



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

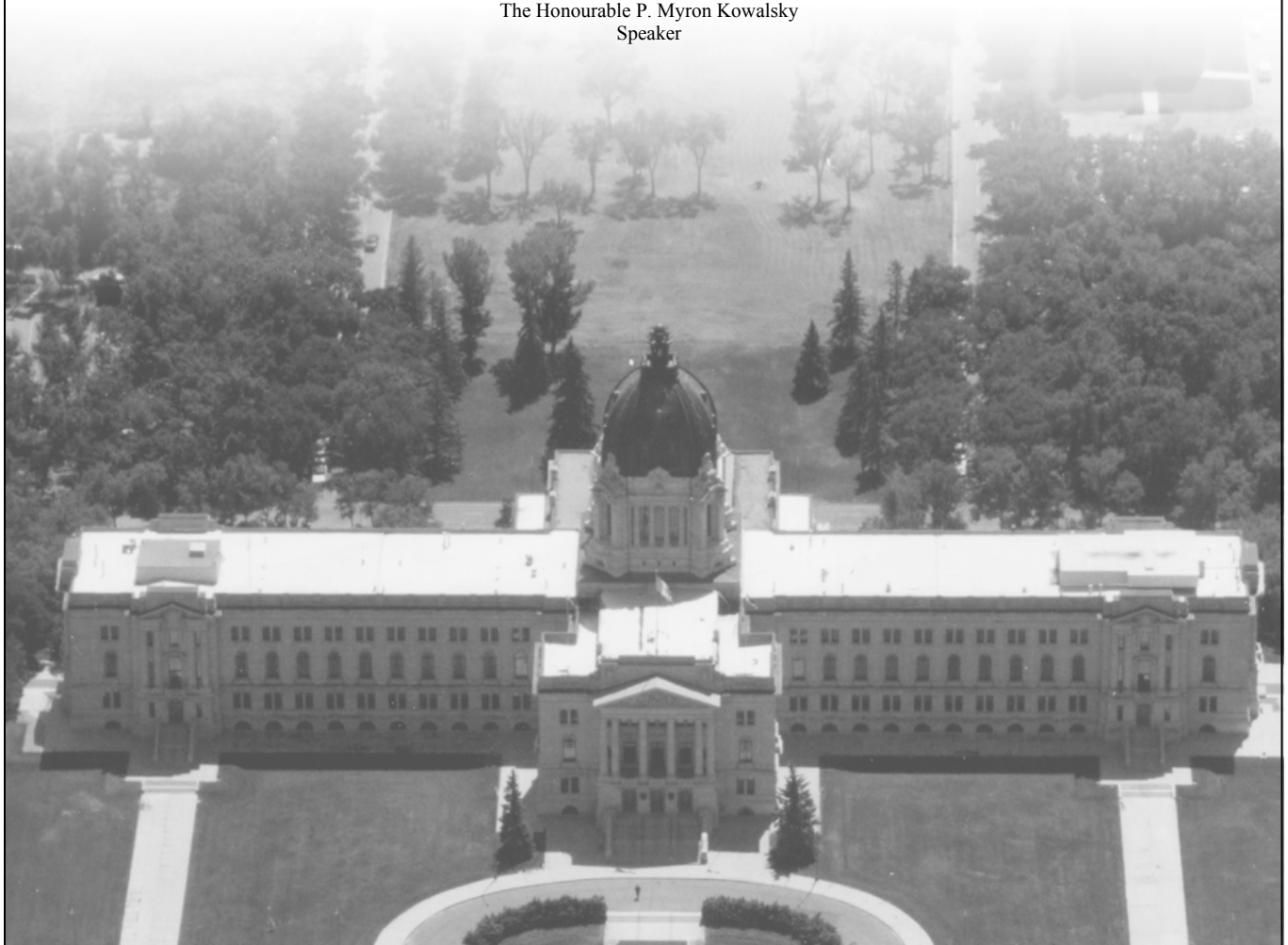
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today it's my pleasure to present a petition to this Assembly and lay it on the table regarding forced school amalgamations in the province. And I read the prayer:

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.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petitions I present today are signed by the good people from Moosomin, Welwyn, Rocanville, and Wapella. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Today I rise to present the first of many hundreds of names on petitions regarding the condition of Highway 32 in the north part of the Cypress Hills constituency:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petitions today are signed by constituents from the communities of Lancer, Abbey, Swift Current, and several other points along Highway 32, including Cabri and Sceptre.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition to present on behalf of a number of my constituents who have been through two school amalgamations already. 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, all the signatures on this petition come from the community of Preeceville. I so present.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of petitioners concerned about the ongoing SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) scandal of the government. Their petition 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 hold an independent judicial inquiry into the SPUDCO scandal.

The petitioners today, Mr. Speaker, are from Yorkton, Radville, and the capital city of Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition calling for a halt to the forced amalgamation of school divisions. The people are concerned that the size of the proposed school division is far too large to retain any local input into the education system. The prayer of the petition reads:

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, there are a lot of signatures here. They are from the communities of Rosetown, Elrose, Fiske, Harris, Ruthilda, and Brock. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to do with the forced amalgamation by the NDP (New Democratic Party) of school divisions. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray 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.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the community of Duff, Melville, and Meadow Lake.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition

on behalf of citizens from Fort Qu'Appelle and Dysart regarding the CAIS (Canadian agricultural income stabilization) program. I will read the prayer from that petition:

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 in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition on behalf of those citizens of this province concerned about forced amalgamation of 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.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Forget and Stoughton. 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 of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are very concerned about the amalgamation of school boards. 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 rescind its decision to force school boards to amalgamate.

And the petition is signed by residents of Weyburn and Trossachs. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition here dealing with forced amalgamation school divisions:

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.

Signed by the good citizens from Moose Jaw, Dilke, Penzance, Holdfast, and Meadow Lake. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition from constituents opposed to reduction of health care services in Wilkie. 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 ensure that the Wilkie health centre and special care home maintain, at the very least, their current level of services.

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie. I so present.

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

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and present a petition regarding the underfunding of the CAIS program. It 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 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, this is signed by residents of Cut Knife, Baldwinton, Maidstone, and Lloydminster; that would be on the Saskatchewan side.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in the Assembly and present a petition on behalf of citizens opposed to the forced amalgamation of 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Kerrobert, Luseland, and Macklin, Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to rise in this Assembly and present petitions on behalf of citizens concerned with the forced amalgamation of school divisions. 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, signatures to this petition come from the communities of Grayson, Melville, Killaly, and several sheets signed by residences of Meadow Lake. 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 paper nos. 107, 637, 638, 640, and 647.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Ms. Draude: — I give notice that I shall on day no. 69 move first reading of Bill No. 204, An Act to Recognize First Nations' Women.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — (The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you today a number of students — grade 9 students, 21 to be exact — that have travelled all the way from Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan. And with them today on this visit to the Assembly is Ron Skage, who is the principal, I believe; Gerry McCallum; and I think that's Ron's daughter, Jacquie. I'm not sure if it's his wife or his daughter, but I'll figure that out later on. But I want to thank the three chaperones for taking the time to travel a long ways from Pinehouse to Regina to be here.

I also want to recognize a dear friend of mine, Harry Lariviere, one of his daughters here — maybe she can give us a wave. Harry has been . . . And other family members are there as well. He's been certainly a very good friend of mine from Pinehouse Lake.

And I just introduced them and told them in Cree, Mr. Speaker, that to be proud of where they're from, whether they're Métis or First Nations citizens, and that this building is a place that they should not fear. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to the members of this Assembly community leaders who have joined us in this Assembly in your gallery this afternoon.

I'd like to introduce to you in, I guess about the fourth row up in your gallery, on the right of this particular delegation, on your right, is the president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Warren Michelson. Also with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce: Mike Carr; Larry Seiferling; and Jennifer Rooke, who does research with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

I'd like all members to join with me in welcoming these people here to their Assembly and to thank them for the work that they are doing on behalf of the economy in the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture, the member for Regina Qu'Appelle.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to this House through you, 29 students from Winston Knoll Collegiate, which is in northwest Regina in my constituency. They are accompanied by their teacher, Tana Mitchell. And I'm looking forward to visiting with them following this session of question period. And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to the Assembly, and we hope that they have a wonderful time while they are here. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to introduce to you and to all colleagues here in the legislature, two constituents of mine from Lloydminster: Lori Creech — and I would ask Lori to stand up so we could identify her in your gallery — and her husband, Fergus, is with her. Lori has had extensive experience both in the television, electronic media in Lloydminster. She decided to go to Australia to expand her horizons, do that kind of work there. And funny thing, what happens, she acquired a husband in Australia, so we welcome Fergus as well. Fergus is in the process now of getting permanent residency status. And so we welcome both to the legislature here. Please help me welcome them.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour, the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to all members of the Assembly a group of people who are visiting and are here this afternoon in your gallery. This group is just completing a very successful five-year program with Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation to upgrade energy performance on our core facilities. I would like the Assembly to welcome Luis Rodrigues, the general manager,

Energy Services Canada of Honeywell; Blair Adams and Ron Bews of Honeywell Regina; Garry Tollefson and Cory Gelowitz of SaskPower Energy Solutions, and Howard Arndt of Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation.

(13:45)

Mr. Speaker, the building that we're currently in is a fine example of the work that's been done by this group over the last number of years. Many of the upgrades here such as the installation of high efficiency electric motors, fan systems, and computer-based building control systems have resulted in a 17 per cent reduction in energy usage for cooling, heating, and ventilation. Lighting upgrades, which are very visible, incorporate new technologies into heritage fixtures and reduce energy consumption by 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, this team has done some wonderful work across the province in all of our Saskatchewan Property Management facilities, and in five years 70 per cent of provincial buildings have been upgraded to more efficient energy use.

So I'd like to thank them for all their work and welcome them to the legislature this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health, the member for Regina Lakeview.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to all members of the legislature a number of people who are here with the Saskatchewan Lung Association. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and they will be hosting us at a reception later this afternoon in room 218.

The members of the board and some of their staff and guests are here: Marilyn Reddy; Lorne Procyshen; Gayle Procyshen; Violet Stanger, who is one of our former colleagues here; Pat Smith; Sharon Kremenik; Eric Diehl; Gayle Diehl; Barb Charbonneau; and Guy Charbonneau. I ask all members to welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier, the member for Riversdale.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to introduce to all members today a group of students from the University of Regina seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're part of a program at the U of R (University of Regina) called leadership and dialogue.

The current theme of their course is society and environment. This particular program enables students at the U of R to pursue some of their own projects in society and environment but also have opportunity to meet with people involved in public life and the arts and so on.

I know they've had a recent opportunity to meet with the Leader of the Opposition. I'm told they've met with the mayor

of Regina, the federal Minister of Finance, and today I very much look forward to a meeting that we'll have later this afternoon. So I would ask all members to welcome the students and their prof who is with them today, Jean Shami. Welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Once again, I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, very quickly to join with the Premier in his welcome to the students and the professor from the U of R. The Premier's right; I did have the chance to meet with these students, and we did have quite an extensive dialogue. And they have . . . The Premier's in for a challenging afternoon if my experience was any indication because they have some very challenging and thought-provoking questions. I'm sure they will of the Premier. But we would like to join with him in welcoming the students here to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly three individuals seated in your gallery. We have with us today Gunnar Passmore, Bert Ottenson, and John MacLeod, three very strong trade unionists in the province of Saskatchewan, and I'd like to welcome them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. It is my pleasure today . . . I was going to introduce the three individuals just introduced. I won't, because they were. But it is my honour today to recognize a former colleague in a former life when I worked for . . . in fact we both worked for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and Marilyn Reddy was the health nurse of Sask Wheat Pool. Marilyn, it is great to see you here, and I know we'll be seeing you a bit later on in the day with the Lung Association.

I ask all colleagues to give a special welcome to my former colleague, Marilyn Reddy.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Soybean Processing Facility to Open in Wynyard

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased to announce to this Assembly that A-1 Soybean Enterprises Ltd., a new company from China, will be setting up shop in Wynyard. It was announced that the company has purchased two factories in Wynyard that will create between 50 and 60 jobs for local

residents. In addition, about a dozen soybean processing specialists will also be moving to Wynyard. The new soybean plant will produce soybean, soy energy drinks, and other soy peptide products initially for export to the massive Chinese market overseas.

I'm pleased to say that I've actively supported this new business initiative from its beginnings, working closely with local Regina investment broker, Eugene Frank; Wynyard mayor, Sharon Armstrong; and company president, Simon Lim. This is definitely good news for rural Saskatchewan and my constituency.

I must also add that the former NDP MP (Member of Parliament), Lorne Nystrom, has also been involved in this project and has been retained as an officer with A-1 Soybean. If you can get an NDP MP away from old party philosophy, Mr. Speaker, there may be some hope for the members opposite.

Please join me in congratulating A-1 Soybean Enterprises on investing in the future of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our visitors in the galleries, but I would remind all visitors that during the debates and proceedings, from now on, visitors are invited to listen but not to participate in any way, including applause. Thank you.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Concern for the Volatile Situation in Ukraine

Mr. Iwanchuk: — (The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.)

Mr. Speaker, as a Saskatchewan citizen whose roots in the Ukraine, I want to express my concern for the events that are now unfolding there. Even as we speak, thousands of Ukrainian citizens have taken to the streets to protest the results of the recent election. There are serious allegations of electoral violations that, if true, mean the democratic process in the Ukraine is in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a special relationship with the people of Ukraine. We are the first and only province to develop a state-to-province memorandum of understanding with Ukraine — the intent of which is to assist in the development of agricultural programs, health programs, education programs, and, Mr. Speaker, programs associated with democratic reform.

Mr. Speaker, we support the position taken by Prime Minister Martin. And on behalf of all Saskatchewan citizens of Ukrainian descent, I wish to unequivocally express my heartfelt and sincere wish that the current situation in Ukraine be resolved peacefully and in accordance with the principles of justice and democracy.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal Presented to Sergeant John Hodgson

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to acknowledge the achievements of Sergeant John Hodgson of the Moosomin RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) detachment. On September 17, Sergeant Hodgson, along with 29 other recipients, was presented with the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal in recognition of 25 years of exemplary services ensuring the safety and security of Saskatchewan citizens.

Sergeant Hodgson's first posting was to Humboldt 33 years ago. His career has taken him to Moosomin, Nipawin, Regina, back to Humboldt, and finally to Moosomin where he has spent 15 years of his career.

Sergeant Hodgson says he has seen many changes in policing over the 33 years. One major change came in the way dispatch contacted officers on patrol when calls came in. Originally the town had a tower that flashed a red signal telling officers to report to the office. As Sergeant Hodgson says, with a laugh, the technology has definitely improved.

Sergeant Hodgson's career has had some rewarding experiences, including policing the athletes' village at the 1988 Olympics at Calgary as well as providing security for two royal visits to this province, and specifically to Regina. Sergeant Hodgson and his wife, Val, have been and continue to be community-minded people. If there is an example of community policing, Sergeant Hodgson certainly fills the role.

I would like to congratulate Sergeant Hodgson on the recognition he has received as one of this year's Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal recipients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Seniors Housing Built in Regina Coronation Park

Mr. Trew: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, good housing promotes stability both in families and in communities and it goes a long way to addressing issues related to crime, education, and safety.

For seniors, proper housing means living with pride and dignity and with a good quality of life. That's why I'm particularly happy that one of the three affordable housing projects now under construction in Regina will be a seniors life lease apartment complex in the area I'm honoured to represent, Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Speaker, the Highland Manor project will provide housing for 50 households in a mix of one- and two-bedroom suites. All of the suites are built to ensure ease of mobility and two of the suites are going to be fully accessible.

This project has been some years in the making and the on-the-ground organizing advocates grew from the first moment

someone said, what we really need is affordable, safe housing for seniors. And the Affordable Senior Housing Committee consists of the chairperson, Bernice Fjoser, Al Fjoser, Irene Pittendrigh, Bob Pittendrigh, Alice Parley, Dale and Jenny Winters, Lucille Lecouillard, and the late Joe McKeown.

My colleague and friend, the member for Regina Northeast, was with the affordable housing group right from the word go, and I thank him for his involvement from the start. Thanks to the ASH (affordable senior housing) group, my colleagues, federal, provincial, and municipal governments and our respective public servants, this housing project will help seniors live in dignity for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this good news in the north end of Regina. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Foam Lake Panthers Capture Provincial Football Championship

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, as we are all well aware, the football season is nearly over for 2004. While the Saskatchewan Roughriders didn't make it to the Grey Cup, many will agree that the western final between Saskatchewan and BC (British Columbia) was one of the best games of the season.

Not to be outdone, the Foam Lake Panthers and the Delisle Rebels, to the delight of over 800 fans, put on an exceptional display of skill and determination as they each strove to capture the high school nine-man football provincial championship on Saturday, November 20. The Foam Lake Panthers captured the provincial title with a 35-21 win for their first provincial football title in 44 years.

The over 800 spectators who came to Foam Lake to watch the game knew they were in for some great competition as the game was a repeat of last year's final between Delisle and Foam Lake. As well in the season played this year, each team was undefeated. Fans were truly dedicated as many were parked on the field a day before the game to ensure front row views as they cheered on their teams.

Head coach Bill Ruetz, when talking about the win to the local newspaper, the *Foam Lake Review*, stated:

It was a huge win. The boys put in a great effort and they deserved to win. It was . . . a great team effort all around. The boys were all mentally prepared for the game.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask this Assembly to join with me in congratulating the Foam Lake Panthers on their provincial win. I wish them future successes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Book Award 2004 Finalists

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the 2004 Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala will be held this Saturday in Regina.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards are presented annually in recognition of the achievements of Saskatchewan writers and publishers. Mr. Speaker, over 50 Saskatchewan authors and eight provincial publishers will be vying for awards in 13 categories. This is a record number of submissions, considerably above last year, and I think this speaks volumes to the vibrancy of Saskatchewan's literary community.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that one-half of the authors who have been short-listed for this year's Saskatchewan Book of the Year award reside in Saskatoon Nutana.

Rita Bouvier's book of poetry, *papiyahtak*, has been nominated for Saskatchewan Book of the Year as well as being short-listed in the First Peoples publishing category. Candace Savage has also been short-listed for Book of the Year and in the non-fiction category for her work, *Prairie, A Natural History*. And Robert Calder has been nominated for his book, *A Richer Dust*, in the Book of the Year and in the non-fiction category.

Three other constituents, Ruth Wright Miller, David Carpenter, and Arthur Slade have also received nominations. And Thistledown Press, located right next door to my constituency office, is nominated for the Award for Publishing.

Mr. Speaker, our writers and publishers have the important job of telling our stories, and in so doing, telling us something about ourselves. I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of my constituents and all of the nominees for the 2004 Saskatchewan Book Awards that are taking place this Saturday in Regina.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:00)

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Michelle Meszaros Named Concert Mistress

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a young lady from the community of Biggar. Michelle Meszaros is a 15-year-old, grade 10 student at Biggar Central School. Michelle has been named concert mistress with the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra in recognition of her violin prowess. She will be responsible for tuning the youth orchestra prior to the conductor taking the stage, a daunting task. I'd like to note that the youth orchestra plays at a level comparable to symphony musicians.

Michelle is a third-year youth orchestra member and will hold the position of concert mistress for the 2004 and 2005 season, which started September 11 and ends May 1. The honour was determined by her peers. However, even though the members of the orchestra vote, there's an audition process that one must do well at.

Michelle's dedication to music does not stop with the Saskatoon

Youth Orchestra's eight-month, eight-performance season, which includes an intensive practice schedule. Michelle also does vocal studies and has a busy school band program in which she plays clarinet.

Michelle considers being concert mistress as a chance of a lifetime and playing with the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra as both enjoyable and a learning experience.

I would ask the members to join me in congratulating Michelle on her achievements and wish her continued success in all her future endeavours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company Litigation

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, during last fall's election campaign, the NDP's lawyers filed a brief in court alleging that the Saskatchewan Party had come to an agreement with the plaintiffs to settle the SPUDCO case if we won the election. Mr. Speaker, this was a complete and total fabrication. Justice Ball threw it out of court a few days after the election.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: will the Premier admit the NDP was simply using their taxpayer-funded lawyers to manipulate the court system to try and score political points in the middle of an election campaign?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me first point out that the primary issue in the champerty and maintenance counterclaim was the question of how the lawsuit being launched by the plaintiffs was being funded, Mr. Speaker.

And if the hon. member is asking questions about the timing of that matter, it related directly, Mr. Speaker, to information about this very issue of funding of the lawsuit by the plaintiffs becoming public in August 2003. And, Mr. Speaker, at that time, the government had concerns about how the lawsuit was being funded. And this was the fundamental reason why the counterclaim was initiated.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite wants to talk about champerty and maintenance. We want to talk about the confirmation that was received regarding these allegations. And I want to quote, Mr. Speaker:

Langefeld did receive confirmation from the opposition party that it would negotiate a settlement with him if it became the government.

Mr. Speaker, this was a complete and utter fabrication. The NDP had no evidence to back it up. It was not true. They made this allegation, in court, right in the middle of an election campaign. They faxed it out to the media. They used taxpayers' money to manipulate the court system. It was wrongful manipulation, Mr. Speaker. It was a clear abuse of power.

To the Premier, Mr. Speaker, why would they approve such an untrue and false allegation in the middle of an election campaign?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, at the time, Mr. Speaker, a note had . . . that was part of KMSS's (Kenway Mack Slusarchuk Stewart) documents, Mr. Speaker, was made available that suggested, Mr. Speaker . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well it raised questions, Mr. Speaker, about . . . It raised questions, Mr. Speaker, about whether or not the Sask Party had had involvement, Mr. Speaker, in discussions with the plaintiffs.

And, Mr. Speaker, we continue to have questions about the nature of the relationship between the Saskatchewan Party and the plaintiffs, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it's . . . I think it's clear that as it . . . that the judge, Mr. Speaker, did not find the concern to be well-founded and therefore we did not have leave to proceed with the counterclaim.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I hear the members opposite saying did you, did you, in making the allegation. I challenge any of those members to step outside and make that allegation outside . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: — . . . where they do not have the protection of this room, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in their answer to the written question, they say we weren't specifically talking about the Saskatchewan Party. Mr. Speaker, they are worried about another lawsuit and it has nothing to do with the one that was before the court at that time.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP's legal brief says and I quote:

Langefeld did receive confirmation from the opposition party.

In the answer to the written question, they say they weren't

necessarily talking about the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Speaker, my questions to the Premier is, who were they talking about if they weren't talking about the Saskatchewan Party?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the fundamental purpose behind the counterclaim and the main reason, Mr. Speaker, why the counterclaim was filed, Mr. Speaker, was concern about how the lawsuit was being funded. And, Mr. Speaker, we asked to be able to pursue the obtaining of additional information through the court process to determine in fact whether or not investors in Alberta were assisting in the funding of the lawsuit, Mr. Speaker.

That was of significant concern to us, Mr. Speaker, because it seems . . . it seemed to us, at the time, that a lawsuit should be funded by those who have an interest in it and not by investors, Mr. Speaker, who have not been involved in the funding . . . in the intent of the lawsuit in any way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks a lot about who's funding the lawsuit. The reality of who's funding this lawsuit is it's the taxpayer of Saskatchewan . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: — . . . who is funding this lawsuit.

Mr. Speaker, one of the NDP lawyers, John-Paul Elson, is quoted in the October 18, 2003 *Leader-Post* as saying he was talking about the Saskatchewan Party. The NDP was using its taxpayer-funded NDP lawyers to manipulate the court system to make a completely fabricated allegation in court right in the middle of an election campaign, Mr. Speaker.

It is an abuse of power. And who approved this strategy, Mr. Speaker? It was the deputy minister to the Premier and the Deputy Premier — and I'm sure they didn't make this decision without talking to the Premier as well.

Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier justify abusing power and making false allegations in court to try and influence the outcome of an election? And to stand back now and say we're interested in who was funding the other side of the lawsuit, Mr. Speaker, defies logic and is an outrage. I want an answer from the Premier on this question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let me make two points. First of all, Mr. Speaker, anyone who looks at the

affidavit can clearly see that the primary intent of the counterclaim — the primary intent of the counterclaim — was directly related to our concerns about the financing of the lawsuit by the plaintiffs, Mr. Speaker. And we thought we had legitimate concerns in that regard; we did not have leave to proceed to obtain further information in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

With respect, Mr. Speaker, to the matter of the involvement of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker, clearly the concern that government had at the time was found by the judge to be not well-founded. And again, we were not allowed to proceed, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, by the NDP's own admission, the member for Yorkton, the Deputy Premier, approved this strategy to make false allegations against the Saskatchewan Party in court. The NDP had absolutely nothing to back up these allegations. They spent taxpayers' money on their high-priced lawyers; they wasted the court's time and money. They misled the citizens of Saskatchewan. They made sure to send these allegations to all the media.

Mr. Speaker, just like everything else the media has said about SPUDCO, none of it was true. It's one more reason you cannot trust this Premier and this government. It's one more reason why we need a public inquiry. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to give the Premier the opportunity to rise and withdraw that allegation on behalf of his government and to apologize for making that allegation about the Saskatchewan Party in the election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let me make . . .

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

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I just made it very clear that in my judgment we respect the decision of the court. And the decision of the court, Mr. Speaker, was that the allegation was not well-founded. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that we accepted the judge's decision. We were clearly . . . in the view of the judge, Mr. Speaker, we were clearly inaccurate and the allegation was not well-founded, Mr. Speaker, and I accept the judge's conclusion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Changes to Labour Legislation

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, during the last provincial election

the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter to the Premier. They asked, and I quote:

What specific changes to labour legislation would you and your government introduce if elected?

In reply the Premier said, and again I quote:

No legislation changes would occur without extensive consultations with all stakeholders.

End of quote.

However, last month the Minister of Labour, speaking to the annual convention of the Federation of Labour, said she was going to proclaim a 10-year-old section of The Labour Standards Act. Yet as late as June of this year, that same minister said during proceedings of the Standing Committee on the Economy that she had no intention of proclaiming that particular section of The Labour Standards Act.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Labour: what has changed to make her impose government-directed hours on employers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the member opposite he should reread the speech from the Federation of Labour because that is not what I said. So he can read it; it's there in plain black and white. He can do that at his leisure.

And if the member opposite will remember, last year in estimates he asked the question about this section, the unproclaimed section of labour standards. And we clearly got into a discussion on the piece that is unproclaimed, the additional hours piece. We talked about youth remaining in the province; we talked about the changing labour market, and that maybe this was an idea whose time had come. Now he can go back in *Hansard*, that discussion is clearly there. It was at the end of our estimates last year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in the crowd when I heard that minister say that she was going to have another look at that section. And it has caused great concern amongst employers and employees in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has said they've never been consulted with the minister's plan to impose these government-directed hours. In fact the chamber tells us that it'll mean lost jobs for the most vulnerable people in the workforce: the young, the disabled, students, and First Nations people. Mr. Speaker, this new regime of government-directed hours will hurt the very people that need the most help.

Mr. Speaker, why is the Minister of Labour taking this ill-advised step of proclaiming that section of the Act by

imposing government-directed hours?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the comments from the member opposite are clearly issues that are expressed in various parts of Saskatchewan. And one of the reasons of looking at this piece of legislation — seeing if it fits today, if there is a way to make it work — is part of the discussion in moving ahead and being a progressive society that believes that part-time jobs are not an only option for young people in this province. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for us to take a step ahead and not expect young people in this province to work two and three part-time jobs to make a living.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:15)

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

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, here's what the minister said last month. She said we need these dramatic changes to labour legislation to stem the shortage of skilled labourers and stem the outflow of our . . . out-migration of young people from this province. First this government chase everyone out of the province with their bad policies, then they try to lure them back, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how does this system of government-directed hours help young people in this province who generally have little or no seniority?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is asking specific questions on regulations; regulations that are being developed. These are all part of the issues that come in to play when we talk about additional hours.

But I will say again to the House, Mr. Speaker, we talk about young people; we talk about the future for young people in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, I refuse to believe that the only option for the young people in Saskatchewan is to work two and three part-time jobs to try and earn a living wage. Mr. Speaker, that is not an option. And I believe that this province can do better than that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, section 13.4 of The Labour Standards Act has remained unproclaimed since 1994. Obviously then Premier Roy Romanow realized the negative consequences of reclaiming that section of the Act. So I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, what has changed in the last 10 years? Well I can tell you one thing that's changed, Mr. Speaker. Labour leaders, not the rank-and-file working people, contributed over \$25,000 to that minister's re-election campaign. That's what's changed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, is government-directed hours payback for that help or does the minister, like that premier, believe a promise isn't worth keeping?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I guess the old saying is true, that you can't change the spots on a leopard. Mr. Speaker, this opposition has been against working people in this province since day one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Over and over again, they have made statements that are absolutely appalling about working people in this province.

The Speaker: — Order, please, members. Order, please. I recognize the minister . . . Order, please. Order, please. I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, right before the election last year, I believe it was the former leader of the opposition who stood up and said, we're the friends of labour. Well, Mr. Speaker, here we go again — flip-flop. They voted for the Crowns but they like labour. Now they stand up and they are against labour. They are against labour legislation and anything progressive in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Government Policy on Labour Legislation

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question directly to the Premier is this: during the election campaign when he wanted the votes of the members of the chamber of commerce across this province, when he was asked the question about his labour policy, he made a pretty basic commitment, Mr. Speaker. He said to those people, to the chamber of commerce in a letter, he said, before we undertake major changes, we're going to consult.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? Those businesses, those stakeholders in the economy, the people that provide jobs for young people, for First Nations, for disabled, they have not been consulted.

To the Premier once again on behalf of Saskatchewan people, on behalf of businesses here in the province: why has he gone back on his word?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this particular provision of labour standards has been in consultation and under discussion now for a period of almost a decade. And as we continue today, we are having conversations — both with

working people and with business people — in terms of this piece of legislation and other legislation that will affect working people.

But, Mr. Speaker, here's what we said to the . . .

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

First of all, I want to . . . Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. Order, please.

I would first of all want to be able to hear everything. And secondly, I ask members to refrain from involving anybody in the galleries in any way. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in the course of the last election campaign, we made a number of commitments to Saskatchewan people — lead among them, Mr. Speaker, was to create in this province a green and a prosperous economy that would have opportunity for our young people.

Mr. Speaker, in August . . . in October of this year, we set record high job numbers for the people of Saskatchewan, eight . . . over 8,000 new jobs, over 3,000 new jobs, over 3,000 new jobs for young people. That's because, Mr. Speaker, we have worked in partnership with working people, with young people, with business people, to see this province move forward. And we are going to continue to move forward, even with the protestations of the opposition opposite.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, if the Premier's position is that he was forthcoming with Saskatchewan business, then he should have told them that this provision in legislation that hasn't been proclaimed for 10 years was now under consideration to be proclaimed because, Mr. Speaker, if we go in this province to government-directed hours, we will be unique on the continent. And employers are the ones saying that who will hurt from this, Mr. Speaker — those who are most vulnerable. Many people in this province need part-time work; they desire part-time work in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the question to the Premier is direct. He was asked to be forthright with the chamber of commerce and the people of Saskatchewan, to be honest with them. What was he planning in terms of labour legislation? He said, don't worry. Don't worry, he said to them. We won't do any major changes in Saskatchewan without first consulting with you. He has not done that.

To the Premier again: why is he unable to keep his word?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, to repeat. Consultations around this specific provision have gone on for years. Consultations continue to go on, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the commitment we made, and I repeat, were fourfold in that election. Two of the most significant commitments we made to the people of Saskatchewan was to build a green and a prosperous economy working in partnership with the people of Saskatchewan.

Today, today, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is in. Record high job numbers. Record high job numbers for youth, Mr. Speaker. Credit rating upgrades, Mr. Speaker. A have province, Mr. Speaker. An economy with momentum providing opportunities. That was a promise made, and that's a promise kept, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And, Mr. Speaker, I tell you, from the point of view of this . . . from the point of view of this government, when there is momentum in the economy, when there is prosperity, that prosperity is going to be shared with all. It is going to provide opportunities for our young people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier speaks on behalf of a government that has presided over the worst job creation record in the nation of Canada for the last 10 years. He's presided over the out-migration of 19,500 young people between 1999 and 2004. And now we read recently in our media, Mr. Speaker, when there are companies in Saskatchewan that are choosing between investing here and investing elsewhere, like the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, here's what they have to say:

We're a large multinational corporation and every year our capital spending projects compete with one another to see which will give the best return on investment.

Here's what the vice-president of PCS (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.) says:

Quite frankly, our potash mines (in Saskatchewan) (in the home of potash around the world) our potash mines (in Saskatchewan) have had trouble getting money (investment dollars she's talking about) because (Mr. Speaker) we have . . . (higher taxes in Saskatchewan than anywhere else we operate).

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: what is he prepared to do about this situation that's driving potash jobs and investments to New Brunswick instead of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, as usual, what we have is the doom and gloom opposition, Saskatchewan Party, saying that nothing is going to happen in Saskatchewan. And I want the people of the province to know that any business looking to make investments will look at various factors, Mr. Speaker.

But in fact, what is happening with the potash industry in

Saskatchewan is an unprecedented period of growth.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — That's what's happening. Potash sales are up 26.8 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's \$1.5 billion in sales. It doesn't sound like an industry that is in trouble in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest the only people in trouble in Saskatchewan right now are the people sitting right over there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, when businesses from within or outside the province look to make an investment here in Saskatchewan, the minister is right; they weigh a number of factors. They weigh the labour market environment in the province. They weigh the regulatory environment and they take a look at taxes, Mr. Speaker.

Here's what PCS has to say about the province that is home to a third of the world's supply of potash. Here's what she says:

The bottom line in Saskatchewan is when you combine our federal and provincial taxes we have a 69-per-cent tax rate. That's all of our taxes combined . . . In New Brunswick, we're less than half of that.

In New Brunswick, they're less than half of those rates. What are we collecting as a province off those taxes when shifts aren't added? We collect nothing, Mr. Speaker.

Will this government do the right thing? Will it implement new growth tax cuts that would incent a company like PCS to invest here? And would they start sending the proper signal to businesses here, instead of saying to anyone that will listen, as the Premier did, that he doesn't believe we should be a have province permanently? He said we'll always be in and out of equalization.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: when will he have the vision and the ideas that can get Saskatchewan growing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the vision and the work of this government has resulted in Saskatchewan becoming a have province. It's our intention to remain a have province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — As a result of the work of this government and particularly this Minister of Industry and Resources, we have seen significant growth in the potash industry; expansion in the potash industry; double shifting in the potash industry; new jobs in the potash industry.

As a result of this government's work and particularly this

minister, we have seen significant growth in the oil patch, and that, Mr. Speaker, before \$50 oil. That's how you become a have province. And I'll tell you Mr. Speaker, you don't become a have province and you don't become a . . . remain a have province by the doom and gloom mentality that exists of the people opposite, nor do you become a have province with leadership that flip-flops on every issue going, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, a point of order. During one of my questions I misspoke and wish to correct and withdraw a statement.

Mr. Speaker, I made an allegation or said something to the effect of, just like everything else the media has said about SPUDCO. I meant to say, what the NDP has said. And given the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs's comment about the media and Mr. Mandryk yesterday, I would like to withdraw and apologize for that portion of the statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I thank the member for his remark.

I've been asked the question . . . The members . . . Order, please. This is not . . . I cannot regard it or rule as it on a point of order but I think the member's point is taken.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm extremely pleased to stand on behalf of a very accountable government and respond to questions no. 785 through 830 inclusive, Mr. Speaker. We're responding to all the questions today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 785 through to question 830 have been submitted.

(14:30)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, to facilitate the work of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee and the Economy 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 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:31.

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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

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