



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

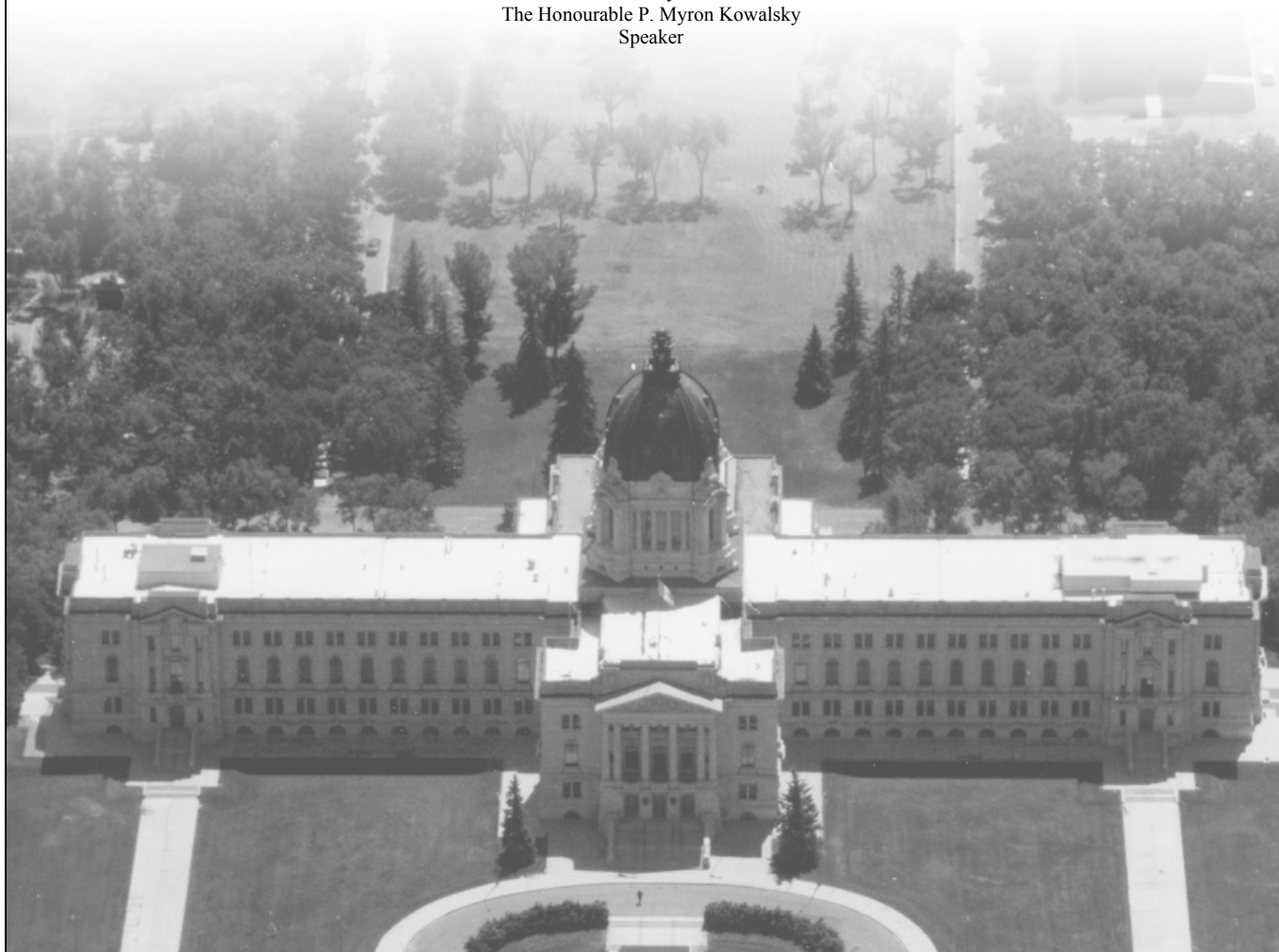
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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. Once again today I stand to present a petition on behalf of the constituents of Cypress Hills. The community of Burstall has been very prolific in signing these petitions. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to present this on behalf of the citizens of the community of Burstall.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of residents of the province of Saskatchewan concerned about the farm safety net program here in Saskatchewan:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and to contribute funds to the latest BSE assistance package released by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from the communities of Yellow Quill and Rose Valley. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today on behalf of people from my constituency who are concerned about the government's desire to fund the CAIS (Canadian agricultural income stabilization) program:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and to contribute funds to the latest BSE assistance package released by the federal government.

The people that have signed this petition are from Yellow Quill, Archerwill, and Kelvington. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition dealing with the underfunding of the CAIS program by the provincial government. 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 the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and that the provincial government contribute funds to the latest BSE assistance package released by the federal government.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Wolseley, Neudorf, and Lemberg.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions to present regarding the brick plant. I was out and I just got a new truckload so that's kind of nice. Regarding the brick plant in Claybank, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reconsider the decision to reduce funding to the Claybank Brick Plant.

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

Mr. Speaker, I've got a number of them here, and signatures range from down in the States to British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario. This plant is well visited from people all over Canada and United States. I so present.

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 from the constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are very concerned about the deplorable state of Highway 35 south of Weyburn, which is even worse now because the NDP have decided to turn it back to gravel. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to make the necessary repairs to Highway 35 north from the United States border in order to prevent injury or loss of life and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area.

And the petitions are signed, Mr. Speaker, by residents of the United States and all over Canada, but especially by the people in this immediate area who have to drive on this deplorable highway every day. I so present.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise with a petition from citizens in my constituency who are very upset with the way the government's going about to force school amalgamation.

And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good citizens of Glentworth, Fir Mountain, and McCord. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here, citizens concerned about the high cost of crop insurance:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Kenaston, Hanley, and Young. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition to revisit the effects of the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by this project, pay 100 per cent of the cost involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long-term effects in those areas, and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Grandora, Saskatoon, Langham, and Conquest. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again in the Assembly to present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan very concerned with the forced amalgamation of the school divisions. And the prayer reads as

follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of the town of Kerrobert. I so present.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned with the province's inadequate funding to the CAIS program.

The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and that funds to the latest BSE assistance package be provided as released by the federal government.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Neudorf, Stockholm, and Grayson. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of people concerned with the CAIS program:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and the provincial government contribute funds to the latest BSE assistance package released by the federal government.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Neudorf, Broadview, Summerberry, and Lemberg. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) they are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional papers nos. 72, 107, 637, 638, and 640.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 2, The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be heard in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive Committee of the Whole on this Bill. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time?

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 2 — The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 2, The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 9, The Electrical Inspection Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to

waive consideration in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 9 — The Electrical Inspection Amendment Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 9, The Electrical Inspection Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 68 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: several fire departments across my constituency have contacted my office regarding a letter received from SaskTel. The letter tells them that a brand new system of emergency communications must be set up by December 2006. The current SaskTel FleetNet 800 service will then be obsolete. Fire departments across Saskatchewan who have invested thousands of dollars in FleetNet will be forced to come up with more money to purchase new equipment.

Will SaskTel be providing any grants, loans, or other assistance to our rural fire departments and emergency service providers to help them pay for the new communications equipment?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 68 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what public consultation process took place prior to the recent changes of delivery of services and staffing in the Sun Country Regional Health Authority?

And also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 68 ask the government the following question:

Again to the Minister of Health: please provide the average percentage of wage increases awarded to administrative positions in the Sun Country Regional Health Authority for the fiscal year 2004-2005 and the total amount of money these increases cost for this fiscal year.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, I am very pleased and honoured to introduce some very special guests today, guests from Switzerland. We have with us the holder of the highest public office in Switzerland, Speaker Max Binder, who is the Speaker of the National Council and who hails from the canton of Zurich. And he is here along with Mrs. Ruth Binder, and I'd ask them to rise.

And along with them is His Excellency Anton Thalmann, who is the ambassador of Switzerland in Canada, and Mrs. Dominique Thalmann. With them also is Mr. Jean Claude Hagmann, Consul General in Toronto.

Speaker Binder is a farmer by trade. First elected as a member of the Communal Council in 1985, he was elected as a national councillor in 1991. He became Speaker in the year 2003. He and Mrs. Binder have three grown children.

His Excellency Anton Thalmann joined the Swiss foreign service in 1977. He has served in Brussels, Belgium, Berne, Tokyo, and Paris. He was the head of the Swiss mission to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) from 1999 to 2003 and was appointed Ambassador to Canada and the Bahamas in the year 2003. He and his wife have two daughters.

The delegation will spend two days in Regina, then continue on to Saskatoon and Ottawa. And they are accompanied by Mr. John Clerc, assistant secretary general of the National Council; Mr. Jean-François Pagé, visit coordinator, Parliament of Canada; Mrs. Mireille Khouri Aubé, who's the logistics officer, Parliament of Canada; and Ms. Tatjana Paul, interpreter.

(13:45)

Welcome to all from Switzerland and from Ottawa here to the legislature of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Any further introductions? I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of students seated in the western gallery. They're a group of students from the Rainbow Youth Centre, which is located in the fine constituency of Regina Elphinstone-Centre. They look to be fine ambassadors of that great institution, and they're accompanied by their teacher,

Terrance Sunshine. And I look forward to being able to spend some time with them shortly.

And as my old friend Keith Goulet used to say when groups would come to the legislature, I'd like to say a word to you in Cree, Ta wow. Welcome to your legislature.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a great deal of pride, and I would like to introduce to you and through you, seated in your gallery my two daughters. First, Tracy who has got some degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and pursuing another degree in the University of Regina, and my other daughter, Roxanne, who's got her doctor degree from the university of Saskatoon and is presently the chief resident of the Alberta Children's Hospital. So I'd ask you and all the members to welcome them.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Adley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of the House, a good friend of mine, Mr. Dave Lepard, from Saskatoon. Dave is long-time, retired employee of the University of Saskatchewan, and has for many years encouraged many different people to run for many different things: school boards, credit union boards, co-op boards. And he's definitely made Saskatchewan a better place, and he's also . . . A other claim to fame is that he's also married to my constituency assistant, Connie Lepard, who is the best and most experienced constituency assistant, working since 1986 for my predecessor for three terms and hopefully will be working another three terms with the current MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) of Saskatoon Sutherland.

And I'd ask all hon. members to welcome a good friend and someone that made Saskatchewan and Saskatoon a better place — Mr. Dave Lepard.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly my brother, Jerry, who is seated in the east gallery. Jerry, his wife Alice, two children — Terry, Dylan — and a wonderful granddaughter, Kara, reside here in Regina. And I'd just like all my colleagues to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been

looking up in your gallery, and we're certain that we see seated there Curt Phillips, who is a commissioner here in the legislature and greets many of us warmly as we go by the doorway to get into the building.

My seatmate later this afternoon is going to make a statement on an achievement that is remarkable for someone from Saskatchewan, and I just ask all members to congratulate and welcome Curt to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the legislature, I take great pride in introducing two people who've had a huge and significant impact on me.

Elder Mindy Lera, senior representative of the urban council from the Cowessess Reserve. We had lunch together today, and she called our building beautiful, awe-inspiring, and she knew this building in her younger years as the pile of bones. And Jean McGillibray from Naicam is actually a constituent of my colleague, the member for Melfort, but she's a friend of mine. It's her first visit to the legislature.

So please help me welcome them to their Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Joy McFarlane-Burton Joins National Association of Teachers

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past 28 years, the community of Biggar and the surrounding district have been privileged to have a dedicated teacher sharing her knowledge and talents in the art of singing. On November 8, Joy McFarlane-Burton learned that she had one more honour to add to an already impressive resumé when she was accepted into a worldwide organization of vocal instructors. Joy joins the ranks of over 6,000 members in Canada and the United States and 25 countries around the world as a full member in the National Association of Teachers.

This organization is the largest association of teachers of singing in the world. The Association of Teachers encourages the highest standards of vocal art and ethical principles in the teaching of singing. According to their maxim, the association promotes vocal education and research at all levels, both for the enrichment of the general public and for the professional advancement of the talented.

Over the years Joy has encouraged and developed the talents of many performers in and around Biggar, and there's none more deserving of the honour bestowed on her through the membership in the National Association of Teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Assembly join with me in congratulating Joy McFarlane-Burton for her dedication to teaching and her recognition of this esteemed organization.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Achievements of Saskatoon Debaters at Canadian National Debating Championships

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Society, or SEDA, is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that promotes speech and debate among the students of this province. Since 1974, the association has helped shape thousands of Saskatchewan students into self-confident, responsible adults with the ability to think critically and to assert and defend their beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, this year SEDA sent its first official delegation to the Canadian national debating championships where 50 teams from eight provinces competed for the national title. And I'm pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, Kevin Hovdestad, Vinay Kumar Mysore, Jennifer Wang, and Vanessa Corkal, who are all students at Walter Murray Collegiate Institute in my constituency of Saskatoon Eastview, were members of the Saskatchewan delegation.

I particularly want to congratulate Kevin Hovdestad and Vinay Kumar Mysore who went undefeated in six preliminary rounds and the semi-finals to win a berth in the final debate of the tournament. And though they were narrowly defeated in the final, the judges' split decision going in favour of their opponents from Nova Scotia, Kevin and Vinay can be extremely proud of their performance during the course of the tournament. Not only did they come within a hair's breadth of bringing the Canadian national debating championship title home to Saskatchewan, but they also earned an invitation to the prestigious Oxford Union Schools debating championships in England next spring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin, Vinay, and all the members of Saskatchewan's delegation on their skills and their accomplishments. These young people are some of Saskatchewan's best and brightest. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Diefenbaker Homestead

Mr. Dearborn: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each day as we pass through the rotunda, a statue on display serves to remind us of the contributions made by one great Canadian, John George Diefenbaker. As we all know, John Diefenbaker was the only Saskatchewan resident to be elected prime minister of Canada.

Diefenbaker laid the foundations for the compassionate Canada in which we now live . . . the Canadian Bill of Rights which

was the predecessor to our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He extended the franchise to all First Nations people, appointed the first female cabinet minister, appointed the first Aboriginal senator, and he expanded the old age pensions.

And it's with heavy heart the disregard of John Diefenbaker's memory is exemplified in the abhorrent condition of the Diefenbaker homestead home. It has sat neglected for a number of years, closed to the public. And in the November 17 edition of the *National Post*, the poor state of the Diefenbaker homestead was evident. The neglect should bring shame to this government for not doing its part to honour Mr. Diefenbaker and his achievement as a politician.

I was happy to read in yesterday's *Leader-Post* that the building will be moving to the Sukanen Ship Pioneer Village and Museum near Moose Jaw, where it will get what this government is not willing to provide — the proper respect and treatment it deserves.

I would hope that John Diefenbaker's memory is thought of in our upcoming centennial, as the only prime minister of Canada, and would ask all members to recognize his achievements.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Curt Phillips Competes in New York City Marathon

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2004, Curt Phillips, a commissionaire here in the legislature, took part in the New York City Marathon. Curt has worked in this building for the last 10 years and he's an avid runner.

Mr. Speaker, once word got out that Curt would be participating in the New York City Marathon, employees of the Legislative Building helped raised money to cover some of Curt's travel costs. And it was a tremendous outpouring of support.

Mr. Speaker, Curt was the only runner from Regina that took part in the race, and one of only a handful from Saskatchewan. He was amazed by the reception he received along the road from the people of New York. He was wearing a big Canadian flag on his shirt and one of the phrases that he'll always remember is: welcome to the Bronx, Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Curt completed the 26.2 mile race in 3 hours, 56 minutes, and 23 seconds, meaning his finish time was faster than more than 80 per cent of the 35,000 participants. Anyone who knows what . . . that runs knows what an accomplishment this is.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Curt Phillips for his performance in the New York City Marathon, and for representing Regina and the province of Saskatchewan so well. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Dr. Dennis Kendel Receives Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask members to join me in congratulating Dr. Dennis Kendel, a constituent of Saskatoon Southeast, who earlier this week received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Dr. Kendel is currently the registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Saskatchewan and has had a distinguished and illustrious career.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kendel has served as president of the Medical Council of Canada, president of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, has served as the board Chair of Saskatchewan Blue Cross, and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Health Services Utilization Commission, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Health Quality Council.

He is recognized nationally in the area of professional assessment and regulation. He has raised the standard of medical care in Canada and was instrumental in developing a national policy, that all physicians be required to complete a minimum of two years accredited postgraduate medical education and a Medical Council of Canada qualifying examination.

He has worked hard in his field and in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, he has been very active in other community areas. He has played a leading role in the review of the independent committee reviewing the personal injury protection plan, is a lay leader in the Faith Lutheran Church in Saskatoon, and has served as campaign Chair for the Salvation Army fund raising for several years.

I would like ask all members to join with me in congratulating Dr. Kendel in his recognition in joining the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Dewdney.

Craik Eco-Village

Mr. Yates: — Well, well, well, Mr. Speaker. More good news for Saskatchewan, this time emanating from the fine community of Craik.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001 the town of Craik and the rural municipality of Craik No. 222 began work on a sustainable living project in their community, Mr. Speaker. Sustainable alternatives related to land use, food and fibre production, shelter, energy generation and conservation, water and waste management, recycling, and more will be featured in the four key activities of this project: eco-centre, outreach and education, community action, and the eco-village.

Mr. Speaker, the words of the people of Craik speak best for themselves and I quote:

We believe that this initiative has the potential to be a leading example for communities (across our province)

seeking to (improve and) move into a new period of revitalization and sustainability. We realize that this is an ambition project for (the) rural community but history shows Craik to be a progressive community that addresses challenges in (an) innovative way(s).

Mr. Speaker, this project is pure Saskatchewan — people coming together as a community to solve a larger common problem as we did in our history, Mr. Speaker.

A number of our members have visited this centre and many more should. And, Mr. Speaker, we invite all members to visit the centre, enjoy the great food and hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Broomball Championship in Odessa

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you and the House regarding a small community in my constituency. Odessa, Saskatchewan was the home to over 240 athletes last weekend, November 11 to 13, as the community of Odessa hosted the Western Canadian Broomball Championships. Teams from Manitoba, Alberta, Yellowknife, as well as two teams from Saskatchewan were treated to the warm hospitality of rural Saskatchewan in particularly Odessa, Saskatchewan.

The results of the ladies' pool were as follows: the Hexx from Manitoba took first place, the Edmonton Extreme took second, and the Odessa Flames took third in ladies' division. In the men's division, the Edmonton Express took first, Saskatoon First Generals took second, and the Calgary Blazers took third.

(14:00)

Mr. Speaker, Odessa was not maybe the community that people would first think of for a broomball championship to be held, but Odessa has been well known in the broomball circles as a winner of many provincial championships and even national championships over the years.

The tremendous successful weekend wrapped up with an awards ceremony and banquet attended by over 300 people on Saturday night, followed by entertainment and a cabaret. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Annette Gaetz and all the volunteers from the Odessa community as well as the Indian Head community that showed the western hospitality that Saskatchewan is so well known for. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Sale of NewLeaf Potatoes

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister

Responsible for SaskWater: in 1998 SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) was strongly encouraging potato producers in the Outlook-Lucky Lake area to grow a variety of potatoes known as NewLeaf potatoes. In fact, SPUDCO had a very large inventory of NewLeaf potatoes and was selling them to potato producers for seed. SPUDCO was telling the producers that there was a large and growing market for NewLeaf potatoes so there would be no problem marketing all of the NewLeaf potatoes that they could grow.

Mr. Speaker, how many producers did SPUDCO sell NewLeaf potatoes to, and what quantity of NewLeaf potatoes were sold as seed potatoes by SPUDCO?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. member for the question. I don't have those specific details with me today. I'll undertake to have an answer to that question for you tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very surprised that the minister doesn't know about NewLeaf potatoes because they are a genetically modified variety produced by Monsanto. Apparently SPUDCO bought a large quantity of these GMO (genetically modified organism) potatoes and then sold them as seed potatoes to the local producers. But here's the problem, Mr. Speaker. In 1998 these NewLeaf GMO potatoes were deregistered by Agriculture Canada. So all of the potatoes that SPUDCO convinced producers to grow became virtually worthless.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: how many producers did SPUDCO sell NewLeaf potatoes to, and how much of these GMO potatoes did the NDP (New Democratic Party) dump on unsuspecting producers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the member, he deserves a very clear answer to that question, and you will know by tomorrow the precise number of producers that these potatoes were sold to. But let me make it clear, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I believe once the member's taken notice, that is it. I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try again and perhaps the minister has more knowledge in another area. In the spring of 1998 when the NDP was going around selling these GMO potatoes to producers, they knew that this variety was under review by Agriculture Canada, and the NDP had this huge, huge stockpile of GMO potatoes that

were about to become worthless. So what did they do with them? Well they sold them to local seed potato growers.

They said that there was a huge market for them. This doesn't sound good because it simply wasn't true. By the fall, those potatoes were worthless. And I find it astonishing that the minister knows nothing about it. This is just one more deception from this immoral, this unethical and dishonest government. Why was the NDP . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. Order. When it comes to parliamentary language, the members ought to keep a couple of things in mind. Number one . . . Order, please. Number one is you should not ought to have . . . utter remarks that are personal. Number two, the members ought to also keep in mind whether members could be offended by their remarks in any way.

And I would ask the member . . . Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. And where remarks are not necessarily political but more related to character. So I would recognize once again the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that we have a very, very, very impersonal government; it doesn't care very much about people and their concerns and their problems. My question to the minister — and surely to goodness he knows the answer — why was the NDP selling worthless GMO potatoes to local producers? We want an answer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Mr. Speaker, the member is implying motives to SaskWater that he should be careful about implying. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, SaskWater's intent in this whole endeavour was to facilitate the development of a substantial potato industry in the Lake Diefenbaker area. And sheds were built, Mr. Speaker, that have facilitated some 5,000 additional acres of potato production that did not exist before.

And, Mr. Speaker, this government expended significant efforts to restructure . . . to assist the Lake Diefenbaker Potato Corporation in its restructuring. And that should not be forgotten by the member opposite. So the motives that he's applying to SaskWater I think are highly questionable, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosetown.

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that that minister would justify duping local producers to get themselves off the hook for some potato barns that they shouldn't have built. Mr. Speaker, the callous indifference to producers in Saskatchewan is just unbelievable, but there's an even greater concern that I want the minister to address. Not only did the NDP government try to dupe local producers, they also dumped some of these GMO potatoes into the commercial market, for human consumption.

Will the minister tell us what quantity of GMO potatoes were sold to Pak-Wel right here in Saskatchewan, what quantity were sold to the Bassano Growers in Alberta, and what quantity of these GMO potatoes would have found their way into the grocery stores right here in Saskatchewan and have been consumed by Saskatchewan consumers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite says that these potato sheds should never have been built. And there's no question about the fact that our government made a number of mistakes in undertaking this venture. But for the member opposite to say that the sheds should never have been built is a strange comment given that many residents of his constituency, Mr. Speaker, are benefiting from the existence of these storage sheds today.

And I just want to point out to the hon. member that at least five of these seven sheds are now full and that they have facilitated and expanded potato production in the Lake Diefenbaker area from 2,000 acres in 1996 to 7,000 acres today. So clearly, Mr. Speaker, there has been significant economic benefit to local residents.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister a question about consumers in Saskatchewan knowing what was on the table that they were eating and he skated so far away from that question that it's insulting to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, another question to the minister. He's struck out on every one so far. Let's see if he can answer this one. Were these companies informed that they were buying GMO potatoes from SPUDCO? Were they informed? And secondly, was the Saskatchewan public informed that they were eating GMO potatoes from SPUDCO?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member deserves a very clear answer to that question. He will have it for tomorrow and I'll take notice.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister should know a lot about this because these things aren't supposed to happen in the dark. In fact, for every shipment of SPUDCO's GMO potatoes that were shipped out of Saskatchewan, there would have had to have been a ministerial exemption issued by the federal Department of Agriculture. That's the rules. That's

what SPUDCO was supposed to have.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister please table these ministerial exemptions so that we can see if the NDP government correctly identified the variety of potatoes or if, again, when it comes to SPUDCO they did a big cover-up, and that they covered up the fact that they were shipping GMO potatoes that were used for human consumption.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've said to the member, he deserves clear answers to the questions that are being asked about whether SPUDCO was involved in the sale of GM (genetically modified) potatoes on the . . . for human consumption, and he will get those answers in this House very shortly. I commit that I will have a response for him. I want to make sure he gets accurate information, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I'm taking notice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, Tom and Dave and Margaret Dolman are three of the potato growers who were swindled by this NDP's GMO potato scam. In 1998 . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. The member ought to be careful with his language with respect to the type of language that is used. In here, he has the freedom of speech. I'm not trying to restrict his manner of speech, but I will insist on him using parliamentary language. The member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Well, Mr. Speaker, these people were hurt by the NDP's GMO potato scam. In 1998, SPUDCO convinced the Dolmans to seed 350 acres of NewLeaf potatoes and they proceeded to sell the Dolmans \$60,000 worth of NewLeaf potatoes. Even then, at that time, the NDP knew that these genetically modified potatoes were under review by Ag Canada. But did they warn the Dolmans? Did they discuss it with them? Did they mention it to them? No. And I think we all know what happened next. They were deregistered by Agriculture Canada.

The market disappeared overnight; the Dolmans lost their investment. And do you know why they lost their investment, why they lost thousands of dollars? Because they trusted this government; they trusted those ministers in that front row. They trusted the government that they would tell them the truth.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Will the NDP compensate the Dolmans for this deception?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, before we . . . first I think we should conclude whether or not in fact any deception has occurred. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, and that . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order. Order. I recognize the member for SaskWater . . . the Minister for SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before members start using words like deception, we should make sure that we have a very clear accounting of the facts. And that, Mr. Speaker . . . that, Mr. Speaker, is why I'm taking notice of these questions today, and why I'm also assuring members that they will get an answer in this House as they're entitled to, Mr. Speaker. But I think members should be careful about the words they use. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Brkich: — The only way we're going to get to the bottom of this mess is through a public inquiry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brkich: — You know, we hear this NDP government get up and talk about how much they've helped the potato industry. Well let's just look how they've helped the Dolmans. First they sold the Dolmans \$60,000 worth of GMO potatoes, potatoes they knew that could be deregistered by Ag Canada. Then they told the Dolmans there was a huge market for these potatoes — don't worry about it, we will look after them, we will get them sold for you — even though they knew, Mr. Speaker, that that wasn't true.

The Dolmans wound up with thousands of pounds of potatoes they couldn't sell; they lost thousands of dollars. And the next spring, what did the NDP government do? What did they do, Mr. Speaker? They forced them into bankruptcy, that's what they did, Mr. Speaker. They helped them . . . that's how they helped them. They helped them right into bankruptcy.

(14:15)

Mr. Speaker, the NDP deceived the Dolmans. They convinced them to buy these worthless GMO potatoes and then they forced them into bankruptcy. What, Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier going to do to compensate the Dolmans?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question. There were a lot of actors in the potato industry . . . Well let me use a different word as members have pointed out that perhaps that's not the best word. There were a lot of stakeholders in the potato industry, Mr. Speaker, who lost money, including the people of Saskatchewan for which we apologize, Mr. Speaker — \$28 million lost there.

The Lake Diefenbaker Potato Corporation lost money and faced bankruptcy. Individual investors and farmers, Mr. Speaker, lost money. But, Mr. Speaker, there's no question about the fact that bad business decisions were made by government; and I might add, by the Lake Diefenbaker Potato Corporation. But the question of motives is a very different, is a very different matter. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that the members should be careful about the motives that he implies to SaskWater.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Brkich: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Dolmans have launched a lawsuit against this NDP government and they would like it settled. But it appears the NDP would rather drag its feet, run up huge legal bills for the NDP law firm, and put these people through more grief. Will the minister settle this lawsuit immediately, or does he plan to run the Dolmans through 52 days for questioning and 30,000 questions like he did in the other previous SPUDCO case that he lost?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Certainly, Mr. Speaker, discussions I believe have already been underway with respect to the potential of an out-of-court settlement in this regard and I am definitely willing to look at an out-of-court settlement in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

I think it was in the public interest that we settled on an out-of-court basis with the investors in Judith River and the Lake Diefenbaker Potato Corporation. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that we would be well advised, and I've given direction to my officials, to explore an out-of-court settlement with the Dolmans.

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

Call for Public Inquiry into Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has just confirmed that the taxpayers are going to be, are going to need to be on the hook again for an out-of-court settlement because of misdeeds by this government, because of how they treated the Dolmans. Mr. Speaker, he's just confirmed that.

The minister has also said today that for him this whole thing turns on motives. Maybe even he might agree with a public inquiry if he had to . . . if he had reason to question the motives of his colleagues. Well he ought not to question them, Mr. Speaker; he ought to just look down the row and look at the former minister responsible for SPUDCO. And then he ought to read the Premier's report where the Premier admitted exactly what the motives were: the motives for this were deception, Mr. Speaker. The motives for . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Before we proceed any further, I would ask the member from Swift Current to rise in his place and withdraw that statement.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the use of the word deception.

The Speaker: — I then recognize the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — What the Premier's report into SPUDCO said quite clearly — this is the Premier's report, Mr. Speaker — is that the government, the NDP government, the NDP minister, didn't tell the truth about SPUDCO. That's what the Premier's report says. That's the motive.

So with all of that before the legislature today, to the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan: does he finally have the courage to do the right thing and call a public inquiry into the SPUDCO scandal?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all the Leader of the Opposition does not accurately describe what is in Mr. Perrins's report. Mr. Perrins simply said that the government didn't accurately communicate the nature of the relationship between SPUDCO and Con-Force, Mr. Speaker, and acted for far too long before that mistake was corrected, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, the words that the member uses with respect to deception are hardly accurate. The government's motive in establishing and investing in the potato industry in the Lake Diefenbaker area was to encourage diversification. We had \$200 million, Mr. Speaker, worth of irrigation infrastructure. And we wanted to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that that infrastructure was truly used and that farmers in the local area could benefit in terms of value-added from that infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. And that was the motive for investing in the potato industry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is pretty interesting. We have the minister, and I assume supported by his Premier, saying — characterizing — the fact that the government on purpose refused to accurately communicate with people. They're characterizing that as anything but the word that I used, that you called me out of order for, Mr. Speaker. That's what that is.

You know, in Swift Current and across the province, where we grew up, where the members grew up, if wilfully you refuse to communicate accurately, we have a word for that, Mr. Speaker. There's a word for that. And that is what is at the heart of this scandal — not just the \$35 million of taxpayers' money that has been squandered by the NDP, but the fact that they didn't tell the truth about it when they were asked direct questions. How

now can we expect anything more from them than that continued pattern of behaviour? That's why, Mr. Speaker, we need a third party, independent, public inquiry. This is 10 times worse than the sponsorship scandal that's currently the subject of an inquiry in Ottawa.

Will the Premier do the right thing and call an inquiry into the SPUDCO scandal?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the SaskWater Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Mr. Speaker, I just first of all want to say very clearly, that government . . . the Perrins report said that government misrepresented the relationship between SPUDCO and Con-Force, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, to broaden that and suggest that there was misrepresentation in other areas, that is not . . . The Perrins report does not suggest that in any way, Mr. Speaker — in any way.

And second, Mr. Speaker, just talking about misrepresentation for a moment. The Leader of the Opposition has characterized the SPUDCO loss as the biggest loss in Saskatchewan history, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I find that interesting because this member who's asking this question now was working for government in the late 1980s, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, when the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan was sold off and the government of the day lost . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's a pattern of behaviour with the NDP government . . . Mr. Speaker, it's a pattern of behaviour with this current Premier and with this NDP government that continues to repeat itself.

The Premier campaigned on lowering taxes for the province of Saskatchewan. I guess he didn't accurately communicate the truth because he increased people's taxes, Mr. Speaker. He promised lower tuition fees but I guess he didn't accurately communicate the truth because tuition fees have increased, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Not long ago, in December of this year, we learned today that the Premier promised to come clean on the Future Is Wide Open campaign. He promised the media . . . He's on tape promising to come clean on the Future is Wide Open campaign. Today he says he's changed his mind; he won't tell the truth about that either, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — I guess he didn't accurately communicate the truth in that regard, Mr. Speaker. Well I suspect in the light of this that the people of this province are waiting to accurately communicate something to the Premier, and that is we need a government in Saskatchewan we can trust, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Once again, in light of the GMO revelations today, in light of what we've heard from your minister, will the Premier, will the Premier call a public inquiry into the SPUDCO scandal?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — When the member opposite from Swift Current says that we should come clean with the people of Saskatchewan, the member opposite from Swift Current, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite from Swift Current should come clean.

On SPUDCO we've told you that there's been two Provincial Auditor's reports. There's been the Ernst & Young report. And there has been, Mr. Speaker, a police investigation into the issue without any criminal charges. No criminal charges, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite is hypocritical in his comments because he says this. Here's an individual, Mr. Speaker, who worked for a government for four years, Mr. Speaker, worked as a member of a government and then, Mr. Speaker, takes a severance from that very same government, takes a severance payment. And then, Mr. Speaker, goes on, Mr. Speaker, goes on and receives a provincial grant in an investment in his community and receives a federal grant from the federal government, Mr. Speaker. And both of those, Mr. Speaker, both of those ventures today disappeared. They disappeared, Mr. Speaker.

And why would you attack the integrity of everyone . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, please.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 75 — The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Crown Management Board.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 75, The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act be now introduced and read the first time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister for the Crown Management Board that Bill No. 75, The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 82 — The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2004

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 82, The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 82, The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 83 — The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2004

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 83, The Medical Profession Amendment Act be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 83, The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Bill No. 84 — The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les services de l'état civil

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 84, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2), be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 84, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act 2004, be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

(14:30)

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to move a motion under Rule 49.

The Speaker: — The member has requested to move a motion under Rule 49. Would the member indicate the nature of the motion.

MOTION UNDER RULE 49

Sale of NewLeaf Potatoes to Producers

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again today we've discovered through question period that there are significant issues involving in this case, GMO potatoes, Mr. Speaker, and how those potatoes were represented to producers;

a lawsuit that has resulted from it; and word from the government that they may settle that lawsuit adding to the total loss to taxpayers on SPUDCO.

Mr. Speaker, this remains the biggest business scandal in the history in the province of Saskatchewan involving the government. It remains tenfold greater than the sponsorship scandal, Mr. Speaker, that is plaguing Ottawa right now, that's the subject of an inquiry. It is clearly, in terms of confidence in our province by outside investors, the most important issue that we could deal with at this point in the legislative proceedings. And so, Mr. Speaker, that is the nature of the motion that we wish to move.

The Speaker: — Thank you. The member for Swift Current, Leader of the Opposition, has requested for leave to introduce a motion under Rule 49. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave has not been granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Dewdney, the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table a response to written question no. 511.

The Speaker: — The response to question no. 511 has been tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader. Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, to facilitate the work of the Human Services Committee and the House Services Committee, 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 10 a.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:33.

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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
Minister of Rural Revitalization

Hon. M. Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
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 and Food