



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

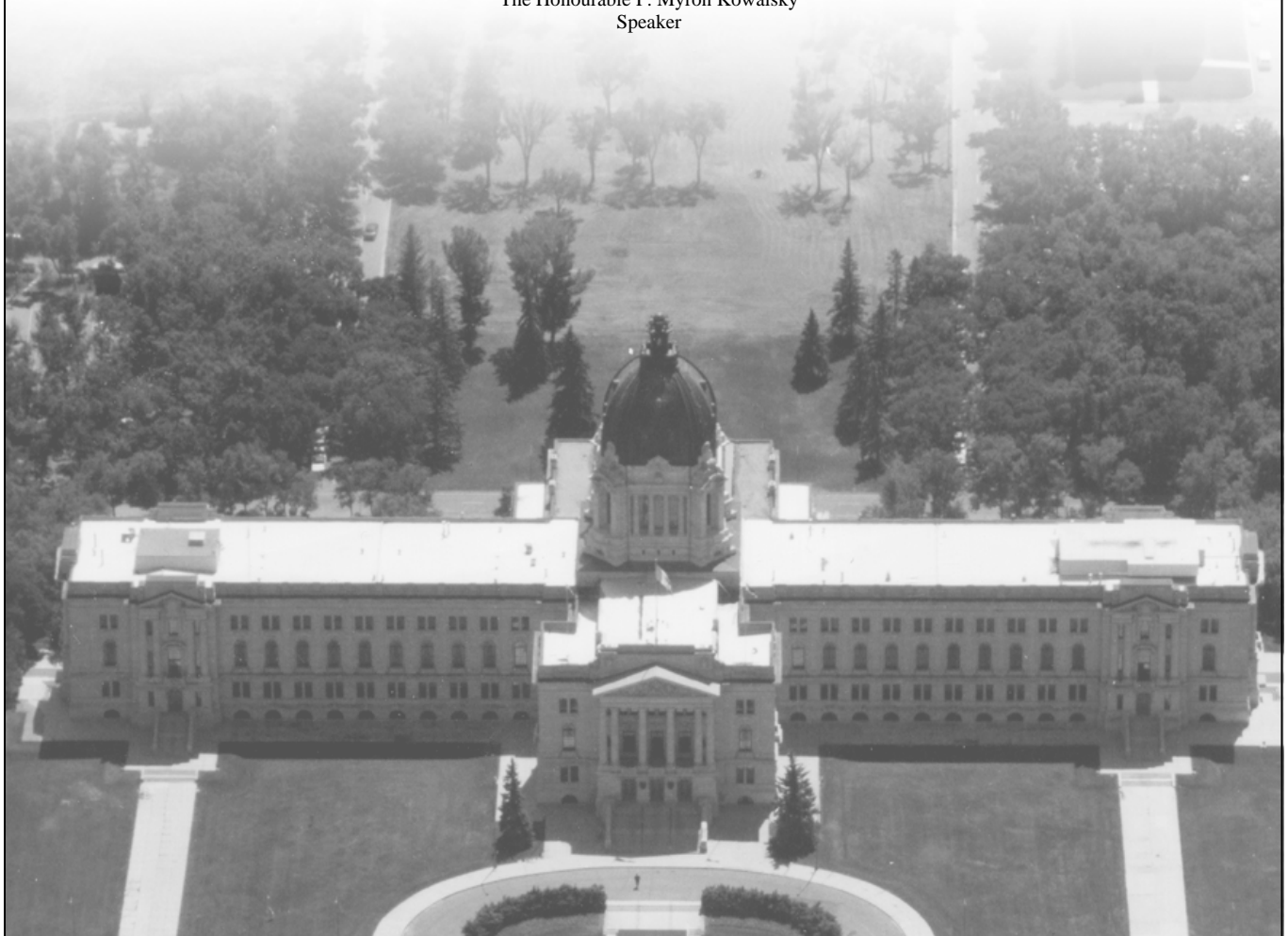
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege again today to present a petition on behalf of many of my constituents and individuals from outside the constituency of Cypress Hills as it relates to their concerns of the condition of Highway 321 from the Alberta border through the community of Burstall in to Liebenthal. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

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

As I indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, these four pages of petitions are signed primarily by individuals from the community of Burstall, but there are also signatures from Leader, Medicine Hat, Cabri, and other communities in that immediate area. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today on behalf of people who have cabins at the resort of Barrier Lake to bring forward the following petition:

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 the seven seasonal camping spots be maintained, to ensure the safety of this area continues.

The people that have signed this petition are from Archerwill, Quill Lake, Veregin, Tisdale, Bjorkdale, and Melfort. I so present.

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

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

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Colonsay, Bruno,

Meacham, Englefeld, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Watson, Spalding, Guernsey, Viscount, Lloydminster, Preeceville, Quill Lake. I so present.

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

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

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

The petitioners today live on Kenderdine Road, Kutz Crescent, and Eastman Cove in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here dealing with 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 and available to all SaskPower customers from the Davidson and surrounding service area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from residents of Biggar opposed to possible reductions of health services. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a petition today from the people of Batoche constituency on the condition of Highway 368. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed completely by people from the town of Annaheim. Thank you.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received pursuant to rule 14(7) as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, and 22.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day 13 move the first reading of Bill No. 203, An Act to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer in Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 15 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: has there been an increase in the number of long-term care beds in the Heartland Health Region, year 2005? If so, how many and what facilities are they located? Or are there a decrease in beds and which facilities are they located?

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 15 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: at any time did DCRE employee Grant Matheson have supervisory or management status over DCRE employee Evelyn Hynes, and did he approve any of her payments to the Social Services clients?

Was DCRE employee Grant Matheson placed on leave with pay at any time during his employment with the Government of Saskatchewan? If so, why?

If DCRE employee Grant Matheson was placed on leave with pay at any time during his employment with the

Government of Saskatchewan, what was the date that he was placed on paid leave? Was he still on leave as of November 20, 2005? And if not, what date did he cease to be on paid leave and return to active work?

If DCRE employee Grant Matheson returned to active employment with the Government of Saskatchewan following a paid leave, what is his salary, job title, and name of the department or agency that currently employs him?

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: the portion of Highway 35, 15 kilometres north of the US border, was recently converted to gravel. When will this portion of Highway 35 be repaired? A commitment was made by the government to repave at least 3 kilometres of Highway 35 in the 2005-2006 budget. Has this been completed? If not, why? When can it be expected that these 3 kilometres will be paved?

And further:

To the Minister of Health: is the police investigation into the misappropriation of funds at MACSI completed? What, if any, charges have been laid and against whom? Have the funds that were misappropriated been recovered? If so, on what date? How much has been recovered, and who repaid the funds?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to have the privilege to introduce to you today 35 grade 10 students from the Melville Composite High School accompanied by their teachers, Perry Ostapowich and Gloria Lipinski. And Mr. Ostapowich should be commended that every year he has a class in here — I think for the last six or seven years; he hasn't missed — and really has taken a great interest in what happens in the legislature.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood where I believe some of the students actually reside in, and myself, I would like to ask all members to welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature 13 students from the Discovery Learning Foundation in Regina Lakeview constituency. They're sitting in the west gallery and they're accompanied by their teachers, Melitta Bosse and Krista Milliken. And the chaperones that are with them are Jamie Hopkins and Jim Hopkins. I ask all members to welcome them to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister Responsible for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], it's my pleasure today to introduce two guests who have joined us in support of The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005 which will certainly aid us in the fight against impaired driving. I'd ask them please to both rise as I introduce them. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are Inspector Don Ross and Sergeant Alvin Knibbs, both from the RCMP's [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] "F" Division traffic services here in Regina.

The RCMP and other law enforcement agencies in the province are of course important partners in working to address traffic safety issues. We are honoured to have both Inspector Ross and Sergeant Knibbs representing our law enforcement partners here today. So please join me in welcoming them both to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming our guests, the guests Inspector Ross and Mr. Knibbs, to the Assembly. The issue of impaired driving has been an issue that we have faced in Saskatchewan as every other jurisdiction has faced. It takes a lot of lives every year, and everything that we can do to prevent those needless deaths is greatly appreciated. And so I would like to welcome them here and thank them for the many hours of work, many years of service to the province, to reduce the impaired driving incidents that we see in our province. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, I'd like to offer a welcome to a number of people sitting in the west gallery. First off Gunnar Passmore and Terry Parker. Gunnar is a fairly, oh regular visitor I would guess, pops in the odd afternoon just to watch the proceedings of the House. Gunnar is an organizer with the sheet metal workers.

And Terry Parker, I think this is one of his first visits which I'm sure will be happening on a more regular basis. Terry was about two weeks ago hired as the business agent for the Saskatchewan provincial buildings and trades council. So while he's getting accustomed to his new job, I'm glad he took time to stop in this afternoon. And I'd like all members to welcome both of these gentlemen.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, another gentleman that's in the west gallery; Kirby Benning is here this afternoon to watch the proceedings. Kirby is the vice-president with the

Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association. I'm very pleased that Kirby could join us this afternoon. And I would ask the House to welcome each of these folks this afternoon to the House.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Addictions Awareness Week

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, November 26 is National, in Saskatchewan, Addictions Awareness Week and provides an excellent opportunity to profile the great work that is done to act against substance abuse in our province.

There are many organizations across the province that are dedicated to treating and preventing addictions. They use this week to share information and hold various types of addiction-related activities. We applaud the efforts of all who provide these vital services.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is also committed to fighting addictions in the province. The Premier's Project Hope, which includes the addition of 10 million to the 4.7 million already budgeted, builds on the excellent foundation laid by dedicated substance abuse professionals, counsellors, and services.

Project Hope is about treatment that is accessible and flexible. It is about coordinating our efforts and improving our knowledge so that communities can get the best tools available to fight substance abuse. It is about making it more difficult to manufacture and sell drugs in our province. Finally it is about equipping people, especially our young people, with the knowledge to make healthy choices so substance abuse does not get a chance to infiltrate their lives.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing National Addictions Awareness Week and to applaud all the dedicated people involved in providing these vital services. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[13:45]

Saskatoon Fastball Team Wins World Masters Championship

Mr. Morgan: — That's okay. I'll fill both spots, Mr. Speaker. This past July Edmonton, Alberta hosted the 2005 World Masters Games. For ten days, more than 21,000 athletes from 88 countries participated in many sports, including track and field, swimming, basketball, volleyball, hockey, and fastball.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate one athlete in particular for her participation in these games. My

constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett, had the opportunity to compete in both women's volleyball and fastball, playing against teams from the countries of Brazil, Russia, Australia, USA [United States of America], and Canada.

I am pleased and proud to say that Rita and her teammates from the Saskatoon Fatigues fastball team were very successful at the championship. And I'd like to congratulate them for capturing the world championship gold medal. Now this doesn't relieve my obligation from co-operating with her in answering phone calls. I do genuinely offer my congratulations.

The fastball team went undefeated 9 and 0 at the games. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate Rita Flaman Jarrett and her teammates as world champions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Weyburn Carbon Dioxide Storage Project

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, today in member statements, I'm very pleased to advise this Assembly that the carbon dioxide sequestration project in the Weyburn oil field is now being recognized far beyond our own provincial borders.

This project brings together partners from the Petroleum Technology Research Centre here at the University of Regina with industry — EnCana and now Apache — and with the Government of Saskatchewan in one of the largest climate change research projects in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win for our province and for our globe. Not only will this technology allow us to make more efficient use of our own oil resources; it will also help us win the fight against global warming.

So, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this spring to meet with the Secretary of Energy of the United States, Mr. Samuel Bodman. Last week Secretary Bodman said, quote:

The success of the Weyburn project could have incredible implications on reducing CO₂ emissions and increasing America's oil production.

He went on to say that if the process were used in all the oil fields of Western Canada, quote:

... we would see billions of additional barrels of oil and a reduction of CO₂ emissions equivalent to pulling more than 200 million cars off the road for a year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this government has been fully supportive of the Weyburn project from its beginning. It's an outstanding example of Saskatchewan innovation. It demonstrates what can be done when the partnership between government, research, and industry. One more time, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is on the global map.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

ABEX Award Winner

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to stand in the House today to talk about a recent ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] award winner from my constituency. Wendy and Darryl Perry, owners of Perry Industries in Hawarden have received the 2005 Achievement for Business Excellence Award in the new venture category.

Perry Industries was also nominated for two other categories under ABEX created by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The company was recognized especially for its new innovative product lines for household and agriculture use. Fresh-air bin ventilators and easy deck adjusters are among the two most popular products sold through a western Canadian network of approximately 300 dealers.

Attending the award ceremony held in Saskatoon, Wendy Perry was in shock at the good news. "It was a surprise to us," she said, since the couple launched its company a year ago. "The business has been going well," she added. As the company grows she expects to hire more people from the local area. Perry Industries currently employs 10 full- and part-time staff. She has plans to distribute its products to the rest of Canada and export to the US [United States] and overseas.

Perry Industries has proved that doing business in rural Saskatchewan can be successful, despite the challenging odds of making Saskatchewan small-business profitable and lasting.

On behalf of all the members, I would like to personally congratulate my constituents on receiving the 2005 ABEX Award. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Pelican Narrows Boxers Win Championships

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, about six months ago the Sunshine and Raine Society introduced an amateur boxing program to communities in the North, including Pelican Narrows.

Wesley Sunshine of Regina, a three-time Canadian senior boxing champion, and Russ Matthews, one of the founders of Regina's outdoor hockey league, run the program.

Two weeks ago four members of the Pelican Narrows Boxing Club — Dawson Michel, Tyler Custer, Thomas Ross, and Edward Custer, known as Opawikoscikan Warriors — travelled to Regina to take part in the Saskatchewan Boxing Association championships.

And I'm very pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that although two members couldn't compete for medical reasons, 17-year-old

Thomas Ross won the bantamweight championship and 12-year-old Dawson Michel won the Cadet B flyweight championship. Dawson was also named best boxer in the Cadet B division.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all the members of the Warriors boxing team as well as recognize the fine work being done on behalf of young people in this province by the Sunshine and Raine Society. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Eston Physician Honoured

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my distinct pleasure to make this Assembly and the province of Saskatchewan aware of honours bestowed upon a distinguished resident of the Rosetown-Elrose constituency.

Dr. Stewart Holmes began his general medical practice 50 years ago in Eston and continues to serve his beloved community as its only doctor.

Back in 1955 Dr. Holmes joined his father who also practiced medicine in Eston. Over the last 50 years he has been witness to many changes. The most devastating change occurred when the NDP [New Democratic Party] closed the Eston Hospital, but that didn't stop the doctor. The community credits Dr. Holmes's determination to continue the operation of his solo practice as a fundamental reason Eston has maintained its acceptable health care for its citizens. It is most fitting that the Saskatchewan Medical Association has named Dr. Stewart Holmes as its Physician of the Year for 2005. This award was celebrated at an appreciation dinner on November 4 at the association's fall representative assembly.

Then on November 12 the community of Eston honoured its esteemed doctor with a tribute attended by more than 200 people at the Legion Hall. The event was a fine way to say thanks for 50 — and counting — years of dedication to the people he serves. The tribute also gave opportunity to make the 20th anniversary presentations of the Dr. Holmes Scholarship Fund. Over 70 individuals from the Eston area have benefited from the scholarships over the past 20 years.

Dr. Holmes expressed appreciation to his wife, Colleen, for her support in providing a solo medical practice to the community. Colleagues, I know we all appreciate Dr. Stewart Holmes's 50 years of service and worthy selection as Saskatchewan's Physician of the Year in this our centennial year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Film and Television Productions Win Gemini Awards

Mr. Borgerson: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's film and

video industry is among the best in Canada and I think that's true because of the quality of the people who work in the business here in Saskatchewan and because of the quality of the economic climate and the production facilities that are available here. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's because we're getting better and better at telling our own stories. It speaks volumes about how we view ourselves and how we value the artistic community and the cultural industries of this province.

Mr. Speaker, last week at this year's Gemini Awards, five Saskatchewan-made shows were nominated for a total of 13 awards and this resulted in four Gemini Awards. Two went to *Corner Gas*, one went to the youth drama *renegadepress.com* which had received seven nominations, Mr. Speaker, and which currently runs on SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] and APTN [Aboriginal Peoples Television Network]. The documentary *Two Worlds Colliding* received the Canada Award honouring excellence in mainstream television programming that reflects the racial and cultural diversity of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all the winners and nominees from Saskatchewan for the quality of their work and the success that is symbolized by the prestigious Gemini Awards. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Availability of Medical Specialists

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, Curtis Schaan of Watrous was like many other kids his age. At 18 he was an avid hockey player with a future in that sport playing with the triple A Moose Jaw Warriors. This summer Curtis started to lose his peripheral vision. In July he was diagnosed with a pituitary tumour and now his hockey career and his life is on hold.

Right now this tumour causes loss of vision, extreme headaches, and depression, but left untreated could have much graver implications. He has seen an endocrinologist and is now undergoing drug therapy to shrink the tumour.

Curtis would like to continue his treatment here in Saskatchewan but, Mr. Speaker, he can't because there are no endocrinologists available to see him in Saskatoon and the wait list to see a specialist in Regina is more than a year. Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: how could he let a shortage of specialists jeopardize this boy's health?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the issue of providing specialists in Saskatchewan is always difficult because we end up having to keep recruiting people. We're doing this on a number of different levels. As it relates to the endocrinologists, we know there's a shortage here and that there are two people in recruitment and are coming for next year. This has taken some longer time than we anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, what we're doing locally is we're looking at how we can provide training for our own people but we're recruiting nationally. Later this year we will be bringing forth our province-wide health human resource plan. All of these things relate to that.

But I am concerned about individual patients and when they can't get the care here we'll work to try to make sure they get treatments in our neighbouring provinces or other places where it's necessary.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, this family is being forced to leave this province to get timely treatment for their son because of extraordinary circumstances resulting from the minister's inaction. Curtis must now go to Edmonton for therapy and an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] to check the size of the tumour every other month. In a recent letter to me, Curtis's parents wrote, quote:

This has been a very trying time for us and trips to Edmonton are going to create extra stress in our lives. But these trips must be made to ensure our son can recover and live a normal life.

At the very least this family would like some financial assistance to get their son to Edmonton for his next treatment in January. But if this minister had done his job, this family wouldn't even be here today. Why is the minister forcing this family out of province to get the much needed treatment for their son and why isn't he recruiting specialists to fill in for those who are retiring or are also on leave?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we'll work to provide the specialists that we need in the province and we're continuing to do that. And there will be situations where our Saskatchewan people require services which aren't available in the province and we'll make sure that they have the reciprocal arrangements with our neighbouring provinces or in some instances have them go to the United States.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the great questions always in our province is how to deal with the extra cost over and above the actual medical or health cost. And, Mr. Speaker, we're not in a position to fund all of those costs. We make choices. That's what it's about to try to run the system.

At this point, we have not funded travel and other expenses for patients and families to go to other places.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last week and a half we raised a number of cases the same as what was raised again here today. And day in and day out, the minister complains that he hasn't had enough advance notice.

In most of the cases, in almost every case that we have raised over the last week and a half, he's had advance warning because the families have sent him letters. Well this case is no different. The family wrote the minister more than a month ago and haven't heard one word from his department.

Curtis is scheduled for health care in Edmonton on January 23, health care that he cannot receive in this province. He needs to make three more trips after that. Curtis's family wonders why they're living in Saskatchewan when they can't receive the health care they need here.

But more importantly, why would the minister not have the decency to return the letter with some information that he received more than a month ago?

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we respond to the correspondence that's received from patients in a timely fashion. Sometimes it requires more information. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the letter to this individual has gone out.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's talk more here again about the basic premise of that member opposite around how we provide care within our system. Mr. Speaker, we're spending this year over \$3 billion in the health care system, and we are meeting many, many of the needs. But we have made some choices around not funding travel out of province at this point. That is something that we continue to look at because we know that it does place some burdens on families, and that's very much a concern.

But it's very important that we actually provide the medical services, and in this case we're doing that, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to do to that.

[14:00]

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the family, there are three endocrinologists in the Saskatoon area that could help Curtis. Curtis's endocrinologist is on maternity leave. The second endocrinologist in the Saskatoon area is just about to retire. The third is on a year's leave of absence. So what's he to do?

He looks to Regina. The waiting list in the Regina Health District for such a specialist is over a year. They have no choice to find care in this province. They have to go out of the province for proper care.

How could the minister . . . He's talked about that there are two being recruited now. A maternity leave, a year's leave of absence, and a retirement just don't happen. And he's talking about two more specialists coming in about a year. That is just absolutely unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. How could this minister let the health care system get in such dire straits?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, from time to time, in various specialties, we have some special problems of getting the continuation of the care. And in this area, it's very hard to recruit endocrinologists.

And we have been working at this and I know the Saskatoon Health Authority has been working at this. It also relates to the College of Medicine. All of these people work together with staff in my office and we continue to do this.

Now let's also remind ourselves that the members opposite have a certain attitude about them, about the health care system, which isn't reflected when we go out and check with people in how the system provides care to people. And, Mr. Speaker, that member opposite I know has many, many stories of people that will come to him and tell him about how good things are. But in this place, it's again and again negative, negative, negative.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, over the last week and a half the minister has stood up and blamed everybody else, including ourselves, for the shape of his health care system. He likes to blame doctors and hard-working professionals for the problems in the system. The other day, he accused patients for not taking the right procedures when the patients jumped through every hoop that that minister put in front of them and still couldn't get timely hip surgery.

Mr. Speaker, he loves to go out in the rotunda and blame the opposition for all his problems. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's review. There were three endocrinologists in Saskatoon. One is on maternity leave, one is on a leave of absence, and a third is retiring. He has done nothing to retain and recruit these specialists for the Saskatoon Health District.

When will he start taking responsibility for the lack of health care, the lack of health care system in this province instead of blaming everybody else? When will he start shouldering some of the blame himself?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, once again that member wants to pretend that he's the friend of the civil servants and others. But day after day we get attacks on our civil service, on people that are within the health system. Mr. Speaker, that's not appropriate.

What we are doing is working together with the health professionals, together with the regional health authorities, with our universities and colleges and technical institutes to get staff that we need within our health care system.

The endocrinologists are some of the most highly trained people in our society, and we will continue to recruit them as to the

best of our ability. But from time to time we won't have all of those people available. And when that happens, we will make sure we get access to service in other parts of the Prairies. That is one of the arrangements that we have made between our provinces around how we provide care. We have 1 million people here. We're going to provide the best care possible. And if we have to go outside of the province, we'll go there.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Measures to Combat Addiction

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, today this government is finally going to introduce measures designed to help families with children that have addictions. I introduced similar legislation in a private member's Bill last session, but that effort was scuttled by this government. In fact from the very beginning this government ridiculed opposition efforts to raise awareness about crystal meth and addictions.

The Minister of Learning compared us to drug dealers, and he didn't think there should be a separate strategy. He said, and I quote:

I have yet to see any convincing argument as to why this drug is more important for us to fight than any other drug.

Mr. Speaker, we've had to literally drag this government kicking and screaming into any action they've taken. Why in the world has it taken so long for action?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, January 1 I was appointed as Legislative Secretary serving on addictions. My report was to be issued in about six weeks from now. Since that time we've issued interim recommendations. The Premier has hosted the four Western Premiers and three territories within Regina. We've had a final report in August. We've already moved on precursors to crystal meth. We've lobbied the federal government and got that changed. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud that today we'll be introducing a Bill to deal with the last issue that wasn't covered in Project Hope, and that is those children that are hardest to reach on an involuntary basis.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've moved very quickly. We're moving as fast as humanly possible, and we're ahead of schedule, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker the minister isn't right. The last issue they have to deal with is treatment beds and

the skilled personnel to help the people that have the problem. That's the issue that we have to deal with. But instead of treatment beds we have the creation of an expensive new ministry. Instead of legitimate concern and action for families, we've had ridicule and delays.

This government has never shown any independent initiative when it comes to fighting addictions. This government is so busy borrowing many of our ideas, they should be called Sask Party lite, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the only thing this government has done, the only thing this government has done on its own is shut down Whitespruce and . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order. Order please. Would the member put the question.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the only thing this government has done on its own is shut down Whitespruce and dismantle SADAC [Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission]. Mr. Speaker, if this Bill is good enough to introduce today, what was wrong with debating and passing the Sask Party Bill last spring?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition likes to say that there's no treatment facilities, that there's nothing going on in Saskatchewan. There's nothing further from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, we have more than 250 treatment beds right here in Saskatchewan. We have over 50 RHA [regional health authority] and community-based outpatient facilities. Mr. Speaker, we have had 15,000 outpatient admissions. We've had over 65,000 residential patient days.

And, Mr. Speaker, this past spring the Alberta Bill was passed in Alberta. The proclamation isn't until spring of '06, pardon me, July '06 of next year. Mr. Speaker, we'll be introducing the Bill this afternoon and we expect the support from the opposition and proclamation will happen before the first quarter of next year, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Project Hope brings no new beds on line until 2008. The addicted children of today will have to wait three years. That's 36 months; that's 1,872 days. Do you think they're going to make it, Mr. Speaker? Every night there's a chance that some child will not wake up in the morning. And that's what I worry about in my office, Mr. Speaker. Here's what the Premier said in 1987.

If . . . [I] could sit in the office that I've sat in for the last number of years and see what happens to [the] families in this province who have young people trapped in [a] drug and alcohol abuse, now that will [would] make your hair curl . . .

Well, Mr. Speaker, it just makes me cry. This government had an opportunity two years ago to deal with this issue. Little has changed since 1987. This government has waited and waited to introduce yet another Bill. Why, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition again likes to go on and say that nothing is happening in Saskatchewan. In fact just last week the Leader of the Opposition said that there were no treatment for two young people in Swift Current that he met with. Mr. Speaker, I think that's news to the people of . . . the addiction workers that I met with in Swift Current. There's over five people that are working in Swift Current, helping over 400 people last year; two and a half of them are youth addiction workers in Swift Current alone, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I know — I've been around politics long enough — that politics 101 says that if the opposition has nothing to criticize, they'll criticize the pace of introduction, Mr. Speaker. And so, Mr. Speaker, they may not agree with what the government is doing, but I'll believe what the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse said. They said there's an articulation of a clear strategy at a provincial level with clear goals, expectations, money putting towards it.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's at the forefront of this issue.

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Sask Party lite talks about numbers. The real Sask Party talks about people. That's what we're . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Draude: — This government has been pressuring the opposition for immediate passage of the Bills introduced in this session.

Mr. Speaker, I can only assume this government will try and tell the Saskatchewan people that they're trying hard to get the opposition to immediately pass this Bill. They'll pretend that they've been out in front of this issue, not being pushed. But people in this province will see what really is happening, Mr. Speaker — cheap political theatrics. That's what it's about.

This government has delayed and delayed and ridiculed and delayed some more. The question is, Mr. Speaker, why did the Premier wait so long? Why did he put his ego and his political gain first and not the lives of addicted young people in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, Project Hope contains a tripling of youth treatment and stabilization beds in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, it contains a family treatment centre, something that is completely new in Canada, where individuals who are addicted can actually bring their children with them. That is being implemented, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, we're working with First Nations and the federal government in implementing a 15-bed treatment centre in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, in northern Saskatchewan we will have in the first quarter of next year mobile treatment centres where the entire community becomes the treatment centre, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition Bill is very quick and based on what's being done in Alberta for five days. Our Bill balances the rights of the individual but it also recognizes the very real fear of parents that they want to be able to do all that they can for their children. We give them that option, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Prohibition on Wearing Gang Colours in Licensed Establishments

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this government has announced amendments to The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act that would ban the wearing of gang colours from licensed establishments. Mr. Speaker, what consultation was held with bar owners prior to the introduction of these proposed changes, and what resources are being allocated to assist bar owners with this initiative?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the government will not be relying upon bar owners to enforce this legislation. This is a tool that has been given to the police in the province of Saskatchewan. We have the support of the association of police chiefs of the province. They look forward to receiving this tool.

The member from Saskatoon Southeast, the Justice critic, the Leader of the Opposition's talkfest on organized crime, has continually mocked these tools that we have given to the police to fight organized crime in this province, and this is consistent with his approach, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, controlling gang activity is a

laudable goal, and it is supported by members on both sides of the House. However this government leaves the onus on bar owners to report this type of activity and to determine what kind of criminal organization exists and what is not.

I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, what constitutes wearing colours, and what is freedom of expression? Mr. Speaker, what has the minister done to ensure bar owners and police officers have the proper information to make these judgments about what is and what is not a gang colour?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, we'll be pleased to discuss all the member's concerns and the concerns of any other member in committee when this legislation gets to committee, Mr. Speaker.

The member had some very interesting things to say in committee on May 17, 2005 about other tools that we wanted to give police to fight organized crime. And specifically in respect to The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act, as well as making the statement, I don't think we want to give these tools to police chiefs, Minister, he said: "I likened this Bill to using a chainsaw as a fly swatter."

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the fly in that metaphor? The fly is organized crime. We have here a leader of a talkfest on organized crime who's going to recommend what, Mr. Speaker? A can of Raid?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Collection of Fines

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House will always point out flaws and inadequacies in the legislation and will continue to do so regardless of the accusations by the minister.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government's financial house is in disrepair. The foundation is weak and the roof is caving in. This government does not care where taxpayers' money goes missing. The only concern that they have is whether there's enough money to build them an airport.

Mr. Speaker, money from uncollected fines has doubled since 1998. That is inexcusable, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: how much money is outstanding right now and for how long has that money been outstanding?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I take it we're done discussing legislation that the hon. member from Saskatoon Southeast called — in the response to the Throne Speech, he

called the legislation that we brought in about seizure of criminal property, he called the legislation we brought in about suppressing criminal enterprises — bizarre, odd, and strange, Mr. Speaker. These are their comments on crime.

And they say, and he says in committee on that legislation, I don't think we should give these tools to the police chiefs in this province. That's his priorities on crime. We are designating new officers to fight gangs. We are designating prosecutors to fight gangs. If they want to be concerned about collections and speeding fines, Mr. Speaker, that's fine. We know where our priorities are.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we have not had an answer from that minister as to how much money is owing and what steps that minister is capable of collecting. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve better. They deserve a fair and properly managed justice system. They deserve to know that when fines are levied by our hard-working police officers and prosecutors, that there's a mechanism in place to ensure that those fines are collected and the people of Saskatchewan aren't shortchanged, and that we do not bring the justice system into disrepute by ignoring fines and measuring their uncollectability by the number of filing cabinets that they're sitting.

Mr. Speaker, when will the minister act to determine how much money is owing, for how long, and what's he going to do to collect it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, despite suggestions that may have been communicated in the media, the people of Saskatchewan should know that if they do not pay a fine, they are liable to go to jail for not doing so, Mr. Speaker. That is the policy of my department and that is what people of Saskatchewan should know, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite, he supports these police officers. He says to me on May 17, 2005 in discussion of these Bills to fight organized crime, what are you saying, Mr. Minister, that we should trust the police, that we should trust the courts? Yes, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House do.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it goes down to a matter of basic competence. When you're elected to form government, you have a justice system that works, that people have confidence in that justice system. In this day and age with computers what they are, it is impossible to have such a mess. There is no excuse to have outstanding fines that cannot be even categorized or determined — the amount, the date, the extent of

it. Why, in the days when computers are at the point they are now, do we have a minister that refuses to answer a question of how much is owing? And what's he going to do to collect it?

Mr. Speaker, will the minister undertake today to implement a computer system that will date and track these fines so that they get brought back forward so the courts can deal with them in a timely manner, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the record-keeping system at the Department of Justice tracks the individuals who owe the fines and what they owe. So when you go up in front of a court, Mr. Speaker, that information is available to the court. Categories, statistics, those may be of some interest to members opposite. They are of no use to a judge who has an individual in front of him and wants to know what the record of that individual is and whether he is following a court order. That's the information that we can provide, we do provide, Mr. Speaker. And no one should believe otherwise, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Suppression of Gang Activity

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps timely. Keeping communities safe is a top priority of this government and making Saskatchewan inhospitable to organized crime and gangs is an important part of that strategy.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, I announced the next step in our ongoing commitment to the fight against gang activity in our province. Our government will invest \$745,000 this year with an ongoing funding of more than \$2 million annually to expand suppression of gang activity. The funding will provide 14 new policing positions and two new prosecutions positions. The funding will also support stepped-up activity relating to wiretap surveillance, execution of search warrants, and other types of surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that these resources are in addition to the 29 new policing positions that I've asked the RCMP and municipal police services to start recruiting to be in place in 2006-2007. This new funding is the province-wide implementation of an initiative piloted by Criminal Intelligence Services Saskatchewan in Regina beginning in early 2005, following release of the CISS [Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan] report on gang activity.

During the pilot period, Mr. Speaker, 50 search warrants were executed, resulting in 112 persons charged with 361 criminal code offences. And more than a half a million dollars in drugs, cash, and stolen property was seized. Mr. Speaker, this is proof positive that this strategy works and why we are committed to implementing it province wide as soon as possible.

While we are putting more resources into enforcement and prosecution of gang activity, I want to emphasize that it is also

important to identify and understand the causes behind it, Mr. Speaker. We know that youth face a wide range of social and economic issues that make them at higher risk of being drawn into gangs. Our government is working hard to prevent young people from becoming involved with gangs and helping youth and adults in custody exit gang involvement, which can be very challenging. Our government is committed to combating gang activity in all fronts, Mr. Speaker.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that our gang suppression initiative responds to the recommendation of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform to address Aboriginal street gangs in our province. I am confident that our efforts regarding gangs, disrupting gang activity through enforcement and prosecution, preventing young people becoming involved in gangs, and helping them break free of their gang affiliation will help keep our streets and neighbourhoods safe for families and communities across the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, after months of pressure from the Saskatchewan Party to take action on the problems of gangs and crime, it would appear that the NDP has finally decided to listen to the worried citizens of Saskatoon and Regina, in particular the citizens of Saskatoon Riversdale, and to start to take action to suppress organized crime.

While we are encouraged about the nature of the activities involved in this strategy — specific use of teams that will result in increased co-operation between police, analysts, and prosecutors — and initial results of the pilot project conducted in Regina, today's announcement calls into question an obvious point. Why has this approach been in effect for . . . hasn't this approach been in effect for the past decade in our province? Why did this government wait for pressure from the Saskatchewan Party and worried citizens before finally acting? Why did we wait till our crimes statistics were the worst in Canada?

The minister correctly points to the successful results of a pilot project undertaken by CISS as proof that there is a need for an integrated anti-gang strategy. As his office indicates, during the pilot period 50 search warrants were executed, resulting in 112 persons charged with 361 Criminal Code offences. More than 500,000 in drugs, cash, and stolen property was seized.

The question I have, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan have is to ask, what could have been accomplished had the government been taking the gang problem seriously years and years ago? What could have been accomplished in this province in terms of crime reduction if this government had devoted the necessary financial resources to keep the citizens of Saskatchewan safe?

I would guess that part of the problem lies in the government's attitude towards crime. When the Leader of the Opposition stood on a street corner in the Premier's own riding this summer and called on the government to take action against gangs, the

member from Saskatoon Nutana called it fearmongering.

Today's announcement suggested the opposition's concern about increased gang activity in our province was warranted — just as our concern about the fact that this NDP government has the worst crime record in the country is warranted.

We have long urged this government to fulfill the promise it made in 1999 to hire 200 new police officers, a promise that has remained unfulfilled through two election cycles. While today's announcement goes some way to fulfilling this commitment, I would remind the government that it should not take continued pressure from the opposition to keep a promise, particularly one that involves the safety of its citizens.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we have to realize that crime is a symptom of other issues and other problems within our society. We have to deal with the root problems of crime. That deals with things like lack of education, social problems, schooling issues, job creation, job training, and other issues within our inner cities, particular substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, for a government to leave a promise unfulfilled through two election cycles is unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, we will be watching with some interest to see whether the initiatives work. And if they don't work, we will be calling on the government to amend and to change those initiatives and to ensure that they supply sufficient funding so that the desired results of reduced crime and safer streets can be fulfilled in our province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 25 — The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005, be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation 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. Ms. Higgins: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 27 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 27, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 27, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act be now introduced and read 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. Addley: — Next sitting of the House, 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 stand today and am very pleased to order on behalf of the government questions 464 through 542 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Questions 464 to 542 have been ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 14 — The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. The Chair recognizes the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, before I move into second reading of The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act, I want to introduce a couple of people that have joined us for the second reading this afternoon.

Jonathan Felton, president Conseil culturel francsaskois; Monsieur Siriki Diabagaté, representing Assemblée communautaire francsaskois; Ms. Sophie Charbonneau; Division scolaire francophone; Monsieur Gilles Groleau, Division scolaire francophone; and Monsieur Florent Bilodeau, director

of Office of French Language Coordination. I would ask everyone to welcome them here this afternoon.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act, 2005. As Provincial Secretary, I am pleased to be recommending legislative amendments that will create three new provincial emblems — a fish emblem, a food emblem, and official status for the Fransaskois flag. These amendments will also update the descriptions of insignia for three provincial honours.

The last time The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act was amended was in 2002 in order to establish the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. Prior to that, in 2001, needle-and-thread grass became our province's grass emblem, the white-tailed deer our animal emblem, and curling was adopted as Saskatchewan's official sport.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's heraldry and emblems from nature have been very successful. With the adoption of these new emblems, our province will have an even more comprehensive set of visual imagery. This visual imagery includes heraldry such as our coat of arms, flags, and other traditional emblems, and emblems representing nature and natural resources.

The inclusion of the Fransaskois flag as one of Saskatchewan's emblems recognizes the contributions of Saskatchewan's francophones to our heritage and culture. The Government of Saskatchewan has increasingly recognized the status of French as one of Canada's official languages. This flag is currently used by Saskatchewan's francophone community and meets their heraldic standards.

As we know, Saskatchewan is known worldwide for its great fishing and, Mr. Speaker, this past summer Saskatchewan Environment ran a contest to get a sense of which fish the public would prefer to see as a provincial emblem. The walleye won hands-down. Out of almost 10,000 votes received from Saskatchewan citizens through email and mail-in submissions, the walleye received 7,400 votes.

The addition of the saskatoon berry as one of the province's emblems makes sense as it is a provincial food that is recognized provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Members know our province is also fortunate to have a highly regarded family of honours and awards programs including the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, and of course the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

The current amendments to the description of the insignia for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit stem from the new design of the medal. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit was implemented in 1985. The centennial year is appropriate time to add to the medals Saskatchewan's motto: *Multis e gentibus vires*, "from

many peoples, strength.”

Many members attended the 2005 investiture on November 9 of which 12 recipients were invested, each receiving the newly designed medal.

Mr. Speaker, the incorporation of the inscription of the insignia for the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal are housekeeping measures. In 2002 when the legislature adopted these two honours, the insignia had not been finalized. It is now an opportunity to accurately reflect these two honours in the Act.

Mr. Speaker, may I say how appreciative the Saskatchewan people are of you and all members for the support given to the provincial honours and awards program. The honours are a way to celebrate and recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our citizens in Saskatchewan.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is important to citizens of Saskatchewan to have emblems that appropriately reflect our identity. Saskatchewan’s centennial year is an opportunity to celebrate our province’s past and to look forward to our future. I believe that all of these amendments would be seen as progressive and celebratory. Accordingly I move second reading of Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act, 2005.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Provincial Secretary that Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for question? The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a privilege to speak on Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act. As the minister pointed out, there are a number of changes and additions too that the Act includes.

And certainly it’s interesting to note that the Bill adds new emblems to the provincial list of designated emblems — the Fransaskois flag, walleye as a provincial fish emblem, and saskatoon as the provincial fruit emblem.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it’s important to have these types of emblems and recognitions of our heritage and our landscape. It’s something that people in the province are very proud of and people around the world will recognize as being part of exclusive to Saskatchewan.

The minister also spoke about the Order of Merit description to include the provincial motto and also adds the word “Royal” before the word “Crown” and similar changes to the description of the Volunteer Medal. Also, Mr. Speaker, new provisions in the Bill to include descriptions of the Protective Services Medal and the Centennial Medal.

Mr. Speaker, all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] shared this year in nominating and participating and also receiving the Centennial Medal. And it was very gratifying to be able to do that as a Member of the Legislative Assembly to

recognize people in our constituency that has contributed to our constituency and our province and our country through the years.

I know in my case I nominated people kind of on different categories. Some people were community leaders, have worked tirelessly at more of a governmental end or as mayors or reeves. And also I nominated people that worked behind the scenes as volunteers in the community. And many of them that I nominated actually always work behind the scenes and didn’t want recognition or the spotlight, and some of them were actually a little embarrassed to get the award. And without an exception these are the types of people that certainly deserve that type of recognition in our centennial year.

Mr. Speaker, I’m sure that many other members will want to speak about their Centennial Medal recipients in their constituency. As I had mentioned, our ceremony that our Lieutenant Governor presented Centennial Medals took place on October 4. There were three constituencies that included in that ceremony that day — Kindersley, Rosetown, and Biggar. It was a very nice ceremony and the people very much appreciated the recognition.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I’d like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill No. 14 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion’s carried.

Bill No. 26 — The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. I’m pleased to rise today to move second reading of The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005.

The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, administered by Saskatchewan Government Insurance, outlines the laws regarding road use here in Saskatchewan. It will replace The Highway Traffic Act, The Vehicle Administration Act, and The Motor Carrier Act and is scheduled to come into effect mid-2006.

The first two proposed amendments I’ll outline are designed to provide safer roads and to aid the fight against impaired driving.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are being killed and injured because of those who choose to drive while impaired. Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in traffic fatalities in this province. Last year, Mr. Speaker, I’m sad to report that 53 people died in alcohol-related collisions and another 786 were injured.

The standardized field sobriety test or SFST is considered one of the best methods for detecting impaired drivers. It can help law enforcement take more drinking drivers off the road,

reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused in this province by impaired driving.

The amendments establish an immediate 24-hour licence suspension for drivers who fail a standard field sobriety test. As well, drivers who refuse a field sobriety test will also face immediate 24-hour suspension of their driver's licence. The use of SFST information in conjunction with Breathalyzer results will give law enforcement an additional tool in providing a solid case against impaired driving.

Mr. Speaker, SGI has funded a number of field sobriety test training courses to educate over 212 law enforcement officers and 23 instructors here in our province.

The second amendment that deals with impaired driving adds a new section to the Act to allow for a 24-hour driver's licence suspension for drug impairment as a result of failing a field sobriety test. Currently there is no immediate suspension for drug-impaired driving. A 24-hour licence suspension for drug-impaired drivers would help get impaired drivers of every kind off our roads.

The next proposed amendment deals with getting tougher on repeat offenders. The amendment seeks to strengthen the licence suspension for experienced drivers to 15 days after a second .04 blood alcohol content violation within a five-year period. Currently a driver must have incurred their third .04 blood alcohol content violation in a five-period before a longer licence suspension is imposed.

The amendment is proposed to provide swift, strong, and certain consequences for those who choose to drive while impaired. The suspension will also serve as a deterrent and send a message early in the driving process that impaired driving is not acceptable.

That concludes the outline of proposed amendments found in The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005. These amendments will enhance the safety of drivers in Saskatchewan and help with the fight against impaired driving.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance that Bill No. 26, The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 26, The Traffic Safety Amendment Act. As the minister outlined, many of the amendments that are in the Bill . . . And I note the concern over drinking and driving and the loss of life and the injuries due to that very unfortunate and illegal act that people take part in. And it's certainly we on both sides of the House realize this is something that society must do something about to reduce deaths and injuries from drinking and driving.

It also talks about, in the Act, concerning farm equipment and the median; also replacing the 90-day residency requirement with non-residents; as well as amends various parts of the Act dealing with roadside suspensions; and makes the amendments to address the problem of illegal street racing. And we know that's an increasing problem across Canada and certainly it's something that we want to address in Saskatchewan so that that does not become a problem — and there again keeping in mind the safety of individuals in this province.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that we're talking about an amendment to a Bill — Bill 26 — that was passed in 2004 but still to this date has not been proclaimed. Now one wonders why the government is taking drinking and driving and all these other illegal street racing issues, taking it so seriously, why they have not passed this Bill — passed the Bill in 2004 but not proclaimed the Bill. This government has a habit of passing Bills and not proclaiming them. And this is very unsettling to find that this Bill has not been proclaimed. And here we are today standing in the House amending an Act that has not been proclaimed.

So obviously we have to question the government about its sincerity about many of the issues that this amendment and this Act deals with. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll be certainly taking this to the stakeholders in the province and discussing this issue. And certainly we'll be wondering and asking the government why it has not proclaimed the Bill that we are discussing today. So certainly we'll look forward to further discussions on this Bill and ask some very hard questions of the government and why it's delaying proclaiming this Bill. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill 26 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion's carried.

[14:45]

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 rise today to move second reading of The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2). At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I would like to declare that this Act will be treated as a confidence vote.

Mr. Speaker, this government is introducing an amendment to The Corporation Capital Tax Act to increase the threshold amount for a small financial institution in order to maintain their eligibility for the lower corporation capital tax rate. The threshold amount is being increased from \$400 million to \$1 billion of taxable, paid-up capital effective for fiscal years ending on or after October 31, 2003. This Bill will put Saskatchewan on a level playing field with the other Western provinces' treatment of small financial institutions. Mr. Speaker, increasing the threshold will address a tax

competitiveness concern that was raised by a smaller financial institution when examining the tax implications of expanding their business in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2).

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly read for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 23, corporate capital tax amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is an item that the Saskatchewan Party has been talking about and pressing the government to do something about for many years. And the reason, Mr. Speaker, that we find this so important is because it's such a deterrent to investment in the province of Saskatchewan. Businesses of all size, economists have said that Canada in general and Saskatchewan in particular has had a big problem with its corporate capital tax and the way it really takes away the incentive to come to Saskatchewan to invest and create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill would make changes to the way the corporate capital tax is paid by the financial institutions. Saskatchewan's corporate capital taxes are the highest in the country and the Vicq commission is currently reviewing the structure of the business tax in this province.

The Saskatchewan Party has submitted a proposal to the commission. And the Saskatchewan Party proposal calls for eliminating the corporate capital tax on new investment for four years, reverse decision to impose the resource surcharge on income trusts, and phase out the corporate capital tax on general corporations and resource corporations over four years.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the need to do this is of great urgency and I believe this government isn't going far enough — as it normally does in these matters. And the corporate world and the business world will be looking at this Bill and looking at other jurisdictions when they go to make a decision on investing. And we believe the Saskatchewan Party proposal will create an investment environment that will compete with Alberta and British Columbia and most of the American states that we are competing with for investment dollars.

And, Mr. Speaker, we will certainly be asking many questions about the government's plan and certainly talk to the stakeholders in the province. And at this time, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill 23 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Bill No. 24 — The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005 will allow us to implement The Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, 2002. That Act, passed in the spring 2002 session of the legislature, is important consumer protection legislation that will protect consumers against unfair credit practices and ensure that they receive accurate and comparable information which will allow them to make better informed credit decisions. The provisions in the Act are harmonized with legislation in other provinces and territories.

The Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, 2002 will apply to virtually all lending by provincially regulated lenders including credit unions and retailers who offer credit to individuals who are borrowing for personal, family or household purposes. The Act sets out requirements for disclosure of credit terms and also restricts the kinds of charges that can be imposed upon borrowers. Specifically the Act allows consumers to prepay all non-mortgage loans without penalty and provides an additional right of refund of certain non-interest finance charges when early repayment of a loan is made. In addition the Act contains specific requirements governing advertisements for credit.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan, as well as five other provinces who have passed harmonized cost of credit legislation, has been unable to implement its 2002 Act due to problems arising from regulations passed by the federal government which govern federally regulated lenders such as banks. The regulations passed by the federal government do not comply in all respects for the harmonization template agreed to by all jurisdictions including Canada .

The federal regulations differ from the harmonized legislation in two areas. The federal regulations delete the requirement that lenders disclose an annual percentage rate for lines of credit and instead require only the disclosure of an annual interest rate. This difference is significant in that the disclosure of the annual percentage rate under provincial legislation requires that fees or non-interest charges be incorporated into that interest rate thereby raising the disclosed rate where such charges are imposed.

The federal regulations on the other hand allow lenders to simply disclose the basic interest rate without incorporating these charges resulting in a lower disclosed rate when compared to provincially regulated lenders. The second difference is that the federal regulations allow mortgage borrowers to waive a two-day cooling off period without receiving independent legal advice.

Provincially regulated lenders in all jurisdictions including Saskatchewan reasonably argue that these differences will put them at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis the banks.

Efforts by the provinces and territories to get the federal

government to amend its regulations have been unsuccessful. Accordingly Saskatchewan, along with several other jurisdictions, has decided to recommend amendments to its legislation to conform to the federal regulation on the two points of contention to avoid any further delay in the implementation of this important consumer protection legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill removes the requirement for lenders to disclose the annual percentage rate for lines of credit. As a result the rates of interest quoted by provincially regulated lenders such as credit unions will be directly comparable to the rates disclosed by the banks. In addition regulations under the Act provide that mortgage customers of provincially regulated lenders will be able to waive the two-day cooling-off period without the need for independent legal advice just as is the case of individuals obtaining mortgages from the banks.

The result will be a level playing field for provincially regulated lenders with their federally regulated counterparts. Even more importantly the amendments will allow us to implement this important consumer protection legislation.

The amendments to the Act also include provisions to protect consumers with respect to the use of credit cards. These provisions are being moved from The Consumer Protection Act so that all the credit card provisions are in one statute as is the case in other jurisdictions. In addition there are several amendments of a technical or housekeeping nature that will improve the clarity of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act. The minister's basically said it was housekeeping. I think it's a lot of interesting areas that needs a lot of consultation.

As we know, credit cards have become a very important part in people's lives today. And we all hear or we know about people who have got themselves into trouble with financing through credit cards and the high rate of interest and charges that they can incur through the use of or the improper use of credit cards. And so it's very important that we make very clear the rules and the rights of individuals concerning credit cards.

And other things around credit cards that are very disturbing, it's really the unsolicited offering of credit cards. Many people get themselves in trouble because they're basically pre-approved. And individuals start spending money where they wouldn't otherwise have and get themselves into serious financial problems. And these credit problems stay with people really sometimes through the rest of their life, and it affects their ability to borrow and spend in the future, and it affects the welfare of their families if they do not look after their creditworthiness.

Interesting to note the minister talking about aligning the rules and regulations between the banks and the credit unions, and I think those are areas that are long overdue. Certainly the credit union system is very important in Canada and particularly in Saskatchewan. And we certainly need the credit unions on the same level playing field as with the banks in so many areas of banking and in credit cards in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there's going to be a lot of consultation needed concerning this Bill. We will certainly take it to the stakeholders and discuss this with them and look forward to discussing this and having other members discuss this in adjourned debate. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill 24 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Bill No. 16 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading on The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005.

The Law Society is established pursuant to The Legal Profession Act, 1990 to govern the practice of law by lawyers in Saskatchewan. They have recently requested that some changes be made to this Act to assist them in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, The Legal Profession Act, 1990 establishes a special fund financed by fees paid by lawyers that is used to reimburse members of the public in the case of a lawyer misappropriating funds. Law societies across Canada are concerned that, with the increased mobility of lawyers, provincial special funds should be augmented through the development of a national special fund that would be available when lawyers are practising outside the jurisdiction in which they are registered as a member. Amendments are made to the Act to allow the Saskatchewan Law Society to participate in this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, new . . . [inaudible] . . . legislation contains no detailed election procedures for the governing bodies. Amendments are proposed in this Bill to remove certain election procedures from the Act and expand the rule-making powers of the benchers with respect to bencher election procedures.

When a complaint is received by the Law Society alleging misconduct or incompetence by a lawyer and a decision is made following a preliminary review that no further action should be taken on the complaint, the Act provides for an appeal of that decision to the benchers. An amendment proposed in this Bill will allow those appeals to be heard by a committee of benchers.

A further amendment will provide an additional option of referring a complaint to the ethics committee if the complaints officer or a committee reviewing the complaints determines that there has not been misconduct or incompetence but an ethical issue is raised. The ethics committee will be able to provide guidance to the member on the ethical practice of law. The mandate of the ethics committee is to give opinions and make rulings on questions of professional ethics for the guidance of the profession.

Where a hearing is required with respect to a complaint of incompetence or misconduct against a member is heard by a hearing committee, with the consent of the member and counsel for the Law Society, the hearing committee can impose any penalty other than suspension, disbarment, or permission to resign. Only the discipline committee which is composed of all the benchers can impose those penalties.

The Law Society has requested that the Act authorize the benchers to make rules expanding hearing committee sentencing powers. Accordingly a further amendment to the Act will provide the benchers with the power to make rules authorizing hearing committees to impose suspensions, disbarments, and permission to resign as disciplinary penalties.

At present, members who are disbarred may apply for reinstatement virtually immediately. This Bill provides that, as part of a sentencing when a lawyer's disbarred, the discipline committee may fix a period not exceeding five years that the former member must wait before he or she may apply for reinstatement.

The Law Society may apply to the court-appointed trustee to manage legal practice when the member is unable to do so because, for example, he or she is disbarred or deceased. The trustee's costs are currently paid by the Law Society. This Bill would allow the court to order the costs of the trustee be paid by the member or the member's estate.

If a client is dissatisfied with the lawyer's account, they can make an application to the court to have it reviewed, or as the Act says, taxed. The Act provides that if the application is not made to the court within 30 days, a lawyer's bill may only be taxed if special circumstances exist.

The courts have taken a fairly narrow view of what constitutes special circumstances. It is proposed that the Act be changed to allow the courts to allow taxation outside the 30-day limit if it is in the interests of justice that the taxation proceed. It's also proposed the term taxation be changed to assessment.

A number of other minor housekeeping changes are also included in the Bill, including updating terminology and section references.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments have been developed with the ongoing input of the Law Society, and I thank them for the co-operation and the development of this Bill and their ongoing work for the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of An Act to amend The Legal Profession Act, 1990.

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

that the Bill No. 16, The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Lloydminster.

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to respond to the second reading of Bill 16, legal professions Act.

The minister has just outlined some of the consequences, intent, and objectives of the amendments, and from my review of the discussion that the minister had and from the materials that I had, I would say that it is appropriate and timely that there be something done in order to allow the legal profession to be able to take a little more accountability for the operation of their profession and for the consequences thereof.

[15:00]

One of the problems that we have, Madam Deputy Speaker, I feel as the years go by is less of a confidence in the people in both the judicial system and in the legal profession that represents the legal system or helps people into the legal system. And I think it's an appropriate measure that amendments are added to be able to raise the confidence level of people that they will be able to be treated correctly and have professionals serve on their behalf in the legal systems that they have to succumb themselves to.

It is important I think that the legal profession has recognized that they have to become . . . there has to be some consistency, rather, with the law societies in other parts of Canada. As the world shrinks, so does Canada and people do in fact travel back and forth across Canada and operate actually in several different provinces simultaneously. And I think it's most important therefore for the legal profession to be able to have the operations and their own requirements consistent across Canada so that again the confidence of people being served by the legal profession is at a high and consistent standard.

It is definitely a trend to go to both a professional organization and almost a self-regulated organization to be able to be accountable to themselves, but nonetheless oversight by government and government departments and agencies is critical. And I think what we see here is a blend starting to give more, both consistency and professional competency to the legal profession with some overriding conditions.

Those overriding conditions and requirements are important and I would like the opportunity to explore those a little bit further with others in the law profession and therefore I move the debate adjourn on Bill No. 16, The Legal Profession Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Lloydminster has moved to adjourn the debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to support the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 19 — The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice,

the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005. These amendments codify the law relating to trustee liability and the responsibility of the trust fund and trustees in the event that a trustee is sued. The current state of the law is unclear, and trustees are unable to determine with certainty the extent to which they may be personally liable, with their personal assets at risk, while acting in good faith.

Pension board members have requested these changes. A lack of clarity in legislation gives rise to the question as how individual members may be personally held responsible for their actions. Trustees essentially volunteer their time, knowledge, skills, and abilities to the pension boards. Some receive nominal remuneration. Most would incur personal bankruptcy should there be a need for individuals to pre-fund legal expenses to prepare their defence.

The intent of the legislation is to clarify board member liability and to make funds available up front to pay legal costs. If the trustee is found not to have acted honestly and in good faith, the provisions require the trustee to reimburse the fund.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Trustee Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19, The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to make a couple of brief comments on the amendments to The Trustee Act. It's a very short Act that I think it focuses directly on some of the problems that has been experienced in the past, and again there's an area of uncertainty that needs to be corrected. The minister used the word putting certainty into the equation, and I think that's exactly what's needed.

A lot of the involvement on behalf of the people of the province is involved with trustees in one way or another. And it needs to be made clear what their role is, what . . . to level of their accountability, and what the consequences are for their non-function of the job. I think there needs to be a uniformity and conformity with a kind of a standard code of ethics for the trustees, and I notice that in the amendments there is proposals to address those kinds of things.

Also it shows, or it mentions in the amendment, how the different kinds of penalties can be now referred back to things like the legal costs directly from the trust funds. I would hope that this doesn't mean that the trustees are just counting on both the support and the funding from the trust fund and not taking their jobs equally as seriously as they did in the past.

But I think the intent of the Act is proper. And I would like to explore the option to have more input on some of this Act and the consequences from trustees and therefore I would move adjournment on the amendment to The Trustee Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Lloydminster has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to support the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 18 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2005

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Securities Amendment Act, 2005. Madam Deputy Speaker, enactment of The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 reflects Saskatchewan's commitment to participate fully with other provinces and territories in the implementation of the second phase of the passport system of securities regulation.

In February 2003 the ministers responsible for securities regulation for the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec met to discuss potential reform of the way in which the sale and trading of securities is regulated in Canada. Manitoba and Saskatchewan accepted an invitation to join these provinces in creating a provincially led initiative to make significant reforms to the existing framework of securities regulation in Canada.

On September 30, 2004 provincial and territorial ministers made a commitment to improve the Canadian securities regulatory framework by signing a provincial-territorial memorandum of understanding regarding securities regulation — the MOU. The MOU has been signed by ministers responsible for securities regulation from all provinces and territories with the exception of Ontario. Ontario has not signed the MOU because it favours a single Canadian regulator. However Ontario is committed to working with the interprovincial initiative to improve the regulatory environment for the securities industry in Canada.

The MOU calls for meaningful and timely improvements to the current system including: a passport system for securities regulation resulting in a single window of access to capital markets in participating provinces and territories; highly harmonized, streamlined, and simplified securities laws; a council of ministers to facilitate change and ongoing co-operation; a review of regulatory fees charged in the context of the passport system; and a commitment to explore options for further reform.

The guiding principles for the passport system are: ensuring the highest level of investor protection, making sure markets are competitive, ensuring that the regulatory response is proportionate to the need and cost, increasing the flexibility and cost-effectiveness of securities regulation, and providing sufficient oversight and accountability.

The first phase of the passport system was completed earlier this year by the adoption of national instrument 11-101, principal regulator system, by Saskatchewan and other provinces and territories. These new provisions allow market

participants to use the regulator in their home jurisdiction as a single window of access to other jurisdictions for prospectus clearance and continuous disclosure requirements.

The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 represents a second phase of the process which will facilitate an expansion of the passport system into other areas where the securities laws in Canadian jurisdictions are not fully harmonized. In essence, this legislation provides a platform upon which further streamlining and simplification of Canadian securities regulation can be built.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill which is harmonized with legislation that will be passed in all Canadian provinces and territories represents a significant achievement in the history of securities reform in this country. The passport system will allow market participants a single window of access to all Canadian jurisdictions by dealing with the regulator and complying with the laws in their home jurisdiction.

A Saskatchewan corporation wishing to raise capital will be able to sell securities in all Canadian jurisdictions simply by meeting the requirements of the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission and Saskatchewan's securities laws.

Similarly, corporations based in other provinces and territories will be able to enter the Saskatchewan marketplace by meeting the requirements in their home jurisdiction. In addition, investment dealers and advisers will be able to deal with clients who have moved to another jurisdiction as long as they meet the requirements in their home jurisdiction.

Specifically, this legislation creates new delegation powers that will allow the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission to delegate its powers under The Securities Act to regulators in the home jurisdictions of issuers based in other provinces and to accept similar delegation made of the Saskatchewan commission by regulators in other provinces.

The Bill also allows Saskatchewan to adopt or to incorporate the security laws of other Canadian jurisdictions and to deem compliance with other Canadian, and in some cases foreign, jurisdictions as constituting compliance with Saskatchewan securities law.

The new provisions also include specific immunity for Saskatchewan securities regulators when applying delegated powers of other jurisdictions.

Madam Deputy Speaker, many of the changes brought about by the passport system are aimed at facilitating the ability of corporations to raise capital and to ease the regulatory burden upon corporations that raise capital for the securities system and the investment dealers and advisers who conduct sales and trades of securities.

The interests of the investor have not been neglected in this process. Every effort has been made to ensure that these changes do not derogate from existing investor protections.

Consideration is currently being given by the interprovincial working group to further amendments that would expand the ability of investors to sue companies for misrepresentations in

the disclosure they make to the marketplace, as well as provisions that will allow commissions to levy increased penalties and order restitution for investors that have suffered a loss as a result of the breach of securities law.

This Bill contains certain housekeeping amendments that will allow for the adoption of uniform national instruments and includes consequential amendments to The Credit Union Act, 1990 and The Co-operatives Act, 1996.

Madam Deputy Speaker, these amendments represent an important step in the creation of a new regulatory environment in Saskatchewan and across Canada that will reduce complexity and costs, foster greater investor confidence, and make Canada's capital markets more competitive with markets around the world.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Securities Amendment Act, 2005.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 18, The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you again, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is a rather important amendment to a pretty important Act because it's very timely now in this 2005-2006 time frame for investors particularly to develop the confidence level needed to be able to invest in any particular province and in this province specifically. We have an opportunity to expedite both the potential and also the future returns on the opportunities here in Saskatchewan and for that we need investment.

Investment is very critical and we need stability, certainty, and consistency of the investor and his confidence that it's being protected under The Securities Act.

From an earlier role I had in the industry, we tried it one time — I remember, Madam Deputy Speaker — to put a Canada-wide securities Act in place that would apply to all provinces. And it's been debated for a number of years, and gradually some of the provinces have joined on, more recently others as the minister has indicated. And now finally there is an agreement that we can move to a national security Act that allows people then to invest both in one province and in another one, any other one, and have the same assurance.

[15:15]

There's some aspect of The Securities Act that I would need a little more time, and I think our side of the House needs a little more time to confer with some of the people that are actually participating in the investment climate in Saskatchewan. And for that reason, I move adjournment of debate on Bill 18, The Securities Amendment Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 15 — The Highways and Transportation
Amendment Act, 2005**

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of An Act to amend The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997. This Act contains amendments that will enhance safety and economic growth in our province.

Madam Speaker, under the new provision there will be a better process to provide clear and effective authority to respond to highway blockades. This amendment will simply clarify the role of the Department of Highways and Transportation and the Government of Saskatchewan by providing a clear and effective response in the event of a blockade placed on a provincial highway.

Blockade threats or actions are of significant concern to the general public, the province, and the forestry and mining industries. The amendment does not represent a change in departmental policy. It is meant to accommodate policy changes to government-wide initiative regarding acts of civil disobedience. It also does not conflict with the plan or existing policies of the province or with the policies of any police force in Saskatchewan.

The amendments are consistent with the cabinet decision item, Saskatchewan response to incidence of blockades and similar illegal acts, presented and approved by my colleagues in August, 2005.

The additional amendments are simply housekeeping in nature. The department managed and operated the Highways Revolving Fund to distribute the cost of equipment, material, and labour to department programs. The fund provided a financial mechanism to allocate the costs of equipment over multiple years when the General Revenue Fund expensed all costs in the current year. It also allowed equipment operating and maintenance costs to be allocated to the department's operating and preservation programs based on actual use.

The capital assets reporting guidelines implemented by our province in 2004-2005 allowed for equipment to be amortized over the useful life of the asset. With the changes to the provincial accounting practice and amendments in 2004 to The Financial Administration Act, 1993, the Highways Revolving Fund was no longer required to manage the department's equipment fleet or custom work activities. The fund was discontinued as of March 31, 2004.

All capital assets including the department's equipment fleet were transferred to the General Revenue Fund on April 1, 2004. Equipment acquisition and custom work activities are reported under the machinery and equipment subvote and the custom work activity subvote in vote 16. The last amendment will enable automatic adoption of federal amendments where they are referenced.

I move second reading of an Act to amend The Highways and Transportation Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Transportation that Bill No. 15, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you again, Madam Deputy Speaker, and a few comments on Bill No. 15 — comments to the minister's comments on the second reading.

Highways and transportation is a very integral part of the economy of Saskatchewan. It's an infrastructure that everybody counts on, and it's an area that needs to be certainly streamlined, looked at in any way that we can make this thing work for the betterment of the province in attracting investment. Attracting businesses is certainly a good thing.

Some of the remarks that the minister made and the justifications for them seem to me to be on the surface justifiable. But I'm wondering for instance in his comments about barricades and the possibility of barricades on highways as threatening as they may be, barricades I would put to the minister are only a symptom of some frustration by the people of Saskatchewan, some symptom of something that is disagreeable with a certain group of people. And I would recommend that a lot more focus and attention be placed on trying to understand the root of the problem rather than becoming more heavy-handed and bureaucratic in terms of trying to solve the problem in, like I said, in a very heavy-handed way. I think that's an important part of trying to work with the people of Saskatchewan instead of directing and dictating to the people of Saskatchewan.

Also, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is another part of the amendments that actually refer to rolling back the Highways Revolving Fund and putting it into the General Revenue Fund. That has happened since, as the minister mentioned, 2004. The concern that I have is even though it might be a measure for efficiency of accounting, it may not be as profile as need be for the average person in the province or for people that want to hold this government accountable on specific actions and funds.

And for that reason I think there's a need to review again that concept to see if in fact the government is moving in the right direction.

With further consultation, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm going to move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 15, the Act to amend The Highways and Transportation Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, this Act in general terms broadens the existing Act to provide police forces with greater latitude and additional tools to stifle the activities of organizations involved in crime. It defines organized crime in a way that conforms with the Criminal Code and includes a limited ban on the wearing of gang colours.

This Bill No. 1, Madam Deputy Speaker, The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005 . . . More specifically, Madam Deputy Speaker, this Act changes the language used to define gangs and criminal organizations in such a manner that it is consistent with the Criminal Code of Canada. Specifically, Madam Deputy Speaker, a criminal organization is defined as a group of three or more people that has as one of its main purposes the facilitation or commission of serious criminal offences.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Act broadens the existing Act to make activities undertaken by a criminal organization in the commission of a criminal offence or the use of property in the commission of a criminal offence by criminal organizations a prohibited activity. This may give police and prosecutors the ability to clamp down on and, as I understand, to seize gang houses, whether or not gang members actually live there.

I take it, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Act provides for the seizure of property and also where an illegal substance has been sold to a minor in the context of organized crime or where an intoxicating substance has been traded to a minor in exchange for assistance in the commission of a criminal offence, Madam Deputy Speaker.

This Act seems to define a gang house as any structure where gang members congregate for the purpose of engaging in criminal activity, whether or not any gang members actually live in the structure.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Act defines gang colours as any sign, symbol, logo, or other representation that identifies a gang or criminal organization. And this Act seeks to prohibit the wearing of such colours in bars or other facilities that are licensed or permitted for the purpose of selling alcohol.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Act presumes that any person that has been convicted of a criminal organization offence in the past remains a gang member. This may be an incorrect assumption and may even fall under a Charter challenge.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Act may also put bar operators into a position where they could be accused of race-based decision making in terms of disallowing members of Aboriginal gangs wearing colours into bars or by reporting them to police when they are found in bars. Certainly bar owners and hoteliers need to be consulted on the mechanics of this Act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I understand what this Act tries to accomplish and generally agree with the direction that it takes. But there may be problems with some of the specifics. Therefore I move at this time to adjourn debate on this Act while members seek consultation on some of the issues involved.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 4

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 4 — The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up today to talk on this particular Bill dealing with the SAMA, Assessment Management Agency. And out in rural Saskatchewan and I think through the cities when you mention SAMA [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency] it can be kind of contentious a bit because the way property is assessed in different areas. I mean nobody likes to pay taxes and the way the mill rate is paid out and figured out through that. And a lot of it deals with the way property is assessed in rural Saskatchewan.

I'll just use a couple of examples, talk about. Unfortunately with the trouble we've been having in agriculture, there's more and more families, some of them leaving the farm. So as guys buy farms, they will have a house on them. So what they'll do is they will cut out 10 acres. They will go to the RM [rural municipality], the municipality, and get that rezoned and get that taken out. And usually they get permission from the RM to do that. And then they'll sell 10 or 20 acres and advertise it. And the odd time you'll have somebody from a neighbouring town that will buy one and move out of the town and maybe raise, have a horse or cow or just want to be out of the town.

And I know that in some RMs that where there is many, many of these small 10 acre . . . we call them acreages. Around the city, they call them acreages. And they will use that because there's enough of them. They will use the assessments from the larger centres, and that can get into a problem.

I know that they . . . I've had a couple of calls in my office that were quite irate with the way they were assessed at the mill rate.

And the RM says well basically our hands are tied because they're using the assessment from around the cities on what an acreage is worth there. And out in rural Saskatchewan 10 acres . . . An older home that may be 20, 25 years will still be assessed maybe around Saskatoon, Regina for \$100,000, \$80,000. And basically they bought that piece of property for maybe 5,000 or \$4,000. Just the way things are in rural Saskatchewan.

And it raises an issue. And I know even some . . . I had one business too and it happened . . . the only business that fell in that category in rural Saskatchewan. Same thing. They used an assessment, then out of the city because then they'll move to another jurisdiction where there is more of these businesses to use, I guess, fair-market value. What it would be worth at the business value, which is a motel or hotel . . . that we say well how much business will they use when an average hotel or motel that size . . . What they use for business or what goes through them doors they will use for figure out their assessment, their mill rate . . . or their assessment I guess at that end and that translate it into the mill rate.

But the motel — because it's not in Regina or Saskatoon or maybe even a larger centre, but it's outside that RM — say well we don't have that volume of traffic that goes through the doors that you would in Regina or Saskatoon or maybe even a Yorkton or a Melville or North Battleford or Prince Albert. You won't have that volume of traffic. And yet because in that particular RM or surrounding RMs there isn't many motels, they will say well this is a 40-unit motel. And a 40-unit motel in, let's say in Melville generates so much business and that's . . . maybe that's you're assessed at.

[15:30]

I have gotten calls and then you go through the appeal process and different things. But there is some people, quite a few people that are not that satisfied with SAMA at that. When you mention the fact there has been some RMs that are talking about . . . in the southwest corner I think talking about getting an independent agency to come in and assess. And I think — I could be wrong — but I think there's a couple of cities that do that now too. I'm not sure. I know there was before at that end of it. And just feeling that the assessment that was set there should be, you know maybe it isn't quite fair or maybe they just didn't have the particular information or whatever of why they're doing it.

But I know that as an MLA I have gotten calls and I say well you know that's . . . all we can do is direct you to the appeal process first on that, which a lot of people don't realize you can appeal your assessment and do that, that step of it. But I know it has been raised a few times where they've come back and said they weren't . . . got turned down at the appeal process and say well they just thought that they were being assessed unfairly because some of the towns were . . . just the way the assessment was.

And another example I'll use is even around Regina and outside of Regina, there's some towns and aren't that . . . they're not that big; might be a couple, three, four hundred people, but there's some nice homes out there. Because what happens is you'll get people out of Regina, coming out building a home

there, a very nice home, and they're still only maybe 10, 15 minutes from work.

Where the same size town in let's say . . . I've got in my constituency where the nearest town of any size might be 50 miles away. They will assess . . . Somebody will build a house there, a new house and it will be assessed. That town, they'll use the same assessment as they're comparing it to a town outside of Regina that maybe has 2 to 400 people that will use that kind of the same value. And they'll say yeah, but it's only 10 minutes out of Regina, that there's more new houses going up, the property is worth more because of the proximity to the city.

Where, where our town is located, there is no value for work around there so your land values, your houses are selling cheaper, a lot cheaper — your land, your lots, at that end of it. But we're being still assessed fairly high because they're including in that assessment package . . . And they'll put quite a few towns together the same size but a lot of them towns, maybe some of them around Regina or Saskatoon or P.A. [Prince Albert] where your land value happens to be higher. I mean it goes back to the same thing about real estate, you know — location, location, location is what they say.

So naturally property that's just outside of a major centre or a major work area always sells for a little more or will sell for more than a property that is . . . Basically if there happens to be no jobs in the area or in the agricultural area which is getting very depressed, them houses will be the same, same kind of houses, but a guy with a four-bedroom house, 2,000 square feet, maybe 20 years old out where I live isn't going to be able to sell it for a whole lot of money compared to if that house was sitting just outside of Regina in a small town.

The guy outside of Regina in a smaller centre will probably get three or four times the value of his house. So they're using that assessment when they're also assessing his house. That town may be in the same link of towns they use in that band there. And that's where there has been some problems with SAMA — raised with it. I mean naturally when you come to assessment there's always problems at that, but those are one of the issues I would like to raise.

And I know on farm land, I mean the way assessment's gone up. This year in the RM of McCraney all the land went up — every acre. Everybody I talked to their taxes went up this year on assessment. A lot of it was the education portion tax, but it was also because the administrator explained to me there was a change in assessment.

Pasture land was changed a couple of years ago. I think they're assessing that at 75 per cent now. And that went up right through the BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] crisis which when basically the cattle industry was suffering. That included, you know, pasture land was taking a dive through that.

But getting back to the farm land, yes, it's gone up. My taxes this year went up, went up I think \$1,000 across . . . at least 1,000, \$1,000 to 1,200. And that included . . . and you know what that was because I checked on it? The minister . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask hon. members to avoid yelling across the House so that the Speaker cannot hear the member on his feet. Thank you.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Just addressing that yell a little bit for the Minister of Education. It was the education portion of the tax that went up. It wasn't the municipal tax. It stayed the same. Theirs stayed the same. But the education portion went up this time so directing that back to the Minister of Education.

And yet they tell us that they're lowering it and people phone my office or stop me in the street. They say I've heard that they were supposed to throw in this money. It's supposed to help bring my taxes down. Why have they gone up? Why have my taxes on the education portion gone up? And I say, you know, I don't know. I heard them say the same thing that it should go down but obviously it didn't. That was just another misinformation coming out of this House it seems like. And that's unfortunate. And that deals with this particular Bill.

And some other things that I want to talk about when they do talk about it. This would be a good Bill that eventually, that should be when it goes to committee, that it should be . . . stakeholders should be brought in. Because this affects people across the board. I'm pretty sure people from the real estate board would like to talk on it. I know SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] would like to talk about SAMA. And I know SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] would like to talk about SAMA. And plus I think there's a few other stakeholders that would like consultation because this affects everybody across the board. And I think that this Bill, if it goes to committee, it should be brought in . . . some groups should be brought in so they can discuss a few things.

And this government, I'm not sure how much that they actually spent consulting when they tell us that they've consulted certain groups. I know that I've heard that SARM wasn't really, haven't heard much of this Bill yet, at that end of it.

So I think there's a few things that have to be, for myself and my colleagues around me, questions that have to be answered when it comes to assessment because that basically affects everybody in this province. It affects the agriculture. It affects the business. It affects people in urban dwellings. It affects renters. If their property taxes go up, their landlord will raise their rent. It touches base with everybody in Saskatchewan.

So when a Bill like this does come through, even though they say it could be some housekeeping, word changing, I see there may be possibly a deletion of some unnecessary clauses. I would like every stakeholder that's involved, that it will touch, to be very clear about this Bill so they know the ramifications. If there are changes that will affect them, they'll be able to let their lawyers, let their people go through it, at the end of it.

So that's some of the points I would like to address in this Bill. I see that they're changing something about . . . to market-value-based assessment, which can be good, you know, as long as it's done right. I think other provinces have gone to that if I'm right, at that end of it. And that's something that they should be moving at in the direction. But it's still the same

thing. Every stakeholder involved should be having their say on this particular Bill, at that end of it. So that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I will adjourn debate on this particular Bill for now.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Arm River-Watrous has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 5 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to make a few comments on Bill No. 5, An Act to amend The Cities Act.

I understand this Bill could be a bit tied with the assessment at that end, but there is . . . I know that it's a Bill that cities have wanted changes on different things of it. I see some of the . . . will affect different stakeholders. I see that the deal is about collecting from unpaid parking fines by seizing vehicles owned by the person who has the unpaid fines. Now I think that falls into section 335 at that end of it.

Now that, you know, can be a good thing; can cause a lot of concern on that when seizing vehicles, especially vehicles that may be, how would I say, are money, that are leased vehicles like from a company or vehicles that there is . . . It wouldn't be a lien, but let's say you borrowed money, which most of us have. You drive a new vehicle. You've mortgaged that vehicle at that. Who has first right on that when it's seized and it's sold? Who has first right at the money? Does that go strictly to the cities, or does it go to a banking institution at that end of it, whether it be a credit union, a Bank of Montreal, Royal Bank, or various other fractions that lend money to buy vehicles?

So that's a concern. Myself, I have questions on it, and I know that when we talk to some colleagues about it there was, you know, some questions that we raised at that particular end of it.

I know that the cities do want more power when it comes to collecting unpaid fines on parking tickets. I know in the cities it has been a particular problem from what I understand. I can remember a case in Saskatoon where it was quite publicized, where I think a woman went to jail on it, or it was along that lines. And I know that . . . I don't think nobody wants to put anybody in jail for parking tickets. I mean, that's carrying things possibly a little too far.

So I know that parking is a problem. It's a parking problem in the cities. When I go to park somewhere, it's very hard to find a parking spot. But you keep looking until you find one because I make sure that I don't want my vehicle seized or sold or end up in jail, but still that's . . .

I know the cities it is a contentious issue with them how to collect unpaid fines. And from what I understand, they have thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars tied up in unpaid parking fines which they would like probably access to that money at that end of it.

But yet in the same thing, same vein, you also want to make sure that you also don't trample people's rights too by going too far in some legislation. And with this particular one that's one that you want to make sure that you don't want to trample people's rights or not even end up going after the right people.

Getting a vehicle that . . . maybe the person that got the tickets isn't the one that's, the vehicle that's being impounded, at different ends, and then company vehicles and lease vehicles and you can run into all them different kind of questions. It can be quite onerous to figure out who's in the right, who's in the wrong, who's in the different things on that particular Bill on it.

I know that . . . I see there's some changes being made that are consistent with The Municipalities Act too dealing with railway companies, road allowance, and vehicles at that end of it.

And I see there's a new provision adding that there will be a youth board position available appointed by local council. This youth board member is not official council member, cannot vote or count in quorum. But it's also being added to it. I'm not sure did . . . why that particular was put in there, or why the cities wanted it. I don't even remember going through the second speeches if it was even, if the minister even addressed that particular one in there. I don't remember that being . . . He's shaking his head. He said he did. I will have to read it a little more careful to see how he . . . He may have put it in there but I don't think he really answered my question on why it should be in there.

But with this particular Bill, same thing. I know we had . . . When we get them, even though the government says that they've consulted with certain jurisdictions that in the cities, in the municipalities, in SARM, in SUMA and the people that are affected, we found out in the past that sometimes maybe they've only talked to one or two people, or really haven't consulted that much, and there was concerns raised.

I can remember last year a particular Bill being pulled eventually from the order paper because of there had to be changes made in it that stakeholders wanted afterwards. So with that, Madam Deputy Speaker, we would like to make sure that all the stakeholders have been consulted on this particular Bill and that they have no reservations with it and they're happy with it. So with that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I will adjourn debate on this particular Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Arm River-Watrous has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:45]

Bill No. 6

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 6 — The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosthern. No. Sorry. Wood River . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Rosthern-Shellbrook. Thank the member for the correction. I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand in the House today to speak to Bill No. 6, an Act to amend the municipal Act. And as a representative from the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, I'm pleased to stand . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, members. Madam Deputy Speaker, in my former life before I took on the job of an MLA politician, I was the mayor of the town of Spiritwood, and I was also a business owner in the town of Spiritwood. So I'm pleased to speak today on behalf of The Municipalities Act.

Now this amendment from what I understand makes changes to the wording and the definitions to move from a fair-value assessment model to a market-base model in the 2009 re-evaluation year. And that brings to light, Madam Deputy Speaker, if re-evaluation's coming in the year 2009, which I believe if I did my correct math is four years away, and because, because the fall sitting that we're taking place right now is a place for the government to introduce Bills — which they have done, and quite a few Bills — the reason for the fall session was to introduce Bills and then have consultation of those Bills with the local stakeholders. We as an opposition on this side are going to do that part.

So I'm wondering, Madam Speaker, why the hastiness of the minister from Government Relations and why the hastiness to have on his wish list the last three Bills, the assessment manage agency amendment Act, The Cities Act amendment, and The Municipalities Act amendment . . . needs to be passed in the next week and a half?

It's our job as opposition to make sure everybody is consulted in this process. And I'm reminded, Madam Deputy Speaker, when The Cities Act was introduced — I believe that Act was some 200 pages — it was mostly because of the Saskatchewan Party that we undertook to have meetings in the province to have all stakeholders understand what is in that Bill.

Then the Minister of Government Relations, who now is the House Leader, took it upon himself to have I believe six meetings in the province of Saskatchewan. I attended one of those meetings in Wilkie along with my colleague, the member from Biggar.

And when we were at that meeting in Wilkie, there was a number of gentlemen that stood in their place and posed questions to the Minister of Government Relations in the opposition of The Cities Act, in the hasty manner in which he

wanted it to go through. And I was amazed at the questions that were asked by the members to the minister. And I know the minister and his colleagues at that time were writing down these questions and at the end of the meeting said, we will take these questions into consideration before we put through the Bill.

Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill did not pass in the hastiness that the Minister of Government Relations wanted it. Instead he took it back, and he went over some of those amendments. And he saw fit to make some significant changes.

Now I'm sure in The Municipalities Act, that we're here today, there are changes that was never done and he sees fit that has to be done. But the question that I want to pose to the Minister of Government Relations is, has he consulted with all the stakeholders? And if he hasn't, and if he hasn't, it is our job as opposition to make sure that we consult with those members and then bring back to this House the recommendations that the minister should change.

It is not our job to stand here and have the minister introduce a Bill and in a day or so pass the Bill. Yes there can be work done in committee. And we welcome the chance to go in at the committee and talk at that time of changes that could be made. But before it gets passed into committee, it is our job as opposition to consult with the stakeholders. And we will do that. We will consult with SUMA, with SARM, with all the members before passing this Bill. And, Madam Speaker, with that I am going to move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 3

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand in this Assembly to speak to The Summary Offences Procedure Act, Bill No. 3, and to raise a few more questions in regards to the piece of legislation we have before us.

And I understand one of the biggest components of this piece of legislation is changing the guidelines whereby municipalities can go after individuals who may have outstanding tickets, parking tickets or fines, and trying to simplify the process. As well as in this specific situation, Madam Speaker, by allowing for municipalities to send letters of notice it frees up some of the police officers that have in the past or at least even today are forced to have to go and hand out tickets to individuals who have not been forthright in paying their overdue parking tickets

or traffic violations.

Now, Madam Speaker, as I was looking at . . . as I've been looking through this piece of legislation, I noticed some interesting things. But first of all let me say when it comes to parking violations, and I know the city of Regina's certainly one of those cities that really has a . . . We hear the business community in downtown Regina complaining about the lack of individuals taking the time to come down and shop in the area. And yet it was one of the most difficult places to try and find a parking spot.

So I can see why the city would be trying to implement some kind of guidelines that would free, if you will, free up parking stalls rather than . . . Maybe what they need to do is look at creating larger parking areas that are actually close to the business community so that individuals would find it easier to drive downtown and find easier access to parking that is more than reasonable and where the notices are clearly defined so you know exactly what you're facing.

And when I talk about notices, I talk about — just reiterating some of the situations a person can run into as you go downtown, especially when you come to an Impark parking lot — the fact that there are two or three entrances to this parking lot but there isn't very clear signage at the entrances to indicate that you need to go to the one specific entrance to pick up your parking pass. And sometimes, Madam Speaker, I think part of the problem that individuals have is the fact that we have very poor signage when it comes to whether it's on a parking lot or even on the street.

For example, and I'm not sure if this is changed because notice was given to the city, but just off of Victoria, south of Victoria on Rose Street, there's a 15-minute loading zone parking sign. Interestingly enough, Madam Deputy Speaker, if it happens to be the spring and through the summer, that sign is not visible to the public unless you happen to be right underneath it. And when you pull into a parking area, it looks like the parking area is open. The reason I say that is because that sign happens to be covered over by trees.

And I would suggest, Madam Deputy Speaker, some of our municipalities, cities included, need to take a look at their signage and how clear the signage is to ensure that individuals have no excuse whatsoever — that the signage is visible, it's clear, and it's in visible sight range. And therefore I believe you would find on numerous occasions, Madam Deputy Speaker, that you may not have as many outstanding offences. Although I know individuals who have been in situations like this, have gone immediately to confront the authorities in regards to the lack of or the poor visibility of some of these signs.

A colleague of mine and I were just discussing a situation that they ran into fairly recently where they were moving down a street and they came to an intersection, Madam Deputy Speaker, and they were looking for oncoming traffic. Unfortunately — well I should say fortunately — they saw the traffic and the traffic seemed to be moving fairly quickly and they thought that kind of odd because they were . . . it was their understanding that the stop sign was on the other side of the street. When they did a turnaround and went back, they noticed the stop sign was well off the street. And unfortunately because

of the way the parking is allowed, it's totally restricted to the visibility of the traffic flow that you're trying to inform that there's a stop sign here.

So I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, we talk about offences. And yet at times I'm not exactly sure if municipalities make enough of an effort to ensure that their signage is not blocked or hindered from visibility so the traffic, people that are proceeding down the streets or looking at parking on the streets have a clear understanding of what the rules and the guidelines are.

And once you get to live in a community, you get to understand what the guidelines are for the community so you understand what the requirements are to meet those guidelines. But if you're in a new community or travelling into a new area of a community that you may have been around, if the signage isn't as visible as it should be, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's certainly very easy to mistakenly park in a parking area and find yourself with a traffic offence having been, say, parked too long in a certain area. And so you've got a traffic ticket to deal with.

Now the good part about traffic tickets is when you realize that you've made a mistake, because that person has the ability to go and pay that immediately. However, Madam Deputy Speaker . . . And the member from Regina Northeast must have had an awful lot of them because he sure is complaining an awful lot.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, I know that there are individuals who totally refuse to acknowledge the fact that they have had a traffic violation. And then we have people, my colleagues and I'm sure colleagues across the way have people coming complaining to you about the harassment from city officials or municipal officials because of the fact that you've been slow on responding to your traffic violation, whatever that traffic violation may be.

Now I note in the summary offences one of the requirements that have been brought forward, Madam Deputy Speaker, is giving communities or cities the ability to put a lien against vehicles or personal property. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I have a concern with that. And we certainly want to raise some questions in that regard for the simple reason the question is this: if a vehicle happens to have a traffic violation, like parking too long, and a parking violation and you put a lien against that vehicle, you don't know whether that vehicle happened to have been borrowed for a while. You don't know if that vehicle was a rented vehicle. You don't know if that vehicle was a stolen vehicle. But that vehicle has a traffic violation.

One of the members in this Assembly could have very well have a vehicle stolen. And I believe it wasn't that long ago that the former Justice minister in a situation went out to his vehicle only to find it was no longer where he had parked it. And that minister, Madam Deputy Speaker, may have under this new Act found himself with a summons to court because there was a parking violation against that vehicle that he hadn't responded to.

What I'm saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the fact that you or I may not know that if we've lent a vehicle to someone just to run downtown to do a bit of shopping, that they may have incurred a violation on that vehicle, like a parking ticket, unless

they've informed us. And therefore when a summons is . . . You're asking yourself, now why?

So I think we need to raise some questions as to whether or not we should move in that direction of allowing cities to put a lien against a vehicle if it's got outstanding parking tickets against it.

I'm also somewhat opposed to . . . I believe there's a place in the legislation that calls for or allows for incarceration of a person for a parking offence. You know, Madam Deputy Speaker, we hear on an ongoing basis from the Department of Justice the cost of holding people or in incarceration.

[16:00]

And it would seem to me that, in fact I believe, we're talking of having to build more space in our correctional centres and our prisons because we don't have enough room today. But maybe we need to look at some other alternatives such as, Madam Deputy Speaker, maybe community service. I'm not sure if we're sending the right message.

Yes I believe cities are finding that, and the province is finding that there are just too many outstanding violations that haven't been responded to which means there's a significant amount of change that is either not available to the Minister of Finance or is not available to cities as they try to provide services to the residents of their communities. And therefore the municipalities are looking at ways and means of addressing this issue.

And I believe that's what the intent of this piece of legislation, the summary offences procedures Act, is attempting to do, is attempting to strengthen some of the rules and the guidelines that would make it easier for municipalities to move against individuals who have outstanding, long outstanding parking tickets or traffic violations.

However some of the issues that this piece of legislation is bringing forward is suggesting that maybe these are ways in which we could move to address those issues. I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, we need to be very careful and very diligent as we review this piece of legislation to ensure that at the end of the day this legislation as it moves forward will indeed address in the best possible form the issue that it's trying to address, and that's regarding outstanding traffic violations.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe there's a number of questions we certainly can move forward on as we move into committee and certainly address in committee. But I believe as we continue our consultation with municipal governments, whether it's urban or rural or other groups that would be affected under this piece of legislation, it's imperative that we get a better understanding of where the groups are coming from and whether or not this government actually, as the minister indicated, they had taken significant time to consult.

We want to get an understanding of whether or not this piece of legislation actually is following the guidelines of the consultation process that the government had undertaken or whether or not the government basically moved on their own with what they felt would be a better form of addressing a number of these issues. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's

certainly imperative that we do take that time. And therefore at this time, I move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 17

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 17 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to Bill No. 17, An Act to amend The Real Estate Act.

The renaming of the Real Estate Commission to Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission appears to be a housekeeping matter, and I do not anticipate that over the period of the next few months, as we have the opportunity to bring this proposed amendment up with the stakeholders, that we will be opposing this part of the amendment.

The continuance under the corporations branch and corporations Act also appears to be a necessary housekeeping matter. It would also seem logical that the fines and fees that are collected by the commission would become the property of the commission. And it appears that in fact this Act will allow that and not just having it being allowed by the past practices.

The areas that would appear to propose changes are in responsibilities and/or practices of the commission as it relates to the commission's ability to buy, hold, lease, sell, or dispose of real and personal property.

It is our duty as opposition to assure that these changes being proposed meet with the approval of the stakeholders involved. In the minister's explanatory statements he indicates that this legislation has been requested by the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission, although it would be my understanding that at this time we're still dealing with an entity called the Real Estate Commission and not the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission as that's part of the change to the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the stakeholders are not only the commission but also the clients. The clients — be they buyers, sellers, landlords, or renters — must be assured that there is no potential for conflict of interest between the realtor, the commission, and the client.

Mr. Speaker, we will be studying this Bill, and for that reason I would move to adjourn debate at this time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Cut Knife-Turtleford has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 2

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 2 — The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. And we're on the Bill No. 2. I can hear them chirping from the other side, and I haven't even turned on the eloquence yet . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay I'll go home to where the light is. I've got it here. Okay. We're getting there. We've got the lights on, somebody's home, and we're dealing with, as I said, the Act to amend the employment tax credit Act.

What the Bill does is it makes changes to the amount and the calculations of the film employment tax credit. Now that's always interesting. Any time that you turn an NDP government loose and say here's a little segment of society and you can tamper with your tax credits, that's a highly scary thing, Madam Deputy Speaker. And you know the most scary thing is, even before I looked at my next line, is very specifically, what does it do with the tax? It increases the tax credit from 35 per cent to 45 per cent.

Now here we have a government that . . . you've had the term about swimming in cash. We've had the terms about the mountain of cash. We've had the Minister of Finance talk about all the money that he had and how it was going to be spent, but he wasn't going to tell us what it was and how much he was going to make from it. We actually had our Finance critic do a guesstimate on how much the increase was going to be. And we were basically — considering the sizes of the members' — within pennies, within pennies.

Now we find that after this government has garnered in that amount of extra cash, that amount of extra cash that they don't know what they're going to do with, they don't know what they're going to do with. They've had options presented. One of the options was to go ahead and help in some of the communities that have the facilities for community — whether we're talking the rinks or the seniors' centres — helping them with some of their utility costs. But the minister wasn't going to talk about that. Instead he takes the film employment tax credit and increases that from 35 per cent to 45 per cent. Now why in the world is there any need for that?

We've had tough years in this province. Everyone knows that. We've had debt that needed to be paid. And we won't go into that unless I'm forced to do that. But we're quite prepared to discuss that at length, Madam Deputy Speaker.

But we had that discussion about the hard times that had been there. I've been here for nearly a decade, and there haven't been that many really good years as far as finances were concerned. It's always been sort of eke and scratch, and hopefully we'll have enough money. And as a result, this government has had to close all sorts of things. I remember the fact that they closed down all the hospitals because they said there weren't enough money . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 52? This is hard to believe.

We have a province, a province of 1 million people. That's small. Because there are cities all over Canada that have a larger population than that. So here we have a population of 1 million people, and we're going to close 52 hospitals. But they said times were tough. Times were tough.

So here we get a little more money. Enough money, as I said, that the Finance minister isn't quite sure how he's going to spend it as yet, and he's increased tax from 35 per cent to 45 per cent. Now if I happened to be a mathematician like my good friend that sits down the road here, I'd be able to tell you exactly what the percentage increase was. But I think that's moderately significant.

Anyways this would allow direct government equity investment as part of the eligible costs on which the tax credit can be calculated. Okay let's just follow that through. It would allow direct government equity investment as part of the eligible costs on which a tax credit can be calculated. Well what in the world would possess a government to want to do that? Why would any government want to go ahead and put in that equity investment to deal with those eligible costs on which that tax credit is calculated?

It would provide an additional 5 per cent tax credit to productions that employed Saskatchewan residents, but that isn't all. There's a little bit of fine print there. Those deductions — that 5 per cent tax credit — has to be if they employ Saskatchewan residents in key eligible positions.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would really be interested in knowing what those kinds of positions are. What positions are there in that whole industry that are so unique and so special that if you happen to be in one of those that's when that 5 per cent tax credit kicks in. But if you're not in one of those eligible positions, the tax credit doesn't kick in.

Now what could be the reason for that? Are these people better looking? Are they more adept at the whole issue about the industry? I suggest that this piece of paper was probably produced in the last week or two, and it was just one other effort by the NDP to raise their membership lists. I am sure that if we do get down to that fine print, we'll find that that 5 per cent tax credit applies to eligible positions if they have an NDP membership, have an NDP membership.

It's interesting, Madam Deputy Speaker. We've had some interesting scraps in this House about the NDP. We were watching back in the lounge the speeches that are going on over here. And I don't know if this is planned or not, but I'll ask the members across the floor to answer this. When one of your people comes up on the screen and you have this long name that's out there — and we're not allowed to use first names so I

won't do that out of respect for the House.

[16:15]

Under what colour would you use for that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . We have one person, just one person on that whole side that's been watching what goes on in the House. Now this is supposed to be the government, supposed to be the NDP government. And I'm not allowed to go ahead and discuss how many aren't here or are here and who it is, so I won't do that, Madam Deputy Speaker. But only one person identified that they knew what the answer to that question was. Just one. And I would really wonder why it is that only one person on that whole side has been listening to the discussion.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, an increase in the tax credit from 35 to 45 per cent, now this is part of a whole set of broader changes to the film tax credit that the government acknowledges would do what? Shrink the number of out-of-province productions that are produced in the province.

So they're going to increase the tax credit from 35 to 45 per cent. Then they've got this little phrase about key eligible positions. And the hope is, the hope is, Madam Deputy Speaker, they want to shrink out-of-province productions that are produced in the province.

What a way to grow a province. What a way to grow a province. That we'd actually have a Bill, Bill No. 2 — which I've been working so hard on to go ahead and be familiar with — Bill No. 2 and the key thing, the key thing is to shut down and slow down the production of that particular industry in the province. I have never, ever heard of a political group that's that backward economically.

You know, let's shut down production; let's shut down production. Who knows what else they're going to do? We'll suddenly find the price of gas higher here than in most other provinces so that when other businesses come in to drive in Saskatchewan they'll say it's too expensive. We're going to find all of those sorts of things happening.

I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is just the thin edge of the wedge. Following hard upon the NDP convention, where they did all their planning for the future, we see here exactly what it's about — Bill No. 2. And it's going to be interesting to see as we go through the rest of these Bills exactly some of the other ideas that they have to shut down business.

To have a tax in place that's going to limit the production in that area in a province, I don't think you could find any other similar situation all the way across Canada. I mean how amazed we would be if all of a sudden we found out that in Newfoundland or PEI [Prince Edward Island] they have a special tax on raising potatoes so that fewer people will raise potatoes. We'd say, what a bunch of stupid people. And here we're doing that. Here we're doing that.

The Deputy Speaker: — I ask the member to stick with the decorum of the Assembly, and I've been patient in having him address the Bill before the Assembly.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. So the

last point that I've been working on is the key part. That is the key part. We referred to the tax going up and down. We referred to the tax in key eligible positions. We've dealt with both of those. But what is the reason for that?

It had nothing to do with the Minister of Finance raising money. It had nothing to do with keeping open rinks in small towns and help them with the cost of their fuel. But it had everything to do with making sure that there wouldn't be competition for this industry in this province. And if you don't want the competition in this industry in this province, they're going to be going elsewhere because, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe it's every province in Canada would love to have this industry within its boundaries.

So Ontario ... [inaudible interjection] ... He says about lowering the taxes. Well I think if you look at the taxes that are there and the way they limit it and who's eligible for it, you'll find that that's not the case. That's not the case. This will actually push that industry out of the province.

There's a phrase here that I think that we're going to need to get some discussion on. It says that the Act would allow eligible companies the employment tax credit equal to 5 per cent of eligible salaries — and that word eligible scares the life out of me, Madam Deputy Speaker — if the company employs at least six prescribed positions on that particular item. Now what in the world is a prescribed position? It has nothing to do with being a scribe I'm sure, or a professional scribe either. But somewhere you have to hire at least six.

I think if government got right out of the business of trying to control everything, we wouldn't have the difficulty in seeing this province grow. There'd be absolutely no problem with seeing this province grow.

As I've explained, Madam Deputy Speaker, there are numerous problems in this Act. It is frankly, I think, a disaster. It doesn't do for this province what it could do or what all of us would probably hope it should do, and for that particular reason I move to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Martensville that we now adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 13

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 13 — The Archives Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today on behalf of the official opposition and put

my words to this Bill No. 13, The Archives Amendment Act. I would think that most of us when we hear the word archives, we think the word, stuffy and boring and of course very old, but as we get a little older we realize maybe the importance of some of the work that they are doing in keeping records and more importantly keeping track of the records that's happening in this building.

Madam Minister, the Heritage Foundation actually is looking at a lot of the issues of old infrastructure that we have in this province, and as we celebrated our centennial I think many of us appreciated the work that they have done. But The Archives Amendment Act that we're discussing today has more ... is actually a housekeeping Bill that's looking at some of the records that are kept here in the Assembly. Currently the government is obligated to implement record schedules and manage and control the disposition of public records. And the government can destroy records that are administrative and are addressed as common. But you can't destroy any records without first obtaining permission from the Provincial Archivist.

The one thing that this Act does acknowledge is that the cabinet records that are so very vital to the decision making or they are the record of what's happening in this province, were omitted in the previous Act. So the amendment is actually giving the authority to keep the records that we have, that this cabinet deals with on a daily basis.

The one thing that really amazed me when I read, listened to the minister speak about this, The Archives Amendment Act, is saying that:

... public records created and maintained by the Legislative Assembly ... will be subject to the Act. By ... [and] their inclusion in the records scheduling ... will see greater accountability, privacy, and access to ... [the] records.

Madam Minister, on this side of the House, we have been waiting for just about the 10 days since we've been sitting in this session, for this government to be accountable, to give us access to the records that we've been asking for through many of the questions that have been put forward in this House. The fact that this government hasn't been open and accountable, that they haven't given us access to the records that we need to do our job on this side of the House and to provide the information to the people we represent, is just plain despicable, because we haven't got answers to the many, many questions that we deserve to have records, answers for.

It'll be interesting to see if all this information that's vital to growing the province, which my colleague from Rosthern spoke about so elegantly for the last little while ... Growing the province is something that we're very, very interested in, but some of the information that is held by this government right now is not accessible to the people of this province. I believe over 500 questions have been asked of this government and there hasn't been answers. We haven't been able to find out what the government is doing.

So I'm hoping that maybe when the government looks at these Archives Act and looks at the material that is going to be kept

on public record for all time, some of this information will be seen down the road by people that think, you know what, maybe a few years ago these people could have used the information.

So at this time we're waiting for information back from groups of people who have got an interest in keeping the public record and knowing what the cabinet ministers have been saying. And this decision making could carry on because of the information they were given.

So at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would adjourn debate on this Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Prebble that **Bill No. 11 — The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to rise on item no. 9, Bill No. 11, the youth justice Act. I've looked at the Bill. It's not a very large Bill. It doesn't cover a lot of pages. It really only deals with kind of the designation of youth justice workers. It talks about people that are employed in or assisting in the administration of youth justice facilities — making them into peace officers as is done with youth workers or workers in other facilities. So it's just a matter of changing the designation of those people that work in youth justice facilities.

But you know when we start speaking about youth justice and any Acts that pertain to youth justice, there certainly are a lot of issues that come to mind and this being one of them, changing the designation of those certain workers. But there are a lot of issues that come to mind and I don't know whether it's I've been paying more attention to the fact but some of the violent crimes that we're seeing in our province now and so many of them are being committed by our youth. Now if you go back 20 and 30 years ago perhaps there were as many crimes committed and perhaps youth were involved but I don't think it was anything to the magnitude that we're seeing in our province today.

We heard the minister talk earlier about a Bill that he was introducing regarding gang-related activities, and you know I look back when I went to school and so many of my friends before me and after me, and I don't remember us talking an awful lot about gangs. I remember there being certain gangs where they would drink Canadian and we would drink Pilsner, for example, and those were the kinds of the gangs that we

would see. But we're seeing gangs now that are wearing colours to signify which gang they belong in and they're violent. They're turf protecting, they're into, you know, drug trafficking and they're into all sorts of things that I frankly don't remember. And perhaps I was naive but I don't remember that being around 20 and 30 years ago. It just didn't seem like the violence was there.

[16:30]

Now I want to couch that with saying that the vast majority of youth in this province are great citizens. I had the opportunity of teaching in the high school system for a number of years; after that working for a non-government organization for a number of years that dealt with youth, and by far the vast majority of the youth that I dealt with were excellent people. But it seems like there is a nucleus or a core that right now in our society are causing an awful lot of problems.

I think back just this past summer about just an absolutely horrific incident that happened in Saskatoon where a young fellow was stabbed. And I went to school with his dad. I knew . . . I didn't know Justin but I know Dean and Diana very well — Sproat — and what happened to their son in the inner city in Saskatoon is horrific. It's unimaginable that that type of situation could take place in our province.

And although this Bill talks about the youth justice Act and it talks about changing designation of certain people that work in youth justice facilities to peace officers, there are so many other issues around this area. And I just used the one example that happened this summer and, you know, the absolutely senselessness around that whole situation.

But it leads me to wonder why we're having these problems, why they are so prevalent in our society today. And I mean I can come up with a few conclusions and I think quite often if you talk to police officers, I don't know whether . . . I don't think my conclusions are that far off the base, but I think it has an awful lot to do with poverty. And with poverty becomes . . . and breakups in families and breakups in homes in . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. While I respect the member's debate, the Act before us does just change the designation, so if the member could address the Bill before the Assembly.

Mr. McMorris: — I'll be glad to address the Bill because what I was talking about, the people, the very people that I was talking about, end up in these facilities. And so when I talk about people that are in the city with breakups of homes and poverty, they end up in these facilities that these people which we're changing the designation to, for, are going to have to deal with them. So why are we changing the designation of these people? It's because of all the external problems that we're seeing in many of our cities and rural communities around the province.

So when I talk about poverty and when I talk about family breakup, it directly relates to the Bill because the people that we're talking about in this Bill are the people that are going to have to be dealing with some of these youth when they come into correctional facilities.

So I need to first of all kind of understand why we're having so many more people enter these facilities and why we're having to change the designation. We're having to change the designation because we see in our society a huge amount of poverty.

I mean we have seen the growth of food banks in our inner cities and now small communities like we've never seen before, even after the Premier has stood and vowed that he was going to eradicate food banks. And that hasn't happened; we've seen it go the other way. We've seen food banks increase, which is a direct relationship to how our society is doing within our province. And how our society is doing within our province directly relates to Bill No. 11, youth justice workers and changing the designation. And we have seen that in our province, people having to access food banks at greater numbers than we have ever seen before. And why is that?

We're a province that is in a have position for one of the first times in a number of years. And I know our Premier will stand and say, well we'll be in and out of equalization. We'll be a have province or we won't be a have province. And I think part of it is that very attitude — the attitude that you don't expect to succeed, that you are setting up a culture and a society that we expect not to be a have province with all the resources that we have.

We have resources in this province. We should be second to no one. But we're not. And why is that? And why are we finding so many people using food banks which then in turn, and it's not a direct relationship, but I think there is some sort of correlation that when we see the number of people using food banks, we also see the number of people in youth custody facilities increasing — which in turn then has to lead us to have to change definitions of youth workers to peace officers. It's all directly related. It's directly related to how this province is doing as far as dealing with some of the people in our province that have not as much as others.

We see people in the inner cities that are having to use food banks. We see community organizations that are starting up to try and help youth to cope with some of the situations that they are facing. I can use and I know some of the members opposite are familiar with it, the North Central Family Services Centre, who my constituency assistant Vonni and her sister are directly working with, and there's a huge demand there.

There's a void somewhere that certainly the government hasn't been able to fill and these organizations are filling to try and help our youth stay on the right track, so they don't get into facilities that this Bill addresses. So we don't have to worry about revisiting this Bill next year or next week and having to change the definition from just workers to peace officers because that is significant. That is significant, and I think it directly talks about where we are as a society in Saskatchewan today and how we have dropped the ball in so many different examples.

When I talk about we as far as population as a whole, I mean population as a whole when you look at the amount of food banks that have increased in our province, the number of people that are visiting food banks, not only in Regina, not only in Saskatoon, in Moose Jaw, in Biggar. It's unbelievable that a

community like Biggar would have to start up a food bank for some of the less fortunate in their community, and it shouldn't be that way.

Part of the problem is, is that there just aren't the opportunities that people need to succeed. There aren't the opportunities for a lot of youth that come out of school to get into a job right off the bat and start making a living and contributing to society because so many times in our province the opportunities aren't there. They get out of school and they look at what are they're going to do. And quite often they end up in the wrong crowd with the wrong people, and it causes nothing but grief for the justice system. So many of those people that get in with the wrong crowd and in mixing with the people that are into illegal activities, they end up in facilities like this.

They end up in youth justice facilities where now we're having to re-look at how we designate those people. And you know I think a lot of these youth . . . People that work in these youth facilities didn't expect to be designated as police officers. They're working in the facility for the betterment of the kids that they can then turn out and contribute to society. But I think that we're seeing, in talking to a number of people, that we see the increase in the use of these facilities because they are not afforded the opportunities that they should be afforded when they get out of school, Mr. Speaker.

So when we look at youth justice as I said, you cannot just look at the Bill alone and say, oh it's just this because it has so many tentacles into the rest of our society. I'd be very interested to look at other provinces and see how they're doing in this area.

Not to say that there isn't crime in other provinces, there definitely is. But is it to the degree, is it to the degree that we see in our province? The violent crime, is that as prominent as what we see in our province? Because certainly it is. And when you look at crime in our province, you can pretty much . . . as I said, directed or related to poverty quite often, but quite often it's no opportunity, lack of job. Often there are issues around drug abuse.

And we've seen in the House over the last couple of years members on our side of the House bring up the issue of crystal meth and other drugs that cause problems. And for a long time, we didn't really hear much response from the government. In fact they just really wanted to sweep it under the carpet and say it wasn't an issue when it is an issue. And it has been an issue. And there isn't a member in this House today . . . Of the 58 members in this House, I will guarantee you it is an issue in every one of our constituencies. There is no one of us as members of this Legislative Assembly that are immune to some of the issues that we face with drug abuse.

And I would again say that that is a direct relationship. It has a direct relationship to this Bill. Because of that, we're seeing more people in correction centres, in youth justice facilities, according to the Act. And that's how come we're having to change some of the employees or change the designation of these employees to peace officers. It has a direct relation to what is going on within our society — whether it is poverty, whether it is drug use, or whether it's lack of opportunity. And we need to address those issues. We need to address those issues.

We've been calling on the government to address it. As I said, when it comes to the issue of crystal meth, it has taken a very long time before the government would first of all recognize that there is a problem even though . . . And I don't think it was necessarily just a rural Saskatchewan issue because I believe it and I know it is involved in many cities. But we seem to, in rural Saskatchewan, whether we noticed it first or whether it was a larger impact, we certainly know that the drug came up through the mid-west, through the agriculture communities and ended up in Saskatchewan which directly related to the constituencies that we happen to represent.

And so whether it was that reason that it came to our attention maybe quicker than the government's, so be it. But when we raised the issue and when — I don't want to put words into the mouths of our other members — but when our members, whether it's from Kelvington-Wadena or Weyburn-Big Muddy or Saskatoon Northwest talked to the police officers of our province, it wasn't just in rural Saskatchewan. Because the police officers and the peace officers around . . . which this Bill deals with, is peace officers. And that's why I'm relaying it. But when the peace officers around our province and in the major cities realized that hey finally someone is going to listen to them, there is a huge problem with this drug in our cities and finally for the first time they felt I believe, that some of the politicians were going to listen to them. And it was through the hard work of these three members that raised it over and over and over and over again that finally the government has started to listen. And we'll certainly debate the actions that they're taking on the effectiveness that they will have.

But it was members on this side that heard from citizens in our constituencies, that heard from peace officers around the province and in particularly the major cities that told us this is a huge issue. And if we don't correct this issue I believe that we're going to find our youth justice facilities increasing in size because of the demand, because of the people that are going to be accessing these facilities, Mr. Speaker.

So although this is a one page Bill that just certainly talks about changing the designation of youth workers to peace officers, I believe the ramifications to our province are huge. And I would be remiss if I didn't take my opportunity to talk about the issues of youth justice in our province and certainly have had the opportunity. I know we're going to hear much more feedback on this Bill from people that it impacts directly, so at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Indian Head-Milestone that debate of second reading on Bill No. 11 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion's carried.

Bill No. 21

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Prebble that **Bill No. 21 — The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly am pleased that I'm able enter into the debate on Bill No. 21, An Act to amend The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill when you first look at it, it seems fairly innocuous. It's merely a change in phraseology, and I believe some changes that are mostly of a housekeeping nature. However, Mr. Speaker, I think there's perhaps a little more to the Bill and to this whole area of inspections of boilers and pressure vessels than would meet the eye by merely looking at the Bill.

[16:45]

I think we need to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the inspection of boilers in our schools, in our hospitals, in our rinks . . . In this building I would presume that we most likely would have a boiler, and it needs to be inspected.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, a few years ago back in 2002, there was some serious, serious problems in that whole inspection unit. And I'm not so sure whether they've been rectified, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, it's very important that — and particularly at this time of the year when these pieces of equipment are operating during the winter months to heat the buildings and facilities that we have throughout our province — that they be operated, that they are in good working condition and be operated in a safe and efficient manner. And that is the responsibility of this Bill and of the inspectors that operate under the authority of this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Now going back to 2002, I was made aware by a constituent that we had some serious problems in that boiler inspection unit. Morale was at an all-time low. Staff turnover was at an all-time high. Expertise within that unit was minimal because those inspectors who had been with the unit for many years and worked within the unit to improve the quality of inspection and work with the problems that were being faced by that unit finally threw up their hands and moved on.

And we were left with a number of inexperienced inspectors who pleaded with the two or three remaining experienced people in that unit to stay and educate them and teach them and show them how to do proper inspections. There was real concerns within the unit and with the people that had left that we could be faced with a very serious accident somewhere in the province just due to the inexperience and the inability of the people left to do the work.

And as I had said, it was raised by a number of inspectors within the unit who had written a public letter, and I was given a copy of it. And I talked to an individual who had left the unit but who was very concerned about the public safety of this province. And we went to work and that, I felt, was a role that opposition plays . . . is to hold the government to account. And we took the minister of the day to account on this whole issue.

And there was some changes. Some of the problems, at least

part of the problems seemed to stem around lack of leadership in that whole area. The executive director of the inspections branch had education and training in administration procedures but had no working knowledge of what the people that she was supervising actually did. She had no knowledge whatsoever, no experience in the whole area of inspections and particularly boiler inspections, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure if it was coincidence or not, but I'm told that, a few short months after that whole issue was raised in the legislature here, that that individual moved to another position or perhaps left. But she resigned her position, and there was some measures to improve the working morale of the inspectors. But I understand that there still are some shortcomings in this whole area.

I've been told — and this is something that we need to do some research on — that the regulations that go along with the 1999 Bill, the Bill which we are now amending, there are some problems and that they may not be fully implemented or implemented at all. We don't know at this point in time whether we're still operating under the old regulations and whether some of the amendments contained in this Bill will fix the Bill so that new regulations can be put in place, Mr. Speaker. And so we need to take some time to research and investigate some of the conditions that surround Bill 21.

But what I'd like to do, Mr. Speaker, also is perhaps explain what is happening in this whole area in boiler inspection in other provinces. And as you might know, Mr. Speaker, I'm usually quite hesitant to make the Alberta comparison to Saskatchewan because Alberta does have some natural advantages that Saskatchewan may or may not have depending on how you view the comparison.

But we need to look at other provinces including Alberta and recognize if, when they are doing things in a better fashion, a more efficient manner. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, from the information I've been given, that in fact is the case in Alberta.

In fact one of our more senior boiler inspectors who finally decided that they could not rectify the situation back in 2002, finally felt that they could no longer live with themselves or couldn't live with themselves if a serious accident happened, resigned from the unit, resigned from public service in this province. Set up his own business and is now doing work in Alberta. Doing exactly the same kind of work he was doing here in Saskatchewan, but in an entirely different format as such.

Boiler inspection in Alberta, and you could well imagine with three million, over three million people there and with all the industrialization that's taken place in that province, you could well imagine that there are many more boilers and pressure vessels in that provinces that require safety inspections. And the way it's being handled in Alberta is that a non-for-profit corporation was set up, and they have been charged with the responsibility of ensuring public safety in this whole area. And they contract firms and individuals to do the inspections. They review their qualifications, Mr. Speaker, and they are held to account in a very open and public way, Mr. Speaker. And I'm told that that system is working very well.

And perhaps it's something we need to look at. I'm not familiar with the systems in other provinces, but I think perhaps we need

to investigate the way this whole area is being handled in other provinces. So, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I think we need to take a little bit of time on this whole area, and so therefore I would move to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood that debate on Bill No. 21 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:52.]

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