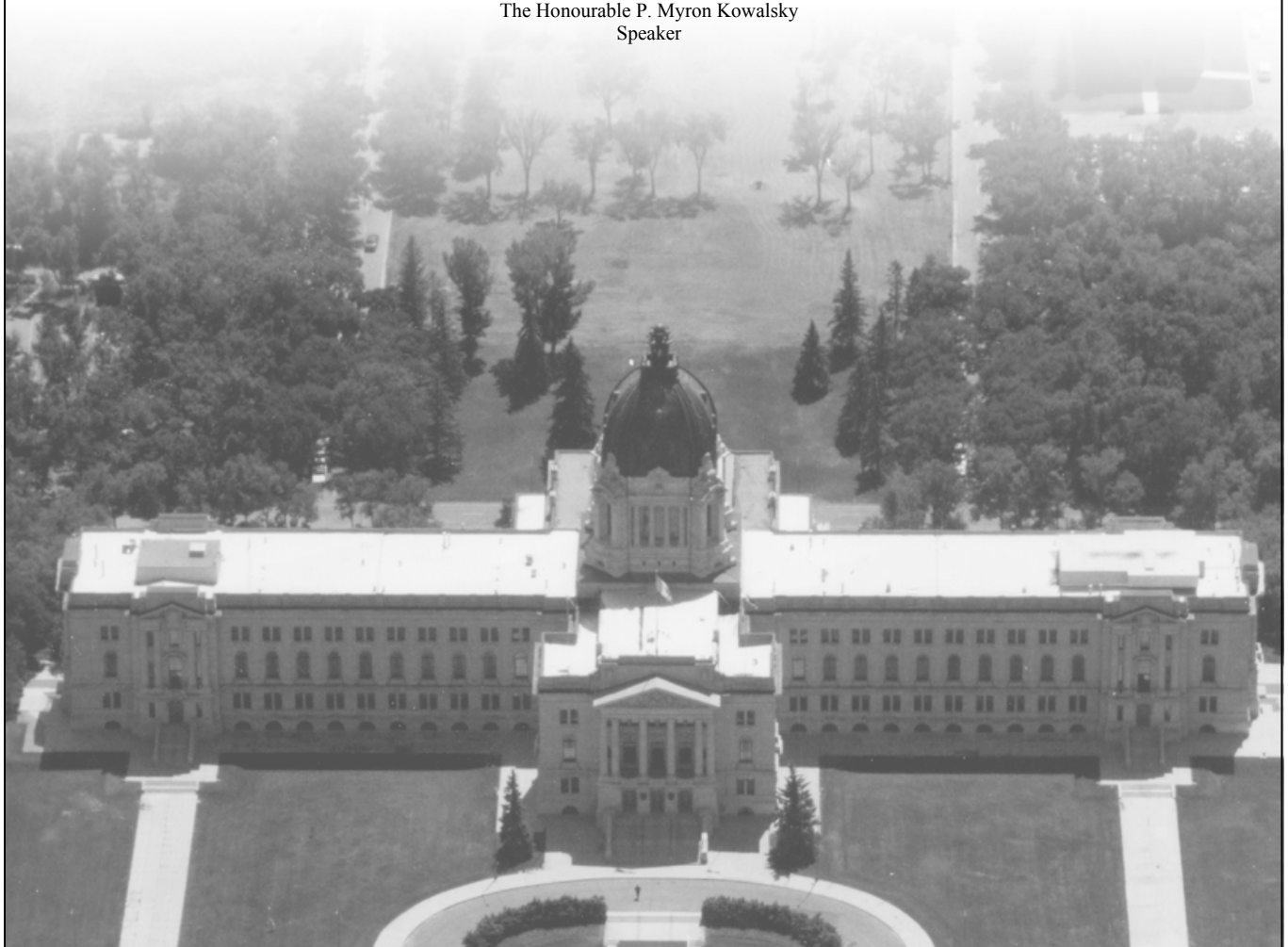
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky  
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert  
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken, Brenda	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Hon. Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise again to present a petition on behalf of constituents of Cypress Hills concerned about increases to the crop insurance program for this year and the attendant reduction in coverage. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary actions to reverse the increase in crop insurance premiums and the reduction in coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition was signed by constituents from Shaunavon, Gull Lake, and also from Regina.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by members of the Rosetown-Elrose constituency, and it regards recent changes to the crop insurance program that result in large premium increases for insured farmers while overall coverage is reduced. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary actions to reverse the increase in crop insurance premiums and the reduction in coverage.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from the communities of Beechy and Lucky Lake, and I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are concerned about the closing of more long-term care beds. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that long-term care facilities in the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency are not closed or

further downsized.

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

And this petition is signed by residents of the city of Weyburn.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise with a petition from citizens of the Southwest who are very concerned about the deplorable condition of Highway 43. 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 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 is signed in total by the good citizens of Gravelbourg.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of my constituency and Saskatchewan that are concerned with the government's handling of the Crown land leases. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Spiritwood, Leoville, Medstead, and Mayfair.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here to resurface Highway 15.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that this portion of Highway 15 be repaired and resurfaced immediately as to remove the safety hazard to all motorists who rely on this vital road for transportation and economic purposes.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures are all from the town of Semans.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from constituents against the closure of Biggar's rural service centre and Environment office. And 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 reverse the decision to close the rural service centre and Environment office in Biggar.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Biggar and district.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 63, 65, 69, and 72.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 30 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Labour: for all cases before the Labour Relations Board in which a final decision was handed down in 2003, what was the average length of time between the case being heard by the Labour Relations Board and a final decision being made; what was the longest period between hearing of the case and the final decision; and what was the shortest?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have a similar question for 2002.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 30 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for Community Resources and Employment: for fiscal year 2004-2005, what is the annual maximum dental allowance of individuals who have been given supplementary health benefits?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on day no. 30 I shall ask the government the following question:

And my question is for the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: for the year 2003, what amount of money did SaskTel spend advertising: (1) *Max* TV services; (2) high-speed Internet; and (3) other SaskTel services?

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Victoria . . . no, pardon me, Douglas Park.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I should like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the House, Desiree Magnus. Desiree is seated in the west gallery with her dad, Ken. She's here visiting her dad for a few days after finishing a work-term placement in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

She acquired a Bachelor of Arts honours in political science from University of Regina in 2001 and then went on to complete a Bachelor of Applied Communications in public relations at Mount Royal College, and she will convocate with a second degree in June.

I would ask all of the members of the Assembly to join with me in extending her a warm welcome.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, I'd like you to welcome 32 grade 8 Porcupine Plain students. I think most of the members in the House have seen that we have a number of students come from Porcupine Plain every year. I'm always delighted to see them come.

In order to get to Porcupine Plain, you have to go by Greenwater Park, which has great golfing. So I'm sure all the students there know this.

With the students are three teachers: Lawrence Schmidt, Jane Wilson, and Annette Legare. And in the group of students, there's one young man I think most members of the House will recognize is Tyrrell Kwiatkowski.

Please join me in welcoming all these Porcupine Plain students into the legislature.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Humboldt.

#### Humboldt Family Provincial Family of the Year

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Valentine's Day an article was published in the *Humboldt Journal* which talked about Dorothy and Leo Altrogge's long and happy marriage and their healthy family life.

After seeing the article, the Humboldt Knights of Columbus then talked to the Altrogges on their own and had them nominated to the Provincial Family of the Year.

On April 17, Dorothy and Leo Altrogge along with their 10 children — Tom, Andrew, Jim, Peter, Paul, Bart, Jack, Mary Lou, Susan, and Marguerite — were all in Regina to accept the Knights of Columbus 2004 Family of the Year Award.

The award is not for the best family but rather an award that recognizes good family living. The Altrogges' names will now be submitted to the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year Award.

Dorothy and Leo have been married for almost 58 years, raising a beautiful family of 10. I believe that the family unit is the primary building block of our society and their family is obviously a testament to this.

I would like to personally congratulate them on this exceptional achievement.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

#### Prince Albert Grand Council Fine Arts Festival

**Mr. Borgerson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Prince Albert Grand Council's 13th Annual Fine Arts Festival begins today and runs until Thursday.

The theme of this year's festival is Nature and Culture at its Finest. The theme was submitted by Tyler Jobb of Reindeer Lake School in Southend.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has contributed to this festival a number of times in the past, I can tell you it's a wonderful event for Aboriginal youth. Over 1,300 First Nations students, ages 6 to 18, attend the festival along with teachers and parents. They come from all over central and northern Saskatchewan — from Red Earth, Wahpeton, and Sturgeon Lake to Pelican Narrows, Wollaston, and Lac la Ronge. The festival gives them the opportunity to perform and compete and share their talents and abilities in art, drama, dance, and music.

As part of the festival, Mr. Speaker, SUNTEP (Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program) will once again be providing cultural arts workshops and performances so the festival is a valuable learning experience for the SUNTEP students as well, as they interact with Aboriginal youth.

Mr. Speaker, many First Nations people, especially the elders, still call Prince Albert Kestapinanihk, the meeting place. Prince Albert this week is truly a meeting place as First Nations youth gather to perform, to learn, and to build community.

We thank the Prince Albert Grand Council and all those associated with the fine arts festival — participants, sponsors, and volunteers — for this investment in the future of Saskatchewan's youth.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Estevan.

#### Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Awards

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League held their 2004 awards banquet last week in Kindersley.

Among the recipients was Andy Schroeder of Estevan. Andy is president of the Estevan Bruins and he received the Bill Shinske Builder of the Year Award.

Andy has provided over seven years of unwavering dedication to the Estevan Bruin organization. During that period he has seen the high points of obtaining a league championship. He has seen the low points of not making the playoffs for two seasons.

Along with financial struggles from both the perspective of a team and a league's day-to-day operations as they strive to once again achieve the glory of a league championship, Andy has a very demanding job in the oil field and a young family. He somehow balances all these while still giving his heart and determination to keep the Bruins and the SJHL (Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League) as a showcase for junior hockey in Saskatchewan.

Sadly this will be Andy's last year as president of the club. He has served in this capacity for the past four years. He has been a tower of strength for the organization during that time, making sure that everyone is focused and has a role to play to ensure that the Bruins continue to be a visible presence in the . . . Estevan and in the SJHL.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating and thanking Andy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

#### Business Owner Returns to Saskatchewan

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, members opposite seem to delight in making negative comparisons between Saskatchewan and Alberta. Such comparisons are not only irresponsible, they're just plain wrong.

A recent article in *The Melville Advance* quotes a businessman who has lived in both provinces and who has chosen to call Saskatchewan home. Mr. Speaker, according to the article, Mr. Harry Urzada grew up in Melville and eventually went into the hotel business. He and his wife ran the Lemberg Hotel for about 11 years before deciding to move to Alberta because, as Mr. Urzada says, "that's where things were happening."

But, as he recently told a meeting of the Melville Chamber of Commerce, the grass on the other side of the fence isn't as green as many think it is.

The Urzadas lived in Alberta for three years and though they

were doing well, decided to move home. To quote Mr. Urzada:

We thought we were missing something.

And:

It taught me a lot about what we had here and how to appreciate it.

Mr. Urzada sold the Lemberg Hotel about a year ago and recently purchased the King George Hotel in Melville. Why? Because Harry Urzada believes that the future for business — and for quality of life — in Melville is bright.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Harry Urzada for believing in the positive he sees not the negative he hears, for appreciating what Saskatchewan has to offer, and for investing in our bright future.

I'm sure all my colleagues will join me in wishing Mr. Urzada and his wife good luck in all their business endeavours.

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

(13:45)

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

#### **Champions from Kelvington-Wadena**

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members of this legislature know that I'm very proud to represent the Kelvington-Wadena constituency. It is a diverse constituency with individuals who remember the heritage of our pioneers and work with each other in all areas of life. This winter, four individuals and three communities remembered these roots and combined to form a competitive curling team and a competitive hockey team.

The team of Wendell Charbonneau, skip; Verne Anderson, third, of Wadena; and Dale Kinvig, second; and Lewis Horley, lead, from Fort Qu'Appelle recently brought home the bronze medal from the Dominion Legion Open Curling Championship which was held in Saint John, New Brunswick.

This team completed the championship with six wins and three losses to put them third behind first-place Ontario and second-place Manitoba. The difference in placing third in the event or winning the event came down to Manitoba skip making a precise come-around tap to move the Saskatchewan counter off the button and score a 5 to 4 victory. That game and an extra-end loss against BC (British Columbia) in the eighth draw of the round robin placed Saskatchewan in a third-place finish.

The Fishing Lake Coyotes team made up of players from Wynyard, Wadena, and Foam Lake took the Provincial Peewee B Hockey Championship. First game, Fishing Lake Coyotes took a 9-goal lead over Canora, and they felt comfortable going into the final game in Wynyard which they won to take the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Assembly to join with me in congratulating the Charbonneau rink on their success at the Dominion Legion Curling Championship and the Fishing Lake Coyotes on the Provincial Peewee B Championship win. Thank you.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

#### **Keystone Cup Winners**

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well it seems that winning is in the air, judging by the member statements. I'm pleased to share with the Assembly that the Regina Capitals hockey team recently claimed the Keystone Cup, symbol of supremacy in the Western Canadian Junior Hockey League.

The Capitals have had a very strong 2003-2004 season. They finished in first place in the six-team South Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and continued their winning ways through the SSJHL playoffs, sweeping the finals in four games. Goaltender Jimmy Peterson was named most valuable player in the playoffs.

And in the best-of-five provincial final, the Caps knocked off the northern Saskatchewan champs, the Tri-Town Thunder, in four games to advance to the Western Canada Junior Hockey Championship tournament. Mr. Speaker, the Caps finished the round robin portion of the tournament with a 3-1-1 record in second place behind the Richmond, BC Sockeyes. However in the final game the Capitals earned a 4 to 3 overtime victory to defeat the Sockeyes and bring home the Keystone Cup.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to say that eight members of the Regina Capitals, including assistant coach Don Pankewich, reside in my riding of Regina Rosemont, so clearly I'm going to have to get out some pompoms in the team colours. And I'm sure that all of my colleagues will join with me in congratulating everyone involved with the Regina Capitals hockey team on their championship efforts.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

#### **Kipling Trade Show**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, the Kipling community hosted their trade home show and fair. And, Mr. Speaker, what was interesting about this trade show this year was the fact that they had six to seven exhibitors, which is a significant increase from the past couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, as I toured the trade show, it was quite obvious that everyone involved really put a lot of time and effort into preparing their displays. It certainly was an excellent place to spend a quiet evening if you wanted, if you will. Although you could have made it fairly rousy, as it was at times, Mr. Speaker, but . . . enjoying the pancake breakfast.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we have seen through the years on these trade . . . the communities that host these trade shows have found that it is an excellent way of selling their communities and bringing people from outside the community, not only in to see what the local business community does as they display their wares at the fair, but also to just take part and take a look at the community and look at what happens downtown.

Mr. Speaker, putting on a trade show and fair doesn't happen overnight — it takes a lot of time; it takes a lot of effort. The Kipling Chamber of Commerce and their town council and all the organizers certainly need, deserve a great hand and a significant thank you for their hard work and dedication in promoting their community. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

#### Ministers' Comments in *The StarPhoenix*

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice holds a unique role in our system of government, particularly when it comes to criminal prosecutions. He must ensure that the Crown is able to effectively prosecute cases, but he must also uphold the rights of the accused and ensure a fair trial. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice never comments publicly on criminal cases that are before the courts.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday, *The StarPhoenix* published an opinion piece jointly authored by the Minister of Community Resources and Employment and the Minister of Justice. In it, the Minister of Justice discussed the details of three recent criminal prosecution, including discussions of the credibility of witnesses. One of those cases, Mr. Speaker, is still actively under appeal.

My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is: why are his ministers, and in particular the Minister of Justice, publishing articles about cases that are still before the courts?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for Community Resources and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I rise to respond to this question is because I signed the order releasing the information. And the reason that was done is the way in which the article was portrayed, we felt put into question the child protection system in the province. And we were very concerned that children or individuals would feel constrained in bringing forward information if this was the kind of treatment that it would receive.

So I have a copy . . . I apologize there's some underlining where I've emphasized the reasons, and I don't have a clean copy, but I'd like to table this in the House today so that people can understand the context in which this decision is made.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier is simply this. These ministers chose to author a letter that was in a public newspaper. For them to say now that because they felt there was some issue of disrepute is not an adequate answer, Mr. Speaker. These cases are actively before the courts at this present time. How are those individuals to face a fair trial and deal with the courts properly?

In that case, Mr. Speaker, three individuals face criminal prosecutions. One was acquitted. One had his charges stayed, and one was found guilty. On appeal the court ordered a new trial. That new trial has not yet been held. The Crown is appealing the order for that new trial.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice had to have known about that appeal. By his own admission, the ministers are discussing that, and they are saying at the beginning of that letter with some details of the case and to maintain public . . . (inaudible) . . . They knew that that information was there, Mr. Speaker. They were discussing details of a case, and I want to know, Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier going to do about it?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, the article in question doesn't identify anybody involved in the case. The article in question deals with the integrity of the child protection system which, as my colleague pointed out, was under attack in the article, and the article did not comment on the case before the court. It did not comment on the appeal decision or the trial decision from which the appeal was made.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the fact remains these cases were before the court. Mr. Speaker, this government routinely cites the *sub judice* convention in this House. In fact, I would like to remind the Premier of what he said on December 11, 2002:

. . . I will have no member of this government trying to influence the prosecutions branch or interfering with the due process of law.

That's what the Premier said, December 11, 2002.

Discussing details of a criminal prosecution that is actually under appeal, Mr. Speaker, is not acceptable in this province or anywhere in the Commonwealth, Mr. Speaker. The Premier does not seem to understand that this is an extremely serious breach by his Minister of Justice. And, Mr. Speaker, what actions is the Premier going to take regarding his Minister of Justice?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I was deeply disturbed — as I'm sure many members of this House were — by the suggestion in the article that where a child who may be afflicted with FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) comes forward with allegations, that they should be ignored if she doesn't have DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) evidence or a videotape. I found that deeply disturbing, Mr. Speaker, and I think it had to be addressed. And I think it was addressed adequately in our letter.

If I may quote, Mr. Speaker, from . . . and I begin my quote:

. . . a victim survey suggested as many as 90 per cent of all sexual assaults are not reported to the police. And even if they are reported, sexual assaults are less likely than other violent offences to result in charges being laid. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, 6 out of 10 victims of sexual offences reported to police in 2002 were children and youth under the age of 18 years. Mr. Speaker, 85 per cent of these victims were young girls.

Mr. Speaker, those who perpetuate these acts must be dealt with accordingly . . . (and it's) ultimately the responsibility of an elected government to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. And any and all (these) measures must be taken to see that this is enforced.

And these are the words of the hon. member from Weyburn-Big Muddy of March 30, 2004, in this House.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, this newspaper article originally was published March 27 of this year. At the time it was published, the opposition knew that this matter was before the courts. Not one member of the opposition chose to make a comment in the press, nor chose to make any kind of public statement regarding this matter.

Instead what has happened is this government has chose to wait for a full month and then come forward and decide that they want to do some editorializing. And what they have done, Mr. Speaker, is, what they have done is they have prejudiced this prosecution from going forward. They may very well have given this individual a Charter defence because of the perceived and possible real bias on the part of the Minister of Justice.

How now can this prosecution go forward? What about the guilt or innocence of that individual? And, Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about the innocent victim and how about her rights being trampled on now with a prosecution that can't . . . (inaudible) . . . with a cloud that is over the head of both . . .

Mr. Speaker, what is the minister going to do about this? What is the Premier going to do with his minister, and will the Premier ask for his resignation?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, what this government is going to do is make it clear that when children have allegations of sexual abuse, that they feel safe to come forward, that they know the child protection system and the Department of Justice and the prosecution system is there to support them. That's what this government's going to do, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, what these ministers have done have clouded this matter so much before the criminal courts it cannot be dealt with. We have now created a perversion of justice as a result of this.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read briefly from the Attorney General of Ontario's Web site. And it says . . . it was quoting the *sub judice* rule. It strictly prohibits the Attorney General from commenting on prosecutions that are before the courts. And I quote:

. . . any public comment coming from the office would be seen as an attempt to influence the case.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice has no business writing this piece or commenting while this matter is before the courts. If it could wait a month, it could wait for that appeal to be dealt with. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice has violated one of his fundamental duties of his office. And, Mr. Speaker, I am asking now, will the Premier call for the resignation of this minister?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, the article commented . . . or the letter commented on the article and not on the case.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister, the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the government does not get it. It is a fundamental principle that the Minister of Justice never ever comments on a criminal case that is still before the courts. Yet that is exactly what this minister did. In the minister's own words — and the minister had to have known it — in his piece in *The StarPhoenix* he starts off by saying, we will discuss some details of the case.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago Bob Mitchell resigned as the Minister of Justice for accidentally revealing the identity of a young offender during a radio talk show — an accidental slip of the tongue. This is far more serious because it was planned. The two ministers obviously spent some considerable time crafting it, developing a joint letterhead for it to go out under.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice made a conscious decision to publish and write this piece discussing details of a case that is



before the court. It is absolutely unacceptable. And I want to know, Mr. Speaker, will the Premier fire the Minister of Justice?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, once again the commentary was on the article, which we believed had the possible effect, strong effect of preventing children from coming forward, suggested that their evidence should not be accepted if it's not corroborated, should not be listened to. The child protection system should not be there for them. Prosecution should not be there for them.

The commentator area was entirely on that article, not on the matters that were before the court, Mr. Speaker.

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

(14:00)

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, this minister has to do a balancing act. He is the same minister. He is the highest official in the Department of Justice, and he wears the position that selects who the judges are in this province. He selects as well who the prosecutors are in this province.

And what he has chosen to do, Mr. Speaker, is . . . he now gets out of the minister's chair, and he puts on a judge's robe and publicly in the media writes a commentary on a case, including discussion of the credibility of witnesses that are there.

Mr. Speaker, the very act of the minister writing this article is troubling in itself. But when you read the article that he wrote, commenting on the credibility of the witnesses, realizing that there is no possible way these individuals can get a fair trial going forward — and the supposition is that those people are necessarily guilty because he wrote this guilty — the effect of this is, Mr. Speaker, he is giving that individual a get-out-of-jail-free card because that individual can no longer have a fair trial.

We simply cannot have the Minister of Justice meddling in criminal prosecutions whenever he feels like it. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious breach, and we're going to ask, is the Premier going to seek a resignation?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — This is a very serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and I don't wish to diminish it in any way. The first time I was asked a question in this House by the same hon. member, my daughter was watching later that night with my wife, and said, why does that man keep asking dad the same question?

And again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we did not comment on the matters before the court. We commented on the article in *The StarPhoenix*.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

#### Facilities for Universities

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Learning.

Last September, on the eve of last fall's provincial election, the former minister of Learning promised a new \$32 million laboratory building at the University of Regina in 2004. In fact the minister told the *Leader-Post* that the construction funding would be part of the 2004-2005 budget, and the building would be ready — get this, Mr. Speaker — ready for the 2005 Canada Summer Games.

But there is no money in the NDP's budget for the laboratory building, and last week the NDP confirmed no construction is planned for 2004, no construction for 2005, and only maybe in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, why should the people of Saskatchewan trust any of the Premier's phony election promises?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well I find it interesting the member opposite is saying we need a lab building for the Canada Summer Games. I have no idea why on earth you would suggest that. I would certainly encourage him at some point to go out and make himself familiar with the University of Regina and see the fact that since this government took office we have doubled the amount of space on that campus for students — doubled it.

In that time period, we have made record commitments in terms of building and construction on that campus, and we remain committed to the laboratory building at the U of R (University of Regina). And I would encourage that member to spend some time talking with the university, touring the university, and getting to understand what exactly the University of Regina is all about.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, you can promise anything if you have no intention of delivering. I refer the minister to the September 13, I refer the minister to the September 13 article in the *Leader-Post*, September 13 in the *Leader-Post*. Mr. Speaker, just seven months ago, the NDP (New Democratic Party) promised to begin construction on a \$120 million academic health sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan, but now the minister says that the project won't even start until 2007 — another NDP campaign promise made, another NDP campaign promise broken.

Mr. Speaker, why should the people of Saskatoon or Regina trust the Premier and this NDP government?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The member opposite asks the status of the health sciences building in Saskatoon. It's this government's preference that we have blueprints in place before we begin construction. It's our view that planning should be in place. There should be some kind of agreement about the scope and scale, and that's exactly where we're at in this project. The member opposite should know enough to know that.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister should know enough to know enough what his own press releases contain. He said that the construction has been . . . or the plans have been completed for two years now. This minister seems to want to defer everything. He's double-oh-seven, Mr. Speaker. He's no James Bond; he's more like Maxwell Smart.

Mr. Speaker, before last fall's election, the NDP went around the province making millions of dollars in pre-election promises: a new laboratory building for the University of Regina, a new academic health sciences centre for the University of Saskatchewan. Now a short seven months later, neither project is going ahead this year or next year or even the year after. Mr. Speaker, what changed in seven months?

Why did the NDP promise two major post-secondary buildings in Saskatoon and Regina before the election, when there was never any intention to actually build those projects until just before the next election?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I don't understand what the member's question is. We had committed in the campaign and before the campaign that we are interested in seeing a laboratory building built at the U of R, and it will be built. And we're committed to building an academic health sciences building at the U of S (University of Saskatchewan), and it will be built. Promise made; promise will be kept.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

### Ethanol Industry Projects

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we heard the cost of the Premier's imaginary ethanol plant was \$2.2 million — \$2.2 million, Mr. Speaker, to pay for a photo opportunity on a backhoe, apparently. Saskatchewan taxpayers are on the hook for almost \$900,000 of that \$2.2 million bill.

And the minister said in response, well it's just the cost of doing business.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we've got some information that would lead most people to believe that that may not be the case. We checked with a southwest Saskatchewan-based group who are trying to put an ethanol plant together in southwest Saskatchewan. And they are working on a project for a 160-million-litre plant. That's twice the size of the Belle Plaine proposal. They have reported to their investors that they have spent \$434,000 total — \$434,000 total.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: how did he manage, how did his project manage to spend five times that amount for their imaginary plant at Belle Plaine?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, you know the Leader of the Opposition likes to get up and say this was some kind of imaginary plant, and there never was a plan to build a plant. And the Leader of the Opposition is correct that there was some \$2.1 million spent in preparation of this plant. And about \$866,000 was spent by the Crown Investments Corporation; we talked about that extensively on Friday. And the fact is \$1.3 million was spent by the partner Broe out of Denver.

My question to the member, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, is why did Broe company in Denver spend \$1.3 million on this imaginary plant if, indeed, Mr. Speaker, this was a plant that was not going to proceed, that it was some kind of pre-election ploy? I think the Leader of the Opposition would explain why a private company from the United States would spend \$1.3 million on an imaginary plant, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the question is this: how could a private proponent, a private group in the southwest corner of the province spend \$434,000 on exactly this kind of work and the government project, the Premier's project, the minister's project, spend over \$2 million? That's the question; that's the question he's got to answer, Mr. Speaker.

The southwest group is also reporting that they may have to spend another \$300,000 on engineering, but that will only go ahead once the financing is in place, Mr. Speaker. Compare that to this project, the NDP project, that already spent \$673,000 on engineering without financing being in place. Mr. Speaker, you don't hire an architect to design your new home before you go to the bank and see if maybe there's possibly a chance you might be able to finance it.

The question to the minister is this: why doesn't he answer the question of taxpayers? How come they are on the hook for almost \$900,000, thanks to the NDP, on a total cost of 2.2 million to do the preliminary work on his plant, on the NDP plant, and a private operation in the Southwest is able to achieve the same and possibly more for \$434,000?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well clearly, Mr. Speaker, this was a very complex plant; there's no question about that, and it required a lot of engineering and design work. That's very clear, Mr. Speaker. And that work was done.

And most of it was paid for by a private corporation in the United States because they had every confidence that this project would succeed, but at the end of the day they were unable to get their financing, and it did not succeed. That is well known, Mr. Speaker.

And now we're moving on. Now we have Husky Energy investing in a 130-million-litre plant in Lloydminster, and we have a 25-million-litre plant going in Weyburn, Mr. Speaker. So the policies of the government to develop ethanol are working, and I would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would be very happy about that, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we are very happy about the announcements that have been made in respect of Lloydminster and Weyburn. We're happy, Mr. Speaker, because there is a chance, a good chance, those projects will succeed because this NDP government is nowhere near them, Mr. Speaker — is nowhere near them.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, taxpayers want to know where this money went. We know the total bill. We know there is 673,000 spent on engineering; 438,000 on project management; another 387 on nebulous consulting; 226,000 on site prep. These are huge costs though, Mr. Speaker, for a project that never went ahead. These are huge costs, especially with respect to site preparation.

What we want the minister to do today is commit to the taxpayers that he will table a detailed breakdown of all of these expenditures and the work that was rendered and paid for by the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, to listen to the Leader of the Opposition one might have the impression that he actually had some answers. But you know, I remember when the Leader of the Opposition's party, including the former Leader of the Opposition and especially the member from Cannington over there, said that the Government of Saskatchewan should sell its interest in the Husky Upgrader for some \$22 million, Mr. Speaker. And we didn't take their advice, much to the ridicule of the members opposite. And we

hung onto it for a few years, and you know what we sold it for, Mr. Speaker — \$300 million.

I remember when the members opposite were telling the Government of Saskatchewan that we should sell Cameco shares for about \$18 a share, Mr. Speaker. We didn't take their advice then, Mr. Speaker, and we, we sold the Cameco shares. But you know what we sold them for, Mr. Speaker — \$73 a share. And if we'd listened to the advice of the members opposite, those two times alone, we would have lost \$1 billion. So much for them, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, we understand why, we understand why the NDP is a little bit embarrassed about the truth of this Belle Plaine ethanol project, but it would be nice, Mr. Speaker, it would be nice if the minister was at least in the same area code as the question that was asked.

The question is pretty straightforward. There was over \$2 million spent on this project; \$900,000 of it, Mr. Speaker, is taxpayers' money, by the government's own admission.

We already know from last week that they didn't report all of the costs of the project in their freedom of information request response. We know they didn't report the due diligence done by Scotia Capital, cost of \$25,000. That came after. And now the minister's not answering basic questions about his commitment to be straight with the people about this project.

What is the government hiding? Will the minister come clean with taxpayers? Will he break down all of these expenditures of taxpayers' dollars? Will he report to the people of the province whose money they wasted on another NDP project?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is hiding absolutely nothing. The numbers related to this project, Mr. Speaker, have been provided to the members of the opposition. They have been discussed in the media. And, Mr. Speaker, to the extent that we're not restricted by any contractual or other obligations, privacy matters, we'll be prepared to discuss it some more, Mr. Speaker. This matter was fully addressed on Friday in question period. It's being addressed today.

Obviously the Leader of the Opposition hasn't been able to come up with any new questions for this week, Mr. Speaker. But if the Leader of the Opposition wishes to rehash his questions from last week, we're prepared to continue talking about it, Mr. Speaker.

(14:15)

But my point would be this: this is a government that takes steps to try to build Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That is an

opposition that only complains in an effort to tear down anything that happens in Saskatchewan.

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for Highways and Transportation.

#### SaskTel International's New Contracts

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure today to announce that SaskTel International has secured two new telecommunications contracts in Tanzania and in the Ukraine. Combined, these new contracts will bring almost \$1 million in revenues right back here to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

SaskTel International has become an important player in east Africa by helping to improve telecommunications access for millions of people. SaskTel International's eighth contract in Tanzania and fifth for Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited is worth \$650,000. Over the next few months, two SaskTel International employees will work on-site to rehabilitate network facilities in two Tanzanian cities. Since 1986 SaskTel International has generated \$58 million worth of contracts in east Africa alone.

But, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel International's reputation has spread far beyond Africa. The company's expertise and a reputation for finishing projects on time and on budget have landed SaskTel International an important contract in the Ukraine.

Right now SaskTel International employees are conducting a six-month assessment of the rural telecommunications environment in that country. The assessment will include specific recommendations for the Ukrainian government regarding maintenance and improvement of rural telecom services, including Internet access. The company anticipates that it will receive strong consideration for future projects to implement those recommendations.

The current contract, funded by the World Bank, the government of the Ukraine, and the Canadian International Development Agency, is worth a quarter of a million dollars. This is another case of SaskTel International taking SaskTel's extensive expertise in a challenging rural environment and turning it into profits by selling that experience around the world. Yes, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel International's reputation is growing.

Recently the federal Minister of International Trade recognized SaskTel International's success with a letter to its president. I quote the minister:

The projects your firm implements in developing countries contribute not only to the development objectives of those countries, but also to creating jobs in Canada and promoting Canadian values internationally.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. SaskTel International has long been a Saskatchewan success story. Now it's a Canadian

success story and that story is getting more exciting with each new chapter. Today's announcements remind us once again that Saskatchewan people and their skills are in demand on every continent. As a result, SaskTel International has been profitable for 13 years in a row. Since 1986, SaskTel International has generated \$160 million in total profits for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate SaskTel International on these new contracts and on its continued success in selling Saskatchewan know-how around the world. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a few minutes to respond to the ministerial statement just presented to the House. And I want to thank the minister for an advance copy of his comments today regarding the most recent project SaskTel International has been able to gain in both Africa and in the Ukraine.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the important information that came out of this particular statement is very clear and it's that SaskTel International has technology and knowledge, know-how that is very saleable. And because of the expertise that has been developed in this province by SaskTel engineering and technology people, we've been able to successfully sell that expertise around the world.

We are recognized as industry leaders in some areas of telecommunications. And as a result of our knowledge and our ability, the world has more or less beat a path to our door. And that quite honestly is the way it ought to be, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that SaskTel International has had a long standing in Africa, in particular the country of Tanzania, and we've had very good success there over the years. I understand that we've generated a number of financial returns for the people of the province as a result of our work over there. And as the minister noted, because of our good work in one area, we've been able to obtain work in other areas, and in this particular case the Ukraine.

I think that's the way it ought to work. When we have capability and knowledge that we can sell, we ought to do it. When we do good work and our abilities are recognized, the marketplace will respond, and this is shown to be evident in this particular situation, Mr. Speaker. I do know though that there is some irony in this, in this whole statement, and I want to point it out that . . . in case anybody watching this proceeding or taking the minister's statements at face value doesn't go away from this situation ill-informed.

The minister says that SaskTel International in the last 13 years has been profitable — I'm not going to dispute that — that it's generated \$116 million roughly in profits for the province. I might remind the minister and other members of the House and those who are watching the proceedings that almost all of that money came from one transaction — one.

And in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, some of the more difficult and maybe even careless investments made under the auspices of SaskTel International in stock market plays, in the purchase of equity positions, in some risky ventures, in . . . well I guess you'd call it almost stock market gambling. A lot of the profits that have been generated by SaskTel International in legitimate ways have been squandered. And I think that the people of the province need to know that the \$116 million profit recognized as the total figure of returns is misleading. Because just like a gambler, just like an individual who's got a problem with gambling, you hear about the times they won at the slot machines; you never hear about the losses incurred in the meantime.

And the \$116 million figure in profits has been well eroded by the losses. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we were able to produce information for the people of the province and for this House that losses by SaskTel International in the last three years in just five companies have amounted to \$73 million. So the \$116 million profit isn't going to last long, Mr. Speaker, at that rate of loss. Thank you very much.

#### TABLE OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, members of the Assembly, I wish to table the Saskatchewan legislative internship program 2003 annual report and the annual report for the year 2003 of the Saskatchewan Conflict of Interest Commissioner, which has been submitted pursuant to section 25 of The Members' Conflict of Interest Act.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and convert for debates returnable questions 194 through 233 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 194 to 233 inclusive have been converted to orders for return debatable.

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 35 — The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you. I'm pleased today to rise to speak to Bill 35, An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Act, 1993 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts. This Act will be known as The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that by 2017 more than half of the current employees of our Crown corporations will retire. The

Crowns need to plan a skilled and talented workforce in order to replace those positions.

Our government has made a commitment to address this anticipated human resources shortage by hiring more youths and Aboriginal people in our Crowns. Youths and First Nations and Métis people are one of Saskatchewan's greatest assets. They are also a growing segment of our population and we want our Crowns to be the employer of choice for Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, last fall our Premier announced that Crown Investments Corporation and its subsidiary Crowns will invest \$20 million over the next five years to develop this target workforce. New training and mentorship programs are being developed, and these programs will provide quality careers by filling more than 1,000 jobs in our Crowns through internships and retirements.

We are also providing young people leadership opportunities such as serving on the boards of directors of our Crown corporations. I am pleased to report that we now have a youth representative and at least one Aboriginal representative on the boards of directors of SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance), STC (Saskatchewan Transportation Company) and Sask Water, Mr. Speaker. And each and every one of those persons is a talented and contributing member of those boards. They bring new enthusiasm, skills, life experiences and perspectives to our Crown boards. And we will continue our efforts to recruit more youth and more First Nations and Métis people to these important leadership roles.

The other programs that are part of our overall strategy involve mentoring young people and Aboriginal employees who are already employed in our Crowns, and developing a corporate culture that will retain youth and Aboriginal citizens.

We are also working with our educational institutions in Saskatchewan to help our young and Aboriginal people succeed and to make them aware of career opportunities in our many Crown corporations.

The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 will clarify our authority to undertake all of these human resources programs on behalf of our Crown corporations. It will also allow us to provide funding for the programs that CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) and the Crowns develop and deliver in partnership with post-secondary institutions. Mr. Speaker, these human resource programs are extremely important to our Crowns, to Saskatchewan's growing population of young and Aboriginal people, and to the very future of our province. We want to build a future for all young people and Aboriginal people right here in Saskatchewan.

We also believe, Mr. Speaker, that it's important for our Crown corporations to promote Saskatchewan as a province that has a vibrant economy and a positive business environment. We must build confidence among Saskatchewan people and promote our province and its investment opportunities to its potential investors outside of our boundaries. Mr. Speaker, our Crowns play a vital role in our economy and they must have the ability to help our province and our province's economy grow and

prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely pleased to move Bill 35, An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Act, 1993 and now have it read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister responsible for the Crown Management Board that Bill 35, The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member for Melfort . . . But why is the member from Regina Elphinstone on his feet?

**Mr. McCall:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. McCall:** — And my thanks to the member for Melfort-Tisdale for ceding me the floor for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you, a fellow seated in the west gallery here visiting the legislature with a pal. This fellow is a guy by the name of Tanner Joshua Morrison, and Tanner if you could please stand up, please. Hi, Tanner.

Tanner, as some folks in this House will recall, is the two-time winner of the F.W. Johnson model historical legislature award put on . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . three times? Three times, pardon me. Three-time award winner of the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association's historical legislature. And in fact, this weekend, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of serving as speaker for that event and it just wasn't the same as it is with Tanner there. There was good debate mind you, but it was . . . I missed Tanner there.

Tanner has just completed his first year of study at the University of Saskatchewan in pre-law where he is the winner of the prestigious Ken Dryden Scholarship. And Tanner's brains continue to shine a bright light on his future, although that I'm sure the pre-law is cutting into his musical aspirations as well, Mr. Speaker.

(14:30)

Anyway it's a real pleasure to see Tanner here. He's a lover of this Chamber, of this Assembly, of parliamentary democracy. And I look forward to having a chat with him out in the rotunda.

And I wish all members would bid him a warm welcome. Thank you.

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

**The Speaker:** — Once again I recognize the member for

Melfort.

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 35 — The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 (continued)

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure this afternoon that I rise to enter into the debate on Bill No. 35, An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Act, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I looked at the Bill itself and some of the explanation notes in preparation for this, and it didn't seem that there was a whole lot in the articulating of the Bill that perhaps I should be concerned of. However the minister sort of put my fears right back on alert when she made her comments in introducing this Bill to the Assembly and outlining the government's intention and its motivation about why this legislation is coming forward.

The minister led off by saying that the statistics show that by 2017 about half the employees of the Crown corporations are eligible for retirement, and that that's a concern and that skilled workforce is needed. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's sort of stating the obvious. If half your workforce is going to retire, it certainly is important for any organization and any entity, if it's a government department or a private sector corporation or a Crown corporation, that these employees are replaced by people that are capable and interested and motivated to rising to the challenge that the corporation offers.

And it also is true, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when you listen and you read some of the statistics, that Saskatchewan has a real opportunity in that the demographics show that we're the only jurisdiction in Canada that really has an increased number of young people that are potentially able to be the workforce of tomorrow.

In every jurisdiction in Canada, the demographics are really concerning in terms of we have an aging population, people are going to be due to retire, and there is a real concern about the fact that there may not be adequate supply of young people who can indeed even be trained and equipped with the skills that they need in order to fill the positions of those of us who will be eligible for retirement.

And it is also true, Mr. Speaker, that this group of people that we have, young people in Saskatchewan that are able potentially to step to the forefront are largely young Aboriginal and Métis youth who are a real opportunity for us to make sure that we have an adequate workforce moving forward to the future. And I think it's a huge challenge and a great opportunity for us to be able to respond to those challenges. So the Crown corporations are no different than any other entity, and I think that we should all look at it.

Mr. Speaker, where I became concerned is the minister's statement — and I wrote this down very quickly without the benefit of *Hansard* — when the minister said something to the effect that we want to make sure that our Crown corporations in Saskatchewan are the employers of choice.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that just worries me so much because it seems to be that this government in its programs, in its training programs, in the programs where there was assistance to university students and young people looking for program assistance into the summer, if you didn't work for a Crown corporation or the government — sorry, you're out of luck.

And the private sector in this province under the attitude of a minister like that — that says we're going to make sure that we do everything in our power; we're going to use the resources, the Crown corporations; we're going to use taxpayers' resources to make sure that young people that need training are going to be trained to fill government bureaucrat jobs — Mr. Speaker, the private sector is struggling enough in this province to try to get by in light of the policies of this government.

And now the government is going to go on the public record and say, we're going to use every tool that we have to make sure that Crown corporations and government agencies are going to be the employers of choice, that the programs are going to be skewed to the extent . . . And there are going to be new opportunities of increased monetary grants being available without order in council requirement above \$50,000 so that programs can be devised to favour, to build an expertise for the Crown corporations over all others. That's what employers of choice mean to me, Mr. Speaker.

And quite frankly it's more than just a little concerning. Because what is the message that we're sending out when we decide that by this legislation we're going to equip the Crown corporations to actually have an even greater advantage over other employers in the province? And they have now.

There's no question that the Crowns have to succeed similarly to other organizations in the province. But, Mr. Speaker, when a minister of the Crown gets up in this House and says, we're going to do everything we can to make sure that our Crown sector and our government sector is going to be the employer of choice in Saskatchewan for these young people, what does that say to the rest of the employers who are trying to struggle to survive and are trying to grow the economy? What does it say to the private sector companies when they want to look at Saskatchewan and say, is this an environment where we want to invest in?

What's the attitude of government, and what's our opportunities, to hire and attract the properly trained and properly equipped young people to work in the field that we would like to explore when, on the public record, the minister said we want the Crown corporations, government departments, the bureaucracy to be the employer of choice? Mr. Speaker, I submit that that's sending the worst possible message, that we don't need at a time when our province is struggling to get out of the doldrums. We always end up on every indicator, on job creation, on job promotion, on almost any list that we want.

The member from P.A. (Prince Albert) somewhere — the minister of SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) in the past administration who had to be dragged into telling the truth about what was going on about the whole SPUDCO thing and now sits as a private member because the government don't even trust the judgment — is sitting here saying from his seat, oh no this isn't so, and what's

wrong with it if it was. It's okay that we're going to go and use the government sector and Crown corporations every way we can to build the advantage of the bureaucracy.

The minister sits there and talks from her seat about saying, what's wrong with the employers of . . . the employer of choice being the Crown sector? Well what's wrong with the employer of choice to be the Crown sector is it sends a message of exclusion to the private sector. And if this government sincerely thinks, which they seem to think, that government activity, that government activity, that government investment, that government agencies and entities like Crown corporations are going to be the only vehicle for moving the economy of Saskatchewan forward, it's not logical. But yet, it seems to reflect the ideological . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please, members. Order. The tone seems to be getting higher and higher and higher, just in order to be able to have to hear what is being said. And I would ask members to be respectful and to allow the critic to make his statements. I recognize the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that certainly is a concern because of the message it sends out. There is certainly no problem with making sure that young people are equipped properly to meet the challenges of employment in Saskatchewan into the future. That's not the issue here.

The issue here is the minister's statement that said Crown corporations are going to be the employers of choice. And that is a problem because it detects and it denotes an inherent bias toward government agencies and government entities in order to be the vehicle for economic development and the people who are going to have the first opportunity to access this new workforce.

Mr. Speaker, we've said all along that the difficulty about the attitude of this government is they don't understand that you have to create a level playing field. You have to create an atmosphere and an opportunity for the private sector to be able to operate in the economy of Saskatchewan equally well with the public sector. And if we don't do that, Mr. Speaker, we simply are going to have these investors who potentially look at opportunities, not only in Saskatchewan but in Canada and North America and indeed the world, for opportunities to use their capital, to build profits on that capital. And they look at issues like the availability of a workforce when they make those decisions. That's absolutely true.

But if the bias of this government in this jurisdiction is toward the public sector over the exclusion of the private sector, that's a worrisome message, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the minister says she didn't say it. Well what does she mean by, that this government's policy is going to make Crown corporations the employers of choice. Those were the words. And it isn't the employer of choice. It should be one of the choices, not the choice. It should only be one of the choices an employee makes. And the Crown corporations and the government shouldn't take advantage of their opportunity to use tax dollars at the exclusion of the private sector, and that is certainly a concern.

Mr. Speaker, there are issues that the minister mentioned about saying that some of the young people are beginning to work and receive experience as participants on Crown boards. And I think that that's a very worthwhile initiative, that there are the opportunities for these young people to address their energy and vision and enthusiasm and dedication to this province, to the future of the province. I think that that is a worthwhile program, as is the idea of having programs to mentor people so that they can gently be introduced to the workforce and gently being comforted and led along and guided in the proper way towards, towards their future.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that the minister has this attitude that says on one hand, we're going to promote the province as a place to move forward, but it seems to be that there's an inherent, subliminal message that says, yes, you can move forward in this province if you work for the government or one of its agencies. And, Mr. Speaker, we think that it's simply an important thing to say, is that it's important that this province is a place where you can move forward if you have the education, the intelligence, the energy, and the enthusiasm to get ahead, no matter what sector you choose — the private sector or the public sector.

And we want to make sure there is no inherent bias against the private sector on behalf of this government, as the minister's remarks seem to indicate.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly think that this report or comments of the minister are concerning, and we want to see what they are in *Hansard* and we want to comment with the people that are in the business of creating jobs and looking at if the training programs are adequate. We need to talk to them about this legislation, and in order for that to happen, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that second reading debate on Bill 35 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 38 — The Credit Reporting Act

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Credit Reporting Act.

Mr. Speaker, the main purpose of this Bill is to update and modernize Saskatchewan's credit reporting legislation. The Credit Reporting Agencies Act was originally enacted in 1972. This new legislation builds on the core elements of the existing legislation and provides additional protections for consumers.

The legislation regulates the activities of credit reporting agencies, those who furnish information to credit reporting agencies, and those who use credit reports. It promotes privacy, accuracy, and fairness in the consumer credit marketplace. Mr.

Speaker, today's Bill is also designed to harmonize Saskatchewan's credit reporting legislation with the legislation of other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Bill protects consumer privacy in a number of ways. Primarily, it limits the distribution of credit reports to authorized persons or entities. Generally credit reports may be provided to persons who intend to use the information for the purposes of making decisions involving credit, insurance, or employment. Credit reporting agencies may also provide credit reports to persons who have a direct business need for the information.

The Bill also updates legislation to provide that no one may obtain a credit report respecting a consumer without the consent of the consumer or unless the consumer is given written notice that a report is about to be obtained. This change is consistent with credit reporting legislation in most Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, today's Bill also provides consumers with enhanced protection regarding the information that may be contained in credit reports. For example, the Bill prohibits credit reporting agencies from including any information in a credit report as to the bankruptcy of an individual more than six years after the date the individual was discharged from bankruptcy, unless the individual has been bankrupt more than once.

It also prohibits credit reporting agencies from including information in a credit report unless the source of the information is recorded or can be easily ascertained by the consumer. In most cases the credit reporting agency may not report adverse information that is more than six years old. This Bill also promotes the accuracy of credit reports through the requirements that credit reporting agencies maintain reasonable procedures to ensure credit reports are accurate and fair.

Under the Bill, a consumer must be notified if a person denies a benefit or increases the cost of a benefit to a consumer based on information from a credit report. This notice is intended to provide a mechanism for consumers to learn of possible errors in their credit reports. At the request of a consumer, a credit reporting agency must disclose to the consumer all information in its files respecting the consumer and the names of any person to whom the credit report has been provided within the preceding six months.

(14:45)

The Bill also sets out the procedures that credit reporting agencies must follow if the consumer disputes the completeness or accuracy of any information contained in a file of a credit reporting agency.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill also updates the registrar's inspection and investigative powers, and updates the penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

Updating these provisions will allow for more effective regulation and improved enforcement of the Act. In summary, Mr. Speaker, this Bill updates and strengthens the existing Act and provides consumers with important safeguards concerning the accuracy and privacy of information contained in credit



reports.

In reviewing this legislation, Mr. Speaker, we have consulted with business groups, consumer organizations, and all licensed credit reporting agencies in Saskatchewan. I appreciate the time, effort, and co-operation these groups have contributed to the development of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of An Act respecting Credit Reporting.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 38, The Credit Reporting Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure this afternoon to rise and comment briefly on Bill No. 38, An Act respecting Credit Reporting. Mr. Speaker, I think that this amended legislation is timely. The minister mentioned in his remark that the initial legislation has been with us since 1972, and certainly I think we all understand that the world of commerce and the world of credit has certainly changed pretty dramatically in the 30-odd years since that legislation was indeed introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all see, from time to time, the statistical reports about how Canadians in particular — and I'm sure Saskatchewan citizens as well — use credit. I mean we use credit . . . Consumer credit has become a very significant facet in terms of consumers . . . citizens' spending habits and the way they plan and justify capital purchases when they buy major appliances or vehicles or any of these sorts of things.

As often as not, and certainly I suspect more often by looking at the statistics recently than it used to be, is that consumers access one form of credit or another in order to make those kinds of significant purchases. And the volume of credit card use and consumer credit is certainly very much . . . a much larger component today than it was in the past when this legislation was first proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very appropriate that the Act is indeed updated and that it does spell out exactly who can access information and what the circumstances are for accessing an individual's credit ratings. And I think that, you know, to update and professionalize this legislation is certainly important.

The minister mentioned in his remarks that an underpinning of this legislation and the amendments is to make sure that there's adequate consumer protection and that this information, which can be very sensitive and very important to an individual's well-being, is safeguarded appropriately and that not just anyone can request a consumer credit report. And if it is requested, it's done under the proper auspices and there are certain safeguards in place for both the person or the entity or the business requesting this information, and also for the consumer who is required to provide it.

I think it's important, as the minister said, that in preparing this legislation, as I understood him to say, he looked at what the

situation was in other jurisdictions to make sure that it was in keeping with what wisdom and advice there would have been available from other jurisdictions, that he was concerned about the issues of privacy, and that he consulted with the industry in Saskatchewan — the business community, the credit reporting agency industry — and that there was a great deal of support and participation in the preparing of these amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I think it also is worth noting the legislation sets out what information can be in a credit report in pertaining to an individual, and that individual can request the detailed information about what's in the credit report so that accuracy can be safeguarded and that there is some sense of security that the information is factually correct.

Finally, I think it's also important to recognize, and the minister mentioned, that it also puts in place, if there is not a consensus about the accuracy of the information in the report, that there is a dispute-settling mechanism that's envisaged in this amendment as well. And I think that that as well makes a great deal of sense.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill has just recently been on the order paper, and in order for us to do our due diligence and to make sure that we too consult with the business community and the people affected by this legislation, we certainly need some time for that to happen. And in order for us to facilitate that, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that second reading debate on Bill No. 38 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion's carried.

Debate adjourned.

**Bill No. 39 — The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders  
Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1997  
sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, when the office of maintenance enforcement opened in 1986, it was estimated that 85 per cent of custodial parents were not receiving regular maintenance payments. Maintenance enforcement now collects money on close to 80 per cent of the 10,000 files registered with their office.

During that first five years of operation, 1986 to 1991, maintenance enforcement collected \$10 million. In this fiscal year they will collect more than \$30 million or more than \$2.5 million per month.

The federal government recently did a survey of all Canadian maintenance enforcement programs. The survey shows that

Saskatchewan has the second highest rate of collection of any province or jurisdiction in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will assist the director of maintenance enforcement and his staff in a timely and efficient operation of the enforcement mechanisms in the Act. In some cases, the proposed changes reflect remedies for procedural and service problems which officials and legal counsel have experienced.

Other proposed amendments respond to the interpretations of the Act by the courts. The Bill will improve the ability of the maintenance enforcement office to fulfill the policy objectives of this legislation, which is to ensure that the maintenance for children and families is paid by respondents on a timely basis.

The amendment specifically provides for the seizure of RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan) accounts. Although RRSPs have never been exempt for seizure by the director of maintenance enforcement, the ability to simply seize an RRSP account was a hollow remedy that did not necessarily result in a prompt payment of funds to the claimant. RRSP accounts are trusts and the trustees who administer the funds do not currently have the authority to alter the trust agreement by converting part or all of an account to cash and paying it over to the director.

These amendments provide the director with the express authority to attach RRSP accounts and outline a simple process whereby RRSP accounts can be converted to cash and paid over to the office of maintenance enforcement.

These amendments will also enable the director to deal effectively with garnishees who refuse to co-operate with the director when garnisheeing wages or other money owed by a claimant under the Act. This is particularly a problem where the garnishee is a closely held corporation of the respondent or his or her family, or where there is collusion by the garnishee.

The amendments will allow the director to pursue garnishment or seizure against a defaulting garnishee in the same manner as against the respondent. Garnishees will be given ample notice before any enforcement action is taken against them, allowing them time to cure their default before any garnishment or seizure occurs.

The proposed amendments will also provide a judge hearing a maintenance enforcement proceeding with the discretion to allow hearsay evidence where it is credible, trustworthy, and relevant. Individuals who have information regarding the whereabouts, employment, or financial assets of the respondent may be reluctant to provide information to the director. The ability to allow hearsay evidence in certain circumstances will help to ensure the timely flow of information to the director. The decision as to whether or not to allow hearsay evidence and, if allowed, the weight to be attributed to such evidence, will remain with the court.

A new provision will make it clear that the court has the authority to require a respondent to appear personally in court in response to a summons for a default hearing. The experience of the office of maintenance enforcement is that respondents are more likely to understand and comply with orders of the court if

they are personally present for the proceedings.

The Act provides that the director may demand information from any person for the purpose of enforcing a maintenance order. The current wording of the Act allows the director to apply to a judge to make an order where the director has been refused information. It has been argued that simply failing to respond to a demand as opposed to actively refusing to provide the information does not provide the court with the authority to make an order. To forestall any such arguments, the Act is amended to make it clear that a refusal or a failure to respond will have the same effect.

There are also amendments to the service provisions in the Act which provide greater clarity to the manner in which documents required under the Act must be served.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will assist the office of maintenance enforcement in their efforts to ensure that children and families receive the maintenance to which they are entitled. They do so in a considered manner that reflects that experience of the office in enforcing maintenance payments, and also in a manner that respects the rights of those obligated to make maintenance payments.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2004.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 39, The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly . . . Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member for Humboldt.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to enter the debate on this particular Act. I feel it's a very, very important Act. I know my office, constituency office, as well as I am sure everyone else's, gets a number of calls concerning the enforcement maintenance Act and the . . . and what it will do for the caller.

It's unfortunate when marriages split, but they do happen. And then the children are left with either one parent or the other. Most often it is with the mother, and it is most often that mothers are phoning my office because their spouse is in arrears of child support payments and they are quite desperate.

It's very, very frustrating. They feel powerless. They feel that they have no way of collecting the money from their spouse. Often the spouse leaves the province and simply disappears and leaves the one parent with the responsibility, both financially and emotionally, with the children. And of course the victims of all of this is the children.

I have found the enforcement maintenance office very good to work with, quite frankly. I think most of the maintenance enforcement workers do their best to collect for the single parent that is raising the children. But often they're frustrated as well because they have tried a number of routes in order to collect the money that's in arrears, and they've hit a brick wall.

They can't find the spouse, or they can't get the spouse to comply.

So we'll be going through these amendments. We're hoping that we'll strengthen the Act, which will allow both a little more security for the single parent that is raising the children as well as the enforcement office workers because as I mentioned, they're also equally frustrated with trying to collect the money in sometimes very difficult circumstances.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to review this Bill and talk to some of the stakeholders involved and just ensure that the amendments enforce the Bill and allow some of the frustration to be lessened through the amendments to the Bill. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Humboldt that debate on second reading of Bill No. 39 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

#### **Bill No. 40 — The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2004**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, The Fatal Accidents Act allows family members of deceased persons to recover damages where the death was the result of another person's wrongdoing. The wrongdoing must be such that the deceased would have been entitled to maintain an action to recover damages if he or she had lived.

Presently, Mr. Speaker, the damages recoverable under the Act relate to monetary losses resulting from the death, losses that are measurable in dollars. For example, dollars for the loss of future income of the deceased are recoverable. The Act also allows for the recovery of out-of-pocket expenses relating to the death, such as funeral costs or health care costs.

The Act does not currently allow the recovery of non-monetary damages for grief and the loss of guidance, care, and companionship. Mr. Speaker, these emotional losses are often the ones that family members of deceased persons describe as most significant. The proposed amendment will allow the recovery of damages for grief and loss of guidance, care, and companionship.

Mr. Speaker, no amount of financial compensation can make things right for a family member who has lost a loved one. However, the compensation that we are recommending will provide recognition of the loss suffered by family members.

The non-monetary damage as set out in the amendments includes \$60,000 for the spouse of the deceased person, \$30,000 for a parent of a deceased person, and \$30,000 for a

minor child of a deceased person. These are the persons, Mr. Speaker, most likely to feel a loss of guidance, care, and companionship as a result of the death of a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of An Act to amend The Fatal Accidents Act.

(15:00)

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 40, The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise this afternoon and speak briefly on Bill No. 40, An Act to amend The Fatal Accidents Act.

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister has outlined very correctly and accurately the fact that when there is a fatality in an accident that nothing, no monetary settlement, can replace the loss to a family of loved ones and friends and relatives. And that is certainly a simple truth that everyone in this Assembly would very much agree to.

However I think that as the minister outlined, that this legislation provides some ability for legislation to recognize that family members suffered from a loss of this nature very much, and some of the components of this loss have not been recognized in the legislation previously.

For example, the current legislation recognizes economic losses that are recoverable, but there are some losses, grief and loss of guidance, care, and companionship that are not recognized in the legislation. And as I understand it from the minister, this will be remedied in this legislation. And I think that that is appropriate and important.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at this legislation we very much agree in the official opposition that none of these steps and none of these amendments are going to replace the loss of a loved one to a family. However we think that this is an appropriate information.

We want to make sure that the insurance legal community and people affected by these type of losses have an opportunity to comment, to express their opinion if the amounts proposed and the new adjustments to the legislation as proposed in this amendment are appropriate and effective and go far enough. And in order for people to have that opportunity, we would adjourn debate at this time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 40 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## SECOND READINGS

## Bill No. 29

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson that **Bill No. 29 — The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Estevan.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise this afternoon to speak on Bill 29, The Snowmobile Amendment Act.

Parts of this proposed legislation deal with snowmobile safety and, Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate part of the snowmobiling tradition, but every year we hear of a tragedy surrounding snowmobilers in terms of a tragic accident or someone becoming seriously injured in what could be the possible careless use of a snowmobile. And now it is unfair to use a brush to paint a broad stroke over all snowmobilers in this fashion, because it would be safe to say that a good majority — perhaps upwards of 99 per cent of those who use snowmobiles — are safe drivers.

But however, Mr. Speaker, there are a small minority where parts of this legislation are addressed. And every time we look at things that make, rules that make it safer for people, it can be generally agreed on that anything that is done to make something safer, it is in fact a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, one part of this Bill deals with the requirement for users to take a snowmobile safety course. And in her second reading speech, the minister for the Crown Management Board stated this refers to new snowmobile operators, those born after January 1, 1989. And it states that these young operators will have to take a course before operating their machine off of private property.

And of course we will be asking questions about the specific test and course, and what mark will be needed to register a pass, how much the course will cost, where the course will be, where it will be available, if it will be available through the mail or in town, and . . . But we are a little wary, Mr. Speaker, because when we deal with the NDP and its attacks on rural Saskatchewan, one does tend to get somewhat wary about such things.

There's also, there's another amendment that also deals with the safety and young riders. And in her second reading speech the member from Saskatoon Nutana also stated that the Act will propose that those who are over 16, and who do not have a driver's licence but have taken the safety course, can ride a snowmobile legally, which was not possible in the past.

And we will be asking questions about this as well, Mr. Speaker, not because only is snowmobiling for recreational use, but in many areas in rural Saskatchewan people depend on snowmobiles in the winter for work around the farm and such things as that and we would like . . . we would just want to

know how this could impact work life on and around the farm that young people do.

And, Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, my husband and I live on a farm and more times than not we've had snowmobiles. And as well as for the recreational aspect, they have become a critical mode of transportation after a winter storm. Sometimes it does take a couple of days for the rural municipalities to clear the roads and I'm certainly not complaining about the services that the RMs (rural municipality) deliver. But with the hundreds and hundreds of miles of roads they have to clear they do have their priority roads, some of which are roads that are used by school buses. And with the dwindling number of school-age children in my immediate area, my main road is not a bus route so sometimes it is a day or two after a storm before the road is cleared. And so we often opt to use a snowmobile as a preventative for cabin fever.

Another safety feature of this Bill is an amendment which states that anyone with a class 7 or learner's licence must be accompanied by an adult or supervised by an experienced driver when they are snowmobiling. So this makes it similar to driving a car, Mr. Speaker, and we will be again asking questions in committee about this particular piece of legislation that is proposed.

In reading through Bill 29 there are also amendments that deal with vehicle registration. And regarding that aspect, Mr. Speaker, I recall very clearly a few years ago when my son was snowmobiling and he was parked in a small town, and he received a fine because his Polaris wasn't registered — and perhaps I shouldn't be plugging a specific make, Mr. Speaker — but he was charged with an unregistered snowmobile.

But that fine did turn out to be a blessing in disguise because he was involved in an accident that same winter and the next year his machine was stolen. So he was, in the end, thankful when it was replaced that he was forced to register his machine.

One mentions, as the minister stated, dealing with when a snowmobile operator has to cross a highway. And other centres on exemptions for licensed trappers and commercial fishermen who also use snow machines as part of their livelihood.

And there will also be some changes relating to trails, in reading through the Bill and the accompanying explanatory notes, stating that essentially a request made by the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association . . . It will simplify the process for identifying changes to snowmobile trailers and it will ease the group's workload and assist law enforcement to do a better job of enforcing trail permits. So this will open some Crown land for snowmobilers to use in the wintertime.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have sent this Bill to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to get their thoughts on the various amendments. And we have also sent it to many groups in central and northern Saskatchewan for their input as well, to see what questions that should be asked in the next stage of the process.

And we have seen in the past issues raised by the Snowmobile Association, both with our office and the NDP office, regarding groomed trails and the money the government makes available

for such work. So we will be ensuring that the NDP not only listens to the group's concerns but acts upon them.

And we have seen case after case, and the NDP acknowledges this, where they have . . . You say that you seem to, appear to be listening. And as the Environment minister once said, well appearing to listen, you know. But, Mr. Speaker, appearing to listen and actually listening are two very different things. So it is our hope that the NDP actually acts and not just appears to listen on this issue as well as many others.

Snowmobiling is, for some in our province, a way to help make a living, Mr. Speaker, whether it's trapping or hunting in the North or whether it's one of the many snowmobile dealerships in our province. You use a snowmobile to help around the farm with chores in the winter when . . . and for your main mode of transportation, as I had earlier stated, when other vehicles are not much use. And many people use it strictly for recreational purposes, a poker rally or racing across a field or in a ditch or on a groomed trail. And this type of winter fun impacts many of our lives, Mr. Speaker.

So we are waiting to hear from some special interest groups on this, Snowmobile Association and many others. So with that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Estevan that debate on second reading on Bill No. 29, The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2004 be now adjourned.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 1

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 1 — The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and to speak to Bill No. 1, The Financial Administration Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, our current Provincial Auditor and our previous provincial auditor have for a number of years called for summary financial statements which this Bill will finally bring into effect. The Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has also called for a number of years on the presentation of financial results of governments to be prepared in this format.

We are not, Mr. Speaker, breaking new ground here. This Bill contains elements that will bring this province's recording of its financial affairs closer to where most of the other governments

are and have been. Bringing together in one set of financial statements not only the 60 per cent of government activity that runs through the General Revenue Fund, but also the approximately 40 per cent of government activity that is outside this fund — that is, Crown corporations and Crown agencies — is a positive move forward.

This summary financial reporting should result in a better understanding by more of our constituents of the true position of the finances of this province. This is important, Mr. Speaker, because there is a conception that government is an entity that runs out of control; it collects vast amounts of money and spends all that and more with little accountability. By presenting fairly and clearly the whole picture, as will be facilitated with summary financial statements, we could be on the right track.

From the Provincial Auditor's report of 2003, I quote:

Governments should publish financial and economic information to help people assess:

(firstly) The ability of a government to meet its existing program commitments and creditor requirements without increasing its accumulated deficit — **sustainability**. (Mr. Speaker)

The degree to which a government can increase financial resources to respond to rising commitments either by expanding its revenues or by increasing its accumulated deficit — **flexibility**. (Mr. Speaker)

(And) The degree to which a government becomes dependent upon, and thus, vulnerable to sources of funding outside of its control or influence — **vulnerability**.

This Bill does certainly invite debate and an in-depth study prior to its implementation. It begs a number of questions that will need to be addressed. Among them, it makes reference to up-to-date accounting practices, and the budgeting and accounting process can be changed in the future without amending legislation. This would be a concern were it to inhibit openness and accountability in the future.

There is clarification required regarding the changes proposed as they relate to interim supply Bills. If passed, one-twelfth of the previous year's estimate for a department will be apportioned on April 1 of each year without need for an interim supply Bill and that the only need for an interim supply Bill would be in the case of new program funding. We will want to examine this provision in more detail.

(15:15)

There are also provisions to allow one department of government to charge another department for provision of services. We will want to discuss and study this provision also, Mr. Speaker, to assure that interdepartmental billings will be utilized and only utilized to provide and properly reflect justifiable, reasoned amounts, and not to mask a poor performance by one department at the expense of another department.

Mr. Speaker, there is within the accounting reporting of this NDP government a glaring example of a lack of openness and accountability. And this example even has its own name; it's called the Fiscal Stabilization Fund. On the surface, it appears to be actual money that has been set aside and is available for future expenditures. In fact the auditor has exposed this fund as nothing more than an accounting trick.

So, Mr. Speaker, we on this side are in agreement with the provisions of this Bill that will allow for more accountability and transparency in the reporting of the government's finances. But at the same time, we look forward to the time when we are not deceived by the reporting of funds that really don't exist. That time should not be too . . . in the too distant future, Mr. Speaker, because this fund that does not really exist has almost ran out of the money it never had.

This so-called fund, Mr. Speaker, has been used to trick the taxpayers of this province into thinking that we have been experiencing balanced budgets, when in fact we have been running up the debt of this province at an alarming rate. This Bill, which should allow for a better understanding of the financial position of our province, therefore providing more transparency and more accountability, will only accomplish this if it is the will of the government of the day to be accountable and transparent. The NDP government has clearly not taken this route in the past, and the nonsensical Fiscal Stabilization Fund is a prime example of either their lack of understanding or, worse, a means to deceive the very people they represent.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill has the potential to more clearly reflect the financial situation to the readers of the financial statements, but real accountability and transparency will only be achieved if there is the will to do that very thing. This NDP government does not have that will. Their financial results and plans are dismal. According to the auditor, the debt of government departments and the Crowns stood at \$11.1 billion in 2001, the year this Premier took office. In 2003, it was 11.7 billion; \$600 million of increased debt, and yet they maintain they have balanced the budget.

There's a saying, Mr. Speaker — and I just don't remember exactly how it goes — but it starts out, figures do not lie, but . . . I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I forgot the punchline.

We wish to have the opportunity to debate this Bill further, Mr. Speaker, and I therefore request to move adjournment at this time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford that debate on Bill No. 1, The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 2

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 2 — The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly comprehensive amendment that is being made to The Power Corporation Act, dealing with the generation, the supply, the transmission, and sale of electricity within the province of Saskatchewan or in fact the opportunity to sell electricity outside of the province of Saskatchewan.

This particular Act deals with . . . it can deal with both the importation and exportation of electricity from this province or to this province, Mr. Speaker. Therefore it becomes an important piece of legislation that needs to be scrutinized very closely to determine exactly what impact this is going to have and in fact, Mr. Speaker, whether or not this is actually a change in The Power Corporation Act or whether it is simply some readjusting of the pieces of legislation.

One of the things that it does do, Mr. Speaker, is it redefines the terms distribution and transmission, and it also redefines who the Act applies to. The original Act refers to third parties — it refers to corporations — whereas this Act has changed, Mr. Speaker, and refers to a person or persons in reference to other outside entities, corporations, third parties, etc., Mr. Speaker, because it can affect individuals, and it affects corporations in the sense that they are recognized under law as a person, Mr. Speaker.

One of the interesting items within this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker, is it talks about nominal design voltage in context of how the corporation deals with generation, supply, transmission, and sale. And I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, what do they mean by that?

Most of us that receive retail electricity generally get that in our homes at 110 voltage. We get it . . . Perhaps if we have a farm or a small business, we get it as 220 volt. Someone who uses a little more electricity may very well receive it as 440 volt. Does it mean that those are the design voltages — which they obviously are for those particular applications — that within regulations, it's been declared those various voltages up to, you know, the 110 kV.A lines, Mr. Speaker?

My question though relates to . . . does it apply to a 32-volt system? We have a number of people across this province who generate electricity for their own use with wind chargers. Does this Act apply to someone who has a small wind charger on their farm? They're obviously generating electricity. There's obviously a line running from that generator at the top of their tower to their home or to their shop or wherever they may have it going to. Does this Act apply to that, because it doesn't make it clear what is a nominal design voltage. Clearly, a transmission means, to read this, Mr. Speaker:

'transmission' means, with respect to electrical energy, any transmission of electrical energy by means of lines . . .

Which is how the electricity is transmitted from that generator at the top of their wind charger to wherever it is that it's going

to. Does it qualify? Does the Act deal with that, Mr. Speaker?

Those people who have toured rural Saskatchewan . . . and I'm not sure how many people on the other side have actually done that, Mr. Speaker, but you will occasionally see a small box with a screen placed on top of it next to a fence in rural Saskatchewan. And what it is, is a solar collector, Mr. Speaker, where they're generating electricity to electrify a particular fence when there is no electricity close. This is a very economical means of doing so; it's a very useful means and a successful means. But does that qualify under this Act, Mr. Speaker? Is that one of the nominal design voltages that this Act would govern?

And the reason I ask those things, Mr. Speaker, because as you get into this Act, this Act is all about the exclusive rights of SaskPower to generate, supply, transmit, and sell electricity. So if those nominal design voltages apply to someone with a 32 volt system or to someone who is utilizing a solar collector to power their electrified fence, are they in contravention of the Act?

Or do they have to receive from SaskPower some sort of licence, some sort of agreement, contract that allows them to utilize these items, Mr. Speaker, you know? And will they then have to pay SaskPower for the electricity, for using the electricity that they themselves have paid for, the capital cost for the equipment that they're utilizing, Mr. Speaker? Those are the kind of questions that this Bill raises.

What is it changing from what was in place prior to this, and what does it go to, Mr. Speaker, because other than changing some of the names, you have to question in the initial part of the Bill, what does it really mean, what does it really do? It allows . . . one of the things it does allow is for SaskPower to implement standards, rules, and guidelines in respect to regional power grids. Well, Mr. Speaker, we're part of a central North American power grid system as it is today. Surely someplace within the SaskPower Act, those abilities are already there. And they are, Mr. Speaker. So really, what is this changing? What is it clarifying? What is the purpose for making these changes, Mr. Speaker?

And since I've mentioned the regional power grid system, I guess the question comes into place, which power grid system should we actually be a part of? Is it in our interest, Mr. Speaker, to be a part of the central North American power grid which reaches down into Tennessee and perhaps further south down to the Gulf States, down to Texas, including Manitoba, Mr. Speaker? Because there's also a northeast grid, there's also a western grid which reaches from Alaska down to California and as far west as Wyoming, which is directly south of us, Mr. Speaker. So which grid should we really be a part of?

Or should we be looking at . . . because this Act talks about exporting electrical energy to a person outside of Saskatchewan, should we be in a position, Mr. Speaker, where we can take advantage of both grids, since we are right next door to Alberta which is in the Pacific grid? Should we be in a position to export electricity into that grid?

I was at a meeting last summer, Mr. Speaker, which was discussing electricity, energy, natural gas, and the expectation

was that there will be a need for further generation of electricity by whatever means into the Pacific Northwest, into California within seven years, that currently there are not enough plans in place to generate the electricity that will be needed to fuel the growth in those areas.

Now I can certainly understand why electrical generation is relatively stagnant in Saskatchewan because there is very limited growth occurring in this province under this government. So there is no vision, no planning, no foresight needed to develop further sources of electricity in this province when the government has no vision and no foresight in growing the province, Mr. Speaker.

But outside of Saskatchewan, there is a need for growth in the electrical generation area. And one of the items that needs to be considered, needs to be put in place before the generation can come on stream is the transmission systems.

And our system needs to be looked at, Mr. Speaker, and we need to give consideration to whether or not we want to be a part of the growth in North America, or we wish to remain isolated, sort of the Albania of central North America, Mr. Speaker, and ignoring simply what is happening around us. I believe that we need to become a part of the North American system, Mr. Speaker. We need to look for economic opportunities where we can find them and to move to take advantage of them, which does not seem to be the forte of the government opposite.

So, Mr. Speaker, the question is: do we move beyond one region for electrical generation and distribution? Do we look at two? Because we are a long ways away from that third grid, which is the eastern seaboard, Mr. Speaker.

One of the items in this particular piece of legislation though — which is a question of concern, Mr. Speaker — is the power that is given to SaskPower, and I'll read this. It's under clause 8.2(e). It says:

do any other thing that, in the opinion of the corporation, is necessary and incidental to the exercise of the power set out in clauses (a) to (d).

Again it's a fairly broad blanket of power that is being given to SaskPower to deal with the transmission of electricity, to deal with the implementations of rules and guidelines. So, Mr. Speaker, again it comes down to a question of who is watching what's going on within the corporation to determine that what is happening there is in the best interests of Saskatchewan, rather than someone else's best interest, Mr. Speaker.

(15:30)

It also goes on to bring forward in section 8.2(3) — there's more clauses and more subclauses and more subclauses, Mr. Speaker; it gets kind of convoluted — that:

. . . the corporation may:

adopt or incorporate by reference all or any part of any standards, rules or guidelines respecting transmission, distribution or generation of electrical energy . . . (by)

those standards, rules . . . (and) guidelines . . .

So it reinforces the idea, Mr. Speaker, that the corporation can design its own rules and references, whatever it thinks is best, rather than what best serves the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

It also goes on to talk quite a bit about when a representative of SaskPower may come in to your establishment, may cut your power off, what kind of notices have to be given, Mr. Speaker, and what kind of discussions that need to take place.

And under the normal circumstances, Mr. Speaker, before a line is disconnected, the corporation needs to serve written notice of their intention to do so, and that the customer, the client, has the opportunity within 30 days to respond to that notice and to hopefully either correct the problem, whatever it may be, on the part of the client or on part of the corporation.

But it goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, that the corporation may, if the corporation considers that it is necessary and in the public interest to do so, the corporation may cut off the power to the client, to the consumer, without notice, and that they have to notify the client within 10 days afterwards.

Oh, I'm sure that the client is going to notice right away if his power is cut off, Mr. Speaker. And so why does it take 10 days, why is it allowed, the corporation allowed 10 days to actually contact the client after they have cut their power off?

I know that in my case if the power was cut off, either the lights are going to be out of my house or the water isn't going to be working. Those are the choices. And I'm going to be aware of that in fairly short order. And if I'm not aware of it, somebody in my family will be certainly letting me know about it, Mr. Speaker, and so I'll become aware of it fairly quickly.

So why does it take, can it take an additional 10 days for the corporation to notify that client that they have cut the power off without the written notification, Mr. Speaker? And then the consumer, the client, has an additional 30 days after the power has been cut off in which to write a submission to the corporation. It doesn't say they've hooked it back up again in that time; they've simply cut it off and now the consumer is behind the eight ball with no electricity for whatever their business is, Mr. Speaker, be it residential or a commercial interest.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's giving the corporation a fairly wide latitude. And if they are going to cut off a person's power, they should at least notify them immediately that they have done so if there is an emergency situation that they need to respond to.

Mr. Speaker, I think the most troubling part of this particular Bill is the new section 38 which deals with the exclusive rights of the corporation. And the title of it is, "Exclusive right to supply, transmit, distribute and sell."

And it talks about January 1, 1958 which was I believe a point in time, Mr. Speaker, when SaskPower absorbed the various generating and distribution companies across this province, because a number of the cities at that particular point in time had their own electrical system and SaskPower absorbed them

and took them into their own operation.

But it didn't happen in all cities, Mr. Speaker. I know that Swift Current and Saskatoon both continue to have their own electrical supply retail service. Even though I don't believe they do generation, they did at one time. I don't believe they do any more, but they are the retailer . . . the distributor and retailer of electricity within those areas.

And I think that the most troubling part of this is 38(1)(e). It says that the corporation has the exclusive right:

to supply, transmit, distribute and sell electrical energy in any area in which on that date electrical energy was being supplied by the corporation . . .

So any place on January 1, 1958 that SaskPower was providing electricity — either generation, transmission, or supply for sale — they have exclusive right. And I don't believe that's a change from what it was before, Mr. Speaker. I think they did have exclusive right prior to this piece of legislation. But then it goes on to say . . . So it says they have the exclusive right anywhere electricity was being supplied by the corporation, or no electrical energy was being supplied.

So SaskPower has the exclusive right every place there was electricity. They also have the exclusive right every place there wasn't electricity. So why doesn't it just say they have the exclusive right to supply power in the province of Saskatchewan, period? Because that's what they're saying in a convoluted manner, Mr. Speaker. And you have to wonder, why does it have to be disguised somehow? Why isn't it just plain English, Mr. Speaker?

But now let's go back to some of the examples I used originally. The person with a small generator in their yard on top of a wind tower, or the person who is supplying electricity for his fence using a solar collector, does that mean SaskPower has the exclusive right to determine whether or not they are allowed to do that? Do they need to pay a fee? Do they have to have a licence? What does that mean, Mr. Speaker, when it says SaskPower has the exclusive right?

I think people in Saskatchewan deserve a straightforward and honest answer on this. You know, we often hear the government . . . and in their budget was talking about the need for a green and prosperous economy. Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people who generate electricity for their own purposes, either using wind, or using solar collectors, or heat transfer pumps, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that . . . And yes, the member from Saskatoon Sutherland, Sutherland was talking about his solar collector. I'm not sure if it generates any electricity or not, but he does need to be careful when he's out in the sun, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we're dealing with the opportunities of individuals to, say, provide a solar collector on their roof to provide electricity on their own . . . for their own use, are they in contravention of this Act? Do they have to have a licence from SaskPower? You know, nothing in here says it does; nothing in here says it doesn't — except for where it says the exclusive right to supply, transmit, distribute, and sell.



So it really begs the question: how committed is this government to the concept of green electricity? I know in a lot of jurisdictions they encourage people to put up solar collectors; they encourage people to put up wind generators or any other kind of electrical generation such as burning of waste.

We have the situation in Prince Albert where Weyerhaeuser put in a steam generation plant utilizing waste product from their mills to generate electricity for themselves. Are they now going to be in contravention of this Act, Mr. Speaker? I think that should be a great deal of concern for anyone in this province who is looking at providing their own electrical source for their own utilization.

I have a business down at Carnduff, Mr. Speaker, who has put up a large wind tower for their own use. Are they now going to be able to continue to do this or is the government going to step in, shut them down? If they don't shut them down, are they going to make it uneconomical for them to carry on with that kind of a project for themselves by some sort of licensing fee or intervention?

I guess one of the other areas that, when it comes to dealing with the rules and regulations which can be set by SaskPower because under clause . . . under section 38, a new part of the Bill, it says that:

. . . the circumstances of supply, transmission, (and) distribution (and) sale meet the circumstances (described) in the regulations.

And those regulations, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are set by the corporation.

One of the items that happens across this province, particularly in rural municipalities, Mr. Speaker . . . No, excuse me — not rural — urban municipalities, is that the municipality tacks on an electrical surcharge, a tax on the electricity that's used in their jurisdiction, in people's homes and people's businesses, and it's another source of revenue that the government allows the urban municipalities to utilize.

If someone in that urban municipality has put up a solar collector on their roof, they're avoiding paying that electrical surcharge because they're not purchasing that electricity from SaskPower. So because of the changes that are being made here, Mr. Speaker, will, under regulation, SaskPower with the acquiescence of the government be making sure that someone who generates electricity with a solar collector on their roof is paying that surcharge? Will they be paying the electrical surcharge that has been imposed by the municipality even though that municipality has no role in either generating, supplying, transmitting, or retailing the electricity. Will the government be allowing SaskPower to extract that surtax, that surcharge on electricity for remittal to the municipality in question, Mr. Speaker?

I think that becomes a serious concern for people who want to be green, who want to provide an alternative sources of electricity than is being supplied right now, who believe that within their area they have the capabilities and the ability to generate electricity in a manner that is favourable to the environment. Will the government now be discouraging it

through imposing a fee or allowing for surcharges to be set on that particular piece of . . . that generation of electricity?

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions that need to be dealt with on this. There are people within the municipalities and . . . who do generate electricity who have concerns about this and that we're in contact with, Mr. Speaker, to determine how they feel about this particular Bill and to try and find out some answers that relate to their concerns.

Basically what is the nominal design voltages that are discussed in this Bill? Will the generation of green energy by an individual be impaired by this legislation by SaskPower? Will it be taxed or will SaskPower facilitate the taxation of that electricity by the municipality in which the generation occurs?

Those are all very important questions, Mr. Speaker, that people have some concerns about and we need to be able to discuss with those individuals and they in turn be able to discuss with the government to determine what direction the government and SaskPower is taking on this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. So at this time I would move adjournment of debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Cannington has moved that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

#### Bill No. 7

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag that **Bill No. 7 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

(15:45)

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments on this piece of legislation regarding Bill No. 7, The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, 2004.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Finance is wondering, just a few? Well I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I may have been misquoted just a little. But when I say, a few, there are a number of comments that need to be made regarding this piece of legislation, in view of the fact that this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is certainly one of the pieces of legislation in this current session of the Legislative Assembly that will probably and most likely have a lot of questions to be raised, will demand a lot of questions. We've a lot of questions that need to be answered as we look at the significant changes that were introduced in this Assembly just a few short days ago by the minister responsible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation addresses the Auto Fund, an Auto Fund which we know was introduced by this government a number of years ago. In fact it's now called the no-fault insurance program in the province of Saskatchewan. And we are all aware of the debate that has taken place over the past number of years in regards to the changes to the automobile insurance fund in the province of Saskatchewan and how it impacts people in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker . . . Pardon me. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the minister commented on the fact that the primary purpose of the Auto Fund is to provide basic auto insurance coverage for Saskatchewan drivers, and he said at affordable rates.

And no doubt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as residents in this province and in view of the fact that we're basically forced to purchase one level of insurance when it comes to automobile insurance in the province of Saskatchewan, we would assume that the agency that is offering that insurance is indeed . . . as a government-funded and as a Crown corporation, is going to ensure that the residents of this province indeed have access to the most affordable rates possible, while at the same time, guaranteeing that each and every one of us as insurance . . . as customers of the insurance programs are not only finding ourselves with affordable rates, but as well can expect reasonable insurance coverage in the province of Saskatchewan. And that we are ensured that the coverage we are paying for will indeed meet the needs of each and every one of us as individuals, should we unfortunately face a situation or an accident that may put our ability to derive a fair and equitable annual income at risk because of problems associated with health reasons that may have been caused as a result of an accident.

What the minister indicated was the rates . . . and the reasons for this piece of legislation is to ensure that the rates continue to be affordable. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't think the people of Saskatchewan oppose affordable rates and reasonable rates. But I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as my colleagues and I have found over the past number of years, what people are concerned about is these reasonable rates ensuring that we receive adequate and fair coverage should we find ourselves in a situation of an accident that requires the need to rely on insurance to meet our basic needs and to provide for Saskatchewan residents, as individuals and certainly as families.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are aware of the fact that effective January 1, '03, Saskatchewan, because of the ongoing problems associated with the no-fault insurance program in this province, Saskatchewan also offered to change the program and offered the people of Saskatchewan the opportunity to choose tort or the no-fault program. The unfortunate part at that time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was that there wasn't a lot of information. And even today it's still fairly difficult for a Saskatchewan resident when they go to renew their licence to determine, now do I choose tort or do I choose the no-fault program.

And the member from Prince Albert Northcote says, well that's a choice. Yes, it is a choice. But it's a difficult choice to make considering the fact that there isn't a clear answer to the questions, and when you . . . when you go to determine whether or not you choose tort or you choose no-fault.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, did anyone on this side of the Assembly suggest that no-fault in itself was totally wrong? I don't recall anyone, any of my colleagues suggesting that no-fault in and of itself was a program that did not work for Saskatchewan drivers. In general no-fault will meet the needs of most of the driving public in Saskatchewan and the types of accidents they're involved in.

Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a small portion, I believe the numbers are somewhere in the 5 to 10 per cent of accidental victims, where no-fault really does not provide for that individual and for the families involved. And that's why we have suggested that the government needs to look at other alternatives. And the government solution was tort.

Well if you've chosen no-fault and you end up in an accident, where do you go from there? And I guess that's what, as we look at the changes that the government is talking of, that the minister is talking of in this new piece of legislation, we're going to want to know exactly how this piece of legislation and the changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will impact individuals whose lives have been put on hold.

And the member from Moose Jaw North as well is getting into the debate, and I certainly will give the member from Moose Jaw North an opportunity to enter this debate. He's certainly welcome to stand up at any time and get into the debate and explain to people who have been affected dramatically by no-fault that . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly allow that in moment; I understand that there's a member who would like to introduce some guests and I'll certainly . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. Why is the member on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — I would like to ask permission to introduce . . . ask leave to introduce guests.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — That's carried. I recognize the member for Cumberland.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Thank you, sir. I would like to introduce to the members of the Legislative Assembly, Waneek Horn-Miller and Ben Levesque. And they're seated on the west gallery — and she's waving away here.

And I had the pleasure of meeting Waneek on several occasions in northern Saskatchewan. She does a lot of work with Aboriginal youth. I think many of you know that she's a Mohawk from the Kahnawake Mohawk territory in Quebec.

And Waneek is also an Olympian having gone to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. She was co-captain of the women's water polo team. Waneek is also a three-time Carlton University Athlete of the Year, a five-time participant of the North American Indigenous Games, a 1999 Pan American

champion, and a 2001 bronze medallist at the FINA (Federation Internationale de Natation) World Championships.

Like I said, a lot of her work involves working with Aboriginal youth. She's a motivational speaker and does a lot of speaking at schools, and recently she was in Pelican Narrows and also in La Ronge not too long ago. She travels all over Saskatchewan and all over North America, from what I can tell last time I was talking to her. And we really like having her in the legislature in Regina in Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the members here I would like to ask you to join me in showing her a warm welcome and also we're honoured to have her here. Thank you very much.

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

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 7 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004 (continued)**

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition we would like to invite our guest as well. It's certainly a pleasure to have an Olympian in our midst and we certainly trust that in your future endeavours, you will continue to excel. And congratulations and welcome to our Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying regarding SGI and the Bill before this Assembly, there's no doubt that the government has finally recognized after a number of years of debate on the issue, that no-fault did not meet the needs of all Saskatchewan drivers and as a result brought forward some changes. And as the minister indicated in his second reading speech, this piece of legislation is bringing forward a number of proposed amendments which, as the minister indicated, he trusted would strengthen and clarify language to support current practices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as an opposition what we are hoping as well, that when the minister talks about ensuring that we have affordable rates and a quality of insurance that treats everyone fairly, we will want to look very closely at this piece of legislation to determine whether or not the changes that are being implemented indeed address the issues as the minister has indicated to us in this Assembly,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the things that I think we all agree with is the fact that should . . . the dependents of a motorist who has been killed in a collision certainly should be taken care of. They should have access as well to insurance that indeed ensures that they are provided for, that they are cared for; that their care and provisions are not left to be handled by, for example, family members or individuals in the community, but indeed the insurance package that a parent or parents were carrying indeed will meet the needs — the fiscal and the financial needs — of children and young people as they

continue to develop until they can reach that point where they are able to provide for themselves.

And the minister indicates that some of the changes in this piece of legislation are indeed being brought forward to identify the fact that there was an area that really wasn't meeting the needs of individuals and that all dependents will now . . . that the definition of dependents will now include all dependent adults and children under 21, regardless of dependency, like the no-fault coverage program has been doing.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we certainly believe that that is an important piece of legislation . . . or an amendment brought forward to this piece of legislation, and as the minister indicated, that this amendment will indeed cover those dependants and ensure that they are adequately provided for until they reach a point in their lives where they're able to become totally independent and out on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the piece of legislation also talks about proposed amendments that will deny benefits to family or spouse of an insured who commits suicide or attempts suicide. And, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately we have no idea of determining and understanding why people would decide to end their lives. But I think there are significant questions that need to be asked here — exactly how the death is arrived at and the type of death — and the fact that we are not making a decision and thereby removing the responsibility of SGI to indeed ensure that dependent individuals are looked after and provided for care, considering the circumstances of the death of a family member or a spouse as the minister has indicated. So we will certainly want to raise some significant questions to ensure that young people, children, are not put at risk in their requirements as a result of these changes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the issues that I think needs to be addressed — and we trust will be addressed — is how people are compensated and how people are . . . if, for example, you happened to be on the no-fault program and were significantly injured in an automobile accident to the point that you are unable to continue to provide for yourself and provide for your family.

The minister talks about the fact that under tort — if you had chosen the tort area of coverage, or idea of coverage — you could certainly go to the courts. And what the minister I believe is talking about here, they want to ensure that any court compensation for non-economic loss will now be reduced by the amount of benefits already provided by the basic coverage.

Now we want to ensure that people's rights are protected. We want to ensure that they receive adequate protection under their insurance program. But we certainly do not have a problem with the fact, as the minister has indicated, if a person is already receiving a form, some form of coverage under their insurance program and the courts award more, that the courts are not actually adding to, but indeed the coverage is provided, a basic and fair and equitable coverage is provided and one isn't adding to the other — indeed what we would call a doubling up on coverages. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can certainly agree that we want to ensure that fair coverage and compensation is provided without indeed taking away from the amount of coverage that is provided.

(16:00)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we look at the piece of legislation, we see that under the piece . . . under the current legislation, insurance coverage is provided as a top-up to individuals with a spouse or dependents who receive benefits under another statutory program such as Workers' Comp, and this top-up is provided when benefits are less than what they would received under no-fault. And what the minister is suggesting, the proposed amendments will now include single individuals. And it certainly . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that is a move in the right direction as well is the fact that singles are treated in the same fashion as a person with . . . who is married or a family member.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the major concerns we do have is the whole appeal mechanism. And what I find as an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and my colleagues have found and no doubt government members across the way have been finding . . . have found as well that many people find that if they have . . . feel they haven't been treated fairly, we continue to hear about the fact that there is an appeal mechanism that you can pursue to indeed ensure you have been . . . your rights have not been infringed upon, that you have access to proper coverage, that you are being treated fairly.

And the minister talks about the fact that the . . . there's a new amendment to no-fault covering dealing with the appeal commission. And we trust that this new change will indeed ensure that the appeals are indeed heard fairly, are indeed heard in an appropriate manner, and are indeed addressed quickly, Mr. Speaker — that they aren't dragged out. Because one of the problems as people put forward appeals, if appeals continue to be dragged out over the . . . over a period of time, many appellants get to the point where they say, well what's the point? Why would we carry on with this appeal, Mr. Speaker?

And it's apparent . . . It's important that we address that issue, that we raise many question . . . the questions and indeed at the end of the day many members on the opposite sides will be glad we've been very forthright in addressing these questions and ensuring that all the appropriate questions have been addressed, so that their rights are not infringed upon should they find themselves in an accidental situation that they . . . we certainly hope they . . . we would hope they wouldn't find themselves in.

Mr. Speaker, the minister talked about an amendment that will clarify how SGI calculates an income replacement benefit under no-fault in cases where an insured suffers a relapse in their medical condition. And I think that's appropriate. It's certainly important considering the fact that while a person may have gone through a rehabilitation process, that there are times when individuals find themselves in a relapse position and under the present legislation found that they would lose insurance coverage. And I think it's important that we . . . that those changes are made to ensure that people's rights to proper and due course are not taken and not . . . they don't lose that as a result of a medical relapse.

The minister talked about, in his second reading speech as well, about driving responsibly, Safe Driver Recognition. And we as a caucus and as an opposition caucus, Mr. Deputy Speaker,

agree with the Safe Driver Recognition program. It's important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we're going to ensure that young people grow up and take driving seriously and safe driving responsibly, that part of how we recognize the driving habits of individuals is that when people drive respecting the rules of the road, drive with . . . safely and defensively, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we indeed recognize those efforts.

And on the other hand if, Mr. Deputy Speaker, people aren't driving responsibly, are abusing their rights to drive — especially by drinking and driving — that we, as the ministers indicate, we are aware of that and that the legislation that is coming forward, their amendments to this piece of Bill will recognize that. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we recognize the importance of safe driving regulations.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the amendments that are being brought forward, I believe we've seen significant increase in penalties for traffic offences and how you handle a motor vehicle on the road. The minister also mentioned the fact that demerit points resulting in a driver moving into the penalty zone on the Safe Driver Recognition scale, the driver will also now be subject to a surcharge under the program. And as I believed before, that minister indicated that there is a place where you may not have . . . Well you may have had a fine for not having drove . . . because of the way you had . . . were driving on the highways, but you may not have had demerit points added. And I believe what this piece of legislation is actually adding demerit points.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is . . . there are a number of changes that are being brought forward under this piece of legislation, and a number of changes that I believe we are going to have to . . . we need to take the time to look at very carefully.

We need to be . . . ensure that the rights of individuals in the province of Saskatchewan are going to be addressed fairly in this piece of legislation, that the amendments being brought forward are not going to deny people their rights to fair and responsible compensation when injury occurs as a result of a driving accident.

And the changes that are . . . number of changes that are being made, Mr. Deputy Speaker, well the minister indicates they are being made to ensure that we maintain affordable rates. We want to ensure, Mr. Deputy . . . or, Mr. Speaker, that yes, rates are affordable, but indeed the compensation for people under insurance is appropriate to deal with the needs of that individual that arise . . . may arise as a result of an accident, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many other areas that we need to look at very carefully in this piece of legislation. We have been talking to individuals across the province. We've sent out this piece of legislation to a number of legal groups, and individuals who have raised concerns over the years regarding the no-fault program and the problems that they have been dealing with.

And it would be appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we indeed take the time to look at this piece of legislation very carefully, that we assess all the changes that are coming forward to ensure that people are represented fairly in this piece of legislation. Therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Moosomin that debate on second reading of adjourned debates Bill No. 7 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 8

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 8 — The Gas Inspection Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look at this piece of legislation and it's nowhere near the amount of amendments that are, that was in that last piece of legislation. However it certainly would be important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we would take some time as well.

When any new piece of legislation or amendments come forward regarding a piece of legislation in the province of Saskatchewan, that we determine and we ensure that the rights of individuals and the people of Saskatchewan are indeed being respected, are being honoured and, Mr. Speaker, that we are not infringing upon those rights.

What this Bill would appear at first glance is more of a housekeeping and updating some of the legislation like . . . However, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen in the past though when we had pieces of legislation that seemed to be fairly simple and straightforward, we've also found that in the past we need to look very carefully at these pieces of legislation as well to ensure that this government is not infringing on people's rights, that they are treating the rights of individuals responsibly, and that they are ensuring that even under a Bill such as Bill No. 8, The Gas Inspection Act, that the rights and safety of individuals are being managed very carefully.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we take time to look at the details and ensure that the details that are being brought forward in this piece of legislation, the amendments or the changes are indeed protecting the rights of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking the time and we have been taking the time over the past number of weeks to pass out these pieces of legislation such as Bill No. 8 to individuals and groups across the province of Saskatchewan and asking them for their input, because as my colleagues and I will certainly allude to the fact that we're not totally aware of all the ways each piece of legislation will impact individuals or groups in the province of Saskatchewan.

We have people coming to us on many occasions and asking where do we go when we need to deal with a specific question that they may have, and under a piece of legislation, how is that piece of legislation going to impact the responsibilities that we have, whether we're suppliers, whether we're contractors, or

whether we're just individuals as we build new homes and make modifications, say to our homes or our place of business. Mr. Speaker, we'll be finding out if the NDP, through this Bill, wants to give SaskPower more power and take it away from independent gas inspectors. And I guess that's one of the big questions in this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me that when we talk about SaskPower, and we talk about gas inspectors in the province of Saskatchewan, and if we want to grow the economy of the province of Saskatchewan, we need to, Mr. Speaker, be careful that we aren't always taking away the ability of independent or private individuals who have gone to school and got their papers and I have . . . are more than qualified to do gas inspections to move away from those . . . the ability to apply for and continue to provide gas inspections in the province of Saskatchewan.

And when I read a piece of legislation about SaskPower taking over or assuming more of the responsibility, I question what the role of government is in moving forward a piece of legislation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there are certainly a number of questions we would like to raise, and we certainly want to raise that . . . However at this time, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That this Assembly do now proceed to item no. 1 in adjourned debates under private members' public Bills and orders, Bill No. 2001, The Whistleblower Protection Act.

I so move.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Moosomin, seconded by the member for Cannington:

That this Assembly do now proceed to item no. 1 in adjourned debates under the private members' public Bills and orders, Bill 2001, The Whistleblower Protection Act.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Those in favour of the motion say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those who oppose the motion say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the nos have it. Call in the members for a standing vote.

The division bells rang from 16:14 until 16:22.

**The Speaker:** — Order. The motion, the question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Moosomin and seconded by the member for Cannington:

That this Assembly do now proceed to item no. 1 on adjourned debates under private members' public Bills and orders, Bill 201, The Whistleblower Protection Act.

Those who favour the motion, please rise.

## Yeas — 28

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	D'Autremont	Krawetz
Draude	Hermanson	Bjornerud
Stewart	Wakefield	Morgan
McMorris	Eagles	Gantefoer
Harpauer	Bakken	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Brkich
Weekes	Kerpan	Merriman
Chisholm	Dearborn	Hart
Kirsch		

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed to the motion, please rise.

## Nays — 28

Calvert	Addley	Lautermilch
Hagel	Van Mulligen	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

**Deputy Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 28; those opposed, 28.

**The Speaker:** — The Clerk has announced that there's an equality of votes for and against the motion. In these circumstances it is my duty pursuant to rule 26(2) to give a casting vote to break the tie.

In general on motions, a decision should be taken by a majority only; the Speaker is to vote for further discussion or to maintain the status quo. I therefore vote against the motion. The motion is defeated.

Motion negatived.

**The Speaker:** — Debate resumes on second reading of Bill 8. I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to join into a debate on Bill No. 8, the gas inspection Act, as the seats now clear.

It appears at first glance this Bill is mostly a housekeeping Bill. But as with every piece of legislation that is put forward in this House. We want to make sure that the devil isn't in the detail and we pass this Bill and find out that there is a whole lot of problems.

And often, Mr. Speaker, the greater chance that we have to consult with groups from around the province, people that are interested in this particular Act, we do find that there are some concerns. So often if we were to let it go through in a . . . without doing proper due diligence, we hear back after that, geez, there was some problems. And then to get the government to move on some of the things that they didn't correct the first

time is usually quite a problem.

And, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to gas inspection and dealing with SaskPower and gas inspectors, it is, you know, an issue that probably not too many of us think about on a regular basis, but it does draw some real concerns. I mean any time that there is problems in a system that isn't detected properly or at the correct time, it can be very, very dangerous, Mr. Speaker.

I remember back . . . a story that happened to me directly about ten years ago, eight years ago, we were to sell a house. And we were going to sell our house here in Regina and we had to have the gas, the furnace inspected by a gas inspector. So he came by and had a look at the furnace, and was going to give it the green light or the thumbs up or reject it.

And after the inspection which, you know . . . We had had that furnace . . . well the house was probably 25 years old at that time, and there had been no problems with that furnace whatsoever. And we hadn't had any problems with it, but the inspector came and looked at it and he rejected the furnace. He said, in order for you to sell your house, you're going to have to put in a new furnace — which I really found quite amazing. I mean we . . . Not that I would know if there is a crack in the heat exchanger myself or not, or if there was any problem with the furnace, but I just found it, you know, a little strange. And I wanted to have a second opinion.

And so it just so happened the real estate agent that we were dealing with, of course there's . . . she was selling a number of homes. Ms. Patricia Moon for Century 21, she was selling a number of homes in the city. And so I contacted her because we were buying a house through her — we were selling our house privately — and so I contacted Ms. Patricia Moon with Century 21 and found out that she had had some issues with that prior, that some gas inspectors at times were very, very strict. I guess no doubt they have codes to follow, but some inspectors were harsher or interpreted the rules more severely than others.

So we phoned our real estate agent and she knew of a private person that did this very thing. So we had him come over, and we had him look at our furnace. And, you know, first of all we had had quotes from a couple other companies as to how much it was going to cost to replace this furnace. We were anywhere from 1,500 to \$2,500 to have this furnace replaced before we could sell our home. We had a deal pretty much in the making, but we had to get this last little hoop or line crossed, in order to sell the home.

So we ended up having this private individual come in and look at the furnace. And all he could find was, there was a little bit of wear in one of the sheet, one of the sheet metal . . . around the fan I believe it was, and when it kicked in there was some problem with some air not going through the proper ductwork or whatever it might be.

And so after three or four phone calls back and forth — and he came and kind of explained to us what the problem was — I said, now what could we do to fix this? It seems a shame to throw out a whole furnace because the gas inspector is saying, you know, this furnace is faulty. So . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . and it wasn't. As the member from Meadow Lake is saying, well it was a heat exchanger. It wasn't the heat exchanger. That

was the whole thing. But it was something else that — right around that area — that was causing us problems.

So this private individual came and said, well I think either we could use some furnace cement. So I talked to then the SaskPower gas inspector at that time and said, if we use furnace cement, will that work? And he said, no that won't work because over the next couple, number of years, vibration and everything else will cause that cement to fall out and then you're back to the same problem.

(16:30)

Some of the members, some of the members from . . . The member from Cannington that is a avid farmer, of course, would suggest duct tape. As they say, duct tape is to keep something that isn't supposed to move from moving and WD-40 is to keep something that isn't moving, moving. So anyway, so he suggested duct tape. He suggested duct tape.

And so, what ended up happening, Mr. Speaker, is that the individual came with a small square of metal and put a couple of sheet metal screws in it, fixed it up. It ended up, for just equipment and parts, I would say, about 25 cents; for labour, I would say \$20. So we fixed our furnace for about \$20.25.

And that was . . . Then we had the SaskPower inspector come and look at the furnace and it was okay. It was perfectly okay. And now that's sometimes the situation when . . . Not that I'm saying that the work that gas inspectors are doing should be questioned all the time. But this was one example that it would have cost us \$2,500, possibly loss of a sale of a home and it ended up costing us \$20.25, Mr. Speaker.

So I guess, you know, any time that there are changes in the Act and whether this Act gives SaskPower inspectors greater authority, what we do look like, what we do see is that it's taking away from some of the independent gas inspectors by perhaps relying more on SaskPower inspectors.

But any time that is done, you know, and decisions are made, it affects somebody. And if it's having to replace a furnace, I know from our perspective a second opinion was invaluable, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, this Bill is mostly housekeeping and so I would . . . until we get some more views back, more people will get back to us on this Bill, I would move that we would adjourn debate on Bill No. 8.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Indian Head-Milestone that debate on Bill No. 8 be now adjourned.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

## Bill No. 9

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 9 — The Electrical Inspection Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well this Act, The Electrical Inspection Act, is quite similar to the one that was just before us, the gas inspector Act, dealing with the work of the inspectors when it comes to the particular jurisdiction, in this particular case, electrical.

It deals in some parts housekeeping, but other parts there is some concerns with this particular Act, Mr. Speaker. You know in my previous time on my feet here today talking about The Power Corporation Act and the possibilities of charging fees or licences for the generation of electricity, I note in this particular Bill under clause 4 that it mentions something that I hadn't thought about. And there is a large amount of electricity generated in this province by this particular means and I'm wondering if SaskPower somehow or another has a role to play in this area.

Now the electricity is generated and used on site, Mr. Speaker. There is no transmission off of the site. There is no sale, but obviously somebody uses that electricity. And under this particular Act it says, "This Act does not apply to" and under sections (2)(a)(ii) it says, "on railway cars or locomotives . . ."

Well locomotives, Mr. Speaker, generate a huge amount of electricity in this province. It takes a lot of electricity to drag every train through this province, Mr. Speaker. And hopefully that while they're transiting through here, they actually pick up something here, namely our grain and potash and move it out, Mr. Speaker. It would be nice if they'd pick up a lot more grain since in some areas supplies are moving very slowly.

But will, you know, what's the impact on this with this Act and The Power Corporation Act in dealing with locomotives, Mr. Speaker? As they go through the municipality, are they going to apply the surcharge tax to the electricity generated by that locomotive, Mr. Speaker?

It would be an interesting, an interesting measurement that would be needed to determine how much electricity was utilized as they transited through that municipality. Were they pulling or were they coasting, Mr. Speaker, would make a difference as to how much electricity they were using.

**An Hon. Member:** — Duracell.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — But the member says Duracells. Well Duracell batteries generate electricity. Is SaskPower going to tax everybody's flashlight now, you know? This government is looking for every means possible because they have no economic development of their own. They are scrambling to try and find some means by which they can try and improve their failing budget, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** — The glow on your cigarette's going to be

taxed.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Yes, well there's another thing. Did you ever notice, when you strike your lighter, there's this little flicker of electricity in some of them? Another chance for this NDP government to tax people, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are some areas in this particular Act that do bear careful consideration, Mr. Speaker. Under new sections 28.1 and 28.2, it deals with prohibitions in dealing with the inspectors. It says, "No person shall fail to comply with a reasonable request of an inspector . . ." Now, Mr. Speaker, what is a reasonable request? What's reasonable for one person is not reasonable for another.

In the case of the member from P.A. Northcote, it was reasonable for him to not give the information on SPUDCO for six years. But when other people found out about that particular incident, Mr. Speaker, they believed it was unreasonable that he didn't provide the truthful answers for six years.

So the question comes into play, what is a reasonable request? Is a reasonable request a request made during business hours, from 8 or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the evening? Is a reasonable request a request that's made from noon till 1 o'clock in the afternoon while people are out for lunch? Is it a reasonable request to make an inspection on weekends? It really begs the question — what is a reasonable request? — and there is no definition of this. It further goes on to say:

No person, when asked to make a statement to an inspector, shall knowingly omit to state a fact that is required to be stated or that is necessary to make the statement not misleading in the light of the circumstances in which it is made.

Made in a reasonable request, but you don't know what a reasonable request is. Is it simply going to be left up to the inspector to make the determination as to what is a reasonable request?

We had the case, we had the case down at Milestone where an inspector went into a restaurant and made the statement, something along the line of, I'm your worst nightmare. Well, Mr. Speaker, that kind of a request is not a reasonable statement, Mr. Speaker. Those . . . In Yellow Grass, sorry, my colleague corrects me. That was in Yellow Grass, that he was doctor death and I'm your worst nightmare. That is an unreasonable statement, Mr. Speaker, and yet the inspector made it. So does that make it a reasonable request? He's going to shut down a business with that attitude, Mr. Speaker. So I think there needs to be some clarification in place; what is a reasonable request, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, there is also another section here that I think needs to be severely clarified by the minister, and that deals with vicarious liabilities. And it says, under new clause 29.1:

In any prosecution of a person for an offence pursuant to this Act, it is sufficient proof of the offence to establish, in the absence of any evidence that the offence was committed without the person's knowledge, that it was committed by an employee, helper or agent of the person,

whether or not the employee, helper or agent:

is identified; or

has been prosecuted or convicted for the offence.

I'd like to ask the members opposite what that means. I'd like one of them to stand up and explain that because, Mr. Speaker, this is a very convoluted piece of legislation.

I've looked through a number of the other Acts that deals with vicarious liability, and it's not phrased in anywhere near this manner. Under the 2001 Tobacco Control Act, Mr. Speaker:

In a prosecution . . . (of) an offence pursuant to this Act, it is sufficient proof of the offence to establish that it was committed by an employee or agent of the accused, whether or not the employee or agent is identified or has been prosecuted or convicted . . . (of) the offence, unless the accused establishes that the offence was committed without his or her knowledge . . .

So I guess the question has to be asked, Mr. Speaker, was there a problem with vicarious liabilities under The Tobacco Control Act? Was there a problem with vicarious liabilities under The Wildlife Act? Was there problems with vicarious liability under The Environmental Management and Protection Act? In fact, this one is very similar to what is being proposed today, Mr. Speaker.

Under The Wildlife Act, 1998, under vicarious liability, it says, "In any prosecution . . . (of) an offence relating to wild (life) species at risk." Here they define what area vicarious liability fell into.

In The Electrical Inspection Act, it's everything dealing with this Act, Mr. Speaker, that a person could be charged under vicarious liabilities. This one is narrow under The Wildlife Act defining one particular segment, and this one covers everything. It's very broad based and difficult to understand, Mr. Speaker.

I think that's an area that the minister will need to be able to clarify. And I would even suggest that perhaps the minister might want to re-evaluate that particular clause and come back with a House amendment on that, spelling out more clearly what the intention is and clarify the wording so that you don't have to be a graduate with a law degree to understand what this means, Mr. Speaker.

This goes on to deal, Mr. Speaker, with some Acts that have taken place in the past in dealing with vicarious liabilities. And it needs to be clarified so that people can understand what their rights are and what they're being accused of when they fall into potential contravention of the Act, Mr. Speaker, because it talks about the absence of any evidence. So if there's no evidence, how is a person supposed to be accused of an offence? If they're not provided with any evidence to the defendant, what are they being charged with? It says that the potential employee does not have to be identified. So how do you know that the person who perpetrated the act was an employee, that somebody wasn't trying to sabotage your work site, your project that was taking place?



There are a number of questions here that the government needs to explain. Was there a problem with the way the Act was written previously? Were there people who they felt should be charged and yet were not, or people that were charged and there was a failure to convict? When the government . . . The Justice department felt that these people were guilty, so now you're going to change the Act to make sure that, because you feel they're guilty, you're going to be able to convict them. I don't want to use the words prove that they're guilty because it says in the absence of evidence, but rather that they will be found guilty under this particular Act.

There are a number of areas here, Mr. Speaker, that I think needs to be severely looked at and dealt with before this Act can progress . . . that we're dealing with prosecutions, charges and prosecutions of people who may or may not actually have the evidence before them as to why and how they're being charged, Mr. Speaker. And it needs to be dealt with in a manner that makes it clear what the intent is, what the purpose is, and why it is being written as it is, Mr. Speaker. And listening to the minister's presentation for his second reading debate did not provide any of that kind of information, Mr. Speaker, on this particular item.

(16:45)

So I would suggest that the minister needs to be prepared when we come forward in Committee of the Whole to be able to present his arguments as to the reasons why this is written as it is, why it's being changed from what was there in the past, and what the failures have been in providing for prosecutions under any of the items that this may be dealing with.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Cannington that debate on Bill No. 9 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion's carried.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 11

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 11 — The Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Indian Head.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again it's a privilege to join in the debate on Bill No. 11, The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Amendment Act.

Again this Bill is mainly a housekeeping Bill. It really talks about the dissolution of the Post-Secondary Skills and Training department and moving it into the . . . under one department, the Department of Learning.

But when we start talking about post-secondary education and skills training, there are a lot of issues that come to mind. Even though this is a Bill that mainly talks about housekeeping, there are a lot of issues that come to mind regarding post-secondary education and not the least of which were accented today in question period when our member from Saskatoon was asking the minister about promises that were made regarding a health sciences facility and a research laboratory, I believe here in Regina, the health sciences in Saskatoon, and the fact that these facilities were promised over and over again.

It was more than just an election promise because they were talked about before. This is exactly what has to happen. I remember being in this House for a number of years when talking of the health sciences centre in Saskatoon and its accreditation was at issue. And one of the ways to rectify that was some capital expenditure up in Saskatoon, and this NDP government, prior to the election and during the election, promised over and over again that it would be done. Certainly now we're hearing more and more often that they're backing away from it.

We certainly know that they've got huge financial problems. I mean, when we looked at the way this government was operating three years ago with a surplus of about \$500 million, and now we see the government in a deficit of over 400, \$460 million, Mr. Speaker, we can see them having to pull in the reins a little bit.

But it's not like those numbers weren't known by this government leading up to the election and during the election campaign. They knew exactly what the state of this province was. And we heard the minister, the Minister of Learning stand in the House today and said, well don't worry, it's going to be . . . happen, sooner or later these buildings will get built, you know. And he didn't put any sort of deadline on it or date on it. He sure had lots of dates in mind during the campaign and the lead up to the campaign. I believe the former minister of Learning even mentioned the date that it would be ready — by the time that the Summer Games rolled around here in Regina, which I think is in 2005.

So if that was the case, they had better start breaking soil and get working on it right away. We hear from this minister now that they're backing right away from that promise, that it won't be ready for the year 2005 — in fact it could be 2006, 2007.

What I would suggest to both universities, whether it's the U of S or the U of R, that they had better look at the calendar and try and predict when the next general election is, because when the next general election is exactly when you will start hearing this government start to rename those commitments that they've made, Mr. Speaker. There still will be no specific date and no specific numbers as far as dollars and cents that will go into those facilities, but they will be idle promises, the same idle promises that we heard over the last number of years and especially over this past election period, as of October and November.

So once again we see the government backing away from promises. Since taking office in 1991, 1991, the NDP has repeatedly ignored the plight of students in our province's universities and technical schools.

Mr. Speaker, you just have to read the newspaper and look at some of the editorials and some of the articles put in the newspaper over the last couple of years and more recently over the last couple of months to see what students are thinking of when they think of this provincial government, this provincial government that has backed completely away from any of the responsibility for post-secondary education.

You know, often we hear this government is really going to work. One of its high priorities is attracting and retaining youth in our province. And then we see what they have done as far as capital expenditures into the universities, but also funding universities so that tuition rates don't have to continue to increase.

And it's alarming, Mr. Speaker, because if keeping, retaining, and attracting youth is one of this government's priorities, and then you see the actions that they take for that priority, I'd hate to see an issue — and we see it all the time — an issue that isn't of high priority to this government, like agriculture. And that's why we see the absolute backing away from properly funding agriculture in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I have a clipping from the *Leader-Post*, Thursday, April 22, 2004 and one of the quotes in bold print here is, and I quote:

Why does the Calvert government want to make the rest of Canada better by supplying it with a steady stream of Saskatchewan's brightest?

And I think that really, really talks volumes as to this government first of all stating that it's a priority, but this is exactly what the students are feeling throughout the province. They're feeling that the government has backed away from their responsibility, that really . . . do they really care if they retain and keep our brightest here in Saskatchewan.

And I think we just have to look at the numbers over the last number of years, the out-migration from this province. We've been dropping in population for the last 19 quarters; we continue to. And unfortunately so many of those are students that have either started university and then moved on, or finished their university and moved out.

So we've put some into their education but unfortunately because of our job aspect or prospects in this province, people look outside the borders to find jobs outside the borders.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many newspaper clippings here that talk about the fact of underfunding to our post-secondary institutions. And you know what this government does is introduce a housekeeping Bill that really talks very little about the real issues that are facing post-secondary students around this province, and the technical institutes and the students that are going to those technical institutes, and the fact that this government just hasn't been there for them.

I remember campaigning in 1999 and one of the real key planks of this . . . the NDP government, the NDP Party at that time was I believe, the first year of tuition free. Can you believe that? Can you believe that promise?

Now the minister is saying well, don't worry, we're going to come through with capital expenditures at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. Don't worry, we'll be there for that. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if they expect our memories to be that short because I remember they said that they'd be there for the first year of tuition free if we elected the NDP in 1999.

And I have been surveying as many students as I meet, asking them how many received their first year of university free? Did anyone in this province receive their first year of university free? I don't remember anyone in this province going to university and saying at . . . starting the second year, boy, it's expensive to go to university now, thank God I had the first year free — even though that's exactly what was promised in 1999.

So I guess we shouldn't be surprised if the minister of Education is backing away from his promises as far as capital expenditures at our two major, at our two major universities, because quite frankly they backed away from most of the promises they made in 1999. And, Mr. Speaker, it's really a disconcerting situation . . . an issue for students throughout this province.

Mr. Speaker, just one more paragraph off of this clipping from Thursday, April 22, 2004 from Kevin Chernoff, who is a Political Studies and Public Administration Students' Society president at the U of S. So this fellow is . . . followed along very, very closely with what this government has done for post-secondary education. And believe me, the Bill No. 11 really is not the issue to him. It's issues such as funding and the lack of funding.

When I was informed that the current NDP government has decided, in all (of) its wisdom, to save a mere \$72,000 by discontinuing . . . (the) youth-oriented program called the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship (program) (SLIP) my stomach (was, my stomach) wrenched.

Mr. Speaker, I really find it interesting. Now the minister from . . . the member from Regina South is saying that I voted for that. That is not correct at all, Mr. Speaker. They came into the Board of Internal Economy and said that program is axed. It is no more. They were looking at trying to save money every possible place they could. That was quite an interesting meeting, when I think back of all the different places that they wanted to save money — anywhere from some of the legislative china and crystal, all the way up to the intern program for students.

And it's quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, that you would have tabled today the annual report of the intern program. Unfortunately this will be the last time, this will be the last time that we will see this report tabled in this legislature through this provincial government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this will be one of the last reports that we will see tabled in this legislature. We may see one next year, but we won't see one the year after that which is an absolute shame, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at this time there is so much more that I want to say about this intern program and the value that it supplies to people in our province, to students in our province. We've got

examples around this legislature, working in this legislature today that came through that internship program. And unfortunately because the government couldn't manage its own expenses, couldn't manage its own financial house, it cuts programs such as this, Mr. Speaker.

So at a later date I'd like to talk more about that, but at this point I'd like to move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 11.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Indian Head-Milestone that debate on Bill. No. 11 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

Debate adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 16:57.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS</b>	
<b>PRESENTING PETITIONS</b>	
Elhard .....	747
Hermanson .....	747
Bakken .....	747
Huyghebaert .....	747
Allchurch .....	747
Brkich .....	747
Weekes .....	748
<b>READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS</b>	
Deputy Clerk .....	748
<b>NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS</b>	
Hart .....	748
Weekes .....	748
Hermanson .....	748
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS</b>	
Van Mulligen .....	748
Draude .....	748
McCall .....	758
Beatty .....	770
<b>STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS</b>	
<b>Humboldt Family Provincial Family of the Year</b>	
Harpauer .....	748
<b>Prince Albert Grand Council Fine Arts Festival</b>	
Borgerson .....	749
<b>Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Awards</b>	
Eagles .....	749
<b>Business Owner Returns to Saskatchewan</b>	
Morin .....	749
<b>Champions from Kelvington-Wadena</b>	
Draude .....	750
<b>Keystone Cup Winners</b>	
Crofford .....	750
<b>Kipling Trade Show</b>	
Toth .....	750
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b>	
<b>Ministers' Comments in <i>The StarPhoenix</i></b>	
Morgan .....	751
Crofford .....	751
Quennell .....	751
<b>Facilities for Universities</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	753
Thomson .....	753
<b>Ethanol Industry Projects</b>	
Wall .....	754
Cline .....	754
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
<b>SaskTel International's New Contracts</b>	
Sonntag .....	756
Elhard .....	756
<b>TABLING OF REPORTS</b>	
The Speaker .....	757
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Yates .....	757
The Speaker .....	757
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 35 — The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Atkinson .....	757
Gantfoer .....	758

<b>Bill No. 38 — The Credit Reporting Act</b>	
Quennell.....	760
Gantefoer.....	761
<b>Bill No. 39 — The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2004/ Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires</b>	
Quennell.....	761
Harpauer.....	762
<b>Bill No. 40 — The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Quennell.....	763
Gantefoer.....	763
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 29 — The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Eagles.....	764
<b>Bill No. 1 — The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Chisholm.....	765
<b>Bill No. 2 — The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
D'Autremont.....	766
<b>Bill No. 7 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Toth.....	769
<b>Bill No. 8 — The Gas Inspection Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Toth.....	773
Recorded Division (proceed to Bill 201).....	774
McMorris.....	774
<b>Bill No. 9 — The Electrical Inspection Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
D'Autremont.....	775
<b>Bill No. 11 — The Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
McMorris.....	777

## **CABINET MINISTERS**

Hon. L. Calvert  
Premier

Hon. P. Atkinson  
Minister of Crown Management Board  
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. J. Beatty  
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation  
Provincial Secretary

Hon. B. Belanger  
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. E. Cline  
Minister of Industry and Resources

Hon. J. Crofford  
Minister of Community Resources and Employment  
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues  
Minister Responsible for Gaming

Hon. D. Forbes  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for the Office of Energy Conservation

Hon. D. Higgins  
Minister of Labour  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. J. Nilson  
Minister of Health  
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. P. Prebble  
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

Hon. F. Quennell  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. C. Serby  
Deputy Premier

Hon. M. Sonntag  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister of Highways and Transportation

Hon. L. Taylor  
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. A. Thomson  
Minister of Learning  
Minister Responsible for Information Technology

Hon. H. Van Mulligen  
Minister of Finance

Hon. M. Wartman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization