



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

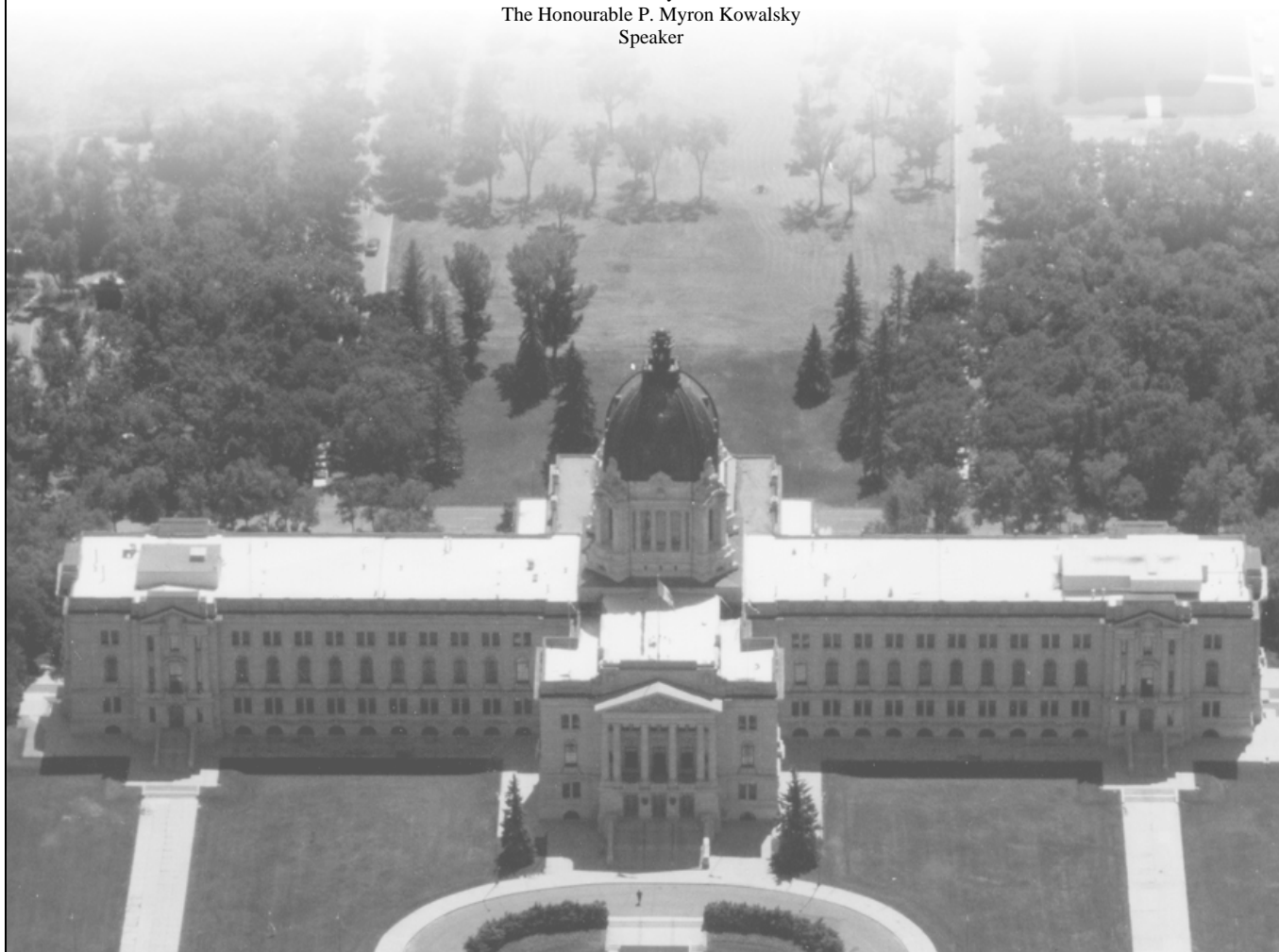
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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, Hon. 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, Hon. 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, highways continue to be a concern to the constituents of Cypress Hills. I have petitions this session from individuals from the community of Burstall, Maple Creek, and Liebenthal. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 321 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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 dealing with SaskTel cellular service in rural Saskatchewan.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all the necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that residents along Highway 19 and the Outlook area in Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from the town of Strongfield. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition for the citizens of Biggar that are concerned about the possible reductions of health care services in the town of Biggar. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Biggar Hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance services maintain at the very least the current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan and, in particular, citizens who are against the closure of Biggar's rural service centre and Environment office. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to reverse the decision to close the rural service centre and Environment office in Biggar.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signed by citizens of Perdue and Kinley. I so present.

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of the Outlook area who are very concerned about the unreliable cell coverage. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary action to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that residents along Highway No. 19 and the Outlook area in Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon, Central Butte, and Elbow. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition with citizens concerned about the width of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Annaheim, Naicam, St. Gregor, Humboldt, Muenster, LeRoy, and Watson. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition today from people who are concerned about Highway No. 310.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway No. 310 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Foam Lake, Fishing Lake, Kuroki, and surrounding areas.

People that have signed this petition are from Kuroki and Lintlaw. I so present.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a great number of questions that I will be asking the government, and the first ones relate to the Minister Responsible for Sask Property Management. And I just give notice that I shall on day no. 7 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Sask Property Management: what assets does SPM lease through Cajon Leasing?

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, rather than reading the whole thing, I'll just read the questions out of these first few.

To the Minister for SPM: what is the value of assets SPM leases through Cajon Leasing? What are the terms of the lease agreement or agreements between SPM and Cajon Leasing?

In 2001 according to the Provincial Auditor the federal government determined that lease agreement between Cajon Leasing and SPMC did not meet the definition of an eligible investment under the federal immigration regulations. What changes were made to the lease agreements to ensure that these leases qualify as eligible investments? What fees have been paid to Cajon Leasing for providing leasing services to SPM?

Were other companies given the opportunity to tender on providing these leasing services to SPM? If not, why was the decision made to offer an untendered contract to Cajon Leasing to provide these leasing services as opposed to providing an opportunity for other leasing companies to bid on this contract through an open tendering process? What was the total amount of fees received by Cajon Leasing providing these leasing services to SPM?

In his spring report 2002 the Provincial Auditor indicated that the Crown, not Cajon Leasing, assumed all the risks and rewards of ownership of the assets leased through Cajon Leasing. Is this still the case?

Mr. Speaker, I have very similar questions to the Minister of Sask Property Management relating to R & R Leasing. I have a number of questions also to the Minister of SaskTel relating to the same issue and I have a number of questions to the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming relating to the same issue. And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I have a notice of motion for return that I would like to table.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice on day no. 7 that I should ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud from April 1, 2005 to the present?

I have the same question dating back all the way to 2003 asking the same question for the years from 2003-2004 until present.

I'll ask the government on day no. 7 the following question:

To the Minister of Health: how did management of the department monitor and establish programs to control or mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud from April 1, 2005 to the present?

And also questions back to 2002-2003.

I shall also ask the government the following question on day no. 7:

To the Minister of Health: does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activities within the department during the current calendar year, and if so what is the nature of this activity?

As well I have questions dating back to 2002-2003 for the department to answer.

On day no. 7 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud from April 1, 2005 to present?

Again questions dating back to 2002-2003 consecutive.

And my final set of questions to the Minister of Health to be answered on day no. 7:

Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or any illegal activities within the department or its agencies in the current calendar year, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? And if so what is the nature of this activity?

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 7 ask the government the following

question:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department from April 1, 2005 to the present — for example, information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? And if so what is the nature of this activity?

I have a second question:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: does the management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or other illegal activity from April 1, 2005 to the present within the department, and if so what is the nature of this activity?

Third question:

Has management of the department established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud from April 1, 2005 to the present, and how has management monitored the above programs and/or controls?

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: from April 1, 2005 to the present, what has the department found as a result of the establishment of programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the department?

Mr. Speaker, I also have questions similar for the year 2004-2005, 2003-2004 to the Minister of Community Resources and Employment.

I also have questions of a similar nature for the following departments, Crowns, agencies: Department of Learning, Justice; Culture, Youth and Recreation; Northern Affairs, Highways and Transportation, First Nations and Métis Relations, Government Relations, Rural Development, Crown Investments Corporation, Investment Saskatchewan, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskTel, STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], Liquor and Gaming corporation, SaskWater, Sask Property Management, Gaming Corporation, Agriculture, Crop Insurance, Finance, Environment, Industry and Resources, Labour, Workers' Compensation Board, ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan], Public Service Commission, Executive Council, Corrections and Public Safety.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 4 move the first reading of a Bill respecting The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege today to be able to introduce to you and through you to the members of this House, Canada's polka king, Mr. Walter Ostanek, who is up in your gallery.

I've had the distinct honour to be able to play in the band with Mr. Ostanek and also to dance to the great music that he and his group play. I have to say right now, Mr. Ostanek is currently on tour with Saskatchewan's own Western Senators and will be performing on Thursday night in Swift Current at the Civic Centre and then on Friday and Saturday nights at our own world-famous Danceland, Manitou Beach.

The Bravo network is currently shooting a special on Mr. Ostanek and will be in attendance at Danceland this weekend gathering footage for the project.

Uncle Walter, as he is known to the thousands of university students who attend the Kitchener Oktoberfest, has just completed his 28th appearance at the world-famous event. And later this month, he will be headlining the 42nd annual international polka weekend in Cleveland, Ohio, along with our own Western Senators.

Please join me in welcoming Canada's Grammy-winning polka king, Walter Ostanek.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce some guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce members of the RM [rural municipality] council for Canwood. I have eight RMs that I deal with in Saskatchewan Rivers constituency, and the Canwood RM is one of them. So I wonder if they could give a little wave as I introduce them. I'd like to introduce reeve, Terry Lofstrom; councillor, Morley Rudolph; councillor, Erik Jensen; councillor Ron Reeves; and administrator, Hugh Otterson. The RM council of Canwood is in town for the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, and I ask members to welcome them here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd also like to welcome the members from SARM here. We had the opportunity this morning to be over at SARM and talk about some very, very key issues like education portion of property tax. So I hope you enjoy the afternoon here in the Assembly, and maybe you'll hear some good things. I don't know. So welcome.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina

Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly someone seated in the west gallery. His name is Trevor Holloway. He's a very diligent university student here at the University of Regina, a great ambassador for Saskatchewan. He loves Saskatchewan, wouldn't want to live anywhere else, and intends on staying here when he completes his studies. And these are the fine young people that we are advocating in this province. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Year of the Veteran

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2005 is a very special year. It's of course Saskatchewan's centennial year, and 2005 has been designated Year of the Veteran. Mr. Speaker, in addition this is Veterans' Week.

Every person in this room has a story. My grandfather lived with his Vimy Ridge physical injury for 72 years until his death. My father enlisted and served during the Second World War. My constituency assistant is also a veteran. We all have vignettes of veterans who are very close to our hearts.

So it's fitting that we start this first legislative session of Saskatchewan's second century paying tribute to Saskatchewan men and women, our veterans, who contributed and sacrificed so much so we could give peace a chance. This year Saskatchewan introduced special licence plates available to veterans. It is one small way we can show our appreciation. As well, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Saskatchewan will name Highway No. 2, from Moose Jaw to Prince Albert, Veterans' Memorial Highway as one more way to honour Saskatchewan's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Saskatchewan residents to take time this week to reflect on the huge legacy Saskatchewan's veterans have given us. For all they risked and all they gave to provide the life, freedom, and prosperity we enjoy today, veterans have our thanks and will always be remembered.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Awareness Week

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is SARC Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres is a community-based association comprised of 73 member agencies who work to support persons with disabilities in our communities. In addition to the operation of group homes, SARC's recycling

division operates over 70 depots in over 60 communities providing important employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a difficult year for the member agencies of SARC and the 2,000 people they employ. Because of this NDP government's failure to provide sufficient funding in the last budget to implement the SARC's human resources plan, SARC agencies continue to experience difficulty recruiting and retaining staff.

Continuity of care is vital for persons with disabilities. This government's failure over the past year to provide SARC with proper funding has meant uncertainty for worried parents, staff and residents. Community-based organizations provide important health and social services to the people of Saskatchewan. The Premier should not have to be inundated with hundreds of letters from concerned parents before he finally agrees to do the right thing and provide SARC organizations with funding.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

National Aboriginal Veterans Day

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generations of Canadians have served our country and our world during times of both war and peace. Through their courage and sacrifice, these men and women have ensured that we live in freedom and in peace. This is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to stand today and recognize our many Aboriginal veterans on Aboriginal Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, over 7,000 First Nations soldiers served this country in the First, Second, and Korean Wars. And countless more have served in various roles since. The number of Métis, Inuit, and non-status and Indians that have served during these wars is still unknown to this day.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's soldiers overcame cultural challenges and made impressive sacrifices and contributions to help this nation in its effort to restore world peace.

Mr. Speaker, as the son of a veteran and that veteran being Leo Belanger, this past summer I was very proud to attend the unveiling of a monument honouring Beauval and area Métis veterans. This monument is another example of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal communities honouring our war heroes and their experiences.

And yesterday this government announced that we'd be renaming Highway 2 between Prince Albert and Moose Jaw, Veterans' Memorial Highway to honour the memory of all our veterans and their contribution and that includes Aboriginal veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me today in honouring this province's Aboriginal veterans on Aboriginal Veterans

Day. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Sunday I had the pleasure of attending the Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards sponsored by the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. As Dr. Tony Harras, Chair of recognitions committee said, in the past decade the Ukrainian Canadian community of Saskatchewan is represented by the Saskatchewan's Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has formally paid tribute to the contribution of more than 100 of its outstanding members. By all measure this has been a gratifying, worthwhile process.

Aside from recognizing these individuals who dedicated a major portion of their time and talents for the betterment of our community, the Nation Builders Award Project has served to educate and motivate our youth in particular, on the need and the rewards of community service.

This year will mark the 11th year that our community will gather and pay respect to our outstanding members. Only this time we're adding a new category, that being of community recognition. In many cases those being so honoured in the new category might be the Nation Builders we recognize in the foreseeable future.

The winners of the Nation Builders Awards were the late Mike Boychuk of Saskatoon, Stefan Franko of Theodore, Ehor Gauk from Wakaw, Jennie Ortynsky from Sheho, and Anastasia Zuck from Saskatoon.

The Community Recognition Award for leadership and cultural preservation and development was won by Patrice Detz from Canora. The cultural preservation and development was awarded to Shawna Lee Kozun, also from Canora-Carrot River area. Youth achievement went to Stacey Nahachewsky from Saskatoon, and youth achievement also went to the one and only Theresa Sokyryka from Moose Jaw. And volunteerism went to Yaroslav Sywanyk from southern Saskatchewan. Please join me in congratulating these very worthwhile recipients.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Saskatchewan War Memorial

Mr. Borgerson: — Nearly 10,000 names, 10,000 people — lost. How different would our world be if none of them had died? What human talents were lost with their passing? What would the shape of our world be if none of them had volunteered to put on uniforms and defend our society, our future?

Mr. Speaker, in a quiet corner of our legislative grounds is the Saskatchewan War Memorial where all of those names are cast

in bronze. The serenity of the space and the silence of the snow that today settles on the bronze and stone pillars belie the manner of passing of our war dead. Bronze and stone — a permanent record and a permanent reminder of those who have fallen.

Mr. Speaker, with its second dedication just one month ago, ours is the only memorial in Canada that lists all of the province's war dead in one location. It is therefore important to recognize the efforts of the Saskatchewan War Memorial committee to ensure that those who have fallen are not forgotten. The memorial is a permanent place where we can bring our children, where we can tell them about those whose names appear so that they too will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, collective memory is more permanent, more long-lasting than even the bronze and stone. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

National Diabetes Awareness Month

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Over 2 million Canadians have some form of diabetes, and what is more astonishing is that over 50,000 of those people live right here in Saskatchewan.

Diabetes is non-discriminatory upon age. Children, adults, and seniors all suffer from this debilitating disease. It can cause serious health complications if not diagnosed and treated promptly.

Managing diabetes can be costly, but not managing it can be far more costly — both monetary and in human lives. While many costs are covered by the provincial health plan, some new drugs and supplies are not. Cost should not be a barrier to achieving proper and timely health care. People with some types of disease have more difficulty managing the disease than others. They have special needs. Our goal as a government should be to keep people healthy and productive. Prevention of complications should always be a goal since complications create a greater cost and strain on the health system.

Mr. Speaker, we ask this government to evaluate and assess the needs of diabetics in this province and act promptly on new developments that can help ease their disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan's Geo-Memorial Project

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, in 1947 Saskatchewan began naming northern landmarks after Saskatchewan men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country during the course of the Second World War.

Saskatchewan's geo-memorial project was one way for Saskatchewan people to show our gratitude and to pay tribute to the servicemen and women of Saskatchewan who lost their lives while on overseas duty. During the Second World War over 90,000 men and women from Saskatchewan enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces. Of those, Mr. Speaker, almost 4,000 made the supreme sacrifice.

It took almost 60 years, but last November, with the addition of the names of six Saskatchewan service personnel who fell during World War II, the project was completed. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan felt it was important to recognize Saskatchewan-born citizens who died while serving in the Canadian merchant navy, the Korean War, and Victoria Cross recipients from World War I.

In all 3,913 lakes, peninsulas, bays, rivers, and islands in northern Saskatchewan bear the names of our fallen, paying tribute to Saskatchewan's valiant men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in our defence and in support of liberty around the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Federal-Provincial Energy Accord Negotiations

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, just over an hour ago the Premier gathered the media together in this building and announced that when it comes to an energy accord for Saskatchewan, a better equalization deal, the federal government is simply not going to be coming through. There will be no such deal for the province of Saskatchewan. This underscores two simple truths: one, that the federal Liberal Government of Canada has failed the people of the province of Saskatchewan; and two, that the Premier of this province has failed the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Why is that, Mr. Speaker? That's the question. Why is that?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the issue that I've raised with the people of Saskatchewan today is to report on precisely the status of our endeavours to build for the people of Saskatchewan an energy accord that would be fair and equitable with the energy accord that was established with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

As a result of that accord, Mr. Speaker, we are told today by the federal Minister of Finance that in the upcoming year Newfoundland will be entitled to 687 million federal dollars. Nova Scotia will be entitled to \$1.379 billion. And Saskatchewan will be entitled to zero. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because the national Government of Canada has not yet seriously negotiated with this province an energy accord.

Mr. Speaker, we have appeared with Saskatchewan's case in the nation's capital. We have appeared in the nation's media. We have a joint, unanimous decision, resolution of this House to put forward the Saskatchewan case.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Throne Speech you heard Her Honour say we will continue to persist in achieving a Saskatchewan energy accord.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier and this government have left it to officials to negotiate this. Mr. Speaker, on countless occasions this side of the House, and I believe the people of the province, have asked this Premier to wrap things up a little bit, to make a stronger case for the province of Saskatchewan. And he has failed to do it.

Today we find out, Mr. Speaker, today we find out that the Premier has some information from the federal Finance department showing that Saskatchewan resource revenues will continue to be clawed back at a rate more than a dollar for a dollar, something that the Prime Minister of Canada said would stop. He gave his word on that.

Mr. Speaker, whatever the Premier of Saskatchewan has been doing, it has failed the people of this province. My question to him is, what is he prepared to do right now? If he wants, Mr. Speaker, we will support him. If he wants to stand in his place today and say he will travel to Ottawa this very day, I'll attend with him if that would help. Let us make the case for the province of Saskatchewan. Why won't he do that, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — As a result of the efforts of this government, we were able to achieve a payment of over \$400 million to address old inequities in equalization. As a result of the efforts of this government, we have achieved a package of dollars for the people of Saskatchewan worth \$300 million. We have every assurance those dollars will be provided for the people of Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Speaker, we, we stood with other Canadians willing to work through the federal equalization panel to make appropriate changes. We have trusted the word of federal leaders that we would diligently provide a Saskatchewan energy accord.

Today what do we find out, Mr. Speaker? Today what do we find out? The federal equalization panel has been bumped off six months — conveniently, I say — till after a federal election.

Mr. Speaker, what do we find out today? That provinces in Canada are receiving a fair and equitable treatment for their energy resources that are not, that are not provided to the people of Saskatchewan. Our diligence in pursuing this will not stop.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I wrote a letter to the Premier on February 4, 2005. And in it I say Premiers Hamm and Williams were able to achieve success because of their relentless and direct involvement in the negotiations. I said at that point no less than your complete commitment, referring to the Premier, will assure our success on this file. I add if I can assist in any way — if the Saskatchewan Party can — up to and including joining you in missions to Ottawa, we would happily oblige.

Mr. Speaker, this is very serious. The federal Liberal government is completely ignoring the compelling case that we would make, is ignoring fairness to our province and our taxpayers. The question to the Premier is simple. Why won't he get on a plane today or in the next few days? We'll join him if need be to make a strong case for the province of Saskatchewan. Why won't he do that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — I received the letter from the Leader of the Opposition back in February. I haven't heard much from him since that time. But I'm pleased to receive that letter. I'm pleased to receive the support. And this is a unanimous motion we've passed in this House in debate.

Mr. Speaker, the case that needs to be made today needs to be made before the Saskatchewan people. The people of Saskatchewan deserve to know what is exactly happening with their national government in terms of a Saskatchewan energy accord. And I intend to make the people of Saskatchewan more than well aware of what's been happening and what has not been happening.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this question to the Premier. Has he made contact with his federal leader, Mr. Layton, who appears to have — or believes he still has — some leverage with this federal Liberal government? Has he contacted him to insist that the federal NDP [New Democratic Party] support Saskatchewan's case with respect to the federal government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, on file from that recent federal election, I have the commitment of Mr. Jack Layton and the federal New Democratic Party to support the Saskatchewan position. That is very clear. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition has phoned his Conservative federal leader to ensure that that support continues to exist.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, when we get to a federal election in this country, whether it's sooner or whether it's later, the issue

of a Saskatchewan energy accord, the issue of a fair deal for Saskatchewan people, a fair deal for the energy resources of Saskatchewan, I can assure you will be a part of that federal campaign in this province and across the country.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days all the national debate about federal politics has been the leverage and the potential influence that Jack Layton has — his federal leader has — with the federal government. You would think in the light of these developments, which I understand the Premier became aware of yesterday, he would have immediately called his leader.

I understand the Prime Minister isn't speaking to him, but would he have not called his leader, Mr. Layton, to insist that this be a priority in whatever discussions he's having with the federal government? And if he hasn't taken that simple step, would he explain to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan why they should have any faith in his ability at all to fight for the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I endeavoured last evening to speak to the Prime Minister of Canada. He did not return a call. He asked his Minister of Finance federal to return the call. And I made it very clear to the Minister of Finance that we would be raising these issues today, that we would be reporting to the people of Saskatchewan the lack, the lack of progress being made in Ottawa towards building a Saskatchewan energy accord. Does that change our goal, Mr. Speaker? It does not.

And we will use those tools available to us. We will use the power of Saskatchewan public opinion to move this file forward, Mr. Speaker. That will be our efforts in the next several days and weeks.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the time has passed for tersely worded letters, phone calls where he expresses his frustration, and emails marked urgent. The time has come for some action.

When is the Premier going down to Ottawa? We'll support him if he will. Will he make that announcement today? When will he go make the case on behalf of Saskatchewan people?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we have been to Ottawa, and when and if the time is right, we will be in the

nation's capital. Mr. Speaker, today, today I am informing the people of Saskatchewan of the lack of progress being afforded to the people of Saskatchewan occasioned by the federal Liberal government who seem, Mr. Speaker, if I may say so, more interested in provincial issues when they are down in the polls than when they are up in the polls.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this will be a matter of public debate in this province. Mr. Speaker, we will persist as we have said in the Throne Speech to achieve for the people of Saskatchewan a fair and equitable arrangement with the national government regarding the energy resources of Saskatchewan similar to that that's been afforded to the people of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Employment Figures

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this debate we're having today, these questions are very much about a lack of leadership from that Premier and that NDP Party opposite.

And on that count — new question, Mr. Speaker — on that count, how on earth does the Premier's party, the NDP in government, manage to lose jobs in an oil boom in the province of Saskatchewan? Last Friday we learned that the Canadian economy was creating jobs at a record pace. We heard that Manitoba had created 1,000 new jobs in the past year; Alberta, 31,000; British Columbia, 74,000. But here in NDP Saskatchewan, the government has presided over a loss of 6,200 jobs, Mr. Speaker.

The question to the Premier is simple: how is that possible? How is his government managing to lose jobs in the middle of an oil boom in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition did not indicate in his question is that year over year there are on average in 2005 about 5,200 people more working in Saskatchewan than there were in 2004, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, this government is not concerned about just one month this year over one month last year. We're concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the long term. We have set out an action plan to build the economy. And in the Throne Speech yesterday, Mr. Speaker, this government set out a long-term vision for Saskatchewan — a vision in forestry, a vision in manufacturing, a vision in renewable energy, Mr. Speaker. And it is that kind of long-term planning and long-term vision, Mr. Speaker, that will continue to increase the number of jobs in this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the plan that the minister is referring to was widely . . . well it was ridiculed when the government announced it, if you remember. Pundits said it was disappointing. They said it was a political cop-out; it didn't recognize the fundamentals of a growing economy which is so important to all of us in Saskatchewan.

And that minister there, when presented with 6,200 jobs lost in the middle of, you know, an NDP boom, Mr. Speaker, he said that these were potentially just an aberration, and he found it all quite puzzling, Mr. Speaker. That was his answer to the question, why are we losing 6,200 jobs in the middle of an oil boom. And the minister responsible said he was puzzled; he was confused.

Mr. Speaker, the question is to the Premier: does he have anyone over there that can handle this file in terms of the economy who is not confused by the economy, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I will say this. The Leader of the Opposition may say that some were critical of our plan, but I say at least we have a plan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — And what did we see from the Leader of the Opposition last year, Mr. Speaker? His plan was that if he became Premier of this province he would appoint a committee and ask them what to do. That was his so-called plan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're not appointing a committee. We're taking action, Mr. Speaker. We've been taking action in mining where investment, Mr. Speaker, has been doubling each year for the last three years. We're taking action, Mr. Speaker, in oil and gas.

And I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, that in the last two years combined, the Saskatchewan economy grew more than any other economy in Canada. And this year, Mr. Speaker, investment growth is expected to grow by 12.6 per cent. So not only do we have a plan, Mr. Speaker, but our plan is working.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well tragically, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP's growth plan we've lost 6,200 jobs year over year. And more importantly we've lost population in the middle of growth as the minister refers to it.

I have a question for that minister. The new Minister of Highways when he was the Economic Development minister

said, don't worry when people leave the province because when they leave, there is, quote, "more left for the rest of us." Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister agrees with that.

And I guess I have one more question. Would he agree that the only case where that is true, that when people leave or when they go that there's more left for the rest of us, is after the next election when that party is gone, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, that sounds a lot like what he said before the last election. But the people are not that easily fooled, Mr. Speaker.

And one thing that the Leader of the Opposition did not mention is that the rate of out-migration, Mr. Speaker, of young people and other people has gone down considerably, Mr. Speaker. And I will say this. It is far less than in the late '80s and early '90s when that member, Mr. Speaker, was working for the Devine Conservative government, when 12 to 15,000 people per year were leaving this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I will say this, Mr. Speaker, that we are not satisfied if we have an out-migration of about 500 per year as we may have last year or this year. We're not satisfied with this record, Mr. Speaker. But I'll say this. It is far better than the record of those members over there, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:15]

New Cabinet Ministers

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Premier may have killed off 6,200 jobs for people in Saskatchewan, but he did create two jobs — two NDP cabinet jobs — one for the member from Sutherland and the other for the minister who gave us SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] who lost, Mr. Speaker, who lost 34 million taxpayer dollars, who covered up the truth for six long years. This Premier kills off 6,200 jobs in this province, but somehow he finds a cabinet post for the one person in this province who should never have been given back that job.

Mr. Speaker, why are the Premier's priorities so screwed up? Six thousand two hundred fewer jobs for the people of Saskatchewan, but a cabinet post for that dishonest and incompetent . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. The member from Martensville has breached one of the rules of this Assembly. I would ask him to rise, withdraw the remark, and apologize to the House for reflecting on the other member.

Mr. Heppner: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw that comment and apologize to the House.

The Speaker: — Thank you. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well I do not, Mr. Speaker, intend to go where that party will go in this House.

Let me just say this about priority and vision. You heard yesterday, Mr. Speaker, you heard yesterday the priority and vision of this government. In that vision, Mr. Speaker, is a vision for the great North of Saskatchewan — opening that great North and its resources, opening opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan's North.

Mr. Speaker, you heard in the Throne Speech yesterday our commitment to a major, a major northern road-building strategy which will include a road to the Far North. And I have chosen a very able member of this caucus, a very respected citizen of the province of Saskatchewan to lead that initiative in opening the North and to building the highways and transportation needs of Saskatchewan province-wide. I am proud of that member, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was only last month when that Premier brought that minister back into cabinet, and what did he say? The Premier actually compared him to Gandhi. Mr. Speaker, Gandhi actually led his people. This cabinet minister misled the people, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's something else the Premier said in the same speech back in 1987. He said:

People . . . will forgive mistakes; [they] will [even] forgive incompetence; but they will not forgive betrayal.

Mr. Speaker, this Premier is not only forgiving mistakes, incompetence, and betrayal, he is rewarding, Mr. Speaker, mistakes, incompetence, and betrayal. It must make you wonder how incompetent the rest of those NDP MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] must be, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier betraying his own words by rewarding, rewarding the SPUDCO's minister's mistakes, his incompetence, and his betrayal?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I am not going to lower myself nor the standards of our government to the levels, to the levels of that Saskatchewan Party in this House. Mr. Speaker, I am not responding to that kind of personal attack on a member or members in this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Saltcoats.

Education Property Tax

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our producers in this province grew a very good crop in most areas this year, but rains have cut into the quality, and at the same time we have tremendously high input costs and low commodity prices. And in the midst of this disaster, Mr. Speaker, farmers are asked to pay the highest education tax on farmland in Canada, Mr. Speaker, in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I was at the SARM convention this morning, and I'd like to read you this quote that came up there and the quote goes on to say:

We are pledged to do away with the education tax as soon as we get new . . . [resources] of revenue to take the place of the revenue now realized from that tax. When we develop new sources of revenue sufficient to supplant the revenue now raised from the tax, we shall do away with the tax because we consider it regressive legislation.

Said the premier of the day, Tommy Douglas, August 31, 1944.

Being that this government and that Premier tries to dig up Tommy every election to get re-elected, will they now listen to what Tommy had to say in the past?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think what the member opposite has forgotten is that over the last year and a half this government in conjunction with and co-operation with the representatives of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM, the school boards and others have been working on a long-term plan to in fact address the education property tax relief question. We have put a two-year program in place that identifies \$110 million worth of short-term relief over the two years, and we are in the process, Mr. Speaker, of working on that long-term plan. And if all goes well in the consultations, that long-term plan should be in place for the 2007 tax year, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Agricultural Policies

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, seeing as we're into quotes today, I'd like to read you another one. And this quote goes on to say:

The word in Saskatchewan is that the . . . current emperor has no clothes. He's exposed for the lack of long-term significant agricultural policy. We've had too much of agricultural politics and [not enough] . . . substantive agricultural policy. And, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech does nothing, in my view, to change that.

Well who said that, Mr. Speaker. Well that was the current Premier, Mr. Speaker, March 27, 1990. At that time he was saying there was no ag policy in Saskatchewan. Remembering

back, we had the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] program at that time. The GRIP program wasn't perfect, but if you poll every farmer in Saskatchewan, it was 10 times as good as any thing that . . . Will the Premier finally address that there is a problem in rural Saskatchewan and help farmers out today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the one thing evident from that quote and evident from the very clear lack of any ideas coming from the other side about agriculture policy is that things haven't changed since 1990. They still don't have an idea about what could be done to help deal with some of these very, very difficult problems that people are facing in Saskatchewan, in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we have been working very hard to develop policy that will work all across this nation. We have unanimity amongst the provincial ministers about how to apply some of these policies, Mr. Speaker, we are working hard to get policy that will provide the kind of support our producers need.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing changes in agriculture in Saskatchewan, and those changes will lead to prosperity as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that Ag minister is becoming a joke. If it wasn't such a serious problem, farmers in this province would be laughing at him. But instead of that, they're trying to find ways of bailing themselves out because they're getting no help from this government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — There's a federal election coming, Mr. Speaker, and as like equalization, wouldn't it be a good time to go to Ottawa and explain the plight of our Saskatchewan farmers? And a month ago we asked them to do that. And the Ag minister says, no he can't go. Why should we go? CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] is working. Crop insurance is working. The Deputy Premier's on record for saying the same thing: CAIS is working; crop insurance is working. Well again, poll the farmers of Saskatchewan. And, hello, it's not working out there, and we're losing farmers.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, farmers need help more this fall than maybe ever in history. Listen to Tommy Douglas. For once, really listen. Help our farmers out.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — There's no doubt that many, many farmers in Saskatchewan are having a very difficult time. I travelled the province extensively this summer and met with many farmers. And, Mr. Speaker, no they're not laughing at me. They're working with me to try and make better policy for this province. We have a number of groups with producers that are working . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. The Minister of Ag and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think always when there is a lack of ideas, it devolves to personal attack. And I hear that from the members opposite — personal attack, no ideas, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime we are working with farmers and agricultural groups to develop policy that will work for this province. We invested over \$650 million last year to provide support — the largest in the history of this province. To provide support for farmers in this province we are changing directions, and, Mr. Speaker, we're there with them to help make those changes. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Public Service Commission.

Saskatchewan Energy Share Plan Unveiled

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Crown Corporations. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that we've unveiled the second part of the Saskatchewan Energy Share plan. Saskatchewan Energy Share is a two-part plan to reduce heating costs and share the benefits of increased revenues from natural gas.

We announced the first part of the plan last week. Our announcement last week caps the Saskatchewan energy rate increase at an average bill impact of 10 per cent for residential and farm customers, and 11 per cent for business customers over the next five months. We're providing additional assistance for low-income people because they need it most.

We're also providing \$200 rebates for homes and businesses on the Saskatchewan side of Lloydminster and for fuel, oil, and propane users. This short-term transitional assistance is meant to give Saskatchewan citizens some time to adjust to the reality of higher energy costs.

Our long-term plan to deal with that reality includes six energy conservation programs which we announced this morning. The first program will help people save on the cost of buying energy-efficient furnaces and boilers by removing the provincial sales tax. This PST [provincial sales tax] exemption will apply to Energy Star qualified models regardless of their intended use. That means businesses are eligible as well.

The second program will provide a rebate of \$45 on the Saskatchewan Energy bill for residential and business customers who buy an Energy Star qualified programmable thermostat.

The third program is an expansion of SaskEnergy's successful Share the Warmth home energy efficiency project, and it will help 500 low-income families a year over the next five years. Volunteers will assist low-income families to install improvements such as weather stripping for doors, caulking for windows, and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The fourth program will see Saskatchewan match the federal grant to a maximum of \$2,000 per home for changes made after an EnerGuide for Houses follow-up audit.

The final two programs are meant specifically for people with low or moderate incomes whose homes are generally older and less energy-efficient. Saskatchewan will cost share and enhance the federal EnerGuide for low-income households and will also introduce the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for moderate-income homeowners. These two programs will help up to 17,000 households make energy-efficient improvements to their homes.

Altogether, Mr. Speaker, we're spending \$37.3 million on these conservation programs which will help people save money on their energy costs. Combined with \$130.54 million for the short-term assistance program, the total cost of the Saskatchewan Energy Share plan will be about \$167.84 million. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is an affordable, fiscally responsible expenditure on behalf of the people of our province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin by thanking the minister for the statement provided to me earlier today and for her officials with the work in that preparation. I know that the officials' time is very valuable as the plan coming forth will require not a small amount of bureaucratic deciphering. The statement that these rebates will be provided for by two Crowns and two departments is evidence enough that there will be a requirement for the fine services of many members of the public service. And this begs the question of how much money will be left over for individuals in the important task of conserving energy.

The ability to have six individual applications programs for citizens wishing to conserve energy, I am sure will be received warmly by our citizens at a time when they're having to turn down the heat. Thoughtful preparation of this plan is completely evident, for the most vulnerable, such as seniors, certainly will have no problem deciphering which of the six applications will apply to them and which of the two departments or two Crowns they will need to contact to obtain whether they use application 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or the combinations therein.

[14:30]

With the release of this plan, I'm sure that citizens of Saskatchewan will have the same confidence in knowing that they can return their applications 1 through 6 at any of the two Crowns or two departments. Hopefully the applications will be accepted at all locations and that applications 1 through 3 from SaskEnergy and Sask Housing will not be rejected by

Community Resources and Employment, nor applications 4 through 6 accepted at Finance but rejected at SaskEnergy.

I'd like to end by thanking the minister for her final statement.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. There's quite a bit of heckling coming. I would like members to allow the . . . Order please. Member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's disappointing that that had to raise the level here as it's obvious the serious nature of these comments may not be being heard.

I'd just like to finish, Mr. Speaker, by saying I'd like to thank the minister and I do believe her when she stated, and I quote, "We believe . . . this is an affordable, fiscally responsible expenditure on behalf of the . . . [citizens of Saskatchewan]." Mr. Speaker, I believe that not only the minister but the entire NDP caucus believe that statement to be true. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Order please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to rule 30(1), it is your duty at this time to elect a member to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole. The procedures to be used in this election are the same as those used to elect the Speaker. I now ask the Clerk to initiate proceedings.

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that only one candidate has declared her intention to stand for election as Deputy Speaker, the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Pursuant to rule 30(4) and rule 29(3), it is my pleasure to announce that the member for Regina Wascana Plains is declared elected as your Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole. And I personally wish to congratulate the member for Regina Wascana Plains and to welcome her to her newest challenge.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you to all members of the Assembly I'd like to say thank you for the confidence that you've placed in me as the newly declared Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole.

In all my years of elected office I've been a strong and firm supporter of the parliamentary system of democracy. It will be my hope and desire that in support of you, Mr. Speaker, and in assisting with the school program and in my time as Chair that, together with all members, we would uplift respectful debate —

for, Mr. Speaker, it is the most important process by which the House arrives at any decision that it makes. From the beginning I will ask for patience as I become accustomed to this new responsibility. This is an important, historic occasion, Mr. Speaker. The Assembly should take collective pride in declaring the first woman to this position.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, I now approach this role with great honour and pride. Thank you all.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The House will now proceed with orders of the day. Why is the member on his feet, the member for Melville-Saltcoats?

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to move a motion under rule 49, and I would read the motion:

That this Assembly recognizes that the plight of Saskatchewan farm families is severe, with cash flow problems compounded by low commodity prices and high input costs including a disproportionate taxation on farm land and that this crisis is causing many producers to walk away from their farming operations, some leaving the province, and that this distress and hardship is not only in rural Saskatchewan but in other parts of the province that rely on agriculture-based businesses.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I thank the member for Melville-Saltcoats. The member from Melville-Saltcoats is requesting unanimous consent to debate a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under rule 49. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave has not been granted.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. I would ask the Clerk to repeat the special order. Order please.

Deputy Clerk: — Consideration of the Speech from the Throne delivered by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my remarks I would like to thank you for the guidance you provide to the members of this House. You fulfill your role as Speaker

of this Assembly both with good humour and good judgment. And I want to lend my congratulations to the member from Regina Wascana Plains on her election to the position of Deputy Speaker. She is the first woman to be a presiding officer of this Assembly.

I am pleased and honoured to have this opportunity to move Saskatchewan's 2005 Speech from the Throne and of course I'll be moving the motion in an official form at the end of my remarks.

I want to thank my caucus colleagues for their support and friendship. We have the good fortune to be part of a team that is carrying on the Saskatchewan tradition of fiscally responsible and socially progressive government. And I know that I speak for each and every one of my caucus colleagues when I say how proud we are to be part of that history and part of that tradition and to have the achievements of Premiers Douglas, Lloyd, Blakeney, and Romanow — not just for inspiration, but to build upon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier for providing me with this opportunity to play what I consider to be a special role in what is very clearly a special time in Saskatchewan's history.

I would like to take a moment to thank the people of Saskatoon Eastview who have elected me to represent them for the last seven-plus years. I thank them for their continued confidence in me.

I also want to thank my constituency executive, led by Stacey Dyck-Jiricka, who keep me energized and focused. Thank you to April Anderson who runs my constituency office and serves the people of Saskatoon Eastview right alongside of me.

The last of my personal thank yous goes to my family: my husband, Don, my son, Sean, my daughter, Heather, and my son-in-law, Jodi, for always being there for me, for being fiercely loyal, and for supporting me in this job that asks for a lot of sacrifices from our families. To my mother and father, my sisters and their families — my biggest fans — I couldn't do this without all of you, and thank you.

There are many good times in the life of an MLA that make all the sacrifices worthwhile, from a little old lady leaning in to me to say, you're a cute doll, and I love your outfit, to a darling 92-year-old man kissing my hand, to a young man saying, thanks to my help he can now go on to post-secondary school. All these and many more funny, heartwarming, and even sad stories make this job so rewarding and keeps all of us coming back for more.

These are not easy times to be a politician. The media has a tendency to portray us all as liars, cheats, and swindlers. Current events in Ottawa and Washington aren't helping much. Small wonder that the public puts politicians lowest on their approval list. So it is sometimes hard to be proud of what you do as a politician. But I am, and we all should be, because the reality is no matter what our political leanings or underlying political philosophies, most of us are just ordinary people who have been elected by our neighbours and friends and fellow citizens to represent them and their interests in this Assembly.

I believe in the role of government as an institution whose fundamental and primary purpose is to do everything in its power to make life better for all of its citizens. And with that thought in mind, I do feel both proud and privileged to be a member of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people have been celebrating our centennial in spectacular fashion — over 3,800 events. And each one of these events speaks directly to the pride of Saskatchewan people and the special place we hold in our hearts for this great province, as well we should. In 100 years we have come a long way. As Saskatchewan people, we have a lot to be proud of and a lot to celebrate in so many different areas.

Here's a partial list of Saskatchewan firsts, in no particular order. First bill of rights in Canada, first small claims court in North America, first provincial archives, first free cancer care, first two weeks paid holiday, first arts board in North America, first government auto insurance in the world, first free province-wide hospital insurance, first minimum wage, first 40-hour week.

And of course the reason why Saskatchewan has had the benefit of these and so many other examples of progressive social programs and enlightened labour and human rights legislation is that in 1944 Saskatchewan also elected North America's first social democratic government, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation under the leadership of Thomas Clement Douglas. I just want to say again how proud I am to be part of that tradition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Junor: — Thank you. But as strongly as I and my colleagues on this side of the House embrace the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] tradition, the Conservative Saskatchewan Party opposite despises it even more. How else can we explain the fact that while Tommy Douglas was recently voted the greatest Canadian, opposition members continue to refer to both the man and his accomplishments on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and Canada in the most disparaging and disrespectful ways imaginable? That's somewhat disturbing because the CCF-NDP tradition and the legacy of Tommy Douglas are a direct outgrowth of the history and political culture of the province.

The election of the CCF in 1944 was not a radical break from a sort of idealized entrepreneurial past as the members opposite seem to think. It was simply an extension of already existing trends and movements in the province, ones that work to the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan. So on that level it is disturbing to have the party opposite talk with such disrespect and derision about the province's last 60 years. It indicates a fundamental lack of understanding of Saskatchewan's past — of who we are, how we got here, and most importantly, how to go about building on all we've already accomplished.

Those achievements are based on ideas rooted in Saskatchewan values of community and co-operative ownership. Just because they aren't based on some right-wing ideology does not mean they have no value and worth for the people of Saskatchewan;

in fact, precisely the opposite is true. And what's really unsettling is that we know that, given the opportunity, tearing down all that Saskatchewan people have accomplished in the last 60 years is exactly what the Conservative Party opposite was prepared to do.

Let's just look for a moment at where we were some 60 years ago. This will mystify the members opposite but somehow even though Saskatchewan did have the benefit of unbridled free enterprise for our entire history up to that point, the province wasn't doing well at all. Sixty years ago Saskatchewan was a broken and beaten down province. The effects of 10 years of drought and depression still lingered. The province itself was mired in debt and many citizens lived in abject poverty. There were less than 100 miles of paved roads and only about 300 rural households had electrical power.

[14:45]

In short, Mr. Speaker, when the CCF came to power in 1944 the province really was in dire straits. Not the fake disaster the party opposite is trying to convince everyone we're in now, but a real one — a larger scale disaster than the one following eight years of the right-wing agenda of Grant Devine's government of the '80s when we almost declared bankruptcy as a province.

The Conservative Party opposite thinks Saskatchewan people should have left it to the forces of the free market to address those awful circumstances. Had they, Saskatchewan would be still trying to recover now.

During the course of their first 20 years in power, the CCF-NDP cleared up the provincial debt, restored Saskatchewan people's faith in themselves and in their province. They embarked on a trail-blazing path of enlightened legislation that transformed the social and political landscape not only of Saskatchewan but of the entire country.

Implementing medicare cost the CCF, now the New Democratic Party, the 1964 election as they suspected it might. But these visionary Saskatchewan men and women were willing to make that short-term sacrifice of their own political fortunes in exchange for the long-term benefit for all.

By then the province had been transformed from poverty-stricken desolation to a province with renewed hope, ever increasing prosperity, and most importantly, Mr. Speaker, a province in control of its own destiny.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the differences between those of us sitting on this side of the House and the Conservative members opposite are deep and fundamental. For example, while the Conservative Party opposite thinks that governing is like running a business where decisions are necessarily based on the bottom line, this NDP government and the Saskatchewan people know that governing is much more complex than that. People are the bottom line and decisions are based on what's best for everyone, within the boundaries of what we can afford as a province.

The positions are sharply contrasted by the different approaches to the funding of the publicly owned Saskatchewan Transportation Company. The opposition looks at it and says,

STC is losing money; sell it. Never mind that it provides an invaluable public service to the people of Saskatchewan, especially in rural areas. If it's not paying its own way, it has to go.

The approach on this side of the House is, STC provides a valuable public service to Saskatchewan people and we will continue to support it. And we'll support it because in Saskatchewan we balance the various and often conflicting needs of our people. That is what governing is all about.

That idea, that tradition of looking out for the well-being of everyone is at the heart of the political, social, and economic transformation that has taken place in Saskatchewan over the last 60 years or so. The concept of the good of the whole.

It's a tradition that began with the First Nations over thousands of years of fostering strong family and community relationships. It's a tradition that was carried on by our pioneers and that came to full bloom in the co-operative movements in the province's early years. It was that tradition that the CCF tapped into in the 1930s and '40s and continues to be the approach to developing the policies and programs of this NDP government today — the good of the whole.

Whether we are talking about KidsFirst or School^{PLUS} or the Saskatchewan disabilities framework or the child action plan or the youth strategy or the action plan for health or the *Partnership for Prosperity* or the HomeFirst housing strategy or Aboriginal justice reform or the biodiversity action plan or any of the other plans, strategies, and programs we are pursuing, each and every one exists for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm talking about plans and strategies, I want to point out that the Saskatchewan Party is often heard to say that our government does not have a plan. Well as you can see from the many plans I've just mentioned, they are wrong again. They can say they have not seen the plan. They can say they have not read the plan. They can say they do not understand the plan. But they cannot say we don't have a plan. And to reinforce my statement I've brought a sample of the plans mentioned and will table them with this House for the benefit of the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the centennial Throne Speech focuses on our young people and the next 20 years. It's all about creating a strong Saskatchewan in which there will be opportunity for all and that all will be proud to call this province home.

Mr. Speaker, the centennial Throne Speech is all about building on the strong foundations of the past and creating a Saskatchewan that reflects the optimism and confidence of our forebears; a Saskatchewan that is both environmentally responsible and socially progressive; a Saskatchewan that recognizes education is the key to a healthy future; a Saskatchewan that continues to lead the way with one of the best health care systems in the world; a Saskatchewan that maintains its tradition of embracing new technology and innovation and so is one of the most competitive economies in

the world; a Saskatchewan that is one of North America's top energy producers; a Saskatchewan where business is booming and labour is respected and valued. And, Mr. Speaker, a Saskatchewan where people from all cultures move forward together ensuring that the Saskatchewan family, the Saskatchewan household, the Saskatchewan community, is healthy, prosperous, happy, and strong.

In short, Mr. Speaker, we are going to create a province where each and every citizen has the opportunity to realize their hopes and follow their dreams.

We will continue to foster a provincial economy that is not only prosperous but also sustainable. Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Saskatchewan Party opposite substitutes myth for meaningful public debate at every turn. All of their misrepresentations about the province are destructive to some degree.

For example in Saskatoon — or Saskaboom as it's recently been dubbed — there is an unprecedented excitement and positive energy. New construction, additions and renovations to older existing buildings, and the River Landing development demonstrate a vibrant, successful, and prosperous city. There is an excitement in Saskatoon that we are on an economic roll. But that's not how the Saskatchewan Party tells it. And it appears that the constant negativity of the Saskatchewan Party — their constant misrepresentations about the state of the economy — is undermining the optimism and confidence of Saskatchewan people. And that is hurting the province.

Saskatchewan as a whole and Saskatoon in particular are currently experiencing good economic times. But a recent poll indicates that Saskatchewan people don't believe it. At a recent awards for business excellence in Saskatchewan, ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence], the president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce commented in his opening remarks about the need to up our attitude. This is a message that the chamber put forward over two years ago. But we are still hearing the negative comments from the members opposite about our business climate, our economy, our future. You name it, they can find something negative to say about it. In Saskatchewan these days, finding real things to be negative about is a hard job. But the opposition seem to think someone has to do it.

Saskatchewan Party is fond of another myth: that environmental protection is bad for business. We disagree wholeheartedly with that position. Because just as we've always recognized that social progress and economic progress must proceed in balance, so we recognize that economic development should not and need not take place at the expense of the environment.

I'm very pleased that with that in mind we've been engaged in a series of green strategy consultations. These consultations are a basis for future initiatives. In this session legislation will be introduced that speaks directly to environmental protection and supporting healthy and sustainable economic growth.

Saskatchewan has become the third largest producer of wind power in Canada. By the end of the year Saskatchewan will be producing enough green energy to power a city the size of Regina. We're going to build on that very positive beginning in the area of renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House are very proud of the fact that Saskatchewan is the birthplace of medicare in Canada. It says a lot about the Conservative Saskatchewan Party on the other side of this Assembly that they do not share that pride. These days our publicly funded health care system is being attacked by many, including the members opposite.

As a matter of fact, in their campaigns medicare is one of their favourite targets. They talk in terms of private, for-profit health care, parallel private and public systems, and so on, and couch it all in terms of just wanting to provide more choice or better access to health services. And although for-profit health care has proven itself to be less efficient and far more expensive than our publicly funded system, right wingers like the Saskatchewan Conservative Party opposite continue to support and promote privatization of the health system.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Argentina a while ago and visited a primary health centre in Buenos Aires. When the staff found out that I was Canadian, and even though they did not speak a word of English, one woman immediately said, ah, medicare. The world identifies Canada with medicare and envies us our system.

The Saskatchewan vision of health care has always placed people before profit and it is the vision of this government to ensure that will never change. That is not to say that the current system does not need changes. We need to use our human resources more effectively. We need to promote healthy lifestyle choices. We need to change the way we as users of the system seek our care. To quote Tommy Douglas from a speech he delivered in 1982, quote:

We have to move increasingly toward care through clinics. We've got to provide financial inducement for doctors to form clinics and [to] go into clinics, whether they are paid on a salary or fee-for-service basis. We have to locate these clinics in or close to hospitals, so that people will have ready access to diagnostic and treatment facilities.

He also said in the same speech, quote:

Let's not forget that the ultimate goal of Medicare must be to keep people well rather than just patching them up when they get sick.

The concept of a primary health centre, as one of these clinics you can go to for your health services, needs to be better understood by the public and expanded into many areas, for example into an emergency unit at an acute care hospital.

Here's how that would work. You go into the emergency unit and are seen by a triage nurse who assesses if you need attention by a doctor for such things as chest pain, broken bones, significant bleeding, or major trauma. If you don't need to see a doctor you could see a nurse practitioner for such things as cold and flu symptoms, minor cuts, minor infections, etc. This nurse practitioner can treat you, send you for certain tests or procedures, and even discharge you. You can see a dietician, a social worker, a mental health worker, or a therapist to name just a few of the many options that would be available to you. This approach would free up doctors to attend to the most serious cases coming into emergency. Think how this would

improve the wait times in emergency wards.

Mr. Speaker, I can't emphasize this point enough. We do not have to privatize the system to improve it. But we do have to change the way we deliver the services and our expectations of the system as health care consumers. Don't be fooled by all the doom and gloom about the system. It can be fixed without destroying the very fundamentals of medicare — universality, accessibility, portability, public administration, and comprehensive care.

We as Canadians and health care consumers have the ability to make these changes happen by demanding them of our policy makers. That means our governments, provincial and federal, not insurance companies and multinational corporations.

We as a government have an obligation to you the people of Saskatchewan to improve the health system, to decrease waiting times for surgeries and diagnostic procedures. But Saskatchewan people have a very important role as well. It is they who determine what they want in a health system. It is they who decide where they want to see the province go, be it in health care, environmental protection, economic growth, education, or social programs. And finally it is they who elect the government whose values and policies best mirror their own values.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is a wonderful first step into Saskatchewan's second century. It is a document that recognizes clearly and fundamentally the concept of the good of the whole. I am proud of so many of the initiatives that are named in this speech but I want to mention these in particular.

I was very pleased with the announcement in September of the construction of the road connecting La Loche to Fort McMurray. It is a link that will benefit the people in both of our provinces.

I'm even more pleased that in this session we will announce a major new road-building project in the North. Literally that road-building initiative will go a long way towards connecting the people of Saskatchewan's North with better jobs, health care services, and education. As Saskatchewan moves forward, the people of her North will not be left behind.

The focus of a good part of my professional life has been on health care and improving health care services here in Saskatchewan. So I welcome all the strategies in the Throne Speech aimed at training, recruiting, and retaining health care professionals, particularly building a new academic health sciences centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Bringing health science educators, researchers, and students together in one facility will help draw health care professionals to the province and ensure that Saskatchewan's training needs in the health care field are met now and well into the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say how much I support the expansion of pediatric services across the province, especially the development of the children's hospital within a hospital in Saskatoon. It makes sense that children and their families receive care in an environment that is child and family friendly but also has concentrated expertise and an integrated approach to pediatric care.

Mr. Speaker, the promise of integrating midwifery into our health system has been a project of mine and my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, since The Midwifery Act was passed during our time in the Health portfolio. The vision of midwives practising in a primary health centre setting is exciting for women of this province. Midwives could be practising alongside family physicians, specialists, registered nurses, and other health professionals to provide women with the best possible birth experience and outcome. In fact I think a midwife could go into the new Westwinds Primary Health Centre in Saskatoon. This project could be a reality very soon with the opening of the facility as the district is already exploring this possibility.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting to close with Saskatchewan's centennial blessing:

As Saskatchewan celebrates the many reasons to give thanks throughout the centennial year, we are grateful for our many blessings:

For our incredible landscapes and living skies.
 For our natural resources, which are rich and plentiful.
 For an inclusive society that respects others and celebrates diversity.
 For the freedom to pursue our dreams right here at home.
 For the vision of our Aboriginal people and our pioneers.
 For the vitality and creativity of our youth.
 For the generosity of our many volunteers.
 For the warmth of our families, neighbours and friends.
 And for a province with 100 Years of Heart!
 We love this place — Saskatchewan — and we give thanks.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make the official statement of the motion moved by myself and seconded by the member from Regina Northeast:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor:

To Her Honour the Honourable Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank you for your gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[15:00]

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview and seconded by the member for Regina Northeast . . . Order please. Order please, members. Order. Order.

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor:

To Her Honour the Honourable Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It certainly is a privilege for me to rise and to second the motion . . . Speech to the Throne. But first, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your ongoing service to this House, and I'm sure that I speak for all the members when I acknowledge your patience and good judgment in fulfilling your duties as Speaker sometimes in a very lively Assembly.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the member from Regina Wascana Plains for being chosen our Deputy Speaker. We're part of history, her being the first woman to hold such a position in the legislature here in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm relieved to know that in your hands and the hands of the member from Regina Wascana Plains, I know this Assembly is in very, very good shape.

I also want to thank Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, for her delivery of the Throne Speech yesterday. I think she did a wonderful job of being very punctual and to the point. I also want to congratulate my esteemed colleague, seatmate, and good friend, the member from Saskatoon Eastview, for her eloquent remarks in moving the Throne Speech, and I'm very pleased to have the privilege of seconding the motion that she has presented.

It being our centennial year, this Throne Speech represents a very significant stepping off point into what I know will be a very bright and prosperous future for all people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech is by tradition an opportunity for government to present its plan for the next year in a very broad forum. It's a chance for government to set the direction in which it would see the province move in the next year.

The reply to the Throne Speech is also an opportunity for the members to cast their remarks in rather a broad way. So I would like to at this point say a few words about my constituency of Regina Northeast. And it's a privilege to represent the fine people in that constituency in this great Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Regina Northeast constituency is made up of really three parts: first the Uplands area, then Eastview, and the area north of Dewdney Avenue from Winnipeg Street to Prince of Wales Drive. This takes in all the Ross Industrial area.

This summer, as in past summers, I door-knocked a number of homes in my constituency. I had set 14 polls as my goal this summer, and I was able to achieve that. And what I really find interesting about door knocking is meeting people on their doorstep that I've met in past summers, as well as meeting new people who have moved into the constituency.

And sometimes when you're visiting constituents you run into a humorous situation. One such event happened to me back in June when I was visiting a poll where new homes had sprung up since the election. And I had the pleasure of knocking on a door of a Sask Party staffer who was good enough to send me an email the next day thanking me for calling, but he informed me that likely he would not be voting for me in the next election.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my constituency assistant suggested we should mark him down as an X but I said no, he is a bright, smart young fellow. He may see the light one day. We'll put him down as a question mark minus.

But in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, I enjoy visiting constituents because it gives me a better understanding of what people are looking for in their government. People tell me that they appreciate and respect the direction our party's government has demonstrated in the past. I consider this a great privilege to be a part of a government that's helped put Saskatchewan's financial house in order and whose political roots are so deeply embedded in the history of this great province.

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and its successor, the New Democratic Party, are large parts of Saskatchewan's history and have played a significant role in this province's development. The CCF came into existence as a direct result of grassroots movement of people seeking practical and workable solutions to Saskatchewan's specific issues and challenges. And the solutions that they came up with over the course of the last 60 years have turned out to be of great benefit, not only to the people of this province but to people far beyond our borders.

I'm very proud to be a part of that tradition. Saskatchewan people have every right to be proud of each and every one of their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is founded in the spirit of confidence and optimism. And while events didn't always play out the way our forefathers had envisioned them, still that confidence and optimism was not misplaced. And the accomplishments of our first century provide a solid foundation upon which we can begin to build the second.

Mr. Speaker, our province's future is bright. Right now we enjoy increased revenue from increased oil prices. And that is good news for the province, but it creates some real problems for people of low and fixed incomes, especially when it comes to home heating costs. This is why our government introduced the Saskatchewan energy share program that helps consumers this winter with increasing costs of heating and will provide support for homeowners who make energy-saving upgrades.

Mr. Speaker, a message I received this summer from my constituents was that they expected the government to continue to grow the economy and continue to create meaningful jobs for their citizens, especially young people of our communities.

Many of my constituents expressed support for the government's moving ahead on its three-year commitment to increasing the minimum wage and providing enhanced protection for health care workers and firefighters. Mr. Speaker, many of the working men and women in my constituency told

me that they believe no one in Saskatchewan should work for a wage that still left them in poverty and that everyone should have access to health care and pension benefits.

Are there challenges facing our government? Of course there are. That's what governing is all about — identifying challenges, taking on those challenges, and coming up with solutions that benefit Saskatchewan people in the short and the long run.

Mr. Speaker, this centennial Throne Speech is about building on the lessons and the strengths of the past and providing a bold, long-term vision of Saskatchewan's future — a vision that focuses on the children of our centennial and one that focuses on the bright sustainable future for everyone in Saskatchewan; a future where there's opportunity for all and no one, no one is left behind.

And how are we going to do that, Mr. Speaker? We're going to do it by building on the social, cultural, and economic foundations Saskatchewan people have laid down over the course of the last century.

Energy will be a key component to Saskatchewan's green and prosperous future. Saskatchewan already produces one-third of Canada's total energy resource. In the coming decades our contribution will even grow larger. But in keeping with our balanced approach, we are going to continue to explore renewable energy sources. In our goal to create Saskatchewan . . . that we'll lead North America in a diversity of energy sources and exports, and in the production, use, and marketing of renewable energy.

I am particularly pleased with our commitment to the . . . Over next 20 years Saskatchewan will lead the country in energy conservation practices and that in 20-years time fully one-third of our energy requirements will be met with renewable energy sources.

Saskatchewan has a great economic momentum headed into our second century. We have achieved a have province status. We have received 13 straight credit rating upgrades. And our provincial debt is the lowest it's been in 14 years.

The vision of this government is that in 20 years, rather than a crushing debt, Saskatchewan will have one of the most competitive and diverse business environments in the country.

Saskatchewan is already a major player in Canada's mining and mineral industry, and we're going to continue to build on that strength.

Saskatchewan is already one of the most . . . world's leading export jurisdictions. Last year our manufacturing shipments grew by twice the national average. Our goal in the next 20 years is that the manufacturing shipments in Saskatchewan will double.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a history of searching out and implementing innovative solutions to the challenges we face. The list of firsts Saskatchewan has achieved, especially in social policy and labour legislation, is long and impressive.

In the next 20 years, building on the solid foundations already in place, Saskatchewan will come to be known not only as the province where people are first but also the centre of scientific excellence.

Mr. Speaker, those are just a few of the elements that will contribute to Saskatchewan's economy that we envision in the 20 years of the future. We are a rich province — rich in culture, rich in people, rich in resources. A green and prosperous economy means responsible, sustainable development that will benefit all Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, our vision here at the beginning of the second century isn't just about building a prosperous and sustainable economy. It's also about creating a social climate that provides fairness and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, our vision is a vision of safe, secure communities and neighbourhoods. That's why we are working with the police and communities to address problems associated with gangs and others who might threaten people, property, and our peace of mind.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a rapidly changing world, a world that is so influenced by rapidly changing technologies. In order to continue to have a strong economy and a prosperous society, we must give our children the tools to meet the challenges of the future. To do this we must provide our future leaders with educational opportunities so that they can be well prepared to take on the challenges that lay ahead.

Our vision is that in the near future Saskatchewan will lead the nation in educational achievements. And every child in this province — no matter their income, background, or circumstance — will have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, a healthy society is made up of healthy communities. And in support of healthy communities, we are continuing to invest in HomeFirst — our strategy to bring safe, affordable housing within the reaches of thousands of low-income Saskatchewan families — because this government knows that quality housing is a key ingredient to a healthy family.

I am very pleased that in this session we will establish a new home communities fund that will help build stronger communities by meeting not only the economic development requirements of Saskatchewan communities, but also their cultural, social, and recreational needs, Mr. Speaker, in keeping with our vision of a province where the opportunity for all and no one — no one — is left behind.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that if our centennial celebrations have taught us anything, it should be that Saskatchewan has a lot to be proud of. The changes we have seen, the challenges that we have met successfully, and the obstacles that we have overcome could have easily defeated a lesser folk.

This Throne Speech is a vision of Saskatchewan's future built on Saskatchewan's values, which means a future is prosperous and sustainable and where there is opportunity for all.

With respect and pride I second the Speech from the Throne as moved by the member from Saskatoon Eastview. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[15:15]

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be able to enter the debate and offer an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset of my remarks as we convene here again in Regina at the Legislative Assembly, how proud I am to be able to serve the people of Swift Current as their elected representative and how seriously I take the honour that they have given to me to be their voice here in Regina to represent them on matters that come before the Assembly. And I also want to take this opportunity to thank my family, Tami and our kids, for their continued support that enables me to be able to do this job to the best of my abilities.

Mr. Speaker, as a starting point I will say with respect to the Speech from the Throne, that it is entitled, "Toward Our New Century." And right there, right there you get a bit of a glimpse as to what is wrong with this NDP government because, Mr. Speaker, while the NDP are simply now just moving toward the new century, the rest of the people of Saskatchewan, the official opposition Saskatchewan Party, we're already in the new century, Mr. Speaker. We're already here, and what we're looking for as we enter in that new century is we're looking for some leadership, Mr. Speaker.

The people of this province are looking for a vision of a growing economy. They're looking for a brand new and a bold vision for Saskatchewan as a leader within Canada. They're looking for a vision of a Saskatchewan that has attracted investment, that has attracted families, that's retaining our young people so that we have a tax base, Mr. Speaker. That's what they're looking for.

Why are they looking for that? Is it for the sake of statistics? Is it for the sake of that Stats Canada report that will come out at the beginning of next month with respect to jobs? No, as important as that is, that's not the reason that we are looking for a vision that will create a brand new, invigorated economy in the province of Saskatchewan and attract taxpayers.

It's not about statistics, Mr. Speaker; it's about people. It's about being able to provide the services on the part of the Government of Saskatchewan that our people in this province deserve, you know, because, Mr. Speaker, there can be no teacher without there first being an entrepreneur. There can't be a health care provider in Saskatchewan without there first being a job creator. There can't be the kind of social safety net that we need in the province of Saskatchewan for those who are most vulnerable without there first being a strong economic foundation for growth.

That's why we're looking for some vision and some leadership

in this Throne Speech with respect to a growing economy. That's why we want more people living here. That's why we want a government that has set in place the plans and the initiatives that we know will keep young people here because there are more opportunities here.

We want that, Mr. Speaker, so that we can do something with the longest health care waiting lists in Canada that currently exist here in the birthplace of medicare. We want that, Mr. Speaker, so we can provide addictions treatment and not addictions treatment hype for the people of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We want that so we have the resources . . . for example, police officers to deal with the highest rate of violent crime in all of the Dominion of Canada. That's why we want those taxpayers. That's why we want some economic activity.

We wanted, Mr. Speaker, we wanted to see in this Throne Speech a vision for that growing economy so that government would have the resources to reduce income taxes for low-income people because here in NDP Saskatchewan low-income families pay the highest income tax in all of the country, Mr. Speaker.

So when we look into this Throne Speech, we wanted to see that vision. We wanted to see an understanding of how do you create an enterprising economy. How do you reduce barriers to growth in the province of Saskatchewan so we can set that table, so to speak, so we can build that foundation for economic growth in the province? Is it in here, Mr. Speaker?

I've been through it. I've read it. It's not in here. I haven't seen it. It's simply not there. What we've seen though, Mr. Speaker, if you look through these pages, is between 25 and 29, some of the media are saying today 29 recycled ideas, 29 re-announcements, 29 of the greatest hits of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, as the member for Estevan says. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that when you plug in the CD player and you want to play those greatest hits, there's no sound because there's no action behind any of these ideas. There hasn't been for years.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the great irony, coming from a government that purports to be concerned about the environment, the great irony is that the only thing not recycled about the Throne Speech is the paper that it's printed on, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — I don't see that the paper's recycled, but it's one of the only things about this that isn't recycled.

Instead though, Mr. Speaker, instead of a plan, instead of an economic vision for Saskatchewan as we have highlighted, as I highlighted in a paper that I had the pleasure of presenting at the University of Saskatchewan a year ago — a plan the even the former Finance minister, Janice MacKinnon, was pretty impressed with and knew could work for the province as did many other pundits who waded in — instead of that, what do we see in the Throne Speech? The government highlights its Action Plan for the Economy that the Premier and the Minister for Industry announced, I think up in Saskatoon just a few months ago.

They announced 81 sort of general platitudes. That was their economic plan, you know. Self-evident statements in their plan like, you know, we need more jobs in Saskatchewan, and we need some more investment in Saskatchewan. And it would be good to keep our young people here, and wouldn't it be nice if it wasn't quite as windy as it is in the province of Saskatchewan. That was the nature of their economic plan.

And what did all of the observers of politics and economics in the province have to say about the action plan that's touted right here in this non-recyclable Throne Speech? What did they have to say, Mr. Speaker? Well they said that this list of general platitudes that the Minister of Industry and the Premier said was their plan was really nothing more than a political cop-out. That's what they said. They used words like "disappointing" — and that's a quote as well, Mr. Speaker — disappointing, because at a time in our history when we can least afford leadership in a government that hasn't a clue as to how to grow an economy and attract those families and retain youth, we got platitudes. We got 80-some platitudes in a plan that was widely panned in the province of Saskatchewan. That's why it was disappointing.

And so that leaves us to speculate as to what really is the plan of the government. If the Action Plan for the Economy as they've highlighted really isn't a plan at all, if it's disappointing, if it's a political cop-out, then I don't know what. You've got to go back maybe to 1933 and you can find the *Regina Manifesto*. Maybe that's the plan for this particular government. It's still on their website, proudly displayed in a link for all to see, for all to have a look at, that *Regina Manifesto* that calls for the eradication of capitalism, Mr. Speaker.

And you know actually when you think about it — when you look at the track record of this government in terms of attracting investment, when you look at the record of this government in terms of retaining young people and growing population, when you look at this government and its record of creating jobs — it appears to be that pledge to eradicate capitalism from 1933, it appears to be one of the only promises the NDP are actually keeping on that side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — So we looked for a signal that they finally got it, that they understood what was wrong within the pages of this Throne Speech, and we couldn't find it, Mr. Speaker.

I think there are two measures though of a Throne Speech, of the effectiveness of a Throne Speech. It's true that these documents are generally going to be vague although they should provide a blueprint for the economy.

But I think also, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech should be the chance for the government and leadership of Saskatchewan to demonstrate that it is in tune with the priorities of the people of Saskatchewan, that it has not lost touch with Saskatchewan people. But unfortunately as you go through the pages and the record of the government you will find that this Throne Speech and this government is not in tune with the people of Saskatchewan. They're not connected. And we got evidence of that today.

There's evidence of it in the Throne Speech with respect to the very cursory way they deal with agriculture in this Throne Speech, the way they deal with agriculture not only in this Throne Speech but what they did earlier today in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, when Members of the Opposition said we have a crisis on the farm. We have yet another perfect storm in agriculture, compounded not only by low commodity prices but also by what was for most of the province pretty bad harvest weather. We have a poor quality crop in much of the province. We have crop that's still out in the field. And it is a perfect storm that's facing Saskatchewan farm families today.

And the Minister of Agriculture had a little tour around some of the areas hardest hit, Mr. Speaker. And his response to this crisis was this: there's CAIS and crop insurance. That was his position — not any indication at all that he would take this case to Ottawa immediately, that he would let Ottawa know that we simply cannot sustain agriculture in the province. And farm families are at risk unless the federal government understands that these farmers, these families can't compete with international treasuries around the world.

And the minister had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to at that point — instead of saying, well we've got CAIS and we've got crop insurance — to say they're not working, and Ottawa better pay attention, and I'm going to go make the case to Ottawa and stand there until someone listens to the plight of Saskatchewan farm families who are trying to fight international treasuries. And would he do that, Mr. Speaker? No. He sat on his hands, Mr. Speaker.

And you know what? His work is also evident in the Throne Speech because agriculture is hardly here except for the government to say, oh by the way, we're going to fund a program that we signed on to and said we would fund in the first place. That's the sum and the total of this government's commitment to agriculture. It demonstrates that they're out of touch.

Mr. Speaker, here's another example. Here's another example. We know at this time that this NDP government refuses to index, to protect against inflation, the food allowance for people who most need the food allowance in the province. But you know what? You know what they've got enough money for? They've got enough money to increase their own advertising budget for their own political gains by 30 per cent.

They'll say no to the most vulnerable in our society, people who can't afford to buy groceries. They say no to them on the simple prospect of indexing their food allowance to protect it against inflation. But they've got 30 per cent more for advertising. And for the Premier's communication budget — for his spin doctors — he's got 60 per cent more money for that. He doesn't have a couple of percentage points to help protect those families who need to access the food allowance, but he's got a lot of money to spend on getting re-election . . . tax dollars that he will try to spend for his own political re-election.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when Saskatchewan highways are crumbling — and if you took a drive around Saskatchewan this summer, you would understand that they're crumbling in the province of Saskatchewan — our infrastructure deficit is

growing under this NDP government.

At a time when it's harder and harder for farmers, for tourists, for business to travel the highways of the province of Saskatchewan because they're in increasingly poor shape — at a time like that, how does that affect the NDP cabinet? Well it doesn't affect them at all, Mr. Speaker, because cabinet air travel is up 30 per cent. They've got lots of money to take care of themselves, to fly around the province and arguably get involved in politics. But they simply have lost touch with Saskatchewan people who are saying, we need highways. It's a basic service of government that we ask for. We need highways. We can't build the kind of economy that we need to — and we can in Saskatchewan — without basic infrastructure. It's another example of how this NDP government has lost touch.

They are out of touch with Saskatchewan people when it comes to property tax. They have promised over and over and over again to do something about property tax. The Premier stood in front of SARM delegates and said the status quo wasn't acceptable.

They commissioned the Boughen report. Boughen reported and said, well you could lower the property tax; you might have to increase the PST. So what did the NDP government do? Well they cherry-picked that report; the worst part of the report. They increased the PST and did nothing with any significance on property tax, Mr. Speaker.

They're out of touch because if you go across Saskatchewan, if you talk to the people in rural Saskatchewan on the farm and in the cities, you're going to hear from them that one of the number one issues is property tax. They have said it over and over and over again. And a government that was in touch and in tune would have acted. They wouldn't have just given words. They would have acted, but our government hasn't. This NDP government has failed, and they're out of touch.

Mr. Speaker, this government that often likes to tout Tommy Douglas and the fact that this province was the birthplace of medicare — and they'll do it in speeches in communities where seniors are on the longest health-care waiting lists in the country — that demonstrates that this government is out of touch. They have absolutely lost touch. And just the repeat of previous announcements in health care that are in this Throne Speech underscore that fact.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the challenge of addictions, alcohol and drug addictions in the province of Saskatchewan, we also see how this NDP government is out of touch because you know what, Mr. Speaker, they seem to be able to practice some politics with regards to providing much needed addictions treatment, but there's no action, Mr. Speaker. And that's why people around the province are calling project hope, project hype because, Mr. Speaker, there are no beds forthcoming. Not for years will there be beds. And this particular government has been dragged, kicking and screaming, to deal with this issue. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, and the people of the province believe that were it not for the efforts of members on this side of the House, were it not for the fact that this government was shamed by moms and dads who wanted a government that would act, there would be no action at all.

[15:30]

You know, not long ago the Premier received an award for project hope for addictions. You know what, Mr. Speaker? I know I make mistakes certainly in my life and there are judgments that I wish I could have back. But I would like to believe of myself that were the situation reversed, were that situation reversed and I was given an award that frankly I didn't earn — that I didn't earn — that as soon as I found out about that award and that recognition I would contact the member for Kelvington and the member for Big Muddy and the member for Saskatoon Northwest and said all of you should come along with me to accept this award because that's how this issue got on the radar screen and any action we have in the province is because of those members on this side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Because when we first raised that first issue . . . Well they're heckling. The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow wants to enter the debate and I hope she will because she sits right beside the Minister of Learning who when first faced the prospect of what we were saying with respect to crystal meth, he said well this isn't any . . . this drug isn't any more important than any other drug and it doesn't call for any particular specific action. That's what he said; that's what he said. Well we'll get the quote for him. We'll get the quote for him. That's what that member said.

Now a government is out of touch, a government is out of touch with the people of the province when it acts on a compelling and serious issue for only political reasons. And I'm telling you today, Mr. Speaker, that there can be no other conclusion that that was the motivation of this government on that issue, Mr. Speaker. It demonstrates the fact that they're out of touch.

There is a culture of entitlement on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker. This is a tired, old government that's been around for four terms. And we're talking a little bit about a culture of entitlement in this country in terms of what's happening with the federal Liberal government. Sadly we don't have to look to Ottawa to see it. We can look across those benches opposite and we can see a government that happily increases its communications budget, happily increases its air travel budget around a province and around the world by 30 per cent. We can look across the way, Mr. Speaker, and see a government that sees fit to say no to indexing the food allowance and yes to a brand new airport terminal for cabinet ministers and the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

It's a culture of entitlement, Mr. Speaker. And you know the cost of that kind of leadership? The cost of that kind of leadership is the future of this province. The cost of that kind of leadership, that culture of entitlement, that lack of vision for a growing economy, we're paying for it with respect to the future of our province. Because you know what's happened here lately, Mr. Speaker, in a period of economic growth as the minister says we have now in Saskatchewan, in a period where the Premier says we're on an economic roll, in a period where the Premier says we're in a boom, do you know what's happened in Saskatchewan? We've lost 6,200 jobs — 6,200 fewer opportunities to keep young people here, 6,200 fewer opportunities to keep future entrepreneurs in the province of

Saskatchewan.

In that period of NDP growth we have lost population. We have lost population. While Manitoba of all . . . Manitoba has grown by 7,700. Maybe this current government is happy to lose to the province of Manitoba. We are not. We think we should be leading this country and certainly that province to the east of us, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'd just ask members to not holler across the floor here. It's getting difficult to hear the debate. And right now the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition, has the floor, and I'd invite him to continue with his remarks.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — That's the cost of this kind of leadership. That's the cost of a complete lack of economic leadership in this Throne Speech, of any understanding that in addition to just redistributing the wealth, the government has to set the business climate so that somebody can go out and actually create the wealth in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

And you know what, we simply are not going to get that kind of leadership that we need in this province. We're not going to get that kind of vision for our economy. None of that will happen for the province of Saskatchewan until this government is defeated, Mr. Speaker . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — And replaced by men and women who have at least . . . who have a plan for growing the economy, who understand how to get an economy growing, who understand that you can't compete with the private sector at every turn and expect the private sector or the co-operative sector to continue to invest and create jobs. Who understand that you've got to lower barriers to growth so there can be investment. Who understand that labour legislation in our province, while being fair to both employer and employee, must be competitive with other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker. Who understand that a growth agenda means significant investment, long-term investment in post-secondary and in the infrastructure of the province.

The good news is this, Mr. Speaker, we're only two seats away, two seats away from that kind of leadership in the Legislative Assembly in the province of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. I'd particularly ask the member from Yorkton to come to order. Leader of the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune of travelling around this province and also to travel to other provinces. I've travelled to provinces like Alberta and other places in Canada. And everywhere I go I meet with young people in those provinces. In fact the last year I got a chance to speak to a luncheon of all expatriates. I got a chance to speak to all young expatriates of the province of Saskatchewan. They were all under 30.

So before I spoke, I went around the room. Before I spoke, I went around the room and I asked each young person there, I said if there was an opportunity back home in Saskatchewan, would you come home? Because I think a lot of people in Saskatchewan think well once we lose them, they're gone forever. You know what, Mr. Speaker? A very conservative estimate of that crowd would be about two-thirds of them, fully two-thirds of them said to me, if there was an opportunity back home, we would come home because we want to be in Saskatchewan, but there's simply not the opportunity there, Mr. Speaker.

That's why we need to change the government. That's why we need more than recycled ideas and plans that haven't worked for Saskatchewan for 60 years. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, that's why I'm going to move the following amendment:

That all of the words be removed after the word "that" and that the following words be substituted:

That this government no longer enjoys the confidence of the Assembly because of its lack of vision and initiative and its failure to address the issues that are most important to Saskatchewan people as demonstrated by ignoring the crisis in agriculture, the inability to set spending priorities consistent with the province's needs, the failure to grow the economy and create economic prosperity, by not delivering much-needed services and leaving many people behind, by forcing others to move out of the province for health care, and by forcing people to pursue their careers and dreams elsewhere because they cannot find jobs in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to move this amendment today, seconded by the member for Kindersley, and proud that we are now one day closer to a brand new government in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. It has been moved by the member for Swift Current, seconded by the member for Kindersley:

That all of the words be removed after the word "that" and the following words be substituted:

That this government no longer enjoys the confidence of the Assembly because of its lack of vision and initiative and its failure to address the issues that are most important to Saskatchewan people as demonstrated by ignoring the crisis in agriculture, the inability to set spending priorities consistent with the province's needs, the failure to grow the economy and create economic prosperity, by not delivering much-needed services leaving many people behind, by forcing others to move out of the province for health care, and by forcing people to pursue their careers and dreams elsewhere because they cannot find jobs in Saskatchewan.

The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on reviewing the Speech from the Throne, I wanted to first note the one highlight I did agree with. It occurred on page 9 and that was the renaming of Highway 2 from Moose Jaw to Prince Albert to be named Veterans' Memorial Highway. In the Year of the Veteran I think it was fitting that such a movement was made. And this morning or rather earlier this afternoon we heard from the member of Athabasca and the work that's been done to finally recognize our Aboriginal veterans which were for so long overlooked. And sadly that is a part in Canada's history that is frankly shameful. I'm just glad that we can be legislators in a day where we can correct those wrongs from the past.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Dearborn: — To highlight that one sentence from the Speech from the Throne on page 9, that was the good part.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this Speech from the Throne was very disappointing. The reality in Saskatchewan is that people do not feel better off. They feel depressed. They feel scared. They feel that with all the money that is coming into this province, money which may be as high as 1.5 extra billion dollars, that this is not going to be spent to better their lives; that it's not going to be spent to better the lives of their children.

Sadly the statistics on the children living in this province in poverty are appalling and they're not getting better. I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is for lack of care from members that sit on the other side. I don't believe that. I know some of those men and women which were duly elected opposite and they do care about these issues. But sadly they haven't been able to deliver solutions. And I don't believe that this is only in social services. I believe that this comes time and time again, repeats itself, in the direction that this government has failed to provide for the long term for this province.

Mr. Speaker, it talks about the children of the centennial. This is in the Speech from the Throne. And the question put forth — so where are those children going to be? How well off are they going to be? Is no child going to be left behind, or rather will they all be left behind? I don't see that this is the answer to the future that the people of our province want, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that was blatantly absent in the Speech from the Throne, very disturbing, had to do with our Aboriginal population. Many, many children do live in poverty, and it seemed absent in here. This is a problem that cannot be ignored, and yet there don't seem to be solutions coming forth from this government. When only 24 out of 100 adults, Aboriginals, in this province have full employment, that is not an acceptable situation. It's not acceptable for anyone in this Legislative Assembly. But worse than that, there's no discussion on that in the Speech from the Throne. And this is our future. This is the lack of vision which is occurring.

One of the very telling tales of this Speech from the Throne occurs on page 11, and I'd like to quote this because it very much caught my attention:

In the future, Saskatchewan communities will be larger

and more cosmopolitan . . .

I don't know how the people from my hometown of Eatonia are necessarily feeling about that statement. A few years ago the Lions group got together. We built a new swimming pool, mostly for the kids in the community. They went around; they raised money. It was a community initiative. We were proud of it. The pool won't open this year. It's not because we don't have any kids left, though that's a problem as well. It's the cost of energy. The cost to provide this service is gone. Just two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, that same community voted not to have the curling rink this year. I don't think that they're necessarily going to take comfort from the fact that Saskatchewan communities are going to be larger and more cosmopolitan.

Mr. Speaker, this government has systemically tried to pit citizens in this province against one another — urban against rural, labour against business, poor against less poor because the rich largely have had to leave. They've had to find their opportunities elsewhere, and there's nothing in this Speech from the Throne that is going to change that, Mr. Speaker.

There's another thing that is completely absent here. The reality from the committees that we've had state that there is a looming unfunded pension liability in this province to the point of \$4 billion.

[15:45]

We know that 60 per cent of the public service workers, men and women that have given their careers and their lives to the service of this province, are set to retire. And we also know that their pensions aren't indexed, that they're not necessarily covered. And the Provincial Auditor has said the money is not really there.

How are they going to feel, Mr. Speaker, if down the road we have a situation where there are less employees working for the government, paying into that pension, and we have an unforeseen economic situation which occurs. And it's horrific to think about this, but we've had a 9/11 now. We may have another. What is that going to do to these individuals who are going to be seniors? What is it going to do, Mr. Speaker, at the same time that they're going to require more health care? What is going to happen, Mr. Speaker?

This is completely unaddressed — and more than that, it's completely unacceptable. These are two of the largest issues facing our province and it is unaddressed and unacceptable because there is a clear lack of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen time and time again a complete failure in agriculture policy. The province of Quebec administers its own CAIS program. I am a producer. I'm a producer, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you our farms are using the highest technology in the world. Next spring in my field when I let go of the steering wheel, GPS [Global Positioning System] will drive my tractor 2 miles within an inch of where the seed should be planted. I have an independent board of directors for my company. I use the best advice I can get in the world and I come from a 100-year-old farm.

I've had very many opportunities, and I'm having trouble making it. If I'm having trouble making it, Mr. Speaker, there is no way, there is no way that our producers can go through and make it. We are going to see a complete disaster in agriculture, Mr. Speaker.

And what has this minister done? This minister is a complete failure. They failed to address this issue. They don't understand, Mr. Speaker. I asked a question. I said, what is the Department of Agriculture doing to investigate what's going to happen with the commodity prices when Brazil completes its infrastructure?

They don't understand. They don't understand that this is a world market. In 2007, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Brazil, the country of Brazil will produce more food than the United States of America. Commodity prices are not on their way up. And what is the answer that came out of this Speech from the Throne? We're going to take 10 per cent of the agricultural land and plant trees? Is this the ploy, Mr. Speaker, to have captain SPUDCO come back into the cabinet to invest money into Weyerhaeuser and now have the trees fixing our agriculture problem?

It's absurd, Mr. Speaker. It is absurd. They don't understand. And when you lose the base of where your society is coming from we cannot go forth, Mr. Speaker, continuing to be hewers of wood and drawers of water.

This is a government that strongly supports the Canadian Wheat Board. Mr. Speaker, I'm not against the Canadian Wheat Board per se but I'd like to tell you my experience over the past five years because I'm predominantly a durum farmer. And in growing durum wheat I'm forced at the end of the day, I count up the bushels in the bin, and I have to make a contract out to the Canadian Wheat Board. And I'm obliged, if they call that, to deliver that grain, and if I don't there's a penalty. But sadly, sadly, Mr. Speaker, the board is not obliged to sell that grain. So we have a situation wherein in the last five years only 70 per cent of my crop has been marketed. Our margins in farming on good farms are 4 or 5 per cent.

We have the member from Elphinstone enlightening — enlightening — the Assembly with his knowledge of agriculture, his extensive knowledge of the business community. We have the member from Elphinstone who obviously has a deep understanding of the commodity markets. He's had great experience, Mr. Speaker. He's had vast experience outside of the political arena discussing how business works, how mortgages work, how credit lines work, Mr. Speaker. We know that there's no doubt whatsoever, at being my peer in age, that his experience is vast in this. And it continues. It's quite evident in this Speech from the Throne the input he had on agriculture here.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that what happens with regards to the wheat board is when they fail to sell the crop there's a carryover and the carryover, Mr. Speaker, they put forth the PROs [pool return outlook] for next year. And durum wheat can be seeded very cheaply. You can put it in the ground and it will grow but it won't deliver the protein that you need, which means that when farmers have to tighten their belts and they're looking at their input costs in the spring, they go to a cheaper commodity to plan, which further floods the market, Mr. Speaker.

There is a pile of grain just south of my farm that one of the neighbours had this year, 120,000 bushels of durum in one pile. I drive back and forth on the horrific highways — also mentioned in this Speech from the Throne but somewhat removed from reality, Mr. Speaker — that see that there is piles of grain all the way, all the way, Mr. Speaker, to Regina, all the way to Rosetown. I have spoken with Mr. Ritter, chairman of the wheat board. I've known him my entire life. There's going to be trouble selling that grain. And that's not going to improve the farm situation.

And I would go as far to say that this fails to bother the member from Elphinstone. You know, I think that Elphinstone happens to have some of the social problems which I earlier addressed. I can say sincerely, those problems do bother me. And I find it very cynical and cold the New Democratic Party can shut their eyes on rural Saskatchewan, turn their backs, and do it again and again. Amalgamate school divisions to pit town against town. Health care — there's more people working in it but fewer nurses.

My grandmother, in a small town, she's on a waiting list. Many of them are. And it makes them beg the question, would I be better off in Saskatoon? Would I be better off in Medicine Hat? Would I be better off in Kelowna? And these are questions that real families in Saskatchewan have had to face for over 10 years, and it's not changing. And it won't change.

We have, Mr. Speaker, a situation in SARM today which was very reminiscent of SARM last year, SARM the year before that. They came forth, and they put this quote up. It was put forth by a premier of Saskatchewan:

We are pledged to do away with the education tax as soon as we get new [resources] . . . of revenue to take the place of the revenue now realized from that tax. When we develop new sources of revenue sufficient to supplant the revenue now raised from the tax, we shall do away with the tax because we consider it regressive legislation.

Said the premier, Tommy Douglas, August 31, 1944.

I'm not surprised that for 60 years there was a fraudulent ideal put forth about the nature of what kind of place this province should be. It's been carried forth by the New Democratic Party for much too long.

Young people have left because they wanted to have all the opportunities in the world. And it shouldn't be the question of the lowest common denominator. But when your philosophical position on the way things should be run starts with a scarcity mentality . . . And I would posit that this comes right back to the 1930s when things were very tough, right? It wasn't believed that someone else is richer because they made more wealth; it was because they took something that was mine. This is something I've spoke about before in this House.

We don't need to determine how to cut up the pie in smaller and different sections. We just need to make a bigger pie, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Dearborn: — Everyone, everyone should benefit from the vast wealth that exists in this province. We should not have the highest per capita number of children in the sex trade in North America. We should feel shame, frankly, as all legislators, that we have been sitting here for a number of years and legislation has passed but the situation hasn't necessarily changed. And, Mr. Speaker, we don't know, from what came forth in this speech from the Crown, how that is going to be addressed.

There are children living in poverty. This is not an acceptable ideal for Canadians. It is something that we do not feel is acceptable. And sadly, Mr. Speaker, the men and women of this Assembly on both sides of the House agree with that. What we disagree with is how we are going to change it. And one side of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, the government side, doesn't know how to change it. I believe that they would like to. I believe that they have tried things. But I believe that they have failed.

Mr. Speaker, the children of the centennial, the children of the centennial, Mr. Speaker, cannot afford that failure. My children can't afford it and nor can anyone else's. We have a duty to do better, and we can do better. It's been very sad, Mr. Speaker, that there hasn't been the nature of co-operation. And this is what members of my constituency find so appalling. We have a group in west central Saskatchewan, the west central governmental organization which I think is a model for municipal associations to work in co-operation. The RMs, the towns, representatives from the school boards, the health districts, they all get together. They have a transportation committee and they talk about, what are our problems? What are our problems in Saskatchewan? What are our problems in our communities and how can we work together to fix that? That is the basis of who the people of Saskatchewan are.

And yet we see today — it was raised in question period — that the federal government is keeping back \$800 million in equalization that we can't get co-operation to go forth and say, this is right for Saskatchewan, Mr. Prime Minister; pony up. We don't get that level of co-operation. Why is it, Mr. Speaker? Is it because we live in a society that doesn't care about these things or is it simply because we have a political party representing the government entrenched in a dogma, a belief that is outdated, is simply growing more and more arrogant at the cost of those that can least afford it? That is the truth, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have some notes here, Mr. Speaker, on the failure of the NDP government. And sadly it does not give me joy to read these. We have Saskatchewan's population not growing. We've said this time and again. I think the only thing that we should be cognizant of here, Mr. Speaker, is that there has to be a reason. We've said time and again what that reason is, what we believe that reason to be.

Between 1992 and 2003, Saskatchewan lost 60,000 people to out-migration. Forty thousand of those people who left Saskatchewan during that period were between the ages of 15 and 29 years of age. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, from having young children, these are the people that will stroke our economy because kids need diapers and coats and on and on and on.

Fifty-eight per cent of the people who leave are going to Alberta, Mr. Speaker. And I don't envy Alberta. I think, Mr.

Speaker, that Saskatchewan has all the potential to outstrip it.

We do not have . . . and you cannot have when you come from a socialist background, you cannot have . . . it will not come from a communist background, Mr. Speaker. You just will not have the situation for excellence. It is not part of your vocabulary.

[16:00]

If you are in a situation, Mr. Speaker, where you ask, let us be the best, it will not come when you start from the lowest common denominator. When you're asking, how do I pull down the individual that's ahead of me so that we are equal, it's the wrong approach, Mr. Speaker. The world over has learned this. And we continue to fall behind, to fall behind, and to fall behind.

Mr. Speaker, returning to that quote from the Speech from the Throne:

In the future, Saskatchewan communities will be larger and more cosmopolitan . . .

You know, Mr. Speaker, we had a situation in Tramping Lake. That's one of the communities in the constituency of Kindersley up in the northeast corner. And the reality was that it came time to amalgamate a school division and close that school. There's nothing left there now. The town is dying, and it's not right.

We have a situation in this province where we have children living in poverty. In the country that has nearly half the arable land in the Dominion of Canada . . . We are the best country in the world to live in. But it is never mentioned specifically from this Premier that we should be the best province to live in. And therein lies the entire failure of what has come forth from the New Democratic Party in the last 60 years.

It would be the proper thing, Mr. Speaker, to applaud our accomplishments and our achievements. We had a centennial celebration this summer, throughout the year. I'm given to understand, Mr. Speaker, that there was in the neighbourhood of \$350 million spent on that celebration. And I know that I had a little bit of a start there from the member from Moose Jaw, so I may have exaggerated that figure somewhat — somewhat. With that, I apologize.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that I have left the member from Moose Jaw short of words means that either I'm really on to something or he missed a committee meeting.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Dearborn: — The point, Mr. Speaker — there were millions of dollars spent celebrating our province this summer. Sadly, from what I've been able to determine, in the riding of Kindersley, there weren't millions of dollars spent. There were tens of thousands of dollars spent. But that didn't really make individuals in that part of the community feel as though they were part of the province that they care about, that their ancestors came to 100 years ago, that many of them have worked building those communities, who sent their sons and daughters overseas to fight for this country. They didn't feel

included. There weren't the ceremonies that were held in other places, and it was sad.

I had an opportunity to speak to some of the centenarians. And when we went to present these medals — their children, also sometimes very aged themselves, coming from out of province, coming from Saskatoon, coming from out of the riding, a small part of Saskatchewan in that celebration — you recognized the morbidity of it. There was a death there too. It was a death that I don't think is what the legislators in this Assembly have really intended upon, but we've been down the wrong road much too long. And it's not beyond repair, but it's quickly approaching.

We've worried that there's a great deal of money coming forth that it'll be spent properly, but we don't see that, Mr. Speaker. We see just today a rebate program, the second aspect of SaskEnergy. We called for a rebate, Mr. Speaker. We have the third largest reserves of natural gas in the country. The province is bringing in royalties from this. All of us would like to see it spent wisely. But we were presented with \$36 million to be spent over two Crowns and two departments and six application processes.

It fails to meet the litmus test of common sense. And that's what frustrates citizens of Saskatchewan more than anything. When, Mr. Speaker, when a government fails to provide to its citizens the basics, it causes apathy. And this is a true enemy of democracy. It's an enemy of the democratic process. And it's one that under this government is increasing because many people feel helpless.

What can we do? Where are we going to go forward? How are we going to fix these problems? How are we going to fix the problems, the unfunded pension liability, when we don't even speak about it? How are we going to fix the problems of the fact that only 24 out of 100 adult Aboriginals have full-time employment? How are we going to fix the problem of children being abused in the sex trade? How are we going to fix the problem of 44,000 children living in poverty in this province, and we don't even speak about it? This is a clear lack of leadership. It's a lack of leadership that I find tiring. It's a lack of leadership that I find deplorable.

We want the changes, but we're unable from this government to provide the plan of how that's going to happen. We have found that his government currently is slow to take up on new ideas. We saw this with the crystal meth. We saw the Member from Regina South mock a real problem. Why? Why would he do this, Mr. Speaker? I know him as an intelligent individual. He is a clever man.

Mr. Speaker, I know that members opposite and the member that took on the commission is a compassionate individual. I have no doubt about that. But why would it start that when we brought forth an issue it could be ignored until it was advantageous politically to graft onto it?

I want to bring up a situation, Mr. Speaker, that occurred last year here or rather in the spring session. There was a grandmother came to me in my office in Unity and said my granddaughter is slipping between the cracks. She has a drug problem. It may be crystal meth. We haven't seen her for months. But she's younger than 18. She's over 16, and Social

Services won't intervene. And she came here and she met with the minister. And the minister to her credit brought this individual out and got her into treatment. And I applaud the minister for that, and I know that the minister has the intent in her heart to do the right thing. And in this case they did it, but it took a great deal, and I'm glad that they did it.

I phoned just about three weeks ago to do a follow-up, see how this young lady was doing because I knew that her birthday had come in August. What had happened — from the grandmother when she started crying — was she had been taken from a drug home. We don't know what her source of income had been since the time she was sixteen to seventeen and a half but we can only speculate because she didn't have a job. But she was taken from this for lack of a better word, crack house, and, you know, her family, the minister, Social Services got her into treatment and into help. And she enjoyed the counsellors and she enjoyed . . . She was straightening out. But then her 18th birthday came and the day of her 18th birthday members of Social Services drove to the very house that they had apprehended her from and asked them, are you prepared to take her back? And they said yes we are and she left on the bus the next day, and those grandparents have not heard from her since.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is not the intent . . . this minister to have this young person ruin their life. I know that. But it is an example of the competence of this government and it is an example of how responsibility is not taken. Nobody gets everything right, Mr. Speaker. If anybody has any doubts about that they can check *The Globe and Mail* from last spring. I'm in there. But the reality is you have to in leadership take responsibility when you're wrong, and I don't see that this is a government — in the short three and a half years that I've been here — has done it . . . with the exception of the one newly returned cabinet minister which is a baffling position in and of itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne will not achieve what we want for the province of Saskatchewan. It won't achieve what the people of Saskatchewan want for the province of Saskatchewan. Maybe more ironic than all of this, it won't achieve what many of the members on the other side of the House want for the province of Saskatchewan because it's announcements of things that have already been announced and not delivered. It's a lack of vision. It's holding on to a dogma that has had its time. It's passed. We do have a responsibility to the children of the centennial, and this government cannot and will not be able to deliver that.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to speak against the motion raised by the Premier and in favour of the amendment, and I thank you for your time and patience this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy for the opportunity to stand up and speak in response to a Throne Speech which is clearly visionary, which has in it a very clear picture of where we will

be moving in the next decade, Mr. Speaker, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, when we looked at the situation that we are in today and we saw the wonderful celebrations that have happened all across this province over the summer, we saw people who took a pride, a great pride and a joy in their province. We saw people celebrating the vision that had brought us to this place in 2005. Mr. Speaker, we heard from many, many people across this province what a great place it is to live.

And, Mr. Speaker, there were people who came back here from other places around the world and who celebrated their home, a place which they loved. And so many of them, Mr. Speaker, talked about what a wonderful place it was. And, Mr. Speaker, we celebrated with them their heritage. And, Mr. Speaker, as we celebrated that heritage we talked about the future. We dreamed about a future for the children of 2005, Mr. Speaker. And that vision is a vision of a prosperous province — a province that continues not only to provide leadership in this nation but leadership in the world in terms of programs that care for people, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm telling you, listening to those last two speeches, I have never in my life heard such hollow, negative hype. In my life I have never heard it, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if those people spoke at any celebration in this province, if that last member spoke at a celebration in the Kindersley area, Mr. Speaker, he could drive them all into deep depression.

Mr. Speaker, I am telling you the people of this province do have vision. This government has vision, and we are building for a positive future. The people across the way from us in this House seem to be ensnared in a dark, gloomy vision of who knows what. But, Mr. Speaker, they're going no where, and they have no ideas.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen from them only, heard from them only negative rhetoric. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime we have been meeting with people all around this province. We have been putting together a vision, and we have been putting together a vision that will have action attached to it, and it will be implemented, Mr. Speaker.

We began this year, this centennial year, with an economic summit where we gathered with leaders from all across this province, and we talked about the kind of things that we needed to build upon our already successful areas and define those areas that were not as successful and to build and strengthen those, Mr. Speaker. And out of that we have a Saskatchewan action plan that is going to build a prosperous future in Saskatchewan.

[16:15]

Mr. Speaker, we have seen already evidence of the kind of decision making that this government can do that can help build a strong and a positive future. We have seen changes in the last few years that have lowered the income tax rate significantly in this province. We have seen changes in the royalty structure that has really enabled much more development in the oil and gas industry, and we have seen the rewards of that, Mr.

Speaker.

We have seen also changes in relationship to mining and the mining industry is growing in this province, Mr. Speaker. We have seen so much success in the manufacturing industry. How could one be depressed when we know that we have some of the best manufacturers in this world?

I had the privilege of going to the SIMA show, the largest agricultural manufacturing show in the world in France . . . pardon me, the largest in France and one of the largest in the world, Mr. Speaker, and our manufacturers from this province were so successful there, people from all around the world coming to see their equipment and to buy their equipment. One of those manufacturers, Mr. Speaker, was not even able to get his equipment there, but word of mouth, word of mouth was so strong that people came and bought that equipment unseen, Mr. Speaker.

This is about people who are innovative, people who dream for a positive future and work for a positive future. That is the inheritance that I know as Saskatchewan and that's the inheritance that I want to give to my children. Mr. Speaker, we will be successful in fulfilling our dreams in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker — and I've been working now as Minister of Agriculture, it'll be two years in February — that this has probably been one of the most difficult periods in agriculture in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker. The dirty thirties were very, very difficult, but the impact that this province has felt in agriculture have been huge, and it is a testimony to the tenacity of Saskatchewan farmers that many of them have been able to carry on through these difficult times.

Let's list them. Let's look at the impact of BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] — a huge impact — closing the border to our largest market, Mr. Speaker, and that had impact all the way through the industry. Did we give up? Did we turn negative? No, not for a minute, Mr. Speaker. We worked with all levels of government. We worked with the foreign governments in many countries trying to build other markets, Mr. Speaker. We put over \$80 million into programming, joining with the federal government to try and make sure that this industry would be shored up and would be able to make it through this difficult period of time.

And, Mr. Speaker, the border is open. A lot of extensive work, but this border is open and we have something to celebrate. Prices are back up. And, Mr. Speaker, we also are seeing some changes in the livestock industry in this province which are very essential to a prosperous future for Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, that work has been done by joint work of members of this government, of this department, Mr. Speaker — of Agriculture and Food — and with industry players and farmers and cattle ranchers across this province and across this country. It's been working together that has brought us strength and success. That is our history, and that is our experience through this BSE crisis, Mr. Speaker.

And I can tell you that what it has also done is it has led to some new commitments about what we will be doing in this

province in livestock. I don't think there's a person that has been engaged in the livestock industry in this province, Mr. Speaker, who is not totally committed to building and strengthening our feeding and finishing, our slaughter and processing industry right here in Saskatchewan.

We are fed up with sending animals across the borders, whether it's to Alberta or whether it's to the United States or whether it's to Ontario. We are fed up with sending animals there to be fed and finished, sending the feed across to finish them, and then sending young people across to do the jobs of slaughter and processing and the jobs around the feedlots, Mr. Speaker.

We are changing that. We are taking very concrete, positive steps to change that. And the people of this province, the producers of this province have worked together with us to help that happen.

And, Mr. Speaker, talk about the commitment of this government and the innovation to move us towards success — \$37.3 million. A strategic investment in the meat processing industry that really will have ripple effects throughout the industry and will help build a positive livestock industry, from cow-calf operations right through to selling the processed products in the widest markets possible around the world. Mr. Speaker, that has taken commitment, that has taken working together of all the people involved in this industry. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate that. That's positive. That's a good thing that is happening in Saskatchewan in agriculture.

But let me step back and talk about some of the other things that have made this such a very difficult few years in this industry which is such a ground . . . base for our whole economy in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our dollar has increased in value compared to the US [United States] dollar. And we have been exporters of . . . 75 per cent of what we produce here has been exported. And anybody that knows economics knows that when that dollar goes up, it makes it much more difficult to export those products.

Mr. Speaker, we know that commodity prices have gone down, gone down significantly. Add that to the increasing dollar, you've got a greater problem, Mr. Speaker. And not only have commodity prices gone down, but we have seen greater competition throughout the world.

As the member opposite alluded to, there has been huge increase in production in Brazil. There are other countries that are coming on stream that are using technologies — some of those which have been developed here — and are producing more than they have ever produced.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we recognize, we recognize that there is not the same kind of future in those commodities that there has been in the past. There is not the same kind of strength there. And we are changing the way we are doing things again, Mr. Speaker, because we recognize that fact. We know that we need to do more value-add here, Mr. Speaker. And we are trying working with others to develop those plans which will give us more valued-added industry in Saskatchewan.

We will see a shift from having so much land just simply growing the grain and oilseeds that it has grown in the past. We will see a shift, and that shift will mean that there will be more high-quality feeds grown in this province. And that shift will mean that we are growing energy crops so that we can have biodiesel, so that we can have ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, these are visionary projects which are under way, and we are working with the people of this province to build a prosperous future for Saskatchewan. Why? Because we love this province, Mr. Speaker, and we want to see those children — those children of 2005 as we alluded to in the speech — having a full, wonderful, and prosperous future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Mr. Speaker, despite all of those troubles in agriculture, people have persevered. But let me add, the troubles are greater. We have faced two extremely bad years for many of the people of this province. Last year in some corners of the province people got the best crops that they ever had. But, Mr. Speaker, last year many people had great dreams because they had beautiful crops coming along and they were completely devastated by a huge frost. Mr. Speaker, they were not abandoned. Mr. Speaker, this government in a time of challenges came forward and fully funded the CAIS program in both of those years. Mr. Speaker, that really does make a difference.

But not only did we fully fund the program, Mr. Speaker, recognizing the problems that people are facing and the immensity of these problems, we pushed the federal government to make changes to make sure that cash would flow to be there for producers. We pushed them for a cash payment last spring because there were many people who were suffering, and thank goodness at that time the federal government came through with a billion dollar payment.

But I want to provide an illustration of just how challenging it is to really support this industry in the province. Of that billion dollars, \$280 million came to Saskatchewan, \$280 million. And that \$280 million was dispersed amongst farmers around this province. And I spoke to farmers over the summer, some who had received \$4,000, some \$10,000. Mr. Speaker, most of them when they spoke about what they got said, we really appreciated it but you know it didn't change a thing. It helped me pay some bills; it helped fill my fuel tanks. It didn't quite fill my fuel tanks. But you know what, Mr. Speaker, they did appreciate it because it provided a bit of temporary relief. But the key there is what they said when they said it didn't change anything.

We need change, Mr. Speaker, and we are working for change in this agriculture sector. Mr. Speaker, when we look at the long term which we need to be able to plan on, we need the support of a federal government because the farmers in this province and the farmers in Canada are trying to compete against the national treasuries of the United States and the European Union. Mr. Speaker, the huge subsidies that are provided by the US and by the European Union impact hugely on the ability of our farmers to compete. And so we have continually called upon our federal government to provide not just the little surplus bit that they can put out from time to time, but to make consistent

programs that will work for the provinces and work for the people of this province.

We have called upon them to make changes to the CAIS program and, Mr. Speaker, the people of this province know that we have taken leadership in trying to make sure that we got the CAIS deposits taken off — we did, Mr. Speaker — and that freed up another \$147 million for the farmers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, we took leadership. And we will continue to push for changes in the structure of CAIS so that when margins drop below 50 per cent, that the federal government will cover the cost. And, Mr. Speaker, as we have worked at designing a program like this, we have managed to put together a unanimous position by all the ministers of Agriculture across this province.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan does take leadership because we do have vision. And that vision isn't just for this province, Mr. Speaker, but it is for a successful Canada because a successful Canada also means a successful Saskatchewan.

And I tell you this federal government has been little help in moving us in that direction. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that over the last decade, this federal government by their decisions has taken almost \$2 billion a year out of this economy, this agricultural economy. And I tell you, Mr. Speaker, they have got to come to the table. They have got to come to the table and provide the supports that will give us a good base for building so that we will never, never have to take any federal dollars in equalization again. Because we can do it. We can build the manufacturing sector. We can build the agriculture sector. We can build the mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, when we look across this country, we see a vast injustice. We see a federal government that does one thing out in the East Coast, providing benefit out there. And we come to this province, Mr. Speaker, and there's not a lot of people and they're not expecting to get many votes in that federal Liberal Party out of Saskatchewan, and they leave us hanging, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we need that federal Liberal government to come to the table for this province as they have come to the table for some of the other provinces, Mr. Speaker. There needs to be some thoughtful consideration of the impacts.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, we have been paying through this CAIS program 10 times, 10 times the provincial per capita average. Mr. Speaker, in a Confederation like we have this should not happen. It should not happen. The federal government should be working to build plans that provide a level across this nation that allows us all to move forward and build for a prosperous Canada and, in our case, to build for a prosperous Saskatchewan. They must come to the table.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Liberal government has been negligent here as they have been negligent in their responsibilities in Ottawa, and they'd better come to the table. Mr. Speaker, this Confederation is in danger because of their negligence.

Mr. Speaker, we have so much to live for in this province. We have so many innovative, strong people here. We have watched

people take a hold of elements of this agriculture industry and build successfully. We have seen some of those people win award after award for the innovative work that they have done to build this industry. Mr. Speaker, we have worked with those people and we will continue to work with those people.

I want to talk about one of the other successes that we have, Mr. Speaker. And it's alluded to in the Speech from the Throne, and it's connected with in terms of our Asia office for Industry and Resources. Mr. Speaker, that is the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership. I can't say enough good about the work that STEP has done to make international connections.

Mr. Speaker, for a trading province, we have benefited so greatly from the work of STEP — the connections that they make with people in other nations, the way that they help Saskatchewan businesses make those connections and move forward. Mr. Speaker, innovative thinking by this government years back when they first came up with the idea of STEP.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've got to say, we have benefited greatly by some of the personnel that have worked in STEP. Recently, most recently, John Treleaven, who has just left the main job with STEP was a tremendous asset in helping build this province. And we have much to be thankful for, for the gifts that he provided and the leadership that he provided.

Mr. Speaker, part of the vision of STEP was not just to help the manufacturers of today but it was also to mentor young people in this province. They brought young people into STEP and they helped them understand how vital international trade is.

And somebody from the other side says, how's that working out? I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I've spoken to some of those young people that have gone through there and they are so, so enthusiastic about this province. Mr. Speaker, they see the potential here like the people on the other side of this House could never see it. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because they're positive and they're hopeful, Mr. Speaker, and they are realistic. They look at what there is here and they see a future. And they were mentored by people who have that same kind of positive vision. Mr. Speaker, that's what we need. That's what we've built and we will continue to build upon it.

Mr. Speaker, our manufacturers have reached out throughout the world successfully because of their work and because of the work of the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership and the work of this government, Mr. Speaker. And I celebrate that. I celebrate that, and I'm thankful for the commitment to the ongoing work that we hear in this Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that I really appreciate this leader, our Premier, is that he has made very clear from the very beginning of his work as leader — from earlier than that — that we must have solid economic development in this province. But as he has made that very clear, he has also made very clear that we cannot, must not from a moral perspective, have that development without having a corresponding social development. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the people of this government are committed to making sure that that social development does not leave anyone behind, Mr. Speaker. And we have made that clear in the vision of this Throne Speech.

We have program developed, Mr. Speaker, that will reach out and enable the poorest people of this province to have strength and be able to move forward, Mr. Speaker. And that, Mr. Speaker, is happening. We have plans here.

We've got a new ministry, Mr. Speaker, that is going to be working on issues of healthy living. And I can tell you the work that this person has done, along with our Premier, in putting together a plan of hope, a plan that will help families who are dealing with the horrors of addiction is second to none in this country, Mr. Speaker. Second to none. And it will effectively help meet the needs of those people, Mr. Speaker, and it will help rescue some of those young people who are caught in the addictions.

And I am thankful for the vision that has brought us to this point, Mr. Speaker, and I am thankful for a Throne Speech that brings this forward. And yes, Mr. Speaker, I will say that I am thankful as well for the people on the other side of the House who also spoke about this and who also called for attention.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — I am thankful for that. And, Mr. Speaker, when we find that there is willingness to work together to do something positive, that's worth celebrating, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many times as we've moved forward that we have had words from the Sask Party that they would be with us. If we just did such and such, they would be with us, Mr. Speaker. What I'm sorry to say is that those are most often hollow words.

Mr. Speaker, they said if we fully funded CAIS, they would be there with us trying to get the federal government to make some changes. But, Mr. Speaker, it was hollow words. They have not been there. We have fully funded CAIS each year of the program. And, Mr. Speaker, it's in the record in *Hansard*. This is not any kind of, any kind of makeup, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, in fully funding CAIS, Mr. Speaker, these folks said they would be there to help make a difference in the programs, and they're not there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to also say their leader on the other side, you know, he was talking about the reality of making policies and things like that, Mr. Speaker. Well he said, you know, there's some areas that we just, you know, we can't make policies for now. You know, we're not government, and we can't make policy on. One of those areas, Mr. Speaker, is agriculture. They can't make policies. They can't take a stand. All they can do is complain, Mr. Speaker.

Well in the meantime we are making policy, and we are moving forward, Mr. Speaker. And we are moving forward to have a positive future for the farmers of Saskatchewan, and we will continue to do that. We will fund research and development. We will fully fund the CAIS program. We will work continuously to make changes to that program so that it will be just, not only here but across the nation, Mr. Speaker. We work for, we believe in, we have vision of a prosperous Saskatchewan where no one is left behind. And we have that vision, Mr. Speaker, because we love this province that we have inherited. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I really want to get into the debate on the Throne Speech. But first off I'm compelled to make a few words about the last rant that I heard from the Minister of Agriculture. He talked about hollow words. Well for 20-some-odd minutes all I heard was hollow words. I read the Throne Speech, and all I saw was hollow words. And he has the audacity to stand up and say from this side of the House, there's hollow words. I would suggest he look in a mirror once or twice.

The Ag minister also talked at the start of his speech, and he talked about the visitors that came back to Saskatchewan during the centennial year which was great. And he talked about them saying what a wonderful province this is. I totally agree. The problem is, why did they leave in the first place? Did he explain that? Did he have any ideas why people would leave this glorious province of ours?

It is because of NDP socialist policies for the biggest part of the last 60 years and Tommy Douglas's whole socialist structure that he established back in the '40s. That is why people are leaving the province and why they have left the province.

Why does one think the oil companies left this province? Can anybody on that side of the House answer that? Why do people leave? Because they don't have jobs. Why don't they have jobs? Because of the taxation problems, the socialistic structure that these people over there have created.

The minister wanted to talk about CAIS. Let's talk about CAIS. If you listen to him, you'd almost think he was doing a good job. Somebody else has to get up and really say what's going on. CAIS for an example, hey we funded CAIS. Well at the last second.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We have people in this province right today that still have not settled their 2003 CAIS account. And yet the Minister of Agriculture got up and said how wonderful this is and put money in the pockets of Saskatchewan people and farmers. Well some of them don't even have 2003 CAIS settled. Now can the minister stand up and say that is a good idea?

We even have an individual that got a huge cheque from the CAIS program that totalled 8 cents. That won't even buy the package of gum that Dingwall bought through taxpayers' money. They talk about ideas on that side of the House. I'm going to suggest, Mr. Speaker, if they have an idea on that side of the House, now it might be their first.

They get up, they get up and listen to their own rhetoric so often — they listen to one another talk the rhetoric — that I actually sometimes think they believe what they're saying. But fortunately the people of Saskatchewan do not.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on the Speech from the Throne, I'd like to talk just briefly about my constituency. And we talk about people, we talk about people leaving this province. I now

have the largest constituency outside of the high North. Why is that? Because people have left my area, that has left the area because of policies by this NDP government over the last number of years that have stifled growth in this province. Businesses are leaving the province. Thus, people are leaving the province.

Again the Minister of Agriculture talks about such things as the people leaving, or they're coming back to visit. Well the reason they're leaving is because of a lack of jobs. Now if we had such things as off-farm jobs for some of these people, when commodity prices are down and farmers are struggling, wouldn't it be nice if they had a job?

And I'm just going to touch base on the cattle industry that the minister seems so proud of. We have put so many dollars into the cattle industry. Well I listened to the minister recently on TV, and he was talking about the money put into slaughter facilities in this province. I agree we need slaughter facilities in this province. I have said that. We have said that for ages. We need to increase our slaughter facilities.

But the interesting part of it, Mr. Speaker, was that the minister took words that I used back as far back as 1997, and I've used in this House every Throne Speech and probably every budget since, is our cattle industry in this province. And I also heard the Deputy Premier use these same words. But it's how they used it.

The Minister of Agriculture after his announcement about the slaughter facility, he says, we ship 750,000 head of cattle a year to Alberta. We ship our barley to Alberta. We ship our grain to Alberta. And this is going to stop that problem. Well he should give his head a shake. We are shipping cattle to Alberta to be fed. That's why we ship the barley to Alberta to be fed. And the kids go to Alberta to feed the Saskatchewan barley to Saskatchewan cattle. Building a slaughterhouse facility is not going to stop that exodus of three key resources that we have.

What has he done and what has that government done to stop that exodus? Is there anything in this Throne Speech that would change that? I would suggest not. So once again here we have a province shipping out some of our most valuable resources.

And I would suggest if the Minister of Agriculture and the Premier were very serious about keeping people in this province . . . One little thing, why don't we keep those cattle here? Look at the jobs they would provide — 750,000 head of cattle provided in feedlots in this province. What is there in here that even suggests anything that would stop that exodus of those resources? Is there anything in here? No. But the Minister of Agriculture can get up and boast, boast about how good he is doing as Minister of Agriculture.

[16:45]

Mr. Speaker, we talk about, we talk about a plan, a vision. There's no plan or vision. We talk about losing 6,000 jobs in this last year. What kind of a vision is that? What kind of vision do we have from an NDP government that says we lose 6,000 jobs, that's a glitch in the monthly stats or something?

The fact is the rest of the country is growing. There's more

jobs. There's people moving in. And here we are in good old socialist Saskatchewan. We're losing jobs, and we're losing people. And yet they sit and say that's a good thing because there's more left for the rest of us, quote from the current Minister of Highways.

Speaking of highways, I'd like to just touch base on highways. I had the opportunity recently to discuss a new venture that's going in, in my constituency. And I know the Premier and the Minister of Industry and Resources has received numerous letters. And at one of the presentations, there was talk about the requirement for infrastructure, strange word for the people on that side of the House — infrastructure — because we in rural Saskatchewan understand the deterioration of infrastructure and how it's hurting the economy of rural Saskatchewan. Again rhetoric from there, no action.

Well it so happened at one of these meetings that there was a representative from the Department of Highways there, and we got into a little bit of discussion about how we needed roads for this new venture. We need a highway. What a novel idea to put a highway in so we could have a business down there. We don't know where it's going with the government.

But in that discussion, the person from the Department of Highways had suggested to me, he said you got a great highway here. Highway 13 is just a great highway. And I said, do you want to go for a drive on it with me? Do you really want to go for a drive? He said well this highway is great. And I said, well I'll tell you; have you ever been over around Ponteix? Well that's different. Excuse me. You say it's got a great highway but not around Ponteix. And he said the problem with Ponteix is we're rebuilding that but due to weather conditions in the summer of 2005, the highway is behind schedule — due to weather conditions in the summer of 2005.

Again those people over there will believe that. That was the driest area in the province. Now what kind of weather conditions precluded them from working on the highway? Was it too sunny? Was it too dry? What were the weather conditions that stopped them from working? I have no idea.

Now I suggested to the same individual, well we can maybe take 15 or 20 miles of a road that is . . . basically the other day it was impassable. But I said, now you just said how Highway 13 was so great; let's go from Cadillac to Shaunavon. He said, oh that's different. Well again, Mr. Speaker, it's either a good road or it's not a good road. And he just told me it was such a good road.

Well I would invite all members from that side, rather than fly, to drive that road. It is absolutely, absolutely terrible. And I would invite the new Minister of Highways back to his home area and drive the road. And maybe, and maybe there will be a little action on that road.

And the person I was talking to is also very, very keen on letting me know that Highway 43 South — which is not in my constituency any more but it used to be — and he said well I'll have you know we spent a whole pile of money on a bridge on Highway 43 South. He said, have you been down there lately? And I said, not for about three months. So I purposely went the next day and drove it. And you know, they redid the bridge and

there's about 2 miles of highway that's decent. But how do you get to it? You've got to drive another 20 kilometres or 20 miles of terrible road to get to this nice 2 kilometres of road.

It's absolutely appalling. And yet this is a government that says, we're doing everything we can for rural Saskatchewan. We're doing everything we can for the economy. This is hurting the economy. How can anybody go in there and start up a business when the roads are like that?

Mr. Speaker, we talk about health care and there are stories of health care that we've raised, health care waiting lists. We have members on the other side of the House that still believe — and they will stand up and they will talk about it — that we've got the best health care system in the world. Well I will suggest, Mr. Speaker, that people that have been on waiting lists for two years would debate that or argue that or flat out and tell us that we do not have the best health care in this country.

And then we'll talk about people that have been waiting for serious operations. We've talked about in this House people waiting for cancer surgery. And what we get from that side of the House is, well we're reducing the waiting list. Going from 2.3 years to 2 years they think is acceptable. I do not. I do not think that's acceptable and I would like any member on that side of the House to stand up and tell me that waiting two years for surgery is acceptable. And I would like them to do that if they're so proud of how our health care system is working today.

And I want to touch base, Mr. Speaker, on a situation in my constituency. And it kind of reflects the whole attitude of the NDP government. I have a lady that has been trying to get into a long-term care home. And her family is pushing to get her into her hometown long-term care home. And it's a battle. Here is one of our seniors, one of our seniors that pioneered, pioneered this province, helped build the care home — her family helped build the care home — now she can't get into it.

And one'll say right off the bat, well there's no beds. I'm sorry but there's been beds available and I wrote to the minister and he says, it's not my problem; it's the health district. The individual wrote to the Premier. He says, not my problem; I'll give it to the Health minister. The Health minister shunts it off to the health district. Health district says, it's not my problem; it's the Health minister. And it's a vicious circle.

And I met with the CEO [chief executive officer] of the health district and basically there's a line been drawn in the sand and this lady will probably not get into that home. That is sad that we treat our seniors that way. Sad that we have no compassion. Her family support structure is in her hometown but will they place her in there? No.

We talk about, Mr. Speaker, and I've talked about this before, how this province has under the NDP think it's done so well. And I want to relate my story about that. When my grandparents settled in this country, in this province, circa 1915, both sets of grandparents, you know where I live? There was no railroad. There was no roads. There's no hospital and there's no school. They had to pretty much rough it.

Now we went through an era of progression. And I retired back

to that same area in 1994, Mr. Speaker, and I'll tell you what has happened and this is under a socialist regime of this province. And I want to tell everyone what happened. The hospital is closed, thanks to the NDP government. The school is closed, thanks to the NDP government. The railroad is pulled. Can't blame it totally on the NDP government. The fact is the railroad is pulled and the roads . . . I'm almost willing to believe that when my grandparents took the buggy from Moose Jaw south, their . . . probably roads were as good then as they are now. And this is considered progress by the socialists? I would, I would totally argue against that. I do not think that is progress at all.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to touch base a little bit on this concept of culture of entitlement. And I think it's running rampant on that side of the House. We see it, we see it in the federal side of the House, but I think it is on that side of House — a culture of entitlement. And I think what epitomizes that the most to me is the \$1 million being spent on a terminal for exec air air terminal. \$1 million for what? The previous terminal, the terminal beside it, was fine for the Queen. It was fine for the Prime Minister of this country, but it's not good for the Premier and his cabinet. Talk about a culture of entitlement, Mr. Speaker — that reeks of a culture of entitlement.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke to a group of grade 12 students not that long ago. And I spent quite a bit of time with them. And at the end of their multi questions and I spent . . . it was here in the Legislative Building and I spent, oh an hour and a half or so with them, and they had a lot of good questions. And at the end of their questions they were getting ready to leave and I said, okay gang, I have a couple of questions for you. Out of the 35 students in grade 12, how many of you are planning to stay in the province of Saskatchewan following high school, trade school, post-secondary, whatever? This is sad, Mr. Speaker, because three people put up their hand. Three out of thirty-five put up their hand. They had no intentions of staying in this province.

So I threw another question to them and I said, this is sad, this is very, very sad. What would it take for you to stay in Saskatchewan? Unanimously they said a good job, an upward mobility job. And when I said, would you stay with a good job and an upward mobility job, it went from three people wanting to stay to thirty-three people wanting to stay. Does that not tell those people over there something? They talk about a plan and a vision. There's no plan and there's no vision. It's rhetoric. Why isn't something being done to keep those young people in this province?

Mr. Speaker, as time is drawing close I think I can relate why this province is in the situation it is under a socialist government. We heard the Premier . . . and I heard some of his colleagues on that side of the House and they're very, very happy about this story of the canoe trip this past summer up in the Cumberland House area. And boats were coming in, as I understand the story, and at the back of the pack a couple of boats had overturned in the water. And the Premier really likes this story and so did the other members I heard tell it. They said, when these boats turned over in the water, two canoes that were near them went over, helped them get their canoe upright, got them together as a four ship, held canoes side by side, and crossed the finish line together. And the Premier said, that is the

spirit of Saskatchewan.

Now we can identify with the spirit of Saskatchewan in helping. But, Mr. Speaker, the spirit of Saskatchewan is not to finish last. It is under their plan because even the Premier said, that's the spirit of Saskatchewan; we'll band together and finish last. I don't agree with that.

Mr. Speaker, as time is drawing close I think I will end my comments at this time. And I will be supporting the amendment and will not be supporting the motion. And, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Wood River that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Therefore I would like to move that the House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Elhard	9
Brkich	9
Weekes	9
Kerpan	9
Bakken Lackey	9
Harpauer	9
Draude	9
NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS	
Huyghebaert	10
McMorris	10
Bakken Lackey	10
Draude	11
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
Wartman	11
Borgerson	11
Huyghebaert	11
Morin	12
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Year of the Veteran	
Trew	12
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Awareness Week	
Eagles	12
National Aboriginal Veterans Day	
Belanger	12
Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards	
Weekes	13
Saskatchewan War Memorial	
Borgerson	13
National Diabetes Awareness Month	
McMorris	13
Saskatchewan's Geo-Memorial Project	
Hamilton	13
ORAL QUESTIONS	
Federal-Provincial Energy Accord Negotiations	
Wall	14
Calvert	14
Employment Figures	
Wall	16
Cline	16
New Cabinet Ministers	
Heppner	17
Calvert	17
Education Property Tax	
Bjornerud	18
Taylor	18
Agricultural Policies	
Bjornerud	18
Wartman	18
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	
Saskatchewan Energy Share Plan Unveiled	
Atkinson	19
Dearborn	19
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER	
The Speaker	20
Clerk	20
Hamilton	20
SPECIAL ORDER	
ADDRESS IN REPLY	
Junor	20
Harper	25

Wall	27
Dearborn	31
Wartman	34
Huyghebaert	38

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