



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

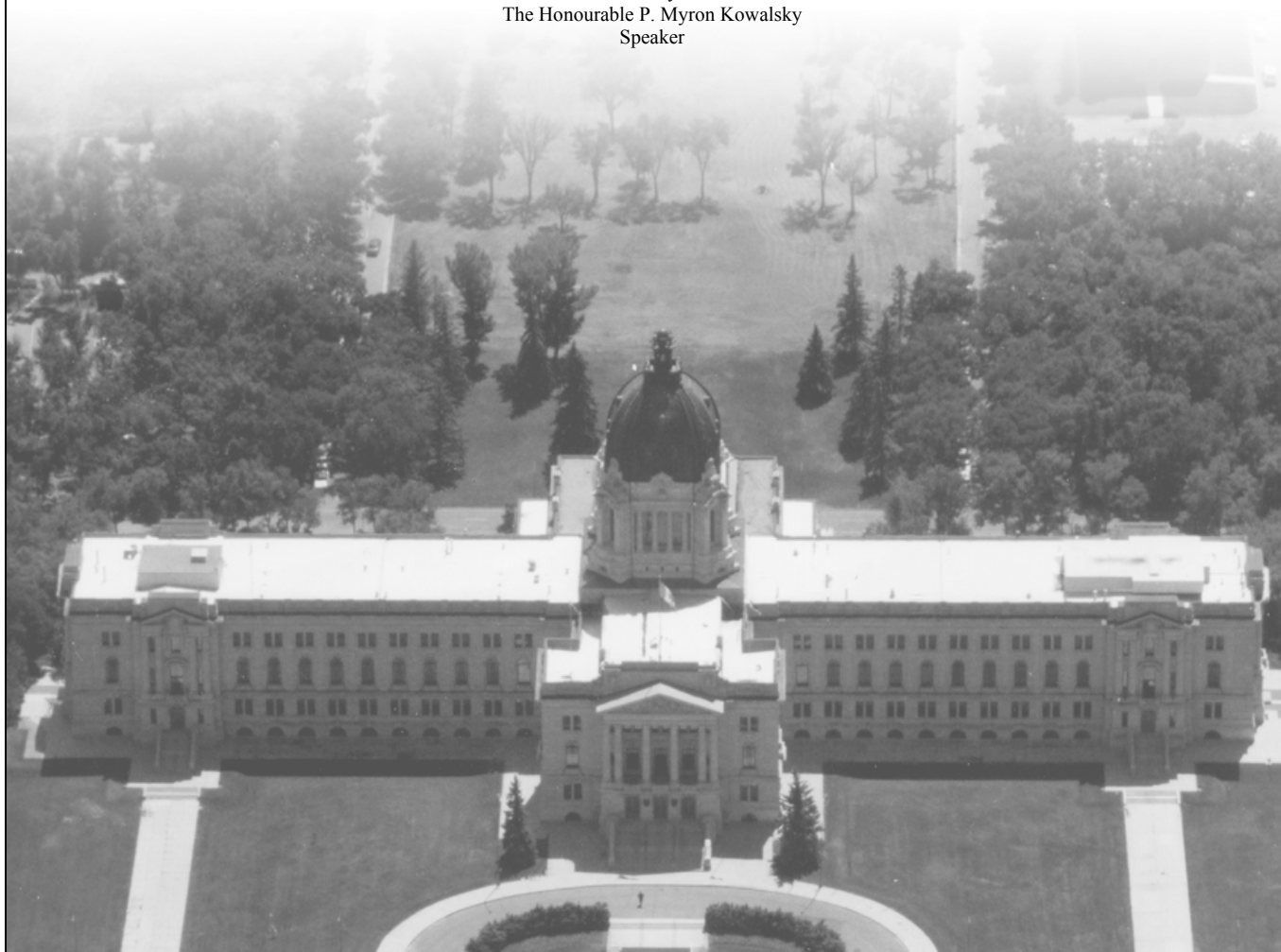
---

**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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Highway 32 from Swift Current to Leader is a very contentious piece of highway. And the prayer related to that particular issue 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, today's signatories are from the communities of Cabri, Portreeve, and Lancer. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the drug, crystal meth. The prayer reads:

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, treatment.

The people that have signed this petition are from Wadena and Weekes. I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to halt the forced amalgamation of school divisions, and it's signed by people who think the size of the proposed school divisions is far too large to retain any local input. Mr. Speaker, 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 ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, a number of signatures on this petition and they are all from the community of Eston. 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, again today I have a petition to present from constituents of mine who are very concerned about 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 residents of Midale and Estevan. 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 with citizens that 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 necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that all rural areas of Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by citizens from Drake, Jansen, Wynyard, and Lanigan. I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition to revisit the effects of the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project. The prayer reads:

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

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Asquith and Grandora and area. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition signed by Saskatchewan citizens who are concerned with the effects of the TransGas natural gas storage project in the Asquith area, and the prayer reads as follows:

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

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

Signatures to this petition Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Asquith, Grandora, and Saskatoon. I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 106, 637, 666, 715, 716, 720, 729, and 730.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Private Bills Committee.

##### Standing Committee on Private Bills

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand and table the report of the . . . the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip . . . the Chair of the Committee on Private Bills.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would move, seconded by the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood, that the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills now be concurred in; and that said Bills be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney and seconded by the member for Last-Mountain Touchwood that the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in, and that the said Bills be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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:** — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Committee of the Whole.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 99 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: for the fiscal year 2004-2005, what was the total number of applications received that year and how many applicants received approval?

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 6 move the first reading of Bill No. 205, the water quality day Act.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me today to introduce to you and through you to other members of the legislature some individuals sitting in the west gallery who represent the emergency workers of our province, who do so much every day of the year to protect the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Specifically among the people in the west gallery are: Chief Terry Coleman, who is president of Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police; Angela Desjarlais, a constable with the Regina Police Service; Gerry Huget, president of Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association and a number of firefighters joining him from across our province; Ross Reaburn, a paramedic with Regina EMS [emergency medical services]; Bernie Eiswirth, executive director of Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers; Dave Haye, president of Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers, and his wife, Joanne.

Now I believe these individuals are here to express their support for legislation that is receiving second reading today that's been introduced by this NDP [New Democratic Party] government to support our emergency workers and help protect victims of crime and good Samaritans in our province, Mr. Speaker. And I hope all members of the legislature will welcome them here today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the members opposite in welcoming these individuals to our

legislature and to their legislature. And I'd like to as well thank them very much for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

And we feel that all members should recognize they regularly and routinely put their lives at risk for our safety and security. If anybody has any doubts about the hard work and the risk these people take, I'd urge all members consider doing a ride-along with some of them and to get to see it through their eyes. They're a fine group of people, and would ask all members to welcome them and recognize them for their hard work and commitment, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce two constituents of mine that are joining here today. They're on the floor — if they could give a little wave — Glen Hitchcock from the town of Wynyard and Earl Jordan from the town of Dafoe. They, up today on a little bit of business and also a little bit of pleasure, thought they would stop and visit their legislature and see the proceedings. I hope that they will enjoy what is happening today in their legislature and find it very informative. So through you and to members, I know that they will want to welcome them here today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted today to welcome through you and to you to all members of the legislature 21 students from Porcupine Plain Composite School. They're sitting in the east gallery. Porcupine Plain is of course one of the best towns in Saskatchewan. With them today is their teacher, Lawrence Schmidt; Annette Legaré; and also a Japanese intern student, Satoko Ono. She has been staying in Porcupine this year.

I'm very delighted to see them here today. I'm sure they're going to want to have a lot of questions afterwards to see what we really do in the legislature, and I look forward to talking to you later on.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

#### Pope Benedict XVI

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

“The Cardinals have elected me to work in the vineyard of the Lord.” These were among the first words of Pope Benedict XVI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the election of the new leader of the Catholic Church who comes from Bavaria, Germany, the province of my parents, and taught at the

University of Regensburg, which is my mother's home city.

The new Pope has praised absolute fidelity to the great tradition of the church while saying he is open to the great challenges of the world. Pope Benedict XVI, previously Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, has played many roles in the Catholic Church and has wielded spiritual influence earning worldwide respect even from those who don't hold to the Catholic faith.

Papal biographer for John Paul II, George Weigel, has said that not even those who disagree with some of the new Pope's views have “... ever questioned Joseph Ratzinger's erudition, his encyclopedic knowledge of theology, or his elegance as a thinker and writer.”

I would like to quote Pope Benedict XVI's writings:

The deepest poverty is the inability of joy, the tediousness of a life considered absurd and contradictory. This poverty is widespread today, in very different forms in the materially rich as well as the poor countries. The inability of joy presupposes and produces the inability of love, produces jealousy, avarice [and] all the defects that devastate the life of individuals and of the world.

Mr. Speaker, we stand with Catholics the world over in recognition of Pope Benedict XVI.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

[13:45]

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Habemus papam. Habemus papam.* We have a pope. Today those words rang out across St. Peter's Square in Rome after a puff of white smoke came out of the Sistine Chapel's chimney announcing the election was finished. The thousands of people gathered in the square to await the election of a new leader for the Catholic Church cheered with joy when it was announced the successor of Pope John Paul II is the former cardinal of Germany, Joseph Ratzinger. Cardinal Jorge Medina Estévez of Chile announced the name of the 265th pope who will be known as Benedict XVI. The new pope was elected on the second day of the conclave in which 115 cardinals took part.

Today's election marks an end to the uncertainty for the 1 billion Catholics who have been without an earthly spiritual leader since the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2. And also for many Christians, Muslims, and Jews the world over, welcoming the new Holy Father to the See.

I would ask all members of this House to join with me extending warm wishes to Catholics in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and around the world on the election of Pope Benedictine XVI.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### United Way of Regina Tribute Luncheon

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past 70 years, the United Way of Regina and its volunteers have been diligently working together to build community and improve people's lives. By engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action, the United Way invests in programs and services that help foster healthy and supportive communities.

Earlier today, I along with the members from Regina Elphinstone-Centre and Regina Walsh Acres had the pleasure of attending the United Way of Regina's 2005 Tribute Luncheon. As usual, this luncheon honoured a select group of community leaders and the thousands of volunteers and citizens who support the organization's efforts every year.

Dave Pettigrew of IBM [International Business Machines Corporation] Canada, and John Ryan, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Farm Credit Canada each received the President's Award. And, Mr. Speaker, Hill group of companies, Harvard Developments, and SaskPower each received Distinguished Corporate Philanthropy Awards. The Investors Group Volunteer Recognition Awards went to Lee Ubell and Tracey Heese. And this year's recipients of the inaugural Labour Community Service Award is Bob Ivanochko for the active and important role he has played in strengthening the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure my colleagues will join me in congratulating this year's award recipients on their accomplishments and thanking them for their tireless work. I also want to acknowledge the United Way of Regina for providing concerned citizens with the opportunity to work collectively in caring for the most vulnerable people in our society. Their support and efforts continue to make a difference, and for this we are very grateful.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatchewan Party Leader's Annual Dinner

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when over 850 citizens of Regina are eager to hear a bright and inspirational vision for the province of Saskatchewan, where do they go and whom do they listen to?

Well they go to the Sask Party leader's dinner to hear the Leader of the Opposition. Last night, after an excellent introduction by University of Regina president, Dr. David Barnard, the Leader of the Opposition outlined his vision for the future of the province of Saskatchewan to a capacity crowd that included such luminaries as Mayor Pat Fiocco, former NDP deputy premier Dwain Lingenfelter, and a smattering of former NDP MLAs [Members of the Legislative Assembly] who have seen the light.

The Leader of the Opposition gave an excellent speech that touched on the history of our province and the individuals who carved a living from the land. He talked about the early leadership in Saskatchewan that didn't cast our province as

mediocre — leadership that would match its actions to its words, Mr. Speaker.

The speech outlined how after great development and growth from the 1900s to the 1940s, our province's leadership lost its vision. Saskatchewan was once the place to be. We were outstripping all other provinces in population growth. Our leadership for much of the last 60 years forgot that Saskatchewan was built not by government but by individuals coming together in co-operation, by communities, and by families.

Mr. Speaker, last night over 850 Saskatchewan residents received a vision and a message of hope. They heard from a leader that is ready for the challenge of restoring this province to the greatness that it truly deserves. Their only hope, Mr. Speaker, is that day comes soon.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

### Saskatoon Student Invited To Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, Kim Richards is a grade 10 student at Walter Murray Collegiate in my constituency of Saskatoon Eastview. Her hobbies include writing; Highland dancing; and sports such as volleyball, basketball, and horseback riding; and she is very involved with her school and her community.

Ms. Richards is also an award-winning science researcher who has won science prizes at the local, regional, and national levels. Now she is one of only eight Canadians who have been invited to the week-long Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, or ISEF, being held next month in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the ISEF will bring together more than 1,300 students from around the world to compete for \$3 million worth of awards and scholarships.

Ms. Richards was selected after the Youth Science Foundation reviewed and accepted her application to be part of Team Canada at ISEF. Her project concerns the use of foreign germplasm to control a disease of wheat and barley known as fusarium head blight. The disease creates micro-toxins in crops, making them unsuitable for human and animal use. Ms. Richards has put some 600 hours into her project since July, growing crops resistant to the disease and studying them at the genetic level to see how they can be merged into Canadian wheat and barley production. That being said, I think it's particularly interesting that she thinks of herself more as an English student than a science student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Kim Richards on her successes so far, and in wishing her even greater success next month in Phoenix.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Wynyard Artist Awarded Trip to New York

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to talk about an accomplished artist from Wynyard. Wendy Struck was recently awarded \$1,200 towards an upcoming trip to New York city as part of a research project on art to be produced in Wynyard.

Wendy is currently the artist in residence for the Lakeview School Division. In 1994 she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Regina and has worked as a painter, artistic judge, and art instructor across the province. Wendy has exhibitions of her artwork in a variety of venues from the Rosemont Art Gallery, Fifth Parallel Gallery in Regina, as well as the Gallery Vertigo in BC [British Columbia], and the Church Café in Manitoba.

Funding was provided through the Saskatchewan Arts Board individual assistance program that awards funding to artists who are very active in the arts across Saskatchewan. This program supports the creation of new work in any art form, professional development, research, and travel for professional artists.

I am certain that Wendy will enjoy her trip to the Big Apple and will be inspired by the wide variety of artistic talent in that historic city. I am proud to see one of the many talented . . . my constituents represent Saskatchewan abroad. I would that all members join me in congratulating Wendy Struck on her outstanding achievements. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

### Gary Tinker Awarded Centennial Medal

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend I, along with my colleague the member from Cumberland, had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Gary Tinker Federation 15th anniversary celebration and disability conference in La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, the Gary Tinker Federation is a non-profit organization that exists today because in 1989 Gary Tinker, a young man with cerebral palsy, took it upon himself to make a 650 kilometre walk from La Ronge to Regina on crutches to raise awareness about the needs of people with disabilities in northern Saskatchewan. His vision and determination were noted, and for the last 15 years, Mr. Speaker, the federation has been working to identify and address the needs of disabled persons in the North.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of the conference was Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges, and it was a great success.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to be able to say that Gary Tinker is a constituent of mine. He has remained very active in the federation over the last 15 years. At the Friday evening banquet, in recognition of his contributions to the people of this province, in particular people with disabilities in the North, I had the honour of awarding him the Saskatchewan Centennial

Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in congratulating Mr. Gary Tinker on receiving the centennial medal and in recognizing the ongoing good work of the organization that very appropriately bears his name. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

#### Negotiations with Federal Government Regarding Equalization

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the federal NDP leader, Jack Layton, announced that he intends on propping up the embattled federal Liberal government if the Liberal government agrees to address the fiscal imbalance of Ontario, Mr. Speaker. Not the province of Saskatchewan, no mention of it yesterday, but rather the province of Ontario.

It's bad enough, frankly, that our Premier seems to be unable to get the attention of the Prime Minister. Now it appears he's unable to get the attention of his own federal leader, the leader of the fourth party in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, has the Premier raised this issue directly with Mr. Layton and, if so, why is Jack Layton fighting for fiscal fairness for Ontario but not for the province of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition won't want to confirm this fact but the fact of the matter is the federal Leader of the New Democratic Party, the New Democratic Party members of Parliament in Ottawa, have voiced the Saskatchewan case and have voiced it strongly.

Now I understand that Mr. Harper and Mr. Layton are both supporting Ontario's position — and fair enough. And fair enough. But the question, Mr. Speaker, that is being asked in the province of Saskatchewan is: where were the Conservative members of Parliament when they had a chance, when they had the opportunity to do something on behalf of the farmers and producers of Saskatchewan by expressing that opinion in the budget debate? They weren't even there. They sat on their hands, Mr. Speaker. That's the question that ought to be asked here in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. Let's be clear. We're not talking about speeches in the House of Commons. We're

talking about the federal NDP agreeing to prop up the federal Liberal government. The only condition though is that that government address the fiscal imbalance for the province of Ontario.

A couple of weeks ago Jack Layton was in Saskatchewan. He was in the Premier's hometown. Did he hold a similar news conference with the Premier with respect to the province of Saskatchewan and equalization? No. No, he had dinner and he went home. Thanks for coming out, Jack.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Leader of the New Democratic Party is not talking about Saskatchewan today at all. We want to know from this Premier, what is he doing about it? It's his party. It's his leader of the fourth party in the House of Commons. Where are they in terms of Saskatchewan? Where is he in terms of fighting for a better deal for Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, he wants to talk about federal leaders. Let's talk about his federal leader. I'll tell you the federal leader of the New Democratic Party has been in this province . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Well now, Mr. Speaker, now they want to deny they have a federal leader. Well I might want to deny if that man was my federal leader too. But the fact of the matter is, they cannot deny it. The Conservative Saskatchewan Party and the Conservative Party of Canada or better described as the Reform Conservative Party of Canada — it's the same political group, Mr. Speaker. We know that.

And the question is where were their members of the House of Commons when it came to voting on behalf of the farming people of Saskatchewan? They sat on their hands, they didn't do what they could do on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. And just by the way, Mr. Speaker, I have seen the federal leader of the New Democratic Party in the province of Saskatchewan on many occasions and rare is the occasion Mr. Harper has been here to actually talk to Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago when the Premier had his meeting, which turned out apparently to be a photo op with different political people in the province of Saskatchewan, he promised to take the advice of the opposition to ramp-up the case for better equalization deal for our province. And since then, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has been strangely quiet. He wouldn't have even commented last week about making this a federal election issue if the opposition hadn't raised it in the Legislative Assembly.

Yesterday, yesterday his federal leader said that he will prop up

the federal Liberal government and the condition is a better deal for Ontario. What is the position of the federal NDP with respect to a better deal for Saskatchewan? And where is the Premier with respect to his position on the province of Saskatchewan?

He and the Minister of Finance have a lot of time to write me letters complaining about the opposition being mean to them. When is he going to start making the case to Ottawa for a better deal for our province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, about a year and a half ago we began to make the case for a better deal for Saskatchewan. And as a result of this government's efforts a year ago, we were able to achieve a significant, significant progress on injustice that has been done to this province in the course of the years under the current equalization formula.

As a result of that, of course we have the Finance critic of the opposition describing the \$360 million achieved for the people of Saskatchewan as table scraps, Mr. Speaker. That's their view of \$360 million.

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. I just find that the . . . Order, please. I would ask members on both sides of the House . . . I would ask members on both sides of the House to just wait their turn for when they get recognized. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, over the course of this year I have been raising this issue at first ministers' level. I have raised it on a number of times in the person of the Prime Minister. We have travelled to the nation's capital and the nation's media centres and the nation's financial capitals to raise this case. And I can inform the House that significant discussions have been happening between senior officials of both of our governments to seek a fair deal for the people of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

#### **Funding for New Contract with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation**

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has displayed a remarkable consistency of saying one thing and doing the other. After it said it was going to impose a 0, 1, and 1 mandate on teachers, it came to its senses and finally realized they had to negotiate a contract.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those very same teachers, school board officials, and taxpayers are wondering the very next major question. That is, where is this money to settle this contract going to come from? To the Minister of Learning, Mr. Speaker: can he tell us unequivocally that this money is going to be provided for our school boards and school trustees and teachers and not come out of property taxes?



**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, the same time that those members opposite were complaining — complaining about the mandate that we were working with — at the same time then after we settled the agreement, saying, oh they're complaining that we got an agreement. Those members need to understand that what we have done is looked at an agreement that meets the needs of teachers, meets the needs of taxpayers, and will in fact be ratified by the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] and be implemented by the government. This is a good news story. The members should stop looking, stop looking for the negativity here.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to stop looking for the negativity when there is never a forthright answer that comes available from this government. Mr. Speaker, the question is very simple. To the Minister of Learning: will the provincial government cover the cost of the three-year contract that's been negotiated, in its entirety, to local school boards so that this does not go onto local property taxes?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Once again, Mr. Speaker, we have good news for teachers. We have good news for students. We have good news for parents. And we have bad news for the Sask Party. And I am sorry that they need to keep looking for negativity.

In past agreements we have funded that. I said to the STF when we went forward that we would go forward with the new resources. What we are working through is what the mechanism is to do that, and the member opposite should know that and stop this scaremongering.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, the only thing that frightens people in this province is this government's happiness to go and do one thing when it's promising something else. What frightens people in this province is this minister standing up and blaming teachers' salaries for the high cost of property tax. What frightens people in this province, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this minister refuses to stand in his place and commit unequivocally that the funds will be made available to school boards so that it will not go on to the property taxpayers. Will he do that instead of playing cute with his answers?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well I have already answered this question. The member can review *Hansard* and see that.

What this opposition needs to understand is what the people of Saskatchewan are afraid of — is afraid to see the kind of partisanship that that opposition brings to this House, the kind of negativity. When we have an agreement that we negotiated by fair and free collective bargaining, when we have a negotiation that results in a deal that's good for teachers, good for taxpayers, good for parents, and good for students, we don't need an opposition that comes in here and trash-talks it on the floor of this Assembly.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Property Tax Increase in Saskatoon

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again this government says one thing and does another. It promises not to raise taxes, then it increased the PST [provincial sales tax]. It promises not to raise taxes, Mr. Speaker, then it freezes municipal revenue sharing. Everyone knew that that would lead directly to higher property taxes. But would this government listen, Mr. Speaker? No. Its actions don't match its words.

Last night Saskatoon residents found out their property taxes were going up by 4 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The reason? This government said one thing and does another.

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. I would ask the members towards that side, pay a little more attention to the questions and the responses that are being given and stand when they are recognized. The floor belongs to the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, why is this government forcing the city of Saskatoon to raise property taxes by 4 per cent?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity to review the work that's being done in the city of Saskatoon, as I had the opportunity to review the work that's being done in other cities across Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that members who were watching yesterday afternoon in Committee of Finance when I was appearing and talking about revenue sharing, that members will recognize and realize that this government has had a very good working relationship with municipalities, and in fact are understanding and recognize that municipalities have a lot of choices to make when they set their, when they set their tax rates, Mr. Speaker. They had an opportunity to know where the province of Saskatchewan was sitting on revenue sharing. And I think it should be, should be noted, considerable amount of the

additional costs in the city of Saskatoon had to do with additional expenses that were being taken there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the biggest tax increase the city of Saskatoon has seen in the last four years. And it can be traced right back to this NDP government, this NDP government that failed to provide any increase in revenue sharing for urban or rural municipalities.

People came and they begged for a new revenue-sharing formula. But this NDP government didn't listen. They don't care. They say lower taxes and then they do something else. They talk the talk but they don't walk the walk. They say one thing and they do something else.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government begin negotiations on a new revenue-sharing formula for municipalities so they can forget about this dismal budget just presented by this government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And once again we have a opposition that hasn't listened to a thing that this government has said. Over a month and a half ago we entered into negotiations with the municipalities to discuss revenue sharing for the coming year. Municipalities are bringing to the table information, just as Government Relations and Finance is bringing to the table information. And we are committed to working on a revenue-sharing formula that works in the interests of municipalities across this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, once again we recognize municipalities have choices, just as this government has choices. We made a choice to provide \$11 million to municipalities for infrastructure funding this year. And every one of those municipalities, including the city of Saskatoon, will be using those dollars to the benefit of their communities and their citizens.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People across the province are wondering why they aren't getting any support from this NDP government. They say one thing and they do another.

Nowhere is this more evident than the city of Saskatoon. Here's what councillor Myles Heidt had to say last night, and I quote, and I hope the Minister of Government Relations was listening when Mr. Heidt said this last night:

When you don't have senior levels of government supporting you, what are you going to do, turn the streets over to the gangs?

The city of Saskatoon today has seven fewer police officers. No means to implement the Stonechild recommendations. Mr. Speaker, this government left municipalities out in the cold, the highest tax increase in Saskatoon in four years. When is this minister going to start supporting municipalities with adequate revenue-sharing formula so they are not forced to raise taxes?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let's not forget that over the last three years it's been this government that's increased revenue sharing to the municipalities by more than 54 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — It's very easy for the members opposite to throw out one little piece of information and forget all the other information that exists out there, Mr. Speaker. The distortions in facts on that side of the House are unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Municipalities know that this government is committed to working with them on developing revenue-sharing opportunities, options for the future, Mr. Speaker. We are prepared to sit down with them, they are prepared to sit down with us, and we are going forward, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the communities are well funded.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member from Canora-Pelly.

### Labour Legislation

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to check the accuracy of the information released by the Minister of Labour, and it's unfortunate that I have to clarify that matter with this minister. Since many NDP ministers are known to say one thing but actually do another, it is imperative that I clarify the position of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker, in a Government of Saskatchewan news release dated February 18, 2005, I quote:

Higgins also announced the government's decision to withdraw the draft regulations and repeal the unproclaimed Additional Hours section of The Labour Standards Act.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour: when will you be keeping your promise?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's nice to see the

members opposite finally begin to take a concern and an interest in labour legislation in this province. They've got a history of consistently being opposed to The Trade Union Act, to unions, to working people in this province.

Mr. Speaker, what I would say to the member: stay tuned.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, in the government news release the minister said this would happen. Today she says, we'll stay tuned. Before the election, the NDP said there would be no major changes to labour laws. Then immediately after the election, the minister dropped a bombshell. Her actions don't match her words.

Mr. Speaker, this minister took about a month to draft regulations on the ill-conceived, unworkable, government-directed hours idea. Mr. Speaker, it's been exactly two months since she promised to repeal the unproclaimed hours section. When is she going to do that, or is this just another example of saying one thing and doing another?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite should maybe pay attention to his comments, when he talks about saying one thing and doing another.

Now maybe this is his, maybe this is his softer Liberal side coming out, when the member used to be a Liberal way back when, before he joined the Conservatives. Mr. Speaker, this party, this party, has a reputation . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, as I was saying these . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. The Chair once again recognizes the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Well the Leader of the Opposition Conservative party has been on record a number of times talking about the red tape and regulation being foisted on businesses. And what red tape and regulation is he talking about — workers' compensation and occupational health and safety.

So, Mr. Speaker, they better watch out what they say because they're not plausible; they're not believable. They're a mile wide and an inch deep.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

[14:15]

## Kyoto Accord

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the federal Minister of the Environment, Stéphane Dion, released his government's implementation plan under the Kyoto accord. It was called the Project Green.

Under their plan, Mr. Speaker, there are four major components, and one of them being the Partnership Fund. And I'd like to quote from the news release. And I quote:

. . . the Government of Canada will work with [the] provinces and territories to:

strike new agreements and improve existing ones with provinces and territories . . .

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier: is Saskatchewan negotiating any new agreements under the Kyoto implementation program?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, we have — along with our partners at the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and other partners in government at the officials level — been talking to the federal government for quite some time.

And we've been quite prominent in the media — I'm surprised the member does not know this, Mr. Speaker — in saying to the federal government that there's a great opportunity here, Mr. Speaker. And the opportunity is for the federal government to join with us in injecting carbon dioxide into the soil to sequester the carbon dioxide, Mr. Speaker, and to increase oil production in Saskatchewan.

The Premier and I announced a plan to do just that. We can meet one third of Canada's Kyoto accord by working with the oil sector. And we've had the Prime Minister in Regina at the PTRC [Petroleum Technology Research Centre] to talk to him about just that. And we're pursuing it. We're way ahead of the opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, this government talks about a green and prosperous economy. They talk about how they are the protectors of the environment while other governments of other provinces are in various phases of negotiating implementation plans with the federal government for their own provinces. The Kyoto accord could have some real negative impact on Saskatchewan, but it also could have some real benefits. And more proactive governments like the governments of Quebec and Alberta and Manitoba are in various phases of negotiations to negotiate agreements that are specific to their provinces, Mr. Speaker.

My question again is to the Premier: is his government entering

into any type of negotiations under the Kyoto implementation program?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, other provinces may be negotiating — we're taking action. Mr. Speaker, the opposition may be talking and proposing — what we're doing is acting, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the Premier and I announced that the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, that we were giving the oil patch a break to take measures, Mr. Speaker, that would not only increase oil production, Mr. Speaker, but would help Canada achieve its Kyoto objectives. And, Mr. Speaker, this government has a plan — the best plan in this country, I would argue — to work with the federal government in order to sequester carbon dioxide and to meet one-third of Canada's Kyoto targets.

We've talked to the Prime Minister through the PTRC. They're talking and complaining. We're taking action, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — I'd like to give an example of the action that this government is taking. In their 2003 election platform, they talked about the environment and the Kyoto accord. And they talked about carbon sinks. And I'd like to quote from their election platform. And I quote:

We'll press Ottawa to provide payments to Saskatchewan producers in recognition of significant greenhouse gas credits that Canada will receive for these sinks [Mr. Speaker].

Yet yesterday, when the Minister of Agriculture was asked what is his department doing and what is he doing to help the Saskatchewan producers receive those benefits, he stands in this House, Mr. Speaker, and he says, well it's a little too early to get involved, Mr. Speaker — a little too early, Mr. Speaker.

Producers, soil scientists, and farm organizations are saying that this NDP government is two years too late on getting moving on this file. And once again we see, Mr. Speaker, that we have a government that says one thing and does nothing and sits on its hands.

Mr. Speaker, when is that Minister of Agriculture going to stand up and release a plan whereby Saskatchewan producers can receive credit for storing carbon in agricultural soils?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well as is so often the case, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately what the member of the Conservative opposition says is not accurate.

Mr. Speaker, if the member from Last Mountain-Touch . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, if the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood had been paying attention, he would know that a few years ago, I appeared in front of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture when it came to Regina. And, Mr. Speaker, we took the position and continue to take the position that the agricultural producers of Saskatchewan should be rewarded for the minimal till that they've been doing and the zero-till.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have raised that repeatedly and will continue to do so. Because, Mr. Speaker, it's just another case of the Government of Saskatchewan taking action and the opposition really not noticing, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### **Bill No. 114 — The Education Amendment Act, 2005/ Loi de 2005 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 114, The Education Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 114, The Education Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

##### **Bill No. 115 — The Education Property Tax Credit Act**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that

Bill No. 115, The Education Property Tax Credit Act, be now introduced and read for the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 115, The Education Property Tax Credit Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, members, I wish to lay on the table a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the financial statements of Crown agencies for years ending in the 2004 calendar year. It's dated April, 2005. It's from the Office of the Provincial Auditor. And the report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the 2004 financial statements of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] Crown Corporations, and related entities dated April 2005. It's also submitted by the Office of the Provincial Auditor.

### RULING ON A POINT OF ORDER

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, I also wish to bring down a ruling from a point of order. Yesterday the Government House Leader raised a point of order concerning an apology made to this Assembly by the member for Thunder Creek for remarks made off the record during oral question period on April 14, 2005. The Government House Leader asked for a ruling as to whether members' statements during routine proceedings, is an appropriate place to deal with a point of order; whether an apology must be the result of a point of order; and thirdly, whether the apology offered by the member for Thunder Creek was made unequivocally.

I have reviewed the record and it is clear that an apology was made directly to the affected member, the Deputy Premier, and also to the Assembly. The member withdrew the unparliamentary language with the following words, which I quote from *Hansard* page 2531:

During question period on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, I directed comments toward the member from Yorkton, and in . . . [doing so] I used unparliamentary language. Mr. Speaker, I wish to apologize to the member and to this Hon. Assembly for, and to retract that particular language.

I find, as Speaker, there was no equivocation in the member's apology.

With respect to when and how the apology was offered, there is

nothing within the rules or practices of this Assembly that prohibit a member from making an apology in the absence of a point of order nor during members' statements. Rule 12(3) states that:

Members may make statements about any subject of interest or concern.

The point of order raised by the Government House Leader is not well taken.

With respect to language usage in the Assembly, I do want to emphasize the necessity for members of this Assembly to be able to exercise freedom of speech and, at the same time, respect the integrity of the Assembly and the personal integrity of all members.

I wish to read a citation from Beauchesne's, citation 494 on page 151 which reads:

It is not unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by . . . [a member] as being contrary to the facts; but no imputation of intentional falsehood is . . . [permitted].

I also wish to quote into the record a citation from Marleau and Montpetit on page 525:

The proceedings of the House are based on a long-standing tradition of respect for the integrity of all Members. Thus, the use of offensive, provocative or threatening language in the House is strictly forbidden. Personal attacks, insults and obscene language or words are not in order.

I bring this to members' attention because the lack of respect members occasionally show to one another in the House reflects upon the entire body of MLAs and thus the institution itself. I therefore remind all members to be respectful of our parliamentary rules and processes which have withstood the test of time.

As members exercise the responsibility given to them by the electorate, they should respect the privilege of free speech through vigorous debate of issues while making conscious effort to refrain from intemperate or personal attacks.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)

##### Return No. 356

**The Speaker:** — No. 1 has been ordered.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 102 — The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a Bill that seeks to help to protect those emergency health workers and good Samaritans in our community who risk so much protecting us.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — This Bill, which is based on a Uniform Law Conference of Canada Act, seeks to address the fear and uncertainty that good Samaritans, emergency workers, and victims of crime experience following accidental or intentional exposure to bodily fluids.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for a procedure for the compulsory taking of bodily samples, the analysis of those samples, and the limited disclosure of personal health information derived from the analysis, in order to facilitate the treatment of the exposed individual.

The procedure under this Bill will apply only if the exposed individual came into contact with a potentially infectious bodily substance from a source individual as a crime victim or while providing emergency services to the source individual. It will apply to a broad range of emergency service workers, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians and paramedics in the course of their duties, where they are providing emergency medical services or where they are the victims of a crime, such as an assault, in the conduct of those duties. The Bill will also apply to good Samaritans in our community who voluntarily provide emergency services as well as victims of crime in general.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been written to provide that an order for an individual to be tested would only be available where the donor refuses to provide a sample voluntarily and where a doctor's report expresses the view that there is a significant risk of transmission of a communicable disease, and further, that the test will provide medically beneficial information to the applicant.

[14:30]

The results of such a test will be held confidential for the purposes of this Bill only and it will be an offence under the Bill to disclose the results of the testing order or to otherwise identify the source individual except in accordance with the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, as noted this Bill is based largely on the uniform mandatory testing of bodily substances Act as recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and it is careful to balance the rights of the source individual with the rights of the applicant in a process that's based on medical need and that is governed by the courts.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of this Assembly will join me in expressing our ongoing gratitude to the men and women who protect us and provide us emergency services. These individuals, as well as the victims of crime and those good Samaritans who voluntarily provide emergency health services, deserve our protection. This new legislation will help protect

the men and women who protect us by addressing the stress and uncertainty of not knowing whether they have contacted a fatal or debilitating disease.

While testing in and of itself does not eliminate the risk or provide perfect information, the Bill provides that where a doctor is of the view that it would be beneficial to the treatment of the applicant to have such information, that information may be gathered in a confidential manner that neither puts the source individual at significant physical or medical risk nor unduly infringes on their personal rights.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is not intended to replace occupational health and safety protocols or the responsibility of employees in all sectors to engage in best safety practices in exposure situations. The Bill is, however, intended to provide some important support for those in our society who have, as a victim of crime, as a good Samaritan, or in provision of emergency services, been potentially exposed to a communicable disease and whose medical treatment would benefit from this testing.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting the Mandatory Testing of Bodily Substances for Communicable Diseases and the Disclosure of the Analyses of Test Samples.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 102, The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise to speak briefly on Bill No. 102, An Act respecting the Mandatory Testing of Bodily Substances for Communicable Diseases and the Disclosure of the Analyses of Test Samples.

Mr. Speaker, in beginning I would like to echo the words of the minister in expressing our gratitude and the gratitude of the entire province for those people who provide us routinely and with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment for the emergency services and the special protections that we all come to take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day these people go to work in the knowledge that they may come in contact with substances that may endanger their ongoing health status. And, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is indeed a step in the right direction in order to provide some measure of protection, so that individuals who come in contact with bodily fluids are able to receive in a timely way the appropriate test to see if there is any underlying concerns about their health as a result of this exposure.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard of instances in the past where this indeed has been the case, where police officers and emergency workers have come in contact with bodily fluids and have worried for months and days and years about what the risk of further infection might result from this exposure. And so, Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to see the government bring forward legislation of this nature to protect our public servants in a very special way.

Mr. Speaker, I think as well, although I have to confess to not being a lawyer, that it strikes me as there's an appropriate balance between making sure that this information is indeed disclosed and also protection of individuals in an appropriate balance. And I think the Department of Justice should be commended on striking an appropriate balance in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our Justice critic has had some opportunity to consult with some of the individuals involved in the EMS and the police services in regard to this Bill. However, he has confirmed to me that there are others who want to take the opportunity to speak to him to discuss this Bill and to make sure that everything possible that can be done in this legislation is indeed embedded in the legislation as being presented. And in order for that discussion to occur, Mr. Speaker, and to give the opportunity for these individuals to speak directly with our Justice critic, I would like to adjourn debate at this time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill 102 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 59

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 59 — The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 59, The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to Bill No. 59, The Ambulance Amendment Act.

The implications of this proposed Bill are of importance to everyone in the province as this legislation deals with the people who are very often the initial providers of health care. It also applies to every resident of the province regardless of where they happen to live.

Not only are the implications of this proposed legislation important, Bill 59 is unequivocally damaging to the health care interests of Saskatchewan people. This legislation deals with emergency medical services, the organizations that provide those services to the health regions, and the people who provide those services.

We are talking about the 112 ambulance services in Saskatchewan and the 3,000 valuable employees around the

province who provide those emergency services. These employees include dispatchers, responders, technicians, and paramedics. The organizations for which they provide their expertise are, quite frankly, under attack through the NDP government's Bill No. 59.

The emergency services sector in Saskatchewan has stated very clearly on many occasions to the Minister of Health and his department officials that, above all else, what is required is an atmosphere of fairness. This is critical to the ability of these organizations to deliver emergency services through the valuable expertise of their dispatchers, responders, technicians, and paramedics.

Specifically the ambulance service providers, through the Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association, have stated that the following are vital components of a working agreement with the health regions — fairness, by being treated as a valuable partner in health care; recognition for providing of distinct valuable service; accountability through consistent performance standards that are clearly communicated and enforced; recognition of the professionalism, specialized skills, and training of ambulance service providers; and an operating framework that recognizes the special relationship between ambulance operators and the health regions.

Creating an environment where fairness and accountability permeates that relationship, as enunciated by the Emergency Medical Services Association, is a worthwhile and very reasonable goal. Interestingly enough, the following is what the Health minister said according to *Hansard* of May 31, '04. He stated that it is vital that any changes to The Ambulance Act accomplish several goals, including the following: creating "... more consistent accountability and reporting requirements for ambulance providers across the province"; aligning "... new reporting requirements under The Regional Health Services Act"; supporting quality service; and, Mr. Speaker, being accountable.

Again fairness and accountability would appear to be the minister's overriding objectives. At least those are the stated ones, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately any resemblance between the principles outlined by the minister and the legislation introduced is illusionary. The actual content of Bill No. 59 does not match up with the minister's stated goals at all. In fact there is some glaring disparities between these laudable goals and the proposed legislation.

Bill 59, as it sits before the legislature, would do the following. It would remove sections of The Ambulance Act that provide for ongoing, long-term service agreements between ambulance service providers and health regions. Section 10 of the proposed Act dismantles fairness within contracts as an essential element of contract negotiations. Section 18, Mr. Speaker, removes the right of ambulance operators to be heard during a contract dispute. Further to this, the proposed Act removes the deemed renewal of contractual obligations and contractual conditions. Also removed are sections of The Ambulance Act that provide for an impartial dispute resolution mechanism.

None of the minister's stated goals are achieved in this proposed legislation. What would be accomplished is nothing short of disastrous for the long-term provision of high-quality

emergency medical services in all parts of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 59, if passed by this Assembly, will have the following effects. It will seriously destabilize the emergency medical services industry by undermining the contractual certainty that is absolutely vital to enabling ambulance providers to invest in equipment, technology, and, Mr. Speaker, most of all, people.

In the absence of any long-term contractual certainty, dismantled as it is under Bill 59, ambulance service providers will have greatly reduced capacity to finance their capital requirements. Investment in new equipment will be severely hampered. Investment in new technologies essential to the health care interests in Saskatchewan, essential to Saskatchewan residents, will be severely hampered. Bill 59 will destabilize the emergency services profession. These professionals count on the continuity of their employers so they can consistently improve and enhance their own skills, so they can make long-term plans for themselves and for their families in their own communities.

Bill 59, Mr. Speaker, destabilizes patient care. By creating an environment of uncertainty for ambulance service providers and their employees, this Bill is clearly detrimental to the interests of the very people the health care system is supposed to serve — their patients.

Bill 59, Mr. Speaker, destabilizes the agreement framework between ambulance service providers and health regions because it removes legal recourse from emergency service providers in the event of contract termination. Uncertainty of contract combined with a lack of resolution mechanisms is a recipe for failure, I submit, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 59 destabilizes the contractual arrangement between ambulance service providers and health care regions, as it removes the mediation and arbitration in the case of legal disputes. Instead the proposed legislation states that the Minister of Health may — and I underscore may, Mr. Speaker — assign an arbitrator. This simply worsens an atmosphere of uncertainty.

This Bill accomplishes none of the goals of the ambulance service providers or their employees. The Bill accomplishes none of the goals stated by the very Minister of Health. It replaces certainty and continuity with uncertainty and instability.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it raises some very serious questions. Is the minister in proposing this legislation not duly concerned about the detrimental effects on the ambulance service providers' ability to continuously improve their valuable services?

Is the Minister of Health not concerned about the detrimental effects on employees in the industry who, in assessing the potential outcomes, may choose not to invest in additional training or may choose not to upgrade their skills or — worse yet, Mr. Speaker — leave for jurisdictions where the government has not created this landscape of uncertainty? Is the minister insensitive to the effects on our ability as a province to retain employees?

Does the minister not believe the health regions have the ability to deal with the improved reporting process that had been recommended by both the ambulance service providers and the health regions? Is this merely a badly disguised attempt to cut corners in health care, Mr. Speaker?

[14:45]

By virtue of the office of the Minister of Health becoming part of the dispute resolution mechanism with increased powers, does this represent one more significant step towards centralization of health care services with all the power sitting in the minister's office in Regina? Does the minister believe that only he and his office have the wherewithal to be accountable in this area and that of the health regions, and their service providers are somehow incapable? These are very troubling questions, Mr. Speaker, and they need not even arise.

Undoubtedly, there are issues to be resolved in the delivery of emergency health services in Saskatchewan. This proposed legislation with its inherent top-down, unilateral approach is most certainly not the answer. There are solutions. Through a process that involves all the stakeholders, not just the minister and his staff, the answers can be developed.

The more reasonable, rational approach would include the introduction of accountability measurements and procedures that would augment existing legislation. This would create a framework, Mr. Speaker, for open, accountable, and transparent reporting between the health regions, the authorities, and the ambulance service providers.

The result would be improved emergency medical services, Mr. Speaker, not the destabilization or deterioration that will follow if the government barges ahead with this draconian Bill 59. This is injurious legislation, Mr. Speaker, replete with inevitable, detrimental outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, with that I move to adjourn debate on Bill 59.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Silver Springs that debate on second reading of Bill 59 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

### Bill No. 86

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 86 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this was a Bill that's a number of a group of Bills that this government presented during the earlier session last fall and that deals with the way labour and employees, or employers as



well are dealt with in this province, Mr. Speaker. And it's an area that concerns a good many people on both sides of the labour equation, Mr. Speaker — the employees and the employers.

Along with the hours-of-work proposals that the government was bringing forward that were opposed very dramatically by employers in this province, this Bill along with Bill No. 87 are part of that group, Mr. Speaker, and employers in this province have a great deal of concern about it. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that employees as well should have a great deal of concern about it, Mr. Speaker.

One of the parts that this Bill deals with is whistle-blower, parts of the whistle-blower legislation, Mr. Speaker. And I recall a few years ago, five or six years ago perhaps, a situation involving SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and an employee of this government, Mr. Speaker. The employee in that particular case believed that there was some wrongdoing happening and reported that wrongdoing to the police. Mr. Speaker, what was the net result of that, Mr. Speaker? The net result of that was that employee being fired by this government, Mr. Speaker, because they reported wrongdoing to the police.

The arbitrary line that this government took, Mr. Speaker, was that they didn't follow the chain of command within their organization in reporting it. They didn't report it to the immediate supervisor, Mr. Speaker, which in the particular case involved was one of the concerns that the employee was reporting.

So what has this government done to correct that situation? Well, Mr. Speaker, they've changed the rules in this legislation slightly. You can now report to the police. Someone who, if I read this correctly, Mr. Speaker, is entitled to, Mr. Speaker . . . Where is this . . . yes:

“ . . . any police or law enforcement agency with respect of an offence within [the powers] its power to investigate [Mr. Speaker] . . . or any person [it goes on, any person] directly or indirectly responsible for supervising the employee”.

Which means, Mr. Speaker, that person directly above whomever that employee may be that believes they have a concern that they want to raise with someone, Mr. Speaker, about possible wrongdoing within their place of employment.

Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation that the government is bringing forward does not indicate that they can perhaps go in the case of government to the deputy minister to report this, to someone higher up the chain of command four or five levels, so that they are not dealing directly with those that they deal with on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly when this piece of legislation, if this piece of legislation is enacted, there is still going to be huge questions when it comes to dealing with whistle-blower legislation that this government should recognize, Mr. Speaker, because it was certainly talked about in the case of SLGA, and yet they have done very little to correct the situation.

The only correction is allowing that employer — employee, excuse me — to go to the police, to someone who has the authority to enforce the statutes. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't allow them to go throughout their organizational chain of command, higher up than their . . . what they termed as person directly or indirectly responsible for supervising the employee.

You should be able to, Mr. Speaker, go to anyone in the corporation with authority. That would allow them to go to whomever they wish to that they believe would be unbiased in the situation and be able to influence then the outcome and protect them, Mr. Speaker. And that's clearly not part of what this government is doing. They're making them deal rather with their immediate supervisors, which in some cases, Mr. Speaker, could be the area of concern. That is a flaw I believe that this government continues to perpetuate within its legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other areas as well within this particular piece of legislation that is of concern. There's talk of making regulations, allowing the chairman of the labour standards board to make a regulation rather than rules by which the corporation operates — to make regulation.

And I guess the question then for me comes, once the labour standards board is making regulation, do those regulations get reported back to the legislature? Do the standing committees of this legislature then have the opportunity to review those regulations?

Because clearly, Mr. Speaker, regulations, government regulations, the standing committee, policy field committees of this legislature have the ability to review those regulations and, Mr. Speaker, should be reviewing those regulations prior to their implementation — not only to determine whether they're ultra vires but to determine whether they provide for the public policy as outlined by government in their statements such as the Speech from the Throne, or even, Mr. Speaker, in the statements by ministers in their explanation as to what this piece of legislation is supposed to do.

That is a role that the legislature has given to the standing policy committees, Mr. Speaker, to be able to review regulations. If those committees have the ability to review regulations, and The Labour Standards Act is making regulations, Mr. Speaker, this legislature has the right and indeed the duty to review those regulations to determine that they're carrying out the proper functions, Mr. Speaker. And yet I don't see anything in here in which the government is referring those regulations to any of the legislative standing committees, Mr. Speaker.

And fact is what they're doing is they're allowing the chairman to make regulations without consultation, Mr. Speaker, with the legislature. I would be hopeful that they're making those regulations . . . the chairman's making those regulations in consultation with the minister, but it certainly doesn't seem to indicate that that would be happening, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't indicate that it wouldn't be happening, but it doesn't indicate that it is happening, Mr. Speaker. So that becomes an area of concern.

One of the areas of concern . . . And the minister even addressed this, Mr. Speaker. And she states, “By making

regulation rather than rules, there is a formality and a transparency brought to the process.” That’s a quote from her statements in *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker. Well if there is going to be transparency in the process, then those regulations need to be dealt with by the standing committees dealing with labour legislation, Mr. Speaker, of this Assembly.

One of the other areas, Mr. Speaker, of concern is the time frames when bargaining should commence after a certification. This labour legislation will force bargaining to commence within 20 days after certification, Mr. Speaker. Whether that’s actually certification because employees in a location have signed their union cards and voted on that certification, whether the Labour Standards Board has judged that 50 per cent of the employees signing cards have agreed to certification, or whether the Labour Standards Board has imposed certification on that workplace, this legislation, Mr. Speaker, says that that bargaining will take place within 20 days of that certification, Mr. Speaker.

Also, The Labour Standards Act, Mr. Speaker, also deals with a number of other issues as well, Mr. Speaker. There is a need though to allow people, I believe, to have a better understanding of this particular piece of legislation and to take a further look at it, including the government so that they can get this right. Because employers across this province are not happy with this particular piece of legislation, believing that it will further decrease the investment in this province because of an unfriendly atmosphere and an unfriendly attitude towards a business coming into this province, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Cannington that debate on second reading of Bill 86 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### Bill No. 87

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few comments regarding Bill No. 87 before the Assembly this morning — or this afternoon, pardon me — and what impacts it may have on the people of Saskatchewan and certainly the business community and individuals who may or may not be a part of unions across the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, we’ve been talking to some groups who have already raised some major concerns with this piece of legislation. And one has to wonder exactly why this piece of legislation is before this Assembly at this time. What is its

purpose, and who exactly brought this piece of legislation forward, and who actually made the recommendations that this piece of legislation is addressing?

Some of the concerns I think, Mr. Speaker, may go back to the most recent court case of Wal-Mart and the united and commercial food workers disagreement as the UFCW [United Food & Commercial Workers] tried to unionize Wal-Mart employees in a couple of the communities in this province.

And of course we are quite familiar, Mr. Speaker, with the motion going to the Court of Queen’s Bench and a ruling that came out at that time. And I want to just to quote a couple comments from the ruling, and basically a ruling that was handed down by Mr. Justice Baynton in the Saskatchewan court, and the decision handed down yesterday by the Saskatchewan court. It says:

... Mr. Justice Baynton ruled that Wal-Mart Canada is not required to produce company material demanded by UFCW, and that the union’s demands for such information “clearly” amounts to a “fishing expedition” on the part of the union.

[15:00]

Further, Justice Baynton states in his decision that Wal-Mart Canada had no option considering the direction in which the labour board hearing was progressing but to bring its application before the court.

And that, Mr. Speaker, I think raises some questions about the current Bill before us. We even have a further comment, and I quote regarding the decision Justice Baynton:

In his decision Justice Baynton wrote, “In the case before me, a passionate observer could well conclude that the impartiality of the Board has been compromised by the manner in which it has permitted UFCW to conduct and direct the hearing process. It appears that the role of the Board was often restricted to enforcing the demands made up by the UFCW and that it, rather than the Board, was controlling the course the hearing took. Seldom, as in the case before me, is a dispute or issue so one-sided that one party is successful in all of its applications while the other is successful in none.”

And, Mr. Speaker, when we speak of the Labour Relations Board . . . and I know that just speaking with a couple ministers in committees recently, we continue to hear reference to the Labour Relations Board or the Human Rights Commission. And this government seems to be really quite intent on always having issues referred to either of these boards, and then waiting for decisions before they move on issues that may be of major concern to individuals and taxpayers in the province of Saskatchewan — whether they be labourers or whether they be the business community of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it’s interesting. A recent poll was indicating that when it comes to unionization of workplaces, in whether it’s Saskatchewan or across Canada, many, many workers would like to have more information. Many workers would like to feel that the process they’re entering into is very democratic, or is as

democratic as you could, that process could become.

And when I just . . . we hear of the decision that Justice Baynton wrote, his comments would basically indicate that there's very little democracy in the way the Labour Relations Board has been acting recently. And as I look through the piece of legislation before us, Bill No. 87, and some of the requirements of the Bill, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is actually giving more power to the Labour Relations Board.

And the Bill may be overlooking the fact that Canadians in general, including Saskatchewan residents, are voting very substantially in favour of more . . . a greater democratic process in how unions proceed in requiring or in how they implement a union or the information that is made available. And when I talk about unionization, Mr. Speaker . . . we talk about in this Assembly, and it was noted today that this Assembly, in this floor of this Legislative Building, is a place where members have the ability to represent their constituents and to speak, raise issues of major concern and speak quite freely without fear of harassment.

But, Mr. Speaker, some . . . What I've been hearing when I've been observing, many people have been coming to me who have been in situations where union organizers have come to them and suggested, if you work with us and we form a union in your workplace, these are the benefits that we could create for you. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the way our province and the way unionization proceeds in this province right now, I would suggest we do not really have a democratic forum.

A democratic forum would indicate that if a union would enter a workplace and talk to the workers on the floor of, or in the workplace and say, offer their services — if we unionize, this is what we can do; these are the services we can provide — that those workers should have at the same time the same ability to speak to their employer and ask their employer what about some of the concerns they may have. Or talk to their employer, get their employer's views and ask their employer to kind of let them know where they might fit in the whole, in how that business operates and functions.

But I know I've run into situations where people signed on to get some more information about a union only to find out that the cards they signed, which they didn't realize at the time, indicated because more than 50 had turned out, more than 50 per cent of the people had signed on, all of a sudden the union was in, forced upon them.

And it would seem to me that the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker, is a board that should be very non-biased and working on behalf of both, representing and actually being a listening post for a person who may have been an unionized member who has some concerns with their employer and they go the Labour Relations Board, or if the employer has some concerns they at least have a way to address some of the issues that continue to fall on their plate as they're raised by any specific union.

And what we have been hearing is there are some major concerns with this piece of legislation that's before the Assembly today. And we're quite concerned about the fact that

the government is moving ahead with this piece of legislation in view of the fact that the hours of work legislation, the debate we had last fall, the government's finally recognized that maybe what wasn't the right direction to go and they backed off on that issue. And one has to ask, well are they coming forward with something else to try and appease the unions across this province who happen to be strong supporters of this New Democratic government?

So we ask you . . . And when I say, Mr. Speaker, we basically are asking the question, exactly what is the purpose of this, The Trade Union Act, Bill No. 87, before us? Exactly what will this Act achieve for the working people of the province of Saskatchewan, the business community? And Mr. Speaker, when this Bill, when this Bill, if it eventually is moved through the Assembly, through second reading and through committee, and reported back to the Assembly and receives approval, exactly what will it mean to the working relationships between working people, management, and the business community of this province?

Mr. Speaker, there's one thing about this Bill that I think is of major concern. And it allows the Chair of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board to designate himself or a Vice-Chairperson to hear matters alone regarding fair practices. Now I would . . . Not to say that maybe the Chair or the Vice-Chair may not have the ability, and maybe there are times when it's difficult and to actually implement further progress, or looking at a matter in a more . . . expedite a concern that's been raised, that maybe the only way to expedite the process is to allow the Chair to hear a matter of concern. That certainly isn't an issue. But there are some concerns with the fact that the Bill just allows the Chair to designate himself.

And what seemed to me . . . It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Chair would be removing him or herself from that position and inviting someone else to sit down and hear matters of concern, and then reporting to the Chair and the Chair can make a decision. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that might be a better way of really ensuring that there's impartiality and that individuals who would come before the Labour Relations Board would sense that they really have a fair and honest hearing.

This Bill also grants that members of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board . . . the same privileges and immunities as a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. And the question we have to ask is, exactly why is that there? What is the purpose of that piece in this piece of legislation? Exactly what is its purpose? What is its goal? And why is this Bill now granting those immunities and privileges the same as you would have to a Court of Queen's Bench, a judge on the court?

Mr. Speaker, there certainly are some major concerns with the Bill before us. One may ask, does this Act, will this Act . . . This Act may then present a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in violating the freedom of speech. Mr. Speaker, this Bill proposes changes that would prevent the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board from being taken to court by employers. And I think that's one of the major issues. And I think going back to what I began my comments with this afternoon, the decision by Justice Baynton when Wal-Mart went to court because it just seemed that they weren't getting

any way with the Labour Relations Board . . . And then we now have a Bill before this Assembly that prevents the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board from being taken to court.

So if the Labour Relations Board makes a decision that significantly impacts a business or an employer, one has to ask, if this Bill moves forward, Mr. Speaker, exactly what alternative does that business community or that business or that employer have? And there are some significant questions that we certainly have to ask and we must certainly bring to the attention of the floor of this Assembly as we move forward in the debate on Bill No. 87, The Trade Union Act.

Mr. Speaker, another issue that has been brought to our attention is that the amendments in the Bill would also allow officials from the board to enter the premises of any employer or trade union to inspect work and to view any records and documents or interview any person it sees fit. Now, Mr. Speaker, when the Act allows officials to enter the premises of an employer, does that mean, Mr. Speaker, that they can call ahead and say, we've had a complaint, we've listened to the complaint, we have a number of questions; and some of the concerns we feel in order to address those concerns, we would like access to your business to view, if you will, some of the information, whether it's the books or what have you.

Whether or not that Labour Relations Board is obligated to communicate this to an employer or whether they just have the ability, just on a whim, to go out to a business, and just to walk into the business and demand that the business submit to their demands, Mr. Speaker, without realizing that maybe some of the demands they're making may really inhibit that business to continue to function and operate.

And those are concerns, Mr. Speaker, that are raised not only by the business community, but even by individuals themselves, workers in the province, workers in the workplace. Because, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, if a business closes its doors, let's say it's a business with 45 men and women working there, all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, there's 45 men and women who are unemployed.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated, there are a number of questions, a number of concerns, a number of issues that are being brought to our attention on a daily basis regarding Bill No. 87, The Trade Union Act, and it would seem to me that now is not the time to proceed.

We would ask the government to give more serious thought to why they brought forward this Bill and hold off on the implementation of this Bill and moving forward with this Bill, so that these questions can be addressed in a more forthright manner, rather than forcing them through and then after the fact admitting, oh maybe we made a mistake here; maybe we should have re-thought this. Maybe we should have worded it differently so that we're actually really protecting the rights of workers and the rights of employers so everyone is treated fairly, and that the Labour Relations Board is indeed acting as a very impartial body to listen to the cases that are brought to its attention. And therefore at this time, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Moosomin that the debate on second reading of Bill 87 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

### Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 80 — The Education Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in hoping and waiting for some time now to speak on Bill 80 and The Education Act amendment and how it relates to people in my constituency of Carrot River Valley and also, I think, people right across the province.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, if you buy into the idea that there ought to be amalgamations of school divisions in Saskatchewan, and then if you further buy into the idea that they ought to be forced amalgamations by the government or Department of Education, then obviously one would buy into the idea that Bill 80 would be a Bill well worth supporting, because what Bill 80 does is allows for the election of school boards under the boundaries of these new amalgamated school divisions.

Of course which does make obvious democratic sense, regardless of where the division are, regardless of how big they are, regardless of how many schools or old school divisions are in the new division, there needs to be, of course, some level of government, of governance in those divisions. And without the Act to allow for elections of those particular boards, then of course the democratic process falls apart and the will of those ratepayers in those new school divisions is no longer heard at a public level.

[15:15]

So if you just look at the Bill as it sits — it's a small Bill, it's a short Bill — one would say that if you agree to those other ideas, then of course you must agree to allowing Bill 80 to pass, which would be . . . allow for elections of new school boards.

Well I wanted to speak, Mr. Speaker, about some of the concerns that I know people right across the province have when it comes to the amalgamated school divisions in general. And I think that's where the real debate or the real argument or the real, even perhaps the misunderstanding from people across the province — that's where it really comes into play and that's where the concern is.

There are so many questions that people have about school board amalgamations that are still yet unanswered. Obviously some of those questions cannot be answered until they have

local boards in place, but I think where . . . where I think the falling down of this whole issue started was the fact that I don't think people were really consulted enough before the forced amalgamation took place.

When the former minister of Education, Mr. Melenchuk, was here, he did call for a reduction of school districts by some 25 per cent. And it is interesting to see that that guideline, that goal, was almost met through amalgamation happening by its own accord, and through the good work and the good efforts and the good co-operation of people in school boards, school divisions right across the province. That was obviously, that was a good thing to see and no one would, no one could be critical of the fact that those amalgamations took place on their own.

From my experience in talking to school boards and people who had been involved in those voluntary amalgamations, Mr. Speaker, there was obviously a tremendous amount of work — tremendous amount of work — involved in making sure and ensuring that everything was put in place prior to the amalgamation of that school board. There were contracts to be negotiated, obviously, with teachers, with custodians, with bus drivers, with people that provide services, services or contract to those small divisions within that larger amalgamated school division.

So it wasn't something that obviously could happen overnight. It needed to be thought about. It needed to be discussed. And there needed to be a high level of co-operation in order for those amalgamations to take place. That's one of the things that I have seen and I think my colleagues have made mention of over the past number of months, is that they were disappointed in the fact that the government didn't allow them the time or the input to talk about some of the things that they were very concerned about, they were very concerned about prior to the map coming out last July that really kind of set the ball in motion as far as amalgamation of the school districts took place.

An issue of local interest from the division that — our children go to school in Davidson School Division — that's come up over the last couple of months raises another issue, raises a new issue that people have to think about and maybe hadn't thought about prior to it taking place.

But what happened in this Davidson School Division, Mr. Speaker, was that there was some excess surplus money left in the budget, which is a good thing, Mr. Speaker. That shows that somebody did a very good job in the Davidson School Division as far as the administration goes.

But what the question . . . The question that arose is what they're going to do with the surplus funds. What happens? What becomes of that surplus taxpayer money that was saved — virtually it's a savings account that was put aside for rainy days — what happens to those funds and to those bank accounts after amalgamation? Who becomes the owners of those types of surplus funds? That's the question, and that's a question of great concern to people right across the province because after all and in fact it is taxpayer money.

What happened there, Mr. Speaker, and I know many, many members, and I know the minister is aware of that situation

where they actually took 120-some-thousand dollars and paid a gratuity to the school board administrator, the Davidson division school board administrator. That was an issue that was brought forward through the media. I know the taxpayers federation brought it forward. I know the minister of Education himself said that, you know, that probably the board of Davidson School Division was premature in allowing that to happen.

There was a great hue and cry, Mr. Speaker, from the taxpayers in the division. They through a petition forced the division to have a public meeting. I was at that meeting that night, Mr. Speaker. I know the member for Watrous, Arm River was there, and I know others were there. And we wanted to listen to what people had to say. People were very frustrated because they were concerned that their money — the money that they had paid in their taxes — was being spent as a gratuity.

But that's only the one issue in the Davidson School Division, Mr. Speaker. If you look at the bigger picture, there will be, and we know that . . . I don't know. I can't give you the number because I don't know the number, but I know that there will be many other school divisions throughout the province who will have excess funds, and there's got to be some formula, some mechanism, in order to dispense with those.

Will those funds go back to the taxpayers, to the RMs [rural municipality] where they originated? Will they go back to those school districts, to those local school boards, where they originated? I don't know the answer, Mr. Speaker. And many people don't know these answers, and I don't think that even the department of Education could give you those answers. And maybe they haven't thought that far.

And probably that's sort of an understandable, an understandable thing that's happened because, as I said at the outset, if you buy into the idea that forced amalgamation was a good idea, then you have to buy into this Bill because it allows for local governance and the election of the school boards.

After these elections are held, will those larger boards then make that decision as to surplus funding, as to layoffs of teachers, cutbacks of buses or bus drivers — all those issues that have not yet been dealt with? And perhaps that is the intention of the board of education and the minister of Education is that those new boards would in fact address all those issues and take some leadership on those types of things, which in itself is not all a bad thing, Mr. Speaker.

As we know and if we are all believers — and we are and I am and I'm sure you are and every member in this House is — a firm believer in democracy, then one needs to put your faith and your trust in those people that are elected locally as members of that board. They're going to have a fairly long term of office, Mr. Speaker, according to this Bill. It's suggested that those elections would take place this June, and those people would hold office until 2009, which is about a four-year, a good four-year term, Mr. Speaker.

That in itself makes sense because what you're going to have is you're going to have a new school division, a larger school division that's going to have to make up the rules. It's going to have to make the rules, and it's going to have to make some

decisions upon how we spend this money, how we draw up those agreements with all those people that provide services to provide for the education of our children. And so if you do then place your trust and your faith in those elected board members, then obviously this is a good system and one that we would want to see go forward.

As I alluded to, the member, the critic for Learning, prior to the critic shuffle for our party made some interesting comments about this Bill when he spoke on it in the legislature last time. And he talked about some of the same things that I talked about just here today, and he also talked about, he also talked about the fact that we want to see this whole issue become as efficient and work as well as possible under what we consider to be difficult circumstances for the people that are having to deal with this, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion then I want to thank the legislature for the opportunity to speak on this Bill because it is of huge concern right across the province. Certainly rural Saskatchewan has lots of concerns and questions. And that's why at this point in time I'd like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 80. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Carrot River Valley that debate on second reading of Bill 80 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

#### Bill No. 91

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 91 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up and talk about this particular Bill; it's just a one-page Bill. It's to do some adjustments to land titles which we all know has had huge, huge problems with that, and they're still fixing them, Mr. Speaker, at that end of it.

I think this particular Bill goes towards actually fixing some of the problems. With that, I know we've had some speakers on it and we particularly don't have too big of a problem with this one-piece legislation because we want, just like everybody, land titles to run smooth. They actually made some mistakes on it; I still want to get that on record. They were rammy with it. They could've went to another system. They could've done things different. But now we have this system. Let's work to trying to improve it, at that end, Mr. Speaker, with that.

And we're hoping this Bill does. We've looked at it. And right now we're going to let it move on to committee, and there will be asked a few more questions at it. But we haven't had basically anybody that has a huge problem with this particular one-piece of legislation, right now with that.

They still have trouble with the land titles itself, maybe the way it's run, the cost, especially the cost overrun to taxpayers. That was a huge, huge, huge overrun, Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows that. That was very huge. When you budget for roughly 20 million, you go over 100 million, I mean, that's, that's huge and a huge cost to taxpayers at the end of it. And that was wrong, Mr. Speaker. And I hope that this government realizes that was wrong when they look at different things. When you budget for something, you're that way off, I hope that you've looked at the mistakes that you made in the past and I hope you can correct them in future endeavours down the road because the taxpayers of Saskatchewan can't afford things like that. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will . . . Well it's up to the government, but with our side we will move it to committee if they so please.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 91, The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. 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:** — The motion is carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I move that Bill 91, The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government Deputy House Leader that Bill No. 91 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

#### Bill No. 88

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 88 — The Health Labour Relations Reorganization Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it is indeed a pleasure to enter the debate on Bill No. 88 today.

It is just another prime example, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, of

how this NDP government will say one thing and do another, and especially when it is concerning with the working class. They say that they are the advocates of the working class, and yet what they do is an altogether different thing. If these are the members that are supposed to be looking at and being concerned about the working people of the province, they wouldn't have a 0, 1, and 1 mandate. They would support a collective bargaining process. They keep saying that they support a collective bargaining process, but in fact Mr. Speaker, that is not what they do.

I think it's quite unreasonable and misguided to have that mandate, quite frankly, and now it turns out, Mr. Speaker, that they are telling the public, they say they have a 0, 1, and 1 mandate, but we're not even too sure if that's true any longer because they say it's 0, 1, and 1 with flexibility or 0, 1, and 1 with a light at the end of the tunnel or 0, 1, and 1 with pay equity increases. And now it looks like 0, 1, and 1 has turned into be 2, 2, and 2. So who the . . . You know, who has a clue what the heck they mean when they say something?

[15:30]

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I would just bring to the member's attention that we are on Bill 88, The Health Labour Relations Reorganization Act. I recognize the member for Humboldt.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Not a problem at all, Mr. Speaker, because this just leads to where I was going. And they say that they support The Trade Union Act, but in fact this Act, Bill No. 88, will circumvent it. So do they have any idea what they're doing? They say they care about the working class, but this Bill takes away their right to apply to the Labour Relations Board to choose their own union.

Mr. Speaker, most people in the House know that many years ago — and too many, far too many that I care to mention — I was a laboratory technologist at the Royal University Hospital. And I still have a good relationship with a number of the laboratory technologists. And I know that for nine years now they have been asking this government for the right to join one union.

Presently they're in four different unions. And what that means to the lab techs of this province, and the lab technicians, is that it's four different collective agreements which leads to different wages. It leads to different benefit packages. It leads to different workers' specific work conditions. And for nine years they have been ignored and pushed around by this government who says that it cares about the working . . . the health care workers in this province, but in fact, they do the opposite again and again.

They don't listen. They haven't listened for nine years now. And now they're introducing a Bill that will circumvent their own Trade Union Act. And so what they say and what they will do are two entirely different things.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's best said quite frankly by the president of the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Technicians and Technologists. And he wrote a letter to the editor, and I want to read that entire letter into the record. To the editor, and I quote:

As the president and representative of the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Technicians and Technologists . . . I am writing in response to concerns raised by [SAMTT] members to statements made by the Saskatchewan Labour minister, Deb Higgins.

In the provincial legislature on March 31, [2005, the Hon. Ms.] Higgins defended a proposed Bill [which] . . . ensures further segregation, discrimination, and oppression of health-care workers in Saskatchewan.

On three occasions, [Ms.] Higgins stated [that] "The Trade Union Act does not allow for decisions to be made in multi-employer bargaining units by the Labour Relations Board."

However, contrary to her statement, the recommendation of the Dorsey Commission, which states, "two province-wide, multi-employer standard bargaining units for specific occupations will be the only exceptions to the 30 primary all-employee units", was put into effect by The Health Labour Reorganization . . . in 1996.

I'm going to skip a bit of the letter and continue to:

Under the trade union . . . [Act] in . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Now you said you were going to read it all. Now don't be changing your mind . . .

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Well the minister wants to hear it all on the record so, "There are . . ." I would be more than happy to oblige the minister. The part that I was going to omit continues, and I quote:

There are currently five unions in Saskatchewan for health-care workers: [and perhaps I should have read it right away because the minister maybe doesn't know this, and they are] CUPE, SEIU and SGEU, which cover multi-employer standard bargaining units for health-service providers; HSAS (which covers multi-employer bargaining units for licensed providers) and SUN (which covers multi-employer bargaining units for nurses).

So now it has been read into the record, because the minister wanted to hear that. I will continue:

Under the trade . . . [unions Act] in all provinces and territories, "employees have the right to organize in, and to form, join or assist trade unions and to bargain collectively through a trade union of their own choosing." However, under the Health Labour Relations Reorganization Act, Saskatchewan health-care workers are not presently allowed these rights enjoyed by other Canadian workers.

Health-care workers in Saskatchewan deserve the right not to be segregated, oppressed or discriminated against in the name of health-care reorganization. If the Trade Union Act does not allow for decisions to be made in multi-employer bargaining units by the Labour Relations . . . [boards] as stated by [the Hon. Ms.] Higgins, then amendments should be made to the [Labour] act.

Any solution to health-care labour issues must start with . . . [the] mutual respect towards all parties involved, which includes the rights and freedoms allowed workers under the law. The NDP should keep this in mind when . . . [they are] representing the public.

[Sincerely] Lyle Theriault . . . president of the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Technicians and Technologists . . .

And quite frankly I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that more could be said about the lack of respect as the minister sat in her seat and laughed at this letter. And I think that is totally unacceptable. And with that, I adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Humboldt that debate on second reading of Bill 88 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

#### Bill No. 94

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 94 — The Apiaries Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Batoche.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this Bill called The Apiaries Act. And I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing that right, but I do understand beekeeping because at one time I did have six hives of bees. So I do understand it even though I can't handle the word.

In the early years, along with other producers, we would import from the States new hives every year. And each year when the honey collection was done you would kill off the bees and bring in new bees because it was too expensive to winter the bees. So then in the late '70s, early '80s, this big word of foul brood came in. And the first scare was then and it started closing the border and people began to learn the art of wintering bees. And up until then that hadn't been done much in Saskatchewan, but we've learned the art and now producers are . . . I'm hearing there are some producers are up to 3,000 hives which is a pretty significant number — especially when you started with only six like I did.

So it has a growing industry we should say, with a lot of sweet potential. Saskatchewan bees produce the highest number of pounds of honey anywhere in the world. It's due to our climate, due to the conditions. But beekeepers in Saskatchewan can be some of the top producers in the world — by quite a margin, too. So you can see that beekeeping, an industry that has grown and has potential for a lot more growth, especially with everyone looking for food that is more natural. Now we're finding that there is a foul brood bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics. And this could be very harmful to the Saskatchewan producers. Therefore, any effort to help protect them and

protect the bee industry I'm sure would be greatly appreciated by producers. And therefore at this time I support this Bill and would ask this Bill to proceed to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 94, The Apiaries Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — I move that Bill No. 94, The Apiaries Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 94 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

#### Bill No. 95

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 95 — The Ecological Reserves Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was last given an opportunity to speak on this particular piece of legislation, there were a number of issues that I wanted to address prior to running out of time. And I'd like to take a few minutes now to just cover some of the ground that I had talked about briefly in the last session when this particular piece of legislation came before the House.

There are, as everybody is well aware, several competing interests as it relates to the Great Sand Hills and the potential in that area. It is without dispute one of the finest examples of a unique ecological area and I think that environmentalists and local people have acknowledged that fact.

In fact, when it comes right down to it, Mr. Speaker, nobody has offered more protection to the delicate nature of the Sand Hills than the very individuals who are operating leases in that area, who are running cattle in that area, and who are very protective, personally, of the fragile ecological balance that exists in that particular area of southwest Saskatchewan. So to have the larger ecological movement show a great deal of



interest in that particular region doesn't surprise anybody. In fact, we'd be surprised if they weren't interested in protecting that particular area of the province.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, there is the other competing interest that come into play there. The fact that the Great Sand Hills is estimated to be the home to about 20 per cent of the natural gas reserves in the province of Saskatchewan puts that area under a great deal of developmental pressure. And there are existing oil and gas leases that remain to be exercised in that area, leases that were sold to the industry by this government and to which there has not been allowed full development potential because of the impending commission studies and reviews that have gone on over the last little while and because of some very restrictive requirements that existed previously.

So one of the things I want to be sure to address and I would ask the government to give us some assurance on is the willingness of this government to respect the rights of the oil companies that have paid money — good money — to have access to those reserves in that particular region of southwest Saskatchewan.

You know, there's nothing more damaging to a government's credibility than to offer, by one department, for sale leases for development by oil and gas industries and then have another department slap a freeze on or protective legislation on that particular area that has been granted for development purposes to the industry.

So if the government can give us an assurance today, that they will take that conflict into consideration and offer the industry either alternative parcels or a refund on their investment, I think that would make us feel a lot better.

The other issue I think, Mr. Speaker, that needs to be attended to here is the probability that the protected area could grow even to much greater bounds than this particular piece of legislation addresses. And I have as reason for concern the fact that this particular Bill triples the size of the area that is now protected.

What we have as a protected area under the existing legislation is about thirty-six and a half sections of land and it is very restrictive protection in place. But as we see with this particular piece of legislation, the expanded boundaries of this protected area are significantly larger — some three and a half times.

Now I don't have the exact size of the proposed boundaries in sections, but according to the press release put out by the Department of Environment, they're looking at 365 square kilometres of additionally protected land in the Great Sand Hills. So there is a significant increase in the area that is addressed by this particular piece of legislation. But that's not as far as it goes, Mr. Speaker.

While this legislation has this immediate boundary in mind, we have also heard from the minister about the review of a much larger area that's going to be undertaken by an expert, an individual who has come to Canada, from the State of Florida I understand, who has a particular expertise in ecosystems and closed ecological environments. And he and his colleagues are going to be looking at a significantly larger area again. So, Mr.

Speaker, while we have 365 square kilometres set aside by this particular piece of legislation, who knows how much larger the recommendations could be once this new study is undertaken and completed. There is some concern, some estimation, that we could have maybe a doubling of the size again and even more.

[15:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, if that argument is to be made that that much enlarged boundary needs additional protection, that is going to encumber the government considerably because there's a lot of privately held land in that area, it's not just Crown land. And so what is the government's intention going to be as it relates to that privately held land and existing farms and existing oil and gas operations in the much larger area.

So none of this might be a problem and it still may not be. But I'm a little concerned about how this is all going to unfold, Mr. Speaker, because this particular piece of legislation takes an interesting tack. There have rarely been Bills brought before this House where changes to the legislation, in terms of regulatory application, are required to come back to the House. The most recent example of that happening of course was the government's legislation as it related to Crown corporations. And that particular piece of legislation said nothing could happen unless it came back to the House for debate.

And that's exactly what's happened in this small piece of legislation. No changes, no regulatory changes, can be made to the way environmental activity is . . . or, I'm sorry, environmental concerns are addressed or how management and development opportunities are undertaken, unless those changes are brought back to this particular House for consideration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in principle I think that's the right approach. But it's a rarity for this government to take that approach. It suggests something to me, Mr. Speaker. It suggests that this government isn't entirely confident that it's going to win the next election. So it wants to be sure that any subsequent government will have no opportunity to make regulatory changes to any development within that particular area unless it's approved by this legislature.

Now I think that if we looked at other pieces of legislation, ordinarily regulatory changes are the purview of the minister. Most Acts say that all regulatory opportunities or requirements are vested in the minister or in officials that the minister might appoint or in Executive Council or in the Crown. They rarely come to the point where they insist that all regulatory changes be approved by the House. And so, Mr. Speaker, that suggests to me that there is some serious concern on the side of the government that subsequent governments might make changes that they don't approve of, and that they do not trust the integrity or the capacity of a subsequent government to make decisions that are appropriate to this particular environmental area.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a bit of history that we need to review as it relates to this particular area because this has been a very hotly contested matter in terms of the larger provincial population, but certainly as it relates to the local population. The effect of this discourse and disagreement

resulted in, back in the early 1990s, a commission being established in the local area made up of the four most heavily involved rural municipalities and some additional players. And it took a long time, but those RMs and those people who were party to that planning commission that was established in the early '90s finally came to a point where they had established broadly accepted developmental bylaws.

It was a tough process, but they were able to achieve a commonality for development purposes, for zoning purposes, and so forth.

But after a few years of this particular commission being in existence, the RM of Piapot — knowing from their own personal experience with some of the lands that had been designated too environmentally sensitive for development; knowing from on-the-ground experience, first-hand experience with some of that land; and also recognizing that absolute need for some economic development in the area — the RM of Piapot said: we need to get some changes to the zoning that's in effect here.

There was quite a brouhaha that developed as a result of that particular position by the RM, and there were a number of public meetings held, and there were a lot of contentious points of view expressed. But as a result of that, Mr. Speaker, we had this most recent commission look at the Sand Hills; and ultimately, after a number of public hearings and a lot of serious debate and effort, they came up with a summary of recommendations on which this particular piece of legislation I believe is established.

But the summary, which is only four or five lines long, I would like to read into the record, Mr. Speaker.

In the end, the implementation recommendation [that this particular most recent commission came up with] will recognize the partnership between the provincial and the municipal (local) authorities for management of the area. A combination of the following features:

- one environmental impact assessment for the whole area,
- the formation of either an advisory or formalized administrative board, and
- a comprehensive implementation plan for the area.

[These] will give direction for land use and resource management in the Great Sand Hills area.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the commission that this government struck to look at that particular delicate issue, one of the things especially acknowledged as a necessity was that there would be a partnership between provincial and municipal authorities for management of the area. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation denies that working relationship. This legislation doesn't talk about local participation in the decision making as it impacts an area whatsoever.

This particular piece of legislation says that no changes can be made, no developmental changes, no impact in that area can be accepted unless it is approved by this legislature. And while I appreciate the fact that each of us in this legislature represents the province as a whole, and maybe the specific area that's addressed in this particular piece of legislation, it's not the same

as having the full participation of local people in the management decisions that are to be made as it relates to that piece of area . . . of territory.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed that we're going to remove any local participation ultimately from any decisions that are going to happen in that area. And as we know, this is just an intermediary step. We could see a much larger area designated as a fully protected area and the implications for local people and local RMs and local communities could be pretty devastating if developmental opportunities are going to be as restrictive as this particular piece of legislation envisions.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the, one of the other, one of the other things that we need to accomplish as a result of this piece of legislation being brought forward is an opportunity by the communities and the RMs affected by this legislation to comment on how this legislation might ultimately burden them. And so, Mr. Speaker, I as the MLA representing that area, have taken the liberty to send this particular Bill and the accompanying notes out to the individual RMs and towns in that immediate area, and have asked them for that comment. And as of yet, we have heard no response. We anticipate hearing sometime in the next week or so.

So, Mr. Speaker, those are the comments I have in summary, on this particular piece of legislation.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I just quickly want to add a couple of points on this particular Bill that my colleague from Cypress Hills had quite alluded to on that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things he had mentioned was that they're changing 300 . . . how big it is. And I think it's bigger than most of the constituencies over there, Mr. Speaker, at that end. So when you're doing something that big, it has to be studied and sent out to the areas.

And my point . . . or my colleague made some very, very good points, Mr. Speaker, at that end of it. And I know that I've just looked at this Bill, and I know that I think I have some people out home that would be interested in looking at this too. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn debate on this particular Bill.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Arm River-Watrous that debate on second reading of Bill No. 95 be now adjourned. Is it pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### Bill No. 101

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 101 — The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act/Loi sur l'exécution des jugements étrangers** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we have had the opportunity of looking at and reviewing this piece of legislation. We note that it serves some very laudable purposes as far as making our laws enforceable elsewhere and reciprocating that with other jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this Bill going forward at this time.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 101, The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, be now read a second time. 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:** — The motion is carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I move that 101, Bill 101, The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government Deputy House Leader that Bill 101 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This Bill 101 stands referred to the Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 103

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 103 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, this Bill as well can go forward. We have had the opportunity to review, and had discussions with various realtors and members of the Real Estate Commission.

We note that part of this Bill is to increase the size of the commission to allow them to have representatives from various regions throughout the province, and appreciate the issues that they have to deal with, with the physical size of the province.

We note as well that the jurisdiction of the commission will be enlarged to allow the disciplinary procedures to deal with people who have ceased being realtors, so that a person cannot avoid disciplinary proceedings or other processes of the commission by merely resigning from their licence.

It deals as well, Mr. Speaker, with associate brokers, and has made some amendments to deal with and tighten up matters dealing with depositing of money into trust, as well as providing some interim protection for temporary suspension of licences.

We're pleased that these recommendations came forth from the commission and were acted on, and are supportive of the commission's work. Mr. Speaker, this Bill as well could go forward to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the Bill moved by the Minister of Justice that . . . is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 103, The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005, be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I move that Bill 103, The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005, be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government Deputy House Leader that Bill 103 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the policy committee on Human Services.

**Clerk:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into Committee of Finance.

[16:00]

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### General Revenue Fund Learning Vote 5

#### Subvote (LR01)

**The Chair:** — Order. I call the Committee of Finance to order.

The first item before the committee is the consideration of estimates for the Department of Learning, vote 5, found on page 105 of the Estimates book. And I recognize the Minister of Learning to introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased today to be joined by a number of officials. Seated directly next to me is deputy minister, Bonnie Durnford. Next to her, Brady Salloum, who is the executive director, student financial assistance. Behind Brady is Kevin Veitenheimer, the director of university services. And behind Deputy Minister Durnford is Wayne McElree, who is the assistant deputy minister. Seated directly behind me is Nelson Wagner, who is the executive director of facilities. Behind him is Glenda Eden, the manager of financial planning. Next to her is Trina Fallows, the director of finance for corporate services. And just over to my right is Rick Pawliw, who is executive director of programs.

Mr. Chairman, I would just say by way of introduction that I am particularly pleased that we have the opportunity to discuss the post-secondary estimates today. Post-secondary education was a focus of this budget. And our continuing efforts to make sure Saskatchewan is a great place for students to learn and to live continues to be emphasized within the initiatives contained in this budget.

This budget focuses on making sure that university is affordable, is accessible, and that we are working to make sure that there is a closer relationship between our post-secondary institutions and the economic environment that this province finds itself in, an economic environment which sees a tremendous growth as Saskatchewan becomes a have province and enters its second century.

**The Chair:** — Central management and services (LR01). Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — There has been so many modifications to committees and how things work, I'm never sure whether to stand, or sit, or be here, or there, or whatever. But thank you, Mr. Chairman. And to the minister, we appreciate your time and attention this afternoon, and thank you for bringing your officials with you to the committee this afternoon.

You mentioned in your opening comments, Mr. Minister, that your government made post-secondary education a focus of this year's budget. And while there has been considerable attention given to that particular issue, I would like to go to the matter as it relates to tuitions and student loans and student assistance and so forth — generally, student aid — because of the priority that students have put on that as part of their conversation with the government and with the official opposition. As part of their lobbying leading up to the last budget, they wanted to focus in on general student aid availability. And I think that that should form sort of the focus of our discussions here, at least in the early part of this particular session of estimates.

I know the minister said publicly — and there's enough print to verify it — that he didn't believe in student tuition freezes and

that he felt that was an unworkable and possibly an untenable situation going forward, that they hadn't proved very successful in other jurisdictions or in other times when student tuition freezes were implemented by various governments and/or schools. And yet in effect, this year's budget, with the financing provided, has done just that, at least for the one-year term.

Mr. Minister, would you tell us how you can differentiate between what the government did in this year's budget and your views on tuition freezes that were published in several media outlets?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, it is true that in other jurisdictions where we have seen governments act to put in a regulation to minimize the degree that tuition can rise or to effectively freeze it, as provinces like British Columbia have done, that what those measures essentially did was simply postponed tuition increases. The approach that we took in this budget was not to move forward with a regulated or a legislated freeze but rather to provide the universities with sufficient funds that they could hold the tuition increase to zero this year.

This is a decision that the universities have agreed with; they have supported our funding regime this year and have said that they will hold the tuition to what it was this past year. We think this is a good approach to take. It was a co-operative approach. It was one that met the needs of the university and recognizes that the universities indeed are the ones who set the tuition fees. It at the same time provides them with sufficient funds to carry on their activities in a way that prevents the environment from developing as we saw in British Columbia.

So that's how we undertook this. In terms of simplicity, yes, it provides for an effective freeze of tuition this year, but it is a freeze that has been established by the universities. They have made the decision to hold their tuition fee at the same level it was last year.

**Mr. Elhard:** — In making that particular decision by the universities, was there a suggestion by your government, by your department, that this money would be contingent on them making that decision?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Yes. The money that we provided through the centennial student line, which is in the budget, is contingent on making sure that tuition fees are mitigated this year. That is a specific, targeted fund for this year.

What we are working through is next year, how that will be reflected within the budget. And it will need, I would argue, to roll into the general university budget. But we will need to be careful to make sure that that money does not simply become absorbed and then we see a double jump in tuition. That will need to essentially have reset the base for the tuition for this year, and that is part of the discussion that is ongoing with the universities.

**Mr. Elhard:** — So, Mr. Minister, if this is to become an ongoing feature of the government's level of funding, how are you going to safeguard the impact on tuitions? How are you going to safeguard the level of tuitions without basically dictating to the universities, which you have agreed and as most of us understand, are an autonomous, free-standing institution?

The government's involvement and investment in funding these levels to protect tuition must in effect become conditional and that would impede on that autonomy that we've talked about.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, every year as we go through the budgeting process with universities and we take a look at what their requests are, obviously we have a great deal of detail. We have had many years of discussion about how the university funding formula should work, and that is a well-established mechanism in the province.

Certainly the universities are autonomous institutions and make their own budget decisions, but the government funding is provided to pay for a level of support that we both understand at the point that it's provided. I don't think that we need to be overly coy about it. We obviously understand what the level of funding will mean in terms of likely tuition outcomes. We know what we expect it to be used for. The line-to-line issues are determined by the university boards and they make those decisions appropriately.

But the 160-some million that we're providing to the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] this year and the 50- or 60-some million that we're providing — 60-some million we're providing to the U of R [University of Regina], we have certain understandings as to what that money will be used for.

This year we've inserted a specific line in the budget to deal with tuition mitigation, in part in recognition to the fact that students and youth are a priority of this government and that we have wanted to reflect that clearly in this our centennial year, in this our centennial budget, and to have that very clearly outlined so that students saw that their efforts were appreciated and were noted in a document as important as the provincial budget.

**Mr. Elhard:** — I think, Mr. Minister, that I would concede that students found the money set aside for offsetting tuition increases was well received, and that they want some assurances going forward that that kind of attention will be paid to their concerns as it relates to tuition in the future.

I guess the problem becomes, however, how the government will manage to do that going forward because there's going to be a certain dependency by these institutions on that funding as the years unfold, as the years progress. They're not likely to want to go to lesser funding for the sake of protecting tuitions. So how does the government anticipate dealing with those ongoing or unfolding scenarios? The universities' budgets aren't going to get less. They're not going to find things cheaper to accomplish. And I think they're obviously going to be under great pressure to increase tuitions as the years unfold. That puts the onus on the provincial government to either keep funding on an ongoing basis this very type of tuition support or dictating to the universities that monies in an increasing proportion be dedicated to tuition support. Has the government thought this particular conundrum through?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well tuition on an annual basis every year, as we take a look at the universities' budgets, we're aware that there is some upward pressure on tuition, just as there is upward pressure on government funding. And what we are trying to do is establish what the appropriate balance is. The approach that we've opted for this year is a special line in the

budget to deal with tuition mitigation. It is our expectation that next year this will roll into the base budget for the university. We still need to have a discussion with them about how that will be reflected in next year's budget so that it continues to be used for tuition mitigation — and that is really what the discussion is. But the member's right. There continue to be upward pressures on research, on infrastructure, and on general program and operating costs within the universities.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. If this particular level of funding will be rolled into the sort of the foundational funding for universities for next year, can we assume then that as a minimum, next year's amount designated for post-secondary education — particularly universities — will be this amount plus X number of dollars?

[16:15]

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — That's a reasonable assumption to make, yes.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Minister, the issue of Saskatchewan student aid has been a hotly debated one, I think, in this province. And there are other jurisdictions that have meted out student aid in a different variety of ways and through different programs. But we in Saskatchewan, if I recall from previous conversations with the minister and previous post-secondary ministers, have taken view that student aid is by and large more generous in Saskatchewan than it is elsewhere.

And yet I'm looking at figures from this year's budget that would suggest a decrease in Saskatchewan student aid funds from \$37.1 million in 2003-2004 down to 35.6 million, 2004-2005; and projected for 2005-2006, \$33.7 million. That's roughly a \$2 million drop per year over the last two years. This would seem to fly in the face of the government's commitment to generous student funding. Would the minister explain this particular drop?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — This reflects largely a change in utilization within the fund and we've simply rebudgeted to respect that. I think what's important to identify is we have dealt with the Student Aid Fund during this administration's time, have been . . . Perhaps the most significant change we have introduced has been the return to bursaries and forgivable loan portions. And this has been a significant change that we have implemented. We believe strongly in that as a debt management tool. And it's an approach that was missing during the . . . in large part, during the years of the Devine administration. This Student Loan Fund, the number that we have in the budget reflects what we expect usage to be, and in part is reflective of the current situation with interest rates.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Are you suggesting, Mr. Minister, that the \$2 million discrepancy from last year to this year is primarily a result of decreased interest rates or reallocation of those resources? You alluded to that early in your answer. And if there is a reallocation, can you tell us where that is?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — If I said it was a reallocation, Mr. Chairman, that would not have been accurate. It is a reduction in usage. It's a change in utilization rather than allocation, and so we're simply restating the numbers to show what we

anticipate utilization to be this year. If I said allocation, that would be my mistake.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Minister, can you give us an indication why the government expects, why your department expects a drop in utilization?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I am advised that this is largely due to the fact we have fewer students applying for student financial assistance through the student loan funds. I am also advised that this is not a phenomenon unique to Saskatchewan but indeed something that we see in other provinces as well.

The member can speculate probably as easily as I could as to what's driving that, whether it's improved financial planning on the part of parents who are taking advantage of other tools to prepare for funding their children's education, whether it's the fact that the economy is stronger and students are able to make more in the summer months to offset that and thus don't need to borrow as much. There are a number of different possibilities but we don't have any empirical data other than to say that there are fewer students applying for access to the funds.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Minister, that scenario, while I can't disagree with some of the possible explanations, that scenario does seem difficult to accept in view of the fact that attendance at post-secondary institutions is supposed to be rising dramatically, and so this wouldn't be a small change in terms of demand or requirement. It would really probably indicate a fairly substantial change in demand.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I think it's important to identify that this is a needs-based system and so the vast majority of students who go to the university or the post-secondary institutions don't even apply for student loans. This is really the place that they'll come for last resort to borrow. I suspect in a large part that what we're seeing is a stronger economy that's generating more individual income for students. As a result, we see fewer applying. There may be more parental contributions coming into this for younger students.

But the simple fact is, there are fewer applying. And on some cases, students, we know, are taking longer to complete their degrees, and maybe they're undertaking more work. Whatever the anecdotal evidence that we see that we may wish to ascribe to this in terms of why there's a reduction, the simple fact remains that there are fewer students applying for assistance this year than last. And that's part of what we've been able to reflect in this budget.

**Mr. Elhard:** — If I recall from earlier discussions, at one time about 40 per cent of students — maybe as many as 50 per cent — had some kind of student loan application or indebtedness. Is that percentage expected to drop? And it sounds like real numbers are dropping, but is the percentage likely to drop?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I'm advised the number fluctuates somewhat between 35 and 40 per cent, and it does in fact fluctuate. So it could be dependent on any number of things, including what the farm sector economy is looking like. It's hard for us to say specifically. This year's budget reflects what we think utilization will be this year.

**Mr. Elhard:** — You mentioned in some of your earlier comments, Minister, that there is an anticipated uptake in terms of bursaries and loan forgiveness and that type of thing.

One of the areas that post-secondary institutions have asked repeatedly of the provincial government is a program that would allow them to establish a matching grant, a fund for scholarships. And I know the University of Saskatchewan has been pretty aggressive in seeking that. I believe the University of Regina would match that appeal probably as equally aggressive. But nevertheless, I'm wondering if the provincial government has a plan in place to address the need for additional scholarship money.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that this budget did provide us with the opportunity to double the amount of money that we are funding for the centennial merit scholarship program — up to \$1 million this year. And that will provide over 665 scholarships for this coming year. This is again I think a reflection of this government's commitment to students and youth, and in particular in our centennial year as we look forward to the role that they're going to play in our academic community as well as in our community at large.

**Mr. Elhard:** — I would suggest, Mr. Minister, that any increase in scholarship funding would be money well spent.

Representing an area from the extreme west part of the province, I know for a fact that the majority of students graduating from high school in the Southwest and probably the West of the province would virtually always be enticed to an out-of-province university — most frequently Alberta but Toronto and British Columbia are not unheard of — because of the impact of scholarships. Those scholarships have tremendous appeal and I, you know, I'm frustrated as the political representative for that area to see our young people almost automatically leave. In so many instances they don't even give Saskatchewan universities a fair chance to compete simply because the scholarship opportunities aren't available here as extensively as they are in other universities in other parts of the country.

So I would say to the minister that I'm sure the universities and colleges appreciate the money you've put in there. I think that they would be much more competitive in terms of attracting students, especially from the west side of the province, if the scholarships could be at virtually a competitive level with the University of Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, and certainly Victoria and BC.

So having made that statement, I appreciate the fact that you put more money into the scholarship fund. I guess I would like to encourage you, for the sake of the future of our young people especially on the west side of the province, that you continue that down that path because the competitive recruiting element that is happening among high school students these days is such that when we lose those students to other jurisdictions, to other universities, our chances of getting them back to contribute positively to our economy are greatly reduced. And that's not a loss that we can sustain for too many more years or generations.

Would the minister give us an indication of how that scholarship money that he alluded to a few minutes ago, how

that is divided between the two universities and SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]? Are there other players in the post-secondary education level that also participate in scholarships?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I don't have the specific breakdown between the two universities, but I can say with the centennial merit scholarship program, which is one of many scholarship programs which are in effect at the universities, for the centennial merit scholarship program, approximately 280 scholarships will be awarded to university students; 150 to SIAST students, 35 to regional colleges, and 200 will be made available to students participating in apprenticeship.

And I just want to say to the member opposite that I think it's important that when we think about post-secondary education, that we not narrowly focus on the universities. The strength and growth in Saskatchewan's economy today is largely based on us being able to attract more apprentices, more people into the technical vocational areas, and to build on the strength particularly of the regional colleges and SIAST. This is a key for us if we are going to grow in the regional economies of this province and especially to stimulate the sectors where we've identified particular areas of growth — forestry, oil and gas, the mining sector — for us to take more advantage of that.

Yes, we continue to need to focus on the academic growth at the universities, but we should not be forgetting that a lot of this province's growth are in the traditional, blue-collar industries and are going to require us to have highly skilled workers coming out of SIAST and the technical vocational colleges.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Minister, I'm glad you reminded us of that. It's not a reminder that I'm particularly in need of. As a matter of fact, I think SIAST has one of the highest reputations in terms of graduates and their willingness to stay in the province of any institution of a similar nature elsewhere in the country.

But that's why I asked you about the allocation of scholarships because if the vast majority of the scholarship money is going to universities, that tends to discourage participation in the post-secondary opportunities at regional colleges and at technical schools like SIAST.

But here's an anecdote that I'd like to pass on. I heard the other day . . . and this is subject to verification. I heard the other day that the oil sands expansion project at Fort McMurray, being undertaken by one of the big players in the oil industry — I believe it's Suncor that has their major project ongoing right now — is going to require 300 power engineers for the operation of that one plant. Mr. Minister, how many power engineers do we graduate in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I'm sorry. Is the member asking me how we can educate more people to export to Alberta?

**Mr. Elhard:** — I'm asking the minister if there is going to be that demand in Alberta at one plant, why are we restricting our education to 16 students for our own needs in this province? Because as it stands right now, an individual could pack up their bags and probably move to the Suncor project and double their income instantly.

And it's going to be hard to hold our instructors, even at a school like SIAST, if their wages could jump dramatically if they were to go to a project like that. The demand for qualified, well-trained technical people in Saskatchewan we expect is going to go up. But, you know, when you have that kind of inequity in terms of economic clout, when you have one plant in Alberta that's going to require 300 power engineers, certainly 16 being graduated in Saskatchewan isn't going to meet our needs in the long run.

[16:30]

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well the approach that we take is that we should be using Saskatchewan taxpayers' dollars to educate Saskatchewan students for jobs in Saskatchewan. That's not to say that there is not mobility across the country, and inevitably some students do decide to pursue their careers otherwise. But as we take a look at the spaces which are allocated, they are primarily lined up with what our economy needs so that we are making sure we are getting maximum benefit to Saskatchewan students and Saskatchewan's taxpayers and Saskatchewan's economy.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well I guess that would ordinarily make sense, Mr. Minister, except for the fact that if you have a big vacuum sucking our capability right out of the province, then we're not only meeting our needs; we're going backwards. As we graduate 16 students a year and the demand is exponentially larger than that in other jurisdictions and one quite close by, then those 16 if they stay here are not even going to fill the demands that are going to be created in this province. So I guess the question becomes, how readily, how able is SIAST going to be able to respond to those new realities as we move forward?

You know, we're not living in isolation here. We can sit here and pretend that we got a big wall up around our borders and that we're going to meet our exact needs. But that's not the way it works anymore. And unfortunately with the huge economic impact that some of these mega projects are likely to have . . . And this is one project that's happening there, who knows how many more are slated. And we might have our own substantial projects that will be requiring those kinds of capabilities right here in the province. I mean, an expansion at Husky could make the 16 graduates that we put out any given year, they could eat that entire quotient up.

So, Mr. Minister, you know the idea of just meeting today's demands by today's graduates isn't very proactive, doesn't give us much of a glimpse to the realities facing us in the future. And I'm concerned about that. And I think that this all came about as a result of our discussion about monies that might be available through student loans or through scholarship programs. But if the government is going to be serious about meeting our manpower needs in this province, we need to be much more aggressive in those particular areas.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I believe very strongly that we shouldn't train just for training's sake that, where we have expensive technical vocational training, we should be targeting that to meet our economic needs. And to that regard, SIAST has a very sophisticated program in place to try and match up their program capacity with what they believe are going to be the future labour demands and the needs of the province. This is a

mechanism that's been in place for many years. It works very, very well I would argue and is something that we should continue to support.

I am not of the belief that we should actively ramp-up in anticipation that Alberta or British Columbia or Ontario are going to need our graduates. And what we need to do is make sure that we are putting the appropriate resources in place so we've got capacity here for Saskatchewan students to be able to access Saskatchewan jobs. That's the approach SIAST has been working on. I think it's a very successful one, and it's one that we're happy to continue to support.

**The Deputy Chair:** — The Chair recognizes the member from Kindersley.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would take great exception with the historical retention rates of some of the positions trained out of some of our institutions such as SIAST, for example nurses. And I would say that the minister's comments, unfortunately in a global economy, fall short and to the detriment of us all.

What I would like to ask the minister though, is if he could explain the funding formula for the two universities, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. What is the . . . could he explain please the ratio of how much money the provincial government allocates to each institution relative to their student body and possibly even broken down, if the capacity exists, for graduate versus postgraduate work. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The allocation model that we use was devised primarily by Harold McKay in his work some years ago, and it is not a simple one to explain. It's not a simple ratio of 3:1 or something of that nature. Indeed what it takes a look at is the cost of operating the programs at the two universities here.

In particular it takes a look at how we fund the high cost professional colleges that we see at the U of S and still make sure that we're able to deal with the strategic needs that are identified within the liberal arts colleges, within the administration colleges or commerce colleges that deal with the education faculties, that we can still deal with that envelope as well. So it is a complicated formula. It takes a look at student population numbers. It takes a look at cost models and then provides for an allocation based on that. I don't think that Harold's report is secret. I suspect I can make it available to the member if he has an interest in it. But it is a fairly detailed formula that's been worked out and that both universities have come to accept.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would just have follow-up to that. Perhaps the minister would be able to elaborate just on the faculties of Arts and Science at the two institutions broken down. Is there a basic ratio relative to tuition paid for an Arts and Science student? Would there be a peer ratio of how much the provincial government would then fund so that there is a total cost that the university . . . to the university for that . . . per student, on Arts and Science. And some of that would be offset by tuition and the other will be offset by operating grant. Perhaps the minister could answer

that question for me. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The funding formulas do not take into account tuition at a certain percentage of the overall operating budget of an individual program or of the overall university budget. So we don't have a case where we say, tuition will meet 20 or 24 per cent or 30 per cent of the overall funding of the institution. That's the decision the boards make.

What we take a look at is, within the provincial money that's available, how the allocation is divided up. The deputy reminds me that in fact it was not Harold MacKay's work, but the DesRosiers report that actually sets the formula in place, and that's what it takes to look at. The universities then decide within their own institutions what the tuition support should be.

This is actually one of the debates that we get into around tuition policy. What should you tie tuition to? Should it be reflective of teaching costs? Should it be reflective of overall university budget cost? How do you put in a differential for professional colleges or high-cost colleges? And that's very much a debate that I can assure the member is very much alive and well within the halls of the academy both in Saskatoon and here in Regina.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — I thank the minister for that explanation. The question that I would have to follow that, unfortunately with the lack of peer ratios, because the formula is somewhat complex, would the minister be able to explain how it works for students studying from overseas and their tuition costs relative to the costs for an individual Saskatchewan, Canadian, or landed immigrant student? And is there any subsidization coming then directly from that operating grant going to one of the two institutions for foreign students in this province today?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The government funding formula doesn't differentiate for foreign nationals studying here versus landed immigrants or Canadian citizens. We simply take a look at the overall student population count. However the universities themselves as they set their tuition fees, in many cases, will take a look at a differential fee for foreign students.

It is not clear at this time as to how that debate will work itself out — whether they will move to a full cost recovery model or whether they will look at some other different option. Part of what they rely on foreign students to deal with are a lot of the research capacity. We see a large number of foreign students at the post-graduate levels and that, of course, helps drive the universities' research agendas. So there is a trade off that the university administrations will make as they take a look at tuition cost and how they attract students in.

I do know that both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina have made it a priority to try and attract more international students into the institution and to do so from a broader spectrum of countries.

There are a number of reasons for this, not the least of which is that it is good for our trade environment. As the member has pointed out, we do live in a global economy and part of what helps our province thrive is the fact that we have a good strong connection in with future leaders — academic, political or cultural leaders — within many different countries that we like



to then sell goods to. This has been one of the traditional strengths of, certainly, the University of Regina that's had a 25-year relationship I guess now, yes, 25-year relationship with the People's Republic of China in terms of academic partnership.

And so there are a number of different reasons why we would look, why the universities look to attract international students, and indeed as such, their tuition policies reflect a number of competing demands.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. As the minister will recall from my first question, I asked if there was a difference in breakdown between graduate and post-graduate or undergraduate and graduate and post-graduate work. I do have some concerns that from the answers I'm hearing today, that there isn't a breakdown directed by this provincial government for foreign students coming in as undergraduates. And it would be my understanding that possibly they're not having to pay the entirety of their tuitions as those tuitions are set by the universities. So hence we have foreign students coming in essentially with a subsidy from the Saskatchewan taxpayer.

And I'd like the minister to elaborate on why such a situation should in fact be favourable and/or acceptable especially when, as students have pointed out — and I would take it not to differentiate between home grown or other — but that the demands for the youth in this province, Aboriginal youth, and access to facilities for financial reasons may be somewhat trying. And yet at the same time we may have foreign students coming in, essentially being educated on the backs of the Saskatchewan taxpayer, and you know without any known ability that they're going to be retained here or not.

Could the minister please comment on that? And I hope I've made my question sufficiently clear to him. And if I haven't I'd be happy to repeat parts of it. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well I think I understand what the question is. I'm not completely sure what to derive from that as the Sask Party's policy. Is the Sask Party then saying that our universities that have had many years worth of tradition in terms of providing not only high quality education to citizens in the developing world — which we believe is important — but also recognizing the benefit of having those connections with other countries in the developed world be they Korea, be they Japan or otherwise, that there's not a benefit to Saskatchewan for that.

Is the Sask Party suggesting that we shut out foreign students? Or are they suggesting that we only allow in the programs where there's excess capacities? Or are they suggesting that we allow them but that they have to pay full cost?

**Mr. Dearborn:** — I thank the minister. Unfortunately that wasn't at all an answer to my question. But I will raise this — with other jurisdictions in the United States and Canada foreign students often do pay the entirety of the costs of tuition. And I think that the Saskatchewan taxpayer would be very interested to understand why their tax dollars may be going to subsidize foreign students at either the University of Regina or the University of Saskatchewan, which by your explanation today from the minister, is indeed happening.

And I should suspect that if there were residents and constituents from the member's riding in Regina South that were having a burden being able to do this, and there was a finite amount of resources available to our universities, that they would definitely raise some questions as to why the government would be entering into such policies.

And I don't think that the . . . You know, asking for the opposition's policy is fine and what not, but as we are in estimates today asking for an answer from the minister on this of why the government has chosen this approach, and with that on a more technical basis, if the minister would be able to provide — and possibly not today — but table in this House, what that cost subsidy would be to foreign students studying in the two universities in this province.

[16:45]

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I must admit I'm a bit perplexed by the member's question. Earlier on in these estimates, he suggested we were living in a global economy, that we needed to be mindful we were living in a global economy, that we needed to make sure Saskatchewan's place in that global economy was protected.

Now it appears that he and his party have a list of countries that we are saying should not apply to come to our universities. I'd be interested in knowing what that list is and I'd be interested in knowing why we should not be supporting those international students coming to our institutions.

For 25 years we have had a partnership with the People's Republic of China to bring students here to assist in research, to assist them in development, and there's been a very rich relationship develop between our two institutions and our two countries, I would argue, as a result of that academic relationship.

That has, of course, helped us sell potash into China. It has helped us sell wheat into China. It has helped us deal with information technology exchange. It has helped us build scientific partnerships. I'd be interested in knowing what is the list of countries that the members opposite and the Sask Party would be saying should not apply to come to our universities.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you. Again the minister's failed to answer this question. I would suggest, having gone to the University of Toronto which is, along with the University of Sydney in Australia, the two most multicultural universities in the world, this is an excellent thing for academics. It's a great thing for academia. That is not the question here today. It would be wonderful if both of our universities were able to have students from every country in this . . . on the globe and in great numbers.

The question is, should those students be coming here and being paid for and subsidized by the Government of Saskatchewan outside of possibly designated programs? I know at the University of Toronto there are development funds. There are development scholarships. These exist all across the country. Some of them are sponsored by our federal government. These are positive aspects.

The question that is being put forth to the minister today, which he has yet to answer . . . And very clearly let me state this, I wish that we had more foreign student enrolment. But with that being said, I would want to know the amount that they were paying up front for the totality of their education. And I think that it is the right of my constituents and yours, and the people of this province to know how much of their tax dollars are going through this ministry to fund foreign education for students when at the same time those resources are possibly not being used for homegrown Saskatchewan students that have lived here, paid into this . . . paid taxes in this country their entire life.

So if the minister would be able to answer how much money is being paid to subsidize foreign students — and I was very specific before at the undergraduate level. I believe at the graduate level there may be some merit. Absolutely. But at the undergraduate level — I'm not saying that there's no merit — but I would like the government to explain how much money is being put there for foreign students coming in, coming straight from the Saskatchewan taxpayers' pocket. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I want to be very clear. We do not provide any specific support for foreign students to come into the universities, nor do we discriminate against them within our funding formula. We simply count them in as we would any other student. The previous member from the Sask Party who was asking me questions was asking, and made a very clear point, about institutional autonomy. If we respect institutional autonomy then we need to leave that question as to what the tuition policy is at the universities to the boards of governors. That's what we've done in this case. The question as to what the tuition rate is, is largely set by the board of governors.

I don't know that I agree with the member who is suggesting that, well, maybe we can take foreign students but only at the postgraduate level. I would be very careful about how we are constructing this as we are looking at the fact that Canada and particularly Saskatchewan are trade dependent and need to make sure we continue to have access. I'm encouraged by the work that I see done at our universities, both the U of S and the University of Regina, that are encouraging more foreign students to come to support our research agenda here in this country.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Minister, but once again the question stands as this: I asked initially how the funding formulas were set, if there was any ratio relative to total student body numbers. And I was given the answer from the minister that there was a fairly complex formula for this. Universities are complex institutions — fair enough. I think the same question is still out there, is essentially this: is money going in from the provincial government's coffers, is directly subsidizing foreign students to attain their education in Saskatchewan when they have not participated in the tax base?

And if that is the case, how much money is that and what is the reason for it and will you be having discussions with the university around that policy? Because I think that is something that constituents of mine and the people of Saskatchewan would be interested in understanding.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well this is a very dangerous, a

dangerous assertion that the member opposite makes, that somehow that the people who participate in our education system should be directly taxpayers. I'd be very interested in knowing how that fits in with the Sask Party's view about how we deal with First Nations education, and how we deal with those responsibilities that we have as a society. How is it that the Sask Party then constructs this argument that we should hang at our border a do not apply unless you bring a big cheque with you? How does that work with countries where we have a social responsibility?

What would have happened if 100 years ago people had said that about the waves of immigration that came in that our families moved into this country with, and said they were not allowed to participate? The member opposite's question, I think, doesn't take a look at the reality of today's economy, the importance of us having those connections. I worry that at best it's xenophobic. And I would very much be interested in knowing exactly where the Sask Party stands on the question of foreign students.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, once again, I'd just remind him, this is the estimates. I'm asking for a financial number. I don't think that that is something that should be denied to the people of Saskatchewan. It is simply a question. This has nothing to do with fearmongering and xenophobia.

As I've stated before in this Chamber, I think it would be wonderful if we were able to have an economy that could support everyone — global — every university in the world sending scholars to Saskatchewan. What a great benefit that would be for us. However, the question before us is one of a financial matter which his ministry is directly responsible for. And it gets to the heart of just simply one question. How much money is being used directly to subsidize foreign students' tuition fees at the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well the universities have set in place a program where I am told that foreign students pay about two to two and a half times the tuition rate that Saskatchewan-based students would pay. The question as to how whether or not we should have a discriminatory policy built into our funding, we don't. And so as a result of that I'm not in a position to be able to say today what the dollar value is. We simply take a look at the student numbers, irrespective of whether they're from Ontario or they're from Osaka, and take a look at that as an overall student number in terms of what we fund the university with.

If the member opposite is continuing to suggest that I should discriminate against foreign students — be they out of province or out of country — then I'd be interested in knowing what that basis is that we should be using. Should it be a zero per cent recognition within the formula, 10 per cent recognition in the formula? Is a foreign student worth only as half as much as a Saskatchewan student? What is the Sask Party suggesting?

**Mr. Dearborn:** — I thank the minister, finally, for that partial answer. And it's amazing that suddenly other students in Canada, by the minister's words equated to me, would now be foreign. And as the minister is quite aware, there are agreements

between provinces. And I would question the minister's use of that particular word in this case.

For students overseas, I think that it is a question that Saskatchewan taxpayers would like to have answered. And I don't . . . it really raises the question of, is the minister ashamed of this policy, or of explaining this to the constituents of his riding or the people of Saskatchewan? Is this something that needs to be hidden? I mean certainly it seems that the minister has made arguments with the global economy, that this is something that has a net benefit. And if that's the case, I shouldn't see that such a line of questioning would provoke such anger.

I would ask the minister now, having had this set of questions go forth, will this, will the amounts that foreign students pay, will that at all be put under review by this ministry? And will this be raised with the universities with regards to upcoming discussions with them, and about the way the grants are made to the universities in the future? Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well let me be very clear about this. The NDP government is not about to start discriminating based on that. Now the Sask Party is suggesting very clearly, as they have here, that we should discriminate against those students that are coming in from out of the country. This is what they are suggesting, is that students that come in from China, students that come in from Korea, that provide clear benefit, should be discriminated against.

The members opposite are asking if we'd like to come back tonight to debate this. I am clearly prepared to defend these estimates and to continue on with this debate because I am very interested in knowing where the opposition stands on this.

Now the member opposite is asking, will we be changing our policy? The answer is we will not be changing our policy. We will not build into this, a discrimination factor into our funding formula. We'll continue to stick with DesRosiers and with MacKay. And that's an approach that the university supports. And I think that that is where we're at.

With that, Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like thank my officials and thank the members opposite for a lively debate.

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very interesting to listen to the debate that's been going on and the interpretation and the spin put on this by the minister. He clearly was refusing to answer a very simple question and yet he tries to describe that question as a matter of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, the only discrimination in this case is in the mind of that minister — that he could not and would not answer a question related to his department and how it provides its financing to the universities. He believes that to even question the financing that this government provides is to be discriminating against someone — anyone — that deals with his particular department, Mr. Speaker. And that is totally abhorrent.

That is non-democratic, even though, even though his party claims to be the democratic party, Mr. Speaker — the New Democratic Party. Just to stand in your place in this Assembly as a member of this legislature elected by your constituents and to ask a question related to the estimates of the education department, to him is discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, that minister does not understand the role of estimates. He does not understand the role of a member of this legislature. His role, Mr. Chairman, as a minister is to justify the expenditures of his department before that money is supplied. Grievance before demand, Mr. Chairman, and that minister does not understand that.

To ask a question in this Assembly, a question provided . . . according to the role of the official opposition, deserves a respectful answer. And in the time I sat here and listened to that minister respond, there was no respect in any of his answers. None whatsoever, Mr. Chairman. That minister has been arrogant, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, and totally disrespectful of the questions being asked. He can disagree with the question, but he needs to answer in a respectful manner and that minister was not doing so.

Mr. Speaker, before there can be supply, before the demand for monies can be met, there is grievance. And that grievance means the opposition and the people of Saskatchewan have a right to ask questions and get answers from that minister and his department, Mr. Speaker. And those answers were not being provided by that minister.

[17:00]

I think there is a need, Mr. Chairman, for a lot more questions and at least some answers from that minister before supply is provided to that minister. And I don't believe that minister has any intention of supplying that, so I suspect that these questions will go on for a considerable period of time.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, that it's after the hour of normal recess at this particular time.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Now that it's past 5 o'clock and the chairman . . . I'm sorry. It now being past 5 o'clock the committee will stand recessed until 7 o'clock.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS</b>	
<b>PRESENTING PETITIONS</b>	
Elhard .....	2559
Draude .....	2559
Hermanson .....	2559
Eagles .....	2559
Brkich .....	2559
Weekes .....	2559
Hart .....	2560
<b>READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS</b>	
Deputy Clerk .....	2560
<b>PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES</b>	
<b>Standing Committee on Private Bills</b>	
Yates .....	2560
<b>NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS</b>	
Weekes .....	2560
Brkich .....	2560
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS</b>	
Quennell .....	2560
Morgan .....	2560
Brkich .....	2561
Draude .....	2561
<b>STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS</b>	
<b>Pope Benedict XVI</b>	
Morin .....	2561
Dearborn .....	2561
<b>United Way of Regina Tribute Luncheon</b>	
Hamilton .....	2562
<b>Saskatchewan Party Leader's Annual Dinner</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	2562
<b>Saskatoon Student Invited To Intel International Science and Engineering Fair</b>	
Junor .....	2562
<b>Wynyard Artist Awarded Trip to New York</b>	
Brkich .....	2563
<b>Gary Tinker Awarded Centennial Medal</b>	
Belanger .....	2563
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b>	
<b>Negotiations with Federal Government Regarding Equalization</b>	
Wall .....	2563
Calvert .....	2563
<b>Funding for New Contract with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation</b>	
Gantefoer .....	2564
Thomson .....	2565
<b>Property Tax Increase in Saskatoon</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	2565
Taylor .....	2565
<b>Labour Legislation</b>	
Krawetz .....	2566
Higgins .....	2566
<b>Kyoto Accord</b>	
Hart .....	2567
Cline .....	2567
<b>INTRODUCTION OF BILLS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 114 — The Education Amendment Act, 2005</b>	
<b>Loi de 2005 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation</b>	
Thomson .....	2568
<b>Bill No. 115 — The Education Property Tax Credit Act</b>	
Thomson .....	2568
<b>TABLING OF REPORTS</b>	
The Speaker .....	2569
<b>RULING ON A POINT OF ORDER</b>	
The Speaker .....	2569

<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)</b>	
Return No. 356.....	2569
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 102 — The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act</b>	
Quennell.....	2570
Gantfoer.....	2570
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 59 — The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Cheveldayoff.....	2571
<b>Bill No. 86 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)</b>	
D’Autremont.....	2572
<b>Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Toth.....	2574
<b>Bill No. 80 — The Education Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
<b>Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l’éducation</b>	
Kerpan.....	2576
<b>Bill No. 91 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005</b>	
Brkich.....	2578
Atkinson (referral to committee).....	2578
<b>Bill No. 88 — The Health Labour Relations Reorganization Amendment Act, 2004</b>	
Harpauer.....	2578
<b>Bill No. 94 — The Apiaries Act, 2005</b>	
Kirsch.....	2580
Wartman (referral to committee).....	2580
<b>Bill No. 95 — The Ecological Reserves Amendment Act, 2005</b>	
Elhard.....	2580
Brkich.....	2582
<b>Bill No. 101 — The Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act</b>	
<b>Loi sur l’exécution des jugements étrangers</b>	
Morgan.....	2583
Atkinson (referral to committee).....	2583
<b>Bill No. 103 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005</b>	
Morgan.....	2583
Atkinson (referral to committee).....	2583
<b>COMMITTEE OF FINANCE</b>	
<b>General Revenue Fund — Learning — Vote 5</b>	
Thomson.....	2584
Elhard.....	2584
Dearborn.....	2588
D’Autremont.....	2591

## **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 Development

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