



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

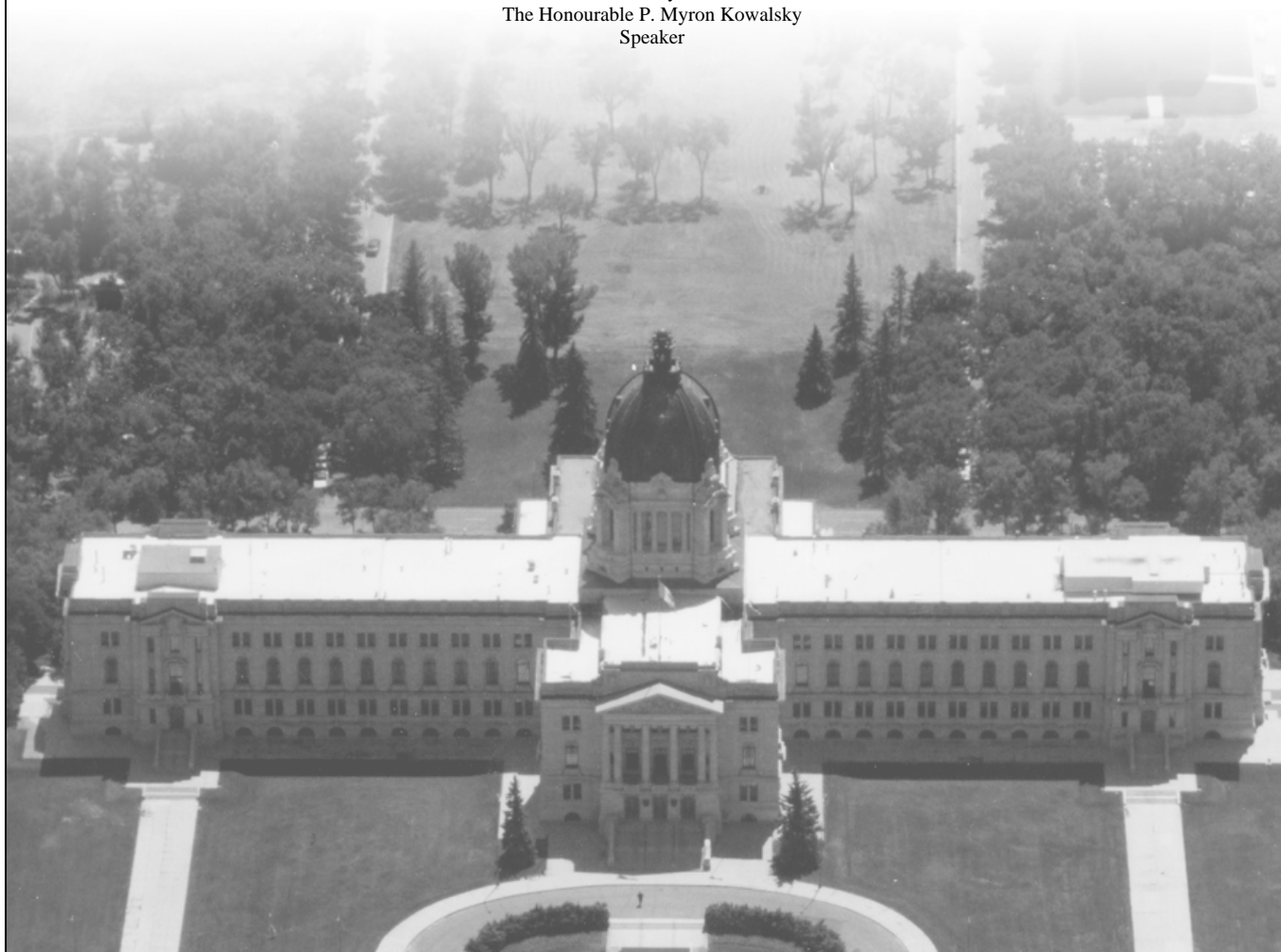
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of the people who are concerned about the marina at Barrier Lake:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to develop a long-term lease to Revoy's Marina to include a turnabout for access to the marina, a place for boat trailers to be stored, and that seven seasonal camping spots be maintained to ensure the safety of this area continues.

The people that have signed this petition are from Tisdale, Archerwill, Naicam, and Bjorkdale. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here to citizens opposed to the closure of the SaskPower office in Davidson:

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 SaskPower office in Davidson remains open at its current level of customer service available to all SaskPower customers in the Davidson and surrounding service area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens from Davidson and Kenaston. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 22, 7, and 12.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: to date for the Raise a Flag for Fairness

equalization advertising campaign, how many people have subscribed to the website to receive updates?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on day no. 13 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: to date for the Raise a Flag for Fairness equalization advertising campaign, how many people have signed the online petition?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: to date for the Raise a Flag for Fairness equalization advertising campaign, how many people have responded to the online poll?

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: to date for the Raise a Flag for Fairness equalization advertising campaign, how many requests for Saskatchewan energy accord flags has the government received?

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 13 ask the government the following question:

To the Premier: to date for the Raise a Flag for Fairness equalization advertising campaign, how many people have emailed federal Finance minister Ralph Goodale via the campaign website?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased this morning to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House two very special guests that are seated, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery. They are in the very back pew of your gallery I notice. Mr. Speaker, we are welcoming to the legislature this morning Mr. David Sutherland, formerly of my home town of Moose Jaw who is today currently the president and the CEO [chief executive officer] of IPSCO here in Regina and of course across the United States. And with David this morning is John Tulloch who is the executive vice president of steel and the chief commercial officer at IPSCO.

This afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I will have the privilege of accompanying these gentlemen to a very important sod-turning ceremony at IPSCO, and I would certainly want to invite all members of the House to join us there later this day. We celebrate the success of IPSCO, now one of North America's largest steel producers. We celebrate the role that IPSCO plays in this community and in our province, and we look forward to that celebration and to the very important sod-turning that will happen this afternoon.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, we welcome these two individuals to the legislature. This afternoon they will welcome us to IPSCO. I'd invite all members to greet these two gentlemen this morning.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition it's my pleasure to also welcome the officials from IPSCO, and I look forward to joining the Premier for that very important sod-turning ceremony this afternoon.

I don't always agree with the Premier on all issues, but I certainly agree that IPSCO is extremely important to this city and this province as a whole, so I look forward to participating this afternoon and welcome to your legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, you might notice in your gallery a whole group of people in front of the other two visitors that are with us today. These folks are the Canadian Public Arts Funders comprised of the Chair and executive directors of Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial public arts funders. The group is in Regina for its annual meeting, and they're participating in Arts Week at various activities including this evening's 2005 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award.

I would ask all members to welcome them to the legislature today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the loyal opposition, I too would like to welcome the Public Arts Funders into Saskatchewan. I'm looking forward to spending the evening with you tonight in the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards. And I'm sure we'll all be well entertained. Thank you for coming to Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to stand today to introduce to you and through you to the legislature four students who are articling with the Department of Justice. Jane Chapco, Jennifer Robertson, Lua Young-Chartier, and Max Bilson are observing today's proceedings from the Speaker's gallery. They are joined by Elizabeth Smith, executive assistant to the deputy minister of Justice.

Jennifer and Lua are the graduates of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. Jane, who grew up in Regina, is a graduate of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law. Max completed his law degree at McGill University in 1998 and, as well as being an articling student, he is a policy analyst in the Department of Justice.

These students began their articles in June 2005 and are being exposed to a diverse and challenging articling experience with Saskatchewan Justice. I am pleased that these individuals are interested in public service and have chosen to article with the department. I'm sure they'll find their time with us will equip them with practical knowledge of the justice system and how it operates.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that members join me in welcoming Jane, Jennifer, Lua, Max, and Elizabeth to the Legislative Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House would like to join with the government members in welcoming the articling students to the legislature.

We certainly want to wish them well in their articles, in their legal careers. I've been a lawyer for well in excess of 25 years, and I know full well what it's like to be the butt of all jokes and want to wish them well and hope that they can rise above that.

So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to them.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Children's Day

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, today is National Children's Day, the day that marks the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by the United Nations and the day set aside to recognize and promote awareness of these rights.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most important and the most profound of these rights is the right to play. For young children especially, play and learning go hand in hand. They may not know it, but as they play, children are developing lifelong learning behaviours and it's all part of the fun.

This year, National Children's Day celebrates the right and the need to play. This will also be one of the core features of Saskatchewan's new system for early learning and child care. Earlier this year Saskatchewan signed an agreement in principle with Ottawa for \$146 million over five years to invest in this system. As was mentioned in the Throne Speech, the plan will feature an expansion of high-quality, accessible child care throughout the province and a voluntary pre-kindergarten

program for four-year-olds.

The Government of Saskatchewan places a special priority on ensuring that all of our province's young children and their families have the support and encouragement they need to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, our children are our ambassadors to the future, and they are unquestionably our greatest treasure. It's up to all of us to ensure our province is a place that our children are happy and proud to call their home, now and in the future. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Help for Drug-Addicted Children

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is Universal Children's Day and the 46th anniversary of the UN's [United Nations] Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which says parties should:

... take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

Last session the official opposition . . . Several families came to the legislature and made a very compelling argument in favour of such legislation. This session I reintroduced a private member's Bill entitled The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act. The Minister Responsible for Community Resources and Employment said she would study the issue of involuntary treatment and report back this fall.

The people of Saskatchewan are still waiting. Parents need help. Their drug-addicted children need help, and we have a responsibility to our children.

When he was in opposition, the Premier called for action on youth addiction rather than studying the problem. He said, and I quote:

The time for delay is long past. The time for action is now.
We cannot rest while a whole generation is lost.

Mr. Speaker, drug-addicted children and their families are waiting for this government to give real hope — not hype — to the drug problem in Saskatchewan. We cannot rest while a whole generation is lost.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

St. Bernadette School Innovates to Combat Bullying

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I had the pleasure to visit St. Bernadette School in my constituency of Regina Walsh Acres for the proclamation of Bullying Awareness Week 2005.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize how destructive bullying can be. But we also know that the problem exists in different ways in different communities. That's why, when we put the anti-bullying strategy in place last February, we made sure local schools and local school boards had full authority to make their own programs. That meant individual schools with the involvement of students, teachers, parents, and the community could develop and implement their own anti-bullying initiatives, tailor-made to address their own set of unique circumstances.

[10:15]

And I'm pleased to say that there has been some really innovative things going on in schools across the province to combat bullying, and St. Bernadette School is no exception. Mr. Speaker, the students and teachers at St. Bernadette School work hard to foster a safe environment for all students. This week they became members of the League of Peaceful Schools.

I want to congratulate the students and teachers of St. Bernadette School for their commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment. I think they really exemplify what we can accomplish together when we stop bullying . . . I mean what we can accomplish to stop bullying when we all work at it together. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Results of Recent Polls

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there's an interesting poll on the CKOM and CJME websites this morning. The question is, how should the province be using its extra \$873 million? And what's the number one answer? Cut taxes. Cut taxes, Mr. Speaker; 41 per cent in Regina and 56 per cent in Saskatoon are saying, cut taxes.

Now of course that's exactly what the Saskatchewan Party has been saying. That's clearly what the Saskatchewan people are saying. But did the NDP [New Democratic Party] listen? No, Mr. Speaker, 873 million extra dollars and not one dime for tax reduction.

It just shows how out of touch this NDP government has become, which probably explains the results of another poll I happened to notice online. The national polling firm Environics recently did a poll of voter preference in Saskatchewan. And according to their poll, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party is at 51 per cent, up 5 points since the summer. And sad to say, the NDP has dropped to 29 per cent, down a full 10 points since the summer.

Mr. Speaker, the government has a lot of extra money but not one dime for the people of Saskatchewan. It's time for this Premier to climb down from his stack of money and start listening to the real priorities of Saskatchewan people.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Filming and Broadcast of the Saskatchewan Centennial Canoe Quest

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people have been celebrating our centennial in many imaginative ways, but one of the most arduous celebrations was the Saskatchewan Centennial Canoe Quest.

Mr. Speaker, for those who took part in the 1,100-kilometre journey, the Canoe Quest was an opportunity to challenge themselves personally and to travel through some of the historical lands of our great North. For the 20 northern host communities along the route, it was an opportunity to showcase their hospitality and way of life.

And now, Mr. Speaker, thanks to a film about the race created by Juxtapose Productions and broadcast by SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network], Saskatchewan people have the opportunity to witness the event for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, the film is appropriately called *Saskatchewan Centennial Canoe Quest*. It's not only beautifully shot but it also provides a unique opportunity for people to learn more about the history and the culture of the North. I think that might be the most important element of this film, Mr. Speaker. We get the richness and we get the vibrancy of life in the North.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all the Canoe Quest racers and the host communities for showing off northern hospitality at its finest. And I particularly want to congratulate the people of Juxtapose Productions and SCN for capturing and displaying so well this historical centennial event. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Arts Week in Saskatchewan

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is the provincial Arts Week in Saskatchewan. Artists and cultural workers play a pivotal role in our province — tell our stories, enrich our culture, and showcase the best Saskatchewan has to offer.

Saskatchewan is a vibrant and diverse culture that is expressed through the traditions, artistic endeavours, and heritage of our citizens. Cultural organizations across the province provide the citizens, particularly Saskatchewan youth, with the opportunity to pursue their dreams and realize their full potential.

Continued support for cultural and recreational activities in this

province, increased access to cultural opportunities for youth, and recognition of the importance of First Nation and Métis languages, culture, and traditions in the province is a priority of the Saskatchewan Party and vital to the future of our communities and our province. The Saskatchewan Party and I are proud to support this provincially designated week of festivities that provides the people of Saskatchewan with opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the arts in their communities.

The highlight of this year's Arts Week is tonight's Lieutenant Governor's awards where we will celebrate the accomplishments of Saskatchewan artists. We congratulate the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance and the Saskatchewan art boards who worked tirelessly to plan the many exciting events of this week, as well the OSAC [Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils] and all the cultural organizations ongoing contribution to our province as members of Sask culture which helped to enrich the lives of our citizens in this province and in this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Realizing Vision through Education

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech gives our vision for Saskatchewan as we move into our new century. This vision, Mr. Speaker, is of a province where no one is left behind on the road to opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, education is a key component to ensuring our vision becomes a reality so that all Saskatchewan people benefit from the prosperity being created by our growing economy and labour markets. To that end, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech contains several key initiatives aimed at providing the best possible educational opportunities for Saskatchewan people. This includes establishing a pre-kindergarten program for four-year-olds and working to expand high-quality and accessible child care throughout the province.

In the coming months we'll be building on the recommendations of the external review of the training and apprenticeship system in Saskatchewan to expand training and employment opportunities for young people in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, we will work to improve educational achievements and literacy rates through our new school divisions and newly established Literacy Commission.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is about creating a future for all people in this province, a future free from poverty, violence, and discrimination, with education as the key, with education providing that opportunity. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Response to Written Questions

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last spring the Premier increased the size of his own office by half a million dollars. On May 25 he told this House that he needed extra staff to help the government answer written questions. Mr. Speaker, do you know how many written questions the NDP has answered so far this session? Zero, Mr. Speaker, zero.

Yesterday they refused to answer 169 written questions and converted them to orders for return. Mr. Speaker, what that means is that they don't have to answer those questions for 180 days. Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why is this government refusing to answer the opposition's written questions?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. And thank you very much to the member opposite for raising this issue this morning.

It is an interesting dilemma that the opposition poses for government, Mr. Speaker, because the cost of answering more than 400 questions in a couple of days, Mr. Speaker, is an incredible challenge to not only this government but to any legislative jurisdiction within North America.

Mr. Speaker, this is a practice that we support, written questions. To ensure that there are proper answers provided, the government takes answering of these questions very seriously. We believe in the practice. We will continue to answer the questions. It just takes some time when the opposition decides to disrespect the process in the way in which they have, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, five days notice, five working days notice for 169 questions. And I want to quote the Premier's words on May 25, from page 3181 of *Hansard*. And it says this:

Those questions are co-ordinated through the Department of the Executive Council, as has been the case I believe for many, many years.

That is one aspect of the need for greater staffing resources in Executive Council, to provide accurate, timely responses to the written questions . . .

Mr. Speaker, the questions that we asked deal with fraud. They're pretty basic. They say, does the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud? Mr. Speaker, we just want to know what this government is doing to prevent fraud. It shouldn't take 180 days to answer that question.

Mr. Speaker, why is this government refusing to answer our questions about fraud?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And of course we're happy to discuss House business during House business meetings at any time the opposition wants to discuss these matters. For the public record though, Mr. Speaker, I think it should be very clear that our record on this side of this House in this session on answering questions posed by the opposition is better than anything that this province has ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, there's over 400 questions asked in one day — questions that require very specific answers; questions that we on this side of the House take very seriously. And, Mr. Speaker, we will answer these questions — that's what ordering means — but we will do so in a manner in which the public are well served by the answers that are being provided.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, spending an additional half a million dollars, increasing your budget by over 33 per cent to provide accurate and timely questions to the people of Saskatchewan in 180 days, isn't an example of responding to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

These are the kinds of questions that a board of directors may be asked to answer at an annual shareholders meeting. What controls are in place to prevent fraud? How are these controls monitored? What has been found as a result of these controls? Has there been any fraud within the department?

Mr. Speaker, this government is responsible for billions of dollars of taxpayers' money. Taxpayers deserve to know what the government is doing to safeguard their money. Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP refusing to answer these questions? What are they hiding?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I hope the public recognizes the difference between the opposition and the government. The opposition says we refuse to answer the questions. The government says we are answering the questions.

The proof is in the pudding, Mr. Speaker. In the last session the opposition asked 1,304 questions in 79 days. We answered every single one of them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the reality is this government has been hit with a number of fraud cases in the past year or so. There are allegations of fraud in the Department of the Environment. There are allegations of fraud in Community Resources. There are allegations of fraud in Liquor and Gaming. So all we want to know is, are there fraud problems anywhere else in government?

Mr. Speaker, what is the government doing to prevent fraud? These are pretty basic questions. I think Saskatchewan people deserve answers to these questions. And the NDP refuses to answer. Why, Mr. Speaker? Why?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how many times we can repeat. We are answering the question. We will answer the question. We will provide information that will ensure that the Saskatchewan people are well informed about what this government is doing.

The opposition also has other means at their disposal and they are using them, Mr. Speaker, to ask questions along these lines. The government is also working with the Provincial Auditor on these matters. And every time an issue as such has been raised either through the media or publicly, government has responded through the normal and usual channels, Mr. Speaker. We're very pleased with the way in which the process has been working from our side of the House, Mr. Speaker. We're very disappointed at the way things are being presented from the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

We will answer these questions. We will ensure that the public is well informed on these matters.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

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

SaskEnergy

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my next questions are for the minister responsible for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago CIC did an investigation of benefits received by the former president and several other senior officials in SaskEnergy. That president was subsequently fired and the other officials were asked to repay several thousand dollars in unauthorized vacation pay. Mr. Speaker, since that time, has CIC done any other investigations of SaskEnergy?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Crown Management Board.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Not that I'm aware of.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the CIC minister again. Has the CIC department, agency, conducted any further investigations of SaskEnergy? And if so, what are the results of that investigation?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Crown Management Board.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I've said to the member not that I am aware of, but I certainly will take notice of the question.

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

Wait Times for Surgery and Diagnostic Services

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Reynolds family braved extremely icy roads and slippery streets to come to this legislature from Foam Lake to tell the Health minister about the case of their mother, Jean Reynolds. Jean has been on the waiting list for urgent hip surgery and she's being told that that surgery may not be done for as long as eight months from now, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely unacceptable.

The minister on Monday said, I need more information; can you get me more information on the case? That was provided. Can the minister now tell us what actions have been taken to ensure that Jean Reynolds gets timely hip surgery?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the officials in the Saskatoon Health Authority have been talking with this family. I know that some people in my office have also been talking with these people and they are working, together with the GP [general practitioner] and the surgeons, to make sure that the proper assessments are there to have this matter dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, we end up having to rely on the professional advice from the doctors that are involved and, Mr. Speaker, they're working on it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we've talked to the Reynolds family and the Reynolds family told me they did get contacted by this minister's office. And what they were told is to start back on square one. She has already been graded as urgent hip surgery. She's had her pain medication tripled since August. She's got absolutely no quality of life, and she's been sent back to square one. They told her to get in touch with a quality care coordinator, which they had already done and described as futile. The quality care coordinator told them to write another letter to the surgeon. They've done that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this family has jumped through every hoop this minister has put in front of them, and they're still looking at an eight-month wait for urgent hip surgery. Is that the type of medicare that we have in our province? Urgent hip surgery; someone languishing in pain at her home in Foam Lake waiting eight months for surgery — is that the system that he's overseeing?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a situation where a patient is concerned about their status generally across the province and how they're assessed for surgery, and they ultimately end up disagreeing with the professional advice that they get or the information that they have in the process, there is a method of going back and getting another opinion, working, making sure that the doctor has all the most recent information about that. And, Mr. Speaker, there are often situations where that particular process needs to continue to make sure that people can go forward with particular cases.

It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the patient involved here has been talking with her professional advisers, the doctors that are involved. And it's their job to make sure that, using the appropriate procedures, this person will get the surgery she requires.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said on Monday, it is not easy for a family to go public with their health concerns, with their health issues. But they are desperate, and they need help. They contacted the minister's office, and they got absolutely nowhere — a big fat zero from that Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we hear day after day this minister tout his surgical registry. Well his surgical registry says that this operation should take place within three to four weeks, not six to eight months — three to four weeks. In fact orthopedic surgery, the average is 7.4 weeks in this province.

Is this an anomaly that it's taking six to eight months for this one person that has been graded as urgent through his health care system? Is that an anomaly, or is his surgical care registry absolutely bogus? It has absolutely no connection with reality. Eight months is far too long.

Which is more accurate? This lady's eight-month wait for surgery or his health care registry that says it should be done in three to four weeks?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the patient involved has been talking with the officials at the Saskatoon Health Authority last night and as recent as 45 minutes ago, working on sorting out this particular issue, working with the professionals that are involved. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the appropriate way to deal with this particular matter and all particular issues that relate to patients.

Mr. Speaker, what we are doing in this province is making sure we have the appropriate information about how our surgical system works. We now have evidence here which every other province in Canada is copying because it gives us the ability to take our resources that we have and make sure that we get the physicians, that we get the facilities, that we get the staff that we need to make sure that we can provide good services for people. We're going to continue to do that in a very careful and dedicated manner, using the best evidence possible.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let me publicly warn other provinces that are coming to Saskatchewan to take numbers off of our surgical care registry. When it's saying three to four weeks for surgery and people are waiting six to eight months, obviously the information on our registry is not accurate.

Mr. Speaker, another issue. Yesterday several patients were scheduled for cancer diagnostic treatment at the Regina General Hospital, but they were turned away and told to come back in five months — told to come back in April. What was the reason for them being turned away? Well the reason for them being turned away was that the emergency room was full to overflowing — overflowing into the endoscope unit, Mr. Speaker — and why? Well when the minister was asked why this would take place, why there was such a backlog, his answer was, because of slippery roads or bad weather.

Now that the minister's had 12 to 15 hours to think about that answer, or 24 hours to think about that excuse, does he have a better answer as to why there'd be such a backlog in the emergency rooms at the Regina General Hospital?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, once again we see an example of organized disinformation provided by the members opposite around how this particular situation works. Because, Mr. Speaker, what I indicated was that one factor involved the recent weather. But what we have in Regina is many medical patients that end up using the beds in the hospital. They are managing this, and they responded by adding 45 beds which they're hoping to . . . well they're planning to implement on December 1.

Mr. Speaker, it's an issue that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority is working on, and, Mr. Speaker, it relates to many, many complex factors. But added into that is of course the recent weather, accidents, other things like that which create emergency cases. But that's not the only reason, and that's not what I said.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, he said that's not what

he said yesterday. But he just finished saying it again today — that that is a factor as to why there is such a backlog in the emergency room. It is a factor such as slippery roads and bad weather that's caused a backlog.

Could the minister then explain to us what were the factors in October. Because there was a similar backlog in October, and I don't think it was driving conditions.

In October, Charlotte Henshaw of Southey spent eight days as an emergency patient. Because she was there for so long, she was moved over into the endoscope unit which was the makeshift overflow for the O.R. [operating room]. She said the patients who actually needed treatment or needed diagnostics, such as an endoscope, were thrown into chaos. These are her words in a letter that we received.

She also goes on to say that several nurses who had to work two 12-hour shifts consecutively because of short staffing were asked to work a third 12-hour shift. Mr. Speaker, the road conditions, from what I remember of October, were ideal. What are his excuses for a backlog in October?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the announcement that was made about two weeks ago by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority around expanding the number of beds in the facility relates directly to the load on the Regina Qu'Appelle emergency and all of the various procedures within the hospital, whether it's the internal medicine specialists or it's the surgical side.

And, Mr. Speaker, when beds are filled, certain procedures are rated and cut back on to deal with the beds that are filled. And that's a process that's been there for a long time. It's dealt with by the medical chief of staff and others that work with these particular doctors.

Mr. Speaker, they have recommended — and we're working to make sure that this happens — that there be 45 more beds to deal exactly with the kind of questions that the member's raising.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Utility Rates

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, SaskPower has posted its third-quarter financial report this week and profits have hit 114 million in the first nine months of this year, which is up by 68 million from last year. The net income for 2005 is now forecast at 129 million, which is up 63 million from the previous year.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question would be this: with all of these increased profits, why on earth are Saskatchewan families being asked to pay more for their electricity?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, while we're discussing the weather, the members of the legislature may have noticed that this was an unprecedented year for rain. It was an unprecedented year for hydro generation in the province, Mr. Speaker. More electricity was produced by hydro, which is a relatively cheap form of electricity once the dams were filled this year, than for many years in the past, Mr. Speaker. This reduced the reliance on very expensive natural gas, Mr. Speaker, and decreased the cost of providing electricity in the province.

Because of that, Mr. Speaker, SaskPower delayed the rate application — because that rate application was not needed in this year of high hydroelectric production, Mr. Speaker — and went to a rate review panel which has made a recommendation that that rate increase be implemented, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad the minister recognizes that they're seeing unusual profits again, which is our point exactly. SaskPower's export sales are up by \$3 million. Sales to Saskatchewan-based customers are up. Profits, Mr. Speaker, are up. Yet after a 5 per cent rate hike last year, this government is considering a further increase of almost 5 per cent again. Mr. Speaker, what's the point of owning a utility if the Saskatchewan people don't benefit from owning that utility?

The Minister Responsible for SaskPower is just as bad as the Minister of Finance. They're anxious to hang on to any money that they can stuff into an election slush fund, but they . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. I would ask members to allow the question to be put so we can hear the entire question. The member may proceed.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know why the minister is just like the Minister of Finance, where they want to put whatever profits they can into an election slush fund instead of helping the actual people of Saskatchewan by cutting taxes and holding the line on electrical costs.

Mr. Speaker, why won't this government share this windfall with the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskPower.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite seems to be confusing water with money. I mean an unprecedented amount of water behind a dam does not mean unprecedented profits. And the income of SaskPower is approximately what was forecast with the increase. The increase wasn't necessary in this year, Mr. Speaker, because of

the unprecedented hydro generation this year.

This government is sharing the prosperity from natural gas prices with the people of Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker — today — by reducing the cost of natural gas. They don't have to wait for a tax cut. The poor people of this province, the low-income people of this province don't have to wait for a tax cut, oh, some way down the road. Today their natural gas bills are lower, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, let's just do a little review of the history on this particular issue. In July, in July when SaskPower was aware that the reservoirs were full, SaskPower applied for a rate increase of 4.9 per cent. In September that rate increase is retracted. Now why, Mr. Speaker? Because maybe the government was feeling the heat at that time over a SaskEnergy rate increase. That's highly suspicious, Mr. Speaker.

Could it be, could it be that the minister was more interested in playing silly political games with SaskPower than they were in actually running the corporation like a business? Could that possibly be?

Mr. Speaker, why does politics always, every time, come first for this Premier and that government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskPower.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, another term, another term of the members opposite in government, after their terms in the '80s, and there wouldn't have been a SaskPower to buy electricity in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot about tax cuts and what tax cuts people might get after the end of this tax year if we adopted the opposition proposals how to deal with this money that's presently been provided through natural gas prices and oil prices to this Government of Saskatchewan. And none of that money would have been available until the end of this tax year, the end of the filing of this tax year.

This money is being made available to Saskatchewan citizens on their natural gas bill. It's being made available today throughout this cold winter, Mr. Speaker, to every citizen — whether they pay taxes or not — to heat their homes. They're getting the benefit of this money, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 21 — The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 21, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 21, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel 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? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 22 — The Forestry Professions Act

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 23 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2) 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. Van Mulligen: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 202 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Set Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2005

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Southeast, that Bill No. 202, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (Set Election Dates) be now read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that Bill 202, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Set Election Dates) 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? The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased once again on behalf of the government to stand and order questions 170 through 434 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 170 to 434 inclusive

have been ordered.

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.]

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very pleased today to enter the debate on the Throne Speech. And before I begin, I'd like to congratulate the member from Regina Wascana on her new position as Deputy Speaker and I hope she enjoys that position.

I'm very pleased to enter this debate on behalf of the constituents from Humboldt. And I want to thank those constituents for putting their trust on me to represent them and their issues here in this legislature.

I also want to take a moment or two to thank my family — my three daughters and my husband, Larry. It was interesting. I was thinking, when I was first elected, those young girls were ages 10, 13, and 15. And now the 15-year old recently turned 22; the 13-year old will be 20 next week; and my 10-year old will be 17 in less than a month. So time does fly.

I'm going to begin, Mr. Speaker, with a quote, and the quote is this:

The needs of the farm families of Saskatchewan, the needs of rural Saskatchewan are well-known in this House. We have a rural Saskatchewan on the brink of economic collapse. We have quotas on our universities, young people being denied access to education. We have long outstanding matters of injustice involving our native and Metis people. We have increasing demands upon our health care system. We have roads that have gone to pot, Mr. Speaker. We have small businesses that are simply trying to survive month . . . [after] month. We have municipal governments struggling to keep afloat, unaddressed needs from every corner of our province.

That quote, Mr. Speaker, very aptly describes the province today. But it's not a quote from the last year. In fact it's not even a quote from the last five years. It's a quote from December 11, 1991, and it's a quote from our Premier.

So considering that he recognized all of those issues and concerns 14 years ago, let's just see if he's addressed any of them in the 14 years that his government has been in power. And I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, — or shouldn't say I would like to say — it's sad to say in the last 14 years none of those issues have been addressed, and many of them have deteriorated quite considerably.

I'm going to begin, Mr. Speaker, by talking about agriculture. I

didn't join the agriculture debate, although there can be no question agriculture has always been very near and dear to my heart. So I would like to address that first in my Speech to Throne.

The producers of the province are realizing the third year of negative margins. And there was a time when negative margins were unheard of. If a producer had negative margin, it was because something catastrophic had happened on his farm or he was a really, really bad manager. Now it's just common. Negative margins are common. And the talk is just how negative, negative can be.

And we have producers, Mr. Speaker, that are more innovative than they have ever been. They're working harder than they have ever, ever worked. They're better managers than they have ever, ever been. They're better managers than they have ever been, and yet they're realizing negative margins, and they don't have a clue where to turn.

On April 6, 1988, the Premier said this:

Mr. Speaker, maybe these members opposite have forgotten, or perhaps they never knew, perhaps they never knew what it's like to farm with old machinery, and just to go from repair to repair . . . Perhaps they've forgotten [or] perhaps they've never known what it's like to find work off farm, any kind of work, just to hold the farm together.

Well my question has to be, did the Premier ever know? Did he know what he was talking about in 1988 when he said that? Because we know more farmers and their wives have off-farm income than ever before, than in ever the history of the province. We know that the farmers, the producers of this province, they're farming their equity. They're farming their equity. They are not replacing their machinery. They're going from repair to repair.

If he was so understanding in 1988 of the desperation on the farms of this province, why can he not understand it today? What happened in those 14 years? What has he forgotten?

The best he can do in his Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is to promise that he would not hold the producers hostage this year, and he's going to live up to a commitment, a commitment of which he's a signatory, and he's going to fund CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization].

We have an Agriculture minister and a Deputy Premier that have said on record on a few occasions, CAIS and crop insurance will address all these needs. It's going to look after it. That's what we have, and it will see that the farmers will be okay. But we know that CAIS isn't working. We know it's inadequate. We know it's a program that's allowing too many producers to fall through the cracks, and we know that it takes too long for the producers to get their money through CAIS. And we know that CAIS is not bankable.

We know the federal government is responsible for looking after changes to CAIS, although what can this government, what can this provincial government do to help the producers? Well they can negotiate on the committee that's reviewing CAIS. What changes are they asking for? What are they asking

for to make it a better program? And we've never heard this minister once say, this is what needs to be changed.

We know that this government could address crop insurance. They have decimated the coverage. They have increased the premium. They've made it ridiculously unaffordable. We know that they could do that. But they're not willing to do that.

[11:00]

We know that they could look after the property taxes—the property tax rate of this province. We have the highest property taxes in the nation. They control that, but they choose to absolutely ignore it.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard on many occasions different members from the government side talk about a canoe trip on Churchill River, and it sounded very exciting, and I am sure it was absolutely beautiful and a great event. And they also talk about how no one was left behind. Well I would like to say that there can be no question that Saskatchewan people are kind. They're generous. They have great sportsmanship. They're compassionate. They're caring. But how can you take this and compare it to issues that are affecting their livelihood?

Mr. Speaker, if my farm — heaven forbid — goes into receivership, I don't want to take my neighbour with me. I don't want to take my neighbour with me into receivership. I want him to succeed. I want him to succeed to help keep my community going even if I can't. So to compare it to the livelihood and the issues that are facing the people of the province is a little silly, and it's belittling the importance of the issues of the province.

And I would also like to say that if the producers of this province lashed themselves together, we have an Agriculture minister that'd be cutting those lashes so quick and letting them drift because he doesn't want these programs to be all that great because they're going to have to come up with money to fund them, and they seem to have a lot of difficulty coming up with money to fund any of the programs. There's always excuses. We have to money. We have no money.

The Premier talks in his Throne Speech that no one's left behind. Well the producers of this province are left behind. They're left behind other people in the province, but they're also left behind other producers in the nation because we are realizing the lowest incomes in the entire country.

Let's take a minute, Mr. Speaker, and talk about health care. It didn't surprise me in the least that in the Throne Speech there was yet another mention of the Humboldt hospital. I actually would have been surprised if it wasn't there. Building a new hospital in Humboldt has been, you know, a great political lever for this Premier and his minister. It's actually offered the Premier and his Health minister more photo ops than Britney Spears on a really good day.

So I don't know the count of how many times the Humboldt hospital has been announced, but I guarantee that it's going to be three to four times in the election year and once or twice in between. And yet after all the times it's been announced, the sod has never been turned. It's never actually happened. And

they've announced it so many times that in Humboldt and the surrounding community it's become a joke. When they hear that the Premier and his minister is coming, it's like oh yes, he's going to announce the hospital again; I wonder. And I'm sure they'll hang on to this until the next election because they're going to want to use it again.

But what else did they have to say about health care?

The Speaker: — Order please. I would ask members, I would invite members to take their side conversations to behind the bar. That's what these places are provided for so that the member from Humboldt can speak unimpeded. Recognize the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One last comment on the Humboldt hospital. If they built one floor for every time they announced it, it would be the highest building in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It would be the highest building in Saskatchewan.

So what else does the Premier have to say about health care in his Speech from the Throne? Well he re-announces new services for midwifery. He re-announces the children's hospital in Saskatoon, which was a great Sask Party idea. He re-announces an academic health sciences centre at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], which was another great Sask Party idea. And he re-announces that he's going to shorten the surgical waiting list, which he said a number of times. But there's no action behind the words because we still have the longest waiting list in the nation.

And finally he re-announces the Premier's Project Hope, the substance abuse plan that he was forced into — he was literally forced into — by the Saskatchewan Party, a plan that has no money for treatment beds but it does have money for a new ministry and all the expenses that that involves.

In March 1993 the Premier said this, and I quote:

... the motives of this government are very clear and that is to provide ... the people of Saskatchewan, including the young people of Saskatchewan, the best addictions treatment that we can provide given the fiscal circumstance that we're in.

Well we just found out from the Finance minister that we're in the best fiscal circumstances that we've been in for a very long time. So what happens to the Premier's words now? They're obviously quite meaningless because there is no treatment being offered. There's a new ministry. There's all the expenses with the new ministry. But there is nothing in the Throne Speech that suggests there's going to be treatment beds for another two years.

So who's being left behind, Mr. Speaker? Kids with addictions are being left behind, Mr. Speaker. They're being left behind. They're in those canoes. They are incapacitated. They do not even know how to use the paddle. They're heading for some deadly rapids. They're heading for some deadly rapids. And is that government going to help them out? Is it going to lash on to them and help them out? I don't think so. They're saying too bad; just keep floating down that river. You are being left

behind. The children of our province are being left behind.

So let's go to education. What about education? In the first quote that I used when I started speaking, Mr. Speaker, was ... the Premier said, "young people are being denied access to education." So there's been 14 years. In 14 years what's happened in that area? It's gotten worse.

The waiting list to get into many of our education programs, such as the medical laboratory technologist program, is up to 10 years. That's unheard of, that's unheard of, Mr. Speaker. The pharmacist program has been 80 to 90 seats, and yet up to 600, in fact more than 600 students apply for that program each year. We have students who obviously want to train in these medical areas and also in other programs, and they're being denied access to the education system that we have here in the province.

Where was the Premier's vision in this Throne Speech for improvement on that? We have the students who want to. They're willing. They want to train. We're saying there's shortages in a lot of areas. And yet we have no plan on how we're going to address this. So who's left behind, Mr. Speaker? The students are left behind. The students are left behind, or they leave to train elsewhere which happens only too often. They leave the province because they are accepted in other provinces into the programs that they want to take.

Let's take a minute and talk about small business. Fourteen years ago the Premier said this, "We have small businesses that are simply trying to survive month ... [after] month." So what's improved in the last 14 years? Well the last statistics that I could find out were from 2003. And at that time there were 1,900 fewer businesses in our province than in 1991 when the Premier recognized there was a problem. He said there was a problem.

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Once again we're into a situation where we've got a couple of side debates going on. And I would ask members to respect the right of the member who's been given the floor to speak unimpeded. Thank you. The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously, we have over 1,900 fewer businesses in our province than we did in 1991 when the Premier said those words. So what has he done? What has he done in 14 years to improve? He hasn't. It's got worse. It's got worse.

And the impact of having 1,900 or more fewer businesses in our province is huge. It explains why Saskatchewan job creation rate was just over 2 per cent between 1998 and 2003, which is way behind the national average. The national average was 11 per cent.

It explains why private sector employment grew by only point three per cent; that's it, last year in Saskatchewan. It explains why in the month of October, 6,000 jobs were lost. It explains why between 1992 and 2003, Saskatchewan lost 60,000 people to net out-migration and 40,000 of those people, Mr. Speaker, were between the ages of 15 and 29. They were looking for opportunity; they were looking for jobs, and they didn't find it here because we keep losing the businesses that create jobs.

It explains why, Mr. Speaker, in March 2004, over 23,000 people visited food banks in the province which is an increase of 37 per cent from March 2003. That's shameful. That is absolutely shameful in a province that is so rich with resources.

But people need jobs. They need opportunity. They need those. And under this Premier and his NDP government, we're bleeding the businesses from our province. We're bleeding young people from our province, and we're bleeding the working people from our province.

Who's left behind? Who's left behind — the workers, the workers, the workers who want a good opportunity. We have low-end jobs. What about the high-end jobs? What about keeping the businesses in our province that provides those high-end jobs?

So in 14 years, Mr. Speaker, what has this government accomplished? I touched on agriculture, and we're failing. Health care, we're failing. Education, we're failing. The economy, we're failing. What have we done? What have they done in 14 years since the Premier made the comment that I quoted at the beginning of my speech?

In May 1991 the Premier also said this, he said:

... maybe it's a disease of old governments that 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 of the legislature so that they [can] sit there in this island of arrogance and they won't listen.

Our Premier and his government have caught that disease. They've caught the disease that he recognized 14 years ago. Now he has it. And one of the symptoms is the culture of entitlement.

It's interesting that the Premier has no problem approving huge increases to the communication budget so that they can keep re-announcing their old ideas. It's interesting that the Premier has no problem to approve huge increases to the travel budget. The Premier has no problem approving money for new ministries. He has no problem approving money for extra pay for all of the ministers, except for the one that we identified that's been left behind. He has no problem approving money for a new airport for himself and his cabinet.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I've said it in the past; I don't have a long political history and background. I can't quote who said what over the history of politics because I wasn't a follower. I've never read anything, quite frankly, on Tommy Douglas. But I did hear a commentary of his on the radio one time where he had this little comical story of black cats and white cats and sometimes the black cats were in government and sometimes the white cats were in government. And I can't remember which cat was supposed to be which because I'm not that familiar with the story. But I can almost say right now that even Tommy Douglas would know we have fat cats in government right now. That's who's in government right now.

Mr. Speaker, this Speech to the Throne is completely lacking in any kind of vision. It's completely lacking in any innovative

new ideas, and it will do nothing to help the real people of this province. I cannot support the motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand before the Assembly today and enter into the throne debate. I want to be perfectly clear, Mr. Speaker; I will not be supporting the Throne Speech. I believe it lacks vision, and I believe it's time that the government give a vision of where this province is going, especially in a year when the government has so much and the citizens of Saskatchewan have so least.

Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to thank . . . the appointment of the member from Regina Wascana Plains on her appointment. I believe it'll be the first time that a woman has taken that position and I congratulate her.

I also want to thank the citizens of the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, all the constituents who have given me a vote of support in representing them here in this legislature. And I am proud to represent them.

I also want to thank my wife Sheila for her support. I also want to thank my family, my sons Micky, Deny, Newton, and his wife Tanya, and of course my two grandchildren, Courtney and Shaylynn, who, as most grandparents will say, they are the love of our lives.

[11:15]

I want to talk a little bit, Mr. Speaker, about the celebration on November 11 which was Remembrance Day. I was at the Remembrance Day service, and I was intrigued in some of the comments made by some of the veterans there.

As you know, this year is the Year of the Veteran. The veteran in this province give this province what it is. I'm also reminded of the fact of this year being our centennial celebration — 100 years. And we look at what has passed in the last 100 years and what will be before us in the next 100 years.

And I'm reminded, Mr. Speaker, of a remark made by one of the veterans there who said his grandfather went to war to fight for this country, to fight for democracy, to fight for freedom. I wonder today if he was living and he sees what this government has accumulated in revenue and what they are doing with that today . . . And I'm speaking about farming and agriculture, Mr. Speaker, because this veteran was a farmer. In fact most of the veterans that were veterans that went to war in early ages were off the farm.

In a year when we are celebrating the veterans who are most of them farmers, we look at the money this government has taken in and then we look what this government has given agriculture.

In this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, agriculture was hardly mentioned. They say we are going to fund the CAIS program. Well that should be a given. They signed it, Mr. Speaker.

There's nothing else in this Throne Speech that talks about agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the crisis on the farm . . . and I hear it every day because five of my seven brothers are farmers. My constituency is basically agriculture. My constituency is also business, and it's a known fact, Mr. Speaker, that when agriculture is not booming, neither is business. One reflects on the other.

I've often said in my speeches the two driving wheels of our economy is first and foremost agriculture and secondly business, whether it's big or small. Well they're both hurting. And this government with the windfall money they have today still does not reflect on the problem that we need to do something with ag and our business.

Mr. Speaker, in agriculture . . . I have a gentleman that come up to me from Canwood area, and he said, you know something, Mr. MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]? If you ever have a chance for the Sask Party to become government — I want to welcome the Deputy Speaker to her Chair — if we as a Sask Party have a chance to become government, you as farmers, you must do something for the farmers.

So I asked this gentleman, what is the number one thing that you wish to see us change to help the farmers? And do you know what he said, Madam Speaker? I think he said this as a joke. He said, I want you to change the marital laws. And I thought I should never go down this road. So I said to him, why do you want the marital laws changed? And he said, I have a wife but I need two more wives. I need three wives. And I said, look sir, you can't look after the one you have at home; why would you want two more wives? And he said, that's my problem. The one that I have that should be at home working is off the farm working, and I need two more wives out working to keep this darn farm going.

Now, Madam Speaker, that is a joke, but there's a lot of truth to what he said. Every farm today has one or both spouses working off the farm to keep the darn farm going.

So it brings me to a point, Madam Speaker. On Monday the Throne Speech was delivered last week. On Tuesday we on this side of the House thought that was a good time to have an agricultural debate. But the member from North Battleford stood in his place and said no. Now I wonder if the farmers around North Battleford got to him, because this week we again decided to have an emergency debate on agriculture, and he said yes, and I thank him for that. And I thank the NDP caucus for allowing that to happen.

We all took our turns talking about agriculture. There was a lot of good speeches — a lot of good speeches from this side, Madam Speaker, because a lot of us are from the agriculture sector. We still farm. I still have a farm. We know what trouble it is on the farm. We've had years after year after year of trouble on the farm, and I'll tell you, Madam Speaker, it is crucial that our government of today, with the windfall money they have, start addressing the farm problems. Otherwise there's going to be no farms left.

Madam Speaker, there was many of us that took our turns speaking about agriculture in the agriculture debate. But I was

somewhat surprised and I was thoroughly appalled when the Deputy Premier stood and took his place to talk about agriculture. Now, Madam Speaker, at one time he was the Ag minister. And I can say that a lot of people in the province of Saskatchewan that are from ag-related areas would say to that member from Yorkton, that he's one of the few on that side that has any clue about farming. And yet, Madam Speaker, he took his turn in the debate and went on a political rant about the Saskatchewan Conservative Party. He mentioned very little about the problems relating to agriculture and the problems relating to his constituency of Yorkton.

Now I can guarantee, Madam Speaker, the members that are farmers in that area will send him a strong message in the next election when that election comes, and I hope it's soon. He won't be here to represent that area. It will be represented by some member from this side.

If there ever was a chance, Madam Speaker, for a person that knows ag from that side of the House to deliver a speech to say what plight we have in Saskatchewan with our farming situation, that was the time, Madam Speaker — not to play political politics in this House. When he had a chance to tell the people what was going on, he chose not to. And time will tell him and the members at Yorkton — the constituents at Yorkton — exactly what kind of a spokesperson we have for an industry in this province that's in desperate need of help.

Madam Speaker, I also want to talk a little bit about in the Throne Speech about the northern roads and the commitment by this government to start looking at building northern roads. We have mentioned that over and over that we need to do something with the North. If we're going to look at industry and economic development in the North, we need infrastructure. You start with infrastructure by building some roads.

But, Madam Speaker, I was listening to the member from Humboldt in talking about the hospital. I believe it's six times now that hospital has been announced. So I'm wondering, Madam Speaker, in regards to northern roads, am I going to live long enough to see any work done in the North as far as roads? They talk, they talk, they talk. We're going to, going to, going to. Maybe it's time for them to do something and that is what the northern people are asking.

The Deputy Speaker: — I ask the members to respect the debater, the member who's on his feet. Thank you.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. As far as northern roads, Madam Speaker, I don't think that they are going to do anything for years to come as far as northern roads. It will be this side of the House, it will be the Saskatchewan Party, that has a vision for this province and has vision to include the North, to do something as far as building roads and getting the North going.

Madam Speaker, I also want to talk about the plight that's in the city of Prince Albert with Weyerhaeuser and the closing of the mill. I was also somewhat appalled by the speech delivered by the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote in regards to Weyerhaeuser's plight and the city of Prince Albert.

As he said, it's not just the 700 jobs that's going to be affected;

it's the spinoff from that, Madam Speaker. There are countless of jobs out there that will be lost. But it's a little too late for the government to stand in its place and say that, we have to help, when they could have helped before.

One thing comes to mind, Madam Speaker, that I believe this government should have addressed, and that was the capital tax. We on this side of the House are going to address that. But I believe it's time that the government of the day, the NDP government, addressed the capital tax issue. That is number one of the things that they could have done to help the situation in Prince Albert and Weyerhaeuser.

Number two, Madam Speaker, is property tax, the education portion of property tax. Now I don't know, Madam Speaker, how much Weyerhaeuser pays as far as tax; I don't. But I'm going to guess that it's probably in the million, or millions. But it's a large amount. Now if they would address the issue of property tax, would that have helped Weyerhaeuser stay in this province and keep the mill going? You bet it would have.

The third one, Madam Speaker, is the cogen project that Weyerhaeuser proposed. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know because I live in a constituency close to the forest fringe and affiliated with forestry and Weyerhaeuser that people from time to time have condemned Weyerhaeuser for leaving too much wood and product in the bush. Had they been allowed to bring that out and use this in this cogen operation, they could have facilitated the power for their whole project in Prince Albert. They also could have produced enough power to facilitate the city of Prince Albert.

But what did this government say to Weyerhaeuser when they were asked to look at this? They said, no. They said, no, you cannot do that. Now I know for a fact, talking to the spokesperson for Weyerhaeuser Wayne Roznowsky, had these three issues been addressed by this government, Weyerhaeuser could have been here today yet.

Now I'm wondering, Madam Speaker, if the Premier in his wisdom, when he decides to enlarge his cabinet and take the member from P.A. Northcote and put him into cabinet with the history that that member has and with the situation that we have in Prince Albert with Weyerhaeuser, I'm wondering what the member from P.A. Northcote is planning to do. Because I believe he is head of that board.

And many people have phoned me, many constituents have phoned and said, why are we doing this? First of all, why is that member in cabinet? Why is he allowed to take this portfolio? Maybe, Madam Speaker, maybe there's a hidden agenda and maybe the government plans to buy the mill. Is that the case? I ask this question: is the government planning to buy the mill?

Madam Speaker, we have a situation in Meadow Lake right now with the mill there. It's a white elephant. Taxpayer dollars go into that mill every day, and yet we haven't learned from this situation? This government hasn't learned from that? So that begs the question again, Madam Speaker: is the government looking at buying the P.A. mill? I hope not, Madam Speaker. We've learned from one; we don't need a second one.

Madam Speaker, I have another incident in my constituency

and that is regarding highways. I've asked the member from Meadow Lake, who was the Highways minister, in regards to the bridge at Petrofka regarding the guardrail.

And it comes to light, Madam Speaker, because last session when I posed this question to him again for the second time . . . and I remember his comment was, if we have funding we will seriously look at it. Because from a safety perspective, Madam Speaker, it needs to be addressed.

Well I believe with the amount of revenue that have come to the province now, I believe it's time that we can look at it, look at it from a safety perspective. But I guarantee, Madam Speaker, that it'll be left on the agenda until we form government and we look at those safety issues.

[11:30]

Madam Speaker, I also have another problem in the constituency and that is with STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. Now the member from Meadow Lake was also the minister for STC. And we have a problem dealing with STC with busing from Prince Albert through to Meadow Lake. And now the new STC minister is the member from P.A. Northcote. So I hope the two ministers, the former and the one now, can get together and try and rectify the problem that we have.

The main issue, Madam Speaker, is the fact that the operator of the bus service from P.A. through Shellbrook, through Spiritwood, Big River, and up to Meadow Lake is a private owner. Is that why we have problems? Maybe it's because this government doesn't like private ownership. Is that a problem? This issue has been going on for five years. And nothing's been done.

I have a letter, I have a letter from the town of Spiritwood. And I won't read the whole letter, Madam Speaker, because I don't have enough time. But I just want to read an insert, Madam Speaker, that and I quote:

The Council of [the] Town of Spiritwood would like to inquire as to why there is no bus service to the Town of Spiritwood [and surrounding area]. The Town of Spiritwood [and area] is currently the commercial hub of a large surrounding area yet we are not serviced by the provincially owned bus service network [to date].

Madam Speaker, I hope the ministers are listening because we need this problem addressed. If we want to see that part of my constituency prosper, we need a proper bus service.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, before I take my place, I want to address a problem and that's with the Shellbrook hospital. The Shellbrook hospital has an issue regarding the building of a new hospital facility of some sort. They have been raising funds for years now. And I think they have raised a total of just over \$1 million.

And I want to personally thank the involvement of Richard Porter, who is a great volunteer from that area who has put forth time and effort to raise funds for this project — a well-needed project.

I want to ask the Minister of Health, where is that project sitting on a priority list? Is it going to be in the near future, the far future, or never? The members from Shellbrook constantly have raised questions to me and have constantly wrote letters to the Minister of Health asking where it sits. And I would hope, Madam Speaker, that the minister gets back to the people of Shellbrook, the town of Shellbrook and surrounding area, to let them know where they sit on this project.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to say that I will not be supporting the Throne Speech. I'm reminded of the fact that the letters CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] were changed to NDP. And I'm also reminded of the fact that NDP stands for New Democratic Party. I'm wondering, Madam Deputy Speaker, where "d" for democracy comes into their type of government. I look at this Throne Speech. I look at the vision that this Throne Speech does not give. And I look at the letters NDP, Madam Speaker, and I believe it relates to this Throne Speech because there's no darn plan. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton, the Deputy Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased this morning to rise and speak on the Throne Speech. I want to first, Madam Deputy Speaker, congratulate you in your recent election to the Chair. We know, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is an unprecedented occasion for us in our province. And we very much, very much want to extend our congratulations to you because this Legislative Assembly will be even a better and stronger place given the leadership that you will provide in the Chair.

I want to go on to congratulate the member from Saskatoon Eastview and the member from Regina Northeast in the delivery of the Throne Speech in the way in which they had delivered it because this really is a visionary document, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the province of Saskatchewan.

I also want to recognize those who have made this Legislative Assembly work a little better. I want to recognize our colleague on this side of the House from Regina South and I want to recognize the member from Melfort who worked I think very diligently in bringing about some changes in this Legislative Assembly. They led in many ways to make this place a stronger facility, stronger place in terms of building policy and also in helping us to do our work outside of this legislature through the field committees.

I want to also today, Madam Deputy Speaker, extend my appreciation on behalf of the government, as on other occasions, to the secretary of the centenary. And I've heard on many occasions on this side of the House and on that side of the House, speakers get up on a daily basis through the debate of the Throne Speech and talk about the wonderful event that we had in our province this year.

And I want to recognize this morning, Madam Deputy Speaker,

the tremendous work that the secretary from Moose Jaw North did in the work of getting our centenary to the level of which it was delivered in our province today. It was through his inspiration and hard work that has made Saskatchewan feel the way we do about this great province. And I want to extend our appreciation and congratulations to the member from Moose Jaw North for the tremendous work that he did.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I want to also extend my appreciation . . . This is the first occasion that I've had in the last couple of years to speak in the Throne Speech . . . the second . . . this is just my first occasion that I've had the opportunity to speak. And I want to say that I want to extend my appreciation to my constituents of Yorkton and thank my constituents.

This is a very vibrant part of the province, Madam Deputy Speaker. We've seen tremendous growth in the east central part of Saskatchewan in my community, in the community of Yorkton. We've seen tremendous growth in the value-added, particularly in Harvest Meats, the Grain Millers who have expanded their operations in our part of Saskatchewan, who do international work today from our community of Yorkton; the tremendous growth in our retail sector over the last number of years.

We have all of the services in our community, Madam Deputy Speaker — and to once more indicate that we are the third largest trading centre in the province, out of Yorkton. And to extend my appreciation to those who work in the chambers of commerce, the boards of trade, the business community, the retail community, the manufacturing community, because on the east side of the province in Yorkton this is a very, very vibrant region, and it has to do about working together collectively as a group of men and women to make a difference in Saskatchewan.

I want to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I've had the occasion to be in this Assembly now for the better part of 14 years. And I want to say that I have never had the occasion of being a part of a Throne Speech that delivered such a significant, important message to the people of Saskatchewan as this Throne Speech has, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is the best Throne Speech that this Assembly has heard in the past 14 years, Madam Deputy Speaker. And I want to cover some of those concepts as we go forward.

Clearly, Madam Deputy Speaker, this Throne Speech sets the direction of the province for our people for the next century, and it builds on those principles that . . . on this side of the House, we're accustomed to understanding the social democracy, about how you build a strong social economy or social framework, which also talks about how you do that in a strong economic economy . . . is what this Throne Speech is all about.

And I've listened for some days now to the speeches that are here in the Assembly, those from the members opposite, from our Conservative Saskatchewan Party, and how they have insulted the intelligence of our Saskatchewan people on many occasions. And it was done again today, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I don't understand why it is that the members opposite would get on their feet and talk about how it is that Saskatchewan people have made the wrong choices for 60 years because the Saskatchewan people have made the right choices for the last 60 years. Saskatchewan people have said that they want to see a strong Saskatchewan economy with a social fabric that ensures that our people can live as neighbours and friends with each other and build an economy that is significantly recognized, not only in this province but across the country, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And Saskatchewan people, Madam Deputy Speaker, have elected New Democrats because they want fiscal accountability. They don't want what we had in the '80s of which time the members opposite, many of them, were a part of. And we hear them now citing and reciting and quoting from the 1980s. Of course they can recite from the 1980s, because who better knows the 1980s than those who were there today from the Saskatchewan Conservative Party who were part of that process?

And so they quote on a daily basis the Premier's speeches of the 1980s. Why? Because when we made the speeches in the 1980s we were talking about what we didn't want to see in this province which we got for the 10 years of which we had Conservative government. And we'll never go back there, Madam Deputy Speaker. And this Throne Speech ensures that, as we build a stronger Saskatchewan economy, we won't be back into the same period of time of the '80s.

We talked about Saskatchewan people want to protect and enhance the principles of public health care. Saskatchewan people aren't interested in seeing a privatized agenda on health care as the Conservatives would have us believe and take us to. That's why Saskatchewan people for 60 years have voted for an NDP-CCF administration.

Saskatchewan people for 60 years have voted about growing the economy because of the four engines that we talk about, Madam Deputy Speaker, not only the private sector. We had an occasion in the 1980s where the members opposite in the Conservative government said we'll drive an economy only by private sector. Nobody in Saskatchewan believes that you can drive an economy only on the private sector. And that's why Saskatchewan people have voted and elected New Democratic governments over the last 60 years — because they believe that economy gets driven by the private sector, yes, but by the public sector as well and by private and public arrangements and by the co-ops, Madam Deputy Speaker. That's why Saskatchewan people have elected New Democratic governments over the period of 60 years.

And they want us to balance our expenditures as well as with the revenues of which we have, Madam Deputy Speaker, where you have debt repayment and where you have tax reduction and you have enhancements to services and programs. That's why Saskatchewan people have voted for New Democratic governments over the period of the last 60 years.

And Saskatchewan people have never witnessed over the last 60 years a debt which was left for us and our children — which was left for us in the 1980s — by the Conservative government led by Mr. Grant Devine and those who still represent and

support the wisdom of what that party did over the '80s. And some of them are still in those benches today, Madam Deputy Speaker. And that's why Saskatchewan people vote for and re-elect New Democratic governments for 60 years in this province.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, they vote for Saskatchewan New Democratic people because — and the party — because they know that they have had successions of leadership, Madam Deputy Speaker. They've had outstanding leadership in this province. Men who've gone on and ... recognized as ambassadors to Canada, who are international figures, Madam Deputy Speaker. And they talk about ... Who've made outstanding contributions not only to our province but to Canada.

And when you take a look at the history of our party, Madam Deputy Speaker, in relationship to the history of Conservative parties which we have opposite of us today, in 60 years, Madam Deputy Speaker, we've had five outstanding leaders, Madam Deputy Speaker — five outstanding leaders for 60 years.

And what have they had over there, Madam Deputy Speaker, in not even 20 years? They've had six leaders as well. They can't keep their leaders in place, Madam Deputy Speaker. And that's why we see Saskatchewan people continuing to elect a New Democratic government in this province on a regular basis, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Leadership is about making a difference. Leadership is about talking about the future. And that's what this Throne Speech does, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And what did we hear from the members opposite in their speeches over the last number of days? That this is too ambitious, this Throne Speech is too ambitious, that in fact we hadn't spent enough in this Throne Speech. Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is an ambitious Throne Speech. And it also identifies how we're going to go forward both in the short term and in the long term.

[11:45]

I can't believe that I've listened over the last number of days ... members from the opposition stand up and talk about how it is. And we had a debate the other day about the agroforestry piece. The agroforestry piece is very much a part of our future direction as we do with agriculture into the future.

When we talk about one-third of our energy renewal fuels being coming, Madam Deputy Speaker, from renewable fields. That is a laudable goal for this province, and in fact, Mr. Speaker, that it fits in to the issues of how we build a biomass and biodiesel and the ethanol industry and the wind in this province. And it sets out an agenda about how to do that in the long term.

And I listen to members opposite on their feet on a regular basis over the last number of days, and not one of them, Mr. Speaker, not one of them said anything positive about the Throne Speech. How is it when you put the kind, when you put the kind of resources as we're putting into apprentices, apprenticeship and skills training, Madam Deputy Speaker, in which in our Saskatchewan rural communities of which most of those people

represent today and have community colleges in their backyards . . . And we're going to see increases and enhancements in what we're doing on the education side. Why is it that we wouldn't have had one member on the opposite, on the opposite benches, stand up and say, you know what? This is a very good thing for our rural communities in Weyburn or in Estevan or in Swift Current or in Humboldt where we have colleges today. And we're going to be training and gaining more resources for our young people.

Why is it, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we haven't heard one of them say, Mr. Speaker, that we haven't had one of the members on the opposite side say to us, how about the building of the community funds, where we're going to be putting money into communities, Mr. Speaker, ensuring that we can provide the cultural and the recreational and the economic development pieces that are necessary to build a rural economy? Why is it that we haven't had one member from the opposition, from our Conservative Saskatchewan Party say to us, that's a good piece because it's good for rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? But not one of them — Mr. Speaker, not one of them — not one of them talked about how important it is to build that kind of a community.

Why hasn't anybody over there said on one occasion that we're really pleased to see, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to grow the oil and gas industry to the point where we're going to yet need another upgrader in Saskatchewan? Who doesn't believe that that's not a good thing for this province? And we didn't have one member on the opposite benches stand up, Mr. Speaker, and say, you know what? This isn't a bad thing for us to talk about in Saskatchewan, to build a new additional upgrader.

Nobody over there, Mr. Speaker, talked about the fact that we're going to have an Asia desk, an Asia-Pacific desk. We think this is a good idea to have an Asia-Pacific desk, and some of them over there will say we think that that's our idea. Well if it's your idea, you should have stood up and said, you know what? This is a good thing to have an Asia-Pacific desk. And we congratulate the government in having it in their Throne Speech to build a stronger economy with the Asian Pacific rim, Mr. Speaker.

And why didn't even one person on the opposite benches stand up, Mr. Speaker, and say, you know what? You did a good job with the CBOs [community-based organization] in this province, something of which I know a little bit about having lived and worked in it for 15 years, Mr. Speaker. And not one person on the opposite benches stood up and even tried to take credit for it, Mr. Speaker. They didn't say a word about it. And it is good for Saskatchewan people. It's good for Saskatchewan communities. And it's good for the Saskatchewan economy, and it's good for Saskatchewan families. And why wouldn't somebody have said something about it?

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech touches on a number of issues that are short term. We talk about the tax review piece that will be coming out in the next few days, of which there's a commitment in the Throne Speech to say that we're going to address the tax piece. There is a commitment on the energy share piece, a commitment on the CAIS funding, Mr. Speaker. There's a commitment today on the midwifery.

This Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is about directing Saskatchewan people on a track that will build a strong Saskatchewan economy. And it will be done with the kind of leadership that we're accustomed to on this side of the House. Because as we go forward into the future, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan will continue to be led by men and women who have a conscience about not only the social democracy but also about growing a strong economic, vibrant province. And that's why in the future, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to see New Democratic governments serving in this province, not Conservative administrations as we've seen.

And I want to say that I'm going to be supporting very sincerely the strength of this Throne Speech because it is, Mr. Speaker, the best Throne Speech that we've had in this Assembly in the past 14 years. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I consider it a privilege to rise today in this House and give some clarity to the discussion that has taken place with regards to the Speech from the Throne. I had made myself a number of notes and points that I wanted to discuss, but it looks like the time allotted isn't quite going to be enough. But we'll do the best we can.

I think first of all, as probably almost all members of the legislature have done, and that is to thank our communities back home, our constituencies, and our families for their support because there's no one aside from the family of a legislator that knows the times that we're not where we're supposed to be, where there's meetings that involve our family and we have to be elsewhere. I think no one else but those people understand that. And we're all very thankful for that.

I need to probably get into this very quickly, but I should also congratulate our Madam Deputy Speaker for achieving that particular position. I was hoping that she'd be able to be sitting in that chair for my speech because she'd heard what had gone on before and would be able to sort of relate the two together. But that's fine. We'll do that another time.

The previous speaker went on and rambled on at great length with the usual name-calling, Mr. Speaker, the usual name-calling. And he went on with this sort of thing about how all this ultimate wisdom had been emanating from these handful of CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] premiers that we've had. Well let me give you just one example, just one example where they fell flat on their face. And you, Mr. Speaker, and a few other ones in this House will understand this perfectly.

And that is the unfunded liability of pensions — unfunded liability of pensions. I have one of those, and I remember a number of years ago when people from the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] came around, and they sort of gave the two positions that might be coming out. And the question always was, how much money is there in the old pension plan, the one that old people like myself are a part of.

Now here's the answer, Mr. Speaker, not one stinking dime. And then the question that we would ask is, well, how do we know that when we retire and start drawing that pension that there'll be money there? Well it was trust us. Trust us.

Well we know a bit about trust. We just saw a whole lot of people run out of this particular room after QP [question period] this morning who are now standing around the outside, and they're over there in the place where they do all the scrums and stuff and we're finding out about trust. It'll be in our papers on the weekend. And you'll be able to read it and you'll know about trust.

However to get back to my point about the unfunded pensions, the unfunded pension — the NDP premier at that time, it was presented to him, why doesn't government start putting some money into that so when the people start collecting those pensions, number one, it's not going to cost the taxpayer any money; and number two, the people collecting those pensions are going to know there's a pot full of money for them? But this NDP premier said no, said no.

There is a definite lack of wisdom on that side of the House. It's come out decade after decade after decade. And for the Deputy Premier to get up in this House and to sort of claim that he has a political history of astute leaders is a bunch of nonsense. We're not even getting close to talking about shoe factories, Mr. Speaker. We can go through that. But he better do a whole lot better than what he's done so far with what he's been talking about.

Then he rambled on for awhile. I mentioned this a little earlier on, here's where the misinformation comes from. Here's where the misinformation comes from. As he's busy trying to interrupt. He's trying to blame all the debt on one particular government. \$6.8 billion of debt from your Premier Blakeney — 6.8 billion. Now when did that take place?

And this is a very critical part of this debate, Mr. Speaker. This is a very critical part of this debate because in Saskatchewan we've had a certain period of time where interest rates were very high. And the fact is I'd just love nothing better than to have some of those reds get up and say . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order please. Order. The member has used a term which is unparliamentary and the member is out of order on that term, I would ask the member to withdraw the term before he proceeds with his remarks.

Mr. Heppner: — So dealing with that particular issue . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member would withdraw the remark before he proceeds, please.

Mr. Heppner: — I withdraw from this House the awful remark of red.

The Speaker: — Close but not close enough. The member would withdraw the remark unequivocally.

Mr. Heppner: — I unequivocally withdraw the remark red from this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member may proceed.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going through that interest rate time. And I'd love nothing better than for those now NDP, once CCFers to get up and admit how many of them would have lost their houses and had to walk away from them if there hadn't been help for those poor people back during the '80s when interest rates hit how much? Twenty-some per cent. Okay, we hear 21, 22, 25. And we've got a person who knows some numbers, 22 per cent.

Now here's the critical part, Mr. Speaker. You take \$6.8 billion — take out over there the people bad on math, take out your little adders — you take \$6.8 billion, work that out at 22 per cent per year and find out what number you come up with. And you'll find out what the total number really is, and the debt responsibility for that belongs to the CCF, the NDP, and Allan Blakeney.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Do the math. Do the math. Don't get up in this House and try and blame it on someone else. Don't try and find an excuse. Just get there and take the blame for it because everybody in this province knows where the blame lies.

Now, Mr. Speaker, getting back to my constituency. I want to talk a little bit about Highway 11, a little bit about Highway 11 because we had the Minister who's responsible for highways yesterday say that regardless what I thought, he was going to do some twinning.

Now there's a few things about Highway 11 that I think the NDP-CCF over there need to know. There is one person on that side I must say, Mr. Speaker, who has an understanding of Highway 11. And every time I talk about Highway 11 we get this . . . And we know exactly who we're talking about. We know exactly who we're talking about. The rest of them I don't think know. So this is largely aimed, Mr. Speaker, at the Minister Responsible for Highways.

We just had a major interchange at the community of Rosthern. We used to have three access roads. One was taken away. And what I'm after at the bottom line over here is that there is an engineer that designed the most stupid piece of highway you could possibly imagine. And I would hope that sometime in the next year that engineer is out of province working someplace else. You want to catch up with Alberta? You get that engineer to build some highways in Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

Now three accesses. They took one out. So the other one crosses Highway 11 at just a small angle and was thought it might be safer if it crossed at right angles. Fine.

Now the highway comes through Rosthern; speed limit's 40 miles an hour. That just takes a teensy little jog, and you've got right angles. And on the other side you might need one of 2 or 300 yards. What do we have? Two kilometres of highway built. Two kilometres of highway built along Highway 312 to accommodate that.

[12:00]

We spent, on taxpayers' money, \$3.1 million on that interchange; most of it's wasted. That access that was built going east of Rosthern goes through two sloughs and then just across the pasture. It could have done a nice little kink, would have been taken care of. There's approximately 13 kilometres, 13 kilometres of various and sundry roads running off into the middle of nowhere. It looks like a Christmas tree with its clothes off. They just don't go anywhere. They don't go anywhere. But we spent \$3.1 million, could have done it for a fraction of that.

Now the most dangerous part of that particular highway, Mr. Speaker, was this. There were no left-hand turning lanes. Everyone knows that. Fact is we've had people killed there on a regular basis, and that's unfortunate. I've seen a car with two people in there burning, and the people couldn't get out. They died. I saw that, Mr. Speaker.

About two years ago, three years ago, there were two semis tried to avoid someone who wanted to make a left-hand turn there. Those two semis collided. Both went up in flames. I saw that.

From my youth group, Mr. Speaker, I had one young girl sat in the back . . . was sitting in the back of a car, was hit from the back because on that intersection there was no left-hand turning lane.

This new highway, Mr. Speaker, has good left-hand turning lanes. I'll give credit where credit is needed and due, and this is just about it for that intersection, Mr. Speaker.

Now so you're coming along and you need to turn left — that's been provided for, well provided for. Or you want to go through — that's been provided for. Now what happens if you want to make a right-hand turn? Where do you go?

An Hon. Member: — Alberta.

Mr. Heppner: — The member says you go to Alberta. That's very true.

You move into the right-hand side and usually there isn't a lane, but there's usually a shoulder that you can pull on to. So I went out with my handy-dandy little Home Hardware tape and I thought I'm going to measure this to make sure I know what I'm talking about. So the shoulders, along Highway 11 for the most part are 11 feet, 11 feet from the line to where the pavement ends and then you may have some mud and gravel. On the 11 feet you can hide most any vehicle to make a right-hand turn whether it's a VW [Volkswagen], whether it's a cattle trailer, you can probably get onto that and survive.

So here at this particular intersection where there have been so many deaths, you would think you would have a right-hand turning option. What has this engineer . . . And I want this engineer fired. I have no idea who it is but if I say it often enough maybe the Minister of Highways will be paying attention. How wide is the amount that's now left for a right-hand turning lane? It's 5 feet, Mr. Speaker. Who can hide a car in 5 feet?

You can go out in the parking lot and there's not one of them. We haven't even talked about farm equipment. We haven't talked about semis. We haven't talked about car trailers. We haven't talked about fifth-wheel recreational vehicles. You can't hide them on five feet which means that they now still have to be partly on the through lane. But the left-hand turning lane is being used. Where can they go? Nowheres. And there will be an accident one of these days and I'm . . . personally say I hold the engineer responsible.

Now we've been told they're going to make some different changes on that. I hope those come very quickly because you can take a life, but you can't give it back.

Now there's two other places where we have to look at what's happening. And there's an underlying theme through this, Mr. Speaker, and that is you can't even give the NDP the job of building a highway and they can mess it up. And so we're talking about the Speech from the Throne, you can imagine how massively they can mess up something like that. How massively could they mess that up? Well we're going to find out. We're going to find out.

At the intersection of Warman Road and Highway 11, when that was originally built there was a short little curve you put in to turn to the right to go down toward Rosthern and Prince Albert. It was such a sharp turn after the straight stretch more or less along Warman Road that people were constantly hitting the ditch. They rebuilt that whole curve. Again surely some engineer knows how to build a curve. If that isn't in about engineering 101, I don't know. My question then is — obviously that one can't — where are the members that are sitting on that side of the House who drive down those same roads? Where are they? Why don't they say this person isn't going to be building us another one of those kind of curves? You can go right down to Alberta and give us a chance to catch up.

The other thing is if you try to cross coming from Warman road, you try to cross Highway 11 with a B trailer — super B — you can't. It doesn't work. Your back side is on the part going to Prince Albert; your front side's the part coming from Prince Albert. You can't find enough room on there. Again, what engineer can't take out his Home Hardware tape, measure how long a truck is, and say I have to leave that much space for a truck when they have to stop waiting for some traffic.

Now let's talk about how that carries over to how these people are going to mismanage and mess up this particular Throne Speech. There's money. They're awash in money. Everyone admits it. They admit it. They didn't think they'd have this much money. Had you asked an NDP on that side, how much money do you think you're going to have in this particular year and asked them that two years ago, they would never have dreamt they would have had this money. So one of the bigger issues in rural Saskatchewan is education tax on property.

Now what does the person in charge of the purse say about doing something with that? Well it's not an election year, Mr. Speaker. I would never, as a politician, have been stupid enough to make a statement like that. My people back home would un-elect me so fast. To sort of say, hey it's not an election year so I'm not going to spend any money, why? Because in an

election year I can spend the money and maybe with enough money thrown all over I can win the silly thing. They've been here before when they had less than 50 per cent of the vote. They know that. So now it comes down to how much money can we throw around. So we're going to sit on it. We're going to sit on this pile of money and we're going to just squander it willy-nilly. When? At an election time. At an election time.

I'd like to say a few things about school amalgamation, and I'll do this very briefly. We went through an amalgamation some time ago in my area. The MLA from Saskatoon Nutana was in charge at that time. It was one of the early amalgamations to take place in the province. It was supposed to help give us better services and save some money. No one was quite sure how it would work. So it was an experiment. It didn't work as good as it should have. And now we've got a new minister who's just gone ahead and increased the size of those amalgamations and the difficulties, the problems, and the unsuccessfulness of it, if anything, is going to be a whole lot greater.

And I want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a particular comment that really bothers me more than anything else, more than anything else. I think at the end of the day, all legislators on both sides of the House want to take care of our people. Not necessarily take care of the rich ones . . . But we've got the Minister of Education now chirping from his seat. He should have learned better. There were two Maritimers and a bicycle that taught him a lesson a few years ago. He should remember that. He should remember that. We remember him sitting here with two black eyes. He'll remember that.

However it's the poor in our province, the poor in our province . . . And do you know what, Mr. Speaker? When we look at what's happening in Saskatchewan right now, there are almost 2,000 more children needing food banks in 2004 than in the previous year. That's an increase of 24 per cent — 24 per cent increase in the very poorest in our province looking for food, for food, Mr. Speaker. We're not talking about quads. We're not talking about summer camps. We're not talking about any of those things. We're talking about food for their bellies — a 24 per cent increase in young people and children needing more of that. And this NDP-CCF [New Democratic Party-Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government has failed, has failed miserably.

And just on the last part, Mr. Speaker, the last part, Mr. Speaker. We've had a discussion over the last year or so about kids and drugs. This government has failed, has failed the kids who have a problem with drugs. They've failed the families. They've failed their communities. And you're still failing them, and that's a shame, Mr. Speaker. That's a shame when we've got our children hungry and there's no security when they need some help to get off of drugs.

That, Mr. Speaker, is what a CCF-NDP is all about. I will not be supporting this Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As other members have indicated, it is always a privilege to stand in this legislature and to speak from one's values, from one's vision. It is a privilege to express freely our opinions in this legislature. It's a privilege that's afforded to only a few, and each of us who have this opportunity, provided to us by our constituents, by our voters, respect that privilege.

I want to, with other members, join in congratulating our new Deputy Speaker for assuming a piece of Saskatchewan history — the first woman to occupy that Chair. And we congratulate our new Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to say I have found the Throne Speech debate interesting as I have listened to speakers, as I have watched on occasion through television, and as I have read some of the comments.

And if I may say, Mr. Speaker, I have found it interesting how often I have been quoted in the course of this Throne Speech debate. Quoted, I note, by members of the opposition. I have listened very carefully, Mr. Speaker, to all of those quotes of mine that have been part of this debate, the vast majority of those quotes made when I was privileged to occupy a bench in the opposition when their Conservative Party was then in government.

I've reviewed all of those quotes, Mr. Speaker. And let me say this this morning. In hindsight, in hindsight I only think I can have one regret about those quotes and things that I said at that time. Only one regret.

I regret, Mr. Speaker, that when I occupied a bench in the opposition that I didn't do a better job to expose the backroom deals that were going on in that government, in this building, that I didn't do a better job in exposing the sell-off of the province's assets, assets belonging to the people of Saskatchewan, by that Conservative Party when they were in government. I regret that I did not do a better job of exposing what they were doing to the public service of Saskatchewan. I regret that I did not do a better job of exposing the financial mess they were putting the province and the people of Saskatchewan in, a mess that we're continuing to pay for today.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker. I am proud of everything that I was able to say in this legislature when I sat in opposition. I am proud of the work of the New Democratic Party when we served in opposition.

But I am even prouder, Mr. Speaker, I am even prouder of the record of the New Democratic Party in government — in government during the '90s when we had to sacrifice with the people of Saskatchewan to put this province right again, when we had to labour long and hard through difficult years of following in the wake of that party in government. And I am proud today to be standing in my place to support the Throne Speech of this New Democratic Party government. Proudest of all.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Now I find it interesting that the Leader of the Opposition was on the radio the other day. And when a caller-in asked him what was his involvement when he worked for that Conservative government, what was his involvement in the sell-off of the Highways equipment at that time, the Leader of the Opposition said to the public of Saskatchewan on radio, well I don't want to talk about the 1980s. I don't want to talk about the 1980s. Well little wonder. If I were a Conservative, I wouldn't want to talk about the 1980s either.

And it is passing strange that in the course of an entire Throne Speech debate, the only two premiers that are quoted by the opposition, the only two leaders quoted by the opposition are Tommy Douglas and myself. I don't mind, Mr. Speaker, being put in that company. But isn't it interesting that no member of the opposition seems to want to quote any current or former leader of their own.

Now there's been a number, Mr. Speaker. There's been a number. They could have quoted Grant Devine. Premier Devine served for 10 years. You'd think in 10 years there'd be a quote they might have found. They could have quoted Mr. Swenson who led the Conservative Party. They might have quoted Mr. Bill Boyd who led the Conservative Party. They might have quoted the member from Rosetown who led the Conservative Party here. Or they might have quoted their own leader today.

Now when I think of it, maybe they don't want to quote Mr. Boyd because they want to wait till . . . what he says when he is the new leader of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Speaker, I will quote leaders of the New Democratic Party on any platform in any venue of this legislature, outside this legislature, anywhere in Canada, anywhere on this globe. And I will quote them with pride.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I do, I do want to take just a moment though to address one of those quotes of mine that has been referenced in this Throne Speech debate. It was I think yesterday that the member of Thunder Creek was kind enough to quote from a speech that I made in this legislature in 1988 when I said to members of the Conservative government of the day, I said, quoting myself:

Mr. Speaker, maybe these members opposite have forgotten, or perhaps they never knew, perhaps they never knew what it's like to farm with old machinery, and just to go from repair to repair to repair.

Now the member of Thunder Creek quoting that yesterday then stood in his place and asked a few questions. And I want to clarify his thinking and his knowledge today. He said then in this debate:

Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the Premier got his experience repairing old farm equipment. I daresay he imagined that part.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you. I was not privileged to be born into a farming family. I was born to working people in the city of Moose Jaw. So I was smart enough to marry into a

farming family, to marry into a three-generation farm, albeit it a small farm, a farm that has always demanded off-farm income. And therefore as the son-in-law of this farm, it has been my great privilege each and every year to be on the farm — to be there at spring when we're doing the seeding; to be there at fall when we harvest.

Now about this matter of repairing equipment, and about . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well here's the member from Thunder Creek, and I'm glad he's now listening because he seemed to have some confusion in his mind yesterday. I'm going to tell the member of Thunder Creek and all members what I know about repairing farm machinery.

So this spring for instance, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the members this. This spring for instance I was out on the farm and assigned to move a tractor. Well it was a wet spring, and I moved the tractor down through the alkali flat. And you know, Mr. Speaker, what happened here? I tell you it started to sink. It started to sink. And you know what I thought of? I thought of that great quote of the former Premier Devine: you don't say whoa in a mudhole. Well you know the result of that good advice? You know the result of that good advice? I tell you I sunk the tractor right down to the axle. And they had to come with a four-wheel drive to get it out.

Now just a month ago, just a month ago — well a little more, I guess, five weeks — I had the great experience of spending three days on the farm trying to help out with the harvest, trying to help out with the harvest of very wet barley. And, Mr. Speaker, well the member asked me, what did they assign me? Well they assigned me traditionally, can you, can you go and get the loader working? You see on the farm it's not new, Mr. Speaker. It's pretty old. It's a loader. It's an auger. My task here is to get that auger going so we can start to load a little bit of barley to the bins.

Well, Mr. Speaker, for two hours, for two solid hours I worked on that auger. Two solid hours I worked on that engine to get it going. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a cantankerous old engine. It's a cantankerous old engine. Two hours later I've got the thing running. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? The whole time . . . And the member from Thunder Creek will be interested in this. He's got lots of Conservative roots. I tell you the whole time I was working on that engine I was thinking about the current version of the Conservative Party in Saskatchewan. They call themselves the Saskatchewan Party. The whole time. Because you know what? Like that engine, they're just a whole bunch of cantankerous folks, and they're not very easy to start.

But somewhere, Mr. Speaker, somewhere in the history of that loader, somebody, somebody had taken the time to put a little paint on it. They tried to spruce it up I think by trying to put a little paint on it and they tried to cover the name. They tried to cover up the name of that old engine.

Well isn't that a parallel, Mr. Speaker? Isn't that a parallel? You can put a coat, a new coat of paint on it and you can try and cover up the old name, but it's still the same old cantankerous engine. That's it, Mr. Speaker, the same old cantankerous engine and it's very hard to start.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Now beyond my most recent experiences in repairing farm equipment, Mr. Speaker, this debate has been illustrative. As I have reviewed the speeches and listened to the speeches, I have heard members of this government stand in their place and deliver speeches that contain values, that contain vision, and that contain practical solutions for today and the people of Saskatchewan today.

Meantime I have listened to the opposition speeches. Nothing but a week and a half of negative attack. Rare, rare is the new idea and even rarer is a sense of vision or purpose or dreams for the province of Saskatchewan. That's what I observe and, Mr. Speaker, any objective observer of this House would agree with that assessment.

Mr. Speaker, we have brought to this House a Throne Speech that is based on values — the values of the New Democratic Party, the values of the people of Saskatchewan. We have brought to this House a Throne Speech of vision. A vision not just for the near horizon, not just for today, but a vision well into the future, a vision for the children that are being born today. And we have taken those values and that vision and we have translated them into practical, practical steps forward that deal with today's problems and build for the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I referenced the Throne Speech. Here in a few, few solid words expresses much of the value of Saskatchewan people and the value of this government. This Throne Speech reads:

Today, my government dreams of a province where no one [no one] is left behind on the . . . [pathway] to opportunity . . .

Mr. Speaker, the times change; the values do not. What we wish for ourselves, we desire for all. No one in Saskatchewan that we believe in should be left behind on this pathway of opportunity.

We believe, we believe, Mr. Speaker, and place in the Throne Speech, the value of Saskatchewan people, the value of this government. We believe that this province ought to be a province with an unbreakable social fabric, unbreakable social fabric. We believe that this province should be a place of growth and diversity in our communities. We believe that the future of Saskatchewan ought to be based on a green and a prosperous economy, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we look to the future. We look to the future for that young person that's born today, to that child that's in school today. We look to a future for our children. Mr. Speaker, in this Throne Speech we make a bold claim on the future. In this Throne Speech we believe that by the time the children who are in school today in Saskatchewan are reaching their grade 12 or they're reaching their graduation, they should be graduating, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: in a province that will lead the nation in educational attainment and literacy rates.

That is our vision. Leading the nation in education attainment and literacy rates. To achieve that vision, Mr. Speaker, we have put in place a Literacy Commission. We are pioneering early childhood education. We are leading with pre-kindergarten

programs. We are leading with community school programs. And we want those children to have every opportunity. Now this week, in a few days, we will hear from that report on training and apprenticeship in our province — opening new opportunities for our youth. We have set as a vision the most literate province in the nation of Canada. We're proud of that vision, Mr. Speaker.

We talk about an unbreakable social fabric. In this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, we declare that every working person, every working person in this province should know the benefits of health and pensions. They should know health and pension benefits and by the time these children of today are entering our workforce, exploring their careers, building their lives here, they should do so in a province where there are benefits of health and pension for every worker in the province of Saskatchewan. That's a bold, bold vision. That is an unbreakable social fabric.

Mr. Speaker, from this Throne Speech we state our vision of diverse and growing communities in this province.

In this Throne Speech we set bold goals and bold visions for immigration, for opening the doors of this province to people from around the globe, all over the continent. We want to open the doors. We've set ourselves targets to say that by 2008-09 we will increase the number of immigrants to Saskatchewan by 5,000 a year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Five thousand a year, Mr. Speaker, building diverse and growing communities.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the future of this province needs to be built on a solid economic foundation. We believe in a green and a prosperous economy, building economy. Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech talks about business tax review soon to be delivered and soon to be acted on by this government.

This Throne Speech talks about doubling — doubling Mr. Speaker — the value of manufactured goods from this province. This Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, talks about adding value-added food processing. It talks about the expansion of livestock production. It talks about the expansion of ethanol and biofuels. It talks about growing the economy for the people of Saskatchewan and jobs for our young people here.

But, Mr. Speaker, it speaks to this in a way that is forward-looking, in saying that economic growth in this province can be green and healthy, leaving behind our generation to next generations an even more healthy Saskatchewan in its air and its land and its water.

We are talking about green, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about conversion of arable land, agroforestry. We are making a bold commitment that by the time our children are graduating they will live in a province where fully one-third of all of our energy needs are supplied by renewable resources.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the evidence is in; the

evidence is in. Just days ago the energy secretary of the United States of America from Washington, DC [District of Columbia] was talking about Saskatchewan. Was talking about our carbon dioxide sequestration indicating, not to just his world but to the entire globe, that the potential being developed in Saskatchewan for carbon dioxide sequestration could tremendously, significantly affect global warming in the globe, Mr. Speaker.

That's Saskatchewan innovation. That's Saskatchewan partnership between government, industry, and research. That's Saskatchewan commitment to growing economy, and that's a Saskatchewan commitment to a green and healthy future for our children.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[12:30]

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the times may change; our values do not. And this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, very boldly declares our values for the times in which we live in this Throne Speech. And let me simply quote:

It is my government's vision that . . . [our children] will live, grow and reach adulthood proud of Saskatchewan's diversity, proud of our strong First Nations and Métis culture and tradition, proud of the rich tapestry of people from all parts of the world who make Saskatchewan strong.

And it is our vision that these children of ours “ . . . will live together in harmony and respect, desiring for all, that which they wish for themselves.”

Mr. Speaker, the times may change. The values do not. Mr. Speaker, this is a Throne Speech with vision — bold vision — with practical application to bring about that vision. And I challenge members opposite to vote against that kind of vision, that kind of Throne Speech, those kind of commitments, Mr. Speaker. We'll see. In a matter of minutes, we'll see.

Is this an opposition that will vote against, that will vote against making Saskatchewan the most literate province in Canada? Is this an opposition that will vote against building economy? Is this an opposition that will vote against a vision for immigration? Is this an opposition that will vote against a green, prosperous economy? Is this an opposition that will vote against the future of our children? In a matter of moments, Mr. Speaker, we will see just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that members of the opposition have been kind enough, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. I wish to inform the Assembly that under rule 16(4) it is my duty at this time to interrupt debate and put all questions necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Order please. The question before the Assembly is the motion

moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Regina Northeast:

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

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

May it please Your Honour:

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

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Those who favour the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who oppose the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I do believe the ayes have it. Call in the members for a recorded vote.

[The division bells rang from 12:33 until 12:34]

The Speaker: — Order please. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Regina Northeast:

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

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

May it please Your Honour:

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

Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 29]

Calvert	Hamilton	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Taylor	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Crofford	Prebble	Forbes
Wartman	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Hagel	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Addley
Morin	Borgerson	

The Speaker: — Those who oppose the motion, please rise.

[Nays — 26]

Toth	Elhard	Heppner
D'Autremont	Krawetz	Draude
Hermanson	Bjornerud	Stewart
Wakefield	Chisholm	McMorris
Harpauer	Gantfoer	Eagles
Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Kerpan
Merriman	Morgan	Dearborn
Hart	Kirsch	

Clerk Assistant: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 29; those opposed, 26.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

MOTIONS

Address be Engrossed and Presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Nutana:

That the said address be engrossed and presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are of the Executive Council.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for The Battlefords, seconded by the Deputy Government House Leader, member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That the said address be engrossed and presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are of the Executive Council.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ways and Means

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Nutana:

That this Assembly, pursuant to rule 103, hereby appoints the Committee of Finance to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and to consider the ways and means of raising the supply.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House

Leader, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That this Assembly, pursuant to rule 103, hereby appoints the Committee of Finance to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and to consider the ways and means of raising the supply.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:37.]

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