



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

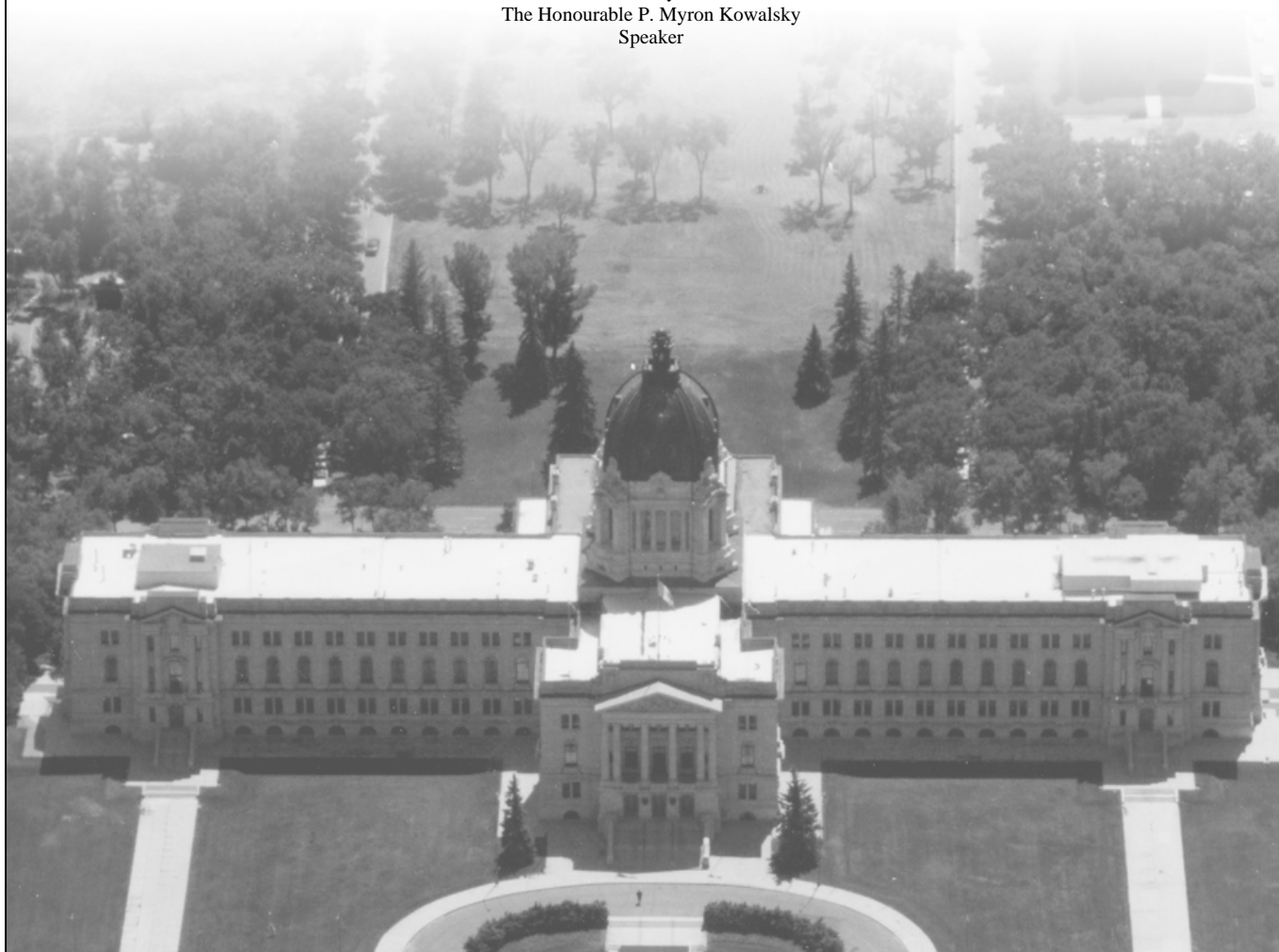
of the

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 10:07.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes 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 this 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.

The people that have signed this petition are from Wadena, Kuroki, and Fishing Lake. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, today I am presenting a petition on behalf of citizens who are concerned of the safety with 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 Humboldt, Muenster, LeRoy, Annaheim, and Bruno. I so present.

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

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all the necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that 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 Strongfield and Loreburn. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to present a petition from citizens of Biggar that are opposed to reductions of health care services. 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 Springwater, Biggar, and district. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petition has been received and pursuant to rule 14(7) is hereby read and received as sessional paper no. 12. Previously tabled petitions being addendums to sessional paper nos. 2, 4, 7, and 8 also received.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour and privilege this morning to introduce to this House, joined by representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada, to introduce to our House Saskatchewan veterans of the Second World War, the Korean War, and numerous peacekeeping missions around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, this morning we had the opportunity to honour many of these individuals during our annual service of remembrance here at the legislature by presenting them with the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. We were also able officially to announce the designation of Highway No. 2 from Moose Jaw to Prince Albert as Veterans Memorial Highway.

Mr. Speaker, these gestures of appreciation, while they demonstrate, we hope, our profound gratitude, pale beside the enormous contributions that our veterans have made to their country, to their province, to the world, and to each one of us.

Therefore I ask all members to join me in welcoming some of Saskatchewan's greatest citizens, our veterans. Welcome to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, your legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I want to join with the Premier in welcoming our guests to the Assembly today, members of the Armed Forces, members of the Legion, veterans, and others who have joined us. It was a wonderful ceremony this morning. And it is the perfect day, the day before Remembrance Day, to have been able to partake in that service with our guests here today.

We want to join with the Premier in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. In many ways, Mr. Speaker, especially the veterans have built this Legislative Assembly and they have

paid for this Legislative Assembly. We welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to welcome some guests to the Assembly today. Earlier today or earlier this morning we held a Remembrance Day service in the foyer of the Legislative Assembly, and it was sponsored by the Public Service Commission and the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, since the Second World War and before, annual Remembrance Day services have been held to honour the various public servants throughout our history that have served in the Armed Forces. This morning we're joined in the gallery with Bob Bymoan, the president of the Saskatchewan government and general services union, along with Barry Nowoselsky, the Chair of the Public Service Bargaining Council. They are here representing all of the public servants in the province, and I would like to welcome them to this Assembly this morning.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to acknowledge the First Nations and Métis veterans that I know we had a chance to see this morning and to thank them for what they've done for this country in times when they didn't have to go to war.

I especially would like to welcome a constituent of mine — a couple of them. Emil Highway is here this morning. He's a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. And also with him is Frances Highway. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like everyone to welcome them to the House. And I hope they have a wonderful day and a good trip back home.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join my colleague from Cumberland in recognizing my uncle through marriage. My wife's uncle is here. He's also served in the Armed Forces. I'd like to recognize John Pedersen from Moose Jaw. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Honouring Canadian Veterans

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Across the city and across the province, children are learning the poem "In Flanders Fields." In this Chamber we wear the poppy. Saskatchewan's War Memorial carries the names of our province's 10,000 war dead. We remember and pay tribute to the thousands of Canadian men and women who sacrificed so much on our behalf.

Our country is blessed by peace and plenty. Although we sometimes see the terrible images and hear the horrific stories of war, here we are far removed from the horrors of those stories, Mr. Speaker. Our soldiers who are currently serving see war up close, as do our peacekeepers from all areas of service. We are mindful of their sacrifice and the price they are paying to maintain our peace.

Mr. Speaker, on November 11 we remember the Canadian men and women of all races and of all social classes who left their homes and families and the safety of this country and put themselves in harm's way, those who experienced the horrors of war and who risked and sometimes sacrificed all so that we could enjoy the rights and privileges we have today.

We pay tribute to their courage. We recognize the extraordinary challenges and hardships they faced on our behalf. We know the high price they willingly paid to ensure our safety and our peace. We acknowledge their sacrifice.

To those who served and those who serve today, we thank you and are humbled by your service.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today during Veterans' Week and in the Year of the Veteran to honour the dedicated men and women who served Canada in our military.

At a desperate time of need, they left their farms, their families, and their friends. Many thousands gave their lives in armed conflict. They fought for liberty, for freedom, for each other, and for their country.

These men and women volunteered, Mr. Speaker. Many of them were as young as 16. They wanted to go to defend their country and extinguish the flame of tyranny that was growing in the world. They didn't have to go; they volunteered.

We remember the stories of valour and bravery. In the First World War, four Canadian divisions fought together to take the famed Vimy Ridge and in so doing turned the tide of the Great War and solidified Canada as a nation in the minds of her citizens.

We remember in World War II when Canadians liberated much of northwest Europe from the oppression of Nazism. We remember the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry receiving the United States presidential citation, the only Canadian unit to receive the award. This was for heroism on the hills of Korea.

We remember the 232,000 killed or wounded in World War I. We remember the 96,000 killed or wounded in World War II. We remember the 1,558 killed or wounded in the Korean War. We remember the veterans of peacekeeping conflicts.

We remember and may we never forget.

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

Stories of Saskatchewan War Brides

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend I had the privilege of attending the launch of a book called *War Brides — Our Sentimental Journey*. This book is a collection of stories written by Saskatchewan war brides about the experience of coming to a new land at the end of the Second World War. The launch was made at the Nutana Legion, Branch 362 in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, this book had its beginnings with the members of the Saskatchewan War Brides Association and their wish to do something special for Saskatchewan's centennial. A request for stories was made in the association's newsletter, and 52 women responded, providing first-hand personal accounts of what it was like to be part of one of the most unusual immigrations in Canadian history.

Mr. Speaker, some 48,000 young women came to Canada as war brides. Along with them came about 22,000 children. This book is a true history of what the war brides' experience was like.

Mr. Speaker, it took great courage for these young women to leave all that was familiar to them, their country, their homes, and their families to come to a new land and face an uncertain future. Many were unprepared for the conditions they found in Canada. But most stayed, adjusted to a new way of life, and over the last 60 years have not only come to love Canada but have contributed to its development in so many significant ways.

I congratulate the Saskatchewan War Brides Association, their President Terry England, and particularly the 52 women who contributed to this volume for sharing their stories and chronicling this important part of Canadian and Saskatchewan history.

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

Honouring Canadian Aboriginal Veterans

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important trip that concluded last week. On October 26 a group of Aboriginal veterans of the

Second World War travelled to Europe to take part in a week-long celebration of remembrance.

Among the stops on the 8-day trip was a ceremony at the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery near the spot where allied forces landed on D-Day and where at least 33 Aboriginal soldiers were laid to rest.

The delegation also took part in the tributes paid at Ypres, Belgium, where since 1928 the last post is played nightly.

Mr. Speaker, this journey was one of emotion and pride and of remembrance for fallen brothers. By all accounts it was also an eye-opening trip for 14 Aboriginal youth who took part in the week's events. Through the stories, the tears, and the names on the grave markers, their appreciation and respect has grown for the sacrifice these veterans have made half a world away.

Mr. Speaker, this journey of remembrance and education serves to remind us of the ongoing struggle for full recognition. Leo Goulet, one veteran who took part in the overseas trip, said, "I was just another soldier, fighting for country." We should not forget the thousands of Aboriginal veterans who left their homes and families and fought for freedom. In this Year of the Veteran we look to the federal government to properly acknowledge the contributions of First Nations and Métis veterans. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Saskatchewan Geo-Memorial Project Book

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, in 1947 Saskatchewan initiated the Geo-Memorial Project. The project goal was to ensure that every Saskatchewan veteran who gave their life in the service of their country during World War II would be honoured and commemorated by having a northern geographic feature named for them.

Last year that project was completed and now has been expanded to include the names of those men and women who risked and sacrificed all in Korea and on peacetime operations since World War II as well. In all, Mr. Speaker, almost 5,000 northern lakes, peninsulas, bays, rivers, and islands bear the names of Saskatchewan's fallen.

This year, as part of Saskatchewan's centennial and the Year of the Veteran, that project has been taken a step further. *Age Shall Not Weary Them: Saskatchewan Remembers its War Dead*, a book by Saskatchewan authors Bill Barry, Doug Chisholm, and Beth Parsons, tells the story of those 5,000 Saskatchewan men and women. It provides details about the geographic features that have been named in their honour and a brief story of how they lived and, unfortunately, how they died, taken together with the stories that provide real meaning to the terms horror of war and supreme sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to be able to say that one of the authors, Mr. Bill Barry, is a constituent of mine. And I want to commend him along with Mr. Chisholm and Ms. Parsons for

this important and timely addition to Saskatchewan's story that we may never forget.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Royal Canadian Legion Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this November marks the 80th year for the organization we know today as the Royal Canadian Legion. Founded as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, the Legion was formed to represent veterans of the Great War and to advise the government on veterans' issues.

During the Second World War and the Korean War, the Legion offered support to troops stationed abroad and at home while working to improve support for veterans. Following the Korean War, the Legion's commitment to community service increased. That record of service continues to this day.

Today we are over 400,000 members including 58,000 members of the ladies auxiliary and over 1,600 branches in three countries. The Legion continues with the national poppy campaign. While most of us see the Legion work at this time of year, few realize the ongoing work of the Legion. The Legion's economic impact to Canada is estimated at 350 million per year. The Legion employs over 6,000 full- and part-time workers, paying over \$73 million in wages, and provides millions in support of youth activities.

The Legion contributes millions of dollars and hundreds of hours in assistance each year to veterans and their communities. The men and women we honour did not falter in their duty to country and neither has the Legion in their ongoing effort to improve the lives of their members and of our community. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Awareness Week

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I began the week making a statement about the geo-memorials in the North for those who have fought for us, I'm breaking from theme today to also recognize another group of men and women in community who help to bring awareness to issues of importance to us all. And that's the SARC — Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres — Awareness Week.

Mr. Speaker, SARC and our government share some very important goals. The work that SARC and its member agencies do every day in every corner of this province enhances the lives of individuals with disabilities. From residential services to employment support and assistance, SARC is there. And certainly no one can argue with the success of SARCAN Recycling.

Several months ago SARC presented government with a human resources plan outlining what is required to deal with critical issues of staff recruitment and retention. And in the Throne Speech, we announced there would be \$30 million more in increased funding over the next three years. This will help to address issues of staff wages, recruitment and retention for community-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, our government strongly supports the concepts of citizenship and inclusion for people with disabilities. And, Mr. Speaker, we value the positive working relationship we enjoy with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres and remain committed to working with them to continue to enhance the lives of Saskatchewan people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, to seek leave of the Assembly to move to a motion of remembrance.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave of the Assembly to move to a motion of remembrance. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

MOTION

Remembering Saskatchewan Veterans

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the close of my remarks I will move a formal motion of remembrance that will be seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, a motion to recognize the extraordinary contribution of Saskatchewan veterans. And if I may say, we are pleased as well that Mr. David Karwacki, Leader of the Liberal Party, is in the gallery with us today.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned a few minutes ago when I had the privilege to welcome some of Saskatchewan's veterans to this Assembly, our service of remembrance in the rotunda this morning afforded us the opportunity to honour some of our greatest citizens by renaming Highway 2 from Moose Jaw to Prince Albert as the Veterans Memorial Highway, by awarding to some of our veterans this morning the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, and these presentations representative of course of our honouring of all Saskatchewan veterans.

Our centennial year, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan has been one of great celebration. It has also been one of remembrance. Canada's Year of the Veteran in 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the most costly, devastating human conflict the world has ever known: the Second World War.

As a nation and as a province we had a number of opportunities to remember and honour our veterans in recent months. It was last year that we marked in this Chamber. And through a variety

of activity around the province, including a royal visit, we were able to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the most critical operation of World War II.

It was a year ago on this day in Saskatchewan that we unveiled the veterans' licence plate, which has now become for us a daily reminder of the extraordinary service of our veterans. We see those plates, happily, across the province.

A few weeks ago we dedicated the second phase of the Saskatchewan War Memorial here on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly building. It's the only war memorial in Canada that bears the names, permanently etched in stone, of every one of our province's war dead — 10,000 names and more.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's and Saskatchewan's veterans come from and came from every walk of life. Some were professional — soldiers, sailors, and air force personnel, members of the standing forces — but many, Mr. Speaker, were not. They were farmers, carpenters, mechanics, factory workers, truck drivers, civil servants. They were doctors and nurses and members of the clergy. They were students. They were unemployed. They came from every one of Canada's diverse and Saskatchewan's diverse cultures.

Many of our veterans were immigrants and first generation Canadians. Many of our veterans came from our Aboriginal communities. Our First Nation veterans, Mr. Speaker, exempted by treaty from conscription, were therefore all volunteers. And we know today that the contributions of our Aboriginal veterans often have gone unrecognized. And those who returned were denied too long the freedoms and the dignity they fought to secure for others.

Our veterans have represented all of Canada's faiths. They were and are Protestant and Catholic, Jewish and Muslim. From every background, from every culture, and from every faith, they nonetheless had much in common. They shared a deep devotion to duty and unsurpassed commitment to Canada. And for the most part, Mr. Speaker, they were very young. The men and women who we honour today were overwhelmingly young men and women in their time of service.

A few days ago I had the honour of proclaiming November 5 to November 11 in Saskatchewan as Veterans' Week. And the theme of this Veterans' Week is honouring veterans by teaching youth. And in our centennial year nothing could be more important.

I believe it is important for us today to note that so many critical moments during the past century — during so many of those moments — the destiny of the world has rested on the shoulders of people, many of whom were just out of high school. The considerable weight of that great responsibility was born with courage and dignity, even in the midst of the horrors of war. Many of these young people rest in the earth of the lands they fought to liberate. Many did not live to witness the signing of the armistice, the armistice on November 11, 1918. Many of them did not live to see the success of D-Day, though many saw the terrible price. Many did not live to celebrate victory in Europe or victory in the Pacific. Many did not live to see the end of the Korean conflict.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us fortunate enough not to have fathers, uncles, grandfathers, grandmothers, mothers, and aunts, cousins — fortunate enough not to have our family names on the memorial in the garden of this Assembly — remember that today. Those of us fortunate enough to have been the family of a veteran, remember that today. And in remembrance today, Mr. Speaker, we remember with great honour those who gave their lives, those who are buried in lands far from this great Saskatchewan.

Billy Ray Cyrus, the country singer, wrote a little song and he put a lyric in there, a lyric which said, remembering veterans, some gave all but all gave some.

And today I remember and we remember the veterans who returned, having given. And I can't help but remember my own father who went to that conflict a young, young man. And how often I have been reminded that while I was busy going off to university and playing in a dance band and enjoying my youth, my father spent six years in Europe.

I am fortunate he did not give his life but he gave his youth. And how many of his generation gave up their youth for the service of this country. They were young, Mr. Speaker, and they are young today, those who serve our nation in Afghanistan, those who are in training at the base in Moose Jaw. They are young. So often the course of human history is placed on the shoulders of the young.

It is bittersweet each passing Remembrance Day because Canada's veterans, particularly now from the Second World War, are fewer and fewer in number. It is therefore only right and proper that we remember their service and their sacrifice. It's only right and proper that we bestow our highest honours and erect lasting monuments. But there is still more that we can and we should do to honour our veterans. In her very acclaimed book, *A Terrible Beauty, The Art of Canada at War*, Heather Robertson writes the following:

We must remember. If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless. They died for us, [they died] for their homes and families and friends, [they died] for a collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument.

And so, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly recognize the importance of the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans for the citizens of our province and country.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Riversdale, the Premier, seconded by the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly recognize the importance of the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans for the citizens of our province and country.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be able to second this motion on this day. Mr. Speaker, in the 15th chapter of John, verse 13, Jesus Christ told his disciples:

Greater love has no man than this, that he would lay down his life for his friends.

And that's what this morning is all about. That's what the service was about this morning. It was about that measure of love — a love of freedom and a love of country and a love of friends and comrades. That's what today is all about.

Canada, and our province Saskatchewan, our people here have always answered freedom's call. Whenever it is threatened, whenever there is a conflict that threatens it, Canada is there and Saskatchewan is there. We have been there. During World War I, 40,000 people including 70 nursing sisters volunteered at 20 provincial recruiting centres in the province of Saskatchewan. In World War II, more than 75,000 Saskatchewan men and women served in the Armed Forces during the conflict that spanned, or at least the span of six years over World War II.

And so too has the men and women, the people of this province, responded to the conflict in Korea. There are peacekeepers today in the world from this province who again are answering the call of freedom.

And so there are a number of stories of Canadian valour and bravery, of Saskatchewan valour and bravery. We hear them at this time of year each year and we've heard some today.

I would like to share with you one though, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues in the Assembly, from a place called Kapyong during the Korean War. When the second Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was under heavy shelling from the Chinese and Koreans, the soldiers fought on a cold and snowy, wet April night. They fought shoulder to shoulder. They saw their friends die. They saw others maimed. They saw horrific things — things that they will remember forever. Those young men — many of whom lied about their age so that they could fight for their country — those young men were outnumbered eight to one. They fought literally for inches, inches of land. They fought for feet. They fought for their brother next to them. They held their position, Mr. Speaker, and they prevailed and it helped change the direction of that war.

That was in Korea. But there are stories easily as compelling of Canadian and Saskatchewan men and women making similar kinds of sacrifices and demonstrating similar acts of bravery all over the globe in the different conflicts that we have faced.

And so today we do remember the boys of the Big Muddy and Buffalo Narrows, and the men and women of every prairie town between that have come forward to defend our country, to

defend our province, to defend freedom, to fight for all of the things that we prize here in the province of Saskatchewan and in the nation.

The boys of Saskatchewan became the men of Dieppe and Sicily, of Dunkirk and Ortano and Juno Beach and of Normandy. They knew what they were facing. They knew what they were heading into — many of them — but were undeterred in their resolve to make a difference in the lives of people that they had never met, that they would never meet, and that unfortunately and tragically that some would never know.

Every year at this time, Mr. Speaker, I have the great pleasure, as do MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], my colleagues in the Assembly, of going to our local Legion celebrations. And there is of course the service of remembrance. But in Swift Current and in Legion branches across the province there's also a banquet where local branch members are honoured and where there is a time of remembrance and celebration.

And it's a highlight for me since I got this job of being the MLA for Swift Current. It truly is a highlight for me every year to participate in that at the Legion branch in Swift Current.

But every Remembrance Day, even before I was elected, I always find myself quietly asking myself the question, would I have the courage to do these things that I read about, that I just read about with respect to the Korean War? Would I have had the courage to jump out of a trench when ordered to do so and charge across a battle-scarred field knowing that the chances of surviving were minimal? Would I have the courage that it would take to get out of a landing craft and storm a beach when I can see nothing but the bodies of comrades, of brothers who have fallen? I don't know.

I think we all would like to think that we would have that same courage that was displayed, as the Premier so aptly pointed out, by men not much older than high school students. I don't know if I would have that same courage. But it gives me reason to reflect every single year on the amazing stories from the conflicts that we've been involved with, specifically from the two World Wars and the amazing stories of courage from Saskatchewan people who have participated in those.

So today, we do pay tribute to the Farmer Johns, our Warwickshire Lads, our Devil's Brigades and the many, many individuals who served on land and air and sea. And we pay tribute of course to those who never came back.

How shall we remember them, Mr. Speaker? Well we should honour these men and women by living by the ideals for which many of them died, by honouring and respecting our distinguished veterans who sacrificed so much, by remembering, by loving freedom, by participating in the freedom and enjoying the freedom that they sacrificed to provide for us.

Mr. Speaker, if I can, I would like to read a poem that Private Patrick William O'Connor, a stretcher-bearer with the Second Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment who was killed in action in Korea on May 30, 1951, wrote. He said, he wrote:

There is blood on the hills of Korea
 The blood of the brave and the true
 Where the 25th Brigade battled together
 Under the banner of the Red White and Blue
 As they marched over the hills of Korea
 To the hills where the enemy lay
 They remembered the Brigadier's order:
 These hills must be taken today
 Forward they marched into battle
 With faces unsmiling and stern
 They knew as they charged the hillside
 There were some that would never return
 Some thought of their wives and mothers
 Some thought of their sweethearts so fair
 And some as they plodded and stumbled
 Were reverently whispering a prayer
 There is blood on the hills of Korea
 It's the gift of the freedom they love
 May the names live in glory forever
 And their souls rest in Heaven above.

In just a few minutes from now, the tone of this Chamber might change considerably. There's going to be a very sharp exchange of words. There's going to be a debate about ideas, and the debate sometimes gets pretty aggressive in this place. But you know, the Premier and his party, and for myself and my party, we will contest for the right to provide leadership and the right to provide government for the province of Saskatchewan, and we'll contest it aggressively. And the debate will be sharp. But you know, we'll be able to do that, Mr. Speaker, to settle the matter, to settle the contest with words, with words and ideas and not bullets. And we will be able to do that because there is Canadian blood on the hills of Korea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is humbling and it is a privilege to be able to participate in today's debate honouring Saskatchewan veterans. I say humbling because what else can you feel when reflecting on the contribution and the sacrifice made by those who took up arms in defence of Canada and of Canadian rights and freedoms and values? As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, there's no greater sacrifice to be made than to lay down your life for your friends, for your family, for your country, for what you believe in.

And that is what the individuals who fought for Canada undertook to do — to lay down their lives. Many went into harm's way and many did not return. Many did come back, and many of those were profoundly wounded in body and mind and spirit. And it is to all of those people, all of those Canadians, to which we turn our thoughts today in this week, in this year of the Canadian veteran. And it is to them that we give our deepest thanks.

At the top I had also said that it is a privilege to be able to speak in this debate, here in this Chamber of parliamentary democracy. And I use the word privilege quite consciously because it is a privilege to serve in this democratic process. And that privilege was secured for me, the youngest member in this

Legislative Assembly, and for each one of us in this Chamber. For every Canadian, the privilege of living and working in a free and democratic society, that privilege was secured for us and is secured for us by the men and women who served and do serve Canada in the Armed Forces. We stand here on the shoulders of those giants and for that we must always give thanks and for that we must never forget.

Remembrance Day, Veterans' Day, veterans' year are all about reminding ourselves what price was paid and by whom, so that we can live in the relative freedom, comfort, and prosperity that we enjoy.

During the course of the First World War over 40,000 men and women from Saskatchewan, including 70 nursing sisters, volunteered to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The vast majority of those volunteers were recently arrived British immigrants, which makes sense because Canada had automatically been involved in the war because of our ties to Britain. But they went. They volunteered and they fought for Canada and for Crown and for the country.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think it is also very important to note that another group of volunteers were Saskatchewan's First Nations. According to Professor Bill Waiser in his recently published *Saskatchewan: A New History*:

Those who volunteered generally did so because of their continuing affection for their treaty partner, the British Crown, although many were also driven overseas by reserve poverty or sought escape from residential schools.

He also mentions 15-year-old Moses Lavalley of the File Hills colony who seemed to like school all right but wanted a chance to use his training in the brass band to become a bugler. He enlisted in Yorkton and didn't tell the Indian agent on the reserve what was happening until he got all the way to England. I have no idea what he told his parents.

Alex Decoteau was a Canadian Olympian from the Red Pheasant reserve and an Edmonton policeman at the time of his enlisting. He was killed at Passchendale. Several other First Nations soldiers came home with burnt lungs from gas attacks or picked up in the trenches, and died within a few years of returning to their reserves. And I highlight these First Nations soldiers from the First World War because they're often forgotten when we seek to remember the contribution of Canadian veterans. There is a debt to be repaid to them and to Métis veterans as well.

And when I think about First Nations veterans that I know like Florence Wuttunee, Peggy Stonechild, Howard Anderson, Victor Daniels, and Tony Cote, that debt carries on to this day in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of the First World War Saskatchewan servicemen fought in the air and on the sea and were among the Canadian troops who distinguished themselves by achieving victory hard won both at Passchendale and at Vimy Ridge. Sergeant Hugh Cairns of Saskatoon was an 18-year-old plumber's assistant when the war began. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous bravery at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. On November 1, 1918,

days before the war would end, Sergeant Cairns again distinguished himself on the battlefield, though he was wounded during the action and died of his wounds the following day. Sergeant Cairns was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross and became the sixth Saskatchewan soldier and the last Canadian to receive the British Empire's highest military honour during the war.

At the unveiling of the Canadian Vimy Memorial in France in 1936, the French government awarded him the Legion of Honour and the town of Valenciennes renamed a street in his memory, the only such tribute ever accorded to a non-commissioned officer of a foreign army.

Back home in Saskatoon, Cairns was remembered in the name of a new school and the local armouries, and his soccer buddies erected a statue of him in Kiwanis Park to help honour local athletes killed in action. But the fact remains that despite the medals and statues and honours, Sergeant Cairns never got to be more than 22 years old.

About 5,000 Saskatchewan citizens never returned from the First World War.

In northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there are some 5,000 lakes, peninsulas, bays, rivers, and islands bearing the names of Saskatchewan men and women who gave their lives for Canada in World War II, Korea, and on peacetime operations since the Second World War. By far the majority of these died in World War II at Hong Kong or during the battle of the Atlantic or the battle of Britain or in Italy or in the awful fighting of the Sheldt Estuary liberating the Netherlands.

In all — counting both world wars, Korea, and peacetime operations — nearly 10,000 men and women from Saskatchewan have never come home. Each and every one of their names are cast in bronze and are mounted on stone pillars just over here in a quiet corner on the legislative grounds.

As my friend and colleague, the member from Saskatchewan Rivers pointed out a few days ago, it's great that Saskatchewan War Memorial is there as a place we can bring our children and tell them the stories about why those names are there — the people behind those names. As my colleague said, our debt to those named is more permanent even than the bronze and stone. What would our world look like today if they hadn't stepped forward to take up arms and defend our way of life? We can't know, any more than we can know what talents, achievements, and accomplishments were lost along with those 10,000 lives. But we do know we are both richer and at once the poorer for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 100 years more than 140,000 men and women from Saskatchewan have seen service with the Canadian military fighting wars and keeping peace. We already know there are some 10,000 names on Saskatchewan's War Memorial and that means that 130,000 made it home. And I doubt if there is or was one of them who was not changed forever by the experience. And I know that many of those families that sent those loved ones into harm's way have members that sit right here in this Assembly today.

In my family, for instance, there was a grand total of two uncles

and seven great-uncles that served in World War II. Most made it home albeit with some close scrapes. My mom's older brother, Sid, was a tail gunner in a Lancaster bomber, and he survived an emergency landing in England after the Lancaster's fuel line had been shot out over France.

And there is one McCall, Cpl. Roy Calder McCall, of the Royal Canadian Signal Corps that was killed in action in northern Italy, and he is still buried there, Mr. Speaker.

Word of his death got to the McCall family on the farm near Montmartre. They were in the middle of harvest. And my grandma she told the story about working together with my great-grandpa McCall out there stooking oats that were pretty green, and it was hot and heavy work. And when my great-grandfather McCall got the message that his eldest son — his first born — had been killed in battle, grandma says he went down on his knees just like he'd been poleaxed. And they wept and they mourned and eventually they got back to stooking the oats. And Uncle Roy, he never got to meet the son that he had left with his pregnant wife when he was shipped out to Europe. And that's the way it was for so many families, Mr. Speaker. That was the cost that was paid in blood and life and love for our freedom.

There are those that made it back. I have a constituent named Harold Hague who served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. He started out as a signalman when he was a teenager on a warship escorting cargo ships across the Atlantic, but by D-Day he had transferred to minesweepers. The ship Mr. Hague was assigned to was attached to the American seventh fleet, and he spent D-Day making runs in and out of Omaha Beach.

Here are some quotes from Mr. Hague that come from an article in the *Leader Post* of May this year. Quote:

"You were scared as hell . . . going into the fight that first night. But once you were into the firefight you seem to go numb and just do the things you were supposed to do.

"We arrived the morning of June 6th at Omaha Beach. It was a slaughter. It was the most horrible thing (that) I've ever seen in my life.

"The second time we went in, the hull of our ship was pushing dead bodies by. We had boat hooks and we tried to grab some of them that were still alive. We just had to do it . . . when there are guys floating in the water asking for help. We did pull a few out . . . but they died anyway.

Those are the words of Harold Hague, and more to the point, that's one part of his experience of the war.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker, the life we enjoy here in Saskatchewan and our chance to build a future here for everyone, a future free of oppression based on the principles of democracy and decency and fairness, it has been bought at a hugely high price, and our veterans paid it. Some paid with their lives, some with their health, and some with their piece of mind, but our veterans paid that cost.

Mr. Speaker, clearly that means we have a huge responsibility to them. And I would say that it is to ensure we never forget what they've done for us, and that we need to build the bright future their sacrifice has given us the chance to do. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, those of us who work on the floor of this Assembly are always in danger of having overinflated egos. The work that we do here for the people of Saskatchewan could allow us to feel quite important at times. And some times we need a reality check.

Today we have that rare opportunity to reflect on why we have the right to be here, how it came about that we have the privilege to serve the people of Saskatchewan. We finally have the opportunity to publicly thank the people who were responsible for the reality we live today, people who fought to preserve our right and privilege to govern to the voice of the people. That's the reason, Mr. Speaker, that through you to my colleagues and our guests, I'm honoured to be part of the celebrations for the veterans of Canada.

This year we had the opportunity as Canadians to thank the veterans for giving us, and the people we represent, the most important gift we'll ever have — and that's freedom. This year 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The bomb that was dropped by the crew of the Enola Gay basically ended the Second World War. Our men and women came home, and the world was changed forever.

I'm the daughter of a veteran, and I'm a daughter of an English war bride. More importantly I am the mother and grandmother of future generations of young people who have unlimited opportunities for their future because of all of you, our veterans, men and women who individually may become faceless to too many of our young people because time is passing but who in fact are responsible for a way of life in Canada that is coveted by most of the world.

As Canadians we live in a democracy that history tells us emerged usually without much effort, but its continued survival is never guaranteed. It's been challenged many times in the past including the severe challenges of the two world wars, the Korean wars, and the conflicts that followed. We must never lose sight of how fortunate we are to serve in a free society and how very fragile that freedom is.

Too often we take things for granted that are considered free, especially those of us who have always known freedom. I feel like we who take freedom for granted should beg forgiveness for being naive. Our only excuse is that we've never known another way of life.

Our generation faces a huge responsibility, Mr. Speaker. Most of us are only one generation away from knowing the men and women we are honouring today. We've seen them in uniform. We've talked to them. They've come to our schools, and they're part of our lives.

But how can we be sure that our children and our grandchildren will continue with conscious gratitude to remember those whose sacrifice paved the way for our freedoms? That's one of the most important issues and biggest challenges that we must deal with as leaders and as parents.

The veterans' home where my dad lived housed some of the most amazing men and women and held stories and memories of hundreds of heroes. Every room was home of someone whose medals hung on the walls amongst pictures of their children and grandchildren. Dusty medals from the past. Smiling faces of children today. But how many people make the connection?

I made a special friend there. Her name was Peggy, and Peggy was a spy. Three times she parachuted into France with her high heels hung around her neck. Once right after she landed, she just had time to change when she was picked up by the Gestapo. They interrogated her about the plane they had seen take off. And she told me with a chuckle it was easy for her to fool them because she was a woman. She brazenly declared, what do you think I did? Jump out of that plane in these shoes?

Too often when we think of wars, whether it's Remembrance Day or not, we firstly think about those who never came home — those who died in a foreign country away from everyone they loved and everyone who loved them.

But, Mr. Speaker, in this Year of the Veteran we have an honour and an opportunity of a lifetime to honour those men and women who did come home. They also deserve not only our grateful thanks and our respect, but also the salute of the country. Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." Those men and women who knew war close up do not forget.

I remember watching my dad stare out into space, knowing that his mind was not with his family or his farm or the conversation around him. I remember just once he talked to me about lying in a cot one night in an unfamiliar world where he had no family and no friends except the men who were nearly strangers that marched beside him during the day. He was 18 years old and he was scared. As a little girl, I was shocked and frightened because I couldn't comprehend that my dad had ever been scared. He said he tried to imagine home, what his brothers and sisters were doing across the ocean at that moment.

He was a farm boy, and he joined the army because he saw a poster on the wall of the livery stable when he was driving back from delivering a load of grain. The poster said, come join the army and see the world. So he did — much to my grandma and grandpa's dismay. And that night as he lay in the cot and questioned what he was doing in a strange battle with young men he didn't know against young people he was pretty sure didn't want to die, the only hope that he could cling to that night seemed pretty simple. If they won this war, then the family and friends that he'd left on the other side of the ocean would continue to live the happy and carefree lives they took for granted but he could scarcely remember. That was the only time dad ever talked about that part of the war.

All of us kids, all six of us, would at times watch dad staring off into space. He wasn't part of the conversation around him or the

farm he worked on so hard and he loved so much. He was having those thoughts and reliving those memories, and it would take him a few hours to be dad again.

On Sundays when some of dad's Legion comrades came over and their friends, and they played rummoli, the memories they talked about were the fun times. They talked about drinking warm beer in an English pub. They talked about dad meeting mom in an air-raid shelter. Dad talked about peeling four or five-gallon pails of potatoes for some reason that he never explained to us. But they never talked about bombs, and he never talked about death, and they never talked about fear.

When I was older I read everything I could about the lives of our soldiers during combat. I read that soldiers who did try and explain what was going on inside of their heads and inside of their hearts during war had a feeling like being in suspended animation, in limbo away from home, in a surreal world where they dreaded the mail for fear of bad news yet wanted so badly to hear from home. And I know my grandma and grandpa and dad's brothers and sisters waited with the same anxiousness and fear for letters and word from overseas.

Our soldiers were lonely in the midst of other lonely people. And I understand that's part of the alienation of war. It's been said that we only see the best of mankind at times of challenge. Well in Canada's times of challenge, the very best of entire generations were there for all of us. They were and they are heroes in every sense of the word. They deserve our everlasting gratitude.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the veterans that were ignored and disrespected by government for far too long. Our First Nations and Métis veterans never received the recognition or the few benefits given to other veterans for nearly five decades after the war. And all of us — the rest of the Canadians — never demanded that government reverse that abominable mistake. And for that I think we should all publicly apologize to our First Nations veterans.

Too many of our veterans are no longer with us. My dad's been gone since 2001. Many of my childhood memories centred around the Legion the organization that I believe made it possible for my dad and many of his comrades to meld back into society when he came home from overseas.

Grandma said her son, the young man that left Canada, was not the young man that came home. He left his youth on the other side of the ocean. But, Mr. Speaker, he also left his innocence on the other side of the ocean.

I know when I was young, his memories were too current and too painful and too real to handle alone. And he left every Thursday night for years and years to attend a Legion meeting. He travelled 4 miles one way to go to town which was something we didn't do very easily in those days. Money was scarce, and work was plentiful. But we didn't question it. We just knew that dad was going to town on Thursday night. Whether it was seeding or harvest or a blizzard, dad was going to go to town.

I understand that the Legion seldom talked about their experiences, but the bond they had was real and unexplainable.

Today our military have professionals to help them deal with the traumas of conflict. They have psychologists and psychiatrists and counsellors and the list goes on. But my dad and the men and women like him just had each other.

When our veterans came home, they brought a vigour to their lives that had been interrupted by war. They brought a vitality and an enthusiasm to their family and their community and their country.

I know how important the Legion was in my home town in Spalding. The first memory I have of Legion members going to bat for each other was overhearing my mom and dad talk about how much money they could put towards the school books of one of the other Legion member's children. No one had money, but it was unheard of not to help one of their own.

I remember they hauled grain in when quotas were low to buy the first Legion clubhouse. Their weekly bingos paid for the insurance on the skating rink and the bowling alley. When we were young, the kids of the Legion members — and since I've been elected, I've learned that many of my colleagues could be included in that group: the member from Melville-Saltcoats, the member from Canora-Pelly, the member from Batoche, the member from Indian Head-Milestone, of course the member from Wood River, our caucus staff, Iain Harry, as well I'm sure members on the other side of the House — can remember standing and watching our dads, straight and tall and proud and in their uniform. And they would be laughing, and sometimes they'd talk seriously and quietly. I think we'd wonder if they were talking about their comrades that didn't come home.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the Christmas card that came from Holland to my dad from a family he lived with for a time during the war. I wondered with almost jealous curiosity what they knew about my dad that I'd never know. My dad became a member of a family that I didn't know, and they loved and respected him.

Every once in a while something would be said that made us realize how the whole experience was just under his skin, how it could never be far from his thoughts.

I've been an associate member of the Legion for nearly 20 years. I can tell you I feel like an impostor when I stand beside Legion members as an associate in a uniform I don't deserve. I don't deserve the respect this uniform is given. I wasn't there and for as much as I care and I want so badly to understand what our veterans lived through, it'll just be stories for me. The only real bond associate members of the Legion have is our love and our unending respect for each of you as veterans. I know that Legion members were not just my dad's comrades; they were his friends. They made it possible for him to come home and be my dad.

I spoke earlier about inflated egos. The veterans that we are honouring today have never had inflated egos. For 60 years they attended Remembrance Day services and talked about the comrades that didn't come home. The rest of the time they put the painful memories aside, and they seldom shared them with anyone. They returned home and helped to build the Canada we love, the Saskatchewan we love.

We thank you. We thank every one of you honoured here today, not only for your commitment and your dedication to our country, but to each other when you came home. Our debt of gratitude can never be repaid.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Riversdale, the Premier, seconded by the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly recognize the importance of the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans for the citizens of our province and country.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

I would at this . . . Standing vote, call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 11:14 until 11:15.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Riversdale, the Premier, seconded by the Member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly recognize the importance of the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans for the citizens of our province and country.

Those who favour the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 53]

Calvert	Hamilton	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Taylor	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hagel
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Addley	Morin
Borgerson	Wall	Toth
Heppner	D'Autremont	Krawetz
Draude	Hermanson	Wakefield
Chisholm	McMorris	Harpauer
Gantfoer	Eagles	Bakken Lackey
Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert	Allchurch
Brkich	Weekes	Kerpan
Merriman	Morgan	Dearborn
Hart	Kirsch	

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — nil]

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 53; those opposed, nil.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried unanimously.

At this time I would like to thank all of our special guests . . . [inaudible] . . . this Assembly to visit today. I know there are people that may be waiting for you outside and they've been waiting. I believe there are some refreshments . . . [inaudible] . . . So I would ask the Assembly for leave if we would possibly pause for a moment to allow those guests who wish to leave at this time to leave.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Order please. Resumption of routine proceedings.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Closure of Weyerhaeuser Mill in Prince Albert

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have another quote from the Premier. Here's a quote from March 25, 1988 when he was hopping mad at the government of the day. He said this. He said:

They monitor, they watch, they task force until the problem is a crisis, and then they fumble around trying to find a solution.

Mr. Speaker, last month Weyerhaeuser announced it was cutting ties, unfortunately, with Prince Albert; announced that it was leaving 690 people out of work as a result of a decision to close the pulp and paper mill. And on that very day the Premier of Saskatchewan expressed surprise and shock. More significantly the MLA for Prince Albert Northcote, recently back in the cabinet, also expressed surprise and shock. Twenty years as the MLA in that city, former cabinet minister, former minister of Industry, and he was completely surprised and shocked by this announcement.

The question to the Premier is this: why was he surprised by Weyerhaeuser's announcement?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. And quite obviously he is inferring that the members on that side knew more about Weyerhaeuser's internal business and their internal operations than anyone else in the province, including the manager of the Prince Albert pulp and paper mill.

Mr. Speaker, we're all well aware of the pressures that the pulp

and paper industry — that commodity, those commodities — are under across North America. I don't think it's a secret that anyone understood that there were a dozen mills closed in North America in the last while and that the cost of operations is an important factor. There are many other factors in terms of the operations. I think we're also well aware that Weyerhaeuser just injected \$300 million in the operations of that mill.

So if the member of the opposition knew beforehand, perhaps he could have given us a wake-up call.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, that former minister responsible for SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] and that government, they're going to get a wake-up call all right. It won't necessarily be from the opposition. It's going to be from the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, on May 26 in that member's own newspaper, the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, there was a message telegraphed to anybody that was listening. Others have met with those at Weyerhaeuser who highlighted significant concerns they had — not just international concerns but concerns with respect to the provincial investment climate.

But on that particular day and in that article, Bob Williams, the manager of the Prince Albert mill, made a speech to the local chamber of commerce. And in it he said this, and the media reported this as well. He said simply in terms of the future of the mill and of that industry, "change or die." I think that was even part of the headline. He was pretty clear about how serious things were there and that there needed to be change or something drastic would happen.

Mr. Speaker, I assume that the member read that newspaper. I hope he would; it's from his own constituency. And if he did, what did he do about it? Did he talk to the Premier? Did he talk to the Minister of Industry? Did they contact Weyerhaeuser about what he meant by that and find out what the province could do differently? What did he do in the wake of May 26, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, members of this government meet on a regular basis with industry players, whether it's the forest sector, whether it's our resources, whether it's mining. Those are meetings that take place on an ongoing basis. I think that member, if he's going to be sincere about this, that he would be helping us to find and work towards a solution to find a new owner for those assets. And I'm certain that we will over some time. I think he's well aware of the release that was put out by Weyerhaeuser, that it was a market-based decision — the fact that the Canadian dollar has strengthened against the American dollar to put the commodities at a less advantageous market circumstance. He's

aware of that.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition can play politics with this if he chooses to. It's nothing new for the Saskatchewan Party as it relates to the forest sector. But what I want to say is the community of Prince Albert has banded together. We're going to work as a community to find a solution in the best interests of the city and of the province, sir.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, did you notice the minister didn't come anywhere near the question? The article appeared in the P.A. [Prince Albert] *Daily Herald* on May 26. He is the MLA for that area. It was referencing a plant that employs 700 — many of them are his constituents — and he didn't answer the simple question: what did he do about it, Mr. Speaker? What did the Premier do about it?

Well, Mr. Speaker, what we were doing in the province of Saskatchewan is we were gathering information from the forestry industry about what they need changed in this province and passing it on to the government.

And the minister says, well what could we do differently? How about cogeneration? How about that for large forestry plants? How about reducing the capital tax, Mr. Speaker? How about competitive dues and royalty surcharges in the forestry industry?

These are all things that the forestry industry will tell him and have told him. They've told the Premier. They've told that minister. Why aren't they listening? Why did they do nothing after May 26?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, there he goes again. I can tell you that the Premier acted as soon as this province was made aware of Weyerhaeuser's decision. As soon as the mill manager was made aware of this decision, Mr. Speaker, the minister, the Premier of this province acted immediately.

We put together a task force that represents a cross-section of Prince Albert and Saskatchewan people who will act in the best interests of the community and of the province. And I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that we are confident that a private sector investor will be found to match with those assets.

We've got a first-class pulp and paper mill in that area. We've got a forest that's healthy under the stewardship of the Minister of Environment and Resource Management. It's a great asset, and we've got a good workforce. So, Mr. Speaker, I say to you, the member of the opposition can help by putting a positive attitude toward finding a new owner. That would be helpful.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — You know, the people of Prince Albert seem to tell us from time to time that they think that that particular member has lost interest in the community. I'm not sure if he has read . . . We know he didn't apparently read the P.A. *Daily Herald* from May, and if he did, he did nothing about it. How about *The StarPhoenix* from today, Mr. Speaker, dated today?

I want to quote from the article. It indicates of course that the Minister Responsible for Highways and this task force Chair has been having these discussions with the industry about the future of the mill. But here's what Craig Fisher, CEO [chief executive officer] of a software development company, had to say. He asked several times, what is the province " . . . doing to make the mill and the business climate in Saskatchewan more attractive for investment."

Here's what Mr. Fisher said of the answer he got. He said:

"The question was skirted" . . . [That's a quote.]

At the least, he said, he wanted to hear details on actions the government is considering to find a buyer . . .

And of course he wants the business climate to improve.

The government can do some things with respect to cogeneration. The government could do something on capital tax, on dues that they pay, on roads. What are they going to do, and more to the point — one more time for that minister — what did he do when he read that article in May? Did he sit on his hands and do nothing about that announcement about the plant in May?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[11:30]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, there he goes again. The Leader of the Opposition is so famous now for quoting part of the story in this legislature in an attempt to make a story.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell that member and every one of his colleagues that this government is working hard and diligently with the private sector across this country to find a new owner. And I can tell you this, sir, we're going to be somewhat successful.

The Speaker: — Order, order, order. Order, order, order. Order. The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Funding for Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Community-Based Organizations

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last session the Saskatchewan Party raised the plight of more than 70 Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres CBOs [community-based organization]. After years of underfunding

they were raising the alarm that without action many of them faced either a significant reduction in services to people with disabilities in Saskatchewan communities or, at worst, closure.

Underfunding and neglect on the part of the NDP [New Democratic Party] government meant these CBOs could not pay workers competitive wages and faced a turnover rate of almost 80 per cent in some cases. Many of these workers are women.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us today how many people have lost their jobs and how many of these group homes have closed or face closure?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been very pleased over the years to add considerable additional resources into this sector in every budget year. Even when things were very tight, there was percentages added in that were higher than those percentages that went to other areas of the public sector. As well we've built a number of additional group homes across the province and funded the operation of these homes.

So I could say overall that we've had a very close relationship with SARC. We've greatly expanded the work, working together. And that certainly people did write with concerns about this matter but we acted together and a human resource plan was developed and is being acted on as we speak, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was a sad day in my constituency when Estevan Diversified Services suspended program admissions in September and announced the impending closure of the group home. Representatives of the group home said years of underfunding from the current government meant that service to Estevan's most vulnerable citizens was suffering.

Mr. Speaker, in a letter dated October 31, 2005 to Community Resources and Employment, EDS [Estevan Diversified Services] president, Cathy Morrell, says the wages they can pay their staff are 40 per cent below average annual employment income in Estevan, and that is why the group home is closing.

Mr. Speaker, Estevan's not the only organization in crisis. How much of the \$30 million announced in the Throne Speech will be directed specifically to SARC CBOs? Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us if Estevan Diversified Services will be able to stay open? Will the government be increasing wages by 40 per cent?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, we've worked together with SARC on the development of the human resource plan. It did include matters not just related to money. There was a whole range of things that they felt that they as an organization could do and that we could do as government to strengthen the working relationship.

I have also had representation for unions concerned that the money we've provided to put to wages has not always ended up where they hoped it would, and so one of the things we're going to do when we deliver the money this time is to be very specific about the allocation of those resources to wages.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the commitment we are making today to those agencies will exceed the expectation that they put before us.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Consultations on Locating Missing Persons

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this government has a terrible report card when it comes to consultation before legislation. For some reason they don't think stakeholders have a say. We've seen them fail with First Nations and the smoking ban. We've seen them fail with the job-killing monster, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: did he consult with all stakeholders before he wrote the Speech from the Throne?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I count every citizen in the province of Saskatchewan a stakeholder. I count every . . . Not specific groups. Yes, they're important but I count every citizen of the province of Saskatchewan a stakeholder.

Mr. Speaker, since this House rose from its spring session I have travelled extensively in the province. I have spoken to thousands of people. We go on the road every summer. Have I spoken to every, every citizen? No I have not, Mr. Speaker; I have not spoken to every citizen of the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there was no consultation with Child Find before the Premier decided to bring in a missing persons task force. Child Find has been doing this for 21 years. You'd think that the Premier might give them a call to see what they had to say. Unfortunately that's not the case. He seemed to know better.

Marg Reid of Child Find told the CBC yesterday morning she had "no idea if Premier Calvert intends on having us involved in the task force or not," but she wants Child Find to be part of it. In their 21 years of being in operation they have never asked the government for any money ever. They need \$100,000 just to start and they don't need to see a copy of the task force plan

from the minister. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he commit to fund Child Find here today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the members opposite are calling across to the government not to continue to consult. I didn't understand that that was their position when the member started his question. I thought he was asking when the Government of Saskatchewan would consult with every stakeholder, every person in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to dealing with the issue of missing persons, of dealing with the issue of unresolved homicides, of dealing with the issue of unsolved deaths in the province of Saskatchewan. This government is committed and committed through the Throne Speech with ensuring that no perpetrator of violence against the citizens of Saskatchewan escapes justice because of the mere passage of time. And this government is going to provide the resources to ensure that is the case.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

New Facility at Regina Airport

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this Premier has no plans to create jobs in the province. He's no plans to cut property taxes; no plan to deal with equalization; no plan for agriculture; no plan for anything that matters to the people of Saskatchewan but, Mr. Speaker, he does have one plan. His plan is to build himself a million dollar airport. In fact, he has a very detailed plan, Mr. Speaker. He has 20 pages of detailed blueprints for his new million dollar airport right down to the parking spots.

Mr. Speaker, why are the Premier's priorities so screwed up? Why is he more interested in building his million dollar airport than he is helping the people of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan takes its responsibility of applying balanced and appropriate programs right across the province. Mr. Speaker, occupational health and safety is one of those. And when you're dealing with a hangar that was built in 1920, there needs to be updates done to the building for the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. The member must be heard. Order. The Minister for Property Management.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition . . . big laugh — that providing appropriate work space for the employees of the Government of Saskatchewan that provide service to the people of Saskatchewan is a big joke. They talk about this being a waste of money. Well, Mr. Speaker, they should take a look at the cost of air travel. Their members that

travel quite frequently through this facility . . . People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I don't think the minister should go the route she's going, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Tommy Douglas had a little story he used to tell about black cats and white cats. Sometimes the black cats ran the province; sometimes the white cats run the province. I think now he'd be pretty disgusted, Mr. Speaker, because today the fat cats are running the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Huyghebaert: — More money for travel, more money for advertising, half a million more for the Premier's own political staff, and now a million dollar airport. This Premier needs to come down from his stack of money and find out what the real priorities in this province are.

Mr. Speaker, I can table the plans for the Premier's million dollar airport . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I would ask the member for Wood River not to be using props. And I would ask one of the Pages if they would mind picking the prop up and taking it out to the caucus room where it should properly remain.

The Chair recognizes the Minister of Property Management.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess that's a trick that any circus person or huckster would know. If you don't have substance to your question, use a prop.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, this government believes in providing appropriate, healthy, safe workplaces for the employees that provide good services to the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, do these members think that public servants don't provide good services? They ridicule. They point the finger. They take cheap shots. And, Mr. Speaker, this government will stand behind its employees, and we will continue to provide good services for the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's kind of humorous about a prop because all that government over there is doing is trying to be propped up by their own advertising campaign.

You know, Mr. Speaker, there's a private aero centre over by the Regina airport. The private aero centre is good enough for the Prime Minister when he comes to Regina. It's good enough . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order please, members — members on both sides. The member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I think I touched a nerve, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the aero centre is good enough for the Prime Minister of Canada when he visits. It's good enough for the Queen when she comes to visit, but apparently it's not good enough for the Premier and his cabinet. He needs to build himself a new million dollar airport.

By the way, this is the same Premier who closed White Spruce, the Premier who shut down SADAC [Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission], the same Premier that's making us wait till 2007 for new addiction treatment beds. But he gets an airport right now.

Mr. Speaker, why is a new airport for this Premier more important than an addiction treatment facility for Saskatchewan children?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister for the Property Management Corporation.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, in case the members of the opposition in their frequent trips on government aircraft haven't noticed, that the employees at that facility have been working out of portable trailers since about 2001, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, providing appropriate spaces for employees that work on a consistent basis at that facility . . . also provides services to air ambulance which also uses that hangar, Mr. Speaker. There are many other things that are run out of this hangar. It's not just government members flying around the province.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the numbers, in April '05 to July '05, Saskatchewan Party MLAs took 29 trips while NDP MLAs flew out of that airport 11 times, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it provides many services.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[11:45]

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, that tells you all you need to know about . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Members will come to order. Order. Only — and only — the member for Wood River. The Chair recognizes him.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that tells you all you need to know about NDP priorities. They have elaborate detailed blueprints drawn up for their million dollar airport for NDP ministers, but ask them to table the blueprints for new addiction beds and they can't. And they can't because they don't exist.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read a quote. I'd like to read a quote. Quote:

... maybe it's a disease of old governments ... [so] you can grow so completely out of touch with where people are at. Maybe it's a disease of old governments that you become sort of like an island of arrogance here in the marble palace ... so that they sit there in this island of arrogance and they won't listen.

Mr. Speaker, that's what the Premier said back in 1991 and now, and now he is the king of the island of arrogance. He would rather build a million dollar airport for himself than build addiction beds for our children. Mr. Speaker, how can this Premier be so out of touch?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Property Management.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a real disappointment when members opposite place no priority on health and safety and other services provided to the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, they like to point fingers. They like to ridicule. They like to pay a real disservice to public servants in the province of Saskatchewan and point a finger at everyone else.

But, Mr. Speaker, look at the time between April 4 to March 31 of '05. MLAs from the Saskatchewan Party logged a total of 56 trips. NDP MLAs flew a total of 28. Mr. Speaker, they should look at their own books first.

The Speaker: — The Assembly will come to order. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 1, The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 1, The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

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

The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Bill No. 2 — The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 2, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — I'd ask all members to ... I'd ask all members to come to order so that we can transact the business of the House. I'd ask ... Once again I'd ask ...

It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 2, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Next sitting of the House.

Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 3, The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 3, The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House.

Bill No. 4 — The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act,

2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 5 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 5, The Cities Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 5, The Cities Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 6 — The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 6, The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 6, The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, at the next sitting of the House.

Bill No. 201 — The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 201, the protection of children abusing drugs now be introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Kelvington-Wadena that Bill No. 201, The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Order returns no. 1 through 5.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered the motions no. 1 to 5 inclusive.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Junor, seconded by Mr. Harper, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Wall.]

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

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to recognize the fine people of

Athabasca who have given me the duty and the privilege and certainly the honour of representing the fine constituents of Athabasca.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Athabasca probably covers one-quarter of the land mass of the province, and I would probably challenge the member from Cumberland in terms of who's got the largest riding geographically. But, Mr. Speaker, both of our ridings cover half of the province of Saskatchewan known as the northern administration district, northern Saskatchewan, and of course a quarter of that land mass is covered by myself, and the other quarter of the North of course is covered by the hon. member from Cumberland.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency runs all the way from the far north of Camsell Portage, Uranium City, Black Lake, Fond-du-Lac, and Stony Rapids, and it goes of course as far south as Green Lake and Sled Lake and Dore Lake, as far east as Pinehouse, and all the way to the Alberta border. So, Mr. Speaker, it is a fairly large constituency. And from my home, my steps to the Assembly steps here is exactly 806 kilometres in terms of the mileage that we have to travel. And so it shows you how far we are from Regina. It certainly indicates the amount of space and the geography that we have to cover, and in those communities of course, or in the region that I represent there's probably 25 communities overall.

And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, the people have to understand the vastness of Saskatchewan in general. And I would point out that we all think that Prince Albert is considered north. Well of course it's north of this particular city, but if you were to travel another 45 minutes perhaps north of Prince Albert, that is where the geographical centre of Saskatchewan is. So it really shows you exactly how large and how vast our province is.

And again as the member from Cumberland would understand, representing half of the province and having two members from the northern half of the province is certainly a challenge, and it certainly is time consuming, whether you're travelling by aircraft or whether you're travelling by vehicle. And I want to point out that all the travelling that we do certainly gives us a lot of time to reflect and gives us a lot of time to contact constituencies, our constituents, and to really think what's important for your constituency.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are able to do some of the connect with the people now because SaskTel has expanded its cell coverage north. At one time La Ronge was the only community that had cellphone coverage, and now we have cellphone coverage in La Loche. We have cellphone coverage in Ile-a-la-Crosse, in Buffalo Narrows and in Beauval.

And obviously there's other places that the fine Minister of SaskTel is looking at expanding cellphone coverage. I know that Cumberland House and Green Lake were slated for coverage, and I believe they've received that already. And the list and the amount of communities receiving cellphone coverage is always growing. And, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the reasons why I stand in proud support of the Speech from the Throne.

And what I'd like to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to point out

that I want to bring up some of the points and I also want to reserve five minutes, if I may, to have a bit of reflection on what we spoke about today — people that we recognize and honour today and that of course are our veterans. And I want to save that for a bit later on in my address and save a few minutes to respect and honour the veterans whom I hope a few are listening whether they're in La Ronge, whether they're in Buffalo Narrows or whether they're in the Far North.

Mr. Speaker, right now I want to reflect carefully on the Speech from the Throne and take a bit of offence in terms of what I'd like to do with the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. This Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, talks about a wide variety of issues that are very near and dear to the northern part of our province and of course to the province as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, this Speech from the Throne was delivered by a government that has balanced budgets 11 consecutive times, Mr. Speaker, 11 consecutive times. Mr. Speaker, this Speech from the Throne comes from a government that is paying down debt, a debt racked up by the Conservatives across the way, Mr. Speaker.

This Throne Speech is indicative of the government that is responding to the Saskatchewan people's needs, Mr. Speaker, not the Sask Party needs, Mr. Speaker. This Speech from the Throne is from a government that is sharing the wealth with the people of Saskatchewan. This Speech from the Throne is from a government that is building our future, Mr. Speaker. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, this Speech from the Throne is from a government that are fighting the right fights, Mr. Deputy Speaker, fighting the right fights. And those fights include agriculture support from the federal government, the equalization fight and the equalization file and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, this Speech from the Throne is from a government that has had tax reform, that has looked at low-income support, and is now looking at corporate capital tax reform, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, what we have is a government that has delivered a Speech from the Throne that's going to add on that success, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[12:00]

And when I look across the way, Mr. Speaker, I look across the way — and we often talk about it in our end and on this side — and the most important point that I make to a lot of people in my riding is that across the way from the government of the day is we have what I would call the cranky Conservatives, the whiny Reformers, and the confused Liberals, Mr. Speaker. That makes up the Saskatchewan Party MLAs.

And I predict, Mr. Speaker, that across the way that they're going to lose it and lose it big time. They are so frustrated with the four or five different directions that they want to go, between their four or five factions, that they can't put together a coherent plan as to what they wish to do in terms of planning for the future of Saskatchewan.

And let's look at what the Leader of the Opposition, a so-called Saskatchewan Conservative Party said when we're talking about the fight for equalization. What did he say? Well if I was

there I would write a tersely worded letter. Oh my goodness, I'm sure Prime Minister Martin is shaking in his boots expecting a tersely written letter from the leader of the Saskatchewan Conservative Party.

And we listen to another example, the member from Cannington yesterday talking about, are you guys going to build a dam in the North on the Churchill, Mr. Speaker? That's what the speech throne talked about. And, Mr. Speaker, what government would build a hydroelectric dam on a legacy river? Now what kind of a thought process does that member have, Mr. Speaker?

Then he goes on to talk about, well the wind generation thing. Well I don't think you say 100 kilowatts when . . . 100 per cent in terms of energy on some of the efficiencies of some of the wind turbines. It's actually 60 per cent. So he's blaming us if the wind doesn't blow, Mr. Speaker.

So I look across the way and we can't even get a meaningful debate, Mr. Speaker, on the Speech from the Throne. What you have is a bunch of innuendo. You have a paste-it and post-it opposition. You have a response of a tersely worded letter in case we don't get equalization. You've got this logic over there, Mr. Speaker, that defies logic, Mr. Speaker.

And I would point out, and I would point out if we can't have a meaningful debate, you don't have a plan. We don't know whether you're cranky Conservatives or whiny Reformers or confused Liberals over there. Imagine how the people of Saskatchewan feel, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Imagine how they feel, Mr. Speaker. And I would point out, I would point out that they sit across the way, and they make up every story that they can find. They twist the facts, and they never ever let facts get in the way of a good story — never, Mr. Speaker.

And I stand here again today across the way from this government that is doing the best that they can given the resources and the start that we had when they left office. All you have over there again are cranky Conservatives, whiny Reformers, and confused Liberals, Mr. Speaker.

So what's going to happen is there's going to be a shift. There's going to be a shift in the people's opinion about the Sask Party. And I predict that the Leader of the Opposition is going to lose it, Mr. Speaker, because you can't hold that band together. He's going to lose it.

And at the end of the day, the people of Saskatchewan are going to look at a steadfast government that despite all the challenges that we have to face are making good progress. Not as much as we would like, but we're a stable, common-sense government that's trying to meet all of Saskatchewan's needs. And there is good success and history to prove that. And this Speech from the Throne is going to build on that, Mr. Speaker.

And I challenge those guys across the way. Last session, Mr. Speaker, they had a list of 100 ideas. And they said, oh that's a list no. 69; that's a list no. 113 — whatever the list is. And, Mr.

Speaker, they kept on adding and adding and adding. And what I'll say on behalf of the northern people is, we're not going to try outbid you on your silly list. Half the things that are on your list this government has accomplished already. The other half are on their way. So when you come along and provide a silly list like that in terms of trying to play politics with it, much of the work this government has undertaken already.

And, Mr. Speaker, I look at the North. I look at the North, Mr. Speaker, in general. And I would say this. I would say this is that whether it's cellphone coverage by a provincially owned utility, or whether it's the Northern Development Agreement, or whether it's \$36 million in water and sewer, or whether it's the band and mines cleanup, or whether it's re-emphasizing Buffalo Narrows as a government centre, or whether it's talking about the Fort McMurray road — this government has delivered in spades when it comes to northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why when you look at the Speech from the Throne, it adds to it. It adds to it. And the whole theme, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the whole theme of no one left behind, no one left behind, this government, this Premier, and certainly the Speech from the Throne reflects that no one is left behind, including northerners, the children of northern Saskatchewan. Not the single parents are left behind. Not the struggling farm families are left behind. Not the business community is left behind, Mr. Speaker. Nobody is left behind in this Speech from the Throne.

And as a northern representative I sit here and sincerely tell people of the North that we are included. Our dreams and our ideals are part of the solution here. And this government is certainly responding, Mr. Speaker.

I would point out again as I look across the way there is no question in my mind, there is no question in my mind that the confused Conservatives across the way or the cranky Reformers or the disaffected Liberals, they don't have a plan, Ms. Deputy Speaker.

This Speech from the Throne lays out what exactly we have done and what we're about to do to make Saskatchewan one of the most exciting places to live, and one of the best places to live, right across this whole world, Ms. Deputy Speaker.

I would point out as well, Ms. Deputy Speaker, I think it's important that as I look at some of the announcements attached to the Speech from the Throne, and it talks about the safe neighbourhoods Act, Ms. Deputy Speaker. And I would point out that the safe neighbourhoods Act is something that a lot of northern communities want. And this Act is really an Act where we begin to shut down some of the drug-dealing houses in northern Saskatchewan, and the province as a whole, for up to 90 days once evidence has been confirmed there's been some illegal activities happening in that particular house. And many northern communities have taken advantage of that, Ms. Deputy Speaker.

Secondly, we also talk about the seniors' gold card in the Speech from the Throne. And that talks about a health focus in recognizing seniors do have some specific challenges.

Another part of the Speech from the Throne was the important agroforestry development. Now many people in the Assembly

will say, well what does agroforestry have to do with the North? Well what agroforestry is, where we're talking about 10 per cent of the lands in the agricultural area would be used for agroforestry over the next 20 years, what that means to me, Ms. Deputy Speaker, is the fact that there's less pressure on the northern forestry if we're getting farmers to actually grow trees to meet some of the needs for some of the mills and some of the sawmills throughout the province. So the agroforestry development file is pretty darn important for us in the North, knowing that there will be less pressure on our forestry in terms of meeting the need for trees in general to feed some of our mill industries in the province.

The other thing I think that was also very important is the wind power announcement. And it pointed out — the wind power announcement — we can certainly increase the value of wind power which can heat 73,000 homes or light 73,000 homes. And I think that's important as well for the North because they really are concerned about the environment in general.

So I think it's important that people know that the agroforestry announcement within the Speech from the Throne is really important for the North. The wind power announcement is also really important for the North because all that talks about a safe and sustainable economy. And that's something this government and this Speech from the Throne re-emphasizes to the North.

I think it's important to also point out, Deputy Speaker, the fact that, in terms of some of the initiatives in conservation as indicated by a number of my colleagues, some of the value of our conservation methods, and some of the ideas that we have in our package of conservation, that has some significant benefits to the North as well.

So I would point out the safe neighbourhoods Act, the health focus, the seniors' goal card, the agroforestry development, the wind power, the *Children First* themes, the conservation initiatives — all those wonderful things in the Throne Speech — is something that the North is saying, right on; that's something that we need and something that we want to certainly support in terms of being a northern representative. So I think it's important, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we stand here — as an MLA for Athabasca — saying that we are in proud support of the Speech from the Throne.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think it's important that we point out one of the biggest and most significant parts of the Speech from the Throne was the reference made to the northern roads infrastructure strategy, where the Speech from the Throne talks about the challenges of northern roads. And I would point out to the people of the North, when the Premier travelled northern Saskatchewan, he travelled in my riding. He travelled into the member from Cumberland's riding.

And one of the reoccurring themes was the whole issue of roads. Whether it was in Canoe Lake with the Canoe Lake First Nations, or whether it was with the Buffalo River which is Dillon Buffalo River First Nations, or whether it's with the English River First Nations which is of course Patuanak, or whether it's the Far North, or whether it's Deschambault Lake, or whether it's Cumberland House, many of the leaders expressed their concern about northern roads.

And the three issues that were raised was Fort McMurray road — pretty darn important. The Far North road is pretty darn important. The community access roads is pretty darn important. And all those messages, Madam Deputy Speaker, was delivered to the Premier with respect. And northerners certainly held the Premier in high regard. And they had a lot of hopes pinned on the Premier's visit, and they treated the Premier with great respect. But they were also very pointed with the Premier in terms of what challenges the North has. And certainly highways was one of the issues that was raised.

And I will point out, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the fact of the matter is that because the Premier went out there and this road issue is announced in the Throne Speech, I am much more excited. I am confident. And I think it's very, very significant in terms of this government's seriousness of dealing with northern road strategies. And again I would point out, I would point out, I would point out that this was a direct result of some of the Premier's tour to the North and some of our continual lobbying by both MLAs from both constituencies in trying to make a big difference when it comes to the issues of highways in the North.

Now I looked at the confused Conservatives across the way or the cranky Reformers — I'm not sure what I want to call them — and their leader came out to our area. Well he had a one night visit. And he stopped in Beauval and he stopped in Buffalo and that was it. He headed out again.

He didn't stop and see Ile-a-la-Crosse. He didn't stop to visit La Loche, the largest community in our riding. Didn't stop to visit La Loche — didn't think La Loche was very important. He didn't stop at English River. Didn't stop at Turner Lake. Didn't stop at Michel Village. Didn't stop at any of the smaller settlements that dot the whole west side. Didn't seem to care about those communities.

And when the leader is out there in our area, he went and visited seven or eight locations in Buffalo Narrows. And the response was probably just polite, polite response — hi, how are you, and we'll see you later. And then he goes back and says, oh my goodness, everything's wrong. These guys aren't doing anything right — blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And you know what, Madam Deputy Speaker? Not one solution delivered to his one-night visit to the Northwest. Not one solution.

So I point out to the people of the North . . . You know, again that's one of the reasons why I don't trust and I don't believe the people of the North trust the Conservatives across the way. They simply do not trust them. They have a track record with the North and they have had no assurance from the Conservative Party across the way. And you can call yourselves anything you want, but the people of the North know that you are Conservatives. And you can change your name, change your leader like you change your suits every day, but that ain't going to have the net effect that you want in terms of confusing the North. The North knows exactly who you are and they do not trust you one bit.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would point out that challenge in terms of trusting the opposition as to who they are, what they would do, and what they stand for, because that never comes out, never comes out clear. It is now starting to grow in

southern Saskatchewan. And we are seeing a swinging of the support coming back to the NDP, coming back to the government in general, because we have been able to support what I think is a common-sense move here in terms of continuing to build on the success that we've had over the past number of years.

And I think it's important to also recognize a number of other people that have been working very hard in our region to bring forth that particular message. And I would point out that it is the constituents of Athabasca that constantly call us and give us a play-by-play as to what these guys are saying and what these guys across the way are doing to try and confuse people.

[12:15]

So I'd point out in the Speech from the Throne it talks about a number of issues that are near and dear to the people of Athabasca's heart. And again I go all the way from things like the Fort McMurray road to the Primrose bombing range to the forestry plans to the abandoned mines cleanup — all those are wonderful things that are on their way.

And now we are adding more through this Throne Speech such as the safe neighbourhoods Act, agroforestry, wind power, *Children First*, housing initiatives, and the northern road strategies. All these are very, very exciting.

And you know across the way I look at the opposition and they are determined, determined to spread doom and gloom and fear. They are selling fear. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, on this side along with many northerners and southerners, we are selling hope. Hope that we can build a stronger and better Saskatchewan through good planning, through being fiscally prepared, and certainly being innovative in our approaches. And all the way, and through all this that we're trying to rebuild, all we hear is nattering and whining and crying from the other side. Nothing seems to be good for them. And every time we have good news, every time we have good news, it just seems to depress the opposition. And you know when you have good news in Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan, everybody else is happy. The only ones that aren't happy are the Conservative Party across the way.

I would point out that, while I have been fairly significant in terms of my attack on the opposition, I think it's important that we also, we emphasize what we have done and what we are prepared to do. And that's why I think it's important that I re-emphasize that I stand in proud support of the Speech from the Throne as a member for Athabasca.

And I would also want to take a few minutes to reflect on what I think is very important, a very important time and a very good opportunity to talk about what we're going to celebrate in terms of the week that has passed and certainly tomorrow. And that of course is the Veterans' Day.

And in the Assembly today we had a number of guests that were from the Aboriginal community. And I recognize my uncle, John Pedersen, who served in the Korean war and he's a Saskatchewan Métis vet. And I also recognize Mr. Fosseneuve who is from Cumberland House, and Mr. Aubichon who is from Green Lake originally. And both Mr. Aubichon and Mr.

Fosseneuve and Mr. Pedersen were in the Assembly today and I know they appreciate the fact that there is a lot of people working to right some of the wrongs when it came to Aboriginal vets, whether it's First Nations or Métis. But they're also very proud of their country. We find many Aboriginal veterans that are very, very proud of their country and they're very proud of their service.

And the most important thing that we need to point out is that we must be constant and vigilant in terms of thanking those veterans and pointing out to them that we can name rivers and parks and lakes and buildings and monuments, we can build all these tributes to them, but what I think is the most important thing to point out to them — and I want to say this in this Assembly — is that we are very thankful. We are very thankful for your support. We are very thankful for your sacrifice and we are very appreciative of some of the efforts that you've made to provide us with a free country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, while I'm on my feet in terms of recognizing some of the veterans, I want to point out some of them have passed. Every year in Ile-a-la-Crosse we have a march, we have a ceremony, and we have a supper honouring the veterans. And some of the people that have passed are people like F.X. Burnouf, Vital Morin, Alphonse Kenny, Prosper LaRivière, Magloire Laliberte, and many others. Those are just to name a few. They have since passed on.

And one of the veterans that I have had the pleasure of joining on numerous occasions on Veterans' Day was my father, Leo Belanger. And Leo passed away three years ago this January. And he was a veteran that was involved with the tanker corps and he was wounded overseas. And we actually had . . . the family actually had the opportunity to send my father back to Germany.

And he was back in Germany visiting my younger brother who was also in the army and he took him to the beach that they landed. And he let my father walk down the beach on his own. And of course he took pictures of my father from a distance and what would I give to hear what was going through my dad's mind as he walked down the beach that he landed on many, many years as a young man.

And when he got back to Canada, of course I asked him a question. The beach that you landed on, did the landscape change at all. And he said I don't know. I wasn't on a sightseeing tour the first time. I was busy trying to head for cover so I couldn't give you an answer to that one is what he told me.

But it's important to know that I've had two older brothers and an older sister and a younger brother that joined the Armed Forces and one is still active and is still serving. That's my younger brother, John. He's going to be in Ile-a-la-Crosse tomorrow, as well as my older brother, Wally. Wally retired as a warrant officer a couple years ago. And my younger brother is still very active in the army. He's also a warrant officer.

And between my two older brothers . . . One actually didn't make the army. He tried for the army but couldn't make it in because of some flat feet or something — couldn't march. But my two older brothers and my father and my younger brother

and my older sister being all part of the Armed Forces, my dad looked at me one day and said, you're the only hippy I have in the family. But I'll point out I wasn't a hippy. I was a good guy too. And I had really debated whether it . . . I really thought of joining the Armed Forces, but I wouldn't have this much fun poking the Conservatives as I do today if I had done that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also want to recognize that we've lost many veterans overseas, and they were young. We've lost many veterans since.

And I want to recognize some of the ones that are still alive and with us, people like Gilbert McCallum in Ile-a-la-Crosse. Mr. McCallum has been attending these functions for years and years. And his nickname is Mr. Sarge and that's what everyone calls him — him and his wife — Mr. and Mrs. Sarge. And Gilbert has joined people like Vital and Leo and many others at many of the ceremonies over the years that I was a witness to. And they had such a wonderful time celebrating peace but recognizing that they certainly contributed to the whole effort of trying to keep Canada and the world as democratic as possible.

I also want to recognize Peter "Chummy" Raymond. Peter Raymond served in the Korean War as Mr. Pedersen did. And he also has stories of many of his travels overseas. And he's probably one of the most well-travelled vets that I've met over the years. He's been all over the world. And Peter is still with us. And he is certainly very, very active with the marches and paying respects to his fallen comrades and the ones that have fell since, and certainly paying tribute to those that are still with us.

People like Louis Roy, outside of . . . from Beauval, who has worked very, very diligently over the years to build his family up and certainly to keep the respect alive for the veterans. And Mr. Roy of course is still very active with celebrating Veterans Day and is still relatively very healthy. And he needs to be recognized in terms of his contribution.

I also want to point out that an old friend of mine from Buffalo Narrows who has since moved to La Ronge, Mr. Chartier — Thomas Chartier — Tom has also served in Germany and also served in England.

And if you can imagine, Madam Deputy Speaker, over the years you look at some of these young guys like Mr. Chartier travelling overseas, leaving their home, the comforts of their home — and in those days Buffalo Narrows was a long ways away from Regina given today's mode of transportation available to us — and leaving the comforts of their home and going overseas to a strange land to fight for democracy and for freedom.

And there is some very good stories here today about some of the challenges that people had. And I know if Gilbert McCallum is listening or Peter "Chummy" Raymond is listening — which I'm not sure they are — or Louis Roy or Thomas Chartier, it's important that people out there know that these veterans are still with us, that they're still in our communities, and we still have to come up to them and thank them.

So I want to in a very public forum and very publicly thank

these folks that are still with us and to also give them a message that while we say thanks to you and we're grateful to be able to say thanks to you in person, when and if — and perhaps I may go ahead of them — but when and if they go ahead of us, I want you to pass the word to some of your other fallen comrades and to some of the many other people that have left us in war or just of old age, that we recognize them. We remember them and we thank them as well. I think that message is very important to deliver.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think it's important that we point out, today we have a democratic society. We can joust with the people across the way on which is the better government. And of course in my view and many peoples in the North's view, this is the better government by far.

And secondly that we must realize that the democracy that we enjoy today was afforded to us by the veterans that fought for freedom. And many of those veterans, like I mentioned, are our fathers, our grandfathers, our uncles, aunts, sisters, and brothers. And some are buried overseas and some have been buried since, but many remain. And it's important to show that respect and admiration to people like Thomas, people like Louis, to people like Peter and Gilbert. And to say thank you, thank you, thank you, and thank you.

In closing I think it's important that people recognize that Saskatchewan is a great, great province to live. And I spoke briefly about some of my brothers that served in the army. And one of the points my older brother raised was that he was part of the relief plan to deliver food and supplies to Africa when the famine was on, and some of the challenges that he's seen with many of the people that were starving and some of the challenges that he's seen with children and people in general, that I'm sure it had a dramatic effect on his mind.

And my younger brother, who is two years younger than I am, also done a couple of tours in Bosnia. And his idea that when he came to Canada and seen what we had and all the complaining that we do sometimes, as he says, you should see some of the kids playing out in bombed-out areas with a tire and a board, and that was their entertainment when there wasn't any kind of war going on.

And that sometimes I think we need to learn that this freedom that we have and the democracy that we enjoy, that we bloody well better respect that because a lot of people paid a huge price, a huge price for us to enjoy that. And I think that message goes from all the young people that are serving today to the veterans that are buried overseas and the veterans that are still with us and the veterans that we have buried since.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in closing I want to point out — and it's important that the tone of the Throne Speech be emphasized again — that no one is left behind. And I believe that from the northern perspective that many people believe no one should be left behind as there is no time for racism. There is no time for self-doubt. There is no time for self-pity. As all there is time for is to challenge life in every arena that it has to offer whether it is in sport, business, politics, spirituality, or the arts.

However the greatest challenge that we all face is the arena of family. We all need to protect and to afford our children a sense

of peace, a sense of purpose, a sense of progress, a sense of gratitude, and above all else a sense of humanity.

And I think the Throne Speech and this government's direction in general certainly complements what I believe was many of the lessons that my father taught me, as a veteran, that we need to make those two ideas meld together to build that great Saskatchewan.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, there's no question in my mind. I stand in proud and full support of the Throne Speech. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne. I would first like to take this opportunity as well, Madam Deputy Speaker, to congratulate you on your acclamation as Deputy Speaker. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming months and years.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are now approximately halfway through what is ordinarily a four-year term, and I'd like to thank some of the people who have been very important to me during the last year or two.

I want to thank in particular my wife, Sandy, who has had the double misfortune of being married to me at the same time as being the secretary for the member for Saskatoon Meewasin who has now become the Minister of Justice. A double misfortune in her life that's been rectified by both of us being elected and both of us being in Regina. And I'm sure her life is somewhat more sane and pleasant with both of us being gone.

It's also appropriate, Madam Speaker, to recognize my constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett, who not only works extremely hard but she has dealt with many constituents in my absence and has won their respect and admiration. And I thoroughly enjoy working with her and regard her as an invaluable part of my role as a member of the legislature.

[12:30]

Madam Deputy Speaker, during this last year, we had many centennial celebrations. And I had the opportunity to travel throughout the province and participate in several of those on behalf of fellow colleagues from this side of the House, as well as some that I just chose to attend that were in or near my area. And they were a pleasure to go to and it was a pleasure to see part of the Saskatchewan attitude and part of Saskatchewan history being relived and being celebrated.

The depressing part of the entire celebration in all of the small towns was the fact that almost all of the vehicles that had come to those celebrations had Alberta plates. And it was people that had left the province and had come back home for what, for many of those small towns, may well be their last hurrah.

I attended the one in Ruthilda. Ruthilda is a very small town

past Biggar. The paved road goes up to but not past that town, so it literally is at the end of the paved road. They had a celebration that I would anticipate had between 8 or 900 people. They decorated the front of all of the buildings that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Estimate. I'm sorry.

They had done up the fronts of all the buildings. They'd repainted all of the storefronts — many of them had been closed for decades — and put plaques and markers on them indicating who had lived there, what kind of businesses had been there. And it was interesting to see people of many generations going through, looking at that.

They had a ball tournament and a large supper. They had to set up tents and portable accommodation facilities. And I was proud and pleased to be part of that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I listened to the Throne Speech with hope and anticipation that unfortunately quickly turned to disappointment. It was unfortunately a very sad collection of hollow NDP announcements, pronouncements, and re-announcements. A sad collection of promises and commitments made months and years earlier with no follow-through. It was unfortunately a sad collection of NDP hot air. Perhaps the best you can say about it is it might be a source of wind generation for electricity in the future because it served no . . . little other useless purpose for anything else.

I did notice, Madam Deputy Speaker, some borrowed ideas. I was surprised that there was a reference to no person left behind. And I'm wondering whether that was something that they borrowed from President George Bush's No Child Left Behind program. And I thought, well they're looking far afield for ideas. So it was interesting and strange, and I'm wondering what other ideas they might borrow from that same US[United States] president about the economy or about health care.

Madam Deputy Speaker, they also borrowed the notion of an Asia Pacific office, something from no one other than former Premier Grant Devine. And I thought, strange, but then I went on and listened. They also borrowed the idea of a seniors' gold card from the same person, Grant Devine, who introduced a health card with a magnetic strip with information on it in the 1980s. So I'm wondering what kind of benefits there's going to be on that gold card. Perhaps maybe a complimentary NDP membership. I'm wondering what they're going to do with that gold card.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there are some things that I'm going to be watching for with some significant degree of interest. There was a commitment made in the Speech from the Throne for pre-kindergarten and early childhood intervention. We have heard this government make promises in that area many times before. Let's hope that this time they do something different and they have some follow-through and make a real commitment.

It's long been known that early intervention is of great benefit to parents with children with disability, and in particular autistic children. We know that autistic child programming have been greatly lacking in this province and autistic children are hugely problematic for their parents. We know that early intervention, early treatment, and assistance for those children can often turn

them into valuable members of society that will make a great contribution.

I have constituents, Madam Speaker, who are leaving the province because they're seeking better programs and better benefits to deal with their autistic children. We know that spending money on our youngest citizens who are most in need is not merely spending money, but it is actually an investment in our future and in the next generation. It is an investment that we cannot afford not to make. Let's hope that this promise is one of the very few that will actually be acted upon.

I was also pleased to see, Madam Deputy Speaker, that Highway 2 is being renamed in honour of the veterans. I hope, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this highway is well maintained and is not an embarrassment to our veterans after whom the highway is going to be named.

I hope that all highways in this province will be well maintained and safe. They aren't now and they should be. It has become a joke that we hold contests for the worst highways and the worst potholes. We now have a new Highways minister that probably could win a joke contest for being the worst Highways minister and perhaps the worst minister that this government has ever seen.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have more announcements about immigration. The record of the government on immigration is one of the very worst in Canada — not just worse than Alberta, not just worse than BC [British Columbia] or Ontario, but worse than Manitoba and worse than most of the Maritime provinces. Between 2000 and 2002, just over 5,000 people immigrated into Saskatchewan. During that same period of time, Madam Deputy Speaker, 14,000 people came to Manitoba; 45,000 to Alberta.

With the resources that this province have we should be double or triple the numbers that Manitoba has. Instead we have roughly a third of their number. We should be embarrassed.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I thought as well that this government would make a commitment to creating jobs and promoting First Nations. It's one thing to welcome new Canadians to come into this province, but we should focus on those that are already here and try and create jobs, employment, and educational opportunities for them. That did not happen, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I thought, Madam Deputy Speaker, as well that we might reach out to First Nations during this Speech from the Throne and try and include a provision in our upcoming legislative session where we would mandate the treaties and treaty rights would be part of the curriculum in our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education. I did not see that in there. It would be a positive idea. And I'm wondering if the reason that that didn't happen, Madam Deputy Speaker, is because that was one of the ideas that was put forward earlier by the Saskatchewan Party and they didn't want to admit that they were taking advantage of even more of the Saskatchewan Party's platform and agenda.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I was pleased to see a commitment to deal with missing children and women. Unfortunately this appears to be mere huff and puff as was noted in question

period. They go ahead, make an announcement like this with no consultation with Child Find, an agency that has led the charge for missing children for 21 years. No public funding has gone into this program, no consultation with Aboriginal, no consultation with First Nations. We know that there is a disproportionately high number of Aboriginal women have gone missing in the last years, and we have no idea what this government is going to do or how they intend to deal with it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there are 2,000 children that have been missing in this province that have not yet been located, and we have a government that is not willing to phone or consult with Child Find to see what resources they might need. I might give the Premier some free advice and suggest to him rather than try and recreate something on his own, he might want to just offer some funding to an agency that's already there, already doing a good job, and has already demonstrated a fairly significant level of competence and capability.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is a government that's known for window dressing, announcements, pronouncements. It has no plan, no vision, and no agenda. What I would recommend, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that this Premier should sit down, read some existing reports, talk to some of the people who are already doing things that are productive, listen to those people and take their advice, and do it, and commit some resources, not just stand here and stand in front of the cameras and media looking for photo ops that are not going to produce anything positive.

Madam Deputy Speaker, what is missing from this speech is an entire lack of and little or no comment on an economic vision, a plan for growth, a plan for education, and a plan to retain young people in this province. What we have over on the other side, Madam Deputy Speaker, is ministers that say, well if they leave, there's more left for the rest of us.

I know the members on this side have repeated that and repeated that often. But Madam Deputy Speaker, I cannot think of anything more telling about a government than a government that has a minister that will make a statement like that. And they will leave the minister in the same place in the House so that they can repeat statements like that. It is clearly an indication of a government that has completely lost touch with the people that it was elected to represent.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is a government that has during its tenure lost 6,200 jobs. This is at a time when our resources have incredibly high global demand. Mr. Speaker, this is a government that does not understand the necessity of job creation or growing our tax base or growing our population base.

I grew up in Saskatoon. I grew up in Saskatchewan. I love this province, but I hate what this NDP government is doing to the economy. They have an unfortunate attitude. If you can't own it, compete with it. Cripple it. Kill it. Do anything to put the private sector out of business. They have put a chill on the business environment in this province that is going to last through the rest of our lives.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as angry as this economy makes us, I have to express some significant concerns as well with what

this government is doing in the Department of Justice. We have a Minister of Justice who is incapable of leading and unwilling to take advice from anyone outside the bureaucracy.

At least I can give him credit for reading some of the Saskatchewan Party policy books. During the last session he introduced a Bill requiring mandatory blood testing for people that are accused of having bit or spit upon a health care worker or police officer. Madam Speaker, that is something that was taken right from the policy paper of the Saskatchewan Party at its last convention. And I commend the minister for having read it and for having acted on it.

One thing that we had intended to do as a Saskatchewan Party, as an opposition party, was introduce the Bill. The government learned we were going to introduce the Bill. They had read our policy paper and quickly introduced a Bill on their own. And frankly, Madam Speaker, we were pleased that they chose to do that. And we indicated immediately to the government that we would support that Bill as it went through the House. When we were closing at the end of the last session, much to our chagrin, we found that the Bill was not going to be proclaimed because they hadn't got around to drafting regulations.

During the course of the summer and the fall, the government learned that we were talking to police officers that were going through testing for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] and a variety of other diseases. The officers were troubled. They were concerned that their health was put at risk. They didn't know whether people were going to voluntarily provide samples for testing. As soon as they learned we were talking about these people, they were concerned about the publicity.

What did they do? Quickly ran out, drafted some regulations, and brought the Bill into force. Well once again, Madam Deputy Speaker, I commend them for having taken some initiative and for following what was going to happen in any event.

Madam Deputy Speaker, if that's what it takes to govern from this side of the House, we're going to do it because we're going to stick up for police officers and health care workers. Even if the government doesn't want to and is unwilling to, we have every intention of doing it from this side of the House.

Then, Madam Deputy Speaker, there's the case of Rick Watson, a Regina police officer who was subject to disciplinary action. The Saskatchewan Police Commission for many years drags its heels and waits until Rick Watson retires. Rick Watson wants to have the opportunity to clear his name. The whole process took so long; it lasted longer than the remaining portion of his career.

He has no alternative, Madam Deputy Speaker, but to go the Court of Queen's Bench. He applies for, and the Court of Queen's Bench gives him, the only thing that they can give him. They quashed the whole proceeding, declare it a nullity, throw it out; and it's finished.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the public has not been served by this process. The Regina Police Service has not been served. Rick Watson has not been served, and there was a cloud over that officer's career. There's a cloud over the Regina Police Service that will never be cleared as a result of the bungling by the

Saskatchewan Police Commission and by this government.

[12:45]

The government is now embarrassed, and what we're hoping to see is some significant amendments to that legislation. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, if this government does not introduce some amendments to that, we have every intention of introducing amendments to The Police Act to ensure that police officers have a timely, appropriate, and fair system of discipline so that they can deal with it. And I hope that they come out with something original, that they find somebody other than plagiarizing, as they've done in the past.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this government introduced a number of pieces of legislation in the past session, and I'd like to comment on some of the Bills.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is always the intention of the Saskatchewan Party to support any Bill that is going to work to reduce crime and to give police officers another tool in their ability to fight crime.

Two of the Bills that were introduced and passed in the last session were The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act and The Seizure of Criminal Property Act. Although these Bills were strange, we thought . . . they're actually strange enough we actually thought maybe the NDP drafted them themselves. They serve laudable purposes, both of them, seizing criminal property and stopping criminal business. And as odd as they are, we're going to support them and will continue to support them for the reasons I mentioned — that we want to give our police officers every possible tool to fight crime. We found out that they were Bills that they had borrowed from Manitoba.

The bizarre thing about these Bills, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that they allowed the police chiefs to bring applications to Court of Queen's Bench to seize property or shut down a business. But, Madam Speaker, my question is: why a police chief? Throughout the Commonwealth, prosecutions are brought in the name of the Queen. Civil actions are brought by the Attorney General. Nothing against our police chiefs . . . we've got some of the finest in Canada, but where is the Minister of Justice? Once again hiding on the sidelines so that if something goes awry with one of those applications, he can say, oh well that's the police chief's application; that's something else.

Where is the responsibility on the Minister of Justice? The Minister of Justice in this province is the highest ranking justice official. The buck should stop at his desk. But no, what does he do? He introduces and passes a piece of legislation that will have the effect of passing this power and this authority to somebody else.

And what we will have, Madam Deputy Speaker, is another situation, the same as we had with Jack Hillson, a former member of this Legislative Assembly. A former member who served the Assembly well, and after his term was up, tries to go back into his previous employment with the government, tries to go back to the Legal Aid Commission, finds out that he is being summarily terminated. And we asked the Justice minister in this House, what are you going to do to help Jack Hillson? What are you going to do to protect his job? What are you

going to do to enforce the law? What are you going to do to respect workers that are in this province? And, Madam Deputy Speaker, what did the minister do? Oh it's an independent entity, and I don't want to interfere with how they work.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I can find nothing more offensive than when the most senior Justice official in this province has the nerve to stand up here and say, I don't care who else breaks the law. They're independent. I'm not going to be responsible. Madam Deputy Speaker, it's high time that this government was accountable for some of the things that they're doing.

Madam Deputy Speaker, they can pass all the legislation that they want to fight crime. And if it is even marginally beneficial, the opposition is going to support it. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, talk is cheap. So is plagiarizing from Manitoba. It's time, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this government chose to put its money where its mouth is. If they want to fight crime, put in some resources, put in some dollars, and do it. You can do the legislation as well as providing funding, but you can't do it instead of.

In 1999 the NDP promised 200 police officers. By their numbers and two elections later, this promise is broken. It's a myth. And it's a myth, Madam Deputy Speaker, that's busted. They never intended to fulfill it. They might as well, Madam Deputy Speaker, promised to pave the streets of this province with gold. It had about as much credibility and as much reality as what they've had done with that promise.

By their numbers, they're about 30 or 40 or 50 less. By the Federation of Police Officers, Madam Deputy Speaker, they haven't fulfilled half the commitment. Madam Deputy Speaker, this was a promise for 200 officers, and what have they done? About 90 or so. At what point does the public have a right to stand up and say, you cheated us. You betrayed us. You did wrong to us. Madam Deputy Speaker, the public was betrayed.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to read a quote from the member who is now the Premier:

But they do expect, and they have the right . . . [of expectation of] honesty. They have the right to expect to be able to trust . . . [this] government, to be able to trust the men and women they elect. They have the right to expect that commitments . . . ought to be binding.

"People, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will forgive mistakes; they may even forgive incompetence; but they will [never] forgive betrayal." And that's exactly what has happened, Madam Deputy Speaker. I cannot imagine something more offensive than to go through two complete election cycles, a half a dozen Justice ministers and leave a promise unfulfilled. They haven't even had the courage to stand up and say we can't fulfill it; we're backing away from it. They flounder around as if it's still something they're still fulfilling. They should be embarrassed, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker, if they truly want to fight crime, front-line police officers are one of the most effective ways to reduce crime. In the city of Regina, the police chief chose to commit a large number of police officers to reduce theft of

vehicles. During the time that those officers were on the street dealing with vehicle theft, vehicle theft statistics dropped and dropped substantially.

They pulled those police officers off that task to deal with the Tamra Keepness absence. Madam Deputy Speaker, during the time that those officers were dealing with Tamra Keepness, as they should, vehicle thefts spiked again. So we know full well that training those police officers, putting them on the task is going to be one of the most beneficial things we can do.

In Saskatoon a similar experience — the police chief and mayor in that city chose to target break and enters on property. They've made a dramatic reduction where they've chosen to target break and enters in dwellings and in businesses, and they've been very successful at that. Unfortunately the downside, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that violent crime and other crimes have shot up elsewhere. We have violent crime statistics in this province as being the worst in Canada. Our mayors and our police forces are trying, but they get absolutely no help from this government.

I'd like to read some 2004 statistics. In 2004 Saskatchewan had 15,159 crimes per 100,000 people. Violent crime is the highest in the country and double the Ontario rate. We have the second-highest rate of property crime. We have the highest homicide rate in the ten . . . [inaudible] . . . province. We have the highest youth crime rate — 19,185 per 100,000 young people. Almost 20 per cent of the young people are in trouble in some fashion. Violent crime is 25 per cent higher than any other province and nearly double the national average. We have an unacceptable level of youth crime and violence in this province. Children are recruited into youth gangs between age 11 and 13 years old. Mr. Speaker, these people are children.

We have a rapidly growing problem with crystal meth addiction, a drug that becomes addictive on its first usage with many people. What has the government done to deal with this?

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have a Learning minister across the way that has the nerve to call crystal meth the flavour of the week. That has to be the stupid statement of the year.

What does the Premier do? He closes the 60-bed Whitespruce facility, a facility that was opened by a previous government. And I'd like to read some of the things that the Premier said about Whitespruce, the only facility that would deal with this. And I'm going to read those in, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is a quote, September 8, 1987:

So Mr. Speaker, clearly we do have a problem, and clearly this is an important program, and particularly the youth treatment centre at Whitespruce because we know that young people in Saskatchewan have had to leave the province.

Another quote, October 5, 1987:

. . . Whitespruce being the youth alcohol and drug treatment centre announced a year ago now announcement I think that welcomed by . . . I don't know if there's a person in the province . . . who didn't welcome that announcement that we were to have a youth treatment

centre right here in the province.

My fundamental question . . . is: the announcement was made a year ago . . . 12 months ago. The centre is not yet open, functioning, and receiving Saskatchewan young people.

That is the Premier — the person who is now the Premier — pushing to get that facility open. Another quote, October 5, 1987 on potential for 60 beds at Whitespruce.

Mr. Minister, I don't think there's any question that 60 spaces can be utilized . . . in our province.

June 6, 1988:

There are few things that this government has done that I would congratulate them for, one of the exceptions being the Whitespruce treatment centre.

Well now that he's closed it, I wonder what he's got to say about it now. Madam Deputy Speaker, this goes on to May 19, 1993. We've got a different government in power, and he's talking about SADAC, and he's talking about Whitespruce. And that same member says:

SADAC, Mr. Speaker, was established in 1968 for two fundamental . . . One was to focus public attention on the need to develop adequate addiction treatment . . . we believe that . . . these goals have been achieved.

Well I have some sad news for that member. Those goals have not been achieved.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is a minister and this is a Premier that has done nothing to deal with drug addiction, apart from creating another cabinet minister and project hype, project nope — whatever you want to call it. They haven't created a facility. They haven't developed a plan. They've developed blueprints for their airport, but they've done nothing — they haven't even done so much as done anything by way of education, public knowledge, anything else.

Meanwhile these children are still on the streets of Riversdale and still on the streets of Saskatoon and on the streets of Regina. The best estimates are that there are 2,000 truant children in the streets of Saskatoon that are not enrolled in a school, that are on the streets. They are out there committing crimes, getting involved with drugs and this government is doing nothing.

We made an announcement in Riversdale that we were going to set up a task force to look at crime. The member from Nutana has got the incredible nerve to stand up and say, you're playing politics there is no problem. I can't imagine anything more outrageous than for her to stand up and say there is no problem. The member from Nutana denies there's a problem. Well a few days later the Justice minister gets up and at least he know what the statistics are, and he says they are at least willing to look at the problem. Thankfully somebody at least knows what the statistics are. The ultimate embarrassment is that this problem, Madam Deputy Speaker, is in the Premier's constituency. It is in his own very backyard and he wants to accuse us of playing

politics. Why doesn't he look after his own backyard?

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has a caring, concerned candidate in Fred Ozirney. Fred Ozirney may very well be the next MLA from Riversdale. The good citizens from Riversdale have a history of turning out NDP members that have not served them very well, and it may well happen to that Premier.

People in Riversdale live in fear. They can't go out for an evening stroll. Their homes aren't safe from break-ins, and worse yet they've got violent home invasions increasing rapidly. Mr. Speaker, the Premier in his own constituency has failed and failed miserably to make people safe.

And worse yet and more tragically, he has failed these young people. He has failed to supply social supports. He has failed to supply family supports. He has failed to supply the necessary educational supports. He hasn't supplied long-term facilities to deal with drug treatment. He has failed these children. He has failed these lost and troubled souls, and he's done it in a miserable, tragic manner. Shame on him, shame on his cabinet, shame on his entire caucus.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: — I move to adjourn debate, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety, the member from Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it's my pleasure to enter into the Throne Speech debate, and I do it being mindful of the time. I want to, Madam Speaker, first of all express appreciation to my constituents of Saskatoon Greystone for the support that they have given to me sending me to this Assembly now, Mr. Speaker, for four terms. And I want to express appreciation to my family for the support that they have given me in this work.

And, Madam Speaker, seeing that it is almost 1:00, I would ask to adjourn debate, Madam Speaker, and resume on our next sitting day. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. The debate having been adjourned for the day, I move adjournment of the House.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Draude	77
Harpauer	77
Brkich	77
Weekes	77
READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS	
Deputy Clerk	77
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
Calvert	77
Wall	77
Atkinson	78
Beatty	78
Belanger	78
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Honouring Canadian Veterans	
Yates	78
Huyghebaert	78
Stories of Saskatchewan War Brides	
Junor	79
Honouring Canadian Aboriginal Veterans	
Toth	79
Saskatchewan Geo-Memorial Project Book	
McCall	79
Royal Canadian Legion Celebrates 80th Anniversary	
Kirsch	80
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Awareness Week	
Hamilton	80
MOTION	
Remembering Saskatchewan Veterans	
Calvert	80
Wall	82
McCall	83
Draude	85
Recorded Division	87
ORAL QUESTIONS	
Closure of Weyerhaeuser Mill in Prince Albert	
Wall	87
Lautermilch	87
Funding for Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Community-Based Organizations	
Eagles	89
Crofford	89
Consultations on Locating Missing Persons	
Morgan	90
Calvert	90
Quennell	90
New Facility at Regina Airport	
Huyghebaert	90
Higgins	90
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	92
Bill No. 2 — The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty	92
Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	92
Bill No. 4 — The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005	
Taylor	92
Bill No. 5 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2005	
Taylor	93
Bill No. 6 — The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005	
Taylor	93

Bill No. 201 — The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act	
Draude	93
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)	
Yates	93
The Speaker	93
SPECIAL ORDER	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
ADDRESS IN REPLY	
Belanger	93
Morgan	99
Prebble	103

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier

Hon. Graham Addley
Minister of Healthy Living Services

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

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

Hon. Buckley Belanger
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. Eric Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources
Minister Responsible for Investment
Saskatchewan Inc.

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

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

Hon. Deb Higgins
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for the Status of
Women
Minister of Property Management

Hon. Eldon Lautermilch
Minister of Highways and Transportation

Hon. John Nilson
Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Peter Prebble
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

Hon. Frank Quennell
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Clay Serby
Deputy Premier
Minister of Rural Development

Hon. Maynard Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Hon. Len Taylor
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. Andrew Thomson
Minister of Learning
Minister Responsible for Information
Technology
Minister Responsible for Literacy

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Finance

Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food