



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

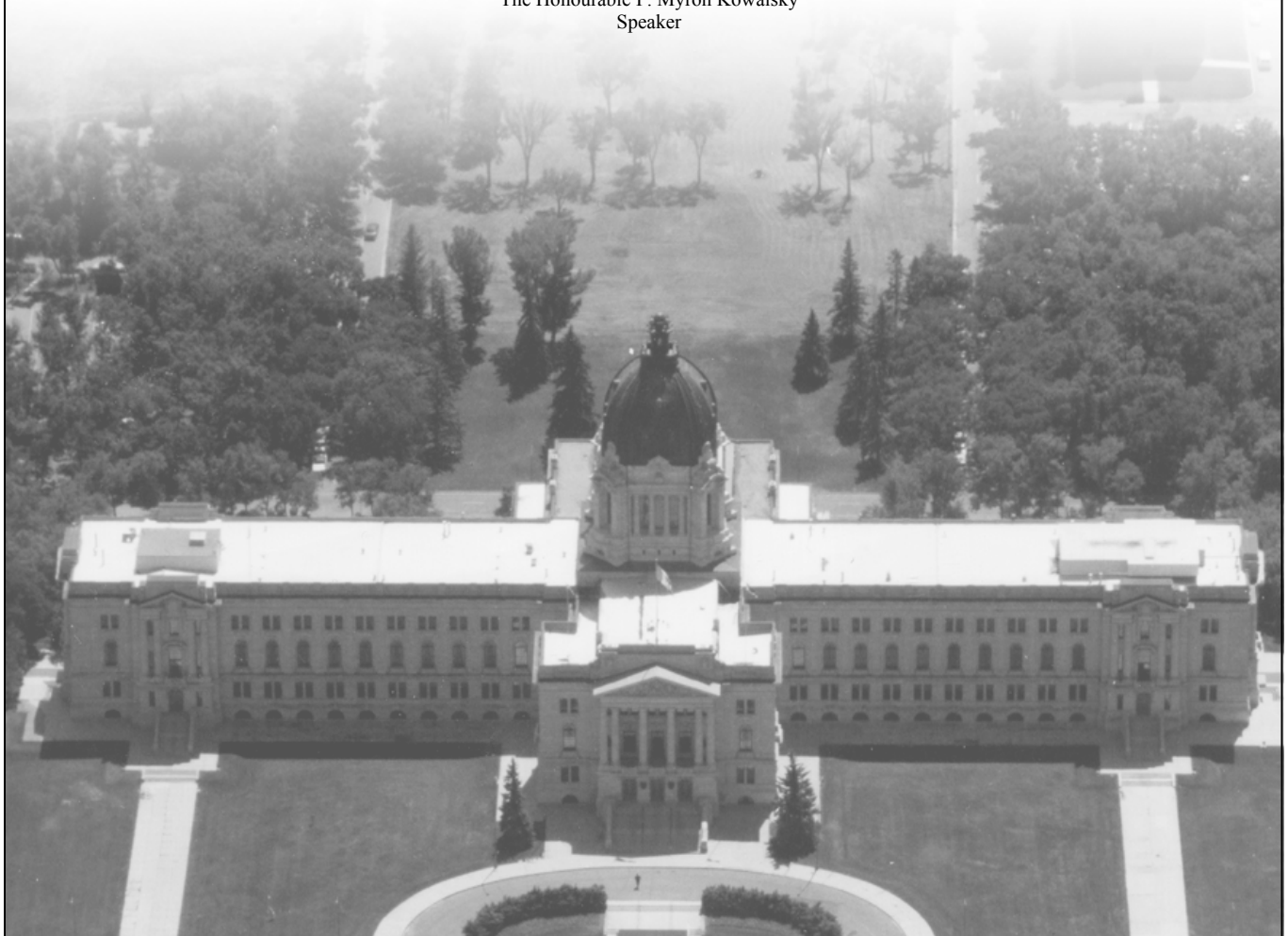
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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

The Speaker: — Members, I wish to inform the Assembly that Deanna Cunningham, a staff person at human resources and administrative services branch of the Legislative Assembly, will be assisting with Page duties today. Deanna, if you would stand please. She was the winner of the Page for the day prize that was offered as part of the Assembly's 2004 United Way campaign. Please join me in welcoming Deanna as a legislative Page for today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it's my privilege to present a petition to this Assembly on behalf of a number of people from the Alameda and Estevan areas. And I read the 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 public consultations are done prior to changes to the health care services in Sun Country.

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

I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Residents all along Highway 32 running from Swift Current to the community of Leader have signed this petition. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 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 individuals from the community of Sceptre, Leader, Prelate, Cabri, Abbey, Portreeve, Shackleton, and others further to the Southeast. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that public consultations are done prior to changes to the health care services in Sun

Country.

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

These petitions come from the southeast part of Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens concerned about the ongoing SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) scandal. The prayer of the 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.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from Marquis, Neilburg, Bjorkdale and Regina, Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today to rise on behalf of people concerned about the SPUDCO issue.

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 people that have signed this petition are from Saskatoon, Major, and Swift Current.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by residents of the province of Saskatchewan, and among their concerns are proposed changes to amalgamate 59 school divisions by January 2006. They are sure they believe it will not prove to be cost-effective. 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, the signatures on this petition are from two communities, the community of Rosetown and the community of Yorkton. 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 petitions to do with the CAIS (Canadian agricultural income stabilization) program and the underfunding 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 that 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 Balcarres area.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today as well with regard to a petition for the CAIS program, and I will read the preamble:

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 the provincial government contribute funds to the latest BSE assistance package released by the federal government.

And, Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this are from Balcarres and Abernethy area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition regarding public consultation. 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 public consultations are done prior to changing the health care system in the Sun Country Health Care Region.

As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed from people in Estevan and Bienfait. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of my constituency very concerned about decentralization of laundry services. And 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 public consultations are done prior to changes to the health care services in Sun Country.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Estevan, Macoun, and Benson. I so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition also about the government not holding public consultations on health care services in our area. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that public consultations are done prior to changes to the health care services in the Sun Country Health Region.

And this petition is signed by residents of Bienfait and Estevan. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here where citizens that are against forced amalgamations of 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 voluntarily basis.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by citizens from Tugaske, Eyebrow, and Meadow Lake. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition from constituents opposed to possible reductions of health care services in Biggar. 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 the Biggar hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance services maintain, at the very least, the current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Biggar and district. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in the Assembly to present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan upset with the coerced school amalgamations. 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 the reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from the towns of Kerrobert and Major, 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 present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are 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.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Melville, Dubuc, Grayson, and Meadow Lake. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) they are hereby read and received. They are:

petitions regarding repairs to Highway 33;

new sessional paper no. 666.

And addendums to sessional papers 96, 637, 638, and 647.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its first report. I move, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Sutherland, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its first report. I move, seconded by the member from Thunder Creek:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for P.A. (Prince Albert) Northcote, the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy, seconded by the member for Thunder Creek:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 72 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: how many delinquent and past due accounts will SaskTel be able to collect through the \$137 utility rebate, and what is the anticipated dollar amount of these delinquent accounts?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce to you a group of people from the Children's Advocate office in Saskatoon seated in the Speaker's gallery today. The Children's Advocate is here at the legislature to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their office and to launch a rights advocacy project.

Seated in the gallery — and I would ask them to rise as I call their names — are Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen, the Children's Advocate for the province of Saskatchewan; Deborah's husband, Rob Loewen; one of Deborah's sons, Paul Loewen. Also seated with her is a special guest from Manitoba, the Children's Advocate for the province of Manitoba and president of the Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates, Janet Mirwaldt. Seated beside them also is the Chief Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Donna Scott. Also is the president of the Saskatchewan Youth in Care and Custody Network, Jessica McFarlane. And behind them are staff and other family members.

Please join me in welcoming the Children's Advocate entourage to the legislature today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I want to join with you in welcoming Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen and others from the Children's Advocate office to the legislature this afternoon. The occasion, Mr. Speaker, celebrates the 10th anniversary of the office.

It was in 1993 that the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children was introduced, and as part of that plan, the Children's Advocate office was formed to serve as a voice for the children of our province. And in thinking over the past 10 years, Mr. Speaker, that office has received and now assisted over 7,500 children.

(13:45)

That office has initiated a number of reviews. The child and youth in care review, I remember very specifically. It's been involved in a number of investigations. It has made, Mr. Speaker, nearly now 1,000 presentations to children, parents, foster parents, the government, and community groups. And as well we are fully aware of the number of reports that the children's office — advocate's office — has completed, and there seems to be no sign of letting up, the advocate in the office now announcing the launch of a rights advocacy project or RAP as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating all of those involved with our Children's Advocate office on the 10th anniversary but in particular Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen who has occupied this office from the beginning and continues to do outstanding work for the children and the people of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, we certainly want to join with the Premier in not only congratulating Dr. Parker-Loewen and her team at the CAO (Children's Advocate office) on all of the good work that they have done on behalf of our most precious resource in this province — our youth, our children.

We want to congratulate you on that 10th anniversary, but we want to thank you for the work, and maybe most importantly we want to encourage your continued diligence as you continue those efforts and live what might be the ultimate test of leadership in whatever endeavour we have, which is to leave things better than we found them. We thank you for your commitment to that most important principle and welcome you here to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to add a little more of a personal note to the welcome, and I join with you and the Premier and the Government House Leader . . . or the opposition leader.

This summer I had the privilege of being invited to the unveiling of a Century Farm Family Award. And as I drive in the yard, here comes Ms. Parker-Loewen and her family. I had no realization . . . I was always wondering if there was a connection, and this summer we did figure that out. It was just a beautiful day, and it was just an opportunity again to gather with the family on a more personal note rather than always on the business of the Assembly. So welcome, Ms. Parker-Loewen.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the House, I'd like to introduce some other guests in the House — four representatives of Saskatchewan regional waste management association. Up in your gallery is seated Wally Lorenz, the Chair — he's familiar with this House — Grant See, Anne Mathewson, and Myron Knafele. Now they were here talking about some very important issues around waste management, and I would ask you all to join in me welcoming them here to our House. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to introduce to members of the Legislative Assembly my sister, Susan Knibbs, who is visiting with me from North Battleford. Susan is an RN (registered nurse) in

North Battleford, and they have dual residency. Her and her husband also live in Regina, as he is employed with the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) in Regina. So I'd like all members of the legislature to help me in welcoming her today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to members of the Assembly today a group of students who have joined us in the west gallery. These students are studying law within the francophone school system. They are taking a law 30 class. They're joining us today to get a better understanding of how laws come to be made and to observe the activities of the Assembly. I look forward to meeting with them later, and I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming this group to our Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly two guests in your gallery. One is Lily Olson — perhaps you can stand — and she's with Grain Services Union and also works hard on behalf of the Canadian Labour Congress and is a tireless advocate on behalf of the members that she represents. As well as Mr. Chris Banting, he's with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. He's the secretary-treasurer, has been with the organization forever and a day because I've seen pictures of him with hippy-length hair. He's also a tireless advocate of the workers he represents and has been very advantageous for their causes.

And also in the west gallery, I'd like to introduce Christine Reid, who is a very important woman in my life. She is the constituency assistant for Regina Walsh Acres. And I'd like all members to welcome them to their Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister responsible for the Environment and Resource Management in recognizing a constituent of mine, the mayor of the town of Preeceville, Mr. Grant See.

Grant has been the mayor for a number of years and is very active, not only in his role as mayor of Preeceville, when I recently attended a meeting that he helped organize to look at the possibility of a meat processing plant in the Preeceville area. I also had the opportunity to meet with him today in his role as an active member in the SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) association.

So I'd like all members to join me in welcoming Grant, but I'd also like to add a welcome on behalf of the official opposition to a former member of the Legislative Assembly, Wally Lorenz.

So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming him.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

International Day to End Violence Against Women

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Forty-four years ago today, the three Mirabal sisters — Patria, Minerva, and Maria Theresa — were murdered by the Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo for their vocal and ongoing opposition to his regime.

Since that time the sisters have become a symbol both of the victimization of women and of a popular and feminist resistance to oppression. November 25 is the anniversary of their executions and has been chosen as the day on which we observe the International Day to End Violence Against Women. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, this is all too prevalent today as well.

Mr. Speaker, today is about awareness. It's about recognizing that violence against women and girls is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relationships between men and women, that violence and threat of violence are fundamental mechanisms in attempts to force women into subordinate positions. So today is about acknowledging that this problem doesn't exist in some nebulous someplace else, but that domestic battery, rape, sexual harassment, and other violent acts against women take place in our city and province and country every day.

And we know that progress has been made, but clearly if this destructiveness is to end, there's much more left to do. As Charlotte Bunch, director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, has said:

The issue is changing perception that is so deep-seated that it's often unconscious, that women are fundamentally less valued as men (and) it's only when women and girls gain their place as strong and equal members of society that violence against them will be viewed as a shocking aberration rather than an invisible norm.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

10th Anniversary of the Office of the Children's Advocate

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand in this Assembly today and congratulate the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate office on its 10th anniversary.

The Office of the Children Advocate is a professional and respected voice for the children and youth of our province. The work carried out by the office over the past 10 years is

extremely important and I know that all members of the Legislative Assembly on both sides of the House are very proud of the accomplishments of the Saskatchewan Child Advocate office.

Over the past 10 years the Children's Advocate office has dealt with over 7,500 children and youth who have had concerns about the provincial government. This office has initiated reviews and completed reports with recommendations to give those responsible for our children at risk guidance and direction.

As well, the office has initiated special investigations into complaints and into the deaths of nearly 100 children in Saskatchewan. The office has made over 100 . . . 1,000 presentations to individuals and government agencies.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen, the Child's Advocate, and all of her staff. You have worked hard over the years and deserve recognition for the job well done. Congratulations and may the foundation that you have laid work well for all of us in future years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Christmas Cheer Fund Supporter Remembered

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this day when we are so mindful of the plight faced by many women because of violence and abuse, I would like to say a few words about a man, recently passed away, who during the course of his lifetime took every opportunity to fight this problem both on behalf of individuals and on a larger scale.

Mr. Speaker, Len Wallace was a social activist with an extraordinarily well-developed sense of right and wrong. He was a union organizer, a champion of medicare, and played a major role in securing women's rights in the workplace and the community at large.

It's not surprising therefore that one of Len's favourite charities was the *Leader-Post's* Christmas Cheer Fund. Mr. Speaker, since 1992 the Christmas Cheer Fund has raised over \$725,000 to help families in crisis in our community.

Donations to the fund go to supporting four organizations here in Regina that help to shelter families from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse: the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Isobel Johnson Centre, the Wichihik Iskewak Safe House, and Sofia House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in condemning the circumstances that make such organizations necessary, but in also recognizing the good work of the Christmas Cheer Fund and the organizations that it supports.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

New 4-H Club Formed in Eatonia

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to talk about the 4-H clubs in this province. This fall the town of Eatonia has established a new club under the description of . . . under the direction rather of Mrs. Sarah Becker. Sarah is an international equine sports massage therapist who has widespread experience with horses. She also has given horseback riding lessons to several students in the area.

The club began when some of these students indicated that they were interested in finding another outlet for their love of horses and riding. The group consists of eight children at present, with others who have expressed in joining.

They meet monthly and schedule rides and project days whenever possible. Saskatchewan 4-H is a project-based youth organization devoted to strengthening the skills of responsible citizens. They focus on the growth and development of their members, leaders, and volunteers through one of their mottos, "learn to do by doing."

4-H members are able to enjoy a variety of projects ranging from light horse and livestock to environmental concerns and public speaking. There are also opportunities for travel and scholarships. They focus on building core values into the children; such as honour and integrity, reliability, co-operation, and fun. All of these things instill confidence, self-esteem and respect in the children and assist in shaping responsible community-minded citizens for this province.

My thanks to the leaders, volunteers and staff members whose commitment and dedication make this program so successful for the children of Saskatchewan. Best of luck to these students whose hard work will achieve their goals. And I'd ask all members to join with me in applauding the efforts of the 4-H movement in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, in Canada, December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Remember, for 45 minutes on December 6, 1989, a gunman roamed the corridors of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique and killed 14 women. He separated them from the men and before opening fire on the classroom of female engineering students, he screamed, "I hate feminists."

This was a considered, premeditated act of violence toward women. He had decided that someone must be punished for the decision to open university education for women. Who would have thought that opening the realms of freedom and possibility would cost 14 young women engineers their lives?

Remember, all the women and girls who live daily with the threat of violence or who have died as a result of deliberate acts of gender-based violence.

I celebrate the dreams and the aspirations of the 14 young women: Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik Widajewicz, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Maire Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, and Annie Turcotte. Your dream survives.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:00)

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Politics and Football

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the football season is over and I think most of us are pretty well done with licking our wounds. There are, however, two things that still linger, and I think from time to time they come to mind — things that occur unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, year after year after year.

There does in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, seem to be a link between politics and football. Since the CCF-NDP (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party) was elected in 1944, the Roughriders, Mr. Speaker, have been to the Grey Cup seven times. They have only won it twice; never, Mr. Speaker — never, Mr. Speaker — during CCF and NDP times. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, though, that this socialist curse does not seem to have carried over to the Huskies and we hope that they'll do a whole lot better.

The second thing of note, Mr. Speaker, is that every time we see a Saskatchewan team, the Roughriders, go to a BC (British Columbia) or an Alberta game, the stands are full of the white and the green. Those are expatriates from Saskatchewan who are still fiercely loyal to this particular province. There appears, Mr. Speaker, to be only one way to bring the Grey Cup and these expatriates back to Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get rid of the NDP government and bring the Grey Cup and our expatriates back to Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Caring and Compassion Helps Abuse Victims

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, according to a national survey, 46 per cent of Saskatchewan women have experienced some form of violence. According to Canada's Department of Justice, one in two females has been victim of unwanted sexual acts at some time in their lives. Four out of five of these acts were first committed when they were children.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers are disturbing. And while we must deplore what these statistics tell us, we can perhaps take some hope from the fact that so many concerned individuals,

community groups, organizations, and companies in both the public and private sectors are working either directly or indirectly to prevent abuse or better serve those who are affected by abusive situations.

Mr. Speaker, all across the province there are projects and initiatives ranging from providing potential abuse victims with cellphones or home alarms to transition houses for women and children fleeing from domestic violence, to outreach programs, to support groups, to intervention programs, to education programs, to counselling services, all designed to prevent abuse and violence or mitigate their effects.

The sad truth is, by necessity it's a long list, Mr. Speaker, and while today is a day for acknowledging that sad truth, it's also a day to acknowledge all of those individuals, groups, and organizations, whose caring and compassion motivates them to help women who are victims of abuse and violence. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Waiting Times and Resources for Surgery

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, today in your gallery are family members of the late Jim Williamson. His sister, Yvette Switzer, his brother, Gordon Williamson, and his mother, Julie D'Aoust are here today because they want the Minister of Health to listen to their story.

Jim Williamson died after gastric bypass surgery in Saskatoon. He was 40 years old. Three years ago Mr. Williamson's doctor told him he needed this surgery because his health was failing — three years ago. And while Mr. Williamson was waiting for his surgery, his health continued to deteriorate.

To the Minister of Health: Mr. Williamson's family want to know why anyone should have to wait for three years for surgery, risking more complications, causing additional suffering, and increasing the overall cost of treatment.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences go to the family and others who are friends of Mr. Williamson. This case has not been brought to my attention beforehand, so I don't have any details about the particular case.

But what I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that we have been working very diligently, very carefully at dealing with exactly this particular problem of how do we make sure that people who require surgery get surgery when it's needed.

We, in this budget this year, put \$2.8 million more into dealing with specific surgeries, specifically to deal with people who have been waiting a long time. And it may be that this case was one that was brought forward that way. We also, in our \$66 million announcement just a few weeks ago, put further money in to deal with some of these kinds of cases. Mr. Speaker, we have been working very carefully in how we provide surgeries

in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, for three years Jim Williamson's family wrote this government repeatedly begging for somebody to be done, somebody to listen. They didn't get a response, Mr. Speaker — not a letter, not a phone call, nothing. And now it's too late.

They're here today because they don't want other families to go through what they went through, Mr. Speaker. After waiting three years for surgery, Mr. Williamson finally received his operation. And here's what went on post-surgery. There was an obvious shortage of nurses who could not properly attend to patient care. There was no dialysis machine when Mr. Williamson's kidneys started to fail, so he had to be transferred to another hospital. And when he was transferred, a special bed had to be flown in from Winnipeg.

To the Minister of Health: if this province doesn't have the proper staff or doesn't have the equipment, the proper beds for adequate patient care, why aren't patients being flown out of this province for treatment so they get it in a timely way as they deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, most times the members opposite will give me some information so that I can answer these specific questions. Today that did not happen. So I don't have answers to those kinds of questions.

But, Mr. Speaker, we do 94,000 surgeries in Saskatchewan each year. We have many capable surgeons, capable assistants, capable nursing staff that provide this kind of care. We do know that there are times when things don't go as everybody expected but, practically, we have a very good system in this province, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to work to make it better. If there's something that we can learn from this particular case, we will do that because that's what we've committed to do.

Mr. Speaker, we're putting our resources, our dollars into dealing with a lot of these issues. We're also using our resources, our people, to meet the demand here in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, people shouldn't have to bring their cases forward like this. The minister should be helping them when they're writing to him directly over the past three years, Mr. Speaker.

This family trusted the government would help them. They wrote to the government, they wrote to the minister, and they believed that if the government would listen and help Mr. Williamson, this death — this tragic death — could have been prevented if someone would have listened from that government.

For the minister to stand in this House and say he knows nothing about it indicates that this minister doesn't listen to anybody in Saskatchewan that reaches out and cries out for help like this family of Jim Williamson did.

Mr. Speaker, why is it necessary for this minister to demand that the official opposition makes him aware of these issues? Why is he not responding to the families of this province when they write directly to him?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, most MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in this legislature, including members opposite, are very good at raising cases and bringing them forward to my office. And we provide answers as we can, make sure that they get to the right place.

This particular case the member's raising, opposite, today, I think has another purpose. The members opposite, in the spring and now with this case, are raising questions about how our health care system works. And they're part of an overall, I think, plan to try to dismantle how we do it now, to get away from a publicly funded, publicly administered health care system. And, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we are steadfast in our support of a publicly funded, publicly administered health care system and we will continue to make sure that it's the best system that we can. We'll learn from things that go wrong but, Mr. Speaker, we will not allow those members opposite to further erode our system.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company Litigation

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the SaskWater minister apologized to the Saskatchewan Party. By doing so he was admitting that the government had done something wrong. He was admitting that the NDP used taxpayer-funded government lawyers to make false allegations against the Saskatchewan Party in court, in the middle of an election campaign.

The question today, Mr. Speaker, is: who is going to be held responsible? Mr. Speaker, the minister has admitted that these allegations were not true. As MLAs we are held to a high standard. Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier is held to a higher standard. Will the Premier today fire all those responsible for making these false allegations, including the Deputy Premier?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have many points to make about what the hon. member has just said. But let me start with a comment about the Deputy Premier because I have taken care, Mr. Speaker, in the last day to determine very clearly what the Deputy Premier

reviewed with respect to this case.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to all members of the House that by way of a telephone call with Mr. Perrins, the Deputy Premier was aware of the essence of the affidavit that Mr. Karvonen was filing in court on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I also want to make it clear to the House that the Deputy Premier was not aware of the note and did not see the note in the accountant's file.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the answer that was given in the written question was the counterclaim was advanced on the advice of legal counsel as recommended by the deputy minister to the Premier, with the agreement and consent of the Deputy Premier.

Mr. Speaker, there was only four words on that document that they needed to look at, and if the deputy minister cannot . . . the Deputy Premier cannot be held to account for four words, he should not be the Deputy Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: — The NDP keep getting caught not telling the truth about SPUDCO. They keep apologizing and no one is ever held responsible.

In this case it's very clear who is responsible for these false allegations — the lawyers, the deputy minister, and the Deputy Premier. They're all still working for government. They were part of a conspiracy to engage in this kind of practice. And now, Mr. Speaker, nobody is taking responsibility.

The NDP has admitted that the Deputy Premier made this decision. The SaskWater minister admitted that the NDP really had absolutely no evidence regarding these false allegations. Is the Premier going to do the right thing and fire the Deputy Premier?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. First let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I think the member is missing the point about the larger case. Mr. Speaker, he's missing the point entirely.

The larger case, and this can be borne out if one looks at the affidavit that was filed. There were 38 paragraphs in the affidavit, Mr. Speaker, and the vast majority of those paragraphs speak to the larger issue of the counterclaim and the fundamental question, Mr. Speaker, the government had at the time, which was whether or not the funding arrangements that the plaintiffs had in place for funding the claim — which were very unusual, Mr. Speaker — whether or not those were acceptable to the judge, Mr. Speaker.

That was the fundamental issue and that, Mr. Speaker, would have been the issue that the Deputy Premier was focusing on.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the minister wants to talk about champerty and maintenance and other things. He wants to talk about the 38 paragraphs. The real issue is the one phrase and the piece of information that they circulated to the media and that they did the phone-around about.

There was clearly a coordinated effort between the taxpayer-funded government lawyers and the New Democratic Party to distribute these false allegations to the news media right in the middle of, in the middle of an election campaign.

The day these false allegations were made in court, NDP campaign workers were phoning reporters and telling them to go down to the court house to hear some serious allegations about the Saskatchewan Party. Mr. Speaker, these allegations turned out to be completely false but they were reported in the news media that day. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the government lawyers, while being paid with tax dollars, were working with the NDP campaign to spread these false allegations.

Will the Premier explain who made that decision?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:15)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite should examine the affidavits that were filed with some care. And I'll speak to the paragraph, Mr. Speaker, a paragraph that's in the context, Mr. Speaker, of the larger affidavit.

And it says, Mr. Speaker . . . First of all I want to read the portion of the affidavit put forward by the defendant. It says, Mr. Speaker:

Further, it would appear (note the word, it would appear) that Langefeld had contact with political parties as reflected by a note on his accountant's file dated March 16, 2001, being Plaintiff document #656 a true copy of which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "17" to this my affidavit.

And in response, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Langefeld several days later also files an affidavit. And, Mr. Speaker, he says in paragraph 66 of his affidavit:

In response to paragraph twenty-six of the . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. The member's time has elapsed. Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the media extracts a weakly worded apology from the minister. Today he stands up in this House and has the nerve to repeat the same allegation that he made earlier and made during the election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it is wrong and it is unacceptable for a minister of the Crown to make that kind of an allegation here or anywhere else.

Yesterday he admitted it was totally wrong and without any substance. I challenge that minister today to withdraw that allegation, utterly and completely, and to apologize to you and to this House. And I challenge him to do that now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — I'm shocked at the comments of the member opposite, Mr. Speaker. I am simply putting on the record what the sworn affidavit by both parties were, to provide some context, Mr. Speaker, for what we're discussing, Mr. Speaker. I'm not alleging anything, Mr. Speaker. I am simply trying to provide context for the debate. And I'm really quite shocked by the comments of the member opposite, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to put on the record what it was that Mr. Langefeld said in response to the sworn affidavit. He said in response to paragraph 26 of the Karvonen affidavit:

. . . I have had numerous contacts with the Saskatchewan Party since October 1999.

But then he goes on to clarify what those were:

I initiated . . . (contact) with members of the Saskatchewan Party in an attempt to gain a better understanding of the legislative framework within which Sask Water operates and specifically, the requirement to obtain Orders in Council prior to engaging in certain activities.

Mr. Speaker. And so those were the comments of the . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister has outlined what I get paid to do. He gets outlined what they were getting paid not to do. The members on this side maybe answered Mr. Langefeld's questions, and maybe the members on this side gave him some advice on how to get that information.

The conduct that Mr. Langefeld had with the Sask Party sounds to me like what any other citizen of this province might do and what every other citizen of this province is entitled to do.

The Deputy Premier approved a legal strategy in which government lawyers extracted a piece from this affidavit that the minister is talking about — four words — and used them to slander each and every member of the Saskatchewan Party, and to widely distribute that through the media, and to mislead the media in this province and to mislead the public on the eve of an election. And who do we find that's involved? The deputy . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please, members. Order. Order, please. Order. Would the member please put his question. The member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, who do we find is involved? The Deputy Premier. The deputy minister to the Premier, SaskWater's lawyer, and the NDP election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: who is going to be held responsible for this abuse of power?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I want to continue providing some context here, Mr. Speaker, because I think one of the things that all members will note now from the two affidavits that I have read is that, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in Mr. Langefeld's affidavit that specifically denies the points that are made in paragraph 26. Nothing, Mr. Speaker, that denies the points that are made in paragraph 26 of the Karvonen affidavit, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's important for all members of the House to understand — its fundamental context on this debate, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question arises with respect to the note, which is the matter that I was concerned about, Mr. Speaker. And one has to bear in mind that the original intent of the note was as an exhibit in support of the comments that were made by Mr. Karvonen, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, there was another element of the note that is of concern to me. And I will make that point in my next response.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, what happened yesterday was an apology. It was an admission of wrongdoing. Today the minister wants to withdraw that admission and wants to withdraw the apology. I don't know what his position is today, but yesterday it was an apology. And today I would like a sincere apology from that minister.

During that campaign, Mr. Speaker, we saw an abuse of the court system. And we saw an abuse of the electoral system, an abuse of power, and a deception of the media and a deception of the public designed to influence the outcome of an election.

Mr. Speaker, these are Nixon tactics. We could call it

Waller-gate. These words were specifically to describe some conduct. If I were to properly describe what took place, Mr. Speaker, the words would be so unparliamentary I would get marched out of here. I demand that the minister stand up today, apologize, withdraw this, and that the Premier fire his deputy today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — I want to make it very clear once again that the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker, approved the launching of the counterclaim, Mr. Speaker. He had no knowledge of this note, Mr. Speaker, no knowledge of this note at the time that he approved the counterclaim. And I want to say to the hon. member opposite that I reiterate the comments I made yesterday with respect to my apology and regret.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, I'm not changing my position at all. I want to make it very clear what my concern is, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the note was being used as an exhibit in support of paragraph 26 by Mr. Karvonen. But the note also says, Mr. Speaker, opposition party would negotiate, Mr. Speaker. The note was not signed, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing in this document to verify that the Saskatchewan Party had a position with respect to negotiating with the plaintiffs, Mr. Speaker. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what I regret. That is what I regret, Mr. Speaker. And those are the same comments I made yesterday.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, in the answer to the written question he talked about the Saskatchewan Party. This is a black day in Saskatchewan political history. Someone over at Olive Waller Zinkhan & Waller phoning the NDP campaign office to make sure these allegations go out to the media. Someone abusing taxpayers' money and abuse of public office. And Mr. Speaker, whose corrupt fingerprints are all over it? The Deputy Premier.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: does he plan to fire the Deputy Premier for this abuse of public office?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let's just be very clear here. Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite is somehow alleging that there is some wrongdoing in a member of our communications office contacting members of the media about a document that is public, Mr. Speaker, and about a process that is public in the courts, Mr. Speaker, I see, I see nothing inappropriate with notifying members of the media about a public process, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, that is my response to the member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, someone has got to the minister responsible for SPUDCO overnight. Someone has got to him, because yesterday he apologized. Yesterday he admitted to this heinous wrongdoing on the part of the Deputy Premier and the deputy minister to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. But the brain trust over there, and I use the term loosely, has obviously gotten to the minister responsible because now he's changing his story. There is a reason why the Premier won't get up out of his chair and acknowledge that the Deputy Premier ought to resign, Mr. Speaker — because the Premier knew about it.

His deputy minister was involved in this; his Deputy Premier was the one who authorized this tactic, Mr. Speaker, this abuse of power. The question to the Premier is this — will he answer it: when did he know about this tactic? When was he made aware that this was the level to which the NDP was prepared to stoop to win the election?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I . . .

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

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, frankly, I am tired of the allegations of the Leader of the Opposition. You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that he has repeated at least four times in this House since it's sat is that the New Democratic Party hasn't kept a single one of their election promises. And he knows, Mr. Speaker, that that's not an accurate statement but he keeps alleging it, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to remind him of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we've just kept our promise, Mr. Speaker, on the lowest utility rates in the country with the rebate . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — . . . Mr. Speaker. We've kept our promise for \$10 million of revenue sharing to municipalities. We've kept our promise for launching a youth entrepreneurs program, Mr. Speaker, and we've kept dozens of other promises. And the member, the Leader of the Opposition knows it, Mr. Speaker, but he keeps making the allegation, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the minister responsible apologized. He admitted this abuse of power. He admitted it to the media. He won't say it today. Yesterday all we got was an apology, Mr. Speaker. The truth is this government is always apologizing.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, what was compiled was a list of all the times the NDP has apologized over the last three years. It's five pages long. They apologized for the water in North Battleford. They apologized for giving the wrong information

about SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) use of private investigators. They apologized to John Popowich, to the Klassens, to the Kvellos. They apologized for insulting President Bush. They apologized for their Nazi cartoon. And now, they're apologizing again for SPUDCO.

Mr. Speaker, in this instance an apology is not enough. The Deputy Premier approved this strategy. Why won't the Premier admit when he found out about this tactic and why won't he do the right thing and demand the resignation of his Deputy Premier?

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, I tell you what. When, Mr. Speaker . . . This government, Mr. Speaker, is honest enough to say when it made a mistake, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite would do well, Mr. Speaker, to occasionally apologize himself when he makes a mistake, Mr. Speaker.

But I note, Mr. Speaker, that he makes many mistakes. He makes many allegations and, Mr. Speaker, when it becomes clear that they're not true and this is . . . when it becomes clear, Mr. Speaker, that they're not accurate — I withdraw the word true — when it becomes clear that they're not accurate, Mr. Speaker, he never apologizes to the House, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:30)

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to make a brief statement with respect to an answer for a written question which was previously provided.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader is asking leave to make a statement with respect to a written question. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the answer provided to written question no. 671 may have been incomplete. Given the volume of written questions asked that day — some 230 — House business staff made an assumption that all government appointments were reported in the *Saskatchewan Gazette*. Historically this may have been the practice; it occurs rarely now. Normally appointments would be gazetted only if legislation required

them to be. We will commit, Mr. Speaker, to the opposition that we will provide a complete answer in the very near future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased again today to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to all those written questions due today, Mr. Speaker; questions no. 831 through 833 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 831, 832, and 833 have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, to facilitate the meeting of the Human Services Committee and the Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure 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: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:34.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Toth	1901
Elhard	1901
D'Autremont	1901
Wall	1901
Draude	1901
Hermanson	1901
Bjornerud	1902
Morgan	1902
McMorris	1902
Eagles	1902
Bakken	1902
Brkich	1902
Weekes	1902
Dearborn	1903
Hart	1903

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk	1903
-------------	------

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Addley	1903
--------------	------

Standing Committee on the Economy

Lautermilch	1903
-------------------	------

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Elhard	1903
--------------	------

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker	1903
Calvert	1904
Wall	1904
Toth	1904
Forbes	1904
Bakken	1904
Thomson	1905
Morin	1905
Krawetz	1905

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

International Day to End Violence Against Women

Crofford	1905
----------------	------

10th Anniversary of the Office of the Children's Advocate

Draude	1905
--------------	------

Christmas Cheer Fund Supporter Remembered

Higgins	1906
---------------	------

New 4-H Club Formed in Eatonia

Dearborn	1906
----------------	------

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Morin	1906
-------------	------

Politics and Football

Heppner	1907
---------------	------

Caring and Compassion Helps Abuse Victims

Junor	1907
-------------	------

ORAL QUESTIONS

Waiting Times and Resources for Surgery

Gantefoer	1907
-----------------	------

Nilson	1907
--------------	------

Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company Litigation

Morgan	1908
--------------	------

Prebble	1908
---------------	------

Wall	1911
------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Van Mulligen	1912
--------------------	------

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Yates	1912
The Speaker	1912

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. L. Calvert
Premier

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

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

Hon. B. Belanger
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. E. Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources

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

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

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

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

Hon. P. Prebble
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

Hon. F. Quennell
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. C. Serby
Deputy Premier
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