



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

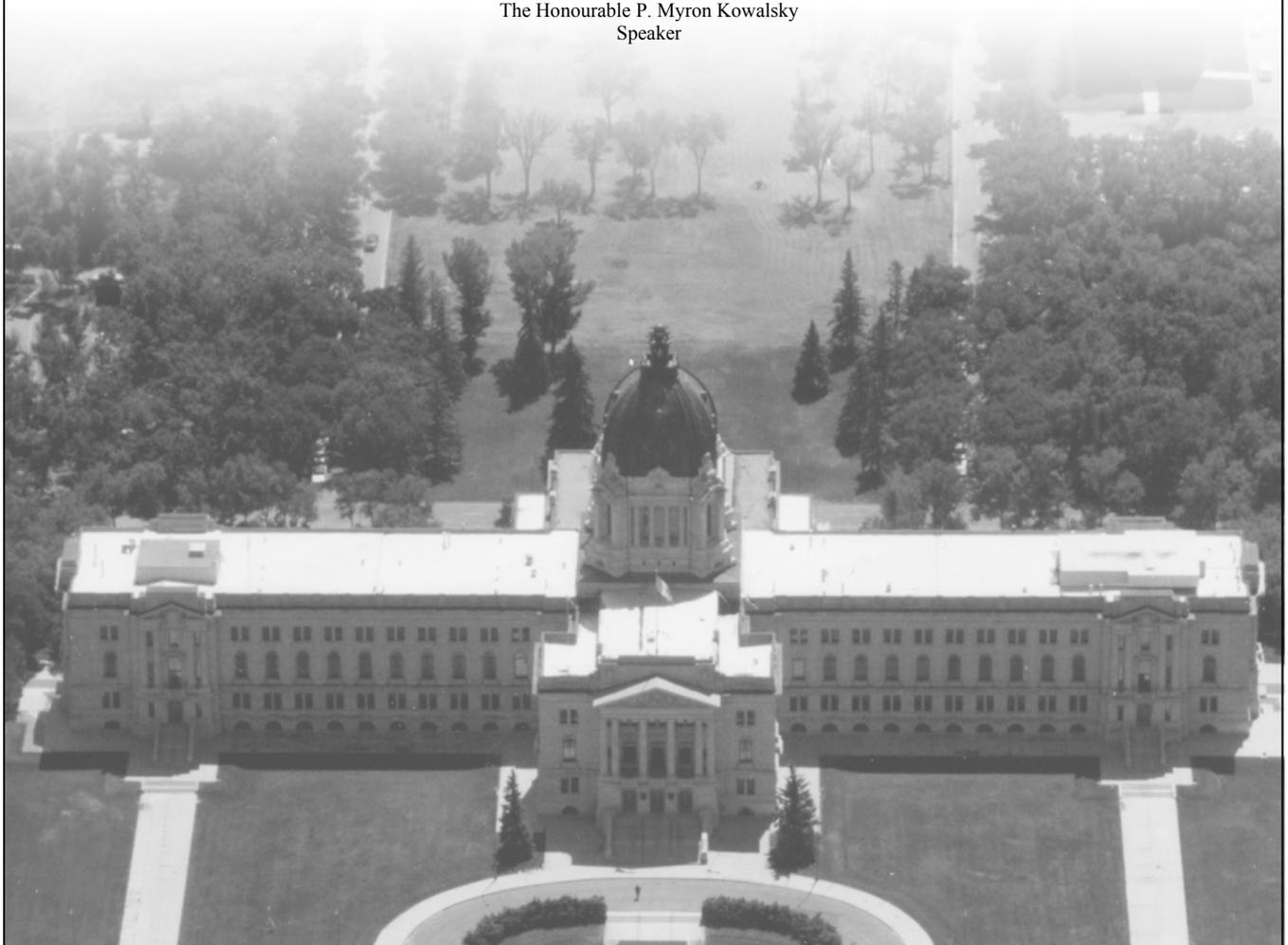
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the spread of the highly addictive drug, crystal methamphetamine.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to implement a strategy that will deal with crystal methamphetamine education, prevention, enforcement, and treatment.

The people that have signed this petition are all from Wadena.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to oppose SAMA [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency] requisitions for school divisions. The people who have signed this petition think that Saskatchewan farmers continue to be unfairly burdened by their share of school taxes. The prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary action to reverse charges recently made that require the education sector to contribute to the cost of SAMA, as this added burden for school boards will ultimately lead to higher property taxes for Saskatchewan residents.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Milden, Wiseton, and Dinsmore. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I today have a petition regarding the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Regina, Halbrite, and Midale. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes 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 CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program. 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 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.

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

And this petition is signed by residents of Pangman, Radville, Yellow Grass, Bengough, Lafleche, and Weyburn. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here that citizens want to improve SaskTel cellular service in rural Saskatchewan.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all the necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that all rural areas of Saskatchewan are protected for reliable cellular phone coverages.

In duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Jansen and Yorkton. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from people opposed to possible reductions of the 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 that the Biggar Hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance services maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Landis and Perdue. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 14 are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 180, 637, 638, 640, 666, 670, and 715.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 97 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Agriculture: can the Minister of Agriculture identify the amount of money the provincial government has spent on radio advertising as part of Agrivision's *Growing the Future* radio advertising program?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 97 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what is the amount of funding allocated to Larson House by the Government of Saskatchewan, including funding provided to the brief detox facility, and how many beds are there in both Larson House and the brief detox facility attached to Larson House?

To the Minister of Health: is Larson House in Saskatoon run by a community-based organization; and if it is not run by a community-based organization, who operates the facility and when did the last change in operation structure take place?

And, Mr. Speaker, I also put forth a notice of motion for a return. I give notice that I shall on day no. 94 move that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing:

To the Minister of Health: can the minister provide a list of facilities run by community-based organizations in Saskatchewan that are currently providing addiction services?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day 97 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Finance: does the provincial government receive any funds from the federal Department of Human Resources and Development for job creation? If so, how much did the province receive in 2004 and where were these funds directed to?

I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Wascana.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of University of Regina students who recently travelled to New York City and they took part in the International Model UN [United Nations] Conference that was held at the General Assembly Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask them to stand as I introduce them so that all members can acknowledge them here today. We have with us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Terin O'How, David Froh, Kashif Ahmed, Christa Ross. And next to Christa, we have Jennifer Soloway and Jennifer today is accompanied by her dad, Bob Adams.

Mr. Speaker, I was able to travel a short part of the way with them on their journey and they were very excited and were, I think, keen to represent us very well at the United Nations conference.

And they're able to come and watch part of the proceedings today and then I'll join them for refreshments and some questions following question period. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming the students from the University of Regina and Bob Adams.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, while I'm still on my feet, I wanted to also introduce to you . . . a little bit behind the clock this morning, but if Rhiannon Stromberg would stand up. Today is the last day that she'll join me on our side of the Assembly for the internship program. I've enjoyed working with Rhiannon over the last number of months and I think both of us can't believe how quickly the time has gone.

As we all know, Rhiannon will be joining a member opposite to shadow their experience from the opposition point of view, and I know she'll learn from both experiences. So I'd ask all members to give Rhiannon a warm welcome this morning.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce a couple that I have worked with or met a few years ago now and worked with on a number of issues. And seated in your gallery, from Glidden, Saskatchewan, is Terry and Carla Motz. And accompanying them today is a friend of theirs, right here from Regina, Lynn McCaslin. So I would welcome all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's seldom so much fun as it is for me for today and it's seldom such an honour as it is for me today to single out one person out of the United Nations model parliament. And that's Terin O'How.

I've come to know Terin reasonably well over the last number of months as a university student with a very keen interest in our world, and a very good understanding of government and governance. And I want to just say that Terin epitomizes tomorrow's leadership today. She's very talented, very bright. And I'm pleased to report that our son Brad has a very special interest in Terin O'How, and my wife Lorna and I are even more pleased to report that Terin O'How seems to reciprocate this very special interest in our son Brad. So I ask all hon. members to join me in a very special welcome to Terin O'How.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, the official opposition would also like to welcome the students from the U of R [University of Regina] who participated in the UN program, and their professor. Participation with the UN and other exchange programs such as that are an excellent learning tool and gives students and the rest of us — who then have the chance to associate and talk with those students — an understanding of what is happening in their world and what they have seen and can pass on to us.

Just as a point of interest, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to point out the young gentleman sitting in the middle there was a participant in the Pakistani-Canadian cultural event that occurred here on Saturday night, and he did a very good job as a fashion model, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to everyone.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Meadow Lake.

2005 Centennial Cup Hockey Challenge

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I suspect even from where you sit, Mr. Speaker, you will note I have on my Don Cherry tie today. I also tried to, I tried to complete my ensemble, Mr. Speaker, by borrowing the shirt from the member from Carrot River the other day, that bright yellow one, to complete my ensemble, but we couldn't coordinate that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by saying: so tonight, live from the civic centre in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it's the 2005 Centennial Cup Hockey Challenge.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, hockey is Canada's most popular sport, and as history can confirm, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been large contributors to the game. Tonight as part of our

centennial celebration Saskatchewan will battle Alberta for the Centennial Challenge Cup trophy. Mr. Speaker, the game has generated a great deal of interest in both provinces. In fact it took only one day for the game to sell out, Mr. Speaker.

CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] will be broadcasting the game live on radio and television to both Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ron MacLean of *Hockey Night in Canada* will be the MC [master of ceremonies] for the big game.

Mr. Speaker, the game will feature some of the Western Hockey League's finest major junior players, with Saskatchewan-based players taking on their Alberta counterparts. The Centennial Hockey Challenge was made possible through a partnership between Saskatchewan Centennial 2005, Alberta Centennial, the WHL [Western Hockey League], and CBC. Proceeds from the event will go towards the WHL Educational Fund, the Hockey Alberta Foundation, and the Saskatchewan Hockey Association Legacy Fund, thereby ensuring the legacy of excellent Saskatchewan hockey continues through our next 100 years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan and Alberta MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] will both be there to cheer on their respective teams, but I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that Team Saskatchewan will emerge as winners of the Centennial Challenge Cup. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the for Biggar.

Recognition of Wilkie Centenarians

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Saturday I had the great pleasure to present Saskatchewan centennial medals to two centenarians in Wilkie. The first presentation took place at Poplar Courts. The family of Ester Wolf came from all over Saskatchewan to be on hand. Mrs. Wolf was born in Dayton, Ohio 104 years ago. She came to Saskatchewan in 1914 with her family. Mrs. Wolf lived on her own until she was 99 years old and continued to play the piano and sing hymns up until two years ago. *The Wilkie Press* was on hand to take pictures of the presentation. Everyone enjoyed coffee and lunch while reminiscing about the past century.

The next presentation took place at the residence of Mrs. Florantina Ziegler. Mrs. Ziegler treated her neighbour and me to tea, cinnamon rolls, and old-time ammonia peppermint cookies which she had baked. While enjoying her baking, we talked about her life. Mrs. Ziegler was born 102 years ago. She spends her winters in British Columbia with family, and she just returned to Saskatchewan a few days before. Mrs. Ziegler remembers well the Regina cyclone and devastation it brought. The great flu epidemic of 1918 is vivid in her memory. Her father operated a taxi service with a team of horses and helped many sick people, without coming down with the flu. Mrs. Ziegler still owns an Eaton's wringer washer and is looking forward to warm spring temperatures when she will plant her garden, which takes up the whole backyard.

[10:15]

Please join me in congratulating these two wonderful centenarians who played such an important role in building Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Wascana.

International Model United Nations Conference

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A group of University of Regina students, along with political science professor Dr. Shreesh Juyal, recently travelled to New York city to take part in the International Model UN [United Nations] Conference at the UN General Assembly hall. Some of those students have met with our Minister of Finance, and I journeyed part of the way with some of the group too.

Mr. Speaker, since Dr. Juyal started the Model UN Club at the U of R in 1979, 17 of his students have had the distinction of becoming Canadian diplomats for various countries.

This year's delegation was made up of 14 students from a variety of academic backgrounds. They joined 3,300 other students, professors, and diplomats from 27 countries, and participated on a variety of challenging committees, including UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] and the Commission on Human Rights. This year for the first time, the U or R students were selected to represent a major world power; in this case, the country of India. They demonstrated their capability in the art of international negotiations, caucusing, resolution sponsorship, and diplomatic skills.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this year's delegation. Their participation at the International Model UN Conference has provided them with invaluable insight and experience, and I'm urging some of them to consider a seat in the Assembly in the future, Mr. Speaker.

I want to congratulate Dr. Shreesh Juyal for his commitment to the program. And I'd particularly like to acknowledge Nathan Van Beseleare, a student who lives in my constituency of Regina Wascana Plains, and Kashif Ahmed, a long-time friend. Congratulations to all; a job well done. Thank you very much for being our model UN participants.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Foam Lake Athletes Give Top Performances

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Lou Holtz, Notre Dame coach, football said:

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

Mr. Speaker, the Foam Lake Lady Panthers basketball team and

several members of the Rose Valley Karate Club may not have heard this quote, but regardless, they have learned that ability, motivation, hard work, and attitude can and does produce winners.

The Foam Lake Lady Panthers basketball team capped a 30 win, 3 loss season with their very first provincial 2A basketball championship at Hoopla. At the beginning of this year, this team set the goal to win gold and they succeeded. The road to their championship began with an east-central district 2A girls championship followed by a regional competition which earned them a seat at Hoopla.

And Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Foam Lake Lady Panthers consisting of coach Garth Anderson, team members Victoria Kolybaba, Celise Kowalchuk, Gillian Halyk, Brittany Faye, Katy McMann, Kiera Kerluke, Ann Nahrstedt, Ashlyn George, Therese Borger, Carli Anderson, Jade Pickering, and Kristen Bulych.

Another group of individuals who have worked hard are the members of the Rose Valley Karate Club. At a recent provincial competition in Rosetown, Carrie Balaski won a gold medal, while Tanice Balaski, Kristoffer Berg, Kristen Fitch, and Ona Murias won silver medals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask members to congratulate the winners of the Foam Lake ladies basketball team and the members of the Rose Valley Karate Club on their top performances. Best of luck to all of them in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Saskatoon Hosts Anne Frank Exhibit

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, next month a partnership between the city of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Saskatoon, will bring an exhibit called *Anne Frank in the World* to Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, through her diary Anne Frank has inspired the world, becoming a symbol of millions who died in the death camps during the Second World War and of the strength, grace and capacity for hope of the human spirit, even in the face of a regime as abhorrent and as oppressive as that of the Nazis.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Anne Frank committee has been instrumental in bringing this display to the city. It is intended to educate our young people, build bridges of understanding, and encourage relating with one another in a dignified and respectful manner.

I want to congratulate the Saskatoon Anne Frank committee for bringing this exhibit and its message of tolerance to the city. As the committee notes, its hope is that the Anne Frank exhibit will be a catalyst for addressing and healing the racism and other forms of discrimination in our community, making our province a community where different cultures feel welcome and respected.

Mr. Speaker, the exhibit will be at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre from May 16 to June 30, and I invite everyone who has the opportunity to attend. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Centenarian Recognized

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to talk today about our centenarians. It's amazing how many centenarians there are in each of our constituencies and how many there are across the province, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to talk about Agnes Steeves. Agnes was born on July 30, 1905, in North Dakota. She graduated from Kenmare in 1923 and went to Minot State college. She then married Currie Steeves from the Carievale area, the very south end of my constituency, Mr. Speaker.

But Agnes had a teaching job across in North Dakota already. And for that school year, she travelled back and forth every day, every school day, across the border to continue teaching in North Dakota and didn't once, Mr. Speaker, go through a customs port. It was simply back and forth because there were no problems, and there was no BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] at that time, Mr. Speaker.

Agnes became a full-fledged Canadian housewife in 1928 and had four children. She continues to live in the Sunset Haven in Carnduff, and knows and recognizes many of her friends.

My first meeting with Agnes, Mr. Speaker, was in the 1991 election. When I knocked on her door, she said, I know who you are. Slammed the door in my face. 1995, Mr. Speaker, I knocked on her door again, and she invited me in for cake and cookies. I'd like to congratulate Agnes Steeves on 100 years.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Nursing Shortage

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a known fact that health regions have been managing the nurse shortage by using extra nurses for overtime, and overtime is expensive. Not only in the dollar value does it cost more to the health districts, but there's higher burnout. There is poor working conditions, lower morale, more compensation claims, and more sick time. Not to mention the fact that there's a safety issue as well.

Why does the NDP [New Democratic Party] refuse to hire more permanent full-time nurses to deal with the nursing shortage instead of working nurses like dogs and using overtime to make up that shortage?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the regional health authorities are looking to hire nurses across the province, and that information is available for anybody who wishes to look for it on the Sask Health website and the links to each of the regional health authorities.

They are continuing to require more nurses in most parts of the province. I think practically, there are fewer nursing positions open in Regina and Saskatoon, but those nurses are being hired across the province. Mr. Speaker, the goal is to have the workplace organized in a way that will allow for some of those nurses to choose to work part-time jobs, but also the goal is to have full-time work for all of our new graduates.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the health districts are hiring nurses on casual positions, through casual positions and then relying on overtime to fill up the gap, Mr. Speaker. And that's why SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], in past contracts, have negotiated deterrents, deterrents for health districts to use overtime to fill in this gap. They use deterrents by increasing the cost, wages of nurses working overtime and so that health districts would not rely on this.

But the NDP now, in their negotiations, are looking at rolling back those deterrents. Rolling back the extra costs that it would cost health districts. Mr. Speaker, overtime leads to burnout in nurses, leads to early retirement. And now, this NDP government is rolling back the deterrent for health districts to do that.

Mr. Speaker, how will this lead to retaining and recruiting nurses when you work the . . . when you rely on overtime so much to keep our health care system working?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the member says opposite, the regional health authorities, working with the nursing managers and others, have been examining the overtime issue. And we've actually brought down the percentage of overtime that is being paid for nursing staff. And, Mr. Speaker, we're continuing to work on that. This is monitored on a very regular basis to see what the performance is across the province.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that involves many different factors. It involves the numbers of nurses available. It involves how the contracts work for nursing, and then how everything is managed. Mr. Speaker, this is something that cannot be solved with a simple policy thing, but it is something we're working on very, very diligently.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian

Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting because the minister then is admitting that we are relying far too much on overtime in our health care, for our health nurses, with our nurses. But by rolling back that deterrent is only going to allow health districts to rely more on overtime, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP first of all had said that for nurses, the contract was going to be 0, 1, and 1. I think nurses now are saying that wouldn't be bad, after listening to the first round of negotiations where they're rolling a number of the benefits and issues back, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have the dubious distinction in this province of having the worst nurse retention record across the nation. How will rolling back some of the things that the nurses have negotiated in past help retain nurses in this province?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member's asking some very specific questions about the bargaining table. And as he knows and the public knows, we won't go and talk about that.

But talking generally around what our goal is for the health care system — and this is true not just in health care, in fact — but we have many employees who have long experience, good solid experience that they want to pass on to a new generation of younger workers. And we're trying to sort out how we provide those full-time jobs for the new graduates, and at the same time acknowledge and recognize the very good work and the positive things that have been done by our senior staff. And some of those things are a challenge to do within the whole structure that we have now. When that becomes a problem, then at the bargaining table they talk about it, in the management places they talk about it. And we're continuing to work on these particular challenges.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we all know that there is a nursing shortage in this province. And to correct that we need more full-time permanent nursing positions in this province, not address it with overtime — full-time permanent positions.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Head, a graduate of nursing a few years ago, wrote to the *Leader-Post* a couple of months ago and talked about her situation. And here's what she had to say:

I was hired as a temporary full-time employee for 120 days (there is nothing permanent) . . .

And she was hired to the general surgery at the Pasqua Hospital.

This temporary position lasted for 2 years. [Now] I am . . . a casual employee . . .

She's looking for full-time work in surgery in this province and can't find it, Mr. Speaker. That's unacceptable when we rely on overtime to fill up the gap, Mr. Speaker. When will he look at increasing the full-time permanent jobs in this province to deal with the nursing shortage?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the member of the Conservative opposition asked a similar question of me during estimates the other day. And the answer was that the percentage of full-time jobs in Saskatchewan for nursing, the nursing profession, is above the national average.

But our goal is to continue to provide as many full-time jobs as we can for our new graduates while respecting the senior staff who wish to work on some other schedule that isn't full time. Mr. Speaker, this is a challenge. It is something that involves the contract. It involves how we manage what we're doing in the whole situation, and it involves quality workplaces. All of these are initiatives that are part of what we're working at right now.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Health Card for New Immigrant

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Janie Marie Edwards-Dixon lives on a ranch south of Val Marie. She was married to a Canadian citizen in January 2004. She applied for permanent residency on November 5, 2004.

When she applied for a health card, Mrs. Edwards-Dixon was told no card could be issued until Immigration Canada started its review of the application for permanent residency. Mr. Speaker, Immigration Canada is doing its job. The application is now under review. All the conditions have been met but still no health card.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health, why doesn't Mrs. Edwards-Dixon have a health card?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this is a particular challenge that we've had around the immigration process of the federal government. And, Mr. Speaker, it used to be that we would require that they would have permanent status in Canada. We then changed the policy to having information that it was being reviewed, and practically I think we've recently changed our regulations to deal with exactly this case.

I would ask the member to make sure that that kind of information is provided to my office, and we will look to have this one dealt with. But previously there were problems, and we identified that, and we've fixed it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the information has been provided to the minister's office. Mrs. Edwards-Dixon was told she could not have a health card until the Immigration Canada started reviewing the application. Now she's told by Sask Health there's been a change in the policy. No card will be issued until the application is approved.

Mrs. Edwards-Dixon says that it seems every time she meets the standard, the standard changes. She calls it unfair. Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why the rules have been changed, if they've been changed, and why?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we've had a number of challenges with the opposition Conservative party's research. I would ask that member to provide me with that information, and we will look at that. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I've already explained. I have provided the information to the minister in form of a letter from myself directly to him.

This adds to the issue also, Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Edwards-Dixon is a nurse. She's an RN [registered nurse]. She's ready to work, but she can't afford to pay for the accreditation because as things are ongoing now, she has to pay her medical costs because she doesn't have a health card. She's applied for Canadian citizenship. She's married to a Canadian. Her daughter is attending school in Saskatchewan. Her vehicle has Saskatchewan plates. She's about to give birth to a Saskatchewan citizen. She wants to work but she can't afford to because she's paying the health costs and can't afford the accreditation.

Mr. Speaker, this is another example of the NDP creating barriers to attract qualified professionals such as Mrs. Edwards-Dixon — barriers that try and attract people to this province. Mr. Speaker, when can the minister tell us that she will have a health card and when will he get his house in order?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said before I have a great deal of difficulty relying on the research capacity across the way but I will look at that particular case and make sure that there's an appropriate response.

Mr. Speaker, we work very carefully to make sure that our rules are available to include people. If there are some problems then we fix those rules. But, Mr. Speaker, this is a very specific case and we need to have a better look at it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Tax Relief for New Businesses

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Entrepreneurs and academics in Saskatchewan are telling this government it's missing another opportunity to spur on economic development. Right now an investment tax credit is available to small businesses to offset the cost of the 7 per cent provincial sales tax. However start-up businesses usually don't get a chance to use this tax credit and the provincial sales tax is a barrier to growth.

Jason Skotheim from Horizon Manufacturing has written to the Premier saying, and I quote, "Saskatchewan is the most punitive jurisdiction in North America" as it pertains to start-up business.

Mr. Speaker, will this government consider an exemption from the PST [provincial sales tax] on manufacturing and processing? Will this government give tax relief some immediate value to businesses just starting up?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, we announced on budget day that there will be a review of business taxes in Saskatchewan to see how we can improve business taxes to encourage job creation and economic development in Saskatchewan. The investment tax credit that the member speaks about will certainly form part of that review. We look forward to the deliberations of the business tax review committee and their report this fall with a view to incorporating their recommendations into next year's budget and future budgets, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remind the minister that people like Mr. Skotheim are looking for action and leadership from this government now.

Mr. Speaker, this week we saw this NDP government embrace the opposition's idea of new growth tax incentives. And that's a positive sign, Mr. Speaker. That's a positive sign — number 21 in our list of 100. They're learning, slowly. But why stop there? If it works for the potash sector, why not help small manufacturing businesses? Why not provide a PST exemption on the purchase of manufacturing and processing equipment? Why not give a boost to rural economies, the value-added processing industry, and create some jobs now?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan government in 1995, the NDP government of the day, changed the way in which we treated manufacturing and processing. At that time there were major changes made, not only to provide for an investment tax credit, but also to reduce the corporate

income tax rate for manufacturing and processing businesses.

Since that time, we've seen the increase in value of manufacturing shipments since that time outstrip the rest of Canada. We look forward to continuing to make progress in this matter, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind that minister that he is part of a government that presides over the worst job creation record in the country over the last five years, less than half of one per cent per year growth. Shameful.

Mr. Speaker, this government is good at breaking its promises and raising taxes when times are bad. But when the situation improves, the taxes stay like some kind of bad hangover. Mr. Speaker, this is an easy way to create some growth. There is an easy way to create some jobs. If the minister won't roll back the PST and give ordinary people some tax relief, will he at least give sales tax exemptions on manufacturing and processing equipment?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member speaks of an easy way. And I think the easy way he demonstrated the other day when he said, you know, you should just take \$55 a barrel as oil and put that into your budget because then you'd have an extra \$400 million to spend, perhaps on matters such as this, Mr. Speaker. Well today, Mr. Speaker, oil is around \$50 a barrel. So since that call by the opposition to book a certain level, we've seen a drastic drop.

This is so typical of the Conservatives in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, always spend more than you have. Always spend more than you have. Promise the people the sun, the moon, the stars; anything, everything, to curry favour, Mr. Speaker. But never, never be responsible.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — . . . to remind the Finance Minister, that \$51 a barrel US [United States] is \$10 more than \$41 a barrel US. Well, Mr. Speaker, I read this morning that the minister of industry . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please, members. Order. Order. The floor's with the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read this morning, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Industry and Resources is this NDP's government last link to business. I read in *The StarPhoenix* that this minister is the last person over there that can keep in check an NDP government that is, and get this, Mr. Speaker, I quote:

. . . [an] evil twin [that] is . . . [ideologically and] disorganized, with a tendency to lurch from one crisis to the next with no clear idea of its destination or how to get there.

End quote, Mr. Speaker. Truer words have never been written. Will this minister use the last remaining shreds of influence to keep that evil, ideological NDP twin in check? Will he push through a proposal on PST exemptions for new business equipment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, the Conservative opposition Finance critic who apprenticed under the Devine regime in the 1980s, I can tell you it's not the last link to that regime. There are other members of that side who also have either served in that administration or have links. Also the Leader of the Opposition had links to that regime.

Mr. Speaker, I want to today to welcome, to welcome the Conservative Finance critic to the billion dollar club in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we have one member from the Devine administration — the Finance minister in 1986-87 — who ballooned their deficit by \$1 billion. This member should also be made a member of that club for having the fastest increase in billion dollar spending in Saskatchewan history, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Quota for Egg Producers

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, another broken promise. For years unregistered egg producers have been on a waiting list trying to get quota. In January 2003 the then Minister for Agriculture, the member for Yorkton, promised an unregulated egg producer that, and I quote:

. . . existing individuals on these [waiting] lists will be solely eligible for a first auction of new quota . . .

Imagine the surprise, Mr. Speaker, when these unregistered egg producers found a recent newspaper ad for a public auction for egg quota. Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Premier, why did the new Minister of Rural Development break his word once again?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, I want to say that the Minister of Agriculture has been working very closely with the Saskatchewan egg producers in the province, Mr. Speaker. He's worked very closely with them to establish the new quotas.

We have a new process, Mr. Speaker, today in terms of how we handle the quotas as the right to the feather industry and the egg

industry. And I say to the member opposite that he should review those carefully because the producers in Saskatchewan today, both in the egg production and the feather production, support the kinds of direction of which the government is proceeding with on the quota system, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, in that letter to Terry Motz, the Deputy Premier made a commitment. And I'll repeat that commitment.

... quota waiting lists will be phased out but existing individuals on these lists will be solely eligible for first auction of new quota ...

Not happening, Mr. Speaker.

That was a commitment made by the Deputy Premier and another broken promise by the NDP government. Mr. Speaker, Terry Motz is an unregistered egg producer from Glidden. He wants quota. In March of last year he was told the quota allocation policies were under review. And now he sees in the newspaper the quotas will be auctioned off tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this government made a promise to this producer. What happened to that promise?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, when we established the new quota system in Saskatchewan, the commitment to egg producers in the province and those who are involved in the feather industry were that we were moving to a new system. For those people who are unregistered as Mr. Motz was, we advised Mr. Motz that there would be in fact a new system and that we would examine that process and ensure that those people who do not have quota, Mr. Speaker, would have an opportunity to participate in fact in the new structure.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, today to the member opposite that when he raises the issue about broken promises in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I say to the member opposite in Agriculture, you are one of the key players ...

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. I'll just ask the Deputy Premier to direct all of his remarks to the Chair. The floor belongs to the Deputy Premier.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, that member from Saltcoats Melville, Mr. Speaker, is one of the players who said in this House, Mr. Speaker, that he didn't support the changes to the agricultural programs ... or supported the changes to the agricultural program in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And then when we got to Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, he's the guy

who then says, when we return, we don't support the Saskatchewan egg producers. We don't support the Saskatchewan farmers. We don't support Saskatchewan policy, Mr. Speaker. He's the guy who's in there changing the policy, Mr. Speaker ...

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe we've hit a nerve over there especially with the Deputy Premier. Now he's getting up and telling that producer, he will have an opportunity to bid. That's not what he told the producer in January of 2003. And I quote again, he says:

... existing individuals on ... [the] lists will be solely eligible for ... [the] first auction of new quota ...

Here we go. It's in the paper. He's not solely eligible for the first quota, everybody is eligible. Will that minister and that government ever make a commitment — stand behind that commitment — so that producers in the province can believe something that they are promised by the NDP?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, the producers of Saskatchewan just need to check the record of this administration, Mr. Speaker. They just need to check the record of this administration and they will see, Mr. Speaker, that the record of this administration, Mr. Speaker, brought additional money to farmers under the new transportation program — \$300 million more, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at the commitment that this government has made on the CAIS program, on supporting the AIDA [agricultural income disaster assistance] program, Mr. Speaker, and ensuring that we fund the crop insurance program to full extent, Mr. Speaker, our commitments, not only have met our obligations but they've exceeded them.

On every occasion, Mr. Speaker, that we've had in this House where we debate agricultural policy, there is only one inhibitor, Mr. Speaker, in terms of agriculture policy in Saskatchewan and it's the Conservative party from across the way, Mr. Speaker. Because it's they, Mr. Speaker, who in fact stand in the way of restructuring of Saskatchewan agricultural policy. And on every occasion, Mr. Speaker, it is that Conservative party that gets in the way of constructive agriculture policy in the province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased once again to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions no. 980 through 983 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 980 to 983 inclusive have been submitted.

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)

Return No. 338

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that.

The Speaker: — The Chair's ordered return no. 338.

Return No. 339

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 339 has been ordered.

Return No. 340

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — No. 340 ordered.

Return No. 341

The Speaker: — Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 341 ordered.

Return No. 342

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 342 ordered.

Return No. 343

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 343 ordered.

Return No. 344

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 344 ordered.

Return No. 345

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 345 ordered.

Return No. 346

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 346 ordered.

Return No. 347

The Speaker: — Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 347 ordered.

Return No. 348

The Speaker: — Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 348 ordered.

Return No. 349

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 349 ordered.

Return No. 350

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 350 has been ordered.

Return No. 351

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 351 ordered.

Return No. 352

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 352 ordered.

Return No. 353

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 353 ordered.

Return No. 354

The Speaker: — The Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we'll order that as well.

The Speaker: — 354 ordered.

Return No. 355

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, we'll order that one as well.

The Speaker: — 355 has been ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, to facilitate activities of the members outside of the House — and I would simply add go, Saskatchewan, go — I move this 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 Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 10:54.]

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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
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