



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

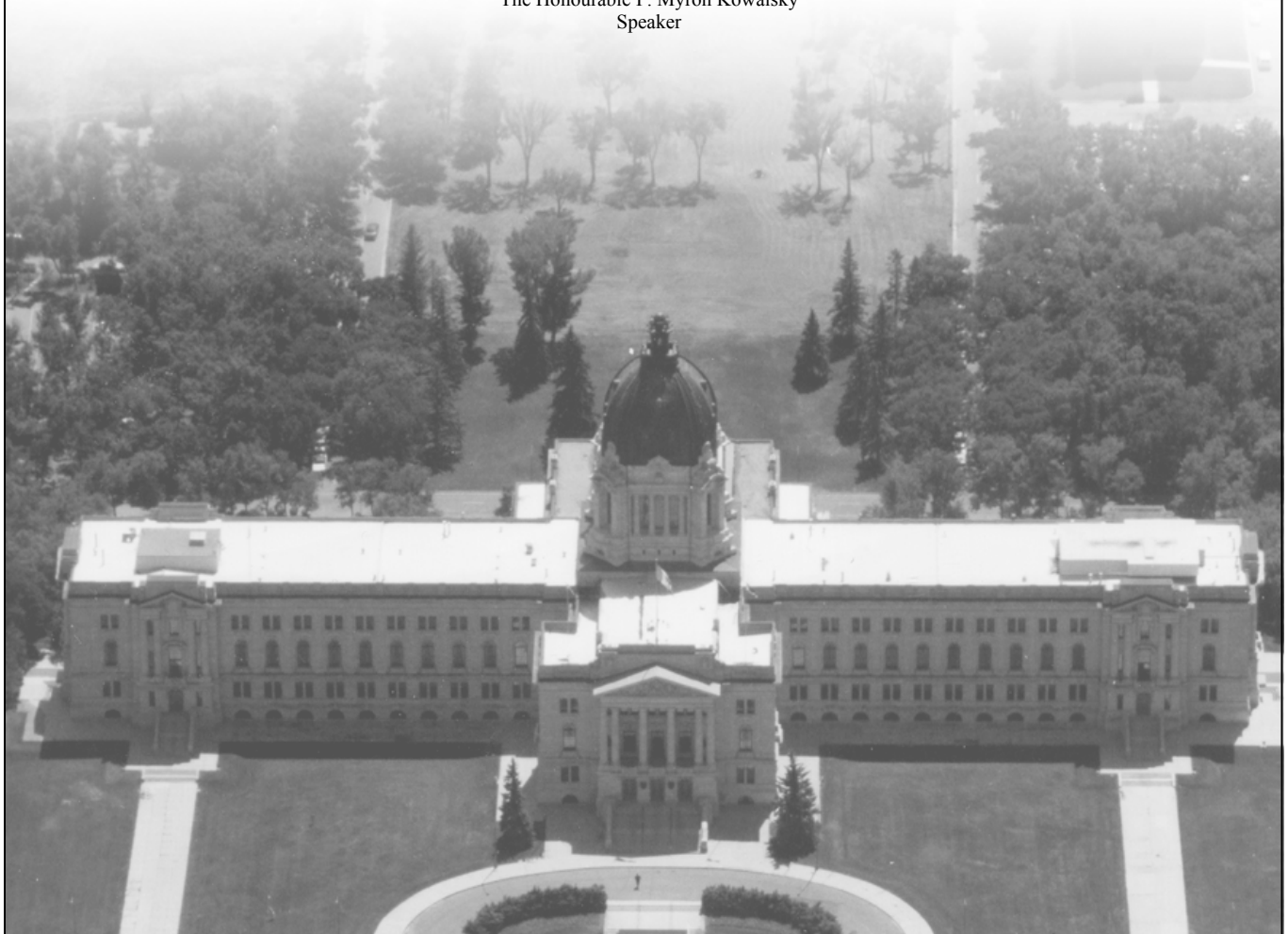
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken Lackey, 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. Mr. Speaker, the concern with the condition of Highway 32 has not diminished as represented by the four pages of petitions I represent today:

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.

The petitioners on these pages include individuals from the communities of Leader, Maple Creek, Eatonia, Prelate, Swift Current, and Mendham, as well as Portreeve. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of constituents who are concerned with the lack of residential support offered to people with long-term disabilities in my constituency. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide funding required for additional residential spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, all of the petitioners today are from the city of Swift Current. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to rise on behalf of people who are concerned about the growing problem of crystal meth.

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; its education, prevention, enforcement, and treatment.

The people that have signed this petition are all from the Guernsey area.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have yet another petition regarding SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres]. The petition is on behalf of the staff, participants, and families of the Wheatland Regional Centre Inc. and other like centres across the province that provide services for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners will humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly will please consider implementing the minimum compensation recommendations for staff members who support people with disabilities as outlined in SARC's human resources plan.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Beechy and Demaine and a little place called Regina. And I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present another petition on behalf of 600 children under the age of six and their parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much-needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

The petitioners today live on Wright Crescent, Peters Cove, and Pehudoff Crescent in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here that citizens want to terminate the contract of Jim Fergusson.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the consulting contract is immediately terminated.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed from citizens from Davidson. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition 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.

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

Signed by the good citizens of 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'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of citizens who are very concerned with this government's reluctance to implement SARC's human resources plan. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly will please consider implementing recommendations as outlined in SARC's human resources plan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, all come from the great community of Ituna. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order a petition concerning shared parenting legislation presented on May 16, 2005 has been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) is found to be irregular and therefore cannot be read and received.

According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14 are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 72, 637, 640, 666, 715, 716, 798, and 808.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 96, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 96 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

would request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister's requested waiver of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 96 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill 96, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Standing Committee is recognized.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 97, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 97 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendment Act, 2005/Loi de 2005 sur une modification corrélative découlant de la loi intitulée The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 97, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies is recognized.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 67, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill 67 be considered in the Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Industry and Resources requested leave to waive consideration in Committee in the Whole of this Bill. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 67 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill 67, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a third time and

passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Standing Committee is recognized.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 124, The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the member for Highways and Transportation.

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of this Bill. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 124 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Transportation that Bill 124, The Automobile Act Insurance Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee is recognized.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Sutherland, seconded by the member for Cannington:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair of Crown and Central Agencies Standing Committee is recognized.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I present the fourth report of the Committee on Crown and Central Agencies which I do now lay on the table. And, Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the member for Cannington:

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 116, The Osteopathic Practice Repeal Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 116 in Committee of the Whole. Is

leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 116 — The Osteopathic Practice Repeal Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 116, The Osteopathic Practice Repeal Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 108, The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill 108 — The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 108, The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2005

be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 113, The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill No. 113. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 113 — The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2005/Loi de 2005 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 113, The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

[13:45]

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 114, The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

The Speaker: — That would be 112. When shall Bill 112, The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2005 be considered in Committee of the Whole?

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 112. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 112 — The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 112, The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 111, The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 111 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 111 — The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2005/Loi de 2005 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur les petites créances

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 111, The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion's carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 102, The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 102. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 102, The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 110, The Seizure of Criminal Property Act without amendment.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 110 — The Seizure of Criminal Property Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 110, The Seizure of Criminal Property Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 109, The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 109 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 109. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 109 be read a third time?

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 109 — The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 109, The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair is recognizing the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 100, The Police Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

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

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

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

waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 100. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 100 — The Police Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 100, The Police Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 119, The Election Amendment Act, 2005 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 119. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 119 — The Election Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice

that Bill 119, The Election Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to my colleagues in the legislature 43 students from the Delisle Elementary School. With the students from Delisle are teachers, Donna Dreher, Valerie Dyck, and chaperones, Lori Marion, Mrs. Worth, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Jurgens, Mrs. Atchison, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Robichaud, and Mrs. Nebozenko, and Mrs. Hartley.

I look forward to meeting with you after for photos and a meeting, and I look forward to all the questions the students will have for me. So please join me in welcoming these students from Delisle to our legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current.

Swift Current Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week on May 17, myself and the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Yorkton had the privilege of attending the Swift Current & Area Business Excellence Awards put on by the chamber of commerce, celebrating business excellence in Swift Current and area, in southwest Saskatchewan. And I think the member from Yorkton would agree it was a great evening, a chance to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit and the business excellence and customer service of businessmen and women in my constituency.

I'd like to run over if I can some of the award winners. Under the new business category, the Saskatchewan Landing Golf and Country Club won that award. It's a great golf course at the provincial park just north of Swift Current. The Customer Service Award went to Optical Image in the Swift Current Mall. For community involvement, it was Re/Max of Swift Current. McBean Tessem Barristers & Solicitors won the Centennial Award, and that firm, Mr. Speaker, can trace its history 100 years back in the community of Swift Current. The new Environmental Award went to Great West Auto Electric. The young entrepreneur was Service Master/LNS Construction. And the Business of the Year is a very important and long-term employer in Swift Current — REM Enterprises — that will be known to many members of this House.

I'd like to also acknowledge the sponsors, Mr. Speaker: the

Southwest Community Futures, SaskTel, SaskPower, the RBC [Royal Bank of Canada], Rural Development, DirectWest, and the city of Swift Current, as well as the key sponsor and long-term sponsor of these awards, Southwest Credit Union.

Congratulations to the winners. And it's a cliché, Mr. Speaker, but everyone there, the nominees were also winners as well. And we want to congratulate all of the businessmen and women who were nominated for Swift Current Business Excellence Awards for 2005.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

North West Historical Society Honours Pioneers

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — In 1924 a dedicated group lead by Campbell Innes founded the Battlefords North West Historical Society. At that time it was stated that one of the aims of the society would be to honour our pioneers. Well, Mr. Speaker, the provincial centennial year was chosen as an appropriate time to recognize the pioneers of the Northwest. And as a result our nation builders were featured at a very special event in North Battleford on this past Saturday.

The historical society honoured 39 individuals who have resided in Saskatchewan for at least 20 years, are 80 years of age or over, and are currently residing in the Battlefords area. Each individual was nominated and their stories have been published in a book unveiled at the event.

The nominees and recipients are wonderful, nice, ordinary folk who have contributed greatly to the growth and stability of our community and our nation. The society's newsletter represents them as being family people, good neighbours, helpful and compassionate, growers of food, soldiers, workers, merchants, clerks, teachers, mechanics, technicians. Each was indeed a nation builder and each in turn received an MLA-nominated centennial medal presented by yourself, Mr. Speaker, as part of this tribute.

I ask the members of the Assembly to recognize and congratulate each of these 39 extraordinary people and to thank the executive and members of the North West Historical Society, particularly Walter Kostyna, Joyce George, Gil Bellavance, and Sarah Chomicki for their hard work and efforts.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Aboriginal Awareness Week

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the beginning of national Aboriginal Awareness Week. This week, which raises awareness of Canada's Aboriginal people in the federal public service, was started in 1992. However, the achievements of Aboriginal people in Canada goes well beyond the federal public service. This week is also to recognize the achievements of all Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan and

Canada for their contributions to the communities in which they live and work. Understanding is a bridge to tolerance and respect. And celebrating this week is but one way we can increase the understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, this week all Canadians can share in the achievements of Aboriginal people, whether it be from the arts, athletics, business, or Saskatchewan's public service. It reminds us what a vibrant and diverse Aboriginal community Saskatchewan has. Saskatchewan's public service is well served by hard-working, dedicated, and educated Aboriginal people. Their contributions to our public service and our province needs to be recognized. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Volunteers Contribute to Royal Visit's Success

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, during the course of last week's royal visit, hundreds of Saskatchewan residents had the opportunity to meet the royal couple and thousands more gathered with them at official events to help celebrate Saskatchewan's centennial.

Mr. Speaker, from Wednesday's visit to the First Nations University of Canada, where the First Nations veterans and peacekeepers were honoured, to the centennial gala in Saskatoon where 12,000 people packed the arena to see some of Saskatchewan's very best entertainers, the royal visit was an unqualified and resounding success.

One of the first stops that the royal couple made upon arriving in Saskatchewan was right here at the Legislative Buildings. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to thank in particular the staff of this building who worked very hard and put in very incredibly long hours to ensure that the events that took place in this building and on the grounds went smoothly and were enjoyable for all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, the amount of work that went on in and around this building was prodigious. And it was just a part of the overall effort and preparation for the royal visit. I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in acknowledging the thousands of Saskatchewan women and men whose hard work, dedication, and meticulous attention to detail contributed to the outstanding success of the centennial royal visit.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Debating Award

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to rise again to ask the legislature to once again recognize the outstanding debating skills of Vinay Mysore and Kevin Hovdestad.

Earlier I had the privilege of reporting to the legislature that

these young gentlemen were the 2004 provincial champions in high school debating. As a result of last year's success, they were chosen to compete in Oxford, England where they made a strong and very credible showing.

Kevin and Vinay had to leave Oxford before the final competition to come home to defend their provincial title in Yorkton. There they won the provincial title and received the award from the MLA from Yorkton who is currently the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier said in his remarks when he was presenting the award that he was looking for someone to pass the Yorkton reins to and these debaters would be very good choices.

Mr. Speaker, I agree. I believe that firstly, that they would be very capable of replacing the current member from Yorkton. And secondly I suspect that their political views may well make a difference to the balance of power in the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, hard work, competence, and excellence in our youth is something that should always be recognized, encouraged, and supported. We as MLAs should encourage debating and parliamentary skills wherever possible. These are the people that will follow us, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask all MLAs to join me in recognizing the hard work, skills, and debating prowess of Kevin Hovdestad and Vinay Mysore.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:00]

Walter Murray Collegiate Students Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate two students from Walter Murray Collegiate in my Saskatoon Eastview constituency for their achievements over the last few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I told the Assembly about Kimberly Richards, a grade 10 student at Walter Murray who was one of only eight Canadian students competing in the Intel Science and Engineering Fair recently held in Phoenix, Arizona. This is the largest science fair in the world, and I'm pleased to say that Ms. Richards placed second in her category, winning a \$2,000 prize and receiving an offer to have the results of her study on the crop disease fusarium head blight published in the American botanical journal.

And, Mr. Speaker, Raymond Ko, a senior at Walter Murray, has been awarded a \$60,000 TD [Toronto Dominion] Canada Trust Scholarship for his outstanding academic ability and his community leadership. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners out of 3,600 applicants from across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Ko is a talented musician who uses his outstanding musical ability to work with children with autism through the school's charity, Autism Treatment Services of Saskatchewan. He also volunteers with the Heart of the City

Piano Program, teaching underprivileged children to play piano. Mr. Speaker, Raymond was also involved with the Aventis Biotechnology Challenge and took third place in the Saskatoon region for his genetic analysis of a cell division control gene.

I ask the members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Mr. Ko and Ms. Richards on their achievements and in recognizing Walter Murray Collegiate for fostering what is clearly an extremely positive environment for its students.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Recognition of Home Care/Special Care Aide Graduates

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a week ago my wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Home Care/Special Care Aide graduation in the community of Whitewood.

Mr. Speaker, this program has been going on for the last eight years, and it is a program, Mr. Speaker, that has seen numerous men and women graduate from the program. And from this program, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is men and women have graduated in the area providing care to seniors and people with disabilities in our constituencies and certainly in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this program has been moved forward under the instruction of Minerva Scammell, a lady with great personality, just a bubbly individual who knows the program very well and does an excellent job of instructing in the program.

This year, Mr. Speaker, there were 14 graduates who graduated from the Special Care Aide program. And I would like to congratulate the graduates, but I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Southeast Regional College. It's because of the college and because of their recognition that the programs of this nature can be offered in communities like Whitewood and Moosomin and smaller centres in the area. And as a result of their recognition, Mr. Speaker, 14 more individuals have been able to graduate from a very worthwhile program.

I would also like to acknowledge the fact that the Southeast Regional College is expanding its efforts and its work in offering programs in the Whitewood and Moosomin constituencies. So congratulations to everyone involved. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Notification of Psychiatrist's Patients

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, three months ago today, February 24, the Minister of Health found

out that patients in the Weyburn and area who are suffering from some mental illness issues had been seeing a phoney psychiatrist, a psychiatrist that had nothing but bogus credentials. What actions did the Minister of Health take at that time?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the opposition says one thing and the facts say another. This particular, this particular individual that's involved has been a certified psychiatrist in a number of places across the world. But he . . . And his credentials were such that he was a practising psychiatrist for a number of years. But he was involved with some fraud around research that he was doing, and his credentials were taken away.

Mr. Speaker, the process that went through with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, they spent a long period of time going over the particular credentials. What they didn't pick up was the fact that he had been subsequently suspended and removed from the field.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, this psychiatrist that we're talking about had been found with fraudulent activities in many other countries and other provinces already, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the minister should have taken steps immediately to notify patients, should have notified patients not just the fact that this psychiatrist had been released of his duties but the reason why he had been released of his duties, Mr. Speaker.

This psychiatrist had been, over the last few months, in the Weyburn and area misleading patients. He had the ability to prescribe medication and drugs for patients suffering from some mental illness issues.

But he choose to do nothing, Mr. Speaker. Why would he put people in the Weyburn and area in jeopardy defending a psychiatrist of this nature?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, once again the opposition says one thing and the facts are another. This particular individual was identified as having no longer qualifying clinical credentials on February 15. And immediately the Sun Country Health Region took the steps to make sure that patient safety was not compromised in any way. Another psychiatrist was given all of the files that this particular doctor had used, and he went through and made sure that all of the kinds of treatments that had been done had been followed and treated appropriately.

We have a conflict here between patient confidentiality and how we make sure that there's patient safety upheld. And so it's not appropriate for me or for the officials in the department to go into a doctor's files and look at the patients. But another

psychiatrist did that and followed up.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, these are very serious allegations. The very vulnerable patients in this area were treated by a phony psychiatrist. They had possibly been prescribed medication incorrectly. There have been possible issues around diagnosis that were made incorrectly. And yet the minister has done nothing.

It's interesting. Is he more interested in the fact that if he went public with this information, he was worried about lawsuits, or is he trying to cover something up, Mr. Speaker? Why didn't he notify the patients of the nature of this psychiatrist?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, appropriate procedures were followed to have another psychiatrist review all of the files involved. And this was done immediately when the problem was identified by the College of Physicians and Surgeons whose job it is to monitor the professional status of physicians in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Sun Country Health Region, using this particular procedure, was able to make sure that the patients' care was not compromised and also to protect the privacy of the patients.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, that answer is unacceptable. The patients should have been notified. Three years ago, 71 patients that were examined by a contaminated endoscope were notified in Saskatoon of the possibly of contracting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. These patients were informed of the risks. They were all tested.

And this case is very similar, Mr. Speaker. The minister did the right thing in Saskatoon by notifying the patients and making sure the corrective steps were taken. Mr. Speaker, he hasn't done this in the Weyburn area. Why not?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the professionals involved here — the doctors who are part of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the other psychiatrists, and the supervising psychiatrist in the particular region — took the appropriate steps as they deemed appropriate in this particular situation to protect the privacy of the patients, but also to make sure that they had not received any kind of adverse treatment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, there has been an arrest warrant issued for Ashoka Prasad. Why didn't the minister make the public aware of this doctor? There has been a warrant issued for him. He has done the same work in India, Australia, and BC [British Columbia], that has been fraudulent. Why hasn't the minister . . . Was he more interested in protecting himself from embarrassment as opposed to finding out and arresting this fraud in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the arrest warrant that's been issued has been issued by Immigration Canada, so that they will be on their records for immigration when all of this . . . when this man comes back it can be dealt with.

What I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that in this particular instance the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the people whose job it is to review credentials say that this person did have and does have psychiatric treatment capabilities as a psychiatrist, but that in subsequent years he was involved in doing research in psychiatry. And a number of the projects he was involved with were deemed to be fraudulent.

It doesn't undermine his original training, but what it does mean is that he cannot be qualified to practice in Saskatchewan once that was discovered.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, this doctor was unable to practice in India. He was unable to practice in Australia. He was unable to practice in British Columbia and now Saskatchewan. And what do we do? He's unable to practice here, but let's turn him loose on somebody else, Mr. Speaker. This person needs to be brought to justice, Mr. Speaker.

It's not a cover-up. It's not an embarrassment. Deal with the issue. First of all notify the patients and then deal with this doctor accordingly.

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this man has been dealt with according to the professional advice of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and of the other psychiatrists. And what has been done is that he's been identified internationally through the immigration system in Canada as to the particular problems that he has here.

What this particular case identifies for all Canadians is the issue around how do we assess and acknowledge foreign credentials. Mr. Speaker, this is part of a national task that we have as ministers of Health and there are many people working on a new credentialing system so that this kind of thing will happen less frequently.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Provincial Fuel Tax

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the city of Vancouver gets a portion of the province's fuel tax to pay for its transit service. Four cents a litre is dedicated to Vancouver. And Ontario municipalities with public transit systems get 2 cents a litre of the provincial gas tax.

Mr. Speaker, why don't Saskatchewan municipalities receive a dedicated portion of the provincial fuel tax?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to answer the question. The long and the short of it is the city of Vancouver has the ability to levy an extra tax, and that's the dollar value that is provided for transit. They charge an extra tax.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let's look at some other jurisdictions. Manitoba municipalities get 2 cents a litre from the provincial fuel tax for infrastructure improvements. Calgary and Edmonton each get 5 cents a litre from the provincial Alberta gas tax. Yet here in Saskatchewan the money goes into general revenue.

Mr. Speaker, again to the minister: why don't Saskatchewan municipalities get a dedicated portion of the gas tax?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again the opposition says one thing and the facts say something different. The Government of Saskatchewan has always moved the gas tax into general revenue, and from general revenue we have provided additional money to municipalities through revenue sharing.

The hon. member opposite knows that revenue-sharing grants have increased over the last four years by 54 per cent. We are transferring some of our gas tax money to our municipalities.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister should look at his own document. Revenue sharing — zap — was froze this past budget. Northern municipalities, zero. City municipalities, zero. Rural municipalities, zero. How can the

minister say that there is that much fuel tax going into it?

Mr. Speaker, Ontario thinks it's a good idea to give municipalities a portion of the gas tax. All of the Western provinces except for Saskatchewan think that it's a good idea to give a portion of the gas tax to municipalities. Why does this minister need a different system? Or is this NDP government just trying to keep control over the money that could be more effectively and efficiently used by municipalities?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And pardon me if I say I'm very happy to hear the member opposite say NDP [New Democratic Party] government because if there's one thing that makes me happy in the morning is waking up knowing that the NDP is the government of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I think if the member opposite had listened last week to the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If the members opposite had listened to the Minister of Highways last week when he was answering questions about roadwork in the province of Saskatchewan, they would know that a full \$34 million worth of the gas tax is provided to municipalities and others in the province for road and highway improvements, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Nursing Resources for Intensive Care Units

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I received in my constituency office in an unaddressed envelope a package that I believe to be from local nurses at the Swift Current hospital. Part of the package was a memo to the nursing staff from the health region, the Cypress Hills Health Region. The memo outlines how nurses will be asked in Swift Current to cover the intensive care unit even though they are not trained in the area.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: why are nurses in that district, in our region in southwest Saskatchewan or in any other region, asked to cover for ICU [intensive care unit] whether or not they are trained to do so?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, in the Cypress Health

Region there were two incidents last fall, once on October 1, 2004, and another time for two hours on December 14, where an RN [registered nurse] went in to replace somebody who wasn't able to come in in the ICU. This was done with very specific instructions that they would only work to the capacity that they had. They would cover until somebody else could come in.

Mr. Speaker, this is not clearly an optimum situation, but when you have people there and you require help, then you get another RN to come and cover that. This happened these two times in the Cypress Health Region. They are now having a review, and this is being sorted out.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the memo to the nurses says and I quote: "At no time is an RN, even those in ICU, asked to perform duties that are not within their scope of practice."

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's all very well and good. But what happens if the situation arises in the IC [intensive care] unit in that hospital or anywhere else in the province where this might be happening and the nurse is asked to do or required to do something outside of her training or that scope of practice — his or her training. Do they sit and watch, Mr. Speaker, or do they indeed attend to patients and undertake some activities that may be beyond a scope of practice or their training for ICU?

It's a terrible position to put nurses in. It is a terrible position to put patients in, in any hospital here in the province of Saskatchewan. I want to know from the minister what does he intend to do about it.

We have districts across the province that are staffing with more and more casual hirings instead of full-time nurses in hospitals where we need them. What is the minister doing about situations like we see in Swift Current?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, well frankly, we've been doing many things to make sure that we provide adequate health care right across the whole system.

And in this particular situation, when this issue arose and was identified last fall, they have a nursing advisory committee in the region, and they've been working together with the staff and with others as to how to meet this particular concern. And one of the things that is a challenge down in the Cypress region, in the Swift Current area, is that there are not sufficient numbers with this training. And so we are now in the process of working with SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] to create a course that would be taught in the Cypress regional college to provide that extra training for critical care nurses.

Mr. Speaker, when the problem's identified, we sit down, sort

out how we can solve it, and then go to solve it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister says a problem identified last fall — if you take him at his word — that they've been sitting down and trying to resolve that. This current memo asking nurses to cover in ICU, whether or not they're trained, is dated April 29 of this year. It's not from last fall. The headline of the memo is "RN coverage."

So to the extent the minister has said they were going to do something about a problem last fall, it's happening again. That's why nurses have sent me a letter as well. They are protesting this decision that has put them in, in terms of their ICU care. The nurses say there are many skills that are unique to the ICU. In the letter they say, and I quote: "It is impossible to safely give a crash orientation course especially if the IC unit is busy."

Mr. Speaker, why is that minister putting nurses in Swift Current or anywhere in that situation? And why is he putting patients in that situation?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, first off I would like to correct the member opposite's reading. I'm not sure if he, he normally needs some assistance. But the day of this memo is March 29, 2005. And this particular memo comes as a result of the discussions that took place related to the incidents in the fall. And this is setting forward a plan if in fact something does arise, this would be the procedures that follow.

But the longer term plan is to train more people in that region so it won't be a problem.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well if the minister is saying that this is not going to happen any more in Swift Current or in any other hospital where nurses are asked to do what they've been asked to do in the Swift Current Hospital, he ought to say so because that is not what this memo from the health district implies.

Mr. Speaker, the letter signed by nurses questioning this decision and questioning this direction from the health region goes on to say, and I quote, "As we are all bound by our code of ethics" . . . These are the nurses saying this:

As we are all bound by our code of ethics and our commitment to best nursing practice, we find that your solution to RN coverage in the intensive care unit is not in the best interest of patients and the staff involved.

Mr. Speaker, the nurses understand this practice is putting patients at risk, Mr. Speaker. And the nurses want to see it changed, not with memos. They want to see full-time positions for nurses.

Will the minister act on what the nurses in Swift Current are saying? Or is he willing to continue to put them in the position he's put them in and to also put at risk patient care in Swift Current?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry that the facts don't fit with the script that the member opposite has because he keeps getting wound up like he's in some kind of a play where it has no relationship at all to the facts.

Mr. Speaker, there were two incidents in the fall that were identified. People who were work there, working together with the nurses and the nursing managers have set out a plan whereby if this kind of a situation arose again, the rules are going to be there as set out in the memo. But the goal is to train more people in the critical care nursing course so that we will have more people available to make sure that the coverage is not a problem at all.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Legislation

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, last week, Bill 102, The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act received approval in the Human Services Committee. There was strong support for this Bill from members on both sides of the House. What concerns me is that the minister indicated that he had not yet instructed his officials to draft regulations.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: when will the minister have regulations drafted so that this Bill could be proclaimed into law?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to have this Bill proclaimed this year. And that will make this the first such legislation in the country, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there's been strong pressure from police officers, firefighters, first responders, and others for this legislation. The opposition has indicated that it is highly supportive of this legislation and in fact had drafted a nearly identical private member's Bill earlier this year.

Front-line workers are depending on this government to ensure this Bill becomes law as soon as possible, but now the minister tells us it might be some time later this year — I repeat, might be some time later this year. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how about this month?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a priority for this government. Nova Scotia has passed similar legislation which I understand they still have not proclaimed, Mr. Speaker. Again, when we proclaim this legislation this year, we'll be the first in the country to proclaim this type of legislation, this specific type of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Consultation is very important in respect to the medical profession and how some details on this legislation are going to work, Mr. Speaker. That's the process.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's an issue of basic competence on the part of the government. Here we have, before this Assembly, a Bill that was supported by all parties and all stakeholders. This is something that does not happen every day.

And now, Mr. Speaker, we have a minister who hasn't gotten around to drafting regulations to accompany this Bill. When can we expect this minister, when will he finally get around to drafting regulations that can be proclaimed into law, giving first responders the peace of mind that they deserve?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, there was as much delay getting this into committee as there will be in drafting the regulations.

You know, for the interest of the members and for the interest of the members of the public, I mean this legislation did not go straight to committee. It was adjourned in the House so that the members opposite could consult with the people they say they support and could make sure they really support the legislation they support, Mr. Speaker.

Now we want legislation that works. And it's going to take some time to consult with people who are involved in actually using this legislation, Mr. Speaker. It's going to take some time to consult with the medical profession and people who are going to actually be responsible for making sure this legislation works. That's why we don't proclaim legislation the day we pass it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Saskatoon Southeast.

[14:30]

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers are people that regularly and routinely put their lives on the line for the rest of society. Mr. Speaker, those people deserve to have some legitimate support from this government, and it's not appropriate for that minister to stand up and say he'll be several months or several years to come up with regulations for this. Mr. Speaker, these people deserve an answer, and they deserve it right away.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a privilege to enter into the debate on Bill 118 dealing with the Watershed Authority.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why this minister cannot instruct his staff to come up with regulations immediately. Mr. Speaker, when will the minister come up with regulations that will satisfy the legitimate needs of people who put their lives at risk for the rest of society?

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, water is one of the essentials of life and therefore it is very important to all citizens of this province and to citizens of the world, Mr. Speaker. And it is becoming an increasingly emotional issue that people are paying more attention to every year, it seems.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

We only have to look back to recent events happening at Waterton and then some of the issues surrounding the North Battleford situation where the drinking water was contaminated with waste water, Mr. Speaker.

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

And so anything that this government does dealing with water, the quality of drinking water, watersheds which directly impact on the quality of drinking water is, I think, it's only incumbent on the opposition and the opposition Environment critic to take their time to deliberate, look, read the Bill through, look at the issues that the Bill addresses, and make appropriate comments, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly have done that, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Well, well now, Mr. Speaker, now it's going to be several years; according to the member from Saskatoon Southeast, it's going to be several years. I don't know where he gets that from, Mr. Speaker. The more co-operation we have in preparing these regulations and the people that are involved in actually implementing and using the Act, the quicker it will be done, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, maintenance of the watersheds of our province are very important. We must ensure that we pay attention to the quality of the waters in our lakes and rivers and take the appropriate measures to protect, maintain, and improve the quality of the water, Mr. Speaker.

The House has my undertaking that this legislation will be proclaimed before the end of this year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Water is not only important for our daily use as far as drinking water which is, of course, the most important. We require . . . each one of us require a quantity of water for our own daily needs. But, Mr. Speaker, water is also very important in our society today. It's one of the necessities, and a very important necessity in value added in preparation of our food products from the farm to the plate, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

I need only to think of the poultry processing plant in Wynyard which was in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. And a continuous, constant, assured supply of good quality water, Mr. Speaker, was essential to that industry. Without it that industry wouldn't be there.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm extremely pleased to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions no. 1,271 through 1,278 inclusive.

And the management of our water resources is one of those areas, Mr. Speaker, that governments — all governments across this province — must take very seriously and pay particular attention to. As I said earlier, when things aren't done properly we run into problems like we saw in North Battleford. The government needs to react to the situations, put measures in place that prevent such things happening again. And, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the government's responsibility. It's the responsibility of all the citizens of our province.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 1,271 through to 1,278 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 118

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 118 — The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

And, Mr. Speaker, there's a group of individuals in my constituency who take this responsibility very seriously. There's a group of citizens along Last Mountain Lake who, since 2002 when we had some problems with water quality in that lake — where we saw effluent coming from Regina's waste water treatment facilities back up into the lakes at levels that were higher than usual and caused some problems with the quality of water in that lake — a group of citizens banded

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

together and formed what they called . . . They called themselves the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group.

And what this group does, Mr. Speaker, is they monitor the quality of the water. They look at the riparian areas. They inform themselves as to what they as citizens can do and what the various interest groups in our province can do — whether that be government, whether that be industrial users, recreation users, Mr. Speaker — so that they have a quality of water in that lake that is suitable for recreation facilities, suitable for fishing activities, and so on.

And so what this group does is they sample the water at nine different locations. They are planning on expanding that, Mr. Speaker, and as they get more volunteers coming on board . . . I was just made aware of, they have had a number of workshops and the next workshop planned for that group will take place in July and they will . . . bringing in a noted speaker who will advise them and make them aware of further issues that they should be looking at.

And I think groups as this . . . And I'm sure there are other groups around the province that are taking on this type of activity and that type of responsibility. And I think we need to acknowledge those groups and applaud them for taking the initiative to deal with the situation, Mr. Speaker.

Another part of this Bill, Bill 118, deals with how the Watershed Authority will deal with drainage disputes and diversion of water and use of water in rivers, lakes, and streams. And that is an area, Mr. Speaker, again that is very emotional. I can recall having to . . . shortly after being elected, getting calls from constituents who were very concerned about drainage that was happening in their area. And dealing with that issue, I could see the emotion on each side, Mr. Speaker. And in fact sometimes that emotion boils over into anger, and sometimes we see some very inappropriate actions being taken by individuals, all dealing with water and its use of water, Mr. Speaker. So if this Bill has some provisions in it that will help address those situations, we would certainly be pleased to support them. We will certainly deal with those specific issues, Mr. Speaker, in committee.

Another area that the Bill deals with, Mr. Speaker, is the licensing of drilling contractors, water well drilling contractors, and the collection of groundwater data. And this is, particularly the collection of groundwater data, is a hugely important topic, Mr. Speaker. I have some personal experience in that, and I know many people around the province who don't have a ready supply of good water on their property have had to deal with finding water. And if you don't have proper data and if you don't know where the aquifers are located, how deep they are, what the quality of the water is in those aquifers, Mr. Speaker, it can be very costly and very counterproductive.

So if we are taking measures to enhance the collection of data, Mr. Speaker, and are dealing with the registration of contractors and their equipment so that when wells are being drilled that they are done properly, that the data is being collected at the same time, I think that certainly is important, and we would be happy to support those measures.

We have a number of questions surrounding this Bill, Mr.

Speaker, but I think most of those questions can be dealt with in committee, so I would move that this Bill be moved to committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 118, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I move that Bill 118, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill 118 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: — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 123

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 123 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly pleased to be able to enter into the debate of Bill 123, and by its number, Mr. Speaker, you would realize that this Bill was introduced very late in the legislative calendar.

And therefore as I'd said in the earlier . . . that it is the opposition's duty to scrutinize legislation, understand its implications, and gain a comfort level with what the government is proposing. And we certainly have attempted to do that, Mr. Speaker. We have asked the minister for explanations of what is intended because the Bill is very brief, Mr. Speaker. It's only a little more than a page. It deals mostly with repealing and adding various clauses, Mr. Speaker. When you look at the explanatory notes, it talks about various land descriptions and so on.

And we certainly needed to get a sense of what this Bill is doing, and in no way, Mr. Speaker, was that intended to delay the passage of this Bill. And certainly we feel that we would not be doing our duty, Mr. Speaker, if we didn't take the time to scrutinize the legislation, understand it, ask questions about it, and then make our decisions on it.

And certainly we have a number of questions dealing with this Bill, Mr. Speaker. But once again I think those questions, particularly surrounding the 2,000-plus hectares of land that are being removed from wildlife habitat protection for the purposes of specific land claims surrounding Mistawasis Reserve, we just need to have some questions answered in that whole area, plus one or two other questions.

And I think we certainly can accomplish that in committee, Mr. Speaker. So therefore I would move that this Bill move to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill 123, The Wildlife Habitat Protection 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: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I move that Bill 123, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill 123 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. The Chair recognizes the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order to expedite the work of the committees, the Economy Committee and the Human Services Committee, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government Deputy House Leader that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:42.]

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